

### IIT Hyderabad takes Govt school students on institute tour as part of Prerana-2025

Sangareddy: The Rural Development Centre (RDC) at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), in collaboration with its student-led outreach group Prayas, organised Prerna-2025, a flagship programme designed to inspire rural school students and their parents to pursue education with confidence, awareness, and long-term ambition.As part of IITH's commitment to rural empowerment, inclusive education, and community development, Prerna-2025 brought together more than 500 participants, including students, parents, and teachers from villages such as Kandi, Indrakaran, Cheriya, ODF, Yeddumailaram, and Kalivemula located near the campus.

## He-Man of Bollywood Dharmendra passes away aged 89

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Mumbai: Veteran Bollywood star Dharmendra, aged 89, has passed away. The octogenarian on November 12 had got discharged from Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai and was said to be in a stable condition and recovering well at home.At that time Dr. Rajiv Sharma from the hospital said that the legendary star has gone home 'fully satisfied' after receiving the required treatment.

Sharing an update on the actor's health, he stated, "Dharmendra ji has gone from the hospital with full satisfaction. His family has taken him home. Everything has been arranged for him." "He is in a stable condition. I request the public not to spread the false news but instead pray for his recovery so that he can celebrate his next birthday with pride."• The star was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai and sources on November 10 had said that Dharmendra is critical and on life support.On October 31, the actor, was kept under strict medical observation by top doctors at Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai. The superstar would have turned 90 on December 8.

On the professional front, Dharmendra was last seen in the movie Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya in 2024. The movie starred actors Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon. The actor is set to star next in the movie 'Ikki', directed by ace director Sriram Raghavan. The movie stars Agastya Nanda and Simar Bhatia. The movie is a war drama based on the life of Arun Khetaarpal, the youngest Param Vir Chakra recipient. The film also features Jaideep Ahlawat and Sikandar Kher in important roles and is slated to release in December.Dharmendra, who is widely considered one of the greatest, most handsome, and most commercially successful film stars in the history of Indian cinema, had a cinematic career spanning over six decades; he has worked in more than 300 films.



Dharmendra holds the record for starring in the highest number of hit films in Hindi cinema. He was honored with the Padma Bhushan in 2012. Dharmendra made his debut in 1960 with Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere.He first gained popularity in the mid-1960s for films such as Ayee Milan Ki Bela, Phool Aur Patthar, and Aaye Din Bahar Ke. He starred in several successful Hindi films from the late-1960s to the 1980s, such as Ankhen, Shikar, Aya Sawan Jhoom Ke, Jeevan Mrityu, Mera Gaon Mera Desh, Seeta Aur Geeta, Raja Jani, Jugnu, Yaadon Ki Baaraat, Dost, Sholay, Pratigya, Charas, Dharam Veer, Chacha Bhatija, Ghulami, Hukumat, Aag Hi Aag, Elaan-E-Jung, Tahalka, Anpadh, Bandini, Haqeeqat, Anupama, Mamta, Majhli Didi, Satyakam, Naya Zamana, Samadhi, Resham Ki Dori, Chupke Chupke, Dillagi, The Burning Train, Ghazab, Do Dishayen and Hathiyar.In the late 1990s, he appeared in character roles in several successful and acclaimed films, such as Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya, Life in a... Metro, Apne, Johnny Gaddaar, Yamla Pagla Deewana, Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani and Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya.

## Justice Surya Kant sworn in as 53rd Chief Justice of India



GNS News Agency, Nov 24

President Droupadi Murmu sworn in Justice Kant merely days after Justice Kant, as a member of the 16th Presidential Reference Bench, advised her that neither she nor the State Governors, while dealing with State Bills, are bound by timelines "imposed" by the Supreme Court as in the April 8 judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case.Both Chief Justice Kant and his immediate predecessor, Justice B.R. Gavai, was recently lauded by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for bringing "Indianness" in the courts. Mr. Mehta, in his address, highlighted that their judgment did not refer to foreign precedents of law and banked on the heritage of Indian case laws and legal principles in their verdicts.After the oath ceremony, in an act of camaraderie, Justice Gavai reserved the official vehicle designated for the Chief Justice of India for Chief Justice Kant, ensuring that his successor's maiden journey to the Supreme Court as CJJ was in the official car itself.Chief Justice is seen as a judge who leans more towards gently nudging disputes to a resolution over time rather than taking a confrontational approach. Justice (as he was then) Kant had resolved the

farmers' agitation from the Bench by prompting both sides - the protesting farmers and the Union government - to the negotiating table at a critical point when matters were spiralling with farmers' leaders on an indefinite strike on the borders of Delhi.Chief Justice Kant's tenure would be closely watched for his handling of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) case. So far, his Bench has made interventions to make the SIR procedure transparent and accessible to citizens, but is yet to take up the basic issue of whether the exercise itself is constitutional or not. Meanwhile, the SIR has expanded from Bihar to its second phase covering 12 States and Union Territories and covering 51 crore people.Chief Justice Kant was seen to draw a sharp dividing line between humour and perversity while hearing the case of Youtuber Ranveer Allahbadia, who had approached the apex court for Protection against arrest over his comments about parents and sex in the show 'India Got Latent'.

"Humour is an art. Humour is something that the entire family can enjoy and nobody feels embarrassed. That is talent. Using filthy language is not talent. Talent is using ordinary words to produce humour. We have excellent comedians in Bollywood. Writers of humour," Justice Kant had given his take on what humour ought to be really. The judge had also constituted a panel of senior IPS officers to comb through the social media posts of academicians Ali Khan Mahmudabad to pick out the nuances in his contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor.Justice Kant has been a part of several impactful decisions of the apex court, including the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution which removed the special status to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. Justice Kant was also part of the Bench which held the electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional.

## HMDA achieves record-breaking bid of Rs 137.25 crore in first set of Neopolis e-auctions



GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) commenced the first set of e-auctions for Neopolis on Monday, delivering landmark results with two marquee land parcels fetching record prices.Two land parcels, Plot 17 (4.59 acres) and Plot 18 (5.31 acres), closed at record prices of Rs 136.50 crore per acre and Rs 137.25 crore per acre, respectively.Plot 18 was the first to be secured by MSN Urban Ventures LLP, followed shortly thereafter by Vajra Housing Projects LLP, which emerged as the winner of Plot 17. Together, the two auctions gener-

ated impressive Rs 1,356 crore in monetised revenue for the government of Telangana, HMDA release stated.

## Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's gets European approval for osteoporosis biosimilar AVT03

New Delhi: Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Monday said the European Commission has granted marketing authorisation for its biosimilar to treat osteoporosis. The company has received approval for AVT03, a biosimilar of Prolia (denosumab) and Xgeva (denosumab), the Hyderabad-based drug firm said in a statement.Prolia is a prescription medicine used to treat osteoporosis in women who have been through menopause and in men who are at increased risk of fractures, bone loss linked to hormone ablation in men with prostate cancer at increased risk of fractures and bone loss associated with long-term treatment with systemic glucocorticoids.

## TRAI survey shows high Call Silence Rates across all major telecom networks near Sangareddy

Hyderabad: Sure you experienced this many times. You are on a mobile call and suddenly the line goes silent, even when the call is live. You get to hear the other person's voice after sometime or when you disconnect and call again.

This in mobile tech terminology is called 'Call Silence', which happens when due to packet loss on mobile networks. This is measured in terms of Call Silence Rate (CSR) and if it is higher it affects the call quality or user experience.Despite all the mobile phone companies bragging about excellent or unmatched coverage, all the four major telecom companies seem to be having a high CSR, as found by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its assessment of network quality checks taken up in and around Sangareddy.

## Iconic film personality, phenomenal actor, says PM Modi

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (November 24, 2025) remembered Dharmendra as an iconic film personality and a phenomenal actor, whose death marked the end of an era in Indian cinema.Dharmendra, 89, breathed his last at his residence in Mumbai.Veteran actor Dharmendra passes away LIVE updates

"The passing of Dharmendra Ji marks the end of an era in Indian cinema. He was an iconic film personality, a phenomenal actor who brought charm and depth to every role he played," the Prime Minister said in a post on X.Mr. Modi said the manner in which Dharmendra played diverse roles struck a chord with countless people."Dharmendra Ji was equally admired for his simplicity, humility and warmth. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with his family, friends and innumerable fans. Om Shanti," the Prime Minister said.Born in Punjab in 1935, Dharam Singh Deol, popularly known as Dharmendra, enjoyed a remarkable six-decade career, featuring in more than 300 films and headlining clas-



sics such as "Sholay", "Chupke Chupke", "Satyakam", "Anupama", "Seeta Aur Geeta" and many others.He was a member of the Lok Sabha from Bikaner in the 14th Lok Sabha, representing the BJP.Dharmendra is survived by his wife Prakash Kaur, Hema Malini, sons Sunny and Bobby Deol, and daughters Vijeta, Ajeeta, Esha, and Ahana.

## PM Modi returns from a three-day visit to South Africa

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (November 24, 2025) returned to India after a three-day visit to South Africa for the G20 and IBSA meetings.At the G20 Leaders Summit, Mr. Modi called for a global compact to prevent misuse of artificial intelligence and made a strong pitch for critical technologies to be human-centric, instead of finance-centric.

At the India-Brazil-South Africa leaders meeting, the Prime Minister said the reform of the U.N. Security Council was no longer an option, but a necessity and asserted that the troika should send a clear message for changes to institutions of global governance."The successful Johannesburg G20 will contribute to a prosperous and sustainable planet," Mr. Modi said in a post on X on Sunday (November 23, 2025). The successful Johannesburg G20 will contribute to a prosperous and sustainable planet. My meetings and interactions with world leaders were very fruitful and will deepen India's bilateral linkages with various nations. I'd like to thank the wonderful people of South Africa,... — Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) November 23, 2025" My meetings and interactions with world leaders were very fruitful and will deepen India's bilateral linkages



with various nations. I'd like to thank the wonderful people of South Africa, President Ramaphosa and the Government of South Africa for organising the Summit," Mr. Modi said.At Johannesburg, Mr. Modi met his British counterpart Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, South Korean President Lee Jae-myung, Brazilian President Lula da Silva, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

## Jeevan Reddy slams Revanth Reddy again for promoting turncoats over loyal Congress leaders



GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Hyderabad: Former MLC and senior Congress leader T Jeevan Reddy once again criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for encouraging turncoats from other parties while ignoring long-time Congress loyalists who, he said, have served the party with

commitment.Following the AICC announcement of new District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents, several senior leaders expressed dissatisfaction and raised objections. Jeevan Reddy questioned the Chief Minister's priorities, accusing him of sidelining leaders who stood by the party for years and instead promoting those who switched from rival parties.At a meeting held in Jagtial, the former MLC launched a sharp attack on the Chief Minister in the presence of SC Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar."Our competition is not with rivals from other parties but with those at the Chief Minister level. In what way can development not be achieved by Congress leaders and how is it possible with defectors from other parties?" he asked.eevan Reddy has also been vocal against the Chief Minister's support for BRS turncoat MLA from his constituency, Dr Sanjay, who moved to the Congress. Though the MLA continues to maintain that he is still technically associated with the BRS, the former MLC has been raising the issue of his defection at every possible opportunity.

## Major collision averted at Delhi airport as Afghan flight lands on wrong runway

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

New Delhi: A major collision was averted at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here on Sunday when an Ariana Afghan Airlines flight from Kabul mistakenly landed on a runway from where another flight was taking off, a senior DGCA official said.The regulator has already launched a probe into the incident, he said.Ariana Afghan Airlines A310 aircraft operating flight FG-311 (Kabul-Delhi) was given clearance to land on runway 29L. However, the aircraft landed on runway 29R, he said.

The pilot-in-command (PIC) of the Ariana flight stated that he lost ILS (Instrument Landing System) at 4NM (nautical miles) and the aircraft turned right, after which the captain landed with visual approach on runway 29R, the official said.The ILS is a precision radio navigation system that provides short-range guidance to an aircraft allowing it to approach a runway at night, during bad weather and poor visibility.As per the PIC, he lost ILS at 4NM and the aircraft turned right, after which the captain landed with visual approach on RWY 29R, the DGCA official said, adding the ATC confirmed FG 311 was given landing clearance for



RWY 29L and the captain also acknowledged he had clearance for RWY 29L only.The PIC, the official said, alleged that after the Final Approach Fix, both ILS systems malfunctioned while the aircraft was established on the ILS for runway 29L.The Final Approach Fix (FAF) marks the beginning of the final approach segment of an instrument approach procedure."Due to poor visibility and the failure of the ILS guidance, the aircraft unintentionally deviated from the intended approach path. We were not advised by Delhi tower of any deviation during the approach," the PIC told the authorities.After landing, the pilot said he "noticed that he had landed at runway 29R," according to the official."



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## On Trump administration's draft peace proposal for Ukraine

The Trump administration's draft peace proposal for Ukraine has triggered predictable unease in Kyiv. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Ukraine now faces a "very difficult choice", risking the loss of its dignity or a key partner. U.S. President Donald Trump has urged him to accept the proposal by Thanksgiving (November 27). Ukraine's apprehensions are understandable. According to the leaked draft of Mr. Trump's 28-point plan, Kyiv would be required to cede territory in Donetsk and recognise Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk as de facto Russian. In the other two oblasts annexed by Russia (Kherson and Zaporizhzhia), the conflict would be frozen along the line of contact, effectively allowing Moscow to retain the areas it has seized. Russia would withdraw from the territories it has captured outside the five oblasts and pledge not to attack neighbouring countries again. The plan also demands Ukraine cap its armed forces at 6,00,000 personnel and formally renounce its bid to join NATO. The bloc's eastward expansion would be halted, sanctions on Russia lifted, while Ukraine would receive "reliable security guarantees". The plan does not elaborate on these guarantees, but U.S. media said that the Trump administration has circulated a separate three-point plan, promising NATO-style security assurances to Kyiv. Russian President Vladimir Putin has positively responded to the proposal, but Ukraine and its European partners are scrambling to craft an alternative proposal to achieve what they call "peace with dignity". Several elements of the Trump plan mirror Russia's long-standing demands, including the halt of NATO's eastward expansion. On the other hand, the proposal that Ukraine cede territory is not going to be easy for any Ukrainian leader to implement.

## OU faculty protests enter 51st day.



"Indian Chronicle OU November 24: The agitation by OU teachers under the auspices of the Osmania University Teachers Association, alleging gross injustice in promotions, has entered its 51st day. During the lunch hour on Monday, several teachers protested at the Physics Department wearing black badges. Speaking on the occasion, OUTA President Professor Manohar said that the agitation for 51 days, alleging irregularities in CAS interviews and promotions, has not received any response from either the university authorities or the state government said. On the one hand, Osmania "The university is international! We want to develop at the level!" Government and OU officials Faculty problems "Neglect to resolve!" They were angry that they were being taken. Contrary to UGC norms Never in the history of the university "Approximately 47 people otherwise Teachers are biased They said they were stopped from giving promotions. Allegedly. State on this The government intervened To all qualified teachers Demand for promotions did If not, their concern Intensify programs" They said they would. This "OU faculty members Venkata Das, Nathaniel, Srinivas Reddy, Venkateshwarlu, Aparna, Ramakrishna Ramesh Gangadhar and others were present at the event.

## Congratulations to MLA Naveen Yadav



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 24, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Members of the East Boduppal Yadava Association met Jubilee Hills MLA Naveen Yadav and conveyed their congratulations. The association members visited his residence in Jubilee Hills following his recent election victory as the new MLA. They offered a shawl, presented a bouquet, and felicitated him on the occasion. Speaking during the visit, they expressed that the victory of a candidate from the Yadava community brought them great happiness. They also stated that they expect Naveen Yadav to achieve many more positions in the future. Those who participated in the program included East Boduppal Association President Konda Ailaiah Yadav, General Secretary Somaraju Yadav, former President Anjaiah Yadav, former Vice President Nursing Yadav, Venkanna Yadav, Raju Yadav, Sambayya, Mallikarjun, Murali Mohan, and other members of the Yadava Association.



Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah appointed as Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District DCC President" (Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 24):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District DCC appointed Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah as the President on Saturday. An order to this effect was issued by the AICC headquarters.

## The Creek Planet School, Sr. Seeds Campus Celebrates Annual Day with the Theme "Bharateya Gyan Parampara"



Hyderabad: The Creek Planet School, Sr. Seeds Campus, Hyderabad, celebrated its Annual Day with great enthusiasm and cultural splendour, beautifully reflecting the theme "Bharateya Gyan Parampara." The event showcased India's rich knowledge traditions through vibrant performances, artistic expressions, and creative presentations by students from all grades.

The celebration was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Gajarao

Bhupal, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, who applauded the school's commitment to nurturing culture, values, and holistic education. The school was also honoured by the presence of Chairman Shri Bollineni Seenaiah Garu and Vice Chairman Shri T. Panduranga Chary Garu, along with esteemed members of Futuristic Edu Initiatives (FEI), who appreciated the efforts behind the grand Sangam event. The occasion was further elevated by the presence of Principal Ms. Preeti Biswal and Vice Principal Ms. Preeti Girish, whose consistent guidance and leadership continue to shape the school's mission of holistic development. Their pride and joy were evident throughout the celebrations.

The programme began with a graceful Welcome Dance, setting a vibrant tone for the evening. The adorable Tiny Tots of PP1 and PP2 captivated the audience with their cheerful and heartwarming performance. One of the evening's major highlights was the visually stunning presentation of "Dasavathar", artistically portraying the Ten Incarnations of Lord Vishnu and their timeless messages of wisdom, righteousness, and protection.

## Government Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy inaugurates New Nacharam Prohibition & Excise Police Station



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 24 (Indian Chronicle): "The newly established Nacharam Prohibition & Excise Police Station in Uppal was inaugurated on Monday by Telangana Government Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy. After the inauguration, he felicitated Excise Station CI Omkar with a shawl and conveyed his best wishes. "Mahender Reddy interacted with the officials to understand the areas under the station's jurisdiction. He instructed the excise authorities to take strict measures to completely eradicate drugs, ganja, gudumba and other illegal intoxicants from the region." Speaking on the occasion, he expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Jupally Krishna Rao for extending support in



establishing the new Excise Station. He stated that the Chief Minister is working tirelessly to make Telangana a drug-free state. He urged students and youth to stay away from substance abuse and participate actively in sports and productive activities, noting that drugs cause countless social and personal problems. "He further mentioned that the government has formed a special Eagle Team for the prevention of narcotics and advised excise officials to perform their duties diligently without yielding to any political pressure. "Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, Uppal Constituency Congress Party Incharge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, Excise DPEO Naveen Kumar, AES Mukunda Reddy, leaders from Congress and BRS, and several activists participated in the programme.

