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Mega job fair at King's Palace Mehdiapatnam on December 2

Hyderabad: A mega job fair is being organised at King's Palace Mehdiapatnam, PVNR Pillar No. 67 on Tuesday (December 2) from 8 am to 1 pm. In a press release, the organiser, Mannan Khan, said that many companies will participate in the job mela, offering opportunities in various sectors such as pharma, healthcare, IT and ITES, education, banking, and more. Some companies will also offer work-from-home options. Candidates with a minimum qualification of SSC (Class X) are eligible to attend the interviews. Preliminary interviews will be conducted at the venue. Entry is free, and interested job seekers can contact 8374315052 for further details.

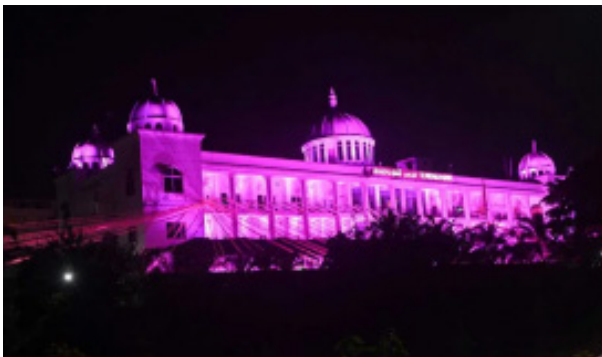
BRS gears up for grand Deeksha Diwas celebrations across Telangana

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi is all set to observe Deeksha Diwas on Saturday (November 29), marking the historic fast-unto-death undertaken by party supremo and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao in 2009 that galvanised the separate Telangana movement and ultimately led to the creation of India's youngest State in 2014. Across all 33 districts of Telangana, brisk preparations are underway. Party offices are being decked up with pink flags, banners, and larger-than-life cut-outs of K Chandrashekhara Rao. Party workers and functionaries will organise bike rallies, public meetings, and cultural programmes highlighting the sacrifices made during the Telangana agitation.

At the district level, leaders have been instructed to ensure larger participation especially from the youth and women wings. At the party headquarters, Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad, elaborate arrangements are in full swing. The main dais is being installed with a giant LED backdrop replaying footage of KCR's 11-day fast 16 years ago. A special photo exhibition chronicling the Telangana movement from 1969 to 2014 is being organised.

Senior leaders including KT Rama Rao, T Harish Rao, and other former ministers will address the gathering. It is



expected to draw thousands of workers from across the State. The Deeksha Diwas is being positioned as a show of strength and a reminder of BRS' role in giving Telangana State its identity. Former minister and Sanathnagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav took stock of the arrangements for the occasion at Telangana Bhavan. Talasani said a special video explaining the background of the Telangana movement and KCR's 11-day indefinite hunger strike will be screened during the programme. He appealed to all party leaders and cadre to attend in large numbers and make the event a success.

Telangana Health University VC resigns, responds to allegations



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad: Following serious allegations of irregularities in the postgraduate medical examination process, Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences Vice Chancellor Dr PV Nanda Kumar Reddy has resigned from his position. The issue stemmed after a woman student approached the university alleging her answer script had been tampered with. Following this, a fact-finding committee was

constituted, which flagged serious irregularities in the recent conduct of the postgraduate examinations. In addition, the VC also faced allegations of appointing staff without issuing a notification. Speaking to local media persons on Saturday, Dr Reddy, while referring to the student's complaint, clarified that the committee spoke directly with the student, collected details about the issue, and initiated an inquiry through a committee. Re-evaluation was carried out based on the committee's recommendations, and all actions were conducted strictly as per university rules and regulations, he said. Maintaining that he acted only to ensure justice to the student and had not done any wrong, the VC said, "If I have made any mistake, I am ready to face punishment". Termining allegations that were being circulated against him as baseless, Dr Reddy said the vigilance officials neither questioned nor contacted him at any point. The VC told reporters that he had only been informed that the vigilance team inspected the examination centre and seized some answer scripts. Stating false rumours were damaging the university's reputation, the VC said such misinformation could mislead students, besides tarnishing the university's name.

Congress the permanent villain in Telangana's story, says KTR



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad: Reminding the people of Telangana of the long record of betrayal by the Congress party on the occasion of Deeksha Divas, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday called upon the public to renew their commitment to protect Telangana's self-respect and hard-won Statehood. Addressing party leaders, Telangana movement veterans and citizens at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao stated that the struggle for Telangana was not just a chapter in history, but an identity that must be safeguarded every single day. Slamming the Congress leadership for attempting to degrade the importance of the Statehood movement, he questioned the legitimacy of the TPCC chief who now speaks casually about the Telangana movement and K Chandrashekhara Rao's historic hunger strike.

"During the Telangana movement, no one knew where the PCC president was. Today he talks recklessly about KCR's fast," he said, reminding Congress leaders that it was the Congress government, both in Delhi and at the State level, that pleaded with Chandrashekhara Rao to withdraw his fast as his life had become crucial for the political decision on Telangana. The hands of Congress leaders are stained with the blood of Telangana's children, he said, calling Congress the permanent villain in Telangana's story. "Without the three letters K-C-R, there would be no Telangana," he asserted, stressing that those who ridicule Chandrashekhara Rao's historic fast must

remember the price paid by an entire generation. Challenging the ruling party to prove its moral courage, he asked it to make the ten MLAs that Congress had poached resign and face fresh elections. Earlier, Rama Rao said Deeksha Divas was not just a date in history, but a day to reaffirm collective resolve. It was a moment to remember the sacrifices of martyrs, the determination of lakhs of people, and the injustices committed repeatedly by the Congress regime over six decades, from 1950 to 2025. He said the BRS had thanked Sonia Gandhi out of courtesy after Statehood, but never had called her a 'Bali Devatha of Telangana', unlike today's Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy did.

"Insult us if you wish, but we will never tolerate insults to Telangana or its movement," Rama Rao said, reiterating that the Congress had always deceived Telangana, from its suppressing leaders, to poaching elected representatives, to diluting the State's identity. Announcing that the Rajiv Gandhi statue at the Secretariat entrance would be replaced with the statue of Telangana Thalli, he said the BRS would restore Telangana's pride. Drawing parallels to India's freedom struggle and incidents like the Quit India movement, Rama Rao described Chandrashekhara Rao's 2009 fast as the turning point in Telangana's fight for self-respect.

"On November 29, 2009, history changed. KCR's fast electrified the entire State," he said, adding that the slogan "Telangana vachudo... KCR sachhudo" had ignited every section of society, from farmers, workers and employees to lawyers, doctors, journalists and NRIs, transforming the movement into an unstoppable force. Recalling how Chandrashekhara Rao spent nearly a decade before the fast standing alone with courage and conviction and how BRS MLAs resigned repeatedly for the cause, he pointed out that Congress leaders at the same time had protected their positions and betrayed Telangana. Stating that Deeksha Divas must be celebrated like Dasara or Diwali, not for rituals, but for the reminder of good triumphing over evil, he said Chandrashekhara Rao was the indomitable son of Telangana who rescued his mother from decades of betrayal.

Telangana gang caught defrauding Australian citizens

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad police caught nine persons who duped Australian citizens to the tune of thousands of Australian Dollars by hacking into the bank accounts and transferring the funds. The arrested are Yepuri Ganesh, Marampudu Chenna Keshava, Moumita Mondal, Ejaz Ahmed, Sambit Roy, Shannik Banerjee, Moumita Mallick, Silpi Samadder and Kunal Singh. According to the police, Ganesh and Keshava, who are natives of Khammam district in Telangana, rented a flat at a building in Madhapur and set up a call centre. The duo hired seven people to work as call centre executives. With the help of some people in Australia, the gang collected bank accounts of Indian students staying in the country. The gang also sourced details such as email accounts of Australian citizens from some individuals.

Telangana govt issues ordinance cutting retirement benefits for regularised temporary staff

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad: In a bid to avoid Rs 20,000 crore burden on the exchequer, the cash-starved State government has issued an ordinance cutting off retirement benefits to temporary employees, whose services were regularised over a period of time in different government departments. The ordinance was issued on November 25 amending the Telangana (Regularisation of Appointments to Public Services and Rationalisation of Staff Pattern and Pay Structure) Act, 1994. With these new amendments coming into force, nearly 7,000 government employees are expected to get affected. In 1994, the State government had permitted regularisation of employees with a few specific conditions on a one-time basis. These include full-time temporary employees with five years of service and part-time temporary employees with 10 years of service. Later in 1997, the government, through a memo, clarified that regularisation shall only be prospective. Due to different administrative reasons and non-availability of substantive vacancies, the regularisation got delayed for years. A few cases still continue to be under examination in different departments. The delay in regularisation led to litigation with employees insisting on retrospective regularisation. Courts had taken divergent views over the effective date of regularisation and the State government's efforts to contest such orders in the Supreme Court did not succeed. Accordingly, several contempt petitions were filed by the aggrieved employees. The current Congress



government's contention is that with the introduction of the New Pension Scheme effective from September 1, 2004, retrospective regularisation would facilitate the temporary employees getting eligible under the Contributory Pension Scheme. This would effectively make the temporary employees get more benefits than those regularly recruited government employees after September 1, 2004. At this juncture, implementing the court orders of retrospective regularisation is expected to impose a burden of nearly Rs 20,000 crore on the State, which is against public interest, the government claims. To avoid this financial burden, the Congress government issued an ordinance on November 25 making a few amendments over the eligibilities for regularisation of services. During the next Assembly session, a Bill is likely to be presented in the House.

On Deeksha Diwas, Harish Rao hails KCR's resolve to make Telangana a reality

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad: Hailing the historic fast-unto-death undertaken by party president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao as the turning point that made separate Telangana a reality, former Minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao said the memories of the fast and the intense days of the movement remain deeply etched in the heart, continuing to constantly rekindle the spirit of Telangana.

Recalling the crucial phase of the movement that culminated in Statehood, he posted an emotional note on 'X' marking the 16th anniversary of the historic moment observed today as Deeksha Divas. Harish Rao recalled how Chandrashekhara Rao began his indefinite hunger strike on November 29, 2009, with the powerful slogan "Telangana vachudo... KCR sachhudo" bringing together all the sections of people which dramatically changed the course of the statehood fight. "The hunger strike that began on November 29, 2009 completely altered the trajectory of the movement. It heralded a new chapter in history and paved the way for the formation of Telangana making what was considered to be 'impossible' dream with many dismissing it 'Rane raadu, kaane kaadu' (it won't come, it can't happen).

"The history of relentlessly fighting for the aspirations of four crore people belongs to Chandrashekhara Rao. The



courage to sacrifice not just positions of power, but even life itself for Telangana belongs to Chandrashekhara Rao only. The war cry 'Jai Telangana' that still resonates in the hearts of four crore people belongs to Chandrashekhara Rao only. Without his fast, there would have been no December 9 announcement by the UPA government. Without the December 9 announcement, there would have been no Telangana," he said. "Telangana was achieved through decades of struggle, not by the mercy or benevolence of rulers, that is the undeniable truth," he added.

