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India must choose digital sovereignty or submit to the new, subtle digital raj

The correct approach is not exclusion, but digital industrialisation driven by a strong national policy framework. (Illustration: C R Sasikumar) The correct approach is not exclusion, but digital industrialisation driven by a strong national policy framework. (Illustration: C R Sasikumar)

The tectonic plates of global power have shifted. No longer is control over oil fields or naval chokepoints the principal determinant of geopolitical pre-eminence; data is the new currency of the realm. A nation's digital footprint is now the primary source of wealth and the most effective tool of diplomacy. For a burgeoning economic power like India, this reality presents a stark, defining choice. We must navigate a trilemma of digital governance: Digital ascendancy, digital capitulation, or genuine digital sovereignty. Our future prosperity, and indeed our national dignity, hangs in the balance.

The current global digital order is dominated by the digital ascendancy model, wielded almost exclusively by the United States. This model is characterised by the near-total control of the world's fundamental information, data, and financial highways. The weaponisation of this technological hegemony is a demonstrable fact, witnessed in the expulsion of both Iran and Russia from the global financial system, facilitated by control over systems like SWIFT, the international messaging service for financial transactions. For nations outside the Western sphere of influence, this control acts as a Damocles' sword, forcing compromises and pre-empting sovereign action.

Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Celebrates Birthday with RISK Movie Unit at Annapurna Studios



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle): “Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy on Thursday celebrated his birthday with the team of the movie RISK at Annapurna Studios. On this occasion, film hero Sandeep Ashwa and director Gantadi Krishna greeted the MLA and felicitated him with warm birthday wishes. They praised his continuous public service and expressed their hope that God bless him with good health and a long life in his efforts toward the development of the Uppal constituency. “Members of the movie unit, including Gurram Narsimulu and Sunitha Reddy, were also present at the event and extended their birthday greetings to BLR.

“Violence Against Women Must Be Prevented



“Awareness programme held at Rainbow Community Care & Learning Centre” Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, November 27: “As part of the International 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an awareness programme was held on Friday at the Rainbow Community Care and Learning Centre, supported by Rainbow Homes and Nightingale Homes. “Speaking on behalf of the People's Collective for Protection of Children (PCPC), Ambika said that women have been facing multiple forms of discrimination and violence for many years. She explained how women can free themselves from such violence, how to confront it, and stressed the need for equality within every household. “She led the participants in raising awareness slogans and emphasised that everyone should work together at home and treat each other equally. She reminded parents that the Indian Constitution guarantees equal rights and opportunities to all, urging them to move forward with courage and awareness. The Preamble of the Constitution was also read out to educate parents about constitutional values. The programme was attended by Ambika, Anjali from PCPC; Kranthi Kiran, CBC Programme City Manager; Namrata, Project In-charge, Nightingale Homes; Udayarani, Accounts Coordinator; CBC Coordinators Kalavathi Raju, Ramaswamy, Nagabhushanam, Sudhakar, and staff of the Learning Centre.

MG Windsor Covers 3,757 kms – Leh to Kanyakumari in 83 hours



Hyderabad: JSW MG Motor India today announced an award-winning achievement as the MG Windsor completed the challenging journey from Leh to Kanyakumari, covering 3,757 kilometres in just 83 hrs and 43 mins. This marks the fastest time for an EV to cover this diverse route and has been recognized by the India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records.

The journey was undertaken by Mountain Goat (a Group of Passionate Motorsports Professionals) and covered a wide range of terrains. The Windsor traversed through Ladakh's high-altitude, rugged, and arid landscape to the tropical southern coast with utmost ease, demonstrating MG Windsor's reliability, impressive range, and consistent performance under extreme conditions. MG Windsor took 20 charging stops, debunking myths around long journeys in an EV and showcasing India's growing fast-charging infrastructure.

These charging points were discovered through the

e-Hub by MG app, which served as a one-stop destination for all charging requirements. This app seamlessly connects users to over 13,000+ EV charging points across India through partnerships with 36 leading charge-point operators. This accomplishment aligns with the company's 'EV Sahi Hai' campaign and signifies that EVs are the new normal on roads.

Speaking on the achievement, Vinay Raina, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India, said, “Completing a diverse expedition from Leh to Kanyakumari using an EV in record time is a bold testament to India's growing confidence in electric mobility and the infrastructure that powers it. This achievement also highlights MG Windsor's reliability and performance across some of the most challenging terrains in the country. The future of transportation is clean mobility and JSW MG Motor India continues to play a leading role in this transition. “Sanjay Bhola, Adjudicator, Asia Book of Records, and India Book of Records, said, “Heartiest congratulations to the entire team for this remarkable accomplishment and for setting a prestigious record with both India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records.”

The car's advanced 52.9 kWh lithium-ion battery delivers a certified range of up to 449 km per charge and supports fast charging, allowing efficient, well-planned stops across India's expanding highway charging network. Recently, the MG Windsor set a new benchmark in the segment by crossing the 50,000 sales milestone in record time, the fastest ever for an EV in India. Since its launch in September 2024, the MG Windsor has been India's best-selling EV. It features a futuristic 'AeroGlide' design that transcends traditional segmentation. Inside, it offers business-class comfort with 'Aero Lounge' seats reclining to 135 degrees, ensuring exceptional comfort. The large 15.6" GRANDVIEW Touch Display on the center console enhances the driving experience with intuitive control.

CC Roads and Drainage Works Worth 12 Crore Taken Up in Uppal Old Village: Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle): “Development works are progressing rapidly in Uppal Division, said Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy. She stated that the ongoing works are being closely monitored from time to time to ensure quality and timely completion. “As part of the initiative, on Thursday, Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy extensively toured Uppal Kummari Basti and reviewed the developmental works being carried out in the localities along with DE Vineel Goud and AE Raj Kumar. “Speaking on the occasion, she said that CC roads and drainage works worth 12 crore are being undertaken in Uppal Old Village. She added that the aim is to transform Uppal Division into a problem-free and model division through systematic planning and execution of development projects. “Those who participated in the programme included Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Mashetty Raghavendra, Minampalli Andalu, Potluri Ramesh, Gummadelli Rajender, Kannamana Naresh Mudiraj,



Gummadelli Kishore, Kummari Sai, Potluri Naveen, Potluri Lingam, Teega Giri, Srikanth, Balu and Sai, among others.

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao visited the nomination reception centers



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 27) :- Collector visited the nomination reception centers..As part of the schedule released by the State Election Commission as part of the Gram Panchayat elections, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao inspected the nomination reception process for the first phase of Sarpanch and ward posts in the district. On Thursday, District Election Officer and Collector Hanumantha Rao made a surprise visit to the nomination reception center set up at the Masai Pet

Gram Panchayat offices in Yadagirigutta Mandal and inspected the available facilities. He observed the arrangements made for the reception of nomination papers and made several suggestions. They inspected the help desk, videography, police arrangements and other aspects at the field level and inquired whether the supporting staff was adequate. They checked whether the notification documents were displayed on the notice boards. The Collector suggested that the nomination process should be conducted without any mistakes and that the details of those who took the nomination application forms should also be recorded in the register. He said that the affidavits related to the nominations filed should be displayed on the notice boards on the day of the day and reports should be sent to the district headquarters in a timely manner. He said that a help desk has been set up at each nomination center and that necessary assistance should be provided to the candidates in filing nomination papers. He said that the election process should be conducted in a peaceful atmosphere by strictly following the guidelines of the Election Commission. He said that the election code of conduct should be strictly implemented. He advised that if there are any doubts regarding the conduct of the election, the higher authorities should be contacted. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Corporator Bandaru Srivani Raises Issue in Council; Authorities Begin Removal of Water Hyacinth from Ramanthapur Lake“



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle): “Following the request raised during the council meeting by Ramanthapur Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkata Rao regarding the ongoing problem of water hyacinth in the Ramanthapur small lake, officials have initiated the removal work. “The works were launched in the presence of local corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkata Rao, Entomology Officer Madhava Reddy, Naresh Reddy, and Fogging In-charge Mahender, among others. “Speaking on the occasion, the corporator said that the lake had become severely polluted due to the excessive growth of water hyacinth. Responding to the issue, she appealed to the officials

to take immediate action. She assured that necessary steps are being taken to ensure the complete development and restoration of the lake and stated that the works would continue until they are fully completed. Senior BJP leaders Muttineni Jagadish, Bandaru Venkata Rao, Vempati Srinivas, and Vemula Venkat Reddy, along with others, were present at the program.

Pune–Ajni (Nagpur) Vande Bharat bookings at 130%, high demand calls for more coaches

With the Pune–Ajni (Nagpur) Vande Bharat recording average bookings of over 130% for months, and with the Nagpur–Indore Vande Bharat already upgraded to a 16-coach rake, the need for more coaches on the Pune corridor has become increasingly urgent. The train covers 881 kms in about 12 hours and operates six days a week. Official data from April 1 to October 31 shows the average booking percentage at 130.63% from Pune to Ajni and 127.06% in

Breakfast for Ayyappa Swami in Bhuvanagiri town under the leadership of Mohammed Akhil



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 27) :- A breakfast was organized for the Ayyappa Swami Swami, a Muslim brother, in Bhuvanagiri town, regardless of caste and religion. Mohammed Akhil said that we are very happy that we got the opportunity to organize breakfast for the Ayyappa Swami Swami, who is a devotee of the Lord, on the occasion of the wedding day of Mohammed Akhil and the 100th birthday of his friend Gurunath Swami's daughter. He said that in the town, Hindus and Muslims should live together as brothers and sisters, that the essence of the Bhagavad Gita, the Quran, and the Bible is the same, that we should respect each other, that our methods and traditions should be passed on to future generations, that we should all live together, that all the people should live together with good health and eight wealth, that we should all live together in harmony

District administration ready for second general local elections



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Election Officer, Collector “M. Hanumantha Rao” (Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 27) :- In the first phase of nominations for 1286 ward seats in 153 Gram Panchayats in the district, the administration is ready to conduct local body elections in the district as per the orders of the State Election Commission Commissioner, District Election Officer, Collector M. Hanumantha Rao said. On this occasion, the District Election Officer, Collector spoke. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the election notification should be announced on the morning of the 27th and displayed at the Gram Panchayat office and the main intersections of the Gram Panchayat. He also suggested that the voter list should be displayed. He said that the nomination process will be from 10:30 am to 5 pm and nominations will be received till the 29th of this month. He said that the scrutiny of nominations will be on the 30th, appeals on December 1, disposal on the 2nd and withdrawal on the 3rd. He said that 116 returning officers have been appointed to receive nominations. “He said that a help desk should be set up in each returning officer's center. He said that a person can file a maximum of four sets of nomination sets. He suggested that the date, time and serial number should be entered in the nomination. He said that the nominations should have the signature of the candidate and the signature of the endorser. “He said that in the first phase, nominations will be received for 1286 ward seats in 153 gram panchayats in the district. He explained that the help desks and other arrangements made for the receipt of nominations in the MPDO offices have been examined. He said that training has already been given to ROs and AROs in the context of the elections. He said that all arrangements have been made for the elections, and zonal and mandal officers, MCC nodal officers, FST and SST teams have been appointed and completed their training. He said that the FST and SST teams are performing their duties. He ordered that help desks should be set up in all RO offices to assist the candidates contesting the elections, complete information related to the elections should be made available, and boards should be set up to show other details about the receipt of nominations. He revealed that the Gram Panchayat elections will be held in the first, second and third phases in the district. He said that the arrangements for it have been completed. Mandal MPDOs, Tahsildars, MPOs and others participated in this program.

the reverse direction, indicating that the 8-coach rake has been running at near-constant full capacity. The train departs Pune at 6:25 am (except Tuesdays) and reaches Ajni at 6:25 pm the same day. The return service leaves Ajni at 9:50 am (except Mondays) and arrives in Pune at 9:50 pm, making it one of the longest Vande Bharat runs. Hemant Kumar Behera, Divisional Commercial Manager, and PRO of the Pune division said that the demand has clearly risen.

BCs Will Not Tolerate Injustice by Congress Government: MP R. Krishnaiah



“How can they promise 42% reservations and cut it down to 17%?” JAC stages protest rally from Liberty to Ambedkar Statue Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, November 27: “The Congress government, which deceived the Backward Classes after promising increased reservations, will not be spared, warned BC Welfare JAC Chairman and MP R. Krishnaiah. He questioned how the government could repeatedly assure 42% reservations for BCs and finally reduce it to just 17%. “On Thursday, JAC leaders Neela Venkatesh and Jillepalli Anji led a massive protest rally from

Liberty to the Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund. Participating in the rally along with National Coordinator Ragha Arun Kumar, Krishnaiah accused the government of plotting against BCs in the state. “He said the Congress had misled BCs in the Assembly and Cabinet meetings by assuring 42% reservations and then slashing them, effectively silencing their voice. Due to the reduced BC reservations, not even a single BC Sarpanch candidate exists in 33 mandals across the state, he alleged.” Krishnaiah criticised the government for moving ahead with local body elections despite a case pending in the High Court. He warned that if the government fails to implement 42% reservations, these will be the last elections the Congress faces in the state. “He also questioned why the Congress, despite INDIA Bloc speaking for BCs, is not introducing a Private Member’s Bill for the BC Bill in Parliament. He alleged that the Chief Minister’s intentions are evident from the deliberate exclusion of opposition parties from the delegation to Delhi. “BC Students Association State President Pagilla Satish demanded the withdrawal of GO 46 before conducting local body elections. Otherwise, he warned of statewide indefinite agitations by mobilising students. “Leaders from various BC community associations including Konda Devayya, Bhoomanna, Raj Kumar, Modi Ramdev, Nikhil and Vamshi participated in the programme.

MLA Sriganesh is working for comprehensive development of Basti. “SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 27



(Indian Chronicle): “Cantonment MLA Sriganesh stated that he will work for the comprehensive development of Basti. As part of his visit to the Basti, Cantonment MLA Sriganesh toured the areas of Electricity, Sanitation, Engineering, Other Cantonment, Government Officials and Con-

gress Party leaders in Sivalayam Vedi and Pension Line Basti under the Bowenpally First Ward of Cantonment on Thursday. They inquired about the problems they were facing and advised the officials to look into the problems of drainage, drinking water, electrical, internal roads etc. and resolve the problem as soon as possible. After that, the MLA said that there is no shortage of funds and if the officials make estimates, they will be sanctioned from the funds of the Cantonment Board or from the funds of the MLA. CM Revanth Reddy is allocating abundant funds for the development of the Cantonment Constituency, he says in every meeting that people’s problems should be solved even in the Cantonment Board meetings, he said that solving the people’s problems is the first agenda and he is constantly visiting the people with the intention of getting to know the people’s problems directly. Former Vice President of the Board Jampanna Pratap, Ward President Maruti Goud, Congress Party leaders Muppidi Madukar, Balwant Reddy, Sadanand, Raju, Gomathi, Varadarani, Varaprasad, Mukesh Yadav, Vandana, Hari Krishna, Rama Rao, etc. were present in this program.

St. Peter's High School Graduation Day Ceremony



SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 27 (Indian Chronicle): “Military Col. Himavanth Reddy said that parents and teachers should take the responsibility of teaching moral values, discipline and diligence to the students from childhood to make them the best students. Bowenpally Seetharampuram St. Peter’s High School held a gradua-

tion day Ceremony in the name of Milestone of Pride for the students completing Ten Plus to Inter on Wednesday evening. Military Col Himavanth Reddy as the chief guest of this program, chairman of St. Peter’s Vidyalyas T Bala Reddy and Correspondent Alphonse Reddy were present and inaugurated. On this occasion, the students were awarded with degrees. On this occasion, Col Himavanth Reddy said that students should be disciplined, courageous, patriotic and lead a life. He said that the students should achieve university level ranks and bring good reputation. After graduation, they will move from the classroom to the workplace, and they will have to pay attention to every step they take. Later, T Bala Reddy said, He said that along with teaching, better facilities and discipline are being taught to the students, he said that festivals of all religions will be conducted to educate the students about sports, songs and cultural traditions. Prizes were given to the students who showed the best talent. On this occasion, the students were entertained with many cultural performances. School director Aruna Reddy Principal Suvarna along with teachers, parents of students and others participated in the program.

Hyderabad District Kho Kho Training Camp concluded



SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 27 (Indian Chronicle): “The training camp for Hyderabad dis-

trict team girls selected for the state level kho kho sport ended on Thursday. Hyderabad district team has been selected for the state level Khokho competitions. For the selected district team, cmr high school in Bowenpally organized a training camp for ten days under the supervision of coach Prasad at the District Khokho Association. Cmr high school Director SK Reddy congratulated the Falguni players as the chief guest at the closing program of the training camp. He said on this occasion that the girls’ Kho-Kho team has shown the best sportsmanship in the state level competition and advised the players to return with success. Members of Kho-Kho Association Pochappa Kishore, pet s Das a, Naresh participated in the program.