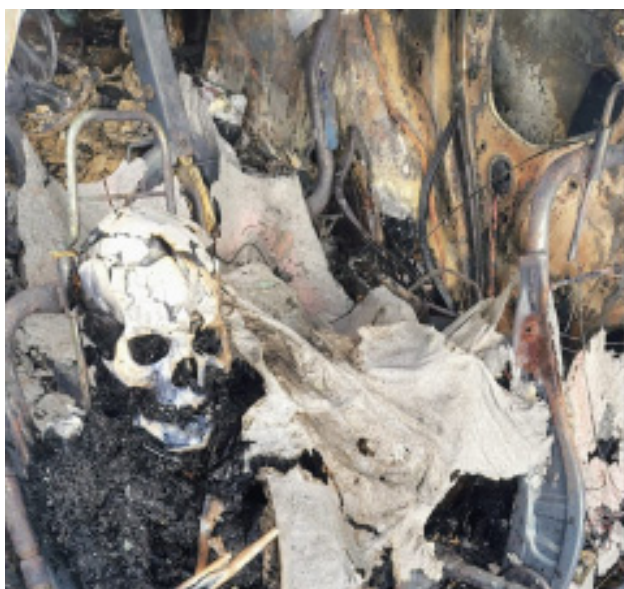
## Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy and Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Lay Foundation Stones for Development Works Worth 1.10 Crore in Chiluka Nagar Division



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 24 (Indian Chronicle): "Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, along with Chiluka Nagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, laid foundation stones for several development works worth 11 crore 10 lakh across various colonies and bastis in the Chiluka Nagar Division on Monday. "As part of these works, foundation stones were laid for CC road works

worth 750 lakh in the lanes opposite Beerappa Gadda Masjid, Improvement of parks in East Kalyanpuri and Bank Colony with an estimated cost of 20 lakh, including installation of children's play equipment, walking tracks, a watchman room, and CCTV cameras, New water pipeline works in Kalyanpuri, CC road construction from Ambedkar Statue (Chiluka Nagar) to Dr. Ashok Hospital Clinic, costing around 40 lakh. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy said that development activities are being taken up in a phased manner across the Chiluka Nagar Division and assured that every promise made to the people during the elections is being fulfilled step by step. Corporator Geetha Praveen stated that Chiluka Nagar Division has received the highest allocation of development funds, adding that the total funds have now crossed 7100 crore. She expressed gratitude to MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy for extending continuous support in mobilising large-scale funds and ensuring the completion of the promised works. "The program was attended by Municipal DE Vinil Goud, AE Radhika, Work Inspector Kedar, BRS leaders, colony association presidents and secretaries, committee members, women leaders, local residents, and others.

## Car Catches Fire on ORR Near Shamirpet; One Person Burned to Death



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 24, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "At around 6:00 a.m., Shamirpet Police re-

ceived information through Dial-100 that a car traveling on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) from Shamirpet towards Keesara had caught fire. Police reached the spot immediately and found the vehicle completely engulfed in flames. A fire engine arrived soon after and extinguished the fire. During inspection, police found a person burned to the bone in the driver's seat. A clues team was called to the location to collect forensic evidence. Preliminary investigation revealed that the vehicle was a Ford EcoSport bearing registration number TS03 FD 7688. The car belonged to Tallapalli Durgaprasad (age 30), a native of Jagirli Village, Hasanparthy mandal, Hanumakonda district, and a partner of E69 Digital News Channel. According to the information gathered, Durgaprasad had come to Hyderabad on business work and stayed at a relative's house in Miyapur last night. This morning, at about 4:30 a.m., he left alone in the car. CCTV footage confirmed that the vehicle crossed Dundigal Toll Gate at 5:22 a.m. Police suspect that the fire accident may have occurred while the vehicle was parked on the roadside along the ORR stretch between Shamirpet and Keesara. However, the exact cause of the incident will be known only after a detailed investigation. Doctors have been requisitioned to conduct an on-spot PME. A case has been registered and the investigation is ongoing.

## Karate Kicks Secure Place in the Limca Book of Records



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 24 (Indian Chronicle): "At the event held at Hyderabad's Saroonagar Indoor Stadium, students of the Champion Shotokan Martial Arts Academy from Kushaiguda, Charlapally, and Nagaram secured a place in the Limca Book of Records with their extraordinary karate kicks. "According to Champion Shotokan Martial Arts Academy Founder and Director, Karate Coach Budige Ravikumar Goud, the Limca Book of Records organized this competition in which 1,200 karate students performed the highest number of Mae Geri kicks — a total of 10,00,000 kicks within 30 minutes, earning them a prestigious spot in the Limca Book of Records. Students who achieved this remarkable feat were awarded certificates, T-shirts, caps, and trophies in recognition of their accomplishment.

## CMRF a Boon for Poor and Middle-Class Families: Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 24 (Indian Chronicle): "The Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) has become a boon for poor and middle-class families, stated Uppal constituency in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. He said that under the Congress government, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been ensuring timely sanction and disbursement of medical bills for all eligible beneficiaries through the CMRF. "On Monday, Parameshwar Reddy distributed CMRF cheques to beneficiaries belonging to the Uppal constituency. On this occasion, cheques sanctioned to Jagadishwarayya — 760,000, Maheshwar Rao — 760,000, Krishna — 760,000, Rajesh — 21,000, and Giri Radha — 760,000 were formally handed over to them. "Senior Congress leaders Chen Reddy Raghupati Reddy, Lingampally Ramakrishna, Agam Reddy, Komapalli Balaraj, J. Vijay Kumar, Kandi Shravan Reddy, Vittal Naik, Srihari, Baburao, Naam Rajireddy, Rajanna, Amar, Mahender Mudiraj, Suresh, and several other leaders participated in the programme.

## Protest Against New Liquor Shop in Uppal Baghayat Led by Baghayat Welfare Association



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 24 (Indian Chronicle): "Residents of Uppal Baghayat staged a protest on Monday under the leadership of Baghayat Welfare Association President Mekala Madhusudhan Reddy and the association committee, opposing the proposed establishment of a new liquor shop in the Uppal Baghayat HMDA Layout. "Former Uppal MLA NVSS Prabhakar, BJP Mahila Morcha President Mekala Shilpa Reddy, former Uppal Chairman and farmers' association leader Mekala Shiva Reddy, Sall Raji Reddy, iFocus chief gurus Vasudeva Sharma, leaders of various political parties, activists from different organizations, a large number of women, and local residents participated in the demonstration, extending their support to the ongoing fight of Baghayat residents.

"During the protest, the participants raised strong slogans against the liquor shop and expressed their firm opposition. Speaking on the occasion, the representatives warned that if the government does not withdraw the proposal to set up the liquor shop in Uppal Baghayat, they would intensify the agitation on a large scale. "They urged authorities to set up the liquor shop only at the location originally approved by the government. The residents expressed concern that their repeated appeals to higher officials regarding the possible adverse effects of establishing a liquor outlet in Baghayat had not yielded any positive response.



## Protest Against Encroachment of Wesley School Access Road in Nacharam



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 24: ““The access road leading to Wesley School in Nacharam has

allegedly been encroached upon using fake documents, creating an unauthorized layout over the buffer zone, open space, and nearly 18 acres of land. The land originally allotted for a public park has also been misused by obtaining permissions through illegal means.”In this regard, a strong fight is being carried out against those responsible, including the political leaders and officials who supported such illegal activities.”To seek justice through legal action and to gather public support, the Nacharam Akhilapaksha Committee Chairman Guntuka Krishna Reddy, Co-Convenor Nandikonda Srinivas Reddy, Wesley School Founder Members, Wesley School Old Students Association, Nacharam All-Party Leaders, PDSU, youth groups, and colony association members conducted a protest and hunger strike.

## Women’s Economic Empowerment is the Government’s Prime Objective: Minister Sridhar Babu.”

“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU. “““The Government is implementing several flagship initiatives with the singular aim of ensuring economic self-reliance for women, stated State IT, Industries, and Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. On Monday, the Minister inaugurated a Free Tailoring Training Centre at the Rythu Vedika in Eklapur village of Manthani mandal.”Addressing the gathering, he expressed delight that, with the support of Viatrix, a total of 21 free tailoring training centres have been launched across the Manthani region under the supervision of the DRDA, equipped with 850 sewing machines. He said the Government has introduced the Indira Mahila Shakti programme to widen income-generating avenues for women and to strengthen the financial stability of their households.”“As part of this programme, efforts are under way to establish women-run enterprises such as tailoring units, mobile canteens, hired RTC bus services, solar power plants, and petrol bunks, he noted. The Minister added that these tailoring centres will significantly enhance employment opportunities for women, and even the distribution of school uniforms in government schools has now been entrusted to women’s self-help groups.”“He further stated that exclusive developmental initiatives have been undertaken in Manthani to expand women’s livelihood options. The Government will extend complete institutional support to women who display entrepreneurial intent and aspire to scale up their businesses, he assured.”“Reiterating the Government’s commitment, he highlighted that the promise of free bus travel for women has been fully implemented, benefitting thousands across the State. This scheme is enabling women to travel widely and explore opportunities



in commercial and entrepreneurial sectors, he observed. He urged women to make optimal use of the Indira Mahila Shakti programme, designed with robust and sustainable frameworks to ensure long-term economic empowerment.”“Later, Minister Sridhar Babu inaugurated a series of development works at the Manthani Community Health Centre, including:”“A Scanning Machine installed at a cost of ₹12 lakh”“An RO Water Plant worth ₹1.80 lakh”“A newly established Outpatient Room constructed at a cost of ₹1 lakh”“A Patient Waiting Hall built at a cost of ₹5 lakh”“Infant Warmers purchased for ₹1 lakh”“New Transformers worth ₹12 lakh”“OP Registration Counter and CCTV camera systems”“District Collector Koya Sriharsha, Manthani RDO Suresh, Tahsildar Kumaraswamy, DCHS Dr. Sridhar, Medical Officer Dr. Rajasekhar, officials, public representatives, and staff members were present at the event.

## Market Vinod Congratulates Devi Prasanna on Appointment as District Congress President



“““Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, November 24, Indian Chronicle : “Bhadradi Kothagudem

District Congress Party’s newly appointed President, Thota Devi Prasanna, received warm congratulations from Market Vinod, Youth Leader of the Bhadrachalam Congress Party.”Vinod met Devi Prasanna at her residence in Kothagudem on Monday, where he felicitated her with a shawl and conveyed his best wishes. Speaking on the occasion, he remarked that recognizing hardworking leaders and entrusting them with key responsibilities reflects the positive direction in which the party is progressing.”“He further stated that Prasanna’s elevation is an encouraging step for women’s leadership in the district and expressed confidence that her stewardship would strengthen the party’s presence and activities at the grassroots level.”“Several local youth, Congress leaders, and party workers from Bhadrachalam participated in the programme

## The Path Shown by Sathya Sai is One of Bliss and Benevolence.



““P.S. ASHOKAN.”KARIMNGAR BUREAU “““Grand Conclusion of the Sathya Sai Centenary Celebrations”—Musical Reverie by the Mahavadi Brothers Mesmerises Devotees”“Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s teachings embody a path of pure bliss, compassion, and universal love, and His divine message urges every individual to lead a life anchored in affection and harmony, stated Manthani Sathya Sai Baba Seva Trust President Brahmashri Ganga Radha Kishan.”“On Sunday, as part of the valedictory observances of Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s Centenary Celebrations, a grand Musical Evening (Sangeeta Vibhavari) was organised. Addressing the devotees, the President expressed profound joy over the overwhelming participation of devotees throughout the centenary festivities. He said that the devotional songs presented during the programme by the Mahavadi brothers—Sudheer and Vijay—deeply moved the congregation.”“He further added that, as part of the concluding day’s service activities, annadanam (community feast) was arranged, and clothing and medicines were distributed to the underprivileged, thereby reflecting Baba’s eternal message of selfless service.”““Mahavadi Brothers Enthral Devotees with Soul-Stirring Bhajans”“As a highlight of the centenary celebrations, an enchanting Sangeeta Vibhavari was conducted at the temple premises on Sunday night. Renowned cricket commentators and sports analysts Mahavadi Sudheer and Vijay captivated the audience with their melodious rendition of devotional compositions.”“Their performances of Hindi and Telugu bhajans, particularly the evergreen devotional songs immortalised by the legendary singer Late Kishore Kumar, left the devotees spellbound and emotionally uplifted.”“The event was graced by former MPP Konda Shankar,

Ashtadani Gangadhar, Ramadugu Maruthi, Medagoni Rajamouli Goud, Yagnambhatla Lakshmi Rajam, Nallagonda Srinivas, Avadhanula Srinivas, and Ramadugu Srinivas, among others.

## Akarapu Arun Patel Felicitates Newly Appointed Medchal–Malkajgiri DCC President Totakooru Vajresh Yadav



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI., Uppal, November 24 (Indian Chronicle): “Akarapu Arun Patel, President of the Uppal Youth Congress, felicitated newly appointed Medchal–Malkajgiri District Congress Committee (DCC) President Totakooru Vajresh Yadav at his residence and conveyed his best wishes.”Speaking on the occasion, Arun Patel said that under the leadership of Vajresh Yadav, the Congress party in Medchal–Malkajgiri district will further strengthen. He added that the Youth Congress would extend full support and work actively under his guidance. Congress leaders from Habsiguda Division — Sravan, Murali Mudiraj, Baburao, Malu Nayak, Javed Raju — along with several other local leaders participated in the programme.

## Honouring a Luminary of Telangana: Call for Padma Shri and Telangana Ratna for Poet Andesri Intensifies.



““P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU”“A renewed appeal has been made for conferring the prestigious Padma Shri and the State’s distinguished honour Telangana Ratna upon the legendary poet and Telangana movement icon Andesri. Telangana movement activist Kondela Maruthi urged the Chief Minister to initiate the requisite measures to bestow these honours upon the celebrated literary figure.”“The appeal was made on Sunday during the Andesri Memorial Meeting, held at the office of the Manthani

Vidyarthi Yuvatha Sangham. Eminent speakers who addressed the gathering extolled Andesri as a colossal literary force whose evocative verses ignited the consciousness of the Telangana movement. They described him as a visionary whose writings instilled indomitable spirit, cultural pride, and social awakening among the people of Telangana.”“Speakers recalled the pivotal role of “Vardhillu Telangana,” the cultural and ideological front that emerged during the formative years of the Telangana statehood struggle. Maruthi highlighted the unparalleled influence of its patriotic songs, street performances, and people’s mobilisations, which left a profound mark on the movement’s trajectory.”“The programme was presided over by Pothu Jyothireddy, State Women President of the Telangana Udhymakarula Forum. State Vice-President Manthani Vijay Kumar, first-phase movement protagonist Tati Buchchaiah, youth activist Benki Digambar, and second-phase movement torchbearers Poreddy Venkat Reddy and Gattu Naganna participated and eloquently reflected on Andesri’s literary grandeur and ideological legacy.”“The event was organised under the auspices of the MVY wing of the voluntary organisation “Vardhillu Telangana,” with Kondela Maruthi serving as the convener and coordinator of the memorial proceedings.

## Patnam Mahender Reddy and Uppal Constituency Congress Corporators Call on Vajresh Yadav, Convey Greetings

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 24 (Indian Chronicle): “Newly elected Medchal District Congress Committee President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav was formally congratulated on Monday by former Minister and Government Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy, along with Uppal, Cherlapally, and Kapra Division Congress corporators Bontu Sridevi, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy, and Swarnaraj Shivamani, at his residence.”The leaders met



Vajresh Yadav to extend their warm wishes and conveyed heartfelt congratulations on his appointment as the new DCC President.

## Muthireddy Gudem Railway Underbridge Awarded to MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy



TPCC SC Cell Department State Convener Puligilla Balayya ““(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. November 24) :- Bhuvanagiri Mandal Muthireddygudem Congress Party Village Branch of Yadadri District, Bhuvanagiri Constituency MLA, Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, and Bhuvanagiri Parliamentarian Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy took a special initiative to discuss with the Railway Minister in Parliament and get funds sanctioned, and they are grateful for that, said TPCC SC Cell Department State Convener Puligilla Balayya. Due

Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy anointed the portrait of the person. On this occasion, TPCC SC Department State Convener Puligilla Balayya said that I, along with the petitions of the village departments, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, and Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy took the special initiative to discuss in Parliament and after observing the difficulties of the passengers at the Muthireddygudem railway gate and sanctioning funds for the under-process bridge, the Railway GM issued orders to conduct a special survey for the RO bridge and leave the task to me for sanctioning. Similarly, the MMTS railway works from Ghatkesar to Vangapalli are actively going on, which will speed up the development of the surrounding villages. Puligilla Balayya said that he would like to express his special gratitude on behalf of the people of our village. Congress Party district leaders Nayini Praveen Kumar, former MPTCs of Muthireddygudem Konda Abbayya, Jakkula Swamy, village branch president Mukuru Swamy, village branch general secretary Ragula Ravinder, Konda Swamy, Bodusu Raju, Congress Party members and people of the surrounding villages participated in this program.

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# Applications received in Prajavani should be given high priority and problems should be resolved immediately



District Collector Hanumantha Rao ""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 24) :- District Collector Hanumantha Rao has instructed the concerned officials to give high priority to the applications received in Prajavani and resolve

the problems."At the Prajavani program held at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Monday, the District Collector along with Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy and Local Bodies Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao received 58 applications from the people of various areas. The concerned officials should examine the applications received in Prajavani from time to time at the field level and resolve them without any pending issues. It was informed that 41 applications were received from the Revenue Department, 4 from the Rural Development Department, 2 from the District Welfare Department, 2 from the Municipality, 1 from the R&B, Excise, Irrigation, Special Deputy Collector, District Panchayat, Civil Supply, RTC, Employment Team, and Education Departments."The concerned officials were instructed to immediately examine the applications received by various departments and resolve the problems of the people. ZP CEO Shobharani, District Revenue Officer Jayamma, Special Deputy Collector Jayashree, Housing PD Vijaya Singh, and district officials of various departments participated in this program.

# 126 Petitions Received at Prajavani in Medchal–Malkajgiri

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 24, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""The Medchal–Malkajgiri Additional Collector Radhika Gupta, along with DRO Haripriya and District Additional Collector Vijayender Reddy, received petitions and grievance applications from citizens representing various areas of the district during the Prajavani programme held on Monday at the District Collectorate. A total of 126 petitions were received. The Additional Collector directed the heads of concerned district departments to examine the applications immediately and take further action without delay. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector said that officials from all departments must respond promptly to the grievances submitted during the Prajavani programme and ensure quick resolution. She instructed officials to upload details of the actions taken on each petition to the online portal. She also directed the departments to clear all pending online applications at the earliest. She emphasised that all petitions received through Prajavani should be addressed without keeping them pending and that



officials must monitor progress regularly to ensure timely redressal of issues. She further instructed the departments to resolve pending cases registered under CMO Prajavani on priority. Officials from various district departments participated in the programme.

# Interest-free loans to be distributed across the state on 25th and 26th of this month:- Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Batti Vikramarka, Minister Seethakka announced in video conference



"(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle..November 24):- Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Batti Vikramarka announced that interest-free loans will be distributed across the state simultaneously on Tuesday and Wednesday, 25th and 26th of this month. Minister Seethakka, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Principal Secretary Finance Department Sandeep Kumar Sultania, SERP CEO Divya Devarajan and other officials held a video conference with the Collectors of all districts from Hyderabad on Monday. Speaking on this occasion, the Deputy CM instructed Principal Secretary Ramakrishna Rao and SERP CEO Divya Devarajan to make elaborate arrangements in all assembly constituency centers, coordinate with ministers and MLAs and provide them with information in advance. He ordered that the leaders of mandal federations and village federations must attend the interest-free loan distribution program being held in each assembly constituency center. The Deputy CM said that the interest-free loan program was revived on a large scale as soon as the government took power. He said that this has brought confidence and courage among women across the



state. He said that interest-free loans have already been distributed to members of self-help groups across the state in two and three phases, and loans will be distributed to women's groups on a large scale on the 25th and 26th. The Deputy CM expressed his appreciation for the excellent implementation of the saree distribution program by the district collectors. He said that they have received positive reports from every mandal. The women expressed their happiness over the availability of high quality sarees with attractive designs. He congratulated all the district collectors for the successful distribution of Indiramma sarees to every village with special care and coordination. After the VC, District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that interest-free loans worth Rs. 18.03 crore have been released to 12811 self-help groups in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district till March 2025. He said that tomorrow, interest-free loan cheques will be distributed to women of self-help groups in Bhuvanagiri, Aleru and constituencies through the hands of the MLAs of the constituencies. Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao, District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy and concerned officials participated in the program.