Anantha Law College Conducts Legal Aid & Awareness Outreach Programme at Carmel School, Sangareddy



"Hyderabad, Indian Chronicle, November 29: The Anantha Law College, Sumitra Nagar, Vivekananda Nagar Colony, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, successfully organised its annual Legal Aid and Legal Awareness Outreach Programme on 28th November 2025 at Carmel School, Chintalcheru, Sangareddy District, reaffirming its commitment to promoting legal literacy in rural communities. This initiative is undertaken every year by the final-year students of LLB (General – 5 years), LLB (Hons – 5 years), and LLB (General – 3 years) courses. The programme catered to over 1,100 students of Carmel School, aiming to educate young rural children on crucial legal and social issues. Five student groups presented impactful skits on the following themes"



Government Schemes for Women Incharge Ms. Harika Rajendra, Impact of Social Media Incharge, Ms. Madhavi Chandra, "Sexual Abuse on Children Incharge, Ms. Amulya, "Yuvatha Melulo (Youth Moral Values) Incharge Ms. Siri Vennela, Domestic Violence Incharge Ms. Nitya, "The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries"Principal, Carmel School Mariyanand Reddy, "Principal, Anantha Law College "Dr. M.V. Chandramathi, "Vice Principal, Carmel School"Bro. Albinus Baa, "Legal Aid Incharge, Anantha Law College"Ms. B. Lakshmi Prasanna "The dignitaries lauded the students for presenting socially relevant issues in a creative and informative manner. They emphasized the importance of legal awareness among children and praised Anantha Law College for consistently extending legal literacy to rural communities. "Anantha Law College reiterated its commitment to continuing such meaningful outreach programmes aimed at empowering rural populations with essential knowledge on rights, laws, and government welfare mechanisms.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

On India and the IMF's low grading

The IMF's 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics should be a matter of concern for India, which has a reasonably robust data collection and analysis apparatus in place. A 'C' grade is the second lowest there is, and implies that there are some issues with the data that impede the adequate surveillance of the economy. National accounts not only include zoomed out macro indicators such as GDP and GVA but also sectoral metrics and measures of investment levels, consumer spending and — of particular interest right now — how exports are doing. Issues with these metrics, therefore, impede effective and targeted policymaking. A grade of 'C' puts India in the same league as China when it comes to its national accounts, a decidedly unenviable position to be in. The IMF is not the first to point out the flaws in India's national accounts. Nor is this the first time that it has pointed them out. The IMF's main problem with the national accounts data, that its base year of 2011-12 is very outdated, has been pointed out time and again. Outdated data is a problem India has been grappling with for a while now. The Index of Industrial Production and the Consumer Price Index both have a base year of 2011-12. In fact, even the IMF said the reason that India's CPI received a grade of 'B' and not 'A' was because of the outdated base year. The outdated base year and the inordinate weightage of food in the CPI have resulted in India not being able to accurately capture price movements. Consequently, the RBI's monetary policy is also impaired.

The government is currently in the process of updating the base years and methodologies for national accounts, CPI, and IIP, with the new series due to be launched in early 2026.

Outa demands that all eligible faculty members be given promotions as per UGC regulations.



“Indian Chronicle OU November 29: OU teachers have been protesting for some time now under the auspices of the Osmania University Teachers Association, alleging that many deserving teachers have been unfairly promoted due to irregularities in the CAS interviews. They staged a protest at the OU Engineering College on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, OUTA President Prof. Manohar demanded that all deserving teachers in OU be promoted based on the University Grants Commission (UGC) 2010-2018 rules. He made it clear that they will not stop their agitation until justice is done. [??Gangadhar, Venkat Das, Srinivas Ddi, Ramesh, Ramakrishna, Lokande, Madhuri, Sujatha, Sasikala, Rakesh and others were present at the event.

Bodybuilder beaten to death after he objected to harassment of girls at Bhiwani wedding

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Rohit worked as a bodybuilder and gym trainer at the Gymkhana Club in Sector 4, Rohtak. He had previously won gold medals in the 2018 senior (107+ kg) and junior (107+ kg) categories at national-level competitions. He was also honoured by the then Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on August 15, 2018

Rohit Dhankar, a resident of Humayunpur village, succumbed to his injuries at Rohtak PGI, Saturday, they said. Rohit Dhankar, a resident of Humayunpur village, succumbed to his injuries at Rohtak PGI, Saturday, they said. (Special Arrangement) A 26-year-old professional bodybuilder from Rohtak died of injuries following a brutal assault by a group of unidentified persons soon after he objected to a group of youth harassing girls at a wedding venue leading to an argument, police Saturday said. The incident took place in Bhiwani on Friday night and Rohit Dhankar, a resident of Humayunpur village, succumbed to his injuries at Rohtak PGI, Saturday, they said.

short article insert Rohit worked as a bodybuilder and gym trainer at the Gymkhana Club in Sector 4, Rohtak. He had previously won gold medals in the 2018 senior (107+ kg) and junior (107+ kg) categories at national-level competitions. He was also honoured by the then Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on August 15, 2018. According to the his family, Rohit had attended a wedding in Bhiwani along with his friend Jatin, a resident of Bondkalan village. During the ceremony, the baraat from Tigdana village arrived, and some youths from the group allegedly began harassing girls present at the venue. Rohit intervened and objected to their behaviour, leading to a brief argument. The youths left soon after. Rohit's family claimed that after the wedding concluded, Rohit and Jatin left in their vehicle for home. However, they were allegedly intercepted on the road by around 20 attackers armed with rods and sharp-edged weapons. Due to a closed railway crossing, they were forced to stop their vehicle, giving the assailants an opportunity to surround them. Rohit's uncle Satish Dhankar said, "They tried to flee on foot but attackers caught Rohit while Jatin managed to escape. Rohit was brutally beaten. There was not a single part of his body that didn't have injury marks. After the attackers left,

When purchasing “Sleep Well” incense sticks.



Hyderabad: On the orders of the Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary, Agriculture Department, a surprise inspection was conducted at shops selling incense sticks under the name “Sleep Well” manufactured by Sai Hanuman Agencies, Vijayawada and M/s Ashikas Company, Gunadala, Bengaluru. The incense sticks were sent to the National Institute of Plant Health Management, Hyderabad, for analysis.

sis. The test report revealed that the unregistered insecticide “Meperfluthrin” was present in them.

As part of this, the NTR District, Vijayawada Agriculture Officer, Archaka and the Assistant Director (Business Support) jointly inspected the store belonging to Sri Gollapudi Radha Krishna Murthy in Vijayawada town and confiscated “Sleep Well” incense sticks worth approximately Rs. 69.24 lakhs. Since this insecticide “Meperfluthrin” is likely to cause respiratory diseases, the Director of Agriculture has instructed the State Agriculture Department to alert the concerned authorities and conduct inspections. If such stock is found anywhere, legal action will be taken as per the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Insecticides Rules, 1971. Therefore, the State Agriculture Department has informed consumers purchasing the said “Sleep Well” incense sticks to be vigilant.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy participates in Deeksha Diwas at Medchal BRS office



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 29 (Indian Chronicle): “Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy took part in the Deeksha Diwas programme held at the BRS district office in Medchal. Addressing the gathering, he said that the people would be reminded of the agitation led by K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and the development and welfare initiatives undertaken during the BRS government's rule over the past ten years. He urged party leaders and workers to take the importance of Deeksha Diwas to the people, stating that KCR united four crore people with the resolve of “Telangana or death” and rallied support across the po-



litical spectrum from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, bringing people together beyond caste and religion. He described Deeksha Diwas as a symbol of KCR's strong will and steadfast commitment, and said that KCR is the leader who healed the wounds and suffering of Telangana after six decades of struggle. “As long as there is air, water and land, the three letters KCR will remain etched in the hearts of the people of Telangana,” he said. Uppal constituency corporators, former corporators, division presidents, BRS leaders and party workers were among those who attended the programme.

Nemali Anil Kumar extends congratulations to Totakooru Vajresh Yadav on his appointment as the new President of the Medchal–Malkajgiri District Congress Committee

Nacharam Indian Chronicle, November 29: “Senior Greater Hyderabad Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar, along with leaders and members of the Mallapur Division Congress Committee, paid a courtesy visit to Totakooru Vajresh Yadav and congratulated him on being appointed as the new President of the Medchal–Malkajgiri District Congress Committee. During the interaction, DCC President Vajresh Yadav expressed his gratitude to the Congress high command for entrusting him with this responsibility. He emphasized that strengthening the Congress Party at the grassroots level is a collective responsibility. He urged all leaders, workers, youth, and women cadres across the district to work unitedly and proactively to expand the party's reach and support base. He reiterated that coordination and teamwork will play a crucial role in taking Congress ideals to the people and preparing for future electoral challenges. “Senior leader Nemali Anil Kumar conveyed his full support to the new DCC President and assured that the Mallapur Division Congress unit will actively participate in all party-building activities. He lauded the leadership qualities of Vajresh Yadav and stated that his appointment would bring renewed energy and direction to the district cadre. “A large number of leaders and workers took part in the meeting. Participants included Mallapur Division Congress Party General Secretary Tandra Srikant Reddy, senior Congress



leaders Maktala Balaraj Goud, Koyalakonda Rajesh, Division Joint Secretary Srinivas, Lakshmiipathi, Suresh Goud, Mallapur Youth Congress Vice President Vangaveeti Vriniku, Congress women leaders Shrivani Goud, Najma, Ishrath Bano, Raghu, and several other active members from the division. The gathering concluded with a pledge to work cohesively under the leadership of Vajresh Yadav and contribute to the strengthening of the Congress Party across the Medchal–Malkajgiri district.

“KCR’s glory will shine in Telangana as long as the sun and moon exist”



Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen “KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 29 (Indian Chronicle): “Recalling the historic Deeksha undertaken by KCR for the formation of Telangana, a Deeksha Diwas programme was organised at Gandhi Maisamma under the leadership of Medchal district party president and MLC Shambhipur Raju. The event was attended by Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy along with corporators of the constituency. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy said that the struggle led by KCR for a separate state would continue to inspire people and that the development and welfare achieved during the ten years of the TRS government should be highlighted among the public. He said KCR united four crore people with the slogan “Telangana will come, KCR will not rest,” and successfully convinced political forces across the country, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, transcending caste and religion, to support the Telangana movement. He urged party workers to take the importance of Deeksha Diwas to every household. “Later, Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj said that Deeksha Diwas stands as a testimony to KCR's determination and commitment. “As long as air, water and land exist, the three letters ‘KCR’ will remain

etched in the heart of Telangana,” she said. The programme was attended by BRS Uppal constituency corporators Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, Jaripothula Prabhudas, Devender Reddy and Shekhar Reddy; state leaders Bannala Praveen Mudiraj and Saijan Shekhar; former corporators Srinivas Reddy and Kotha Rama Rao; along with presidents and secretaries of various divisions, movement leaders, senior leaders and women leaders.

KTR invited for IGNITION leadership series by Shiv Nadar Foundation

Hyderabad: BRS working president and former IT Minister, KT Rama Rao has been formally invited for IGNITION, an ideas and leadership series presented by the Shiv Nadar Foundation and curated by journalist Shoma Chaudhury.

As part of the session titled “Rebooting the Republic”, KT Rama Rao will engage in an in-depth conversation on India's emerging economic and political landscape. His address will focus on the role of technology as the backbone of national growth, the rise of innovation hubs and tech corridors, and the need for a new playbook for inclusive economic development. He will also share his perspectives on shaping a third alternative in national politics and strategies to rebuild and reframe India's disrupted political narrative. The IGNITION platform, known for hosting thought leaders across public policy, economics, science and culture, aims to spark critical reflection and dialogue on India's future. Following KT Rama Rao's session, the evening will also feature a conversation with Arvind Subramanian, former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, and Devesh Kapur, noted political scientist.

Recognition for Clean Governance... Bachala Bharathi Back in the Fray



Manuguru, November 29 – Indian chronicle “Bachala Bharathi, the sarpanch known for her spotless administration and years of corruption-free governance, has once again stepped into the public arena. Villagers hold strong trust in her, owing to her previous tenure marked by transparency, dedication, and a focus on development. “With the support of the TDP leadership, Bharathi has filed her nomination this time. Having led various development works from the front, she is appealing to the people to bless her with another opportunity to serve the village. “Speaking during the nomination, Bharathi said: “Development is our goal. Bless me, and I will deliver even better services,” she appealed to the public. “Local leaders, women's groups, and youth extended their support and participated in the nomination event. Political observers believe that her work towards Gram Panchayat development will once again serve as her major strength in this election.

Nomination Filed for Kunavaram Gram Panchayat 15th Ward



“Manuguru, November 29 Indian Chronicle: “M. Lakshmi Prasanna (W/o Mandadi Sanjeeva Rao), supported by the BRS party, filed her nomination today for the 15th ward member position of Kunavaram Gram Panchayat. “Several local leaders and supporters participated in the nomination program, including Kalgura Shankar, Ramesh, Balla Sandeep, Edelli Bhavani Shankar, and Madhu.

Work with Dedication to Strengthen the Congress Party: DCC President Deepak John

“Greater Congress Vice President Naguloori Sai Baba Congratulates Deepak John “Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, November 29: “Greater Hyderabad Congress Committee Vice President Naguloori Sai Baba met and congratulated Deepak John who has been appointed as the President of the



Secunderabad District Congress Committee (DCC) at his residence on Saturday. “Speaking on the occasion, both leaders said they would work with commitment to strengthen the Congress Party. They added that they would coordinate with party workers and leaders to ensure that the welfare and development programmes introduced by the Congress Government reach the people effectively. “Deepak John stated that efforts would be intensified to further strengthen the party in the Secunderabad Assembly constituency. He affirmed that those who work hard for the party's growth would be given due recognition. He called upon party cadres to stay connected with the people and work towards their welfare and development.

	TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS) V.N. Purav Marg, Deonar, Mumbai - 400 088 (A Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956) (A Grant-in-Aid Institute under Ministry of Education, GoI)
TISS ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027	
TISS announces admissions for the following Full-Time (Regular), Post-Graduate Degree Programmes at its Mumbai Campus for the Academic Year 2026-2027 based on the CAT Score-2025 .	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Hospital Administration (MHA) M.A. in Human Resource Management & Labour Relations (MA-HRM&LR) M.A. in Organisation Development, Change and Leadership (MA-ODCL) 	
Candidates should follow the CAT advertisement/CAT website for registration to CAT 2025 Examination . Candidates registered for CAT 2025 and interested in applying to the TISS programmes should also register separately on TISS portal.	
For information about Eligibility, Admission Procedure, Online Application Form and other updates/amendments, please visit https://admissions.tiss.ac.in/admissions/ma/programmes/ The last date for application is December 10, 2025.	

Deeksha Diwas celebrated in a grand manner in Uppal



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, UPPAL, NOVEMBER 29 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “On the occasion of completing 16 years since the historic fast-unto-death undertaken by BRS chief and former Chief Minister KCR for the formation of a separate Telangana state, Deeksha Diwas was celebrated grandly under the leadership of the Uppal Division BRS Party.” The programme was held at the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Uppal, where BRS leaders felicitated Telangana movement activists for their role in the statehood movement.

The leaders recalled that the long struggle led by KCR resulted in the formation of Telangana state. They called upon

the people to spread awareness about the significance of Deeksha Diwas, which united people beyond caste and religion and won support from political systems across the country, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

They described Deeksha Diwas as a symbol of KCR's strong determination and unwavering commitment. The leaders stated that KCR is the movement leader who healed the wounds and pain of sixty years and wiped away the tears of Telangana. They added that as long as there is air, water and land, the three letters “KCR” will remain forever in Telangana. A large number of BRS leaders, workers and local residents participated in the programme.

Government Must Immediately Address Journalists’ Issues: TUWJ Medchal District General Secretary Venkata Ram Reddy



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 29 (Indian Chronicle): “The Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ) Medchal–Malkajgiri District General Secretary, Donthula Venkata Ram Reddy, has stated that the agitations will continue until the government resolves the longstanding problems faced by journalists.” As part of TUWJ's campaign for the protection of journalists' rights, he released a pamphlet along with journalists at Ramanthapur, appealing to all journalists to participate in the dharna scheduled to be held on December 3 in front of the State Information Department office at Masab Tank, Hyderabad, and make it a grand success. Addressing the gathering, he alleged that journalists have been denied basic facilities due to continued government neglect. He stressed that delays in issuing accreditation cards were

unacceptable. He further pointed out that the government was showing serious apathy towards providing health schemes and house site patta for journalists. He observed that most journalists belong to middle-class families and are struggling to sustain themselves amid rising living costs. Voicing concern over the government's indifference, he urged journalists from all districts to reach Hyderabad in large numbers and make the December 3 protest a success. Participants at the programme included: TUWJ Medchal District Health Committee Convenor Kolanu Paka Chandramauli, Uppal Constituency President Palla Mahendar Reddy, senior journalists Suresh Dhoopati, Vemula Tirupathi Reddy, K. Narottam Reddy, M. Ashok, Yadagiri, and electronic media representatives Stalin, Narender, Chandrasekhar, among others.

Former MLA Prabhakar Meets Metro Water Works MD Over STP Issue; Technical Committee to Inspect Alternate Site



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 29 (Indian Chronicle): “Former BJP MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, along with a team of BJP leaders and residents of Uppal Hills and Kurma Nagar, met Metro Water Works Managing Director Ashok Reddy at his office in the presence of Sewerage Board officials and held detailed discussions for over an hour on various civic issues. During the meeting, a memorandum was submitted requesting a change in the location of the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Responding positively, MD Ashok Reddy assured the delegation that a technical committee consisting of three experts would be constituted immediately to inspect the site. He also assured that alternative locations would be examined for the proposed STP. Speaking on the occasion, former MLA N.V.S.S.

Prabhakar drew the MD's attention to the deteriorating condition of underground drainage in the Uppal constituency. He stated that rapid expansion of new colonies had put severe pressure on the existing sewerage system, causing frequent overflow of drains. He further urged the authorities to come forward with new proposals to modernize the underground drainage system in Uppal and Kapra Circles. Prabhakar assured that he would make efforts to mobilize funds from the Central Government for such projects. He also recalled that during his tenure as MLA, funds were sanctioned through HUDCO for the construction of water reservoirs. “BJP leaders Mahankali Laxman Mudiraj, Ravula Balakrishna Goud, Devasani Balachander, Pothagoni Gopal Goud, Srisailam, Raju, Manga Sudhakar, and residents of Kurma Nagar and Uppal Hills participated in the meeting.

18th Padi Puja Celebrated with Grandeur at Saimala Ayyappa Temple

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 29 (Indian Chronicle): “The 18th Padi Puja was celebrated with great devotion and religious fervour at the Saimala Ayyappa Swamy Temple under the leadership of General Secretary Madireddy Harinath Reddy. “The rituals began in the morning with Ganapathi Homam, special Abhishekams and Padi Puja. Devotional bhajans rendered by Elapati Srinivasa Raju filled the surroundings with spiritual energy.” Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest. Medchal Malkajgiri District Congress Committee President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav and former Siricilla MLA Mohan Reddy were present as special guests. Temple Chairman Regalla Satish Reddy,



Santosh Reddy, Narasimha Reddy, Bhupal Reddy, Chinna Reddy, Police Krishna Reddy and Police Srikanth Reddy, among others, attended the ceremony. “The organisers thanked devotees and guests for making the event a grand success.

Rs. 1.80 Crore Sanctioned for CC Roads in Uppal Division: Parameshwar Reddy Hands Over Proceedings to Residents

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 29 (Indian Chronicle): “Uppal Constituency In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy announced that Rs. 1.80 crore has been sanctioned for the construction and repair of CC (cement concrete) roads in Uppal Division. He stated that once again, substantial funds have been mobilized for the development of the division and assured that efforts are being made to transform Uppal Division into a model area within the GHMC limits. “Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy said that residents of Swaroop Nagar Colony had been facing difficulties and frequent accidents due to the lack of proper CC roads. In response to the long-standing demand of residents, funds to the tune of Rs. 1.80 crore were sanctioned specifically for CC road works in Swaroop Nagar Colony. He handed over the official sanction proceedings to the representatives of the colony association and assured that the work would commence soon and be completed at the earliest. Among those present at the program were Swaroop Nagar Colony Association



President Srinivas Goud, and members Anand Prabhu, Gnaneshwar, Hanumanth Poojari, Pisati Anji Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Santosh, Amar, Venkateshwar, Venkatesh, and Satyanarayana.

Science Exhibitions Play a Key Role in Igniting Scientific Curiosity Among Students



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 29: “Sai Ram Little Arts School located in Sri Sai Nagar, Nacharam, successfully organized a grand Science Fair Program, creating an inspiring platform for students to showcase their scientific skills and creativity. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who presented various science models, experiments, and innovative concepts with great excitement and confidence. “The exhibition turned into an engaging learning experience, where students demonstrated their understanding of scientific principles through practical models. Their creativity, teamwork, and presentation skills received appreciation from teachers, parents, and visitors. Through their active involvement, students developed a stronger inclination toward science and a desire to explore new ideas. “Teachers and parents expressed im-

mense pride in the dedication shown by the students. They emphasized that such programs help build confidence, encourage critical thinking, and help children connect textbook knowledge with real-world applications. “Chief Guest Pula Koteswarayya, Principal of Wesley School, addressed the students and highlighted the significance of science fairs in modern education. He stated that: “Science exhibitions play a vital role in uncovering the hidden talents of students. They provide opportunities for young minds to think innovatively and gain practical exposure, which is essential for their overall development.” He further encouraged the school management to continue conducting such educational activities regularly, as they inspire children to develop a scientific temperament from a young age.”

The event was successfully conducted under the guidance of Principal Racherla Archana, with active participation from teachers, students, and volunteers. Osmania University student leaders Shruthi, Gaddam Veeraswamy, Arjun, and Ashadapu Madhu also joined the program and interacted with the young participants, motivating them to pursue higher academic goals with determination. “The Science Fair concluded on a positive note with applause for the students' efforts and a renewed commitment from the school to promote scientific learning through interactive and creative educational initiatives.

New accreditation cards for journalists

“Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, November 29 : “The Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUJ-TWJF) executive committee has demanded that the state government immediately grant it. It has been 18 months since the accreditation cards expired, but the information department is still spending time with extension stickers. The HUJ executive committee said that the fact that the accreditation policy has not been announced even after two years of the government coming to power is a testament to the government's attitude towards journalists. “The executive committee meeting of the association was held at the Thyagaraya Gana Sabha in Hyderabad on Friday under the chairmanship of HUJ President B. Arun Kumar. The leaders discussed in detail the problems faced by journalists professionally, as well as house plots, health cards and other issues. Although the government is positive about the issue of house plots for journalists, the issue has become complicated with the Supreme Court verdict, and in this context, the HUJ executive committee has requested the state government to bring a special policy to ensure justice to journalists without legal complications. Heal cars have been launched to ensure that journalists and their family members get free medical treatment in all private and corporate hospitals. “demanded the restoration of health to provide free medical treatment. “TWJF Senior Vice President and Ad Hac Committee Convener Pilli Ramchander, who attended the meeting as the chief guest, said that HUJ leaders should bring the problems of journalists to the attention of the government from time to time and work to resolve them. He urged everyone to work towards strengthening the association. He hoped that the HUJ New Year Diary should be launched in the first week of January itself and that the office should work towards that end. Federation Vice President Gudiga Ragha said that the laws for working journalists should be repealed and the labor codes brought by the center should be repealed. He said that journalists need to unite and put pressure on the government to resolve the



problems. “Speaking, HUJ Secretary Jagadishwar explained the activities of the association. He said that the membership registration will be completed and the association general meeting will be held in the last week of December. HUJ President “They said that they will organize it. HUJ President B. Arun Kumar said that the government should focus on the problems of journalists and solve them. He appealed to grant house plots to journalists working in Hyderabad. HUJ Working President Gandra Naveen said that only HUJ and TWJF associations are working sincerely on the problems of journalists in the state. Treasurer B. Rajasekhar explained the structure of the association, membership and other aspects. “Meanwhile, the executive meeting resolved to hold the HUJ general assembly by the end of December after completing the constituency assemblies and to cancel the primary membership of member Mangodi Somaiya, who violated the rules of the association. The executive committee observed two minutes of silence at the beginning of the meeting as a mark of condolence for the journalists who died recently. The meeting was attended by TWJF Ashtra leaders Salima, Radhika, Niranjan, HUJ leaders Madhukar, Ramesh, Balu, Nissar, Lalitha, Vijaya, Prashant, Renaiha, Lakshman Rao, Rajesh, Madhava Reddy, College, Sarvesh, Sridhar and others.

Funds Sanctioned for Construction of Senior Citizens’ Community Hall

“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 29: “Senior citizens of Nacharam have repeatedly appealed for the construction of a dedicated Community Hall for their use. They requested that the partially constructed building—where pillars were erected earlier in place of old government washrooms on the road leading from Nacharam Ward Office to Baba Nagar—be completed and developed into a Senior Citizens' Hall. “In this regard, the senior citizens met the local Corporator and submitted a representation, requesting the allocation of ₹45 lakhs from the specially earmarked ₹1 crore Corporator development fund for the construction of the Senior Citizens' Bhavan. Respond-



ing positively to their request, Corporator Shanthi Saizan Shekhar immediately issued a letter to the concerned officials to take up the work. “Along with the Senior Citizens' Bhavan, the Corporator also appealed to the Zonal Commissioner to

utilize funds from the ₹1 crore allocation for the construction of the Ambedkar Nagar Youth Association Building and a Women's Community Hall in the vacant land located at Bhavani Nagar, Road No. 5. “Senior citizens P. Sai Baba, G.