D. Kiran Kumar appointed as President of NRI Association “RS MP R. Krishnaiah

presents appointment letter; “stresses key role of NRIs in national development” Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, November 27: “NRIs are playing a crucial role in the development of both the State and the nation, said BC JAC Chairman and Rajya Sabha MP R. Krishnaiah. Speaking at an NRI meeting held on Thursday at BC Bhavan, Vidyanagar, under the chairmanship of BC Students’ Association State President Pagilla Satish, Krishnaiah said NRIs have significantly contributed to increasing the State and Central budgets through their economic strength. “During the programme, Krishnaiah attended as the chief guest and formally appointed D. Kiran Kumar as President of the NRI Association, presenting him with the appointment letter. He praised NRIs for serving their motherland while living abroad and highlighted their role in promoting India’s culture and traditions across the world. “Newly appointed president



Dudigama Kiran Kumar demanded 50% reservation for BCs in legislative bodies. He assured that he would work to resolve issues faced by NRIs abroad and called for global unity among BC communities.

“BRS Thrives on Fabricated Accusations: Demand Rises for Vigilance Probe into Check Dam Scandal



“P.S.ASHOKAN”KARIMNGAR BUREAU. “BRS has virtually institutionalised the culture of false allegations, asserted TPCC Election Commission Coordination Committee Member and senior advocate Shashi Bhushan Kache, lambasting the party’s leadership for spreading deliberate misinformation. He addressed the media on Thursday at the Minister’s Camp Office in Manthani. “Shashi Bhushan stated that former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao must be held directly accountable for the collapse of several check dams constructed across the Lower Manair in the erstwhile Karimnagar district, emphasising that the structures failed due to grossly substandard workmanship and systemic corruption. “Ridiculing BRS leaders for claiming that the Gumpula check dam was “destroyed with explosives,” he described their statements as absurd, laughable, and devoid of any factual foundation. He advised the party to desist from misleading the public through manufactured narratives and politically motivated propaganda. “He recalled that the same leaders had floated similarly fabricated stories during the sinking of the Medigadda Barrage in the

Kaleshwaram project, alleging that it had been blasted by the current government. They even filed complaints in police stations across Telangana and Maharashtra based on these baseless claims, he reminded. “Highlighting the magnitude of negligence, he stated that the check dams constructed with an expenditure of nearly ₹300 crore along the Manair river had collapsed like mere sand structures, either blown away by winds or washed away by floods due to inferior construction quality. “When disasters occurred during the previous regime, they termed them ‘sinking incidents’. Today, for similar failures, they concoct stories of ‘bomb explosions’. How can such double standards be rationalised?” he questioned sharply. “He also sought to remind BRS leaders whether it is not a fact that the Odedu bridge, built across the Manair during the previous government, was swept away by strong winds and water currents due to poor engineering integrity. “Alleging rampant corruption under the former Irrigation Minister’s watch, he said the Kaleshwaram Barrage, numerous check dams, and multiple bridges were constructed with flagrant compromises on quality, enabling large-scale misappropriation of public funds. “Shashi Bhushan demanded that the Vigilance Department launch a comprehensive and impartial investigation into all irrigation structures built during the previous administration and initiate immediate legal action against all responsible individuals. “He added that he would soon submit formal complaints regarding the previous government’s corruption to the present Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. “The press briefing was attended by Single Window Chairman Kotha Srinivas, Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Kududula Venkanna, RTA Member Suresh, Youth Congress Mandal President Sadhula Srikanth, and Congress leaders Shankar, Parshavanna Mohan Yadav, among others.

Birthday Celebrations of Uppal MLA BANDARI LAKSHMAREDDY at Sadhana Institute“

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle): “The birthday celebrations of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy were held in a grand manner on Thursday at the Sadhana Institute for Intellectually Challenged, under the leadership of senior BRS leader Gudi Madhusudan Reddy. “Children at the institute celebrated the occasion with great enthusiasm by performing dances, singing songs, and conveying their warm wishes to the MLA. “Speaking on the occasion, Gudi Madhusudan Reddy said that Bandari Lakshma Reddy has been consistently among the people and is committed to resolving public issues. He wished the MLA many more such birthdays in the future. He also prayed that God bless him with good health and long life, stating that BLR believes public service is equal to divine service. Senior leaders, movement activists, well-wishers, and members of the Auto Union participated in the programme.



Hundi counting at Tadband temple today



SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 27 (Indian Chronicle): “Narender the EO of the temple, said on Thursday that the hundi income will be counted today at the famous Secunderabad Tad bandhVeera Anjaneya Swamy temple. He stated that the counting will be conducted on Friday at 10 am in the presence of temple officials, staff and devotees under the surveillance of CC cameras and police. temple is under the control of the Deity Department of the Government and asked the devotees to contact the office of the temple to make donations and get a receipt for the donations. He said that information has been received that some devotees are trying to fill their pockets with the funds coming to the temple by diverting them. They warned that strict legal action will be taken if their details come to their attention. The EO of the temple said that especially the devotees should not hand over their donations to anyone without getting the receipts, and if there are any donors, they should contact the temple office and get the receipts.

Demand to Shift Proposed STP Plant from Uppal Hills–Kurmanagar

: Former MLA N.V.S.S. PRABHAKER “KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle): “Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar demanded that the proposed STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) at Uppal Hills–Kurmanagar be shifted to another location. He led the “Chalo Kurmanagar” protest programme against the government’s proposal to set up the plant at Uppal Hills, Kurmanagar. “Residents of Kurmanagar, Uppal Hills and Lakshmi Nagar strongly opposed the project, stating that it was against public interest and posed a threat to public health. From 10 a.m. on Thursday, around 800 colony residents staged a large-scale dharna in Kurmanagar under the leadership of former BJP MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, demanding relocation of the STP. Addressing the gathering, Prabhakar said there was neither a lake below the selected site nor a canal above it, and alleged that the project was being taken up only to increase project costs and benefit contractors. He urged the government to immediately change the location and suggested that the treatment plant



be established at an appropriate alternative site. Senior BJP leaders Mahankali Laxman Mudiraj, Ravula Balakrishna Goud, Reddygari Devender Reddy, Devasani Balachander, Ellagoni Prakash Goud, Singaram Karthik, Kollu Balraj and Varkala Rajender Goud participated in the protest. Colony residents including Manga Shobha, Krishnaveni, Nirmala, Chaitanya, Swaroopa, Bhadrakali, Sunitha, Navatha, Lakshmi, Sumathi, Anjali, Sarada, Manjula, Devendra, Reena and others were also present.

Telangana High Court stays local body poll in Mahabubpatnam

Hyderabad: Justice T Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court on Thursday stayed the panchayat election process in Mahabubpatnam village of Mahabubabad district, after serious concerns were raised over the reservation pattern notified for Sarpanch and ward posts. A writ petition via a lunch motion was moved by villagers Mittagudupula Yakub, Kasaju Srikanthachary, Siluveru Lingaiah, Polu Nagaiah, Vijay, Venkatamallu and others, questioning how the authorities could reserve the Sarpanch post and three ward seats for the ST community when the village has only

seven ST voters, all belonging to three families.

During the hearing, Justice Madhavi Devi took exception to the State’s approach. The court asked how four posts could be allotted to the ST category in a village where the ST population is so small. It questioned the State if all ST voters fall in one ward, how will the remaining ward members be elected, and how will the representation of other communities be ensured? The petitioners pointed out that after the earlier reorganisation by the previous government, Mahabubpatnam Gram Panchayat had 576 voters, comprising 199 SCs, 358 BCs, 13 OCs and 7 STs.

Civil Services: A Pathway to Nation-Building, Affirms Judicial Magistrate Munawar Hussain



P. ASHOKAN“Karimnagar Bureau”“Motivational Session at Vaagdevi Junior College, Mahabubnagar, Ignites Aspirations Among Future Civil Servants”“In an inspiring and intellectually charged address at Vaagdevi Junior College, Mahabubnagar, Judicial Magistrate Mr. Munawar Hussain underscored the monumental role of civil services in shaping the nation’s destiny. “Opportunities multiply abundantly when one chooses the noble avenue of public service,” he proclaimed, energising the young audience during a specially curated motivational programme.”“Drawing from his personal educational journey, Judicial Magistrate Hussain reminisced about his formative schooling at Akshara High School, Manthani, emphasising that genuine success is rooted in knowledge, unrelenting perseverance, and disciplined effort, rather than the mere prestige of institutions. He highlighted the transformative influence of parental encouragement and the indispensable guidance of teachers in moulding a student’s character and ambition.”“He elucidated that premier examinations such as the UPSC and

TSPSC serve as powerful gateways for aspirants seeking to contribute meaningfully to society through public administration. Advising students to cultivate academic excellence, he stressed the importance of self-discipline, intellectual curiosity, and a lifelong commitment to learning.”“Speaking on the stature of state-level services, he observed that they carry profound responsibility and command immense respect, offering numerous avenues for individuals dedicated to community welfare. “Students must maintain unwavering clarity of purpose, hone their abilities consistently, and utilise every resource available to elevate their competencies,” he urged.”“The programme also incorporated engaging demonstrations that provided students with a practical understanding of court functioning, including procedural workflows, case movement, and the intricacies of the justice-delivery system—offering an invaluable behind-the-scenes perspective of judicial operations.”“The session was attended by ACM Mr. Praveen, Principal Mr. Sridhar, and faculty members who played a pivotal role in orchestrating the event. Guest speakers elaborated on strategies to excel in competitive examinations, reiterating that diligence, consistency, and resilience form the cornerstone of success. Special encouragement was extended to female students, acknowledging the remarkable rise in women’s participation and leadership within civil services.”“Students also received insightful guidance on time management techniques, communication proficiency, structured study planning, and the significance of mock tests. Faculty further inspired the attendees to set clear, achievable goals and to pursue them with unwavering determination, confidence, and discipline.

Cantonment Board preparing list of encroachers..



“SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 27 (Indian Chronicle):“ Officials are preparing a list of encroachers who are causing trouble to people in Secunderabad Cantonment Board area. Officials are making it clear that encroachments that cause disruption to the common people, especially traffic, will not be ignored and they will be razed

to the ground. As recently announced, the Cantonment Board is gearing up to remove the buildings encroaching on government places, parks, foot paths and canals. Recently, the administration of Secunderabad Cantonment Board has issued a public notice that it is better if the encroachers remove the encroachments by themselves within a week, otherwise they will remove the encroachments themselves and also collect the cost from them. Board officials clarified that this public notice should be considered as the final notice. As a part of this, the authorities are preparing a list of encroachers who are causing trouble to the general public in the colonies, bastis, main roads and internal roads of the 8 wards of the cantonment. There is interest in both the political circles and the general public as to whether the authorities will act strictly towards the removal of encroachments, which encroachments will be removed, and in which areas the encroachments will be removed. Meanwhile, Malkajigiri MP Etala Rajender, Cantonment Legislator N. Sriganesh, Cantonment Nominated Member Banuka Narmadalu have advised Secunderabad Cantonment CEO Arvind Kumar Divedi several times not to go to the poor in the name of encroachment. It also became interesting to what extent the CEO would consider their suggestions.

SV Kittu Extends Congratulations to the Newly Appointed District Congress President



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 27.”““ Senior Congress leader S.V. Krishna (Kittu) met and congratulated Totakura Vajresh Yadav, who has been newly ap-

pointed as the Medchal District Congress Committee President. Kittu visited the District President’s residence on Thursday and conveyed his warm wishes on the occasion.”“During the meeting, both leaders held a detailed discussion on key organisational matters, including strengthening the party at the grassroots level, streamlining activities, and strategic planning for upcoming programmes. Kittu emphasized the importance of taking public welfare schemes to the people more effectively and ensuring that the Congress Party’s initiatives reach every household.”“He further highlighted the need for efficient coordination among division-level leaders to enhance the party’s presence and performance across the district. Vajresh Yadav expressed his gratitude for the support and assured that he would work with commitment to uphold the party’s values and expand its reach.”“Several senior leaders from Mallapur 5th Division Congress Party—including Firoz Khan, Akbar, Pasha, Anwar, Venkatesh Goud, Ram Prasad, Harish, and others—participated in the programme and extended their best wishes to the newly appointed District President.

“A Legacy of Light: Odedla Resident Nandi Kishtayya’s Family Donates Eyes, Restoring Vision to Two Lives”



““P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU.”““In a profound gesture of compassion and humanitarian service, the family of Sri Nandi Kishtayya, a resident of Odedla who passed away on 26-11-2025 following prolonged illness, consented to donate his eyes, thereby bestowing the priceless gift of sight upon two visually impaired individuals.”“The noble decision was made after Sri Vanga Rayamalla sensitised the family to the significance and life-transforming impact of eye donation. Under the expert supervision of Dr. Merugu Bhishmachari, and with the technical support of LVP Technician Gajula Satish, the corneas were meticulously harvested and dispatched to the Hyderabad Eye Bank.”“This act of rare benevolence reflects the magnanimity of his wife Smt. Prameela, sons Sri Sampath Nandi (renowned Tollywood film director) and Sri Ramesh Nandi, and daughters Smt. Swaroopa and Smt. Sirisha, whose collective resolve transformed grief into a beacon of hope for the needy.”“Extending their heartfelt commendations, former Odedla Sarpanch Akula Mahender, Ippanapalli Venkateshwarlu, Kyatham Malleshham, Kondra Venu, Allam Satish, Merugu Sarangam, and J.D. Naveen expressed deep appreciation for the family’s altruism.”“Leaders of the Sadashaya Foundation—National President Shravan Kumar, General Secretary Lingamurthy, Secretary Dr. Merugu Bhishmachari, Honorary President Ramakrishna Reddy, Chief Advisors, and Publicity Secretary Vasu—also conveyed their sincere gratitude, praising the family for turning a moment of personal sorrow into an act of extraordinary social service.

Did a Property Dispute Claim Her Life?



“ P . S . A S H O K A N . “ K A R I M N G A R BUREAU.”“Intensifying Suspicions Envelop the Tragic Demise of Veera Lakshmi.”“ Was the investigation into her death executed with the requisite rigor?“— The sacred maternal bond she cherished now laments in silence.”“— A multitude of suspicious narratives continues to emerge locally.”“— Did her own progeny exhibit cruelty towards their mother?“— Was the case deliberately undermined in exchange for pecuniary inducements?““Profound suspicions are burgeoning among residents within the Manthani Municipal limits regarding whether a protracted property dispute ultimately precipitated the untimely demise of Siripuram Veera Lakshmi. Her passing has left the community in a state of disquietude. Inquiries are being posed about how an elderly, bedridden woman, beleaguered by chronic illness, could have procured petrol. Who facilitated this acquisition? Or, more disturbingly, were familial members complicit in orchestrating her murder, subsequently masquerading it as a suicide to secure property? Such conjectures are gaining considerable traction in public discourse.”“In contemporary society, we increasingly observe individuals descending to unspeakable depths in their avarice for wealth and assets. The once-sacrosanct bond between parents and children is rapidly eroding, with incidents of parental harm or even filicide over property becoming alarmingly prevalent. This backdrop only exacerbates the grief surrounding Veera Lakshmi’s demise.”“From a humanitarian perspective, numerous civil society organizations and local denizens are articulating profound concerns regarding the circumstances surrounding the elderly woman’s death. Although law enforcement officials assert that a case has been registered based on the family’s allegations, the public is left questioning whether a thorough investigation was genuinely undertaken. How did the authorities fail to recognize the suspicious nature of the incident? Why were critical facets overlooked?““Several locals contend that despite providing lucid and credible testimony, the police disregarded significant evidence. In today’s milieu, financial resources, influence, and political power frequently skew the scales of justice. In numerous locales, injustice parades as justice, while authentic justice is conveniently suppressed.”“As some mourn the tragic loss of Veera Lakshmi, others respond with apathy or even derision. The grim reality persists that cases of offspring harming their parents over property continue to manifest with disturbing regularity. Yet, it must be emphasized that no malefactor can ever elude the inexorable repercussions of karma.”“A pressing question dominating public discourse is why the post-mortem report has yet to be disclosed. Why was the body not subjected to forensic laboratory analysis? Locals are unequivocally demanding a transparent, impartial, and exhaustive investigation into every facet of this case.

Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen extends birthday greetings to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle):““On the occasion of the birthday of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Chilukanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj extended her heartfelt greetings.”“Along with TRS party leaders from the Chilukanagar Division, a large rally was taken out from Chilukanagar Division to Mallapur VNR Function Hall, where the birthday celebrations were organized. As part of the celebrations, fireworks were burst and the Corporator felicitated MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy by draping a shawl. A grand cake was cut amid much enthusiasm, and birthday wishes were conveyed.”“Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen Mudiraj said that MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy is a ray of hope for the poor and weaker sections of society. She prayed that God bless him with a long life and many more birthdays.”“TRS party leaders and women leaders from the Chilukanagar Division participated in large numbers in the programme.



Grand Celebrations for Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy’s Birthday



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle):““The birthday celebrations of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, known as a key development proponent of the Uppal constituency and a leader who works tirelessly to address public issues, were held in a grand manner.”“The event took place at VNR Garden Hall-1 in Mallapur, where people from all divisions of the Uppal constituency participated. Leaders and workers of the BRS party, colony association members, and leaders from various political parties attended the celebrations in large numbers.”“On the occasion, the MLA inaugurated a blood donation camp and later cut the birthday cake. Corporators, former corporators, division presidents, general secretaries, women members, youth, party leaders, workers, and supporters participated enthusiastically and extended their greetings.

Congress Leaders Meet and Felicitate New Medchal DCC President Vajresh Yadav: SV. Krishna (Kittu)“



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle):““Newly elected Medchal District Congress Committee president Totakura Vajresh Yadav was congratulated on Tuesday by Sv. Krishna (Kittu), who met him at his residence and conveyed his wishes on assuming the new responsibility. Senior Congress leaders from Malkajigiri’s Mallapur 5th Division Firoz Khan, Akbar, Pasha, Anwar, Venkatesh Goud, Ram Prasad, and Harish were present during the interaction. The leaders discussed ongoing organisational activities, strengthening booth-level committees, and the party’s outreach programmes in urban and semi-urban areas. During the meeting, party members highlighted the need to engage more youth in the Congress cadre and focus on local civic issues such as road development, drainage improvements, and public welfare

schemes. They expressed confidence that the new district leadership under Vajresh Yadav would bring renewed momentum to party activities across Medchal district. The visit concluded with the leaders reaffirming their commitment to working collectively for the growth of the party ahead of upcoming political campaigns.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy presented a three-wheeled scooter under the ‘Gift a Smile’ initiative.

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle):““On the occasion of the birthday of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, the ‘Gift a Smile’ programme was organised at BSN Garden, Mallapur, by Nacharam Division Corporator Shanthy Sai Jan Shekhar.”“As part of the ‘Gift a Smile’ initiative, a three-wheeled Jupiter scooter worth Rs. 1,10,000 (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand only) was presented free of cost by the MLA to a differently-abled person, Shobhan, a resident of Nacharam Division.”“Several leaders of Nacharam Division, party workers, and Colony Welfare Association members participated in large numbers in the birthday celebrations and conveyed their birthday wishes to Lakshma Reddy.

“Gift a Smile” Program Held on the Occasion of Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy’s Birthday



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 27: “Marking the birthday celebrations of Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, Nacharam Division Corporator Shanthi Saizer Shekar organized a noble initiative under the banner of “Gift a Smile.” “As part of this humanitarian program, a three-wheeler Jupiter scooter worth ₹1,10,000/- (One Lakh Ten Thousand Rupees) was provided free of cost to Mr. Shoban a differently-abled youth belonging to Nacharam Division. The specially designed vehicle was formally handed over by the MLA himself, bringing immense joy and hope to the beneficiary’s family. Speaking on the occasion, the attendees appreciated the MLA’s commitment towards empowering the differently-abled and supporting underprivileged families.” Corporator Shanthi Saizer Shekar stated that the



"Gift a Smile" initiative reflects the leadership's dedication to social welfare and their continuous efforts to improve the lives of marginalized sections in the constituency. He reiterated that similar support programs will be taken up regularly to ensure no deserving individual is left behind. "Under the guidance of state leader Saizen Shekar, a large number of Nacharam Division leaders, party workers, and Colony Welfare Association members participated enthusiastically in the birthday celebrations. They extended their heartfelt birthday greetings to MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, praising his sustained efforts for the overall development of the Uppal constituency." The program concluded with community members expressing their gratitude and reaffirming their support for continued public welfare initiatives.

Raju Weds Rambai'""A great tribute to the actor Kanakam Venkat""K Sadanand



“Husnabad, November 27,”⁴⁴ “On the occasion of the successful screening of ‘Raju Weds Rambai’ starring famous actor Kanakam Venkat from Husnabad area, actor Venkat who visited the local Venkateswara theater on Thursday was honored with a shawl by artists and Abhimha Nulu. “They appreciated that his performance in this movie was very good. “Artists Mukkera Sampath Kumar, Thadurina Suresh, Vadade Sampath, Kommula Sampath, Annaboina Srinivas, Kolluru Ashok and others participated in this event.



Four-Day Annual Sports Festival Begins at Kerala High School, Jammikunta, PALAKKAD DISTRICT BUREAU. "The sports and commenced Kerala High School, Jammikunta, beginning of the day celebration spirit and talent. "The formally inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Benny K. Pal Ms. Jolly encouraged students to compete with discipline, sportsmanship, track and field games, and competitions to take place during days. The management stressed sports festival promote physical work, and harmony among programme within four days, featuring participation and excitement for all across all classes.

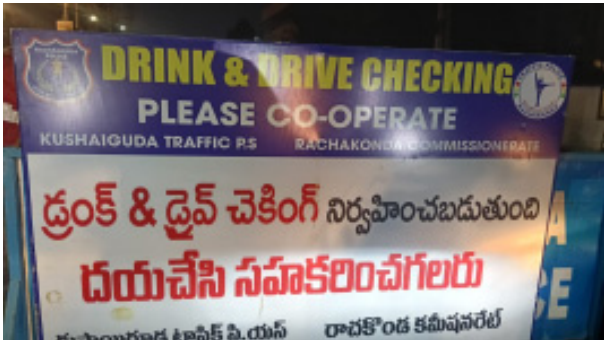
Akarapu Arun Patel attends Dhwajastambha Pratishtha Mahotsavam at Srinivaspuram Colony, Habsiguda Division“



Sampath, Rajesh, and other members of the temple committee participated in the ceremony.

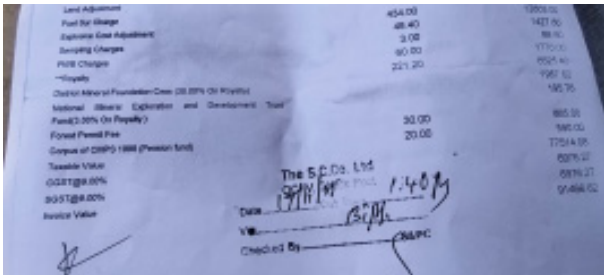
“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle):^{xxx} Akarapu Arun Patel, Youth Congress President of the Uppal constituency, attended as the chief guest at the Dhvajastambha Pratishta Mahotsavam held at the Sri Somnatheswara Swamy Temple, which comes under the Sri Sri Sri Jagadguru Sri Mata Govinda Mambasametha Veerabhadraswamy Devasthanam, located in Srinivasapuram Colony. On this occasion, Srinivas Chary, President of the Veerabhadraswamy Devasthanam, Ellal Chary, the Kodanda Ramalayam Temple Director, Dhvajastambha Pratishta donor Konda Nagaraju, along with

Nagarampet Resident Gets Two-Day Jail Term in Drunk-Driving Case“



"Kapra, November 27." "A Nagarampet resident was sentenced to two days in jail by the Malkajigiri Court for driving under the influence of alcohol. The accused, identified as Dinesh from Nagarampet, was caught on November 26 at Chakripura Junction during a drunk-and-drive check conducted under the supervision of Inspector Ram Lakshman Raju. Police officials confirmed that Dinesh was driving while intoxicated and was immediately taken into custody. He was later produced before the Malkajigiri Court, which imposed a two-day imprisonment for the offence. The enforcement team included the Inspector, Additional Inspector, and SIs Madhusudan, Bhaskar, and Lingareddy, who were on duty during the drunk-and-drive operation.

200 Collected Per Coal Lorry...



““Manuguru November 27 Indian Chronicle”“Forest Officials’ Illegal Collections Spark Outrage in Manuguru”“Manuguru witnessed a major controversy as Forest Department officials were accused of illegally collecting money from Singareni coal lorries without any legal authorisation. The incident has triggered strong resentment among transporters and the public.”“According to reports, Forest officials stopped coal-laden lorries near the Singareni GM Office on Thursday and forcibly collected ₹200 per lorry in the name of “Forest Permit Fee”, despite the absence of



any official government orders.”“Earlier, allegations were raised that forest routes were illegally cleared and roads were laid through seven kilometres of forest land to facilitate sand transport, with officials remaining silent by citing ‘Collector’s orders’. Now, their focus has allegedly shifted towards coal transport vehicles.”“Angered by the harassment, lorry owners lodged a complaint with the Manuguru Police. Respondin

Sena MP Milind Deora urges BMC to halt all construction as Mumbai faces a 'public health emergency'



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Milind Deora has written to BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani, warning that Mumbai's deteriorating air quality has reached the level of a "public-health emergency" and urging an immediate halt to all construction, excavation and road-digging work until pollution levels improve. In his letter dated November 27, Deora said Mumbai is "gasping for clean air" and highlighted the sharp spike in particulate matter last week. On November 22, the city's AQI touched 298 (Unhealthy), with PM2.5 at 126 µg/m³ and PM10 at 1,163 µg/m³. The following day, the AQI remained high at 255, with PM2.5 at 110 µg/m³ and PM10 at 138 µg/m³.

Citing the BMC's Environment Status Report 2024–25, he noted that annual PM₁₀ levels across monitoring zones range between 70–125 µg/m³ and PM_{2.5} between 27–52 µg/m³, with Chembur recording the highest concen-

trations. October 2025, he said, was the most polluted month of the year, with several stations reporting their worst PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ readings since January. Deora said that despite the BMC's dust-control guidelines issued in October 2024, covering full barricading of construction sites, green cloth facades, water sprinkling, dust-extraction systems and mandatory AQI monitors, compliance has been poor. He pointed out that areas like Mazgaon have repeatedly crossed AQI 300, reflecting gaps in enforcement.

Arguing that “routine measures will no longer suffice,” he called for a temporary moratorium on all construction-related work, including projects by utility agencies. Construction dust, he said, is the largest contributor to particulate pollution, and a temporary pause would offer the most immediate relief. The MP also sought daily inspections of construction sites, immediate shutdowns for violations, mandatory washing and water-sprinkling of debris and cement trucks, compulsory washing bays, and enhanced dust-suppression measures such as fogging, roadside sprinkling and mechanical sweeping in known hotspots. He further demanded independent real-time AQI monitors in construction and industrial areas, ward-wise public disclosure of data, and strict penalties for repeat offenders, including restrictions on future permits. “Mumbai is now facing a public-health emergency,” Deora wrote, adding that prolonged exposure to high PM levels increases respiratory and cardiovascular risks, particularly for children and the elderly. He said air-quality management should become a year-round priority rather than a seasonal response. Sharing the letter on social media, Deora said Mumbai “deserves better” and called for a broader public movement demanding clean air.

PSEB launches new question paper format to boost critical thinking



The reform brings structured blueprints, real-life questions and higher-order skill assessments across Punjab's schools. PSEB has introduced a modern, competency-based question paper design to strengthen critical thinking and reduce rote learning. In a major move to transform school education, the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB), under the leadership of chairman Dr Amarpal Singh, has introduced a completely revamped question paper design aimed at strengthening students' critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

A three-day workshop, held in Mohali, brought together over 120 academic experts, subject specialists and master trainers, marking a landmark shift from rote learning to competency-based education across Punjab's classrooms. The board unveiled a modern question paper framework built on Revised Bloom's Taxonomy, ensuring assessments evaluate not just memory but also higher-order skills such as understanding, analysing, evaluating and creating. Officials emphasised the need for better alignment between classroom activities, learning outcomes and assessments to create a seamless learning experience. Going forward, all exams will follow structured blueprints and item matrices, featuring real-life, application-

based questions in core subjects, including science, mathematics, social studies and English. This redesign aims to make evaluations more transparent, accurate and meaningful for students across 13,000 government and affiliated schools. Experts from PARAKH and the Azim Premji Foundation also shared key insights on modern pedagogy, helping shape PSEB's roadmap for curriculum and assessment reforms. This initiative marks a significant stride in preparing Punjab's students for 21st-century challenges by modernising assessments, strengthening teacher training and updating the curriculum.



KTR, Harish Rao extend birthday greetings to Uppala Bandari Laxma Reddy."KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 27 (Indian Chronicle)."¹⁰Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy on Thursday paid a courtesy visit to BRS Working President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao and former minister Rao on the occasion of his birthday. "On the occasion, KTR and Harish Rao felicitated



‘I had to live...’: How an ISRO scientist beat breast cancer to work on Chandrayaan-3 mission



GNS News Agency,Nov 27

Breast cancer survivor Rinku Agrawal wasn't as scared of chemotherapy as she was about losing her hair. And cancer didn't stop Agarwal from her professional pursuits. Since her recovery, she has worked on the hardware side of India's most prestigious missions such as Chandrayaan-3, Earth Observation Satellites and NISAR. She has also become a TEDx speaker and a vociferous advocate for breast cancer awareness. "Losing hair was a touchy subject for me. I've loved my long hair since I was a little girl. They are the best part of me. And when the time came, I only cut them short. I was not scared of chemotherapy as much as I was of losing my hair," said Agrawal, Senior Scientist/Engineer and Head of Department at the Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad. Speaking to The Indian Express on the sidelines of an event on early breast cancer diagnosis at Apollo Hospitals, 50-year-old Agarwal, who is mother to twin boys, said, "When I realised I had breast cancer, the first question I asked my ISRO doctor was whether I have to have to undergo chemotherapy because I knew that would lead to hair loss. When my hair began to shed due to chemo, I didn't let our house help sweep it away, I used to pick them up and dispose of them by hand."

Her very human telling of the psychological impacts of not just losing a breast to mastectomy but also her most prized possession – her hair – resonates with the stories of many survivors. Some of the advocates for breast cancer awareness plead with women to conduct self breast examinations routinely and seek medical opinion because more than 50-60% patients in India reach doctors only when it is too late. Speaking on her diagnosis, Agrawal said, "I had undergone several rounds of hormone therapy for three years and then gave birth to twin boys, through In-vitro Fertilisation (IVF) in 2007. Then, in June 2013, when the boys were about six-years-old, I received a setback at work. And at the same time, I began feeling my right side getting heavy and my hand would pain when raised. But I thought it was because the children were sleeping on my hands. But I did go to see our in-house ISRO doctors who recommended mammography and sonography. So, I came to Apollo Hospital where an acquaintance of mine was already under treatment." She added, "A couple of days later, my son was sick so I took him to the doctor and then went to work. My doctor called me and asked me to meet Dr Anagha Zope where I was told I had breast cancer. My family was counselled and my treatment began." At that time, Agrawal hadn't realised the full scope of what she would have to undergo. "But I had made up my mind that I had to live and get better for my kids." Dr Anagha Zope, Lead Consultant, Breast and Oncoplastic Surgeon at Ahmedabad's Apollo Cancer Centres said, "Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer in India accounting for 13.6% of all cancers in India. In Gujarat, we recorded 11,500 breast cancer cases in 2023 which amounts to 32 new cases per day and we lost 4,280 people in 2023, which is 12 deaths per day of women due to breast cancer in Gujarat." Agrawal said when the treatment began, she was in a bad mood, lashed out at people and was in extreme physical discomfort. However, the first major point in her treatment would come in October 2013.

Cong gears up for 2026 civic body polls, to launch ‘booth to ballot’ campaign

GNS News Agency,Nov 27

Planning to launch a "booth to ballot" campaign, the Chandigarh Pradesh Congress Committee Thursday began its preparation for the 2026 civic body elections. Under the leadership of H S Lucky, president of the Chandigarh Pradesh Congress Committee, and Manish Tewari, Member of Parliament from Chandigarh, the party held an eight-hour-long marathon meeting with ward coordinators to strengthen the Congress organisation at the grassroots level. The detailed review and strategy session focused on booth-level empowerment, which forms the foundation of any successful electoral campaign.

Both leaders emphasised that each booth in Chandigarh will soon have a five-member booth committee along with a booth-level assistant responsible for coordinating activities, mobilising voters, and ensuring effective communication between the party and local residents. During the meeting, Lucky highlighted the importance of meticulous groundwork and the need for every Congress worker to connect personally with voters in their respective areas. He said that the Congress's strength lies in its committed workers at the grassroots and that the party is determined to ensure that every booth becomes a stronghold of the Congress ideology and a center of people's trust. Tewari, addressing the coordinators, emphasised organisational discipline and data-driven planning for the upcoming polls. He said that the Congress is not just preparing for an election but for a movement to restore Chandigarh's dignity, development, and democratic spirit. He added that the BJP's misgovernance and arrogance have alienated the citizens

Hyderabad insurance agent loses 72 lakh



Realizing he had been duped, the victim filed a complaint with the Rachakonda Cybercrime Police, who have registered a case and took up investigation.