# Donation Presented by Mallanna Yadav Sangham for Hanuman Statue Construction



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 24, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""Members of the Mallanna Yadav Sangham (Kushaiguda) extended their support to the ongoing construction of the massive Hanuman statue near the Kushaiguda bus stop. Sangham president Sheelam Anil Yadav and chief advisor Gunti Anjaneyulu handed over a donation of Rs. 51,116 to the Hanuman Statue Construction Committee. Speaking on the occasion, Committee Convener Challa Prabhakar said that key works including the sanctum (garbhahayam) and the main entrance are progressing rapidly. He expressed confidence that the project would be completed soon with the continued support of



devotees and appealed to everyone to contribute their share towards the construction. He appreciated the donation offered by the Mallanna Yadav Sangham and also thanked members of the Kushaiguda Welfare Association and Bajrang Dal Kushaiguda for their assistance in the construction activities. Committee members Yavapuram Ravi, Panagatla Chakrapani Goud, Thalla Anand Goud, R. Venkulu, Pandal Ganesh Goud, Dayanand, Pittala Raju, Lakshman Goud, Ramakrishna, along with Mallanna Yadav Sangham members A. Krishna Yadav, G. Srinivas Yadav, B. Gopal Yadav, J. Ravi Yadav, G. Gopal Yadav, M. Swami Yadav, Jai Ramesh Yadav, Naresh Yadav and others participated in the programme.

# On the occasion of International Women's Day.. Poster of the Day against Violence against Girls is launched



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao""(Manduva Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bu-

reau... Indian Chronicle.. November 24):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector's Office is celebrating the International Women's Day every year.. As part of which, this year's theme is "Unite to End Digital Violence against Women and Girls". The background of the 16-day program is "Unite to End Digital Violence against Women and Girls". Awareness programs will be carried out in villages from 25 November to 10 December, especially December 10th is Human Rights Day. Posters will be made in this regard. This poster was launched by the District Collector Hanumantha Rao. Along with the Collector, Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao, Veera Reddy, District Welfare Officer Narasimha Rao, Zilla Parishad CEO Shobharani, as well as SARP President Dr. Pramila Sakhi C A Vinila, SARP Program Coordinator Kavitha Saritha Staff, Sakhi to Manjula Councilor Lavanya as well as SC Commission District Member Barre Sudarshan, Bandaru Raghuvardhan, Krishna participated in this program.

# 100 km Hyderabad–Suryapet Run Successfully Completed

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 24, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""The 5th edition of Movember La Ultra 2025, organized by the Ray of Sunshine Foundation, concluded successfully with participants completing a demanding 100-km run from Hyderabad to Suryapet on November 22 and 23. More than 15 runners participated across multiple distance categories. The run was flagged off at the Pedda Amberpet ORR junction by Telangana Runners Treasurer Harish Reddy and Hyderabad Runners representative Sunder Nagesh. Among the finishers, Srikanth Thaduri, Trustee of the Ray of Sunshine Foundation and General Secretary of Telangana Runners, along with Nikhil Reddy from Pragnapur, completed the full 100 km, underscoring their commitment to raising awareness about men's health. We are excited to introduce the Foundation through an event focused on an often-neglected issue. Our aim is to create awareness and mobilize support for men dealing with health challenges, said Johannah, Trustee of the Ray of Sunshine Foundation. Supported by Klevr, the event is part of the global Movember movement, which promotes awareness on men's health issues such as prostate cancer. Throughout November, participants around the world grow moustaches to spark dialogue and encourage fundraising. The organiz-



ers have set a fundraising goal of Rs.3 lakh, with all proceeds directed to the Ray of Sunshine Foundation to support prostate cancer patients. In earlier editions, runners covered 50–60 km and raised around Rs.50,000 through community support. The 2025 edition once again highlighted the role of endurance sports in driving social impact. Organizers encouraged wider participation in the movement whether by growing a moustache, raising funds, spreading awareness, or contributing directly. Every contribution helps strengthen this cause, the organizers added.

# Arrest of Ganja Drug Peddlers by Kollur police & sot Madhapur zone

"Madhapur November 24 The staff of Kollur PS and SOT, Madhapur Zone, Cyberabad Commissionarate apprehended three drug peddlers from Tellapur Village and seized (41.9 Kgs) of Ganja." "Details of Accused: Mithun Barman, age 36yrs, R/o.Mallikarjuna Nagar, Isnapur, Patancheru. N/o. Ruma Barman (V), Dinhata PS, Cooch Behar District, West Bengal State. Suden Roy, age 25 yrs, R/o.Labour Camp, Kokapet N/o.Dudunda (V), Hemthabad PS, Uttar Dinajpur District, West Bengal State. Rejaul Shaik, age 30 yrs, R/o.Labour Camp, Lingampally, N/o.Binod Nagar, Nadia District, West Bengal State. Tapan Biswas, R/o.Labour Camp, Tellapur No.Chenderkuti (V), Dinhatam PS, Cooch Behar District, West Bengal State.""Brief Facts: Acting on specific information, the staff of Kollur Police Station along with sleuths of Special Operations Team (SOT), Madhapur Zone, Cyberabad apprehended three Ganja drug peddlers namely Mithun Barman, Suden Roy and Rejaul Shaik on 23.11.2025 in Kollur Police Station limits while trying to sell the contraband Ganja to the needy customers working in labour camps in small quantities at Tellapur. The accused Mithun Barman, Suden Roy and Rejaul Shaik are procuring Ganja from the absconding accused Tapan Biswas, who hails from West Bengal State and residing at Tellapur. The Ganja secured by the accused is sold to the



laborers who are working in different labour camps located in and around Tellapur Village to earn easy money. At the instance of the accused seized (41.9 Kgs) of Ganja and (3) mobile phones. The good work done by the staff of Kollur PS and SOT, Madhapur Zone, under the supervision of the SOT DCP Shoban Kumar and team were appreciated and will be rewarded suitably.""Advisory:

The public is hereby requested to provide the information related to drug peddlers through Dial 100, or through Cyberabad NDPS Enforcement Cell: 7901105423 or Cyberabad WhatsApp No: 9490617444. The identity of the informant will be kept confidential.

# Government Strengthens Excise Enforcement; New Police Stations Inaugurated in Medchal–Malkajgiri



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 24, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""Government Chief Whip in the Legislative Council, Dr. Patnam Mahender Reddy, said that public participation is crucial in achieving a drug-free Telangana. He stated that eliminating ganja and drug networks requires stronger enforcement and consistent awareness programs, especially among students and youth. On Monday, Dr. Mahender Reddy inaugurated the newly sanctioned Excise (Prohibition & Enforcement) Police Stations in Uppal, Nacharam, and Ghatkesar in the Medchal–Malkajgiri district. MLA Lakshma Reddy, former ex MLA Sudhir Reddy, Excise Superintendent Naveen Kumar, and other officials participated. Speaking at the event, the Chief Whip said the government has sanctioned 14 new Excise Police Stations across the state to strengthen the enforcement system. He added that land will be allotted for the new stations and that he will request the Chief Minister to approve funds for constructing permanent buildings. He noted that a robust Excise department is essential to curb ganja cultivation, drug trafficking, and related criminal networks. The government, he said, is taking all necessary measures to prevent illegal



liquor transportation and adulteration. The Excise department has been directed to intensify efforts to monitor, prevent, and eliminate narcotics. Awareness programs will be expanded to educate students and youth about the dangers of drug abuse and to encourage them to stay away from addictive substances.



## Statewide Interest-Free Loan Distribution to Begin on November 25: Deputy Chief Minister



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 24, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced that the distribution of interest-free loans will be conducted simultaneously across Telangana on November 25. He made this announcement during a video conference held on Monday with district collectors. Ministers Seethakka, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Principal Secretary (Finance) Sandeep Kumar Sultanania, SERP CEO Divya Devarajan, and other senior officials participated in the meeting. The Deputy Chief Minister instructed Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao and SERP CEO Divya Devarajan to coordinate with ministers and MLAs in advance and ensure that the program is conducted in a well-organized manner at all Assembly constituency centres. He directed Mandal Samakhya and Village Organisation leaders to attend the distribution events in their respective constituencies.



cies. He stated that the previous government had neglected the interest-free loan initiative, but the present government revived it immediately after assuming office. He said the renewed effort has boosted confidence and empowerment among women across the state. Interest-free loans have already been distributed in two to three phases to Self-Help Group (SHG) members statewide.

The upcoming phase on November 25 will involve a large-scale distribution to women's groups. The Deputy Chief Minister also appreciated district collectors for effectively implementing the saree distribution program. He said positive reports were received from all mandals and that women expressed satisfaction with the high-quality sarees featuring attractive designs. He congratulated the collectors for ensuring smooth coordination and successful distribution of Indiramma sarees in every village. Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector Manu Choudhary, Additional Collector Radhika Gupta, DRDO Sambasiva Rao, Housing PD Ramana Murthy, and other officials attended the video conference.

## I like Ayyappa Swamy very much..Ayyappa initiation brings about a great transformation in a person



State Roads, Buildings, Cinematography Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy“( Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 24):- State Roads, Buildings, Cinematography Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy said that I like Ayyappa Swamy very much and that Ayyappa initiation brings about a great transformation in a person. He said that jealousy, hatred and bad habits will reduce and compassion towards the society will be developed, and that God says to love one's fellow human being.“We will see Ayyappa in you in the 41-day strict mandal initiation““He congratulated Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah for organizing the Padi Puja program in such a good spiritual atmosphere and wishing that all the people may be prosperous.““- Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy on the occasion of Ayyappa Padi Puja ““Yadagirigutta:“State Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy attended the Ayyappa Maha Padi Puja program organized at the residence of Aleru MLA and Government Whip Beerla Ilayya as the chief guest. The Padi Puja program with the recitation of Ayyappa's name made everyone immersed in devotion. Ayyappa devotees participated in this program in large numbers. Earlier, Yadagirigutta



Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy was visited by District Collector Hanumantha Rao and several leaders. The minister was blessed by Vedic scholars and offered pilgrimage offerings. Addressing the Ayyappa devotees on this occasion, the minister said...““I love Lord Ayyappa very much. Seeing so many Ayyappa devotees makes me very happy. It gives me a good spiritual feeling. Ayyappa initiation brings a great transformation in a person. Jealousy, hatred, and bad habits reduce and compassion for society develops. God also says to love one's fellow human being. We will see Ayyappa in you in the 41-day strict initiation of the Mandal. Cold water bath, one meal a day, and sleeping on the hard floor are the strict rules of Ayyappa initiation. By following them, a great change occurs in the initiates during the Mandal period.

I wish that by the grace of Lord Ayyappa, farmers will be prosperous with their milk and crops, and all the people will be prosperous. Congratulations to Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah for organizing the Padi Puja program in such a good spiritual atmosphere.“ Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy said. Ayyappa Swamulu, Market Committee Chairman, DCC President, and many other leaders participated in this program.

## Sardar Patel Holds a Permanent Place in the Hearts of Telangana people



“‘Sardar@150 Unity March’ Organised in Secunderabad“Union Minister Kishan Reddy participated““Indian Chronicle.. Secunderabad, November 23:“On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Sardar@150 Unity March was grandly organised in Secunderabad on Sunday. The rally began at the Shivaji statue in Sitafalmandi and proceeded up to the Gandhi statue at Chilakalaguda. A large number of people

and youth enthusiastically participated.“Speaking at the event, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy said that Sardar Patel holds a permanent place in the hearts of the people of Telangana. He recalled that it was Patel who liberated the people of Telangana from the atrocities of the Razakars and integrated the Hyderabad princely state into India through Operation Polo, a historic decision that ensured true freedom for the nation.“He added that Patel's contribution to nation-building is immense and that his far-sighted leadership united hundreds of princely states into one India. Kishan Reddy said that the 150th birth anniversary of this great leader should be celebrated widely across the state, and that these celebrations are being held to convey Patel's sacrifices, leadership, and courage to future generations.“State BJP President N. Ramachander Rao, State General Secretary Gautham Rao, District President Bharat Goud, former President Shyamsundar Goud, District General Secretary Mekala Saranganapani, Nageshwar Reddy, Sharada Mallesh, Hari, Venkatesh Goud, Mekala Keerthi Harsha Kiran, Bhaskar Giri, Ambala Rajeshwar Rao, Division President Nareish, Sai Prasad Goud, Shyamsundar, Prakash Goud, Kannabiram, Pochayya and several others participated in the programme.

## CM Revanth Reddy Fan Association President Mohammed Nazir felicitates Beerla Ilayya as Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District DCC President with a shawl

“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 24):- Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya was appointed as the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District DCC President on Saturday. An order to this effect was issued by the AICC headquarters.“ Revanth Reddy Fans Association President Mohammed Nazir felicitated MLA Govt. Beerla Ilayya, who was appointed as the DCC President of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Congress Party. Speaking on the occasion, he thanked AICC President Mallikarjun Karge, Leader of Opposition in Parliament Rahul Gandhi, State Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, State Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, and everyone



who helped in these appointments. Mohammed Rafi Uddin Gowri, General Secretary TPCC Minority Wing, Srikanth Goud and others participated in the program and felicitated him and conveyed their best wishes.

## BC Leaders Gain Significant Importance in Congress – Real Test Begins with Sarpanch Elections

““CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BU-REAU, NOVEMBER 23, INDIAN CHRONICLE“Telangana Congress has strategically completed the appointment of District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents across the state in view of the crucial upcoming local body elections. Giving notable priority to backward classes, the party high command has entrusted leadership responsibilities to leaders from the BC community in three out of the four districts of the erstwhile Karimnagar region. In two districts, the posts were allotted to sitting MLAs, while senior leaders loyal to the party were given charge in the remaining districts to maintain equilibrium.“Although these appointments are prestigious, they also pose a tough challenge with the impending Sarpanch elections. Winning the maximum number of Sarpanch seats, ensuring 42% social justice in candidate selection, and maintaining coordination among various communities are seen as major tests for the newly appointed presidents.““Karimnagar – Priority to SC Community, Key Leader Gets Charge““Senior Congress leader and Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyanarayana, a close aide of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has been appointed as the Karimnagar DCC President. While several aspirants vied for the post, the party's choice of Satyanarayana, an educated leader from the SC community, is being viewed as an important step towards social balance.“Senior leaders such as Parliamentary In-charge Velichala Rajender Rao, SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy, V. Narender Reddy, and Patti Krishna Reddy were also contenders, but the party reposed faith in Satyanarayana.““Karimnagar City – Opportunity for Vaidyula Anjan Kumar““In an effort to strengthen the support of BC communities in urban areas, senior leader Vaidyula Anjan Kumar, belonging to the Kapu community, has been appointed as the President of the Karimnagar City Congress Committee.““Jagtial – Crucial Decision Amid Internal Differences““The Congress high command has appointed Gajangi Nandayya from the Padmashali community as Jagtial DCC President. With internal differences prevailing between former minister T. Jeevan Reddy and MLA Dr. Sanjay, the responsibility of balancing both factions now lies with Nandayya.“Aspirants Juvvadi Nursing Rao from Korutla and Kalvakuntla Sujith Rao were expecting the post, but the party's unexpected move in favour of Nandayya



has become a topic of discussion.““Rajanna-Sircilla – Choice in Line With Padmashali Majority““The party has taken a strategic approach in Sircilla district by appointing senior leader Sangitam Srinivas as DCC President, keeping in view the numerical strength of the Padmashali community. Recently appointed as PCC General Secretary, Srinivas is said to have gained recognition for his contribution to various public movements in the district.““Peddapalli – Makkan Singh Reappointed““Ramagundam MLA Makkan Singh has been reappointed as Peddapalli DCC President. In the district represented by Minister Sridhar Babu, Makkan Singh's primary challenge will be to ensure coordinated functioning within the party ranks.““Sarpanch Elections – The Real Challenge Ahead““For all the newly appointed DCC presidents in these four districts, the upcoming Sarpanch elections will be their first major test. Their performance here will determine the party's strength in the subsequent MPTC, ZPTC, and municipal elections.“Overall, the Congress party has clearly emphasized social balance and provided opportunities to emerging leadership. Whether these leaders can gain public trust and strengthen the party in the upcoming local elections remains a question that the election results will soon answer.

## Friends Reunion in Hyderabad Highlights Decades of Navodaya Bond

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 24, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“My friend Adinarayana arrived from Australia, and as always, all our friends in Hyderabad gathered today to catch up and check on each other's wellbeing. Although decades have passed since our friendship began in Navodaya, the bond has remained unchanged. Despite choosing different paths for higher studies and careers, and settling in various professions across states and countries, one thing has never changed whenever any of our Navodaya friends visits Hyderabad, those who are available put aside their work and come together. We relive our childhood memories with the same warmth and excitement. Since I live in Hyderabad, I get the opportunity to meet my friends several times a year, something I deeply value. To me, friendship is a bond that goes beyond family ties once



formed, it stays for life. Hoping that our friendship continues in the same spirit for many more years.

## BJP Demands Cancellation of Permission for Wine Shop in Uppal Bhagayat



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 24 (Indian Chronicle):““BJP leaders submitted a representation

to Uppal Circle Excise Inspector Omkar, requesting that permission should not be granted for establishing a wine shop in Uppal Bhagayat.“Speaking on the occasion, the BJP leaders urged the Excise Department not to allow the setting up of the wine shop in the Bhagayat area.

They stated that the government should establish wine shops only in the zones officially designated for such outlets. Otherwise, they warned, the BJP would launch a large-scale agitation.“Senior BJP leaders Mahankali Laxman Mudiraj, Raavula Balakrishna Goud, Reddy Garu Devender Reddy, Varkala Rajender Goud, Eidulakanti Naveen Goud, among others, participated in the programme.

## Women should move forward with self-respect, development of women is the government's goal

Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 24) :- Women should move forward with self-respect, development of women is the government's goal, said Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya, which is why every welfare scheme introduced in the state is being implemented in the name of women. Speaking at a saree distribution program at ZPHS School in Turkapalli Mandal on Sunday, Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya said... The idea of a people's government is to govern with the idea of making one crore women millionaires. He said that very attractive and quality blue sarees will be distributed to every eligible woman who has completed 18 years of age in two installments, and that every woman wearing a saree should be like Mahalakshmi. He said that every woman is being given the same saree regardless of whether she is rich, poor or rich. He said that the government is giving utmost priority to the advancement of women. He said that with the aim of making one crore women millionaires, many welfare schemes are being implemented for women. As part of this, free bus travel for women anywhere in the state, 200 units of free electricity, 500 k cooking gas, Indiramma houses in the name of women, new ration cards, petrol pump owners and contractors, the government is introducing many welfare schemes to help women grow economically. He said that by thinking about the rice that the rich eat, every poor family is being given 6 kg of fine rice with the idea that every person should eat to their full stomach. He said that women are being taken forward in all fields in this way. District Collector Hanumantha Rao said.. He first congratulated every woman who is receiving the blue sarees that women like and appreciate. He said that the government is distributing Indiramma sarees with excellent design and quality, thinking that blue is the color of the sky and that women should grow as tall as the sky. He said that if you wear a good saree, you will be very proud to work with confidence that day. He said that if women go to meetings or other pro-



grams anywhere, everyone wears the same saree, it is a wonderful art. He said that the government gives high priority to women in whatever work they do. He said that the government's goal is to make one crore women millionaires by introducing free buses, free electricity, petrol pumps, Indiramma houses and many other welfare schemes. He said that if a woman grows financially, her house will be in order. He said that Aler is number 1 in the state in building Indiramma houses. He said that local legislators, taking the initiative, are giving a game to those who have completed Indiramma houses quickly, and they are dressing up and acting like a man of the house. He said that every woman will receive sarees and that no one should worry that no one has come. He said that every woman who has completed 18 years of age will receive sarees in two installments. Later, the government whip, district collector, concerned officials and public representatives distributed Indiramma sarees to women. Rural Development Department Officer Nagi Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Chaitanya Mahender Reddy, Tahsildar Jala Kumari, Mandal Special Officer Janaiah, public representatives, women and others participated in this program.