Srisailam, R. Ellesh, E. Yadayya, V. Nageshwar Rao, V. Nagaraj, G. Yadagiri, R. Jagannatham, J. Subba Rao, Sudarshan, Veeranjanyulu, and local leaders including Sai Zen Shekhar participated in the program.

Collecting Money for Grace Marks is Unacceptable:“BC Students’ Association State President Vemula Ramakrishna



Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, November 29
“BC Students’ Association State President Vemula Ramakrishna criticised private college managements for collecting money from students citing non-payment of fee reimbursement dues by the State Government. He said such practices are inappropriate and demanded that college managements immediately change their approach.”Protesting against the fee-collection practices, Ramakrishna, along with several students, staged a demonstration at Vidyanagar on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that private colleges insisting on payment of fees to award grace marks—due to delay in fee reimbursement—was causing

severe mental stress to students.“He expressed concern that many students, unable to bear the humiliation among peers, were avoiding college, leading to attendance shortages and preventing them from taking examinations. He alleged that while the government threatens college managements over dues, the managements are, in turn, harassing students.”
Ramakrishna demanded that the State Government clear the pending fee reimbursement amounts before students’ futures are pushed into uncertainty.”Students Kiran, Raghu, Arjun, Pralhad, Naveen, Harish, and others participated in the protest.

TWJF calls for journalists to hold a dharna in front of Samachara Bhavan on December 1:

Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) founder president and state convening committee convener Mamidi Somaiya“(Mandava Srisailam.. Hyderabad November 29):- Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) founder president and state convening committee convener Mamidi Somaiya said that journalists will hold a dharna in front of the State Information Commissionerate (Samachar Bhavan) in "Chalo Samachara Bhavan" Hyderabad, Masab Tank on December 1, demanding resolution of long-standing issues. On Saturday, he spoke at a media conference along with IFWJ National Secretary Pulipalupula Anandha, Federation State Convening Committee Co-Convenors Valla Jagan, Bandi Vijay Kumar, Tanniru Srinivas and others. “ He said that even though the Congress government has been in power in the state for two years, none of the problems related to journalists have been resolved, at least the government is not in a position to issue new accreditation cards. Mangodi Somaiya expressed concern that there is no hope of housing and other facilities for journalists, the health insurance scheme is stalled, and small and medium-sized newspapers are in crisis. He said that if the previous government had done immense injustice to journalists...this government is also doing more injustice. He said that the Chief Minister and the Information Minister have promised many times that they will resolve the problems of journalists quickly, but they have not put them into practice, and it is clear that even the Chairman of the Media Academy, who is the representa-



tive of journalists, has put up a fight in the name of a committee and finally gave up. He said that journalists are not being given house plots by citing the Supreme Court verdict as an excuse, and that this is very unfair, and that journalists can be given house plots through an alternative JIVO with the idea that if there is a will, there is a way. He urged the government to immediately address the major issues of journalists, including house plots, accreditation cards, health cards, free education in private and corporate schools for journalists’ children, pension for senior journalists, special facilities for women journalists, and increasing the government’s assistance of one lakh rupees to Rs. 10 lakhs for the family of a deceased journalist. To achieve these demands, Mangodi Somaiya called on journalists to participate in the “Chalo Samachar Bhavan” program launched on December 1 in large numbers and make it a success.

Jobs of senior teachers should be protected: STFI National General Secretary Chava Ravi



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 29) :- As part of the STFI call, today (Saturday) morning, under the auspices of the TSUTF Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Committee, Bhuvanagiri Lok Sabha member Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy met at his residence and submitted a petition in Parliament demanding exemption from TET for senior teachers through an amendment to the law. On this occasion, STFI National General Secretary Chava Ravi said that on August 23, the MPs had requested Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy to represent that Section 23 of the Right to Education Act should be amended to exempt service teachers appointed before 2010 from the TET provision. Speaking on the occasion, Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that it is pointless to have to write the eligibility test now after serving for thirty years and assured that he would discuss with the central government and do his best for exemption. STFI General Secretary, TS UTF State President Chava Ravi, TS UTF State General Secretary Adimulam Venkat, TS



UTF Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District President Mukkerla Yadayya, DTF District President and General Secretaries N Lakshminarasimha Reddy, Mylaram Sathaiah, TS UTF District Secretary K Rajagopal, S Sudharma Reddy, Kanchi Ravikumar and others participated in the program.

Land sharks target prime government land in Mancheria

Mancheria: Revenue officials are facing sharp criticism for allowing the transfer of government-assigned land originally allotted to an economically disadvantaged beneficiary, in violation of rules.A 6.20-acre parcel in survey number 22, assigned to Ramzan of Naspur mandal centre in 1953, was transferred to nine individuals in 2001. Those individuals later sold the land to six others in 2015, and attempts were made recently to register the property in the names of the latest buyers.As per Revenue rules, assigned land cannot be transferred and can be enjoyed only by the legal heirs of the assignee.“Since the land is close to the Integrated District Officers Complex, certain land grabbers targeted it and managed to transfer it to sellers,” said social activist Tula Madhusudhan Rao, urging officials to safeguard the government property.With the establishment of the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC), land rates in Naspur mandal have surged; an acre now is valued at around Rs 5 crore. Land grabbers are reportedly focusing on government land around the complex, securing no-objection certificates (NOCs) from Revenue staff, then selling plots to realtors and facilitating registrations through bribes, the activist alleged.

The capital New Delhi keeps in constitutional limbo

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Chandigarh has once again returned to national focus, not only because of recent political controversies but because the Centre’s moves on the now-stalled Chandigarh Reorganisation Bill and the withdrawn Panjab University (PU) overhaul proposal have revived an old fault line. These abrupt shifts expose a deeper problem: key decisions on Chandigarh continue without acknowledging the city’s fraught constitutional and linguistic history.Understanding the present requires revisiting the Punjabi Suba movement, the linguistic demarcations of the 1950s, the turbulence of the 1960s and the unfulfilled prime ministerial assurances that still define the dispute.

A decisive moment came in October 1956 when Home Minister Govind Ballabh Pant convened a conference to address growing resistance to the State Reorganisation Commission’s recommendations and the demand for a Punjabi-speaking state. A committee headed by the Punjab Chief Minister proposed dividing Punjab into Punjabi and Hindi regions broadly along district lines, with two exceptions: Jind and Narwana tehsils were placed in the Hindi region, while Ropar and Kharar were identified as Punjabi-speaking.The Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956 enabled the creation of regional committees for these linguistic zones. Punjab notified its division on July 4, 1957. Governor C P N Thakur reaffirmed in the Assembly that Ropar and Kharar were Punjabi-speaking. Yet when the Boundary Commission headed by Justice J C Shah redrew the map in 1965 and 1966, it allotted the entire Kharar tehsil to Haryana using the flawed 1951 census.The Official Language Act, 1960 formalised Punjabi in the Punjabi region and Hindi in the Hindi region. Weak implementation sparked unrest. Nearly 50,000 people were arrested during the 1960 Punjabi language agitation. By 1965 the Punjabi Suba demand had regained enough force for the Union Home Minister to promise a cooperative settlement.On November 1, 1966 Punjab, already fragmented by Partition, was further split. Haryana was created. Shimla and Kangra were transferred to Himachal Pradesh. Punjabi-speaking villages were reassigned. Most critically, Punjab lost its capital. Chandigarh, along with 22 surrounding villages, was carved out of Punjab and made a Union Territory under direct Central rule. Overnight, Punjab was trifurcated.

The sense of loss in Punjab was immediate. Justice Gurdev Singh Dutt, a member of the Boundary Commission, dissented, insisting that Chandigarh belonged to Punjab. Protests followed. Sant Fateh Singh prepared for



self-immolation until Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, through Speaker Hukam Singh, assured him that Chandigarh would be restored. Sardar Pheruman’s death by fasting soon after showed the emotional force of the demand.In 1971 and 1972, Indira Gandhi announced that Chandigarh would be given to Punjab, with Fazilka and Abohar going to Haryana as compensation. She reiterated this on June 2, 1984 during her broadcast on the eve of Operation Bluestar.

Rajiv Gandhi attempted a settlement through the 1985 Punjab Accord with Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. Article 7.1 clearly stated that the Chandigarh Capital Project Area would be transferred to Punjab and that adjoining areas would revert to their linguistic regions. The transfer was scheduled for January 26, 1986, but intense opposition in Haryana led by Devi Lal derailed it.Article 7.2 of the Accord required identifying Hindi-speaking areas in Punjab that could be transferred to Haryana. Three commissions examined this but found no workable solution. Mathew Commission identified 83 Hindi-speaking villages in the Fazilka and Abohar belt but ruled out their transfer because the Punjabi village Khandu Khara lay in between, breaking contiguity. Venkatachaliah Commission moved beyond linguistic criteria, floated a twin-city idea and recommended transferring 70,000 acres of Punjab land to Haryana. Desai Commission was rejected by Punjab after earlier failures showed no distinct Hindi-speaking pockets existed.The underlying fact remains that there are no clearly demarcated Hindi-speaking villages within Punjab. Punjabi is the mother tongue across communities.Chandigarh stands on Punjab’s soil and was built as its capital. Refugees from West Punjab who settled there still speak some of the purest Punjabi. By every linguistic, historical, cultural, socio-economic, legal and political measure, Chandigarh belongs to Punjab. Justice requires that the long-standing commitment to transfer Chandigarh be honoured.

Convocation of 149th course of NDA: ‘Sukhoi’s flying in Pune skies inspired me’: All toppers from civilian background, driven by childhood dreams

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

“The Sukhoi’s flying in Pune skies inspired me to join NDA. Sitting from my balcony with my grandparents or parents, I used to dream of flying them one day,” said Vishwesh Bhalerao, who topped the Arts stream in the passing out 149th course of the NDA.Incidentally, all the four cadets who topped the academic streams in the passing out 149th course of the National Defence Academy are from civilian backgrounds—each driven by childhood dream to serve in the armed forces.The passing out batch of 328 cadets of the 149th course included 15 female cadets from the second batch of the female cadets of the academy. Battalion Cadet Captain (BCC) Ananya, who is from this second batch of female cadets, topped the Computer Science stream.A total of 328 cadets were conferred the degree and course completion certificates from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) at the convocation of the 149th course of the NDA which was held on Saturday. The passing out cadets included 72 cadets in Science stream, 92 cadets in Computer Science stream and 52 cadets in Arts stream who were awarded JNU degrees and 112 cadets of Navy and Air Force cadets from the BTech stream who received three years course completion certificates. These Naval and Air Force cadets will be conferred with the degree after completion of one year training at their respective pre-commissioning training academies namely Indian Naval Academy and Air Force Academy (AFA) respectively. The passing out course comprised 18 cadets from friendly foreign countries.

The Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff Trophy and Commandant’s Silver Medal for the cadet standing first in order of merit in academics in BTech stream were awarded to Division Cadet Captain (DCC) Vishwesh Bhalerao of the Foxtro Squadron, who is from Pune. Both his parents are practicing ophthalmologists in Pune and he has completed his schooling from DAV Public School in the city. “I joined the NDA because joining the Air Force as a fighter pilot has been my childhood dream and I am working towards achieving it. I have grown up in Pune. Sukhoi’s flying in Pune skies inspired me to join the NDA. Sitting in the balcony with my grandparents or parents, I used to dream of flying them as they thundered in the skies above us. That was my first inspiration. From Class 11, I started seriously preparing for the NDA,” DCC Vishwesh said.“Having come from a com-



plete civilian background, the disciplined environment and military ethos were new for me. Such beginnings are always challenging but instructors help you sail through. I also did not have a background of physical training and so I took time to get used to it,” Vishwesh added.The Chief of Naval Staff’s Trophy and Commandant’s Silver Medal for the cadet standing first in Computer Science were awarded to BCC Ananya who is from Uttarakhand and completed her schooling from Faridabad. She is set to join the Army. Ananya had started pursuing her Statistics (Honours) course at Delhi University when she got selected for the NDA. “I do not have a military background. My father runs a business and my mother is in accounting. As a child when I used to see any armed forces officer or personnel, I wanted to become like them. And it has been a dream since my childhood. So, when the NDA started admitting female cadets, I started preparing. I see myself as a changed person after three years of training. Officers and instructors here help navigate the challenging training phase. Each day at the NDA is different and teaches something new.”The Chief of Army Staff’s Trophy and Commandant’s Silver Medal for the cadet standing first in order of merit in academics in Science stream were awarded to Company Quartermaster Sergeant (CQMS) Kartik Maheshwari who hails from Haldwani in Uttarakhand. His father is a businessman and his mother is a teacher. “The drill instructors, PT instructors, teachers not only train us, they mentor us, groom us and mould us into better human beings. It was my childhood dream to join the Army and with my family’s unconditional support I am on the way to fulfil it.