She said, "I had four chemotherapy sessions and in October 2013 went for mastectomy and my right breast was removed." "When the mastectomy took place, I was given an option to have breast reconstruction surgery but I didn't want to go through more treatment at that time. I had already undergone so much treatment and I couldn't take more of it. My husband and I consulted on the issue and decided we didn't need to go for it. So, I use a prosthetic and now it doesn't make that much of a difference. But this is a very personal choice. And I think that if this had happened today, I would have perhaps opted for it because of development in the field." Striking a comparison between breast reconstruction and breast saving surgery, Dr Zope said, "We have procedures where patients can use their own body part tissues to reconstruct the breasts or use medical silicone. It is easy to tell someone to remove the breast but for the woman, it is an integral part of her identity. It's not just what others see but what she sees herself as. Saving a breast is every woman's right. We can also do breast saving surgeries where we can do so but that requires additional radiation therapy and costs also increase. The end result is the same in both procedures but the only thing in reconstruction is that the part of the breast that could cause more cancer, has been removed completely."

After the mastectomy, Agrawal said she received vital support at work. "In January 2014, my seniors told me I should go to the office and work to take my mind off all this treatment. At that time I was designing the hardware of a miniaturised subsystem for the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission. While this work was on, radiation dates came up so I used to go for radiation for two hours and then returned to the office."

On the psychological impact of the cancer treatment on her work, Agrawal said, "My colleagues were very helpful and encouraging but since I was undergoing treatment, I thought I was down, I thought what work could I do now?" The majority of the treatment was completed by March 2014. But the first two years were critical and five years were crucial, where a lot of care had to be taken to reduce the scope of relapse. Speaking on the Check-Olate awareness campaign, a statement quoted her as saying, "Check-Olate is our way of turning a moment of indulgence into a reminder for proactive health. Dark chocolate, known for its antioxidant and mood-enhancing benefits, becomes a comforting messenger of care, reminding every woman that a simple self-examination, just a few minutes a month, can make all the difference. By making this message accessible and relatable, we aim to replace fear with awareness and action." In 2015, as Agrawal was recovering from her treatment, her work too saw an upturn and she was made a project manager with a team working on the components of the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) Series. "This prestigious work gave me confidence, hope and encouragement to work harder. But on the side, there were constant check ups and I had to undergo another gynaecological procedure," she said. Even after the treatment, Agrawal said she had a kind of fear that there would be a relapse and she could lose her life. She found peace in a Buddhist community and began chanting as well as yoga to help with the lingering anxiety. "There was also a lack of confidence in the work I had done during treatment and that lingering fear of whether everything had been done right or not. However, things got even better because I got the opportunity to work on the Vikram Lander which went to the Moon on the Chandrayaan-3 Mission. That also gave me satisfaction that life would go on and I wouldn't be hindered by what I had gone through with the treatments. And on the personal front, both my kids have grown up and one is in Engineering and the other in the medical field," said Agrawal, adding that the experience had made her stronger. According to her, the experience has only made her stronger. "Today, I'm the head of my division and I have much more work left to do," she said.



and that it is the Congress party that will bring back transparent, accountable governance. The meeting also included detailed discussions on ward-wise voter outreach, social media coordination, door-to-door campaigns, and the identification of key local issues. Both leaders took feedback from each ward coordinator and assigned specific responsibilities to ensure timely implementation of organisational tasks. The Congress will soon launch a "booth to ballot" campaign aimed at connecting every household with the Congress message and highlighting the failures of the current BJP-led administration in Chandigarh. Hina Rohtaki is a Special Correspondent with The Indian Express, Chandigarh. She covers Chandigarh administration and other cross beats. In this field for over a decade now, she has also received the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award by the President of India in January 2020.

‘Never said I will finish drugs from Punjab,’ says former CM Captain Amarinder Singh



GNS News Agency,Nov 27

Punjab's former chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh Thursday said he had "never vowed to completely eradicate drugs from Punjab", but only to "break its back", and claimed that while all the gangsters were "put behind the bars" during his government, they are now "roaming free again." The veteran leader, who made a public appearance after months, sought to set the record straight on several issues, including his vow with Gutka Sahib (a Sikh holy scripture) in hand in 2015 that he will solve Punjab's drug issue within four weeks once voted to power.

"I had gone to Bathinda for a rally and the venue was near Takht Sri Damdama Sahib. I had held Gutka Sahib in my hand and said "main nasheyaan da laq tod dunga" (I will break the back of drug supply). "Laq todan da matlab eh nahi ki main khatam kar dunga (Breaking the back does not mean I will completely finish the drugs)," said Amarinder. Addressing a press conference in Moga, Amarinder said that he took several steps during his second tenure as the chief minister (beginning 2017) to break the drug supply chain.

"Senior IPS officer Harpreet Singh Sidhu was handling anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh and I got him back to Punjab to head the anti-drug special task force. Over one lakh drug peddlers were arrested in our special anti-drug drive. My jails minister had told me that prisons were full and there was no space left to keep more drug peddlers. I told him to release pickpockets, but keep drug peddlers in jail," said Amarinder. He said, "When I was the CM in 2002, drug peddlers used to operate from across the border by jumping fence and crossing river and entering inside by 7 km. Then we had to deploy Border Security Force (BSF) in 7-km radius. Then came drones, which started entering 40 kms. Recently, Punjab Police confiscated 35 kg heroin. It's all coming from Pakistan which has only one motive: to finish our side of Punjab and our youths." Amarinder, who had earlier accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of "targeted harassment" of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia, currently lodged in Nabha jail

Seemed bright, enthusiastic, very tragic what happened: Rohit Arya's neighbours in Pune shocked

GNS News Agency,Nov 27

In a five-minute-long video from 2023 on the website of Project Let's Change (PLC) Swachhata Monitor, Rohit Arya, who is identified as the Project Director, is seen passionately speaking about the initiative, how it is being implemented in schools across the state. In another video from 2023, Arya is seen with then Minister of School Education Deepak Kesarkar, in which the minister is seen praising the project and its results. In October 2024, Arya held a hungerstrike in Pune, claiming that he had not been paid the funds promised by the government. It was at this agitation held at the Pune Union of Working Journalists premises, Arya had suffered a seizure and had to be taken to hospital in an ambulance. On Thursday, Arya was at the centre of a hostage drama, where he held captive 17 students at a studio in Powai, at the end of which he was killed. At a residential society in Shivirth Nagar area of Kothrud, where Arya's elderly parents live, a neighbour said, "Rohit's father A R Harollikar lives in our residential society with his wife. Both are in their late 70s. We have heard that Rohit changed his surname sometime in the past. Harollikar is a heart patient. The couple left for Mumbai in the afternoon. Rohit stays at a residential society nearby with his wife and son, we have heard."

Another neighbour of the parents said, "The elderly couple always kept to themselves and hardly talked to anyone. I have interacted with Rohit a couple of times. He used to come here regularly during Covid pandemic to take care of his parents. I thought from my brief interaction that Rohit was a bright and enthusiastic man. What has happened is very tragic." At the agitation where Arya suffered a seizure, his wife Anjali had rushed to the location after hearing about it. In some of the videos of the time available online, Anjali says that her husband had been demanding and holding a hungerstrike for the pending payment for his project, which had been approved by the government. She said the government had taken up the project and approved Rs 2 crore for it. Activist Suraj Lokhande said he knew Rohit since last year when he held a fast outside the Patrakar Bhavan in

after being arrested in an alleged disproportionate assets (DA) case arising out of probe into the old drugs case, also sought to clarify his stand on the issue. "This country has a rule of law. The High Court had directed (then STF chief) Harpreet Sidhu to probe drug allegations against Majithia and put them in sealed over before the court and that is what Sidhu did (in 2018). So now when one investigation was done, who is (current Punjab CM) Bhagwant Mann to get the investigation done again? It is the court which should decide if that probe was right or wrong. In the US, it is called double jeopardy, which means one crime and two investigations is not possible," he said. The findings in Sidhu's 2018 report served as the foundation for the FIR against Majithia under the NDPS Act in December 2021. The senior BJP leader also targeted the AAP government over the law and order issue in the state. "Gangsterism is at its peak in Punjab. Main taan karte si seedhe (I had made gangsters fall in line). Tell me which gangsters were active during my tenure? We had put all of them behind the bars. Now all of them are roaming free again," said Amarinder. Announcing that he was now fit to campaign for BJP in coming days, Amarinder said that he has come out in public after a long time due to his "spinal cord issues" which were now sorted after "surgery."

"I had got injuries in spine during Army days and later got operated. It took time to settle down but now I am in Chardi Kalan and will rest only after we win. The BJP will form the next government in Punjab. We will work for the party at the ground level. I will soon visit Tarn Taran also where bypoll is scheduled," said Amarinder. After parting ways with the Congress on bitter note in 2021 without completing his tenure as CM, Amarinder had formed his own party Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) which contested the 2022 Punjab Assembly polls in alliance with BJP. However, the party drew blank, failing to win a single seat, including Amarinder's loss from his bastion Patiala. He later merged his party with the BJP and joined the saffron party along with his wife and former Patiala MP Preneet Kaur and daughter Jai Inder Kaur. Asked if he had left the Congress due to his bete noire and former cabinet minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, Amarinder said: "Who is Sidhu to decide if I had stayed in Congress or not? He was a minister. He was given culture and sports portfolios. For seven months, he would not clear his files. I called him (Sidhu) and asked and he had no explanation. Then I gave him power portfolio as he used to give a lot of statements on Punjab's power problem. He refused to work in that department too and resigned. That is what Navjot Sidhu was." Commenting on his former party colleague and now state Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring who has repeatedly criticized Amarinder's tenure as CM and also called him a "liability on Punjab", Amarinder said: "I better not say anything on Warring. He should first see his own actions and past."



Pune last year. "He had fasted last year in August demanding that the state government should pay him for the help he extended in implementing the My Beautiful School project launched by the education department. He claimed the idea behind the project was his," Lokhande said. Lokhande said his condition deteriorated during the fast and he collapsed. "After he collapsed, I took him to the hospital and in a way saved his life... The same thing happened when he undertook another fast a few months later," he said. Lokhande said during his interactions, Arya told him that the state government owed him between Rs 45 lakh and Rs one crore. "I have the copies of the letters which Arya had sent to the state government demanding his dues. However, the government did not respond," he alleged. Showing pictures of Kesarkar, Lokhande said, "Arya's family feels let down by Kesarkar... Arya had sent a letter to the state government in which he said Kesarkar had come to his home in August 2024 and promised to resolve his grievance including giving his name to a project. However, Kesarkar did not keep his word." Lokhande said Arya sounded polite and would discuss his problems with him freely. "But I never thought he would go to such an extent... The path he adopted to secure justice for himself was wrong. But at the same time, the government should also think as to how it refused to give justice to him despite his repeated demands," he said.

National-level wrestler from Maharashtra among 4 held as Mohali police busts arms supply racket

GNS News Agency,Nov 27

The Mohali police has arrested a national-level wrestler and three alleged gangsters from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, cracking down on an interstate arms supply network that had been funneling illegal weapons into the state. The arrests are linked to the notorious Papla Gujar gang, with the police recovering five pistols, live cartridges, cash, and two vehicles used in the operation.

The accused have been identified as Darveer (26) and Bunty (26), both residents of Shergarh Chauraha in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh; Sikandar Shaikh (26), a national-level wrestler from Solapur, Maharashtra, now residing in Mullanpur Garibdas, Mohali; and Krishan Kumar, alias Happy Gujar (22) of Nadda village, SAS Nagar.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harmandeep Singh Hans, the CIA staff of Kharar had received intelligence on October 24 that two men from Mathura were transporting firearms to deliver in Mohali district. Acting on the tip-off, the police intercepted the suspects on the Kharar-Mullanpur-Airport Road and registered FIR No. 345 under sections 25, 54, and 59 of the Arms Act at Sadar Kharar police station. The operation led to the recovery of four .32 bore pistols with two live cartridges, one .45 bore pistol with two live cartridges, ₹1.99 lakh in cash, a white Mahindra XUV300 car (registration no. 24 BH 8220 C), and



a black Scorpio N (registration no. MH13 ES 1200).

The police said Darveer, a key operative of the Papla Gujar gang, had multiple previous cases of murder, dacoity, and Arms Act violations in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. He allegedly procured the weapons from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for supply to criminal groups in Punjab. Shaikh, a BA graduate and former Army recruit under the sports quota, had come to Mohali to purchase the weapons allegedly for a local network. He was arrested along with the two UP natives near Gopal's Sweets at Airport Chowk during the transaction while Krishan Kumar was nabbed two days later."

Xi to meet Canadian, Japanese leaders after Trump trade truce



GNS News Agency,Nov 27

China's Xi Jinping will take centre stage at an annual gathering of Pacific Rim leaders in South Korea on Friday (October 31, 2025), holding talks with Canadian and Japanese counterparts after securing a fragile trade truce with U.S. President Donald Trump. That agreement, struck just before Mr. Trump left South Korea, skipping the main two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, will suspend further curbs on China's exports of rare earths that threatened to jam up global supply chains. Bolstering supply chains is a key focus of this year's APEC talks, which are being hosted in the historic town of Gyeongju. The 21-member economic club aims to encourage cooperation and reduce trade and investment barriers, though decisions made at meetings are non-binding and consensus has been increasingly difficult. Xi meets Japan's new hawkish leaders

With the leader of the world's biggest economy absent, attention turns to Mr. Xi, who is expected to hold his first talks with Japan's newly elected leader Sanae Takaichi. While relations between the historic rivals have been on a sounder footing in recent years, Ms. Takaichi's surprise elevation to become Japan's first female leader may strain ties due to her nationalistic views and hawkish security policies. One of her first acts since taking office last week was to accelerate a military build-up focused on defending Japan's islands from an increasingly assertive China. Japan also hosts the biggest concentration of U.S. military abroad. The detention of Japanese nationals in China and Beijing's import restrictions on Japanese beef, seafood

and agricultural products are also likely to be among the sensitive issues on the agenda. Canada seeks to restart China engagement. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will meet Xi Jinping at 4:00 p.m. local time (0700 GMT), his office said, aiming to restart broad engagement with China after years of poor relations. Embroiled in a bitter trade war with its biggest trading partner, the United States, Canada is aiming to wean itself off that overwhelming dependence and seek new markets. China is Canada's second-biggest trading partner.

Under the leadership of Carney's predecessor, Justin Trudeau, Canadians were detained and executed by the Chinese government, and Canada's security authorities concluded that China interfered in at least two federal elections. Mr. Xi also publicly scolded Mr. Trudeau, alleging he leaked their discussions to the press. China announced preliminary anti-dumping duties on Canadian canola imports in August, a year after Canada said it would levy a 100% tariff on imports of Chinese electric vehicles. Senior officials from both sides met to discuss those issues earlier this month, but gave no indication of any looming breakthrough. Bessent stands in for Trump. Deputising for Mr. Trump, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will participate in the opening session of the summit, where South Korean Prime Minister Lee Jae Myung will host a discussion on "restoring the will to cooperate in the Asia-Pacific region". South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said on Thursday that negotiations were still taking place on a joint statement even for the ministerial meeting itself, but added that he was hopeful it would be adopted together with a leaders' declaration when the summit concludes on Saturday. "We are very close," he told a briefing. Two APEC member nation diplomats privately expressed scepticism that any statement would be particularly substantive, given fractures in global politics. APEC failed to adopt a joint declaration in 2018 and 2019, during Trump's first presidency. Nvidia's CEO Jensen Huang will be speaking this afternoon to a gathering of executives running parallel to the APEC Summit. Mr. Huang has had a whirlwind week, with Nvidia becoming the first company to surpass a \$5 trillion valuation, but the issue of the U.S. chipmaker's sale of advanced AI chips in China was seemingly left out of Thursday's Xi-Trump summit.

India's been 'very good' on that front: Trump repeats claim on Delhi reducing energy purchases from Moscow

GNS News Agency,Nov 27

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday) said India has been "very good" on the issue of reducing oil imports from Russia, reiterating his claim that Delhi will significantly reduce its energy purchases from Moscow. Speaking to reporters onboard Air Force One on his way back to Washington following his summit meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Busan, Mr. Trump was asked about Russian oil purchases. Mr. Trump said Mr. Xi has been "buying oil from Russia for a long time. It takes care of a big part of China. And, you know, I can say India's been very good on that front. But we didn't really discuss the oil. We discussed working together to see if we could get that war finished." Mr. Trump has been claiming for the past few days that Delhi has assured him that it will significantly reduce its oil imports from Russia.