# Government Whip MLA Beerla Ayilayya visited Atmakur Mandal



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 24) :-Telangana State Government Whip MLA Beerla Ayilayya visited Atmakur Mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District. He participated in the housewarming ceremony of the model Indiramma house at the Tahsildar's office in Atmakur Mandal Center, and in the same way.. He participated in the housewarming ceremony of the Indiramma house of the beneficiaries of Kandadi Indiramma Lakshma Reddy in the Mandal Center. He conducted the housewarming ceremony of Indiramma houses in Narsapuram, Raghavpuram, Kurella, Rahimkhan



Peta, T Repaka, Pothireddypalli, Koritical, and Palle villages in the Mandal, started water plants in several villages, and laid the foundation stone for the construction of the boundary wall. The statement given on this occasion According to the plan, eight housewarmings were held in eight villages and all the beneficiaries were given mutton and silk clothes. He said that in the previous BRS government, they did not give double bedrooms by making deceptive promises. But in this public administration government, with the cooperation of Revanth Reddy and Birla Ayilaiah, he said that he is very happy that Indiramma's house has come.

# SCR GM Reviews Winter Safety Preparedness“Stresses continuous monitoring of key assets, honours safety awardees



“Indian Chronicle OU November 24:“South Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava on Monday held a comprehensive safety review meeting at Rail Nilayam, focusing on operational safety and winter-readiness. Additional GM Satya Prakash, heads of departments and DRMs of all six SCR divisions participated via video conference.“The GM instructed officials to strictly adhere to standard safety practices, ensure detailed root-cause analysis, and strengthen coordination through crew



management systems, gatemen, and shunting staff. He emphasised continuous monitoring of critical railway assets and durability of safety equipment, along with effective use of GPS trackers to enhance field-level safety.“Earlier, the GM presented ‘Employee of the Month’ Safety Awards to 16 staff members from Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntur, Guntakal and Nanded divisions. He lauded their dedication and said such recognition encourages others to maintain high safety standards.

# Protest Against Repeal of Working Journalists Acts “TWJF, HUJ Stage Dharna at Central Labour office“



“ Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, November 24 ““The Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) and the Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUJ) staged a massive protest on Monday in front of the Central Labour Department office at Vidyanagar, Hyderabad, demanding the withdrawal of the four new Labour Codes introduced by the Central Government. Journalists raised slogans calling for the reinstatement of the repealed Working Journalists Acts and condemning the Centre's labour policy decisions. The demonstration continued for nearly two hours.“The dharna was led by P. Ranchander, Convenor of the Federation's Ad-hoc Committee, who said the Union Government was favouring corporate interests at the cost of workers' rights. He termed the repeal of long-established labour laws—secured through decades of struggles—as unjust and undemocratic. He urged the Centre to immediately withdraw the Labour Codes.“TWJF State General Secretary B. Basavapununnayya strongly criticised the scrapping of the two existing Working Journalists Acts. He said journalists are already facing numerous challenges, and the new Labour Codes would further aggravate their difficulties, undermining job security and employee safeguards.“Labour leader

J. Venkatesh, addressing the journalists, said the new Labour Codes pose a “life-and-death issue” for workers. He pointed out that the Codes empower employers and governments to fix wages, undermine minimum wage norms, extend working hours from the existing 8 hours to 12–16 hours, and fail to guarantee overtime protections. He added that the Centre has effectively distanced itself from ESI and PF responsibilities, leaving workers vulnerable. He demanded that the State Assembly pass a resolution opposing the new Codes.“Following the protest, federation leaders submitted a representation to Central Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner Biswa Bhushan. Senior leaders and members of TWJF and HUJ, along with a large number of journalists, participated in the demonstration.

# Students, institutes, urged to fill national mental health taskforce survey

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

The Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) has urged students, educational institutions, parents, counselors to fill in surveys by the National Task Force set up by the Supreme Court concerning the prevention of student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions. The surveys can be found on the website <https://ntf.education.gov.in/>.

The task force was established by the Supreme Court in March this year to combat student suicides. The task force then launched a series of surveys on its official website to gather crucial inputs from stakeholders i.e. students, parents, faculty members and higher education institutions. In the circular released on November 22, SPPU said, “It is advised that all affiliated colleges/recognized institutions should visit the website <http://ntf.education.gov.in/> and encourage students, parents, mental health advisors, and counselors to fill in the information by reviewing the above topic and reference letter by 25/11/2025.”The move comes after the Union Joint Secretary (Higher Education) flagged on November 19 “that there has been miniscule number of responses on Institutional Survey from Higher Education Institutions of some of the States.

# The path of Christ is for all humanity to follow - Palsana Raju“

“Indian Chronicle OU November 24 : The path of love shown by Jesus Christ is applicable to all humanity, said Reverend Paulson Raju, founder of Karunapuram Christ Jyoti Prayer Hall. To this end, he participated as the chief guest in the centenary celebrations of Soutalalaguda Baptist Church in Tarnaka on Sunday night. He announced a special message. Reverend Jayaprakash, Dr. Joseph Prabhakar, Bishop PA Moses (MA LLB) and others were present at the program.



# Master Vilohit and Karamit Lai, five-time winners of table tennis tournament



“Indian Chronicle OU November 24: Veteran Table Tennis Association Internal Tournament-2025 was held at the Pro Jayashankar Indoor Stadium in Lalapeta for the last two days. About 144 players participated in this tournament held in ten categories. In this, Karamjit Lai was the winner in the 39 plus category and Master Vilohitlu was the winner in the 13 plus category for 5 times. In addition to presenting

trophies to the winners, all the players were given T-shirts with the name of the association. The program was attended by Association President Dayakar Kusuma, Secretary Vital Bethi, Vice Presidents Harinadha Babu, Srinivasa Rao, Organizing Secretary C.K. Bhagwan, Winners B. Rajesh Reddy, Harikrishna, Nataraj Sharma, Runners Akshit Bharadwaj. Arun Jayavelan, M. Karmarkar, Abbas and others

# Apollo Hospitals launches 250-bed facility in Pune, third such facility in Maharashtra

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

When the top brass at Apollo Hospitals planned its expansion in Pune, their guiding thought was simple. “This hospital must become an integral part of the city's healthcare fabric and the aim is to support and elevate care for the community,” Dr Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals told The Indian Express on the occasion of opening its newest facility in Pune's Swargate on Monday.“There are plans to expand further to meet the growing healthcare needs of the region,” Dr Suneeta Reddy, Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited added. “Every Apollo hospital is created with long-term commitment in mind, and Pune is no exception. We are opening in phases beginning with 250 beds, so that the hospital grows steadily and is always in alignment with the region's needs,” Dr Preetha Reddy added.

Apollo Hospitals Pune represents a deliberate expansion of high-acuity, technology-enabled care in Western India. “This is the third facility in Maharashtra,” Dr Preetha Reddy said. On a query related to affordability, Dr Preetha Reddy said Pune's families will have access to a wide range of tariffs, strong insurance partnerships, and all major government health schemes. “We want high-quality care to be accessible and comforting. Our investments in digital health, remote monitoring and evidence-based clinical pathways bring down complications, reduce hospital stays, and lighten the financial burden on families. Our promise to Pune is that care will be advanced yet humane, technologically strong yet deeply accessible, always delivered with integrity and compassion,” she added.

“Structured referral pathways will ensure citizens move seamlessly from primary or secondary care to advanced intervention whenever needed. Joint emergency preparedness programs, training initiatives, and support for complex cases will be key areas of engagement,” Dr Preetha



Reddy said. She also added that they were bringing enhanced expertise in cardiac sciences, precision oncology, critical care, transplant medicine, orthopaedics, and mother-and-child health. “The infrastructure includes modular operating theatres, advanced ICUs, robotic systems, and specialised neonatal intensive care,” she said. Senior clinicians from across Apollo's national network will anchor specialised programmes and as a SMART (seamless, modern, accessible, responsible, and tech-enabled) hospital, it will offer 30 medical specialties, 11 modular operation theatres, and the advanced Alpha Lite Robot, authorities said. Meanwhile, in a video message, Dr Prathap C Reddy, Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Group, said their mission was to transform healthcare not just in India but for the world. Dr Madhu Sasidhar, CEO and President, Apollo Hospitals and Dr Manisha Karmarkar , CEO, Apollo Hospitals Pune also spoke on the occasion. Anuradha Mascarenhas Anuradha Mascarenhas is a journalist with The Indian Express and is based in Pune. A senior editor, Anuradha writes on health, research developments in the field of science and environment and takes keen interest in covering women's issues. With a career spanning over 25 years, Anuradha has also led teams and often coordinated the edition.

# Flower garland decoration in honor of Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 100th anniversary (birth anniversary)

- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector (Local Body) Bhaskar Rao ““(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 24) :- A flower garland decoration program in honor of Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 100th anniversary (birth anniversary) was organized on the morning of the 23rd at the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector's Conference Hall. The chief guests of this program were Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector (Local Body) Bhaskar Rao, District Additional Collector (Revenue) Veera Reddy, District Youth Sports Officer K. Dhananjanyulu, other district officials, members of the Sathya Sai Baba Trust and office staff. District Additional Collector (Local Body) Bhaskar Rao, District Additional Collector (Revenue) Veera Reddy, garlanded the portrait of Sathya Sai Baba and paid homage. Addressing this program, District Additional Collector (Local Body) Sri Bhaskar Rao said that truth, righteousness, peace and love are the five principles preached by Sathya Sai Baba and lakhs of volunteers are serving through the Sathya Sai Baba Trust. The trust is helping those suffering from various life-threatening diseases. Sathya Sai Baba devotees stand as brand ambassadors for peace,’ he



said. Similarly, District Additional Collector (Revenue) Veera Reddy said that Sathya Sai's teachings have shown the way to lakhs of people. He said that Sathya Sai lived as an embodiment of universal love. District Youth Sports Officer K. Dhananjanyulu said that Bhagwan Sathya Sai Baba's teachings have shown the way to lakhs of people and his message has led many people on the path of service.

# When Dharmendra’s producer emptied his pockets to pay the actor Rs 51

New Delhi: A raw youth out of Punjab, propelled into the Hindi film industry after a national talent hunt, Dharmendra was all agog when his first-ever producer asked him to wait for his signing amount, as he anticipated getting a princely sum. However, he only ended up with a modest stipend — and that too, from what was

available in their pockets! Recalling the incident almost two decades later, Dharmendra revealed that all he managed to get then was Rs 51. The Bollywood ‘He-Man’ said he had signed ‘Shola Aur Shabnam’ first and then T.M. Bihari’s ‘Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere’







# Quarrying crisis in Tamil Nadu’s Uthiramerur leaves residents in distress



If one were to have a bird's eye view of Uthiramerur taluk in Kancheepuram district, it would possibly be a canvas of grey with small patches of green. However, it was not like this in the not-so-distant past. A vast portion of the land known for its kuda olai system of election and bewitching temple architecture is “greying”, thanks to a large number of granite quarries and crushing units. Almost every tree and plant, roads, mud on the roadsides, and crops in the fields have turned grey in and around villages including Siruthamur, Pazhaveri, Arungundram, Pazhaya Seevaram, Alanjeri, and Thirumukkudal, thanks to quarrying and stone crushing units that make M-sand. On a cloudy, still afternoon in November, the roads around these units feel eerie, and the trees seem frozen as if petrified.

Estimates show that close to 60 villages in this region are affected by quarrying, and there are around 80 quarries. According to a mapper, data from the National Remote Sensing Centre show that in 2005-06, a total of 4.21sq. km. was under mining in the erstwhile Kancheepuram district. The area increased to 33.13 sq. km. in 2015-16, but this figure includes some sand mining areas too. The district also saw a reduction in land under paddy, with quarrying being a major cause.

Farmers at Alanjeri said a proposed quarry (Kori as they call it) that they were protesting against had fenced off land where a channel bringing water from a hillock runs through. “The channel, constructed by the Rural Development Department, used to carry water to our irrigation tank wherein two wells that meet our drinking water needs are situated. The water gets contaminated by quarry dust and if the water does not fill up the Alanjeri tank, a chain of 10 other tanks won’t get water. We used to grow three crops of paddy a year. Now, we struggle to grow one crop,” said V. Balakrishnan, a farmer. The village only has Dalit farmers and they claim the first quarry in their village is located on Panchami land unknowingly sold in bits and pieces to others. “We have been petitioning the Collector for several years to stop the operation of the quarry and not allow a second one to come up. The new one lies on the route of the annual procession of our village deities Theni Amman and Palani Amman. They won’t allow us to take a detour even,” said Vijayakumar, another farmer.Farmers lead the battle

C. Devaraj of Arungundram said his father Chinnappaiyan was the first to die in an accident caused by the heavy vehicles carrying stones from a quarry. “He was one of the first to protest against the quarry operations in the area. It was in November 2003.” In one village, the panchayat president refused to pass a resolution against the quarries since he himself owned one. “The quarries are so close to each other in some cases that we have no space for our animals to graze,” he added.Last year, farmer leaders from several villages joined to stage a hunger strike seeking relief to Rajendran, a farmer whose land could not be cultivated, with the well drying up because of quarry operations. “We were denied police permission even to use chairs for the protest,” said Harikrishnan of Pazhaveri. Mr. Rajendran said it was 12 years since his well dried up. “I have been holding up against the quarry operators and managing with the income from milch animals. If I approach elected representatives, they tell me to sell off the land handed down by my forefathers. I don’t want a car or air-conditioner; I want to grow crops on my land and pass it onto my son to grow food for the people,” he said.Farmer leader Manavalan said public hearings for new quarries are not held in the village or nearby, but in places where quarry owners muster enough supporters to out-number those opposing them. “Last year, a public hearing for a quarry witnessed very angry exchanges between farmers and an IAS officer. We told him to travel with us by bike without a helmet to feel the kind of dust we inhale from the trucks carrying the stone without cover. People are getting asthma and wheezing. The quarries do not follow basic rules like sprinkling water regularly to prevent the dust from flying,” Mr. Harikrishnan added.Up in arms: Farmers at Alanjeri say a proposed quarry that they are protesting against has fenced off land where a channel bringing water to the irrigation tank runs through. They used to grow three crops of paddy a year, but struggle to grow even one now.Up in arms: Farmers at Alanjeri say a proposed quarry that they are protesting against has fenced off land where a channel bringing water to the irrigation tank runs through. They used to grow three crops of paddy a year, but struggle to grow even one now. | Photo Credit: B. Jothi Ramalingam

The village roads running around the taluk are like a dirt patch for the mighty trucks that carry blue metal and stones. “Since the vehicles are always overloaded, they cannot stop as soon as they should. We shudder to send children to school as accidents keep happening. We are waging a continuous battle with the trucks. Two bridges across Palar River, connecting Pazhaya Seevaram and Thirumukkoodal and Avalur and Walajahbad, have a continuous flow of vehicles on all days, except on Sundays,” said Premkumar of the BJP, which has been holding protests in the area, calling for restriction in the timing for the trucks to ply. Farmers have been demanding that the timing of the trucks be regulated so that students can travel safely.

Quarries and stone-crushing units are a major source of fugitive dust, a significant environmental concern that arises at nearly every stage of the operation. Dust is emitted during unloading of raw materials, crushing, screening, conveying, and storing of finished products. As stones are broken, shaken on vibrating screens, transported along conveyor belts, and stored in open stockpiles, fine particles — particularly stone dust — become airborne. A 2023 study in the International Journal of Health Sciences and Research found that prolonged exposure to silica dust significantly impairs lung function among stone quarry workers in South India. The researchers observed that lung impairment was the highest among loaders, followed by stone grinders, drillers, blasters, and stone cutters. The problem is particularly acute with fine materials, like stone dust, which are easily carried by the wind and can linger in the air for long. Dust from stone quarries not only affects the workers on site but also people living nearby. Poornima Prabhakaran, Director, Centre for Health Analytics Research and Trends at Ashoka University, said that though the dust particles released from quarries are relatively large, they are hazardous to human health. Prolonged exposure to high dust lev-

els can lead to respiratory problems, silicosis, and skin or eye irritation, she added.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has outlined stringent guidelines for stone-crushing units. They include the requirement for full enclosure around crushers and screens to contain dust at the source. Additionally, units must install fine-mist water sprinklers to dampen dust particles, along with bag filters and dry dust-extraction systems to capture airborne dust. Conveyor belts are to be fully covered to prevent dust from escaping, and discharge points must be fitted with telescopic chutes to control dust release when materials are transferred. Stockpiles of crushed material should either be kept wet or covered to reduce dust dispersion, ensuring that emissions are minimised and air quality is preserved within and around the crusher zones.S.M. Shiv Nagendra, a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and an expert in air quality monitoring, said the carrying capacity of areas near quarries should be assessed. He noted that quarrying close to residential areas contributes significantly to pollution.The CPCB guidelines also mandate that internal roads be paved to prevent dust resuspension; wind-breaking walls and foggers be installed; and accumulated dust cleaned regularly. Units must also recycle water used for suppression and conduct ambient air monitoring to ensure the control of particulate emissions. While industries are required to implement continuous real-time air quality monitoring, quarries are not bound by the same regulation. However, even with these monitoring systems in place, they may not fully capture the extent of the pollution. Mr. Nagendra pointed out that current air quality monitoring stations measure pollution only in a one-kilometre radius, leaving out the full extent of pollution affecting surrounding areas.

In July 2025, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to enforce stricter standards for granting or renewing Consent to Operate (CTO) for quarrying and mining units in the State, after several units came under the scanner for violations. It ruled that quarrying activities should not continue unless penalties for past environmental violations were fully paid. These violations included failure to maintain safety distances, inadequate fencing and greenbelt development, insufficient dust control measures, and exceeding the approved extraction limits.The NGT instructed the TNPCB to require water sprinkling, greenbelt development, blacktopped roads, and equipment enclosures before granting CTO. It also recommended that greenbelt development begin at the application stage to ensure saplings are ready when operations start.

G. Sundararajan of Poovulagin Nanbargal, an environmental organisation, called for the identification of quarry clusters and a third-party audit of the Cumulative Impact Assessment to evaluate the effect on groundwater and air quality. He also pointed to other States, like Telangana, which use satellite imagery to monitor sand mining and storage in near real-time and suggested that Tamil Nadu adopt a similar approach. A channel brings water from a hillock to the Alanjeri tank. The water gets contaminated by quarry dust. If the water does not fill up the tank, a chain of 10 other tanks will not get water.A channel brings water from a hillock to the Alanjeri tank. The water gets contaminated by quarry dust. If the water does not fill up the tank, a chain of 10 other tanks will not get water. | Photo Credit: B. Jothi Ramalingam

A senior hydrogeologist, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the lack of a proper law to govern mining and groundwater extraction is the main reason for the current situation. The management of groundwater is governed by a mere government order: MS 142. A draft Tamil Nadu Groundwater (Development and Management) Act has been drawn up, but is yet to be enacted. Mining is a major subject in this Act because mining for coal or sand or rock will affect groundwater extraction. In Neyveli, the groundwater level, which used to be at 6 feet, is now at 35 feet-40 feet with continuous mining, he said. He said there is regulation only at the individual mine level now. Nobody is seeing the larger picture, and this is leading to environmental damage.An ecologist said that when people keep scooping stuff out of the quarries, the surrounding groundwater level will go down. In the long run, the nature of the soil will change owing to water loss. This will lead to gradual desertification, the kinds of plants able to grow on such a soil will change, and farmers will have to change their crops. Food crops will vanish. One day, the soil, instead of becoming grey, will go “bald” and will not be able to grow anything.