BMC adds 30 new mini compactors for garbage collection first time in 15 years

The existing vehicular fleet in BMC comprises 1,300 trucks, divided into three categories: large compactors, mini compactors, and side-loading mini compactors.The existing vehicular fleet in BMC comprises 1,300 trucks, divided into three categories: large compactors, mini compactors, and side-loading mini compactors.The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Saturday inducted 30 new mini garbage collection vans, also known as mini compactors, into its fleet of vehicles that are mainly used for picking and transporting garbage in Mumbai. This is the first time in 15 years that BMC has inducted new vehicles in its fleet of garbage compactors. Civic officials said overall, 800 new small, medium and large trucks and compactors will be added to the fleet in the next two years.

Mumbai generates 7,500-8,500 metric tonnes (MT) of solid waste daily and each of the new vehicles will have a capacity to carry 5MT of waste every day—twice the capacity of the mini compactors which will be replaced by the new vehicles. Civic officials said the new vehicles have been painted a unique blue and white colour and eventually all the new vehicles will be painted with the same colour. Currently, these vehicles have been deployed in all the 25 municipal wards and will be responsible for collection and trans-

portation of waste from densely populated areas. Officials also said due to its compact size, the vehicles will be able to penetrate into the dingy lanes of slum areas, easing the process of garbage collection from such places.“Earlier, even though there were compactors, we didn’t have any uniform colour code to identify them. This is the first time vehicles in BMC will follow a uniform colour code. Several municipal corporations in India have colour-coded vehicles that help in identifying as well as quick response,” said an official.“These vehicles have twice the capacity to hold solid waste, which means it will bring down the total number of trips that a vehicle used to make every day by half margin, eventually resulting in less fuel usage and vehicular emission,” said the official. 1The existing vehicular fleet in BMC comprises 1,300 trucks, divided into three categories: large compactors, mini compactors, and side-loading mini compactors. The new fleet will have lesser trucks, as the new vehicles will have a capacity to carry heavier, bigger payloads. According to civic officials, the new fleet will comprise 800 vehicles, including EVs. The brand-new large compactors will have a maximum carrying capacity of 18,500kg, while its predecessor had a maximum capacity of 16,200kg.

As Centre rejects Punjab's choices for Food Corporation of India GM, Bhagwant Mann writes to Amit Shah



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

A month after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann wrote to Union food minister Pralhad Joshi against the Centre's proposal to appoint an outside-cadre IAS officer at Food Corporation of India (FCI), Punjab, the Centre, it is learnt, has finalised the appointment of a UT-cadre IAS officer as its general manager (GM). A Punjab-cadre IAS officer has always held the GM position at FCI, Punjab region. Mann has now written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, objecting to the Centre's move, asking him to instead appoint a Punjab-cadre IAS officer, arguing that the state's unique security, agricultural and socio-political sensitivities require an officer familiar with ground realities.

In the two-page letter dated November 22, Mann has reminded Shah that Punjab has borne the brunt of decades of militancy, cross-border smuggling and security threats, and continues to sit at the frontline of national security. "The state's geographical, cultural and social conditions cannot be fully understood by an officer from outside," Mann has written, adding that the role of GM, responsible for procurement, has direct implications for farmers, state security,

and public trust. Mann pointed to the recent paddy procurement season, when heavy rains caused widespread damage. This, he wrote, made the role even more crucial as the government scrambled to ensure smooth procurement amid distress. Procurement, he argued, is not merely an administrative routine in Punjab but an exercise tied to national food security, border-state stability, and people's confidence in institutions. The chief minister also noted that the escalating tensions post the farmers' protests have made the administrative situation more delicate. "Decisions concerning Punjab must build public trust and strengthen national unity," he stressed.

Mann said he had earlier conveyed these concerns to the Union minister of consumer affairs, food and public distribution on November 6 as well. According to the letter, he had requested that the ongoing process to appoint a GM be paused to allow reconsideration, warning that appointing an outsider-cadre officer could create "avoidably adverse consequences." He stated that Punjab had sent a panel of three IAS officers earlier, which was rejected by the Centre. Later, he said, the government sent another panel, which was also rejected. Mann has also written that despite the minister's assurance, the Centre seems to be proceeding with the appointment of a non-Punjab cadre officer. Mann has termed the development "unexpected" and said it has caused "deep concern." Reiterating that Punjab has a pool of experienced IAS officers who have handled security, smuggling and procurement challenges, Mann argued that "no state other than Punjab" understands the complexities of FCI's vigilance network here. He urged Shah to "personally intervene" and ensure that a Punjab-cadre officer is appointed GM so that "trust, administrative continuity and cooperative federalism" are upheld. Mann also expressed hope that the Centre would reconsider its decision and take a call that "strengthens the credibility of institutions and respects Punjab's sentiments".

'Social stigma, family disconnect': Transgender community in Bengal apprehensive over losing voting rights in SIR

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Sitting in their rooms, Atanu, Shikha, and many more members of transgender community — abandoned by their families and ostracised in society — are living in fear that their identity will be completely erased in the wake of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in West Bengal, a drive aimed at ensuring accuracy of electoral rolls. They are now living in anxiety, as most of them do not have any communication with their families. They have left behind everything, even their birth certificates and school leaving certificates. Though some have Aadhaar cards, they are not considered as proof of citizenship as per the Election Commission.

SIR drive, according to activists, though, is aimed at inclusivity; it fails to address the unique barriers confronting the transgender community. It has raised serious concerns over the challenges faced by transgender individuals in updating their identity details. Transgender rights activist Sinha points out that transgender individuals who are living on the streets or working in the informal economy are often excluded from the SIR process due to their lack of stable addresses and formal identification. "How can they participate in the SIR process when they have no official records or addresses?" she asks. According to Sinha, one of the most significant obstacles is the mismatch between transgender individuals' current gender identity and the outdated information in official documents. Many were registered as male or female in the 2002 voter list but have since transitioned, leaving them unable to update their gender or name in government records. "Despite transitioning, their records continue to reflect outdated information, creating significant hurdles in the enumeration process," she explains. Atanu Giri, 21, a transperson from Chandannagar, says that they did not know what SIR was or its importance. "I only have my Aadhaar and PAN cards with me and nothing else. For us, our main identity is through the TG (transgender) Card. I have applied for it, but I have not received any verification call," says Giri, who lives in a shelter home after being refused to be accepted by family members. "My name will not be in the 2002 list. How will I get the form? I have no communication, and I have not received any call from family on this matter," Giri shares.

'Getting enumeration form, a big challenge' Transgender people say that the main challenge is to get the enumeration form, as in most cases, the forms are given at the residential address, and the families do not inform them. "Most of us have left our homes, but the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will give the forms to the family members, who, in turn, do not inform them. Even if we take out the 2002 voter list and get their parents' EPIC numbers, the



form is still a must. Even if we try to fill out the form online, the issue is that the voter card and the mobile phone number have to be linked with the Aadhaar. If there are two different spellings of the same name, then it is not being accepted. It's very problematic," said Sujit (name changed for anonymity), a transgender person. Shikha, who has gone through all the medical procedures to become a woman, is also apprehensive about her future. "I don't have any contact with my family. So I do not know if the BLO had come or not. I have my voter card in my previous name, and today I am Shikha. How will it match? The only identity card that I require is the TG card. I am waiting for it after all the procedures and verifications. Most likely, I will lose my voting rights," Shikha. "I don't know what the future holds, will I be sent to jail or detention centre because of SIR?" the transwoman says. Sinha states that social stigma and family rejection often prevent transgender individuals from accessing essential documentation needed for the SIR process. "Many transgender individuals are not accepted by their families because of the stigma surrounding gender transition. This leads to a lack of documentation, making it difficult for them to complete the SIR process," she says. Transgender activists say that before implementing SIR, the government should have thought of the marginalised communities also. Sinha points out that SIR does not fully cater to the needs of the transgender community. She recalls the 2014 Supreme Court ruling that recognised transgender people as citizens with equal voting rights, but stressed that legal recognition alone is not enough. "We welcome the SIR, but then whenever any change happens, the worst affected are the marginalised sections of society," said a transman based in Kolkata. Sinha points out that while ordinary people have been granted voting rights long back, the lack of proper documentation and the social stigma attached to transgender community hinder the success of the democratic process," she said.

'Kejriwal betrayed everyone... received only mockery': Former AAP MLA jumps ship to BJP

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

In a setback for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), senior leader and former MLA Rajesh Gupta joined the BJP Monday ahead of the MCD bypolls. Gupta, a two-time MLA from Wazirpur, joined the party on Saturday in the presence of Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva. A teary-eyed Gupta said he has contributed a lot to the AAP for over a decade but in return he received only "mockery". "When AAP was founded, many prominent individuals enthusiastically joined hands with (AAP chief) Arvind Kejriwal. But Kejriwal betrayed everyone, and one by one, they all chose to leave him. Today, unfortunately, I have also joined that list," said Gupta, a two-time MLA from Wazirpur. He claimed that in the Ashok Vihar ward, AAP gave a ticket to a person who had been issued a notice by the party earlier. And when he raised the issue, he alleged no one was willing to listen.... The AAP, which once talked about the three Cs, has abandoned all three today... Despite my years of sincerity, honesty and loyalty, when I raised concerns, the party president wasn't even ready to talk to me — this, when the party was neither in power in the Delhi government nor in the MCD. Treating workers as 'use and throw' is the biggest reason behind Arvind Kejriwal and AAP's decline," he alleged.

The AAP has yet to comment on Gupta's shift or the allegations he raised. Sachdeva, meanwhile, said Gupta had created a distinct identity for himself as a responsible MLA, but Kejriwal failed to value that identity. He added that the way Kejriwal is missing from Delhi and the circumstances



under which he left demand close examination. Sachdeva claimed that AAP has pushed Delhi into such a situation over the last 12 years that its burden has now fallen upon the new government as well. The BJP government is making efforts to gradually reduce this burden. But Kejriwal, who calls himself Delhi's son, has completely disappeared because he knows Delhi has now seen his true reality, alleged Sachdeva. "The shortcomings AAP leaders are listing today are all outcomes of their own 12-year tenure, yet they are questioning a government that has been in office for only eight months. Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia missing entirely, Atishi and Gopal Rai are merely making special appearances for Delhi. Just as Aurangzeb plundered Delhi... after looting and indulging in corruption, AAP leaders are now comfortably settled in Punjab," Sachdeva said.

Pune house burgled, gold hidden inside washing machine stolen



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

A Pune family that hid their ornaments inside a washing machine before leaving the city to attend a relative's funeral were in for a shock when they discovered that their house had been broken into and the gold stolen, the police

said on Saturday. The incident took place at a house near the Sachhai Mata temple in the Katraj area of Pune city between 8.30 pm on November 26 and 6 am on November 28, the police said.

According to the First Information Report (FIR) lodged at Ambegaon police station, a 30-year-old man working with a private company, his wife, and their son left their house around 8.30 pm on November 26. The family wanted to attend the funeral of a relative in Latur district. Before locking the house, the complainant and his wife kept their gold ornaments worth Rs 99,000 in the washing machine to prevent theft, the police said. But when they returned around 6 am on November 28, they found the lock of the main door of their house broken, and the gold ornaments in the washing machine missing. The police have booked the unknown accused under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 305, 331(3) and 331(4) on charges related to theft and house trespass, and launched a probe headed by Police Sub-Inspector Mohan Kalamkar.