Last week, Mr. Trump reiterated his claim that India has agreed to "stop" buying oil from Russia and would bring them down to "almost nothing" by the end of the year. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said that India is a significant importer of oil and gas, and it has been Delhi's consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario. "Our import policies



are guided entirely by this objective. Ensuring stable energy prices and secured supplies have been the twin goals of our energy policy.

This includes broad-basing our energy sourcing and diversifying as appropriate to meet market conditions. "Where the U.S. is concerned, we have for many years sought to expand our energy procurement. This has steadily progressed in the last decade. The current Administration has shown interest in deepening energy cooperation with India. Discussions are ongoing," the MEA had said earlier this month.

India's youth boxers clinch four golds, two silvers, and one bronze at 3rd Asian Youth Games 2025

GNS News Agency,Nov 27

Hyderabad: India's youth boxers delivered a historic performance at the 3rd Asian Youth Games 2025 in Bahrain, finishing with four golds, two silvers, and one bronze, the highest medal tally by any discipline in the Indian contingent and marking the country's best-ever showing in youth boxing at continental games. With this remarkable performance, India topped the Girls' Boxing section, reaffirming the nation's growing dominance in youth boxing on the Asian stage. In the Girls' Boxing category, India finished in Rank 1 with 4 gold medals and 1 silver medal.

The golden run began in the morning session with Khushi Chand (46kg) defeating China's Luo Jinxiu 4:1, displaying exceptional precision and control. Ahaana Sharma (50kg) followed with a first-round Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) win against Ma Jong Hyang of Korea. Chandrika Bhoreshi Pujari (54kg) then secured gold with a commanding 5:0 decision over Uzbekistan's Muhammadova Kumriniso. Anshika (+80kg) added the fourth gold for India, while Harnoor Kaur (66kg) claimed silver after a hard-fought bout. On the boys' side, Lanchenba Singh Moibungkhongbam (50kg) fought valiantly but narrowly missed gold, taking silver against Kazakhstan's Nurmakhan



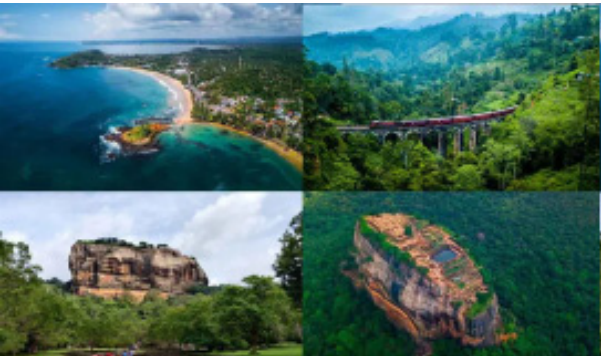
Zhumagali. Earlier, Anant Deshmukh (66kg) clinched bronze, rounding off a stellar campaign for India's young boxers. The six-medal haul underscores the strength of India's youth boxing program and the rigorous preparation at NS NIS Patiala under Head Coaches Vinod Kumar (boys) and Jitender Raj Singh (girls). This landmark achievement reinforces India's growing dominance in Asian boxing and highlights a promising new generation ready to make its mark globally.

Tourists to Sri Lanka not required to obtain Electronic Travel Authorisation

GNS News Agency,Nov 27

Colombo: Tourists travelling to Sri Lanka are not required to obtain Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) prior to their arrival in the island nation, the authorities said.

The Department of Immigration and Emigration said in a statement on Thursday that it has withdrawn the requirement, which came into effect on October 15. As per the new directive, all ETA and visa issuance services will continue to operate under the existing procedures until further notice. "Travellers may therefore apply for visas under the same process that existed before October 15," the statement said. India has been Sri Lanka's biggest inbound tourism market for the last three months—July to September.



Fate of thousands feared in Darfur after reported rampage by Sudanese paramilitary force



GNS News Agency,Nov 27

Sudanese fleeing a paramilitary force that seized a city in the country's Darfur region trickled into a nearby refugee camp Thursday after walking for miles, telling aid workers that roads were littered with bodies. Aid groups feared for the fate of thousands more trying to escape, with hundreds reportedly killed in the turmoil. The U.N. Security Council convened an emergency meeting on Sudan amid international alarm over the bloodshed. U.N. officials have warned of a rampage by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces after it took over the city of el-Fasher, reportedly killing more than 450 people in a hospital and carrying out ethnically targeted killings of civilians and sexual assaults.

Speaking at the meeting, U.N. humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher criticized the Security Council for not acting sooner in Sudan. The country has been torn for the past two years by a war between the military and the RSF that has killed more than 40,000 people and left more than 14 million displaced. "Can anyone here say we did not know this was coming?" he said. "We cannot hear the screams, but as we sit here today the horror is continuing. Women and girls are being raped, people being mutilated and killed with utter impunity." As the U.S. and others at the gathering called for an end to "external support" for the warring parties, Sudan's representative accused the United Arab Emirates, a top American ally, of backing the RSF. The Gulf nation has denied reports it provides weapons and funding to the paramilitary forces. A U.N. panel of experts in 2024 said it found the reports credible. The RSF had been besieging el-Fasher, the last military-held stronghold in the Darfur region, for the past 500 days. Its capture raises fears that Africa's third-largest nation may split, with the paramilitaries holding Darfur and the military holding the capital Khartoum and the north and east of the country. The U.N. migration agency said over 36,000 have reportedly fled el-Fasher since Sunday, with people fleeing on foot in the middle of the night. Experts analyzing satellite imagery say an earthen wall built by the RSF around the city is preventing residents from fleeing and has become a "kill box" where some appear to have been shot. Only thousands have arrived at Tawila, a town some 60 kilometers (35 miles) west of el-Fasher. Tawila has already burgeoned into a sprawling refugee camp housing hundreds of thousands who fled the RSF's siege of el-Fasher over the past year. Mathilde Vu, advocacy manager for the Norwegian Refugee Council, which manages the camp, said the small number reaching Tawila "should be a concern for all of us ... That tells the horror of the journey." The new arrivals told aid workers that there were arbitrary killings by RSF along the roads, which were littered with bodies, the International Rescue Committee said. Save the Children said arriving women described hiding with their children in trenches or abandoned buildings inside el-Fasher to escape fighters, then being attacked and robbed by armed men as they left the city. Vu said the vast majority of those arriving in Tawila are women, or families headed by women, as well as large numbers of children separated

from their parents. Some among the arrivals were injured, many were malnourished. Some women reported rapes as they fled, Vu said. "Men are just not arriving. Either they were killed, disappeared or lost along the way," she said. In Tawila, the newly displaced sheltered under trees. One woman, Aisha Ismael, said she arrived barefoot with none of her belongings amid constant drone attacks and shelling. People foraged for livestock fodder known as ambaz, which is made from peanut shells and water, because they were so hungry. "We looked for it in the dirt to eat and they didn't even let us. If they catch us, they hit us and throw it away," she said. Disrupted communications around el-Fasher has made assessing the devastation inside the city difficult. Witnesses told The Associated Press that RSF fighters went from house to house, beating and shooting people, including women and children. Some 460 patients and their companions were reportedly killed Tuesday at the Saudi Hospital in el-Fasher, said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization. The AP has not been able to independently confirm the hospital attack and death toll. The RSF on Thursday denied carrying out killings at the hospital. It said it had arrested a number of individuals accused of committing violations during the seizure of el-Fasher. The Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab said satellite imagery from Airbus corroborated alleged killings by the RSF around the Saudi Hospital. It also analyzed images of a children's hospital that the RSF turned into a detention center months ago and found "a pile consistent with human remains" in the yard. We think those are people who were killed at the detention center," the lab's executive director Nathaniel Raymond said. The Yale researchers also said that "systematic killings" took place in the vicinity of the earthen wall, which the RSF built outside the city earlier this year. "The entire city is surrounded by a berm. It is a kill box, to trap them, to kill them," said Raymond. At the Security Council gathering, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Dorothy Shea condemned "the horrific violence occurring in el-Fasher." She repeated Washington's stance that the RSF and its allied militias have committed genocide in Sudan.

She said American officials are working to secure "an immediate humanitarian truce and halting external support" for the violence in Sudan. The military — which opponents say is linked to Sudanese Islamist groups — and the RSF were previously allies in ruling Sudan, until they fell out in a struggle for power in 2003. Both sides have faced allegations of human rights abuses. But rights groups and the United Nations have accused the RSF and allied Arab militias of repeated mass killings of civilians and widespread rapes, mainly targeting non-Arab communities. The RSF is largely made up of fighters from the Janjaweed militia that committed genocide in the early 2000s in Darfur, Egypt, where the military dominates the government, gives political backing to the Sudanese military, seeing it as a more reliable ally in the neighboring nation. The UAE is reported to back the RSF, similar to its support of armed factions in Libya and Yemen to spread its influence and combat Islamist groups. It has repeatedly denied allegations that it funnels weapons to the RSF. But in January 2024, the U.N.-appointed Panel of Experts for Sudan detailed reports of cargo planes believed to carry weapons destined for the RSF through neighboring Chad and called the reports credible. During Thursday's session, the UAE's representative to the U.N., Mohamed Abushahab, said the Gulf state stands in "solidarity" with the Sudanese people and announced \$100 million in humanitarian aid. Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Al-Harith Idriss Al-Harith Mohamed accused the UAE of waging a "war of aggression" in Sudan with its support of the RSF and criticized the Security Council for failing to take "any practical measures to hold this particular sponsor and others accountable."

If US resumes nuclear weapons testing, this would be extremely dangerous for humanity

Melbourne: US President Donald Trump has instructed the Pentagon to resume nuclear weapons testing immediately, "on an equal basis" with other countries' testing programs. If Trump is referring to the resumption of explosive nuclear testing, this would be an extremely unfortunate, regrettable step by the United States. It would almost inevitably be followed by tit-for-tat reciprocal announcements by other nuclear-armed states, particularly Russia and China, and cement an accelerating arms race that puts us all in great jeopardy. It would also create profound risks of radioactive fallout globally. Even if such nuclear tests are conducted underground, this poses a risk in terms of the possible release and venting of radioactive materials, as well as the potential leakage into groundwater. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has been signed by 187 states — it's one of the most widely supported disarmament treaties in the world.

The US signed the treaty decades ago, but has yet to ratify it. Nonetheless, it is actually legally bound not to violate the spirit and purpose of the treaty while it's a signatory. What testing is used for, and why it stopped in earlier years, the purpose of testing was to understand the effects of nuclear weapons — for example, the blast damage at different distances, which provides confidence in destroying a given military target. Understanding the consequences of nuclear weapons helps militaries plan their use and, to some extent, protect their own military equipment and people from the possible use of nuclear weapons by adversaries. But since the end of the Second World War, states have mostly used testing as part of the development of new weapon designs. There have been a very large number of tests, more than 2,000, mostly seeking to understand how these new weapons work. The huge environmental and health problems caused by nuclear testing prompted nations to agree on a moratorium on atmospheric testing for a couple of years in the early 1960s. In 1963, the Partial Test Ban Treaty banned nuclear tests in all environments except underground. Since then, nuclear-armed states have stopped testing at different times. The US stopped in 1992, while France stopped in 1996. China and Russia also aren't known to have conducted any tests since the 1990s. North Korea is the only state to have openly tested a nuclear weapon this century, most recently in 2017. These stoppages came in the 1990s for a reason: by that time, it became possible to test new nuclear weapon designs reliably through technical and computer developments, without having to actually explode them. So, essentially, the nuclear states, particularly the more advanced ones, stopped when they no longer needed to explosively test new weapon designs to keep modernising their stocks, as they're still doing.

Worrying levels of nuclear proliferation There is some good news on the nuclear weapons front. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has now been signed by half the world's nations. This is a historic treaty that, for the first time, bans nuclear weapons and provides the only



internationally agreed framework for their eventual elimination. With the exception of this significant development, however, everything else has been going badly. All nine nuclear-armed states (the US, China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel) are investing unprecedented sums in developing more accurate, stealthier, longer-range, faster, and more concealable nuclear weapons. This potentially lowers the threshold for their use. And it certainly gives no indication that these powers are serious about fulfilling their legally binding obligations to disarm under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Moreover, multiple nuclear-armed states have been involved in recent conflicts in which nuclear threats have been made, most notably Russia and Israel. Worryingly, we have also seen the number of nuclear weapons "available for use" actually start to climb again. This includes those in military stockpiles, those that have been deployed (linked to delivery systems such as missiles), and those on high alert, which are the ones most prone to accidental use because they can be launched within minutes of a decision to do so. All of these categories are on the increase. Russia, in particular, has weapons we haven't seen before, such as a nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed cruise missile that President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday his country has successfully tested. China, too, is embarking on a rapid build-up of nuclear weapons. And the US has just completed assembling a new nuclear gravity bomb. A new START treaty is also not moving forward. Nearly all of the hard-won treaties that constrained nuclear weapons since the end of the Cold War have been abrogated. There's now just one remaining treaty constraining 90 per cent of the world's nuclear weapons, which are in the hands of the US and Russia. This is the New START Treaty, which is set to expire in February next year. Putin offered to extend that treaty informally for another year, and Trump has said this is a good idea. But its official end is just four months away, and no actual negotiations on a successor treaty have begun. The US has also said China needs to be involved in the successor treaty, which would make it enormously more complicated. China has not expressed a willingness to be part of the process. Whether anything will be negotiated to maintain these restraints beyond February is unclear.

AI’s rewriting of the rules of education



India is gearing up to turn its education system on its head by introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to students as early as class three from the academic year in 2026-27. This is no small feat. The Ministry of Education, in synchrony with the National Education Policy 2020, is crafting a comprehensive framework to weave AI learning through the entire K-12 tapestry (kindergarten to class 12). The goal is to arm the future workforce with cutting-edge tech skills to thrive in a techno-driven economy.

Teacher training and pilot projectsBut throwing AI into classrooms is not just plug-and-play. The real challenge lies in upskilling a mammoth teaching force of over one crore educators in India. The government is rolling out pilot initiatives allowing teachers to harness AI tools to design lesson plans and teaching resources. Over 10,000 teachers have already been trained since 2019 with help from technology giants Intel, IBM, and government institutes such as the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology. The goal is to equip educators who can impart AI concepts confidently and practically. But how ready are India’s teachers to morph into AI guides? What are the obstacles in this massive transition? How ready teachers are will dictate how successful the AI revolution becomes.AI is not just about introducing new content. It promises a colossal shift away from “one-size-fits-all” education to personalisation. AI-powered platforms analyse student behaviour, learning speed, and comprehension to tailor lessons that meet individual needs. If a student struggles with algebra, the AI tutor offers extra practice and alternative explanations. If a student is good in biology, he can get ready for more advanced challenges, with AI. Such adaptive learning not only boosts engagement but also dismantles barriers for diverse student populations, including those with disabilities or regional language needs.Despite its transformative potential, AI is designed to augment, not replace, the human element in education. The focus is on enhancing human judgment, creativity and critical thinking through smart tools. AI automates repetitive tasks such as grading and attendance, freeing teachers to spend more time on

meaningful engagement with students. It acts as a powerful assistant in personalised lesson planning and real-time feedback, amplifying the effectiveness of educators. So, while AI is shaking up the classroom, there is still no substitute for a passionate teacher who drives learning with empathy and insight.Opportunity amid disruption

As AI reshapes education, it also signals seismic workforce changes. According to a recent NITI Aayog report, while AI could displace up to two million jobs in India’s tech sector over the next five years, it is also projected to create four million new jobs by 2030, jobs that demand new skills and adaptability. This is a dual-edged sword that calls for the urgent preparation of today’s learners.By embedding AI in early education, India aims to create a workforce that is ready for a digital economy, and not left behind by rapid automation. But are students and educators prepared to embrace this whirlwind of change? The question is not just about job loss or creation but about shaping a resilient workforce that can ride the AI wave.Generative AI technology, which creates new content based on patterns in data, is already gaining traction in Indian education. More than half of India’s higher education institutes are incorporating generative AI to enhance teaching and learning. From AI chatbots that answer student queries 24X7 to platforms that create interactive quizzes and personalised study materials, generative AI is making education more engaging and tailored. This explosion of AI tools could narrow the learning gap significantly in India’s vast and diverse education landscape. It is a frontier full of promise but also challenges that are related to access, quality and ethics.Driving inclusivity and accessibilityPerhaps the most heartening impact of AI in education is its role in fostering inclusivity. AI-powered adaptive learning and language processing tools break down barriers for non-native speakers and learners with disabilities. The customisation of educational content can create equitable learning environments. In countries that are multicultural and multilingual like India, this AI-driven push for inclusiveness could rewrite the rules of who gets to learn and how. Could AI be the great equaliser that education systems worldwide have long sought? The signs are promising, but deliberate design and policy are critical.India’s bold initiative to weave AI into early education signals a massive transformation in how knowledge is imparted, how teachers teach, and how students engage with learning. The revolution comes with challenges: teacher training at scale, ensuring equitable access to AI tools, and preparing students for jobs that do not even exist.Are Indian schools truly ready for this AI overhaul? Can the education system keep pace with rapid technological advancements without leaving disadvantaged communities behind? Only time will tell. But one thing is clear: the rules of education are being rewritten right before our eyes, and AI is the pen scripting this brave new world.