No alternative to M-sandA former government official who had worked in Kancheepuram said the district administration was seized of the matter and there were times when up to 30 quarries had been shut down. “The quarry owners have been warned to keep the truck tops closed with tarpaulin and instructed to carry only the permitted load. The TNPCB is the one that has the larger role in controlling the quarries,” he said. However, without the quarries, construction activities and road laying in and around the city would come to a standstill. “Give us an alternative material to M-sand, gravel, and blue metal. As river sand cannot be mined, the administration has no other option but to allow rock mining,” he pointed out.The District Environmental Engineer of Kancheepuram acknowledged the complaints and representations about the pollution from stone quarries. “We have received representations forwarded from the Collectorate. They have sought a report, and we are starting work on it,” he said.

## Gold and silver prices stay volatile this week amid strong US data and global cues

New Delhi: Gold and silver prices remained volatile this week amid signs of some ease in global trade order, fading expectations of a December rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, and a stronger dollar index.According to the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold closed at Rs 1,22,653 per 10 grams on Friday, up Rs 221 against Monday’s price of Rs 1,22,432. Meanwhile, the price touched a week-low at Rs 1,21,691 on Tuesday and a high at Rs 1,23,388 per 10 grams on Wednesday.Silver price ended the week at Rs 1,51,129 per kilogram, down Rs 3,804 from Monday’s price of Rs 1,54,933 per 10 grams. “Gold experienced a healthy correction this week but continues to maintain a strong bullish framework. COMEX gold closed at \$4,079.5, while MCX gold settled around Rs 1,24,191, finding support precisely on the multi-month rising trendline,” said Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money.

# Uranium found in breastmilk of lactating mothers, more studies expected in other states



: A recent study has revealed alarming levels of uranium (U238) in the breastmilk of lactating mothers across several districts in Bihar, raising serious health concerns for their infants.Researchers from multiple institutions have found that uranium exposure through breastmilk could pose significant non-carcinogenic health risks to infants.

Speaking with ANI, Dr Ashok Sharma of AIIMS Delhi, who is a co-author of the study, said, “The study analysed breast milk from 40 lactating mothers and found uranium (U-238) in all samples. Although 70% of infants showed potential non-carcinogenic health risk, the overall uranium levels were below permissible limits and are expected to have minimal actual health impact on both mothers and infants.The highest average contamination occurred in Khagaria district and the highest individual value in Katihar district. While uranium exposure may pose risks such as impaired neurological development and reduced IQ, breastfeeding should not be discontinued and remains the most beneficial source of infant nutrition unless clinically indicated.”The study showed that: 70% of the infants had HQ > 1, indicating possible non-carcinogenic health risks from uranium exposure through breast milk. Uranium exposure in infants may affect: Kidney development, Neurological development, Cognitive and mental health outcomes (including low IQ and neurodevelopmental delay) if long-term exposure continues.”

“However, based on the observed uranium concentrations in breast milk samples (0-5.25 ug/L), the study still concludes that the actual impact on infant health is likely low, and most uranium absorbed by mothers is excreted primarily through urine, not concentrated in breast milk. Therefore, breastfeeding remains recommended, unless a

## Auramine in Indian food: why a banned dye keeps returning | Explained



India continues to face recurring episodes of chemical adulteration in food, particularly through the use of non-permitted synthetic dyes. One of the most persistent among them is auramine O, a bright yellow industrial dye banned under Indian food-safety regulations.Recent inspections by state food-safety departments, academic studies and even everyday observations such as unnaturally bright yellow chickpeas sold in public have again uncovered its presence in sweets and savoury items. This concern is not new, India has dealt with multiple waves of dye-related adulteration for nearly four decades, from metanil yellow in turmeric, rhodamine B in cotton candy and curry masala, Sudan dyes added to spices, Argemone oil mixed with mustard oil, calcium carbide used to ripen fruits, urea added to milk to thicken, mineral oil mixed with edible oils to chalk powder added to flour revealing systemic vulnerabilities in both regulation and awareness. Auramine’s re-emergence is part of this larger pattern.

What is auramine?

Auramine O is a synthetic yellow dye extensively used in industry, including textile and leather processing, printing inks, paper manufacturing, and certain microbiological staining procedures. It has a vivid colour and is inexpensive, but Auramine O is not approved for use as a food colour in India, the European Union, the United States, or most other regulatory jurisdictions.Toxicological research has linked its ingestion to a range of health risks, including liver and kidney damage, enlargement of the spleen, mutagenic effects that can alter genetic material, and potential carcinogenic outcomes. Animal studies have consistently demonstrated organ lesions and disruptions in metabolic processes even at relatively low doses of exposure. Reflecting the seriousness of these findings, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies auramine as a substance that is possibly carcinogenic to humans.

How does auramine enter food?

Despite longstanding prohibitions, auramine continues to enter the food chain largely due to its easy availability and low cost. Industrial-grade colours are sold informally in local markets, and small-scale sweet makers or street vendors often rely on these unlabelled powders because they provide a bright, appealing yellow that mimics saffron, turmeric, or permitted synthetic colours. In many cases, producers remain unaware of regulatory restrictions or view enforcement as sporadic and avoidable. During festive seasons when large quantities of brightly coloured sweets, snacks, and fried items are produced the use of inexpensive colourants tends to spike, raising the likelihood of auramine contamination.

What have earlier investigations in India shown?

Findings from different regions consistently show that dyes such as auramine, metanil yellow, rhodamine B, and malachite green appear in certain samples of sweets, savoury snacks, condiments, and pickles. These violations are particularly common in unorganised food sectors, where oversight is limited and ingredients are often procured through informal supply chains.Regulatory challenges compound the problem. India’s food production landscape is dominated by micro and small enterprises, many of which operate with limited technical knowledge of safe manufacturing practices. While the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, provides stringent provisions against adulteration, enforcement remains uneven due to variations in laboratory capacity, staffing, and surveillance systems across states. In several toxicology reports, long-term ingestion of non-permitted dyes including auramine -- has been linked

clinical indication suggests otherwise," he said Dr Ashok also said that such studies will be conducted in other states to know about the presence of heavy metals.“We are under the process of examining the heavy metals in other states and their impact on human health which is a need of the hour.”The study, conducted on 40 randomly selected lactating women from various districts of Bihar, involved quantification of U238 in breastmilk.All samples tested contained uranium, with the highest levels observed in the Katihar district.Health risk assessments showed that infants are particularly vulnerable due to their limited ability to eliminate uranium from their bodies.The study estimates that 70 per cent of the infant population analysed could experience non-carcinogenic health effects from exposure.Uranium, a naturally occurring radioactive element, is commonly found in granite and other rocks. It can contaminate groundwater through natural processes and human activities such as mining, burning coal, nuclear industry emissions, and the use of phosphatic fertilisers.On further studies to identify the presence of pesticides, environmental pollutants in breastmilk Dr Ashok said, “the article does address future directions, and pesticides are included in their plans.From the study’s discussion and conclusion sections, this investigation focused on uranium (U-238) in breast milk; our previous work had already identified arsenic, lead, and mercury in breast milk. We further highlight the need for continued biomonitoring of toxic contaminants, including environmental pollutants such as pesticides in breast milk, to better understand infant exposure risk.

“The World Health Organisation (WHO) sets a provisional limit of 30 micrograms per litre (ug/L) for uranium in drinking water, while some countries, such as Germany, have adopted stricter limits of 10 ug/L.In India, uranium contamination has been reported in an estimated 151 districts across 18 states, with 1.7 per cent of groundwater sources affected in Bihar.Globally, elevated uranium levels have been observed in countries including Canada, the United States, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, China, Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, and the lower Mekong Delta region.Though prior global studies have shown high uranium concentrations in groundwater, clear clinical symptoms among exposed populations have not been consistently observed. However, the current research underscores the urgent need to monitor U238 in Bihar to assess and mitigate potential health risks to mothers and their infants.

to physiological degeneration, organ pathology, and genetic damage in animal studies. Yet, despite repeated crackdowns, the recurrence of auramine in food samples indicates that economic incentives and supply-chain fragility continue to override compliance.

What is the global context?

The concerns surrounding auramine are not unique to India. Historically, several countries encountered similar issues in the mid-20th century, when industrial dyes including auramine were occasionally used in foods before emerging toxicological evidence prompted universal bans.Today, regulators in the U.S., EU, and East Asian nations classify auramine strictly as an industrial dye, and its presence in consumables triggers product recalls and import alerts.In recent years, isolated reports of auramine contamination have surfaced in turmeric consignments, pickles, and brightly coloured sweets across parts of South Asia and Africa, underscoring its global status as a prohibited and hazardous additive.

Why are these violations significant for India today?

Despite improvements in food safety systems, the wide variety of street foods, festival sweets, and locally prepared snacks in India can sometimes increase exposure to products that may contain industrial dyes, largely because these items often move through complex and informal supply chains. Children who tend to consume a disproportionate share of brightly coloured foods are at increased risk of long-term harm.Recurrent contamination erodes consumer trust and creates pressure on regulatory authorities to strengthen surveillance. The continued detection of auramine also highlights structural challenges related to informal manufacturing, limited awareness of safety standards, and the affordability gap between permitted and non-permitted colourants.

What steps are being taken?

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) periodically intensifies sampling, surveillance, and enforcement efforts, particularly during festive seasons when colour adulteration peaks. Several states have launched targeted drives against illegal colourants, leading to seizures of unlabelled dye packets and prosecution of violating units.Alongside enforcement, awareness programmes for small food manufacturers and street vendors are being expanded to encourage safer manufacturing practices. There is also a push to strengthen laboratory infrastructure and develop rapid testing kits that can detect industrial dyes at the point of sale.

What lies ahead?

Eliminating auramine from the food chain will require a multilayered approach. This includes tighter regulation of chemical markets selling industrial dyes, sustained community-level education for small manufacturers, broader deployment of easy-to-use testing tools, and stronger penalties for chronic violators. Consumer education especially regarding the risks associated with unnaturally bright foods will also be crucial.

## 9 in 10 SMBs in Hyderabad adopt AI as digital transformation accelerates: LinkedIn stud

Hyderabad: Small and medium businesses (SMBs) in Hyderabad are leading India’s AI adoption wave, with 9 in 10 SMBs (91%) already investing or planning to invest in AI solutions, according to new LinkedIn research. At the same time, 91% of decision-makers expect business growth over the next year, signaling a sector focused on smarter systems, skilled talent, and trusted digital platforms.

The study highlights that AI is central to SMB strategy in Hyderabad. 57% of SMBs say AI and automation are critical to staying competitive, 52% view operational efficiency as key to protecting margins, and 51% prioritize securing future-ready talent for survival.



# ‘Helpless’ Mohanlal: How the Dadasaheb Phalke awardee’s portrayals of despair always hit the audience square in the chest



A few weeks ago, as I was mindfully writing a piece for the Cinema Anatomy column here, analysing Mammootty’s exceptional ability to ace emotional scenes and convey vulnerability with remarkable finesse, I couldn’t help but wonder if there was any strong emotion that Mohanlal portrays in an equally astounding manner. Yes, he is an exceptional actor who has proven his marvellous range over the past 4+ decades, highlighting that he can handle comedy, tragedy and rage with equal magnificence, thus always striking a chord with audiences almost effortlessly. But if we look at it on a microscopic level, are there any specific human emotions or responses that he handles with exquisite precision, such that his depiction of them seldom misses the target of the audience’s hearts?

Later, as I was mindlessly scrolling through social media, I stumbled upon a video featuring a scene from director Sibi Malayil’s Chenkol (1993), penned by AK Lohithadas. The clip highlighted how effortlessly Mohanlal conveyed complex layers of his character through his eyes, while also demonstrating outstanding subtlety. It’s true. The character of Sethumadhavan in Chenkol and its prequel, Kireedam (1989), which earned Mohanlal his first National Film Award (Special Mention), was not only nuanced and hard-hitting, but also devoid of the typical embellishments Indian film heroes usually receive. And it was masterfully executed by the actor, positioning it as a reference for arc-driven acting.

Nonetheless, in that very scene — where Sethumadhavan talks to his henchman, Haidrose (Cochin Haneefa), with an eerie ecstasy about their new life as goons, mentioning how the more they kill, the more money they make — the brilliance of his acting went far beyond his eyes. While we see his eyes — which frequently welled up in Kireedam as he was simply a youngster caught in a web of misfortunes — initially dry as the desert, devoid of any sympathy for others owing to his life experiences over the years, as the conversation with Haidrose progresses in the single shot, his tone also shifts and it becomes clear that its also his expressions that added gravity to his performance. The state of equanimity that Sethumadhavan has reached — where quietude arises from the pain he has endured and the realisation that nothing can hurt him anymore — stemmed from a deep sense of despair: the complete loss of hope, and a frame of mind that no longer sought it. That intense portrayal of helplessness communicated far more about Sethumadhavan than Lohithadas had penned or Sibi envisioned.As I was appreciating Mohanlal’s performance in that scene, a couple more moments from various other movies came flooding back, wherein he handled similar emotions with notable sophistication. One by one, I began revisiting such scenes and couldn’t help but appreciate the evocative yet subtle manner in which he depicted despair and helplessness in several movies over the years.One of his earliest films, where Mohanlal showcased an extraordinary command in depicting helplessness, was Fazil’s Nakkethadhoorathu Kannum Nattu (1984). Despite not having many dialogues in the final act of the movie and remaining a mere but constant presence on screen — mirroring the powerlessness of his character in those circumstances — he managed to convey distress perfectly there, adding an additional layer of innocence. It was because of the impact he made with his performance in the end that the transition from his face to Vallyammachi (Padmini) fixing the doorbell of her house, in the hope that her granddaughter would one day return and ring it, resonated deeply and brought us to tears.

By the time he appeared in Alleppey Ashraf’s tragedy Ninnistham Ennishtam (1986), Mohanlal had become a spectacular actor, showing significant improvement from his initial amateur performances. Here, he masterfully blended both despair and helplessness with remarkable precision, bringing out the emotional core of his submissive-natured character beautifully.

Despite his role being just a cameo in Reghunath Paleri’s Onnu Muthal Pooyiam Vare (1986), it was Mohanlal’s incredible ability to convey and bend these emotions even through his voice that made it unforgettable. The film revolves around a single mother and her four-year-old daughter who become a ray of hope in the life of a man overshadowed by dark clouds of hopelessness and helplessness.While he showcased intense portrayals of these emotions at various junctures in movies like Deshadanakkili Karayarilla, Namukku Parkkan Munthirithoppukal, Amrutham Gamaya, Sarvakalashala, Unnikale Oru Kadha Parayam, Vandanam, Dasharatham and Thazhvaram, he presented them with hard-hitting innocence in films like TP Balagopalana MA, Gandhinagar 2nd Street, January Oru Orma, Nadodikattu, Ulsavapittenu, Chithram and Aye Auto, in tune with the tone of these titles. Take Venu Nagavally’s Sarvakalashala (1987), for instance. Here, despite having no one in life and nothing to look forward to, Lal (Mohanlal) is a character who wishes to find people and spaces wherein he can emotionally anchor himself. While we see a ray of light coming from within Lal in the initial parts of the movie, trying to pierce through the darkness in life, once he realises that all the relationships he had made over the years have shattered due to a misunderstanding, the actor reaches his absolute best and slowly allows despair to eclipse that streak of light in the character.At a crucial moment in Sibi Malayil’s Dasharatham (1989), we see Rajiv Menon (Mohanlal) hoping against hope and approaching the surrogate Annie (Rekha) one last time, asking if he could have his son back. His realisation that, despite being filthy rich, there are moments when he is utterly helpless hits him hard, and his opulent robes seem to fall away as he begs in desperation. Here, the actor brilliantly showcased his ability to portray a character’s gradual emotional downfall and eventual rock bottom with sturdiness, as well as the person tricking himself into believing that there could be light at the end of the tunnel.In one of the most heart-wrenching moments from Venu Nagavally’s Aye Auto (1990), we see autorickshaw driver Sudhi (Mohanlal) being asked to get up from the table where he had sat down to eat at the home of one of his affluent customers, who had invited him for her birthday lunch. As her grandmother (Sukumari) scolds him for sitting in the first trunk while their rich relatives are yet to be fed,

Sudhi gets up, not just because he’s insulted but with a sheer realisation of his supposed position in such social circles, highlighting the helplessness of a person who is stripped of even the mind frame to raise voice for oneself.In Sibi’s Bharatham (1991), we see Kalloor Gopinathan (Mohanlal) at his helpless worst upon realising that his elder brother Ramanathan (Nedumudi Venu) passed away in an accident at a faraway place and was cremated like a waif by the authorities, who were unable to track down his relatives. On the other hand, in Priyadarshan’s Kilukkam (1991), we see many shades of Joji’s despair that fall at various points on the spectrum, ranging from comedy to tragedy. While the sheer hopelessness in him, a tourist guide, comes across as humorous in the iconic “Vattaanalle?” scene when he realises that his customer Nandini (Revathi) is not only penniless but also struggling with her mental health, the same emotion wells up in our eyes when he portrays Joji realising that they can never be together. “Do you love her?” Nandini’s foster father, Justice Pillai (Thilakan), asks him. He hums in agreement. “What about her?” With a blank face, he replies, “I have never asked her,” and walks away, underscoring his circumstances — financial and otherwise — which have even deprived him of the courage to confess his love.

One of the reasons why several Mohanlal-led movies from that era, such as Kilukkam, became classics was that he could effortlessly depict such stirring emotions. If his helplessness pushed Sathyanaadhan (Sadayam) to paranoia, prompting him to take the lives of both the victims and perpetrators in a scenario, it made Sidharthan (Aham) embrace sainthood. Ashokan (Yodha) channelled it into mastering martial arts so that he could rescue the kid who had placed his faith in him. In Devaasuram (1993), on the other hand, when his archrival Mundakkal Shekaran (Napoleon) pressed his foot against the neck of Mangalassery Neelakandan (Mohanlal) — while the latter was receiving treatment after being attacked by Shekaran and his gang, and left confined to a wheelchair — we saw the actor transform helplessness into sheer rage, conveyed powerfully through his expressions and eyes. In Pavithram (1994), he portrayed the same emotion through Unnikrishnan’s gradual realisation that he had slowly become irrelevant in the life of his little sister, whom he raised in the absence of their parents.