Call off strike or face termination, Punjab transport dept warns agitating contractual employees

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Amid protests by employees of state-owned bus services, the Punjab Transport Department on Saturday issued them notices to call off the strike and return to work, failing which their services would be terminated. The employees launched the strike on Friday against the opening of tenders related to the kilometre-based bus scheme, which they claimed was a backdoor attempt to bring in private buses and dismantle the state-run transport system. They alleged that this would help private operators to run buses on government-notified routes.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, addressing the media, said his doors are open for dialogue. "I understand that the employees have a democratic right to protest, but they should make sure that the people are not inconvenienced. I understand their economic and social pressures," he said, inviting the protesters to the table for a discussion on their demands. The Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) and Punjab Roadways have about 5,000 outsourced and contractual employees, who have been protesting across the state since Friday, causing inconvenience to hundreds of commuters. Bus services in parts of the state remained affected on Saturday also as employees of the Punjab Roadways, Punjab State Bus Stand Management Company Limited (PUNBUS) and the PRTC continued their protest. A government functionary told The Indian Express, "We have issued them notices. They have been asked to call off their strike and return to work. Since



there is not much load on buses on weekends, we can do with 50 per cent operations. On Friday also, 55 per cent of our buses were plying. We are just waiting for them to return to work. If the notices do not yield, then we will have no option but to terminate their services. They are contractual and outsourced employees. They can only be terminated. They cannot be put under suspension."

The employees stated that in the last four years, the government had not added a single new bus to the existing fleet. The buses were in bad shape and needed repairs. The government's public transport system has been facing several problems due to a lack of funds. The Punjab government's free bus travel scheme for women also requires the government to shell out about Rs 600 crore.

Maharashtra civic polls: With 2 former party legislators in BJP camp, Congress virtually non-existent in Saswad and Bhor



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

After the debacle in the state assembly and Lok Sabha polls last year, when not even a single Congress candidate got elected in Pune district, the Grand Old Party has almost disappeared from the political map of the district that was once its bastion. In recent years, the Congress was somehow able to hold its fort in Saswad Nagar Parishad and Bhor Nagar Parishad due to the leadership of Sanjay Jagtap and Sangram Thopte, respectively. But with both switching over to the BJP, the Congress now has little presence in the ongoing civic polls.

In Bhor, Thopte continued to hold the political reins for decades, but his defeat in the Assembly elections by the NCP candidate paved the way for a mega change in the politics of the region. Thopte jumped over to the BJP, cutting decades-old ties with the Congress. Now, Thopte is leading the BJP's charge against the Ajit Pawar-led NCP to establish supremacy in local politics. "There are 49 candidates in fray for 21 wards of Bhor Nagar Parishad. How-

ever, only one Congress candidate is contesting the civic elections while the BJP and the NCP are contesting all the seats," said Gajanan Shinde, CEO, Bhor Nagar Parishad. Bhor resident Shreyas Jambhulkar noted, "Except one, the Congress could not even field candidates in civic polls despite holding power for decades. This means the Congress is finished as all its workers have switched over to the BJP along with the leaders. The BJP had a very bleak presence in the area, and suddenly it got a much-needed push under the leadership of Thopte." Though the BJP and the NCP are allies at the state and national levels, he said that there is a tough fight between the two in Bhor Nagar Parishad. The municipality falls under the Baramati parliamentary constituency. In Saswad, too, former Congress district unit chief Sanjay Jagtap switched over to the BJP. The Saswad Nagar Parishad is witnessing a triangular fight among the BJP led by Jagtap, Shiv Sena led by MLA Vijay Shitware and the Shiv Sena (UBT), which is contesting with the support of the NCP (SP) and the Congress.

"It is time for voters to stand by those committed to the development of Saswad and a candidate who has self-respect and does not change political parties for personal gains," said Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Abhijit Jagtap, who is contesting for the post of president of Saswad Nagar Parishad. Local Trader Suresh Mojhe said, "The Saswad civic body has seen good development under the leadership of Sanjay Jagtap. It has been awarded at the national level for cleanliness. Many believe in the ideology of the Congress, but no one is there to lead the party." The elections to the Bhor and Saswad Nagar Parishads will be held on December 2, and the counting will be conducted on December 3.

Paid holiday on December 2 for Maharashtra local polls, but not in PMC and PCMC areas



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Maharashtra Government, civic elections, A government resolution (GR) issued on Friday said those employees in the areas where polling will take place will get a paid holiday on December 2. (File photo) The Maharashtra Government has announced a holiday on account of civic elections on December 2. In Pune district, 18 nagar parishads and nagar panchayats are going to the polls.

However, the holiday will not be applicable to areas under the jurisdiction of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC). "On December 2, there will be a public holiday

primarily in rural areas of the 18 local bodies and not in the cities," said District Collector Jitendra Dudi. A government resolution (GR) issued on Friday said those employees in the areas where polling will take place will get a paid holiday on December 2. "Citizens living in polling areas but working in non-polling areas will also get a paid holiday," the GR added.

Kokapet Neopolis plots' e-auctions add Rs 2,708 crore to HMDA coffers

Hyderabad: Two plots at Kokapet's Neopolis attracted bids of Rs 151.25 crore per acre and Rs 147.75 crore per acre during e-auction by the HMDA on Friday. At the second round of Neopolis e-auctions, Plot 15 measuring 4.03 acre won a bid of Rs 151.25 crore per acre by Lakshmi Narayana Gummati, Karteesh Reddy Madgula, Sharat Ventrapragada, and Shyam Sunder Reddy Vangala. For the Plot 16 that measures 5.03 acre, the successful bid of Rs 147.75 crore per acre was secured by Godrej Properties Limited.

US halts all visa issuance to Afghan citizens



Washington: The United States has paused Afghan visas, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, two days after a man from Afghanistan shot and killed one National Guard soldier and critically injured another near the White House. “President (Donald) Trump’s State Department has paused visa issuance for all individuals travelling on Afghan passports,” Rubio wrote on the social platform X. “The United States has no higher priority than protecting our nation and our people.” “The Department of State has immediately paused visa issuance for individuals travelling on Afghan passports,” the agency said in a statement.

Thai Prime Minister acknowledges flood response failures as death toll rises to 162

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Saturday (November 29, 2025) outlined recovery and compensation plans for the southern part of the country, where severe flooding has killed at least 162 people. More than 1.4 million households and 3.8 million people have been affected by floods triggered by heavy rains in 12 southern provinces, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said on Saturday. Government Spokesperson Siripong Angkasakulkiat said in a news conference in Bangkok that 162 deaths have been confirmed in eight provinces, particularly in Songkhla province, which recorded at least 126 deaths. The scale of the flooding and the high number of casualties have sparked widespread criticism of the government. Mr. Charnvirakul told reporters on Saturday (November 29, 2025) that he acknowledged the government’s shortcomings in flood management, and said that when he visited the affected areas, he had apologised to the people “that the government was unable to take care of and protect them.” Mr. Charnvirakul said the government would begin distributing compensation payments to those affected by the floods next week. He also outlined additional relief measures, including debt suspension and short-term, interest-free loans for businesses and home repairs. The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation reported that water levels began to recede across all affected provinces on Saturday (November 29, 2025) morning. Video footage showed local residents returning to their homes, which had previously been submerged, to inspect the dam-

U.S. halts asylum decisions as troop killing sparks migrant crackdown

The United States is freezing all asylum decisions, officials said Friday (November 28, 2025), as President Donald Trump hardens his anti-migrant stance after an Afghan national allegedly shot two National Guard members this week in Washington. Wednesday’s (November 26, 2025) attack on the soldiers — one of whom died from her injuries — has ignited a fresh crackdown on foreigners in the United States, with Mr. Trump also pledging to suspend migration from “third world countries.” Joseph Etlow, director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), said his agency has “halted all asylum decisions until we can ensure that every alien is vetted and screened to the maximum degree possible.” That followed Mr. Trump’s announcement late Thursday (November 27, 2025) of plans to “permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the U.S. system to fully recover.”

Asked which nationalities would be affected, the Department of Homeland Security pointed AFP to a list of 19 countries — including Afghanistan, Cuba, Haiti, Iran and Myanmar — already facing U.S. travel restrictions since June. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday (November 28, 2025) that the U.S. had temporarily stopped issuing visas to all individuals traveling on Afghan passports. “The United States has no higher priority than protecting our nation and our people,” he said. The shooting has brought together three politically explosive issues: Mr. Trump’s controversial use of the military on American soil, immigration, and the lingering legacy of the 20-year conflict in Afghanistan. Rahmanullah Lakanwal, 29, who allegedly opened fire on the guardsmen just a few blocks from the White House, had been part of a CIA-backed “partner force” fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. He entered the United States as part of a resettlement program following the American military withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. Jeanine Pirro, the U.S. attorney for Washington DC, said Friday (November 28, 2025) that Lakanwal would be charged with murder over the attack. Sarah Beckstrom, a 20-year-old West Virginia National Guard member deployed in the US capital as part of what Mr. Trump called a crackdown on crime, died from her wounds.

The second injured soldier, 24-year-old Andrew Wolfe, was “fighting for his life,” Ms. Pirro told the Fox News program Fox & Friends. Attorney General Pam Bondi has pledged to seek the death penalty against Lakanwal, describing him as a “monster.” In his social media post Thursday (November 27, 2025), Mr. Trump also threatened to reverse “millions” of admissions granted under his predecessor Joe Biden, in a new escalation of his anti-immigration stance.

Separately, the USCIS said it would re-examine the green cards — permanent residency cards — issued to individuals who had migrated to the U.S. from the same 19 countries also cited by the Department of Homeland Security. More than 1.6 million green card holders, roughly 12% of the total permanent resident population, were born in the countries listed, according to U.S. immigration data analysed by AFP. Afghanistan has over 116,000 green card holders. Shawn VanDiver, president of AfghanEvac, a group that helped resettle Afghans in the country after the military

Rahmanullah Lakanwal, the 29-year-old suspected shooter, entered the United States in 2021 under the (Joe) Biden administration’s Operation Allies Welcome program. He applied for asylum last year, and it was granted earlier this year, reports Xinhua news agency. Lakanwal was “clean on all checks” before working with the CIA in his home country and again before coming to the United States, local media reported. The FBI is now investigating the shooting as an act of terrorism. Lakanwal had previously served alongside US forces in Afghanistan. According to NBC News, the suspect, identified as 29-year-old Rahmanullah Lakanwal, arrived in the United States in September 2021 after spending a decade in the Afghan army, where he supported US Special Forces. He has been living in Washington state, NBC News reported, citing senior law enforcement sources. Fox News reported that the suspect worked with various US government entities while in Afghanistan, including the Central Intelligence Agency, as a member of a partner force. The attack took place at around 14:15 local time (1915 GMT) near the Farragut Square Metro Station, said a statement from Joint Task Force DC, which oversees the National Guard deployments to Washington. The suspect was shot by another Guard member and taken into custody, officials said. Authorities are still working to confirm all details about the individual, who is currently hospitalised.



age. Furniture and personal belongings were seen scattered across the floors.

The flooding, which began last weekend, caused severe disruptions, leaving thousands of people stranded, rendering streets impassable and submerging low-rise buildings and vehicles. The death toll in Songkhla province, particularly in its largest city, Hat Yai, continued to rise as rescuers gained access to residential areas that had been previously submerged. More bodies were recovered as rescue operations progressed. Government Spokesperson Angkasakulkiat said King Maha Vajiralongkorn would donate 100 million baht (\$3.11 million) to Hat Yai Hospital, which suffered extensive damage from flooding, and that the King would grant royal support for the funerals of all victims who died from the flooding.



withdrawal, blasted Mr. Rubio’s move to halt all visa issuances. “They are using a single violent individual as cover for a policy they have long planned,” he said in a statement. Lakanwal had been living in the western state of Washington with his family and drove across the country to the capital before Wednesday’s (November 26, 2025) shooting, officials said. Mr. Trump has insisted that Lakanwal had been granted unvetted access to the United States because of lax asylum policies after the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan under former President Biden. However, AfghanEvac said the Afghans had undergone “some of the most extensive security vetting” of any migrants. It added that Lakanwal applied for asylum under Mr. Biden but received it later, under Mr. Trump.

Kidambi Srikanth, Treesa-Gayatri enter Syed Modi finals in Lucknow

Hyderabad: Former World No 1 Kidambi Srikanth reached his second final on the BWF World Tour in 2025 on Saturday after defeating compatriot Mithun Manjunath in a hard-fought semifinal, while the women’s doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly also advanced to the summit clash of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament at Lucknow.

Srikanth defeated Mithun 21-15, 19-21, 21-13 in 59 minutes and will now face Hong Kong’s Jason Gunawan, who advanced to the final after Minoru Koga of Japan retired with the score reading 12-21, 21-8, 11-0 in his opponent’s favour. In the women’s doubles semifinal, top seeds and defending champions Gayatri and Treesa defeated seventh seeds Ong Xin Yee and Carmen Ting of Malaysia 21-11, 21-15 to set up a final clash against Japan’s Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe. India’s campaign in women’s singles, however, came to an end after top seed Unnati Hooda and giant-killer Tanvi Sharma lost in the semifinals. Unnati went down to fourth seed Neslihan Arin of Turkey 15-21, 10-21, while Tanvi’s run was halted by Japanese fifth seed Hina Akechi with a 21-17, 21-16 victory.