Gender disparity exists even in informal labour market



Hence, the recent rise in women’s employment appears to be largely a proliferation of low-productivity activities. The indirect evidence does not indicate any improvement in the availability of decent jobs for women

Gender inequality issues are widespread and numerous. Wage and earning inequality in the labour market has been a major concern. Why job market outcomes differ across genders, even after controlling for human capital-specific factors, is a key question. Even within the informal sector, which is generally characterised by low levels of productivity and earnings, gender differences are perceptible.Some studies present a thorough and intricate assessment of the recent growth in female workforce participation rates (FWPR) in India, supported by detailed data obtained from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). Their paper reveals that a substantial portion of this increase is concentrated specifically within the agricultural sector, where notable rises in self-employment and unpaid family work have collectively contributed to heightened participation rates among women.?The authors compellingly argue that these trends should not merely be interpreted as indicators of disguised unemployment; rather, they may signify productive engagement in economic activities that have historically been under-recognised and undervalued (Goldar and Agarwal, 2024).

In general, the informal sector is viewed as a sector that is subordinate to the formal sector. For the sake of flexibility, regulations are not encouraged, allowing for greater employment potential to be tapped, which is often lacking in the formal sector. Though residual types of activities are conducted within the informal sector, the greater employment potential is considered a merit in low-income countries. Within the residual activities or a sector that is subordinate to another, any further possibility of discrimination is usually unexpected. However, our findings reveal that even within the informal sector, women experience worse outcomes than men. In the face of an excess supply of labour in menial and low-productivity activities, the possibility of gender-based outcomes cannot be ruled out, as hiring and firing practices may involve gross inequality, perpetuated by stereotypes and prejudices.Our study using the unit-level data of the PLFS argues that significant differences exist between males and females in terms of employment structure and labour market outcomes. In general, the industrial classification and the nature of employment for female and male workers vary significantly. Furthermore, within the informal sector, the types of employment and wage/earning outcomes reveal substantial differences.In order to assess whether the rising employment of women is associated with productive absorption, resulting in an increased standard of living, the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) is compared across households with and

without women workers. First, the households are distributed across different decile groups, and for each group, the average consumption expenditure per capita has been estimated separately for households with women workers and those without.

At the upper end, the backward-sloping supply curve of women suggests that the average monthly consumption expenditure per capita could be higher for households without women workers compared with those with women workers. This is somewhat evident when we compare the top decile in the rural context across both survey years. In the lowest decile group, households with women workers are marginally better off than those without.Overall, there does not seem to be any significant difference in the consumption expenditure per capita between the two groups of households across most of the decile classes. This compels us to reflect on the quality of employment in which women are engaged. If the recent surge in employment statistics is due to a rise in women’s employment, it does not necessarily indicate that rural women are being increasingly absorbed into quality jobs. Had that been the case, the rise in rural women’s employment would have been accompanied by an increase in income per household, which would again be reflected in the monthly consumption expenditure per capita.In the urban context, most of the decile groups do not reveal any significant difference in terms of consumption expenditure per capita between households with and without women workers. At the top, households in the decile class without women workers are better off than those with women workers, as noted in the rural context as well. However, in the lowest decile group, households with women workers are marginally better off than those without women workers.Low-productivity work

Hence, the recent rise in women’s employment appears to be largely a proliferation of low-productivity activities. The indirect evidence does not indicate any improvement in the availability of decent jobs for women. The lack of productive jobs compels many women to participate in low-productivity activities, as open unemployment may not be a feasible option. As men, the principal breadwinners, may not have access to jobs with sufficient incomes to meet their households’ consumption requirements, women feel compelled to enter the labour market and resort to jobs of last resort. Additionally, in the absence of male members to participate in the job market, women are forced to seek income-earning opportunities, even if the quality of those jobs remains poor. Of course, this increase in low-productivity jobs does not necessarily reflect a shrinking demand for decent jobs; it could also be attributed to poor human capital formation among women job seekers.A more rigorous analysis is conducted based on the unit-level data to assess gender differences in the nature of employment within the informal sector. After controlling for important variables, the gender differences in the occupational choice function are significant. Furthermore, these differences are reflected in the wage/earning function, providing evidence that women’s engagement in the labour market is not necessarily associated with equality. In regular wage employment, casual wage employment, and self-employment, women earn less than men.

Additionally, wage employment within the informal sector is less accessible to women workers compared with their male counterparts; they are more susceptible to self-employment, which may not generate substantial earnings for the workers. This has important implications for the non-attainment of empowerment and a “say” in the decision-making process.Policy directives can be envisioned to extend support to female workers for accessing wage employment and to reduce gender wage inequality. It is important to recognise that even within the domain of petty and residual activities, discrimination exists, perpetuating inequality.Arup Mitra is Professor, South Asian University; and Divya Sharma is Assistant Professor of Economics, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies-Technical Campus; views expressed are personal

How Mari Selvaraj has portrayed Dalit lives within Tamil cinema



Filmmaker Mari Selvaraj’s rise in Tamil cinema as one of its top filmmakers from humble beginnings and his evolution as a master craftsman is a story by itself. It wouldn’t be a stretch to state that Mr. Selvaraj along with filmmaker Pa. Ranjith filled a yawning gap in Tamil cinema by ensuring that Dalit protagonists and Ambedkarite politics of emancipation formed the central core of their films, serving as an anathema to the persistent normalisation of violence and oppression by dominant castes in the name of valour and history in Tamil cinema.It has been 13 years since filmmaker Pa. Ranjith burst onto the scene with Attakathi and seven years since Mari Selvaraj’s first film, Pariyerum Perumal, released in theatres to positive reviews and success at the box office, dispelling the notion that films about caste discrimination set in the deep south are akin to a spark in the powder keg. Yet, crucial differences between the two filmmakers haven’t been emphasised enough. Except for Attakathi, Mr. Ranjith largely shies away from making films with significant autobiographical elements while Mr. Selvaraj situates his autobiographical episodes in historical contexts, save for Maamannan.

Mr. Ranjith’s point of view has been informed by a different political tradition in northern parts of Tamil Nadu, where fight for rights would mean large scale political mobilisations, street protests and litigations. However, Mr. Selvaraj’s formative years were spent in what was then a part of the Tirunelveli district, a southern district of Tamil Nadu, that has been a hot-bed of caste-violence and caste-based mobilisation through the 90s, including widespread rioting across neighbouring districts, known as the ‘Thenmaavatta Kalavarangal’. Young and middle-aged taxi drivers hailing from southern districts but making a living in Chennai, Bengaluru or Mumbai could tell you how the smallest of provocations, say, in restrooms, in cinema halls, in public buses (as in Bison: Kaalamaadan), or in tea shops could snowball into a major incident of violence. Irrespective of which community they hail from, most of them find the prevailing environment toxic and are realising that it is not worth contributing to violence and spending one’s life entangled in court cases.This is perhaps why Mr. Selvaraj’s point of view appears to look like he is striving for a negotiation, often resorting to dialogue even with his worst enemy, despite the fact that Dalit communities in the south of Tamil Nadu often fight back and resist oppression violently. During a visit to Tirunelveli before the 2021 State Assembly elections, this author asked political activists within the Devendrakula Vellalar community about Mr. Selvaraj’s first film Pariyerum Perumal. They were quite critical of the film. “It is not our film. It is a film made for you people,” a political

As campaign peaks, Bihar narrative revolves around old and new strands

The verdict in the two-phase Bihar Assembly election will be pronounced in a little over a fortnight, on November 14, but the campaign’s momentum on the ground has given way to Chhath festivities, which fell this year on October 27-28. Moreover, a paradigm shift in the format of the election campaign has seen it move from the ground to social media. And from the heat and dust of intense campaigning have risen a handful of dominant themes in voter conversations.

Firstly, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar still appears more popular than other political leaders in the arena but his failing health is a talking point, especially among male voters. The ruling National Democratic Alliance’s (NDA) ‘Dus Hazaria’ scheme, a reference to the ₹10,000 transferred to ‘Jeevika Didis’ (community mobilisers for self-help groups in a World Bank-supported initiative) under the ‘Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana’ (CM women’s employment scheme) through Direct Benefit Transfer to the beneficiaries’ bank accounts, has gained huge traction and accolades.Mr. Kumar has been, for a long time, assiduously carving a caste-neutral women’s vote bank, with several welfare schemes crafted especially for women under his baton. Women voters (at 48%) are almost equal in number to male voters in Bihar. They can be heard speaking of the ‘Dus Hazaria’ scheme everywhere, proclaiming their support for Mr. Kumar. “We will all vote for Nitish Kumar,” a group of women voters from an Extremely Backward Class (EBC) told this reporter, sitting by the roadside under the shadow of a neem (margosa)tree at noon on October 22 in Samastipur. They were busy weaving supdaura (handcrafted bamboo baskets) used in the Chhath festival to carry fruits and other offerings to the rising and setting Sun.Men of the same group, sitting nearby and also weaving baskets, beads of sweat crowding their brow, sounded more cautious. “We have heard he (Nitish Kumar) is not well these days. He should give up his position before things turn fatal,” they said.The ruling NDA has fielded 34 women candidates, while the Opposition Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) has 31 women candidates in the fray this year.Tejashwi’s burden

Secondly, voter conversations centre around Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav burdened by the inherited tag of “lawlessness in Bihar” of his parents’ regimes from 1990 to November 2005. The younger son of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad is a former Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Assembly, and was Deputy Chief Minister twice in Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) governments. NDA leaders have targeted him over the years of ‘misrule and misgovernance’ under the RJD, a focus Mr. Yadav has struggled to shrug off.Mr. Lalu Prasad has declared his younger son to be his political heir, and Mr. Yadav has announced several welfare schemes for women but voters frequently recall the “jungle raj” that became a byword for the RJD era in Bihar’s governance. “It’s okay that he (Mr. Yadav) too has announced something for us, but who can forget the total absence of law in the RJD regime,” voters in urban Darbhanga told this reporter.At 36, Mr. Yadav is popular among younger voters. “He is young, and has proved he means what he says in the 17 months during which he was a Mahagathbandhan Deputy CM,” students returning from a coaching institute in Darbhanga town as the prepared to write examinations for ‘government jobs’, said. Mr. Yadav has promised one ‘government job’ per family if he comes to power. “Did Modi ji provide ₹15 lakh to everyone in the country as he had promised?” they said, when asked about Mr. Yadav’s campaign promise.PM’s popularity

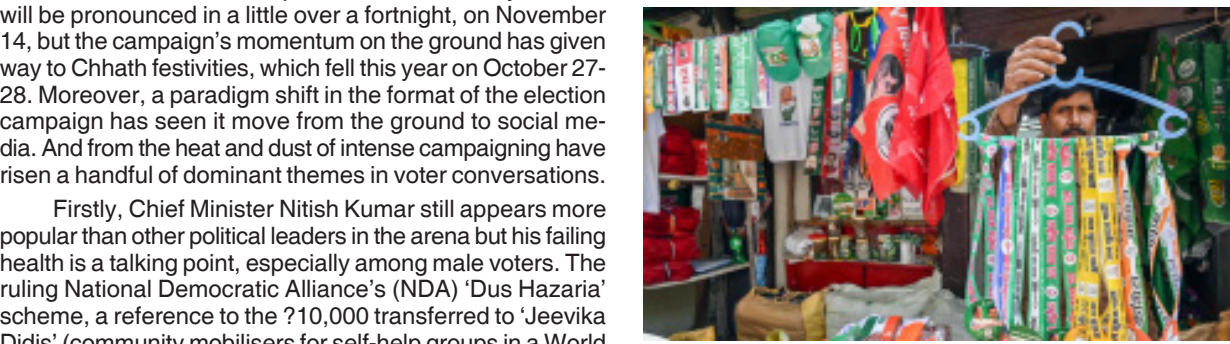
Thirdly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is still the most

party office bearer said jokingly. He meant that the film was meant to tug at your heart, and not aimed at his throat.

However, Mr. Selvaraj quickly changed his tone in Karnan, featuring Dhanush, in which he wove a story around a painful historical incident of police brutality to etch a rather spirited story about how a regular, everyday youth uses revolutionary violence in pursuit of justice. “This is more our film. We fought back...and now everybody knows that,” the same activist, told me over the phone after the release. In four of the five films that Mr. Selvaraj has made so far, it is clear that he has been struggling to make sense of his personal experience with caste and the social machinations around him. Questions have been asked, not just by those who don’t like the politics in his films, but also by those who take him seriously as a filmmaker.Questions of conscience

Many have spoken about how Mr. Selvaraj has mastered the art of representation — the way women tie their sarees in his films, how dominant castes strut around and throw their weight in villages and towns, and how the smallest of scuffles could snowball into a conflict involving whole communities. After an uncomfortable outing in Maamannan, which had some decent ideas, Mr. Selvaraj returned to his familiar surroundings with Vaazhai, telling us a story of characters hailing from his world, with episodes from his life. Its message was that caste-based labour exploitation has a role to play in accidents, too.

With Bison: Kaalamaadan, Mr. Selvaraj plonks his protagonist, Kittan, an aspiring Kabaddi player, who is asked to stay out of trouble by his father, in the midst of a raging, violent war between two community leaders — one fighting to ensure that the social balance remains tilted in his community’s favour and the other, fighting to create equilibrium. In Bison, Mr. Selvaraj continues to open himself up to the criticism that his films often tries to appeal to the good conscience of the oppressor castes. A writer who is well-informed about the politics in the south said, “Except for Karnan, protagonists in Mari’s films have sought equality with the oppressor castes by showcasing the struggles of the protagonist and appealing to their good side. However, nobody in Tamil cinema today has been able to capture how the dominant castes try to maintain their dominance in the caste society. He is exceptional in that case.”While one need not speculate about his motivations, it is true that the idea of seeking parity by appealing to the good conscience of dominant castes sits uncomfortably with the larger Dalit community who remember their struggles in the south differently. It is perhaps understandable that cinema, being an expensive mainstream art, necessitating the need to recoup money in the market, imposes certain restrictions such as creating a sense of balance in representation and so on. The movement that began with Pa. Ranjith and Mari Selvaraj, finds itself at an inflection point: can mainstream cinema be used to build bridges and force a change of mindsets in other communities while telling stories of oppression the way it must be told?Bison could be seen as a move towards that. By bringing the life and struggles of Manathi Ganesan, a Kabaddi player, on the silver screen, Mr. Selvaraj has shown his intent to celebrate not just those who fight for the rights of people, organise protests and so on, but also heroes from the community who quietly break glass ceilings and set benchmarks, not just for young people within the community but for Tamil society as a whole.



popular leader across age groups in both urban and rural constituencies of the State, irrespective of their caste affiliations. Voters speak of Mr. Modi as a “strong leader who is tough, and at the same time takes care of every section of society”. “We need a leader like him,” Ramesh Kushwaha of Vaishali district said, looking to others sitting with him for confirmation as they nodded.Mr. Modi has campaigned extensively in Bihar. On October 30, he is scheduled to address two public meetings at Muzaffarpur and Chhapra, and will hold a roadshow in Patna on November 2. “He is more appealing for us than any other leader either in Bihar or the country,” Sanjay Bind, pedalling his cycle swiftly on the Mahua-Samastipur road in Vaishali district, said.

Congress is backFourthly, the Congress party, which was pushed into something approaching a political coma in the State when Mr. Prasad led the RJD to power in 1990, has finally found its stride with the success of Rahul Gandhi’s 14-day, 1,300-km-long Voter Adhikar Yatra across 24 districts. Congress leaders and supporters have received a fresh lease of life, and the party Bihar headquarters Sadaqat Ashram is seen buzzing with activity after a long time.Enthused party leaders have even pressured the RJD to let the Congress contest more seats. Several party leaders suggested that had Mr. Gandhi stayed for more days in Bihar, or camped here, the contest in Bihar this time would have been between “the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led Mahagathbandhan”, with the party reclaiming lost ground.