From the courtroom scene in Nirayam (1995); Aadu Thoma’s reaction to his father blatantly insulting him under the pretence of inviting him to his sister’s wedding in Spadikam (1995); the bootlicking scene in Kaalapani (1996); Anandan crying into a prop beard upon realising he has once again been relegated to the background in a film where he was initially offered a prominent role, and later losing balance and melting into the sofa upon hearing of Kalpana’s (Aishwarya Rai) death in Iruvar (1997); Raghuraman running around a fantasy land, screaming and warning its inhabitants against eating the llama fruit — the cause of their collective blindness — in Guru (1997); the condemned prisoner Niranjan begging Dennis (Suresh Gopi) to marry his girlfriend Abhirami (Manju Warriar) in Summer in Bethlehem (1998); and the entire life of Kunjikuttan in Vanaprastham (1999);To Mullankolli Velayudhan explaining why he never dreams or desires anything in Naran (2005); almost every scene following Ramesan Nair’s descent into Alzheimer’s in Thanmathra (2005); Premachandran learning of his father’s death in Rasathanthram (2006); the cynical and narcissistic Sidharthan tearing up in front of Raji (Kalpana) in Pakal Nakshatrangal (2008); Sivankutty letting go of his childhood friends — whom he had planned to kill — in Bhramaram (2009); the entirety of Mathews’ character in Pranayam (2011); Raghunandan witnessing the death of Sameer (Sidharth Bharathan) in Spirit (2012); Georgekutty communicating through a blink to his family not to worry, even as he is brutally beaten by the police, in Drishyam (2013); Mathew Manjooran’s tearful goodbye to his wife Neelima (Manju Warriar) in Villain (2017); and finally, Shanmugham realising that the body he helped cops George Mathan (Prakash Varma) and Benny (Binu Pappu) dispose of in Thudaram (2025) was his own son’s — Mohanlal has portrayed countless shades of helplessness and despair with absolute flair and dexterity.Yet not once did he fail to hit the audience square in the chest. Thanks to his uncanny ability to make viewers feel as if they are watching someone they already know well, the emotions of his characters become their own, and his intense performances consistently leave a lump in their throats.As Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan perfectly encapsulated during a recent event organised by the state government to felicitate the Malayalam superstar for winning the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, “The emotional experiences provided by the characters played by Mohanlal are most intricately etched into the cinematic experience of Malayalees over the last half-century. As a result, transforming into Mohanlal occasionally in daily life became even a habit for some. Few other stars have influenced Malayalees as much in their walk, sitting, gaze, and body language. This might be why British anthropologists Filippo Osella and Caroline Osella wrote that ‘Mohanlal is the alter ego of Malayalees.’”

## Scientists reverse Alzheimer’s in mice using nanoparticles

Hyderabad: In a stunning scientific breakthrough, an international research team has demonstrated a novel nanotechnology strategy that effectively reverses Alzheimer’s disease pathology in mice.Instead of targeting neurons directly, the therapy focuses on repairing the brain’s critical defense system i.e. blood-brain barrier (BBB).The BBB is the vascular gatekeeper responsible for clearing toxic waste, like the protein amyloid-beta (Aβ), from the brain. In individuals with Alzheimer’s, this clearance system clogs up.Researchers from IBEC (Institute of Bioengineering of Catalonia) and WCHSU, China, developed a unique ‘supramolecular drugs’, nanoparticles that are bioactive in their own right, not just drug carriers. The researchers in their study said that these nanoparticles act as a switch, mimicking a key clearance protein (LRP1) to reset the barrier’s function.The results were immediate and dramatic. Just one hour after injection, the mice showed a 50 to 60 percent reduction in Aβ in the brain. More strikingly, a mouse equivalent to a 90-year-old human, treated at an older age, showed a full recovery of healthy behavior after six months.“The long-term effect comes from restoring the brain’s vasculature,” explained Giuseppe Battaglia, a leader of the study. “Once the vasculature is able to function again, it starts clearing Aβ... allowing the whole system to recover its balance.”

# Dr Reddy’s, Zydus Lifesciences recall medicines from US market over quality issues



New Delhi: Two major Indian pharmaceutical companies, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories and Zydus Lifesciences, are recalling certain medicines from the US market due to manufacturing issues, the US health regulator has said.

According to the latest enforcement report by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), an American subsidiary of Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy’s is recalling 571 vials of Succinylcholine Chloride Injection, a medicine used to relax muscles. The recall was initiated on September 26 after the USFDA reported an “out-of-specification” result

## They bust drug rings. They tackle cyber fraud: Meet Delhi’s six women sleuths leading from the front

They were once on the margins of police investigations, confined to handling cases of crimes against women.Today, Delhi Police’s women sleuths are leading from the front: busting drug syndicates, cracking down on human trafficking, and tackling financial fraud and cybercrime.Though the Delhi Police does not tick all boxes of gender equality, the growing presence of women in investigative roles reflects institutional progress and personal resilience.In their years in the force, these women have proved their mettle — whether it is questioning suspects, analysing evidence, or leading field operations — and are looking to inspire a new generation to pursue careers in law enforcement.The Indian Express speaks to six women investigators across different departments on why they joined the force and what keeps them going.Head Constable, Crime Branch, Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)It was September 2024. A Crime Branch team, including Anita, were heading to a familiar drug den — Outer Delhi’s Sultanpuri.She had been with the premier anti-narcotics unit for two years then.

“A particular community controls the drug business in Sultanpuri... A woman, Alka, was one of the most prominent names. We had been trying to get something on her for months. And now we had,” says Anita, as she recalls what in policing terms is called a ‘sensational’ case.The team reached Sultanpuri, and Anita and her team entered a three-floor house where Alka lived. And then, all hell broke loose.Delhi women police force Anita Wadhwa, Head Constable, Crime Branch, Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)“I was sent by the team to handcuff Alka. I hadn’t even touched her when a stream of people — residents — poured out from the rooms. Some more came in from the main gate. There were about 60-80 people,” Anita says.The team had anticipated this. Her instructions were clear — hold Alka and run towards the PCR van, without looking back. And that’s what she did.Bricks were thrown at me. One hit my head. My whole team was surrounded... one of the head constables was being beaten up. I managed to get into the PCR van. Local police had come in, and they rescued my team members. And then, someone hit the back window of our vehicle with a brick,” Anita says.

Shards from the window fell on the seat, with many tiny pieces penetrating her back and waist.“For the next 10 days, I couldn’t sleep on my back or my left side. But it was nothing compared to what happened to my team members. One of them almost died,” she adds.Anita describes herself as someone who has been well-trained for these situations, with her extensive experience in police stations located in the criminal underbelly of Delhi.Bespectacled in thin, pink-rimmed glasses, Anita is 5 feet 5 inches. Dressed in a blue floral salwar kameez, she could easily be mistaken for an ordinary citizen — until she slips on a red half-jacket emblazoned with Crime Branch, Delhi Police.Born in Rajasthan’s Sri Ganganagar in 1980, she was the middle child among three children. The family moved to Delhi when she was two years old.“My father, Om Prakash Wadhwa, initially started a tours and travels business, which suffered losses. Then he started a small tailoring business from our home in Moti Nagar. It was a two-room accommodation. My elder brother, younger sister and I shared a room,” she recalls.Anita had a strict upbringing. Her father made no distinction between boys and girls when it came to discipline. “If we were to be home at 7 pm, and it was 7.01 pm, we would wish we’d never gone out...” she recalls.Her mother, Krishna, was silent, she says. “She didn’t speak much in front of my father. But she would pacify him when he grew angry.”A young Anita craved independence. In the second year of her graduation at Delhi University’s Janki Devi College in 1999, she did a stenography course and joined a private firm.“But I wanted more. So in 2001, I sat for the Delhi Police constable exam,” she says.In 2002, the results came out. Anita, 22, was selected. Her family was happy. “They were apprehensive, but who doesn’t want a government job for their child?” she quips.

Her first posting was at North Delhi’s Maurice Nagar police station.In 2003, Anita married Navneet Tyagi; he now runs a battery rickshaw rental business. “We lived in the same area, and our families were well acquainted. We used to talk often. One day, he asked my father for my hand in marriage. Never asked me, though,” she chuckles.The couple has two sons, aged 21 and 18 years.In 2009, Anita says, there were vacancies for the post of head constable. “But I couldn’t apply. I was pregnant with my second child. But I was patient, and vacancies opened up again in 2013,” she recalls.Anita cleared the test and became a head constable. In 2022, she got her dream transfer to the Crime Branch.She now awaits another promotion — to Assistant Sub-Inspector. “It’s finally on the horizon,” she says.

Head Constable, Crime Branch, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU)It was January 2025. Sukanya was at her Rohini office, tracking a case — much like she had been doing for the past 12 years with the AHTU — of two missing girls.The girls, 12 and 14, both sisters, were untraceable since October 2024.“After months of surveillance, we got a lead that the girls were taken to Jalgaon. Inspector Virender, who has been my boss since I joined, asked me and Head Constable Anuj to head to Maharashtra...,” says Sukanya, who goes by her first name.On January 6, she and Anuj reached Jalgaon, and arrested the accused — a

during six-month stability testing.”The affected batch is being withdrawn nationwide in the United States as a Class II recall, which indicates that exposure to the product may cause temporary or reversible health problems, but serious health issues are unlikely.Similarly, the US arm of Zydus Lifesciences, Zydus Pharmaceuticals (USA) Inc, is recalling over 1,500 boxes of Entecavir tablets, an antiviral medicine used mainly to treat chronic hepatitis B.

The recall, which began on September 24, involves 912 bottles of 0.5 mg tablets and 600 bottles of 1 mg tablets. The USFDA cited “failed impurity/degradation specifications” as the reason for the recall.India is home to the largest number of USFDA-compliant pharmaceutical plants outside the United States, and such recalls highlight the strict regulatory oversight maintained by the US authorities. This is not the first instance of Indian drug makers recalling medicines from the US market.Earlier, companies like Sun Pharma, Lupin, and Dr Reddy’s had initiated similar recalls over product mix-ups and quality issues, ensuring patient safety remains a priority.In July this year, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, headquartered in Mumbai, recalled 5,448 bottles of a generic drug used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The medicine in question was Lisdexamfetamine Dimesylate capsules, which failed to meet the required dissolution standards during testing.



man in his late 20s, who had lured the sisters through Instagram. “It’s hard when you go to another state. The locals are hostile... You don’t know the language. You try to act tough where you can. But sometimes it’s pure luck,” says Sukanya.

Anuj and Virender Kumar have been by Sukanya’s side since her early days as a constable at the AHTU. Initially confined to paperwork, she was nudged onto the field by Virender.“He always encouraged me... Eventually, I started getting more opportunities to lead investigations,” she says.She recounts one of her assignments in Bihar, where she was surrounded by a couple of residents in an open field. “My team was far off. The accused’s family was not letting me touch him. They would take him and start heading towards their village. I had to follow him in the wet mud, trying not to fall, and drag him back. For almost 30 minutes, I... was fending off the crowd,” she says.This kind of grit, says Sukanya, was instilled in her early in life.Hailing from Ladpur village in Haryana’s Jhajjar, she was the third among four children. Her father, Phool Kanwar, was a farmer.“My father used to go to the akhada (wrestling pit) every day, and would take me with him. He trained me in wrestling for years; I represented my school and college in multiple state-level competitions,” says Sukanya.

Her 5-foot-7-inch frame still carries the presence of an athlete. Dressed in an off-white salwar kameez with pink floral patterns, paired with black sneakers, she ties her black hair neatly in a bun.Growing up, she says, the most prominent figure of authority in her village was the police. “When they arrived in their jeeps, I used to marvel at the attention they got from all the villagers. Everyone wanted to be seen with the kotwal, and let people know that they knew them. I wanted that,” she says.So, when Sukanya completed her BA from Maharshi Dayanand University in Rohtak, she told her father she wanted to join the police. “He didn’t ask me a single question. He just listened. And from the next day, he trained me at the akhada for my physical test. He taught me how to ride an Enfield. He prepared me in the best way he could.”In 2010, Sukanya cleared the Delhi Police constable exam and was posted at the Crime Branch.The next year, she married Harish Chakara, a constable in the force. “My husband and I shifted to Kanjhawala. I became a mother in 2012,” she says.

December 2015 brought Sukanya one of her first big assignments. “We were assigned a case from the DCP office — it was about a racket based in Uttar Pradesh, where girls from economically poor backgrounds were being ‘sold’ to older men,” says Sukanya.She and her team started tracking phone numbers that were active around the areas from where some of these girls were picked up. And soon, they got a lead.“I went with the raiding party to Muzaffarnagar. When we entered the isolated building, we found a row of underage girls... about 15 of them. They looked pale. I was asked to take them out one by one. The way they held my hand... that’s the feeling I work for,” says Sukanya, her eyes gleaming.Sitting on an old couch inside the Delhi Police Headquarters on Ashoka Road, Sukanya says her colleagues have moved elsewhere. “Anuj is now in Outer North Delhi. Inspector Virendra is now the SHO at IGI Airport. My new team members are warm, but it will take time to get to know them.”She says she has taken on more desk work now. “My son is 13... I have to be there for him. But I still get calls in the middle of the night from families who thank me for returning their daughter or son.”Anju sits behind a hulking wooden desk, with neatly stacked files and an old HP computer, in a rectangular cabin. She is dressed in a crisp white shirt and black pleated pants.Her first-floor office, in the EOW police station in Central Delhi’s Mandir Marg, resembles a lawyer’s chamber.

With the setup and her attire, one could easily mistake Anju for a lawyer.She could have been one, too. “As far as I can remember, my only dream was to become a lawyer,” says the Inspector.After she finished her BSc Honours from DU’s Kirori Mal College, she sat for the judicial services examination. “I failed by 2 marks... I had to get a job now,” says Anju.She found one at a call centre. But her mother wanted her to get a government job. In 2009, she sat for the Delhi Police constable exam and cleared it in one go.She joined the force in 2010. Her first posting was at the Shahbad Dairy police station, where she handled the rape of a young child in 2014. But she could see a change taking place when it came to women in the force.“Women head constables were either assigned rape or molestation cases or roped in as helping hands in cases where the wife or sister of an accused needed to be contained,” says Anju.“But from my batch, about 85 women head constables were recruited. That was a huge number back then.”



# Electronics industry sees labour codes as big push for women’s workforce participation



India’s electronics manufacturing sector believes that the notification of the four long-pending labour codes — covering wages, industrial relations, social security and working conditions — will raise employee trust, reduced attrition, strengthen health and social protection, and widen women’s participation. The codes will envisage better safety culture in manufacturing operations, and greater investor confidence in India’s electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM) ecosystem. The India Electronics & Semiconductor Association (IESA) said that the ESDM sector will benefit in four key ways due to the codes, centred around encouraging more women to join the sector, enhanced skill retention, improved health and safety standards and better social protections. “Allowing women to work in all roles—including night shifts and specialised operations—with mandatory safety measures will help expand the talent pipeline in semiconductor assembly, verification labs, and 24×7 manufacturing operations. Recognition of gig and platform workers and portability of benefits is a forward-looking addition suited to India’s digital and innovation-driven economy,” the industry body said.

“Provisions for fixed-term employment, faster dispute resolution, single licensing, and simplified compliance directly support the scaling of high-tech manufacturing clus-

ters. At the same time, parity of benefits for FTEs and expanded social security protections ensure a balanced, worker-centric ecosystem,” it added. Women are a crucial demographic for electronics manufacturers. A 2024 report by Qness Corp shows women accounted for 78 per cent of the industry’s workforce. They are usually hired on assembly lines for smartphone production, as operators, quality assurance professionals, and in testing roles. The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) said that the codes will also boost business productivity while ensuring better working conditions for workers. “The Codes cap maximum working hours at 8 hours per day and 48 hours per week, with overtime payable at twice the normal rate for hours beyond regular working time. This will ensure better work-life balance for employees, increase household cash flow of hard-working team members and simultaneously ensure greater business productivity,” ICEA said.

Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman, ICEA, said, “For the IT and electronics sectors, these reforms bring about stronger social security, operational clarity, and a more stable workforce environment—factors that will enhance productivity and enable long-term competitiveness. ICEA believes these changes will facilitate sustainable job creation and support India’s aspiration of becoming a self-reliant manufacturing powerhouse”. However, IESA flagged some potential near-term challenges, which includes companies seeing higher wage and compliance costs as benefits expand, adjustment period for MSMEs to adopt new norms, and a need for stronger HR processes and documentation practices. “The Labour Codes will significantly strengthen blue-collar jobs in electronics manufacturing by ensuring better wages, safer workplaces and expanded social security. A more formal and future-ready workforce will reduce attrition and boost productivity across India’s factories. These reforms mark an important step toward building globally competitive ESDM and semiconductor ecosystems,” IESA said.

# Labour codes and MSMEs: Gains from cut in compliance obligations likely to offset any cost increase

The implementation of the four new Labour Codes, seen as the biggest revamp of India’s labour laws in decades, is expected to ease the compliance burden for the country’s Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), something that these smaller businesses had been calling for years. And while expanded social security net, safety mandates, and greater digitisation of human resource management dictated by the Codes could push up employee costs, industry representatives are of the view that not only would these costs pale in comparison to the reduced compliance burden, but that they would benefit the sector in the long run.

“For MSMEs, the new Labour Codes answer our long-standing demands to ease compliance issues,” said India SME Forum President Vinod Kumar. According to Kumar, with compliance becoming structurally simpler and more uniform and wage, social security, and safety obligations becoming stronger and more enforceable, well-run MSMEs that already follow most core laws will get a level playing field and less regulatory ambiguity. Further, while highly informal units will face a sharp adjustment with higher unit labour costs, they will also benefit from potentially lower legal and reputational risk over time. The Parliament had cleared the Code on Wages in 2019 and the other three codes on industrial relations, social security, and occupational safety, health, and working conditions in 2020. The four codes will replace 29 Central labour laws and are aimed at widening the social security net for all workers, including those who work for companies such as Zomato, Swiggy, and Amazon, among others, as the codes define gig and platform work and aggregators for the first time.

In addition to Aadhaar-linked Universal Account Numbers making welfare benefits easily accessible and available across states, regardless of migration, the codes will also define a National Floor Wage and mandate timely wage payments. The government is likely to pre-publish draft rules for the labour codes within a week, after which it will provide 45 days for public comments. Some of the provisions of the codes that relate to the industry may come into effect from April 1, 2026. Some MSME sector insiders and representatives feel that payroll costs are set to rise on account of the broader and better-defined social security net, guaranteed minimum wages, specified working hours, double overtime pay, and paid leave. According to Association of Indian Entrepreneurs (AIE) — which acknowledged the Codes are a major reform — the likely increase in operational costs for MSMEs is a concern and more clarity, transitional support, and flexible implementation mechanisms from the government is needed. “These costs come at a time when MSMEs are already battling high inflation, rising capital costs, and market uncertainties,” the AIE said in a statement on Saturday. “The complexities of these rules may not be manageable for micro and small units who lack dedicated HR or legal teams,” said AIE National Chairman KE Raghunathan. The AIE emphasised that MSMEs “must not be overwhelmed by sudden regulatory shock” and the Codes’ implementation must be MSME-sensitive as otherwise, “the reforms could unintentionally slow down job creation and discourage new entrepreneurs”. However, others feel the rise in costs may not be that high. According to Suchita Dutta, Executive Director of Indian Staffing Federation, while there might be a 5-7 per cent increase in costs in the short-term, the long-term benefits from reduced compliance will be far more.

“Today, the underhand deals on the compliance front — you won’t even be able to estimate how many millions (of rupees) are flowing out of such companies just to show themselves as compliant,” Dutta said. “Compliance is a big headache. It may be an indirect cost for many; only for a handful it shows as a direct cost. But the court cases, legal notices, delays, penalties that have to be paid — these run into multiples of crores.” The good part is that licenses have been reduced. The amount of ease that will come because of that and the compliance burdens that will reduce, that will offset the increase in the visible cost. The costs of non-compliance are at least 5x more than what you’re going to be paying right now (under new labour codes). If you are non-compliant on ESIC or you are not giving minimum wages and have more than 20 people, or you are doing casual employment, it won’t go unchecked for a long time,” Dutta added. According to the government, provisions relating to contract labour will now apply to contractors employing more than 50 workers, up from 20 before. As such, a contractor employing less than 50 contract staff will not require a license. This, the government said in a statement on Saturday, will free small contractors “from excessive regulation” and encourage small business growth.