Looking back at Bawaria dacoity along Tamil Nadu highways



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

In the early hours of January 8, 2005, at around 2 a.m., darkness engulfed the narrow stretch branching off from the Grand Northern Trunk (GNT) Road, also known as the Kolkata–Chennai National Highway. The villagers of Thanakulam near Periyapalayam, about 60 kilometres from Chennai, were fast asleep, unaware of the danger approaching. A fully-covered goods carrier — HR 38 J 5249 — rolled quietly along the deserted road and halted about half a kilometre from the village. Six to eight men climbed down silently from the lorry and moved toward the house at the village entrance — the residence of K. Sudarsanam, at that point of time, a sitting AIADMK MLA and former Minister. At exactly 2.15 a.m., with the swing of an axe, the stillness was shattered. The armed gang smashed the wooden front door, storming inside. Their leader stood guard outside, gripping a gun.

The gang quickly climbed the staircase to the first floor. They bolted the room of Sudarsanam’s elder son, Vijayakumar, who was sleeping inside. They then broke open the door to the room in which his second son, K. S. Sathish Kumar was asleep. They shattered the glass of a window, and through that gap, the intruders rained blows on Sathish Kumar with blunt iron rods, leaving him bleeding. Members of Bawaria gang are being escorted by the police to a Sessions Court in Singaravelar Maligai. When his wife, Geetha, rushed forward, one of the men twisted her left arm until she cried out in pain. Their eight-year-old daughter clung to the attackers’ legs, begging them not to hurt her father. But the gang ignored her pleas, continued assaulting Sathish Kumar and Geetha, and ripped jewellery off Geetha’s body at knifepoint.

Woken the commotion, Sudarsanam who was sleeping with his wife in a room on the ground floor — stepped out carrying a sickle. The moment the assailants saw the weapon, they fired a .12-bore round into the right side of his chest. He collapsed and died instantly. The gang then entered his bedroom, the pooja room and the room next to the kitchen. They tore open almirahs, overturned beds and looted nearly sixty sovereigns of gold jewellery. Three women — Jayamal, Sudarsanam’s wife; Thatchayani, his mother-in-law; and Neela, the household maid — were unharmed but absolutely terrified. Recalling the incident, Sathish Kumar said: “Hearing the sound of my room door being hit multiple times, I looked through the window and saw six or seven people trying to break it. I held the door tightly from behind but couldn’t stop them. They broke the window next to the door and attacked me with an iron rod through the opening. A blow to my left shoulder forced me aside. They then entered the room. I fainted. After 10–15 days of treatment, I was told that my father had been shot dead.”

Hearing the family’s screams, villagers gathered outside the compound wall and hurled stones at the dacoits. The gang fired a round toward them, dispersing the crowd, and escaped into the darkness, with valuables looted from the house, boarding their lorry parked half a kilometre away. The then Tiruvallur Superintendent of Police V. Vardharaju rushed to the scene, cordoned off the area and summoned his team. “The public had gathered in large numbers by them. The crime scene was calamitous, with bloodstains everywhere. Our job was to protect the integrity of the scene. A pair of chappals used by the accused and an empty bullet shell were recovered,” he said.

The dacoity and murder shook the entire State. Special teams were formed under the then Inspector-General of Police (North), S. R. Jangid. Deputy Superintendents of Police V. Jayakumar (Thirukoilur), M. Sudhakar (Madhavaram), C. Vijay Kumar (Tiruvallur), and Ara. Arul Arasu (Hosur) joined the investigation. Mr. Vardharaju said as soon as they began investigation, they started noticing a similar pattern in several other highway dacoities in the State. Working with then Cuddalore SP Davidson Devasirvatham, they mapped the crimes.

Decade of dacoity For nearly 10 years, a string of dacoities involving murders and grievous assaults — all with similar a modus operandi — had been reported across Tamil Nadu. Between 1995 and 2005, 24 such incidents occurred along the National Highway from the Tiruvallur–Andhra border to the Krishnagiri–Karnataka border, resulting in 13 deaths and 63 serious injuries. Chance fingerprints were lifted at many scenes but there were no matches in police records. Similar offences in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka also remained unsolved.

“The gang used only to speak only in Hindi during the crimes. Words like ‘Chabi doh’ (give the key) and ‘Chup raho’ (keep quiet) were used. It was clear that this bunch were from north India,” said Thillai Natarajan, former investigation officer in the Periyapalayam case. The gang first struck Tamil Nadu on June 7, 1995, at the house of M. Mohan Kumar in Walajpet, then part of Vellore district. They killed him, seriously injured his wife and two children, and stole jewellery and cash worth over ₹50,000. The case was closed as undetectable three years later. The following year, they struck again in the same town in another house. After a five-year gap, the gang resurfaced in 2001, committing a major dacoity in Avinashi, followed by three more robberies in Dharmapuri and Salem districts. Their crimes surged in 2002, with eight dacoities reported in Salem, Avinashi, Kangeyam, Gummidipoondi, Athur, Kariamangalam, Burgur and Sriperumbudur. The most sensational was in Salem on September 12, 2002, in which they killed Congress functionary Thalamuthu Natarajan and his watchman Gopal and injured six others. A sub-inspector reportedly saw the gang walking away but failed to act. They walked two kilometres, boarded a lorry and vanished. In 2003, they struck four locations — Sholavaram, Walajapet and Natrampalli — committing murders at three of them. In 2004, they targeted Thiruverkadu, Vellavedu, Sriperumbudur and Thiruvalem. In Thiruverkadu, they shot house owner Gajendran dead, killed his watchman and injured two others. In Sriperumbudur, they slammed a 14-year-old girl against a wall. Mr. Jangid said that based on the modus operandi, investigators suspected North Indian criminal gangs but could not identify any one gang in particular. Teams visited Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, ruling out criminal tribes in those regions. They then focused on Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Punjab, as their investigation had shown similarities with the Bawaria gang’s modus operandi.

Former Director General of Police S.R. Jangid, who as IG (North) led the special teams that cracked the case

Former Director General of Police S.R. Jangid, who as IG (North) led the special teams that cracked the case | Photo Credit: M. Srinath

“Initially, it was virtually a wild goose chase. Every lead was pursued. Fingerprint experts travelled with the teams carrying the chance prints lifted from scenes. Police records in these States were checked,” Mr. Jangid said. A major challenge was that police forces in UP, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan did not regularly preserve fingerprints or maintain detailed records of hardened criminals.

The breakthrough came on February 1, 2005, when Inspector of Police (Fingerprints) Dhanancheliyan, who was part of the Uttar Pradesh team, found that four chance prints matched a thumb impression recorded in 1996 in the “register of transit prisoners” at Agra Central Jail. The print belonged to Laxman alias Ashok, a Bawaria criminal from Chandanpura village in Bharatpur district, Rajasthan. He was linked to six dacoities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu police teams camped in the region for days, arresting the criminals. They seized a sheet from a schoolgirl’s notebook containing phone numbers of gang members. Call records and a confession from an accused in Rajasthan confirmed the involvement of the Bawaria gang from Haryana and Rajasthan. Who were the Bawarias

The Bawarias were among the most violent criminal groups, operating mainly at night along highways. Their lorries had secret chambers for hiding weapons and iron rods. They parked near roadside eateries and walked up to four or five kilometres to targeted homes, smashing doors with stones or steel rods and unleashing brutal, unprovoked violence. 13 persons were eventually arrested, including Oma alias Omprakash Bawaria, 55, of Ghargot village in Faridabad district, the gang leader; his brother Jagadish; Ashok alias Laxman; Rakesh alias Kuttur; Anguri; Jaidar Singh; and three women. Two gang members were killed in an encounter near Meerut.

Courts later convicted several of them, including Oma and Ashok, in four cases — for the Walajapet doctor’s murder and for the murder of MLA Sudarsanam in Periyapalayam. In 2006, Oma and Laxman initially received the death penalty in the Walajapet case while others were given life imprisonment. The High Court later commuted the death sentences. Oma died in Vellore Central Prison, and three others continue to serve life terms.

The Sudarsanam Case In the Sudarsanam murder case, 32 persons were named in the charge sheet filed by Periyapalayam Police on September 18, 2006. Of them, 22 remained absconding. Two — Oma and Boora — died during trial, and one was treated as a juvenile. Seven were tried, but the case was later split after three women jumped bail. The trial ultimately proceeded against Jagadish, Rakesh alias Guddu, Ashok alias Laxman, and Jaidar Singh alias Lali Master, a schoolteacher. Additional Public Prosecutor D. Maharajan said the prosecution examined 66 witnesses and produced 52 exhibits and material objects, including two country-made guns and two lorries used by the accused. The four men were brought to the XV Additional Sessions Court at Singaravelar Maligai under tight security on Monday, November 24, Judge L. Abraham Lincoln held that the eight-year-old child, who had held the attackers’ legs and pleaded with them not to harm her father, had clearly seen their faces and credibly identified them. He noted that the fingerprint expert’s evidence strongly corroborated the eyewitnesses and supported the prosecution’s version. “The prosecution has produced unassailable evidence against the accused, and the defence has not raised any serious doubt regarding the credibility of the witnesses,” he said. However, the court found that the prosecution had “miserably failed” to prove the involvement of Jaidar Singh or link him to the gang through admissible evidence. He was acquitted. The remaining three were sentenced to four to five life terms under Sections 397 (robbery or dacoity with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt), 396 (dacoity with murder), and for illegal possession of arms and ammunition. They will remain in prison for the rest of their natural life. The grave dacoities committed by the Bawaria gang, which once terrorised the State, came to an end a few years ago, but justice, even if limited, has been served. However, several gang members remain absconding and continue to evade trial in pending cases.

Hyderabad’s Anaya Sharma wins gold at Commonwealth Chess Championship 2025

Hyderabad: Anaya Sharma of Hyderabad can well be the next big thing to happen in the world of chess from Telangana. The eight-year-old Anaya, whose parents Gaurav Sharma and Aarti Bolaki are going all out to support her passion given the abundance of promise she has shown, won the gold medal in the Commonwealth Chess Championship 2025 held at Kuala Lumpur recently. Anaya dominated the girls’ under-8 category, outwitting strong opponents. She finished with an impressive score to clinch the honours, outsmarting higher-rated players along the way. The young chess talent began her journey at the age of five at the Kalpataru Summer Camp, Ekagra, and is now training at the Maestro Chess Academy at Attapur in the city. Anaya puts in a lot of effort to keep improving, training six to eight hours daily under the mentorship of Amitpal Singh.



is also keen to make a mark in academics and is one of the favourites of her school teaching staff. A fourth-standard student at Hyderabad Public School (Begumpet), she excels both on the 64 squares and in studies. Like all chess players, Anaya is targeting to be a Grandmaster soon and is confident of achieving that landmark. “I am grateful to my coach Amitpal Sir and fellow chess players for

Rediscovering lost flavours: Restaurateurs from Ladakh preserve culinary heritage in a changing world



collected before and after GAHT, the researchers could estimate the therapy's effects. Their analysis identified 245 proteins whose levels had changed in the group that received CPA and 91 proteins in the group that received SpiroL. In both the groups, GAHT had decreased the levels of most of these proteins. Using statistical methods, the researchers were able to attribute GAHT's effects on the protein levels to three factors: decreased testosterone concentration, increased body fat percentage, and higher breast volume. Beneath the surface The team also checked proteins whose levels had already been reported to vary with sex in a cisgender population using the UK Biobank's Pharma Proteomics project. In 2023, this project profiled nearly 3,000 proteins from around 54,000 UK-based participants and identified those most strongly associated with sex. Using a computational technique, they discovered that the levels of 36 such proteins were correlated with GAHT involving CPA use. For GAHT that involved SpiroL, the list numbered 22. For both groups, GAHT led to a noticeable change in these proteins' levels towards the pattern generally observed in cisgender women. The findings suggest feminising GAHT "changes thousands of proteins in the blood, aligning the body's biology more closely with a person's gender identity," Dr. Cheung said. "The changes go far beyond what we see on the outside; they happen deep inside the body's cells and systems." In the long-term The study's results also suggested that using either CPA or SpiroL might shift protein profiles towards those consistent with increased risks of allergic asthma and autoimmune diseases. Only CPA use shifted protein levels to those suggestive of lower atherosclerosis risk, i.e. the risk of blood vessels narrowing and hardening due to fat deposits. That said, Dr. Cheung warned that the risks are "only possibilities, not proven. We don't yet have clinical evidence showing higher rates of these diseases in trans women on hormones." Dr. Kalra also said he hadn't observed transgender women being more susceptible to autoimmune diseases in his clinical practice. The difference between clinical observations and the study's findings might arise because "autoimmune or allergic conditions take years to develop, and depend on multiple genetic and environmental factors," Dr. Cheung said. The protein-level changes observed are "early molecular shifts, not diagnoses". She also stressed the need for longitudinal studies that track transgender women's health over a period of time to understand whether these "biological patterns translate into real-world health effects".