‘Over-hyped’ JSPFifthly, the lack of traction for the newly launched Jan Suraa Party, founded by former poll strategist Prashant Kishor on October 2, 2024 in Patna, has become evident. The JSP is contesting all 243 seats, with three candidates withdrawing their nominations. But despite the hype on social media, and in some sections of conventional media, there is little evidence of interest in the party on the ground.“It (the JSP) is doing well only on social media. It is over-hyped publicity of the kind Mr. Kishor was doing for other political parties as an expert on elections, nothing else,” Rajesh Kumar, 55, an engineer-turned-stock broker from the Kumhrar constituency in central Patna, said. “Candidates with a good personality and career are not guaranteed to win elections in Bihar. Do you think the Congress party candidate from Patna Sahib, Shashant Shekhar, is in anyway less educated than any of the JSP’s candidates, but will he win the poll? It’s a million dollar question,” Mr. Kumar added.Several smaller parties have had a little impact in some constituencies on the ground. The All India Majlis-e-lttehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has caught the attention of voters in some constituencies of the Seemanchal (border) districts of northeast Bihar, where its presence may be impactful in the results.

Self-reliance in mind, Cabinet nod for Rs 7,280-crore rare earth magnets plan



GNS News Agency,Nov 27

Self-reliance in mind, Cabinet nod for Rs 7,280-cr rare earth magnets planRare earth magnets, especially neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets, are crucial for EV manufacturing, particularly in electric motors.The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a Rs 7,280-crore rare earth manufacturing programme, as India looks to cut reliance on imports for the critical elements crucial to sectors ranging from electric vehicles and aerospace to defence and electronics.

The government said that the ‘Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets’ is a first-of-its-kind initiative, and aims to establish 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated rare earth permanent magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India, to enhance the country’s self-reliance and positioning it as a key player in the global REPM market.India’s consumption of rare earth permanent magnets is expected to double by 2030, but it currently meets its demand primarily through imports, the government said. Currently, China has a stranglehold over these critical elements, and it had introduced export controls on the magnets in April, in response to the tariffs imposed on it by the US.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that Beijing stonewalled applications made by companies that supply

components to India’s automobile manufacturers for a long time, but had started to clear some applications, following a cumbersome bureaucratic procedure.India imported over 53,000 metric tonnes of rare earth magnets during the fiscal year ending March 2025.

In a press release, the government said the scheme will support the creation of integrated REPM manufacturing facilities, involving conversion of rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs. The total duration of the scheme will be 7 years from the date of award, including a two-year gestation period.It consists of a sales-linked incentives of Rs 6,450 crore on REPM sales for five years and capital subsidy of Rs 750 crore for setting up an aggregate of 6,000 MTPA of REPM manufacturing facilities. The scheme envisions allocating the total capacity to five beneficiaries through a competitive bidding process. Each beneficiary will be allotted up to 1,200 MTPA of capacity.New restrictions on rare earth magnet and related materials from China that kicked in from April 4 have impacted automakers across the world, including vehicle manufacturers in India. EV makers here are particularly affected, and have been staring at a potential shortage of critical components, which raises concerns of price hikes and production delays in a nascent, cost-sensitive segment of the auto market.The Indian car industry had initiated a conversation with the government to smoothen the process for procuring rare earth magnets from Beijing. While the Chinese government had not imposed an outright ban on the export of rare earth magnets the process had been made very difficult – including requiring end-user licence and endorsements from the importing country – which could take up a long time and posed shortage risks in the meantime.Rare earth magnets, especially neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets, are crucial for EV manufacturing, particularly in electric motors. They provide the strong magnetic fields needed for efficient and powerful electric motors, including traction motors that drive EVs. These magnets also play a major role in other EV components like power steering systems, wiper motors, and braking systems.

RBI Balance of payments data: Central bank planning monthly release, says Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta

BoP data is currently released for every quarter, with the current account balance (CAB) being the most keenly-watched figure.BoP data is currently released for every quarter, with the current account balance (CAB) being the most keenly-watched figure.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking to release the balance of payments (BoP) data, a key metric of the country’s external sector position, on a monthly basis, its Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta said on Wednesday.To facilitate the timely and more frequent availability of the country’s BoP statistics, the RBI has already brought down the time lag in the release of the quarterly BoP statistics from 90 days to around 60 days, starting Q1FY26.

“Going ahead, we will endeavour to prepare and release the monthly BoP statistics (albeit at a slightly more aggregate-level and at a lag of approximately 40 days),” Gupta said while addressing the first pre-release consultative workshop on the base revision of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).BoP data is currently released for every quarter, with the current account balance (CAB) being the most keenly-watched figure. The CAB denotes the net of payments made and received by Indians for the trade of goods and services with the rest of the world and the flow of remittances, and other similar payments, in and out of the country. As per latest data, India’s current account deficit widened to \$2.35 billion in April-June 2025 from a surplus of \$13.48 billion in the previous quarter.

Errors in forecasting ‘common’Speaking on the RBI’s inflation and growth predictions, Gupta said any forecasting exercise, by its very nature, has the risk of incurring errors and that such errors are a common feature around the world. Errors are generally larger when there are unpredictable shocks or events and when one is predicting far ahead into the future, she added.In India, Gupta said, inflation forecasting is challenging given the high and outdated weight of food in the CPI basket and the volatile nature of food prices. She added that the RBI is committed to using



the state-of-the-art models and approaches to improve its forecast accuracy continuously.“Besides minimising the forecast errors, what is equally important is to ensure that there is no systematic bias in the forecasts. As far as the inflation forecasts used in the MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) resolution are concerned, they are unbiased,” she said. Gupta, as the deputy governor in charge of monetary policy, is a member of the RBI’s monetary policy committee.

Over the years, the RBI’s inflation forecasts have come under fire. Most recently, the central bank has had to make repeated downward projections to its CPI inflation projections as incoming data continuously came in lower than what it expected.In February, the RBI had forecast average CPI inflation for FY26 at 4.2 per cent. This was lowered to 4 per cent in April, 3.7 per cent in June, 3.1 per cent in August, and 2.6 per cent in October. With CPI inflation falling to a record low of 0.25 per cent in October, economists think CPI inflation could average below 2 per cent in FY26, making it likely that the RBI will lower its forecast again in early December.Speaking on the base year revision exercise of GDP, IIP, and CPI, which is currently underway, Gupta said the review is not merely a technical exercise, but of foundational importance for the wider community. The proposed new base year for the GDP and IIP is 2022-23, and for CPI the proposed base year is 2024.

Nvidia says it’s ‘a generation ahead’ amid early signs of AI chip rivalry with Google. How this could unfold

Nvidia on Tuesday (November 25) said its chip technology is “a generation ahead” of the industry, responding to industry concerns that its dominance over AI infrastructure may be threatened by Google’s foray into AI chips.“We’re delighted by Google’s success — they’ve made great advances in AI and we continue to supply to Google,” Nvidia said in a post on X. “NVIDIA is a generation ahead of the industry — it’s the only platform that runs every AI model and does it everywhere computing is done.”The post came after Nvidia saw its shares fall 3 per cent in Tuesday’s trade after a report in San Francisco-based tech portal The Information that said Meta, a big Nvidia customer, could strike a deal with Google to use its tensor processing units for Meta’s new data centres.Two developments have raised concern for market observers:First, whether the reported Meta deal, long a theoretical possibility but now closer to reality, may be a sign that Google is shaking off Nvidia’s dominance and could finally pull ahead. Nvidia secured a \$5 trillion valuation in late October, while Google and its parent Alphabet are set to breach the \$4 trillion mark this month.Second, after propelling the tech-stock market rally to new highs in the US, whether the recent slide in Nvidia stock could reverse the gains made, even as investors conduct a reality check of the meteoric surge in the company’s valuation in recent months.

Nvidia’s upsurge has been serendipitous, given the chips giant’s rise from a niche graphics-chip designer to an AI titan happened because its gaming-focused chips just turned out to be better at crunching data in the early stages of LLM (large language model) training. The euphoria about the potential of artificial intelligence has thus far driven up the demand for Nvidia’s chips, and propelled its stock to record highs. Its GPU chips, such as the Hopper or the new Blackwell chips, are more flexible and powerful than Google’s TPU. The TPU is an entirely different chip cat-

egory called ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit) designed for a single specialised function.

“NVIDIA offers greater performance, versatility, and fungibility than ASICs,” Nvidia said in its post. At this moment, Nvidia has more than 90 per cent of the market for artificial intelligence chips with its graphics processors, AI analysts say, but Google’s in-house chips have become a viable alternative to the Blackwell chips, which are expensive to run but very powerful and capable of parallel tasking.Unlike Nvidia, Google has so far not sold its TPU chips to other companies, but used them in-house, while allowing some of its clients to rent them through the Google Cloud platform. The first big signs of a shakeup came earlier this month, when Google released Gemini 3, an upgraded AI model trained on the company’s own TPUs, not Nvidia GPUs. The Meta deal report added further fuel to market rumours.

On whether Google could finally pull ahead, a security specialist working for one of the ‘magnificent seven’ American tech companies told The Indian Express, “It might be too early for a direct comparison between (Google’s) TPU and Nvidia (GPUs): cost vs performance, etc. Though more suppliers of accelerated compute are welcome. Nvidia has a 70 per cent margin: that was never going to last.”The expert also flagged the challenge posed by TSMC, the Taiwan-based foundry specialist that runs the world’s most integrated fabs, which can manufacture the most advanced chips. “So it may be more a matter not of design, but where you are in the queue and whether you can get enough chips made. Google will also have to get into the same queue to get it made. . . . Another significant point to consider is that TSMC is being cautious. They are not building fabs like crazy. They know if the bust happens, they’ll be left with no orders and lots of idle capacity.

‘You got this, kid’: Sushmita Sen reveals the self-talk that keeps her grounded as she turns 50; how balanced inner dialogue supports emotional resilience



Before she celebrated her milestone birthday, actor Sushmita Sen reflected on how her relationship with herself has evolved over the years.Speaking about turning 50 this November, in conversation with Dr Sheen Gurrib, she shared, “You would have met no one who talks to herself like I do. You have a good moment, you bring yourself to the side and say, ‘Don’t get carried away. It’s transient, don’t get carried away.’”

She added that her self-talk doesn’t just show up in moments of joy. It anchors her during setbacks, too. “You have a bad moment, you pull yourself back in and say, you got this kid, you’ve seen so much in life, this is nothing. Get back up, you can do this.”According to her, this inner dialogue became a learned skill, something she discovered during the Miss Universe contest, a transformative period of her life. “That ability I learned in those 31 days, because I realised I wanted Rakesh Sharma. I wanted to be the first Indian (to win), and here God had put me in a position where I could be the first Indian.” She mentioned how just moments before the winner was supposed to be announced, she knew that she was going to win.

So how does this kind of balanced self-talk help regu-

‘Women need more sleep than men’: Soha Ali Khan on communicating her sleep needs to her husband and daughter; how couples can balance different sleep rhythms

Sleep schedules are often among the first things to get disrupted in a busy household, especially for women who juggle multiple roles. In a recent conversation, Soha Ali Khan shared how she approached this at home by clearly communicating her needs. “I told my husband, women need more sleep than men, so let me sleep for that extra hour. Now he does,” she said during an interaction with Tweak India, explaining how this small change has made a noticeable difference in her day-to-day functioning.

She also described how their daughter, Inaaya, has adapted to her sleep rhythm. “And Inaaya also knows because she goes to bed at least two hours before I go to bed. So she gets her full sleep, and I sometimes need that extra half an hour,” she added. Over time, their routine has found a natural balance. “So now she comes and she knocks on the door and she says, ‘Are you awake?’ And of course, then she’s woken me up. But now, often she very sweetly doesn’t wake me up, and she will find a way to occupy herself until I wake up and go to her. And I think that a little extra half an hour, one hour is very precious.”But why does this guilt arise about prioritising rest, and how can couples create an equitable approach to sleep needs at home?

Psychologist Rasshi Gurnani tells indianexpress.com, “Guilt around rest usually comes from how women are socialised to be caregivers first and individuals later. Many grow up believing that their value lies in how much they do for others. When a woman rests, it can feel like she’s stepping away from this responsibility, even though sleep is a biological need, not a luxury.”She adds that couples can handle this better when they treat sleep like nutrition or medicine, something every person needs in different amounts. Sharing responsibilities at home, adjusting routines together, and accepting that both partners don’t have to follow the same schedule help create fairness rather than comparison.According to Gurnani, talking about sleep works best when it’s framed as a need rather than a complaint.



Instead of saying ‘You’re disrupting my sleep,’ it helps to say ‘I function better when I sleep earlier or longer, and it will make our days smoother.’ Being specific about what helps—like dimming the lights earlier or waking up separately—reduces frustration. “Mutual respect is key; both partners’ sleep needs should matter equally. Starting small, experimenting with routines, and reviewing what works avoids resentment and turns communication into teamwork,” notes the expert.

“Children learn boundaries when they are taught that caring for oneself is part of caring for the family,” explains Gurnani, adding that when a parent says they need rest and follows through calmly and consistently, the child understands that personal time is normal, not rejection. “Parents can give children predictable cues like quiet play options during rest time or a comforting routine before the parent sleeps. Regular one-on-one time outside those hours reassures them that the connection isn’t going away, it’s just shared more thoughtfully. This teaches them that respecting others’ needs doesn’t reduce love; it strengthens it,” concludes Gurnani.

Everything you need to know about FOFO (and why it could be dangerous)

People avoid tests because they worry the results may change their life, cause stress, or lead to expensive treatments or a serious diagnosis.fearIn medicine, FOFO is found in people who do not go to the doctor because they are afraid of a diagnosis.Anxiety is tricky. It makes you imagine the worst-case scenarios and is often jarring enough to stop you from functioning and taking necessary steps. One such distant relative of anxiety, gaining popularity on the internet, is FOFO – the fear of finding out. It is exactly what it sounds like, specifically in terms of health and medicine.

“FOFO is a feeling where a person avoids medical tests or check-ups because they are scared of discovering something bad about their health, and this fear makes them delay important care,” explains Dr Divya Shree K R, Consultant – Psychiatry, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore. The psychiatrist points out that people avoid these tests because they worry the results may “change their life, cause stress, or lead to expensive treatments”, and they may also fear hearing a serious diagnosis. “Some people feel ashamed about their lifestyle, ignore early symptoms, or hope the problem will go away on its own, and this makes them avoid doctors even more,” he tells indianexpress.com. Past bad medical experiences or low health awareness can act as triggers.

short article insert The biggest giveaway is when a person keeps delaying check-ups even when appointments are easy to access, and they often give vague reasons like “I’ll go later” without a real barrier. “They may feel anxious or stressed when someone suggests medical tests, and they may avoid talking about symptoms or change the topic quickly,” notes Dr Shree. Some people obsessively Google

late emotions, especially for people navigating major life transitions?

Sonal Khangarot, licensed rehabilitation counsellor and psychotherapist, The Answer Room, tells indianexpress.com, “Balanced self-talk, like Sushmita Sen’s reminder to stay grounded in good moments and hopeful in difficult ones, is a core emotional-regulation skill. It helps people pause, assess situations realistically, and avoid being swept away by extremes. For those entering major life transitions, such as turning 40 or 50, this becomes especially important.”She continues, “At 40, many experience midlife reevaluation, comparing where they are with where they thought they should be. Self-talk like ‘I can redefine success at my pace’ reduces anxiety and perfectionism. At 50, people may face empty-nest changes, health shifts, or identity renegotiation. Positive self-talk doesn’t deny reality; it provides balance.”

Compassionate self-talk vs. motivational self-talkCompassionate self-talk like ‘You got this, kid’ works better than harsh criticism because the brain responds to supportive language with calmer nervous-system activity, better problem-solving, and higher motivation.Khangarot states, “Psychologically, speaking kindly mirrors the tone we use with loved ones, activating safety rather than threat. It also soothes the inner child, reducing old fears of failure or rejection. Harsh self-talk triggers the body’s stress response, narrowing thinking and increasing anxiety. Training a kinder inner voice begins with noticing critical thoughts and intentionally replacing them with gentle, encouraging statements.”

How can ordinary people cultivate resilient self-talk in their daily lives?

Resilient self-talk doesn’t require a crisis; it can be built through small, consistent practices. As a psychologist, I often encourage people to start by observing their daily inner dialogue and gently correcting harsh thoughts.“Using evidence-based tools like cognitive restructuring, journaling, and grounding statements helps train the brain to respond with balance rather than panic. Repeating supportive phrases during routine stress—traffic, workload, family tensions — creates neural pathways similar to what Sen developed in those 31 intense days. Over time, the mind learns to choose calm, realistic, encouraging language, strengthening resilience long before a major life event occurs,” concludes Khangarot.