The long-term benefits also include greater formalisation for a sector that employs the highest number

# The future of health lies in harmony



As the world grapples with rising lifestyle diseases, environmental degradation, and social fragmentation, there is a growing realisation that restoring the balance between people and the planet, progress and sustainability, innovation and intuition is a necessity. Health, in its truest sense, has always been a reflection of harmony — within the human body and between humanity and nature. This is the principle that is at the heart of traditional medicine systems worldwide, which view health not merely as the absence of illness but as the presence of equilibrium. The science of well-being, therefore, is not new. It is the rediscovery of a traditional understanding, now being reaffirmed through evidence-based research. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that around 90% of WHO member-states have reported on the use of traditional medicine. For billions of people, it remains the first line of care, particularly in low- and middle-income nations where accessibility and affordability are paramount.

Its value, however, extends well beyond health care. Traditional medicine supports biodiversity, nutrition, food security and livelihoods, embodying the holistic concept of integrative health. Market analysts estimate India’s AYUSH sector at \$43.4 billion — a figure that tells a larger story. This surge is driven not only by consumer preference but also by a paradigm shift: health-care systems are evolving from reactive treatment models to proactive, preventive, and personalised ones. This global shift represents a shared realisation — that well-being cannot be achieved through fragmented approaches. It demands an ecosystem of balance — between mind and body, human and environment, science and spirit. It is a fact that India has emerged as a hub of innovative research and development initiatives, transforming the global traditional medicine sector. To support this transformation, WHO’s Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) serves as a knowledge hub for evidence-based collaboration and innovation. With its strategic focus on evidence and learning, data and analytics, sustainability and equity, the GTMC aims to optimise the contribution of traditional medicine to global health and sustainable development. It also upholds a guiding principle often overlooked in the age of globalisation — a respect for local heritages, resources, and rights.

# Why Aerospace Engineering students need knowledge of AI and Data Analytics

The thrill of space exploration and lucrative opportunities make Aerospace Engineering a popular choice among students. However, the advent of AI and Data Analytics has transformed how aircraft and spacecraft are designed, built, and operated. AI plays a vital role in optimising designs, automating processes, and enabling predictive analytics, such as simulating various scenarios. Machine learning, in particular, analyses vast amounts of data generated from sensors embedded in models and aircraft to detect anomalies and suggest maintenance schedules.

Domain knowledge To build a thriving career in the AI-powered aerospace industry, students must develop proficiency in domains such as programming and machine learning (ML), languages such as Python and MATrix Laboratory (MATLAB), and gain a solid understanding of ML algorithms and neural networks to design intelligent systems that can adapt and learn from data and focus on managing large datasets, streamlining data, and utilising tools such as Excel, Tableau, or Python libraries such as Pandas and Matplotlib to extract meaningful insights necessary to interpret complex aerospace data and make informed decisions.

As AI becomes more integrated into aerospace systems, it also introduces a host of ethical dilemmas and critical challenges that students must be prepared to address. A pressing concern is maintaining a balance between autonomy and human control. In machines like autonomous spacecraft, a malfunctioning AI could result in catastrophe. Therefore, students must understand the importance of human supervision and the development of fail-safe mechanisms. Further, safeguarding data privacy and security presents numerous challenges. These systems handle highly confidential information, including defence-related data and passenger records. It is therefore imperative for students to have a deep understanding of encryption techniques, responsible data management, and adherence to global data protection standards. Bias in AI models is another major concern. The effectiveness of AI systems depends heavily on the quality and neutrality of their training data. When datasets contain biases, the outputs can be misleading. Promoting fairness and accuracy in AI applications is therefore essential. Due to the ongoing space ex-

Established in Jamnagar, Gujarat, with the foundational support of the Government of India, the GTMC is an expression of shared global leadership. It reflects WHO’s vision that harnessing the potential of traditional medicine, when grounded in evidence, innovation, and sustainability, can be a game-changer for health. India’s commitment to this vision stems from the belief that knowledge must serve humanity collectively. The establishment of the Centre in India is a testament to this spirit. Under the Prime Minister’s emphasis on evidence-based research in the field, there have been initiatives such as a dedicated AYUSH department at the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), development of global standards in AYUSH Systems through ISO/TC 249/SC 2 subcommittee, paving the way for wider global acceptance of India’s traditional medicine. The growing recognition of traditional medicine as a scientific and social asset took a decisive step in August 2023, when the first WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, alongside the G-20 Health Ministerial Meeting. The gathering of Ministers, scientists, practitioners and communities from around the world mobilised political commitment, fostered data-driven action, and laid the groundwork for evidence-based integration of traditional medicine into national health systems. The Gujarat Declaration, adopted at the Summit called for the protection of biodiversity, fair benefit-sharing, digital innovation, and equitable access to traditional health knowledge. The global community is now ready to take the next step — to deepen scientific understanding, encourage innovation, and align traditional medicine’s potential with modern global health priorities. Thus, WHO and the Government of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to co-host the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine (New Delhi, December 17–19, 2025), marking a new chapter in global collaboration for health and sustainability. With its theme, “Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being”, it will mobilise multi-stakeholder action in support of WHO’s new 10-year Global Traditional Medicine Strategy (2025–34), adopted at the 78th World Health Assembly earlier this year. These initiatives are designed not only to celebrate traditional medicine’s heritage but also to propel it into the future — where it stands validated by science, empowered by technology, and guided by ethics. As the birthplace of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa, India’s contribution lies in demonstrating how traditional knowledge can coexist with modern science. Its approach is rooted in integration — uniting tradition with technology, research with community participation, and well-being with sustainability. As the world gathers once again under a shared commitment to restore balance, India’s message is simple yet profound: health must heal, not harm; progress must sustain, not consume; and science must serve, not separate. The summit is more than an event — it is a global convergence to reaffirm that the future of health lies in harmony. Prataprao Jadhav is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India



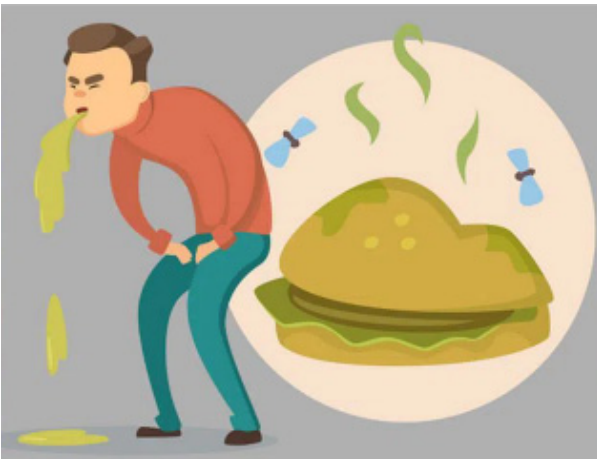
ploration race among nations, the accumulation of space debris has emerged as a complex challenge that compromises the safety and sustainability of future missions. To address this issue, ethical responsibility must be instilled in students, emphasising the long-term sustainability of space operations and minimising environmental harm.

Varied perspectives Encouraging students to adopt interdisciplinary perspectives, including legal, environmental, and philosophical viewpoints, is crucial. By analysing real-world case studies involving ethical dilemmas and system failures, students are empowered to make complex decisions they will encounter in their careers. Moreover, non-technical skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, effective communication, teamwork and project management skills are pivotal to long-term success. Since projects in this domain involve significant risks and intricate processes, evaluating alternatives and making strategic decisions under pressure is a key competency. Engineers must be able to convey ideas to professionals with non-technical backgrounds and collaborate effectively across multidisciplinary teams. Aerospace projects involve cross-functional units that require conflict management and initiative-taking. Finally comes the importance of meeting deadlines, resource allocation, and budgeting. With a significant emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and nurturing a mindset of innovation and responsibility, budding aerospace engineers can fuel the transformation of the industry toward smarter, safer, and more sustainable technologies.

# Six of a family critical after consuming food cooked with acid in Bengal

Kolkata: Six members of a family, including two children, are in critical condition after accidentally consuming food cooked with acid in Ghatat, West Midnapore district, police said on Monday. They are undergoing treatment at SSKM Hospital in Kolkata. Two of them are children. The incident took place in Ghatat of the West Midnapore district on Sunday. The police said that Panchanan Mandal, the health officer of Ghatat Panchayat Samiti, rushed to the spot on receiving the information. Local police and administration officials also went to the area to investigate how this incident took place.

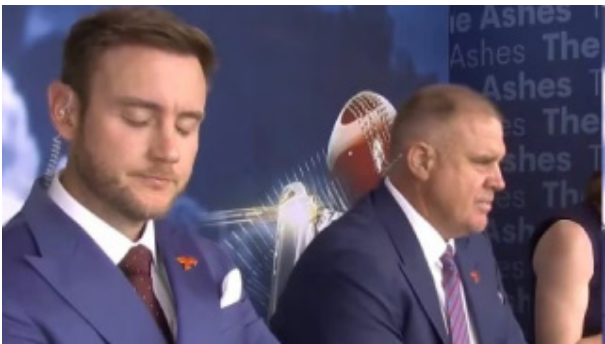
Preliminary investigation suggests that the incident happened after a meal was prepared using acid mistakenly assumed to be water. However, the police are also investigating whether it was a deliberate attempt to spike the food with acid in a bid to wipe out the entire family. “Six members of a family fell seriously ill after consuming food. It is believed that acid was used instead of water to make the food. All of them, including two children, have been transferred to SSKM Hospital in Kolkata for treatment. Their condition is



critical. An investigation has started,” said a senior officer of West Midnapore district police. According to local sources,



## Stuart Broad on his viral moment in the commentary box in the 1st Ashes Test: ‘Close my eyes and just pray that it wasn’t actually happening’



GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Coming out of the 1st Test at Perth, the Ashes found its first noteworthy viral moment from the commentary box where former England pacer Stuart Broad had closed his eyes as the Three Lions kept losing wickets against Australia. Broad had an expression of disbelief and closed his eyes and prayed that the England collapse turned out to be a bad dream. “It’s what Test cricket does. It sort of brings all your emotions out and it was that period of commentary where we lost 4 in the blink of an eye. And when Rooty chopped on, it was just a natural reaction for me was to close my eyes and just pray that it wasn’t actually happen-

ing. If I close them, maybe it wasn’t actually happening. Can we just soak up a little bit of pressure somehow,” Broad opened up on Sky Cricket about the moment after England were thrashed by the hosts by 8 wickets.

“I have been there loads of time before in Australia, we all would have been where they just opened that door slightly and then when you talk about you are not just playing against the Australian cricket team, you are playing against Australia, it’s that moment where that comes in because suddenly the crowd was erupting, everyone celebrating with their mates in the crowd and you just see Jamie Smith walking out to bat and you think, you have never been in this situation like this before. You have never felt what’s going on. And credit to Australia, they were absolutely superb. But England just opened that door,” he added. England were absolutely savaged by critics when they failed to take advantage of a 40-run lead after Australia had been skittled out for 132, chasing the 172-run 1st innings target set by Ben Stokes and Co. Hoping to build on that lead, the England batting combusted in the second innings and they were wiped out by Mitchell Starc, Brendan Doggett and Scott Boland, managing to score just 164, giving their bowlers 205 runs to defend. Travis Head slammed a brutal 123 while Marnus Labuschagne chipped in with a half century as Australia easily chased down the target in just the second day, taking a 1-0 lead in the series.

## Why Mark Wood wanted to drive from Perth to Brisbane after 1st Test loss

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

England pacer Mark Wood considered driving all the way from Perth to Brisbane, a distance that could easily have been 4000km, after England lost the first Ashes Test at the Optus Stadium within two days. Wood, who is a nervous flyer, suddenly found himself with three extra days after the early end of the 1st Test. The Englishman explored the option of making the drive but was talked out of it as quickly as the thought appeared.

“If I could drive across the country, I would,” said the 35-year-old, speaking to former teammate Stuart Broad on the For The Love Of Cricket podcast. “I did speak to a local who said if you go across the country, that’s a big danger. So you’d have to drive around the coast. But I did look at it,” said Wood. Wood spoke about the loss suffered by England in the first Test and said that while the result didn’t go his country’s way, they did a few things right and the result shouldn’t take away from their overall performance. England were quick to dismiss Australia in the first innings but fell to a rapid Travis Head century in the second innings.

“I feel we know this is one of five [Tests]. There has to be a reflection of what has gone on but also to know that we did some good things and we take those into the next game. We have been hit hard in round one but we have more



rounds to throw some back.” Wood also made it clear that he believed in the England bowling unit’s ability to make this a competitive Ashes tour. The English picked up Australia’s batting in the first innings but Travis Head’s quickfire century in the second innings turned the game around for the hosts. “I definitely feel this team has 20 wickets in it – the makeup of the team has been designed to take 20 wickets in these conditions,” Wood said. “As a bowling group, we can take a lot of confidence from that game and it being a day-night Test in Brisbane, we know around night time we can zip it around. And if we zip around at pace, that can make it difficult.

## ‘Panic is not the answer’: Greg Chappell offers advice to England after 8-wicket loss to Australia in 2025-26 Ashes Test at Perth

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Former Australian captain Greg Chappell has urged England not to panic and remain calm, following a thumping eight-wicket loss in the 2025-26 Ashes series opener at Perth on Saturday. The 77-year-old said that the visitors needed to sit down and discuss what had gone wrong, with Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum taking charge of plotting a comeback in the series. Chappell reiterated that Stokes and his men needed to shut out the outside noise and prevent themselves from making wrong calls before the next match.

“Panic is not the answer. Cold, calm discussion must take place, grounded in the unvarnished truth of the situation. McCullum and Stokes hold the leadership keys because they alone know the full extent of the structural damage, the vulnerabilities, and crucially, which areas of the edifice remain sound. The structure is sound enough to escape. But England must not listen to the shouts; they must learn the lessons. Only then can they hope to get back on the course, lest the race be over before the end of the first straight.” “They know that listening to the shouting outside will only lead them down a blind alley, or worse, cause them to add insult to injury by making the wrong decision,” he wrote in his column. The former right-handed batter felt that England had got their bowling lengths wrong at Perth and perhaps got a bit carried away by assuming there would be trampoline-like bounce at the venue. “The most critical tactical error was the length they bowled in both innings. It is a mistake many touring teams have fallen for at the WACA and now at the new Optus Stadium. England’s bowlers, perhaps seduced by the bounce, bowled too short



too often.” “England must prepare for the home attack – Starc, Scott Boland and Brendan Doggett – to pitch it up relentlessly. The English bowlers must reciprocate. This is no time for tentative half-measures; the mantra for the bowling unit must be: if in doubt, pitch it up,” he added. Chappell felt that, despite the loss in Perth, the visitors had positives to take out of the match, adding that they were blown away by excellent individual performances from Mitchell Starc and Travis Head and a better tactically aware skipper in Steve Smith. “For all the talk of a humbling loss, the truth is that England had many positives from the match and were, arguably, in a winning position more than once. Australia won because they were superior in three critical areas and had a more robust plan for the specific conditions in Perth: they had the best bowler in Mitchell Starc, the best batter in Travis Head, and the more tactically acute captain in Steven Smith,” he wrote.

## Lionel Messi scores a goal and provides three assists for Inter Miami to set MLS playoff record

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi scores as FC Cincinnati goalkeeper Roman Celentano, third from left, tries to save his shot during the first half of MLS soccer’s Eastern Conference semifinal Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, in Cincinnati. (AP Photo) Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi scores as FC Cincinnati goalkeeper Roman Celentano, third from left, tries to save his shot during the first half of MLS soccer’s Eastern Conference semifinal Sunday

Lionel Messi scored a goal and created three more for his Inter Miami team as they defeated FC Cincinnati 4-0 Sunday to advance to their first Eastern Conference final. Messi’s Miami will now host New York City FC, who emerged to the Eastern Conference final thanks to a 1-0 win over the Philadelphia Union on Saturday. The winner of the Inter Miami vs New York City FC game will now advance to the MLS Cup on December 6.

Thanks to his heroics on Sunday, Messi set an MLS playoff record with 12 goal contributions (six goals, six assists). short article insert Messi had been scoreless in three matches against Cincinnati, but that streak ended in

the 19th minute Sunday when he headed a short cross from Mateo Silvetti, giving Miami a 1-0 lead. Messi, a World Cup champion with Argentina and eight-time Ballon d’Or winner, had his 11th goal in the last seven games.

Nine minutes after scoring, Messi found himself alone with the keeper, but his shot toward the far post sailed wide. “Proud of how the team played on a very, very difficult field and against a very, very tough opponent,” Miami head coach Javier Mascherano said. “I think from the first minute it wasn’t about holding back. It was about going after the game and being ourselves. I think today the players played a virtually perfect match.” The result was heartbreaking for Cincinnati, who had the second-best overall record in MLS behind Philadelphia after winning the Supporters Shield last season. Cincinnati had also lost to the Columbus Crew in last year’s conference finals. “Tough night to end this way,” FC Cincinnati coach Pat Noonan said. “Credit to Miami. They were better tonight. To the fans, sorry how it ended. It’s disappointing. You have to own it.” Cincinnati’s best scoring chance came in the first half when Ender Echenique sent a header across the box to Evander, who shot over the bar.

## ‘Ones that drink too much & carry on like pork chops’: Darren Lehmann slams England for constant ‘sandpapergate’ jibe at Steve Smith



GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Former Australian batter and coach Darren Lehmann has slammed England for constantly reminding them of the “sandpapergate” incident involving batting talisman Steve Smith, saying that their behaviour felt like they had never done anything wrong in life. The former left-hander felt that folks in England never forgot what had happened in the past and admitted that the 36-year-old’s mental health might be affected by the frequent reminders. Lehmann was the coach of the Australian side when the incident took place in 2018 during a Test match against South Africa in Cape Town. Smith was banned for 12 months for his involvement in the role.

“The abuse you get is daily. It is unbelievable. He [Smith] is playing every day. It would be worse for him. In England, they just don’t forget. It is like they have never done anything wrong in their life. It is only the ones that drink too much and carry on like pork chops,” Lehmann told ABC after the first Ashes Test. “It just borders on abuse,

but we did the wrong thing, you’ve got to accept it. It’s not great for your mental health, to be completely honest,” he added. Ahead of the first Test match at Perth, former England spinner Monty Panesar had a war of words with Smith over the “sandpapergate” incident. The 43-year-old had said that the visitors should make Smith feel “guilty” about the incident and question whether it was ethical that he got to lead Australia after his involvement in the incident.

“Say something like: ‘I don’t think it’s ethical that he’s the captain. I don’t think he played the game fairly.’ Really get into him and make him feel guilty about it. Make him feel like: ‘They’re probably right, I shouldn’t be here, I shouldn’t be doing this.’ This is where the UK media must also focus and put pressure. Use it as a way to help England,” he had told an online betting website. Smith had responded to the comments by bringing up Panesar’s erroneous answers in his appearance on the “Mastermind” show. “I’m going to go off topic here ... Who of you in the room has seen Mastermind, and Monty Panesar on that? Any of you?” Those of you that have will understand where I’m coming from. And those of you who haven’t, do yourself a favour because it is pretty comical. Anyone that believes that Athens is in Germany ... that’s a start. [That] Oliver Twist is a season of the year, and America is a city, it doesn’t really bother me those comments. That’s as far as I’ll go with that one,” Smith had said in a pre-match press conference. Panesar had responded to Smith’s jibe, saying that he had made mistakes on a TV show while the Australian had erred on the cricket field. “I’ve had some great moments for England and I’ve had shockers, and he’s had some great moments for Australia and he’s obviously had a very big shocker in South Africa. We’ve both made mistakes.