Between Delhi Crime and The Family Man, OTT comes of age; cinema has a new competitor: 25 Years of Indian Cinema



Yes, there were a few good films this year too, but 2019 will be known as the year when desi web series came of age, with a clutch of terrific shows whose instant popularity ensured new seasons: shows on OTT began as an experiment, and when Sacred Games in 2018 became the phenomenon it did, the flood gates opened.

Sacred Games part 2 wasn't half as smart or entertaining as the first one, but it cemented the success of Netflix as the originator of 'desi originals' — shows that were funded and created with Netflix backing, as opposed to the ones that were 'bought' or 'acquired'. Richie Mehta's dark, disturbing 'Delhi Crime', based on a bunch of committed cops in the Capital solving the Nirbhaya case, made up for the Sacred Games dip. Other terrific shows — Raj & DK's spy saga The Family Man and Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti's wedding-planner splash-out Made In Heaven on Amazon Prime Video, TVF's middle-class-Mishras-ki-katha Gullak on Sony Liv and coaching-life-special Kota Factory on Netflix, legal drama 'Criminal Justice' — kept us busy. I'd go so far as to say that between Kaleen Bhaiyya from Mirzapur and Jeetu Bhaiyya from Kota Factory, the case for the desi web series was won. From this year on, there would always be a fight for eyeballs between theatres and streaming platforms. The most important thing that happened

Child actor bought home for family at 6 in Mumbai's posh address, shared tiffin with Dharmendra, was tagged a drug addict as an adult

Imagine being one of the most well-known child artistes in the late 60s and 70s, having worked with top stars like Rajesh Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Sanjeev Kumar, Jeetendra, Anil Kapoor and more — and becoming so successful at the age of 6 that he was able to buy a home for his family in Mumbai's most sought-after locality of Bandra. Such was the life of actor Master Raju. But after massive success as a child, he couldn't replicate the same as an adult and failed to establish himself as a leading star. Here's a look at his journey.

Master Raju was born as Fahim Ajani and hailed from Dongri, Mumbai. He didn't come from a film family, which is why his parents were initially reluctant to let him act. However, during his audition for Gulzar's Parichay (1972), he cried a lot and couldn't give the audition properly as he was just 5 years old. But Gulzar liked that he "behaved his age" and decided to cast him in the film.

While shooting with Sanjeev Kumar, the veteran actor gave him the name Raju. Speaking to Rediff in an old interaction, Raju shared, "Sanjeev Kumar started calling me Raju when I did my first film Parichay with him. People would call me Guddu but he said Raju was a better name." Raju would work in three films at a time, got National Award

After starring in Parichay, Raju started getting many roles and worked with top directors like Yash Chopra, Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Basu Chatterjee. He starred in hit projects like Amar Prem, Daag — The Poem of Love, Deewaar, Inkaar, Khud-Daar and Woh Saat Din. Raju in the interview shared that he got so busy with films that he would shoot for three films simultaneously. He said, "I had a busy shooting schedule. I would do about three films at a time and three shifts at a time." He added, "Even though I was working all the time, I never felt I was exploited." Raju's hard work paid off when he got the National Film Award for Best Child Artist for his role in Chitchor (1976).

Would get paid Rs 1 lakh per film in the 70s, bought house at age 6-7

Raju revealed that he was paid Rs 10,000 per film in 1973, a year after his debut film released. However, after four years of being in the industry and starring in multiple films, his remuneration increased to Rs 1 lakh per film. "In 1977, when I got very popular, I would get more than Rs 1 lakh," he said. He also shared how his income helped his parents buy property in Bandra. He said, "I bought a house in Bandra for Rs 1.10 lakh. Whatever I earned was invested wisely by my father. The benefits are still coming in. In fact, my house is still running today because of those acting assignments. A lot of it was used by the family. We bought a house and our standard of living changed. I never went through a bad phase where I had no work."

Raju's memories with Hema Malini and Dharmendra During the interaction, Raju shared his memories with late veteran star Dharmendra and his wife Hema Malini. He said, "I was seven years old when I worked in Kushboo. I was working with Hema Malini, who spoke very little. But she would play with me. I taught her how to spin a top. I have done quite a few films with Hemaji like Dream Girl, Nastik, and Krodhi." Recalling sharing tiffin with Dharmendra, he said, "I had a great rapport with Dharamji (Dharmendra). I did Samadhi, Krodhi and Dream Girl with him. We would share the same tiffin." Raju took a break from films after 9th standard to concentrate on studies, and when he returned, he wanted to play negative roles as he was tired of playing "good boy" characters. He played a drug addict in the show Chhunauti and again played the same role in Mahesh Bhatt's Saathi, after which the image stuck with him. He said, "I did Mahesh Bhatt's Saathi in which again I played a drug addict and I was branded one."

Couldn't find success as leading star, played Narad in TV shows Master Raju couldn't find success as a leading actor and ended up getting positive supporting roles like that of the hero's best friend. He played Salman's friend in Baaghi in 1990. He then played small roles in films like Anari, Balwaan, Saajan Chale Sasural, and Diljale but couldn't become a popular actor. However, Master Raju soon

with this OTT wave was not just that we, the viewers, were now always going to be spoiled for choice, but also that there was now going to be a space for new stars to be born. These could well be established actors who never really got their due in the movies, which are driven by big stars and plots created to assuage their egos and massage their image, but also new faces that became the ones we lived with along with the popularity of their shows. Vicky Kaushal Vicky Kaushal won a National Film Award for Uri: The Surgical Strike. One of the blockbusters in 2019 was Aditya Dhar's Uri, starring Vicky Kaushal and Yami Gautam, which kickstarted the muscular nationalist movies that have defined this era, with its ghar mein ghos ke maarna turning into a flag-waving mantra. So was Hrithik Roshan's War, which dialled down the jingoism comparatively, but stayed determinedly on top of the India vs its enemies narrative. Shahid Kapoor's Kabir Singh, a remake of the Telugu blockbuster Arjun Reddy starring Vijay Deverakonda, got everyone stirred up, and rightly so, with Sandeep Reddy Vanga's all-out depiction of the domineering bad boy hero and submissive heroine: the conversation is still swirling around us, and rightly so. Zoya Akhtar's rap-ready Gully Boy was a swing for the director from her usual eat-the-rich problems to characters who live in Mumbai's slums, and with credible acts from Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt, gave us a film that nestles high on her CV. Anubhav Sinha's Article 15, starring Ayushmann Khurrana as the naive outsider who learns hard life lessons with his posting in a UP small town — the fissures of caste and class — was slammed for turning its hero into a saavarna saviour. But it is a film whose truths cannot be denied, and for a mainstream film to go down this path was brave. Ek Ladki Ko Dekha, directed by Shelly Chopra Dhar, starring Sonam Kapoor as a girl who likes girls doesn't proceed half as bravely as its title suggests, but it remains one of the few films that took on the subject of same-sex love. Because LGBTQi hai na. Boy girl bahut ho gaya, thoda girl girl ho jaaye?



switched to television and ended up playing the role of Narad in almost 3000 episodes. He portrayed the mythological character in different shows like Jai Hanuman, Navagrah Puran, Darshan Do Bhagwan, Jai Maa Durgaa and Shani Mahima.

Vijay Deverakonda's life update: Juggling two films, training and playing with handsome boy Storm

Mumbai: Actor Vijay Deverakonda has shared a slice of his life, saying he has been consumed by the grind of shooting two demanding films at the same time, which he tags as a first in his career. Vijay took to Instagram, where he shared that work may have taken over his days, but he has still managed to enjoy a few personal joys, including indulging in new gadgets and adding a vintage Rolex to his collection. He went on to introduce his "spiritual, handsome boy," Storm, and said no matter how hectic the schedule gets, he never skips a pooja or training.

Vijay wrote: "It's been a while... Shooting 2 films parallelly for the 1st time in my life... both extremely demanding, they have taken up my life... But here are bits from my life recently, got myself some new tech that I am enjoying, my current favourite watch — a beautiful vintage Rolex, my spiritual handsome boy Storm... will not skip any pooja, train to always be prepared for war, my passion for making cool clothes — dropping these uniforms soon... (sic)." Vijay was recently seen in Kingdom, a spy action thriller film written and directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri. It also stars Satyadev and Bhagyashree Borse. It is intended to be the first installment of a planned duology and follows a troubled police officer who is assigned to go undercover on a case that brings him face-to-face with his past demons.

Vijay, who made his debut in 2011 with Nuvvula, was later seen in films such as the coming-of-age drama Yevade Subramanyam. He rose to prominence as a leading film actor by starring in Pelli Choopulu, Arjun Reddy, Mahanati, Geetha Govindam, and Taxiwaala.

In 2019, he launched his own production house, King of the Hill Entertainment, which produced Meeku Maathrame Cheptha and Pushpaka Vimanam. Beyond his film career, the actor has designed his own fashion brand and is the co-owner of the volleyball team.

Chiranjeevi intimidated me during shoot, said don't behave like a junior artist, recalls Suhasini Maniratnam: 'I am Kamal Haasan's niece'



Chiranjeevi intimidated me during shoot, said don't behave like a junior artist, recalls Suhasini Maniratnam: 'I am Kamal Haasan's niece' Suhasini Maniratnam spoke about how Chiranjeevi intimidated him on a film set till she hit back and said she is Kamal Haasan's niece and knows her job. Suhasini Maniratnam on her experience of working with Chiranjeevi Suhasini Maniratnam on her experience of working with Chiranjeevi Actor Suhasini Maniratnam, wife of director Mani Ratnam and niece of actor Kamal Haasan, has worked with megastar Chiranjeevi in several films, including, Manchu Pallaki (1982), Kirathakudu (1986), Aradhana (1987), and more. During the IFFI 2025 session titled The Luminary Icons: Creative Bonds and Fierce Performances on November 21 with Khushboo Sundar, Suhasini recalled feeling intimidated by him. She also revealed that he asked her to do better during a scene, and he had only seen her as a camera person before becoming an actress.

During the session, the duo discussed what intimidates them while shooting. After which, Suhasini recalled being on a huge film set with Chiranjeevi. "One thing that intimidates me is the typical film set, the Vijaya Vauhini set. It

was scary, because they say silence and everybody goes silent, you don't know what to do. You kind of forget and you become paralysed. I was a cinematographer and I didn't know acting, I learnt it slowly on the job," she shared. short article insert The 64-year-old continued, "I was playing a slightly comical role in a Telugu film. I go and pretend to be a maid inside the hero's house. Six of us were there in the scene, each one of them was talking. I was standing behind the chair, I had no dialogue. Every time somebody said something, I gave a reaction without saying anything."

She revealed that the Godfather actor asked her to act like the main lead, instead of a junior artist. "Suddenly, Chiranjeevi looked at me and asked, 'What are you doing?' I said, 'Acting'. He said, 'You are the heroine of the film, you aren't a junior artist'. Because usually, this is how the junior artists are taught, to react, not stand still. That is what you learn in commercial films." Suhasini Maniratnam also recalled another interesting anecdote with the megastar to explain the acting term 'double take' to the audience. "I was doing my first Telugu film and I was supposed to be doing a rangoli. And then, Chiranjeevi comes and stands, and I gradually look at him and say, 'Oh you are watching me'. He saw me as a camera assistant for a previous film. And now, the girl behind the camera was his heroine, he couldn't even digest that. A girl who was putting reflector for him was his heroine, he even says that today," she shared, mentioning how Chiranjeevi couldn't imagine her as his female lead. The actor then boasted a bit about the fact that she is superstar Kamal Haasan's niece and her acting skills shouldn't be taken lightly. "When we were doing the rehearsal, he came and said in my ear, 'You can't suddenly look at me, you have to look at me casually and say something'. I am Kamal Haasan's niece, you forgot that? I grew up with an actor in my house. I did the scene naturally then and he said, 'Donga Pilla', which means thief, he basically meant I know my job. That's a delayed reaction, which is a part of double take," she concluded.

Ajay Bhupathi's Srinivasa Mangapuram to launch Mahesh Babu's nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni

Hyderabad: Director Ajay Bhupathi's eagerly awaited upcoming film, featuring Telugu star Mahesh Babu's nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni in the lead, has now been titled 'Srinivasa Mangapuram', its makers announced on Thursday. Chandamama Kathalu Pictures, the production house producing the film, took to its X timeline to make the announcement. It wrote, "Two lives. One journey. Two hands. One promise. Two hearts. One destiny. #AB4 is #SrinivasaMangapuram. Get ready to witness a cult that will be a timeless chapter in the world of love stories. Shoot in progress. First Look & more updates soon. An @DirAjayBhupathi Film." Director Ajay Bhupathi, for his part, wrote, "My next film — #SrinivasaMangapuram. This love story is destined to stay in your hearts for ages. #AB4 First Look blasting soon."

For the unaware, Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni — the grandson of Superstar Krishna and son of late Ramesh Babu and nephew of Superstar Mahesh Babu, is to make his debut in the world of acting with this film. The film is being directed by Ajay Bhupathi, best known for having made the blockbusters 'RX 100' and 'Mangalavaram'. Until now, this ambitious project, which sources say, will be rich in emotion, intensity, and authenticity, was being referred to as #AB4. The film is being presented by Ashwini Dutt of Vyjayanthi Movies and produced by P. Kiran Garu under the Chandamama Kathalu banner. Interestingly, Ashwini Dutt, who is presenting this film, is the same person who had earlier produced the cult blockbuster 'Agni Parvatham'



featuring Superstar Krishna and later introduced Mahesh Babu to Telugu cinema with 'Rajakumarudu'. The friendship that is between Ashwini Dutt and superstar Mahesh Babu's family continues with the ace producer launching the third-generation star, Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, in collaboration with Ajay Bhupathi, a filmmaker celebrated for his raw storytelling and emotional depth. Sources say that Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni is fully prepared for his film debut, after having undergone intense training in acting, fights and dance. Sources add that the film will be set against the breathtaking backdrop of rugged hills and rooted in earthy realism and that it will present a refreshing, soulful, and intense love story.

Hema Malini mourns Dharmendra: 'He was everything to me'



Mumbai: Actress-politician Hema Malini expressed profound grief over the passing of her husband and legendary actor Dharmendra, sharing an emotional tribute to the superstar, whom she said was "everything to her." Taking to X, formerly called Twitter, Hema penned an emotional note. In the heartfelt message, she described Dharmendra as "many things to me", "my 'go-to' person" and "was everything to me." She wrote in the note: "Dharam ji. He was many things to me. Loving Husband, adoring Father of our two girls, Esha & Ahaana, Friend, Philosopher, Guide, Poet, my 'go to' person in all times of need — in fact, he was everything to me! And always has been through good times and bad. He endeared himself to all my family members with his easy, friendly ways, always showing affection and interest in all of them."

Hema highlighted Dharmendra's enduring legacy as a public figure. "As a public personality, his talent, his humility in spite of his popularity, and his universal appeal set him apart as a unique icon unequalled among all the legends. His enduring fame and achievements in the film industry will last forever." Reflecting on her personal loss, she said: "My personal loss is indescribable and the vacuum created is something that will last through the rest of my life. After years of togetherness, I am left with myriad memories to relive the many special moments..." The actress-politician shared a string of images on X and captioned it: "Togetherness over the years — always there for us. Some

special moments..." Dharmendra breathed his last on November 24. He had been hospitalised at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital after reportedly complaining of breathlessness. After getting the necessary treatment, he was discharged on November 12 and continued his recovery at home. On the professional front, Dharmendra will be seen posthumously in the movie 'Ikki', directed by ace director Sriram Raghavan. It also stars Agastya Nanda and Simar Bhatia. The movie is a war drama based on the life of Arun Khetarpal, the youngest Param Vir Chakra recipient.

The Pet Detective on Zee5 from November 28

Hyderabad: An action comedy 'The Pet Detective' is all set to stream on ZEE5 from Friday (November 28). The film will be available in Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, and Hindi.

Directed by Praneesh Vijayan, the film features Sharaf U Dheen in the lead role, also making his debut as producer. The cast includes Vinayakan, Vinay Fortt, Anupama Parameswaran, Shyam Mohan, and Joemon Jyothi. The Pet Detective follows Tony Jose Alula (Sharaf U Dheen), a determined yet underperforming detective, who tackles a missing-pet case to prove his abilities.

The plot quickly escalates into a series of chaotic events involving international smugglers, kidnappers, a missing child, a Mexican mafia don, exotic fish, and a rival police inspector competing for the same woman. The film promises eccentric humour, wild coincidences, and a comedic climax inspired by Priyadarshan's classics, making it an entertaining choice for families and comedy enthusiasts.