## Why Brendon McCullum is confident going into Brisbane Test after Perth loss

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

Stay calm, stay together... keep the faith. England head coach Brendon McCullum has asked for his players to keep their heads up and trust in the plans they have in store for the Brisbane Test, after the opening Ashes Test match in Perth ended in a loss for the English. The Perth Test was set to be a hotly contested match on the back of England coming to Australian shores with a battery of pace options. And when that group of bowlers took down Australia in the first innings for 123, it seemed like England’s superior run rate in the first innings, and their bowling, might win them the first Test. But then Travis Head put up a fine ton in testing conditions, scoring at a fast clip and taking the game away from England.

The Perth Test may have ended in two days, but both of those days showed just how close this series could get and how a change in approach could be pivotal in a loss turning into a win. “The last few years we’ve built a setup which is really connected, it’s tight, and it plays a style of cricket that we believe gives us our best chance. If we go away from that, then we’re in trouble. If we’re able to seize the key moments that separate the wins and the losses, then I have complete confidence that we’ll be a live chance in this series,” said McCullum in Perth, according to the



Guardian. “This is the fun stuff, right? When you’re under the bat and things haven’t quite worked out, that’s when your methods are tested, and that’s when you’ve got to stay calm as a leader, you’ve got to keep plotting the path and the way forward, and keep the boys’ eyes on the prize,” he added. “We know how big this series is. We know how many eyeballs are on it, we know how disappointed all the fans will be, and we’re incredibly disappointed ourselves. We’re better than what we showed in the last four hours of Saturday, and we look forward to the next opportunity,” said McCullum.

## Ravi Shastri slams India batsmen: ‘Very ordinary batting. Not a pitch to be 142 for 7, India won’t be happy’

GNS News Agency, Nov 24

India’s captain Rishabh Pant walks off the field after losing his wicket on the third day of the second cricket test match between India and South Africa in Guwahati, India, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025. (AP Photo) India’s captain Rishabh Pant walks off the field after losing his wicket on the third day of the second cricket test match between India and South Africa in Guwahati, India, “This is still a good surface. This not a pitch to be 142 for 7. Ordinary batting. India won’t be one bit happy. You have to put your hands up and say that’s very ordinary batting,” Ravi Shastri, former India coach, summarised India’s batting on day 3.

His comments came on the back of Shaun Pollock’s comments that some of the batting has been “soft” and it would have been understandable if the wickets had come “off some brilliant deliveries” and the former South African pacer ran through some of the wickets. KL Rahul lunged at a Keshav Maharaj delivery, getting his hands rather low, and the ball popped up off the splice for a simple catch at slips. His opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal had a ball that stopped on him perhaps, and he just check-punched it off the edge to short third man. Sai Sudharsan, back in the playing XI, wasted a decent start, pulling a harmless delivery from the offspinner Simon Harmer to midwicket. Dhruv Jurel, who had pulled Harmer to deep midwicket in the first Test, went for a pull shot off Marco Jansen. This was a delivery angling outside off, and he had to end up dragging it from there, and unsurprisingly it popped up to mid-



on. Rishabh Pant “ran down the wicket” in the words of Pollock. Pant went for a old-school slog, charging down to Jansen and tried to slug it across the line, only to feather an edge. For some reason, he even took a DRS that didn’t reprieve him. Nitish Reddy stabbed a Jansen bouncer and it went off the splice towards gully and Markram ran across from the slips to take a good catch. Ravindra Jadeja tried to pull out off another bouncer from Jansen but the ball bounded off the shoulder on to the bat, and to the slips. “Definite question marks about Indian batsmen. India don’t play a Test series next year at home. They have a long time to reassess what to do at Test match level. This performance against South Africa will definitely hurt,” Abhinav Mukund, former India opener, added.

## Smriti Mandhana postpones wedding after father hospitalised in Sangli

Sangli (Maharashtra): The wedding of star Indian women’s cricketer Smriti Mandhana and music composer Palash Munchal has been postponed indefinitely after her father Shrinivas fell ill in the lead-up to the ceremony, which was scheduled to take place here on Sunday. Mandhana is emotionally attached to her father, who has been a constant source of support in her cricketing journey. Tuhin Mishra, the manager of Mandhana, said the World Cup-winning cricketer’s father suffered the health complication early on Sunday morning. “Smriti’s father, Mr. Shrinivas Mandhana was having breakfast this morning, and his health started deteriorating. We waited thinking he would recover soon, but it didn’t improve. ‘So we thought not to take any risk and called an ambulance, and he has been taken to the hospital. He is under observation’” said Mishra.

Considering her father’s health condition, Mishra said, Mandhana decided to postpone her wedding till he recovers. “Smriti is very close to her father. So, she has

decided to postpone the marriage, which was going to happen today, till her father is fine. “The doctor has said he (Mandhana’s father) will have to be in the hospital for the time being. We are also in shock and hope that he recovers quickly because it’s a big occasion for everyone” he added. “So, Smriti is very clear, she wants her father to be okay first, and later she will get married. I would request you to respect the family’s privacy at this time,” said Mishra. Mandhana’s family doctor Dr Naman Shah said a medical team is monitoring the health condition of her father. “At around 1.30 pm, Mr Srinivas Mandhana got left-sided chest pain, we call it ‘angina’ in medical term. As the symptoms surfaced, his son called me, we sent ambulance, he was shifted to hospital. We found out in ECG, other reports, that cardiac enzymes are elevated, hence we need to keep him in observation,” he told PTL. “Blood Pressure is also elevated, efforts are on to lower it. The whole team is monitoring. If the situation exacerbates, we will have to do angiography.



## Dharmendra dies at 89: The ‘macho’ hero who broke boundaries, gave India both Sholay and Satyakam



Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra passed away on Monday morning in Mumbai at the age of 89, police sources at the cremation ground confirmed to The Indian Express. The veteran actor, who had worked in over 300 films over his storied career, had been ailing for a month. His last rites were conducted at the Pawan Hans crematorium. Dharmendra would have turned 90 on December 8 this year. Dharmendra was hospitalised in October for a health check-up after complaining of breathlessness. His team had shared that he was doing well and had chosen to extend his stay at the hospital so that he could undergo proper medical screening. Earlier this year, he underwent an eye graft surgery (corneal transplantation). An outsider who came from a village in Punjab and made Hindi cinema his own, acting in over 300 films which included both mainstream blockbusters and underrated gems, Dharmendra was among those few actors whose stardom was not impacted by the rise of Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan. As he often said, he received few awards in his career but the massive love of his fans more than made up for it. He balanced Sholay — arguably the most iconic Hindi film over decades — with a Satyakam; audience will always remember his comic turn in Chupke Chupke. His career spanned decades and generations.

Dharmendra's story is the stuff dreams, and films, are made of. Born Dharmendra Deol, he was born to a school teacher in the Sahnewal village of Ludhiana district, Punjab in 1935. His film ambitions took off after he won a national talent contest organised by a film magazine. He made his debut in Hindi films in 1960 with Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere. The film went unnoticed and it was only next year that he delivered his first success, Shola Aur Shabnam. He followed it up with Mohan Kumar's Anpadh (1962), and Bimal Roy's Bandini (1963), which won the National Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi. Dharmendra came to be known as the charming, handsome man who could deliver captivating performances on screen. Phool Aur Patthar marked his first action role, and it was his action-hero image that eventually gave him the title of the 'He-Man of

Bollywood'. Tum Haseen Mai Jawan was Hema Malini's debut film, and her pairing with Dharmendra proved to be a hit. They went on to work together in a number of films. It was during the 1970s that Dharmendra fell in love with film actor Hema Malini, even though he was already married to Prakash Kaur at the time, and was a father to four children — sons Sunny and Bobby, and daughters Ajeeta and Vijaya. His and Hema's love story was nothing less than a movie as the two were ready to go against the world to be with each other. Despite opposition from Hema's family, and amid conversations of her alliance with Jeetendra, Hema and Dharmendra got married. They later welcomed two daughters — Esha and Ahana. Dharmendra passes away: Dharmendra and Hema Malini on the set of Sholay.

While Dharmendra was also married to Hema, he continued to live with his first wife Prakash and his extended family, while Hema lived close by. Over the years, it has been speculated that there was animosity within the family but they have largely tried to maintain a united front. Dharmendra (centre) with son Sunny (left) and Bobby (right). (Photo: Express Archives) Dharmendra (centre) with son Sunny (left) and Bobby (right). (Photo: Express Archives) Dharmendra with sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol. Dharmendra with sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol. (Photo: Sunny Deol/Instagram)

Towards the later part of his career, he was seen in supporting roles in films like Life in a... Metro, Johnny Gaddar, Apne, Yamla Pagla Deewana, Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani and Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya. His film Ikkis, where he will be seen with Agastya Nanda, will release in December. Dharmendra set up his production house Vijaya Films in 1983 and launched his son Sunny Deol with the 1983 film Betaab. They also produced films like Ghayal, Barsaat, Socha Na Tha among others. The film produced under the banner, Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas, launched his grandson Karan Deol. He won a National Award for the film Ghayal under the category, Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. In 2012, the veteran actor was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2012.

Dharmendra and Shabana Azmi Dharmendra and Shabana Azmi shared screen in Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. Dharmendra in a still from Johnny Gaddaar. Dharmendra in a still from Johnny Gaddaar. Dharmendra had a short-lived political career as well. The actor contested from Bikaner in Rajasthan during the 2004 Lok Sabha elections and served the constituency till 2009. He did not return to politics after this even though his wife Hema continues to be a serving Member of Parliament and his son Sunny has also been an active politician in the past. Dharmendra is survived by sons Sunny, Bobby, daughters Ajeeta, Vijaya, Esha and Ahana, along with his first wife Prakash Kaur and second wife Hema Malini.



In the same chat, Dharmendra also said that Sunny would never have an affair. "Likewise, he knows that affairs never do anyone any good. They only come in the way of your work. So Sunny is going to stay away from them," he said. Three years before this interview, Dharmendra had married his long-time girlfriend Hema Malini, without divorcing his first wife Prakash Kaur. By this time, he already had a daughter named Esha with Hema. In the years prior, it was well known that Hema and Dharmendra were deeply in love with each other. Dharmendra passed away at 89 in Mumbai on Monday, November 24. He is survived by his six children — Sunny, Bobby, Ajeeta, Vijaya, Esha and Ahana; and his two wives — Prakash Kaur and Hema Malini.

## When Hema Malini gave birth to daughters Esha Deol and Ahana, Dharmendra booked entire hospital to ‘protect his wife’

Veteran actor Dharmendra, who passed away on November 24, was known not only for his screen presence but also for the deeply protective and affectionate bond he shared with his family, especially with his second wife, Hema Malini. A remarkable story of Dharmendra's affection towards Hema has resurfaced — the times when Bollywood's He-Man booked an entire hospital to ensure Hema's privacy when she gave birth to their daughters Esha Deol and Ahana Deol.

Dharmendra booked an entire hospital during Esha Deol's birth. During her old appearance on The Kapil Sharma Show, Hema was asked whether the veteran actor had indeed booked the entire hospital during the delivery of Esha and Ahana. Confirming the same, she had said, "Yes, it's true, during the delivery of Esha and Ahana, he had booked the whole hospital on my name so that I don't get disturbed by fans," the actress reminisced.

Hema Malini's close friend, Neetu Kohli, had also spoken about the same during her appearance on the show Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai. Neetu had shared that Dharmendra quietly booked all 100 rooms of the nursing home ahead of Esha Deol's birth. She had said, "No one even knew that Hema was expecting. Dharam ji quietly booked all the rooms

## Salim Khan's 90th birthday: Arpita Khan calls him her ‘galaxy’; Iulia Vantur describes Salman Khan's father as her ‘favourite human’



salim khan birthdaySalim Khan's 90th birthday became even more special with warm wishes from his daughter Arpita Khan Sharma and Salman Khan's rumoured girlfriend Iulia Vantur. Legendary Bollywood screenwriter Salim Khan turns 90 today. On the occasion, his daughter Arpita Khan shared a heartfelt note for her father along with a beautiful family photo.

The picture features Salim, his first wife Salma Khan, Arpita, her husband Aayush Sharma, and their two children, Ahil and Ayat. Along with the image, Arpita wrote, "Happiest 90th Birthday, Daddy. We are truly blessed to celebrate you today and every day. You are a living legend, and we are your legacy." She added, "Thank you for being the wind beneath our wings, thank you for being the calm in a storm,

thank you for being the strength we all need, thank you for teaching us the values of family, and thank you for always being our safe place. You are our Galaxy. Love you forever and ever."

Arpita Khan's Instagram Stories also featured two old photos. The first shows Salim Khan with Salma Khan and Arpita's children Ahil and Ayat. The second captures Arpita with Salim, his daughter Alvira Khan Agnihotri, and Alvira's daughter, Alizeh Agnihotri. Romanian actor and TV anchor Iulia Vantur also extended heartfelt wishes to Salim Khan on his 90th birthday. Sharing a series of old photos, she penned an emotional note which read: "Happy birthday to my favourite human being, Salim Khan — a father, a teacher, a friend, an inspiration, a motivation, a believer, a pillar, a blessing in my life. Beyond grateful. Love each other or perish! May your heart always be full of love, happiness and compassion. May you continue to inspire and bless more people with your wisdom and strength. I love you." Salman Khan and Iulia Vantur have long been rumoured to be in a relationship. While neither has confirmed it, the two are frequently spotted together at family events. Iulia is known to share a warm and close bond with Salman's family as well.

Kriti works as a Copy Editor for the Entertainment section of Indian Express Online (Indianexpress.com). She is great at web stories, galleries, and Express Archive's photo stories. She is good at spotting stories from social media posts. She makes the copies well-loaded with content, photos, tweets, and other related social media posts to make it interesting for the readers. An alumnus of Asian College of Journalism, Chennai (Specialization in New Media), Kriti has been a part of the organisation since November 2015. She took a transfer from Delhi to Bengaluru in April 2017. ... Read More

## Priyanka Chopra says ambition and achievement can coexist with a balanced life



Mumbai: Global star Priyanka Chopra feels that stories like "Born Hungry" serve as a reminder that ambition and compassion don't have to be at odds with each other in a world obsessed with speed and success. Asked whether stories like "Born Hungry" remind audiences of the human cause behind ambition and achievement? Priyanka told IANS: "I don't think they're mutually exclusive. Ambition and achievement can happen along with a balanced life and without human sacrifice. There is a balance to be found, and that's what we all need to strive for."

Explaining further, Priyanka spoke about why purpose matters, but not at the cost of one's well-being. "I think it's really, really important to have a sense of ambition, a sense of achievement, a sense of purpose for every human being — whatever that version might be for you in your life. But at the same time, not at the cost of others, not at the cost of your well-being, not at the cost of your mental health or your health." For her, Born Hungry, which will stream on JioHotstar, underlines the grit people carry within themselves, while also acknowledging the role of fate. "I think what a movie like Born Hungry reminds us is that each human being has tenacity within ourselves, and if we want to achieve something, we can — but also that there has to be some element of divinity involved, like it was with Sash's life," said the actress, who has produced "Born Hungry". Priyanka reflected on the emotional weight behind Sash Simpson's journey from abandonment to accomplishment. "His life changed, and like I said, so many children's lives don't. His story deserves to be told because of what he made out of it, what he built himself, and how he

pulled himself out of, I don't know, maybe the abandonment issues that he must have had or the fear that he must have lived with. As a mother of a young child, I can't imagine... if she was out there in the world all by herself... what kind of fear she must have felt." She said she often finds herself thinking about Sash's early years. Priyanka added: "So, I always think about Sash's younger self and how dark and bleak that time in his life must have been, and how he's been able to come out of that and become the incredible success that he is."

## Antonio Banderas says he was ‘cleaning fish every single day’ on Anthony Bourdain biopic set



Los Angeles: Hollywood star Antonia Banderas relished the experience on sets of 'Anthony Bourdain' biopic even though it smelled 'fishy'. Recalling the time, Banderas said: "We spent a month and a half filming in Cape Cod and Newport, constantly surrounded by the smell of fish. Every time I came back to the hotel, I had to shower because I absolutely reeked. I was cleaning fish every single day!"

Speaking at the Torino Film Festival, Banderas shed new light on the Matt Johnson-directed, 'Tony,' which reimagines the chef-turned-globetrotter as an aimless young man, reports variety.com. "After finishing university, (Bourdain) originally wanted to become a writer," Banderas said. But almost immediately, he began struggling with depression and drug addiction, so the film explores the very difficult early years of his life. Banderas plays a Brazilian-born restaurateur who takes the young Tony, played by 'The Holdovers' breakout Dominic Sessa, under his wing. "Through this relationship, Tony begins to truly learn how to cook," he said.

"So the film is not just about cuisine or culinary techniques; it's about his life, his identity, and his way of being" shaped by this unique mentor. "While the real Bourdain began as a dishwasher at a restaurant run by Provincetown mainstay Ciro Cozzi, Banderas' mentor is more of a composite character. He described the part as 'a man from Brazil who works in the United States and has travelled the world.'" "My character studied at the finest institutions, graduating from the best gastronomy schools, yet he always remained an outsider," Banderas added. He created his own restaurant outside the traditional world of elite chefs, developing his own dishes with ingredients accessible to ordinary communities simple food for everyday people. Indeed, Banderas

placed great emphasis on mentors while in Turin to accept a lifetime achievement award. "I am a theater actor," he said.

"Cinema came by chance, thanks to Pedro Almodóvar 'chance' that led to 130 films, but still, it was chance. Theater was my first love, and for the past seven or eight years, I've returned to my home in Malaga and to my true home on the stage. My life has changed, and now I am finally doing what my life's project was always meant to be." Actor Paul Newman, the subject of a 24-film retrospective at this year's Torino Film Festival, and whose piercing blue eyes stare out from the festival poster, was another formative figure in Banderas' life. "I worked for a year in New York doing a musical," Banderas recalled, reports variety.com. "One day I was on stage, singing, and at a certain point I saw Paul Newman with those eyes staring at me. I froze completely" it was incredibly powerful. We made a couple of films together, and I worked with his wife, Joanne Woodward, in 'Philadelphia.' He liked me, so we often went out to dinner in New York. "He had this quirky habit: he would always ask for a very specific beer and tell the waiter, "In exactly 2 minutes and 45 seconds, please bring me another" I still think about that.

## Sandeep Reddy Vanga's next, Spirit, goes on floors with Prabhas, Triptii Dimri

Mumbai: Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga's next feature film "Spirit" has officially gone on floors, the makers announced on Sunday. Produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series, the movie will feature actors Prabhas and Triptii Dimri in the lead roles. The production banner shared pictures of the cast and crew participating in the muhuratam ceremony on Instagram. The pictures featured Vanga, Prabhas, Triptii Dimri and megastar Chiranjeevi joining as the guest of honour. "A monumental beginning, produced by Bhushan Kumar and helmed by blockbuster director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the muhurat puja witnessed the presence of Prabhas, Triptii Dimri, Bhushan Kumar, Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Pranay Reddy Vanga & Shiv Chanana, with Megastar Chiranjeevi joining as the special guest of honour.