Bangladesh godown fire: Smoke continues to billow from charred chemical warehouse day after tragedy claims 16 lives



Plumes of smoke continued to billow from a charred chemical warehouse in the Bangladeshi capital on Wednesday (October 15, 2025), a day after a devastating fire claimed the lives of at least 16 people. Fire service officials said the blaze was under control but not yet fully doused. The Daily Star newspaper reported. At least 16 workers were killed and several others injured on Tuesday in the fire that broke out at a four-storey garment factory and a chemical warehouse in Dhaka's Rupnagar area. The toxic fumes emanating from the burnt chemical godown building caused several workers at an adjacent garment factory to fall sick when they arrived for duty this morning, the newspaper said, adding that smoke was still seen emerging from the gutted

building. Rescuers struggle. Officials said due to the heavy smoke and presence of chemicals, rescuers are struggling to conduct operations inside. Many workers from nearby factories were seen outside their buildings, reporting feelings of sickness due to the fumes. A relative mourns while holding a picture of a missing person following a fire that broke out at a garment factory and a chemical warehouse in Dhaka.

A 25-year-old female worker of K-TEX Industries located in the same area said her factory was shut down after just two hours of work, the newspaper reported. "We came to the factory around 8:00 am and worked until about 10:00 am. After that, the authorities shut the factory for today after receiving information that workers at the nearby Rising Fashion factory had fallen sick from inhaling toxic fumes," she said. Bangladesh has a history of industrial disasters. Past industrial tragedies have often been attributed to safety lapses. In 2021, a fire engulfed a food and drink factory in Bangladesh, killing at least 52 people. In February 2019, a blaze ripped through a 400-year-old area cramped with apartments, shops and warehouses in the oldest part of Dhaka and killed at least 67 people. In 2012, about 117 workers died when they were trapped behind locked exits in a garment factory in Dhaka. Bangladesh's worst industrial disaster occurred the following year, when the Rana Plaza garment factory outside Dhaka collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

The unexplained drop in gender ratio following Bihar's SIR

In the 2024 general elections, Bihar was one of the few States where a higher percentage of women voted compared to men, even though there were fewer women than men registered on the electoral rolls. The plausible explanation for this was that a high number of men had migrated from the State to other parts of the country and were unable to travel back to their respective constituencies. One of the ostensible reasons for the Election Commission of India to conduct its Special Intensive Revision exercise — done within 40 days between June 25 and August 1 — was to exclude voters who were not ordinarily resident in Bihar, including migrants working outside the State. Given that the turnout of men was lower than the turnout of women (by several percentage points in some seats) in the election, it was expected that the share of male electors would be pruned, leading to a higher gender ratio from the 907 female voters for every 1,000 male voters registered in the 2024 general elections.

However, the final SIR rolls show the opposite trend. The gender ratio has come down to 892, one point lower than what it was in the draft electoral rolls in August. This suggests that there were barely any re-inclusions of women who had been excluded from the draft rolls. The fall in the gender ratio since the Lok Sabha elections in parliamentary constituencies also shows a moderate correlation (0.45) with the increase in female turnout relative to men. The chart below illustrates this relationship: in constituencies where the female turnout was higher than the male voter turnout, the exclusion of women from the electoral rolls was higher in the final rolls. It shows the ratio of female to male electors against the ratio of female to male voter turnout in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The chart below shows the gender ratio of voters in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in the horizontal axis and the decline in gender ratio since the elections to the final SIR roll. In parliamentary constituencies such as Gopalganj, which registered 1,218 women voting for every 1,000 men who voted, the reduction in the gender ratio from the 2024 general elections to the final SIR roll was 8.38% (967 to 886). The corresponding numbers for Kishanganj were 1,066 women and 7% respectively. These numbers suggest that a significant number of eligible female electors could have been left out in the final SIR rolls. In previous Data Points,

Powering up the Australia-India clean energy partnership

At a time when both India and Australia are pushing ambitious clean energy targets, it is timely that Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen is arriving in Delhi today (October 15) to meet his Indian counterpart, New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi. His visit comes amidst confronting vulnerabilities in the global supply chains of businesses and the government grappling with how to meet ambitious targets in the clean energy transition. The central challenge is clear: how to scale up renewable energy while avoiding an ongoing overdependence on China, which dominates the processing and manufacturing of critical materials. This is where the India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP), launched last year by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Anthony Albanese, must move from vision to implementation. If it is to succeed, both countries need to focus on joint projects, critical mineral cooperation and capacity building, turning climate ambition into practical, resilient outcomes. Mr. Bowen will have the chance to highlight the significance of this partnership when he delivers the Australia India Institute's Annual Oration in New Delhi this week. A climate change vulnerable region The Indo-Pacific is already experiencing the harshest effects of climate change. Between 1970 and 2022, the region averaged nearly 10 climate-related disasters a month, causing thousands of fatalities and billions in losses. By 2050, projections suggest as many as 89 million people could be displaced, with 80% of the region's population directly impacted. To mitigate the challenges, India has pledged to reach 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity by 2030, with about 280 GW to come from solar. And it is already five years ahead of schedule to reach it. In July 2025, half of India's installed electricity capacity is now from non-fossil sources. Meanwhile, Australia has recently set a 62%-70% reduction in emissions below 2005 levels, by 2035, raising its climate ambition in line with net-zero goals. Mr. Bowen said recently on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly that the emission reduction target is 'ambitious and achievable, but also investable'. Yet, targets alone do not insulate against structural risks. The global clean energy transition depends on critical minerals, solar components, batteries and hydrogen technologies. The risks of single country dependence

Today, much of this value chain is concentrated in one country. China refines over 90% of rare earth elements and produces nearly 80% of global solar modules, giving it a

we had found that the exclusions were higher in the 18-29 age category and particularly for the reason, 'permanently shifted'. The ECI said in the Supreme Court that women's names would have been excluded as they had migrated to other States after marriage. Yet, our data stories had shown that more men migrated for work than women who migrated for marriage, according to the Census and later surveys. Ground reports from Gopalganj and Kishanganj by The Hindu revealed that many women whose names were taken off had not gone far: some had moved to neighbouring villages in the same seat and some were registered in the rolls in booths which represented their residence after marriage. Yet, the large-scale reduction in the gender ratio across the entire State, except for a few seats suggests that not all women who had married and migrated to other parts of the State would have re-registered themselves in the rolls. When this question was put forth to the Chief Election Commissioner on October 5 in Patna, he put the onus on political parties to include names that had been left out and said such revisions could continue till 10 days before the deadline for filing nominations. The map below shows the seat-wise absolute change in gender ratio between the January and September 2025 rolls. The SIr exercise whittled down the electoral roll from 7.89 crore in January 2025 to 7.42 crore in September 2025, with the net exclusion of 47 lakh voters across Bihar. The map below shows the seat-wise percentage change in electors between the January and September 2025 rolls. The highest deletions have occurred in seats at or near the State's border.

pivotal role in the world's renewable energy supply.

For India, this dependence is acutely felt in sectors such as electric mobility and wind power, where the import of rare earth magnets and battery materials is unavoidable. For Australia, the story is different but connected: while it is one of the world's largest producers of lithium and has rich reserves of cobalt and rare earths, it lacks large-scale refining and downstream manufacturing. This vulnerability has already been tested. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed supply chain fragilities when component shortages disrupted production across sectors. More recently, China restricted rare earth exports, which sent a warning signal to industries worldwide. For India, such disruptions slowed the electric vehicle production. A leading Electric Vehicle (EV) scooter company, for instance, produced just 10,824 units of its EV scooters in July, nearly halving output from a year earlier. For Australia, they underlined the risks of being a raw-material supplier alone. These examples make clear why downstream processing, diversification and supply chain resilience are not optional but strategic imperatives. The REP presents a framework to respond to this challenge. It lays out cooperation across eight areas: solar photovoltaic technology, green hydrogen, energy storage, solar supply chains, circular economy in renewables, two-way investment, capacity building, and other shared priorities. Importantly, it also proposes a Track 1.5 Dialogue, bringing together policymakers, industry and research institutions to build practical collaboration. So, what does each side bring to the table? Australia's strengths lie in its resource base and regulatory stability. It can supply India with critical minerals such as lithium and rare earths, but the real value lies in co-investing in refining and processing infrastructure that strengthens the control both countries can have over the clean energy value chain. Australia's recent Net Zero Jobs Plan also reflects its focus on creating the skilled workforce needed for this transition, an area where collaboration with India makes sense. India's own advantage lies in its scale and youth. With nearly two-thirds of its population under the age of 35, India's demographic dividend can be directed towards clean energy manufacturing, installation and maintenance through programmes such as Skill India. Its growing market demand for solar, storage and hydrogen, combined with production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes, offers Australian firms an avenue to expand investment while helping diversify supply chains.

World Students' Day 2025 | Why are students so stressed out?



The Indian academic system is characterised by very rigorous curricula, intense competition, and a strong emphasis on examinations. While these aspects can sometimes be beneficial in fostering discipline and knowledge, they also create a high-pressure environment for students. 'Academic stress' is not a new word in the education sector. From parents to teachers to the administration, the word has been bringing more and more worry in India over the years. Many argue that the current academic system places excessive pressure on students due to demanding curricula, standardised testing, and high expectations from parents and society. From parents to teachers to the administration, academic stress and stress in general among students have been bringing more and more worry in India over the years. In March 2025, the Supreme Court of India issued a ruling regarding students experiencing extreme academic stress in educational institutions. A national task force was set up under former SC judge Justice S. Ravindra Bhat to address students' mental health concerns, identify the predominant causes that lead to students' suicides and recommend measures to create a more inclusive and supportive academic environment.

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court of India in *Sukdeb Saha vs. State of Andhra Pradesh* declared student mental health an integral component of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Various schools and institutions have taken initiatives to mitigate stress and promote mental well-being among students. From having peer-learning programmes to ensuring a counsellor is available on campus, there have been positive developments and initiatives to try to bring down academic stress. Despite the same, the numbers do not help the case much. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data in the 'Student suicides: An epidemic sweeping India' report 2024, the overall suicide numbers have increased by 2% annually, and student suicide cases surged by 4%, despite a likely "under-reporting" of student suicide cases. The report also mentioned how student suicides have grown at an alarming annual rate of 4%, double the national average, in the past two decades.

Board examinations, entrance tests and the societal expectations that follow the same often place immense pressure on students, leading to the fear of failure. The traditional Indian education system is heavily exam-oriented. More often than not, conversations with all-rounders go this way: "I used to have sports coaching or music classes during the weekend; I stopped everything in 10th grade." From early schooling years, students are expected to excel in their studies, often at the cost of personal interests, hobbies and, inevitably, their mental well-being. Board examinations, entrance tests and the societal expectations that follow the same often place immense pressure on students, leading to the fear of failure. Vaibhav Gopinath, a class 12 student, talked about how exam pressure keeps building over the months leading up to it. "We missed out on major holidays and events that happened, like Christmas and New Year's. We all did feel like we were missing out, but more than that, we were all struck by the fear of not scoring well in the next exam, so we didn't have the time to complain about all this," he added. With increasing subjects, assignments, projects, and homework, students often struggle to manage their time efficiently, leading to burnout. On top of this, parents, though well-intentioned, may unknowingly burden their children with unrealistic expectations, pushing them to excel beyond their limits. Parent and educator, Sandya Suresh, talks about how the Indian education system, in general, has a very stressful nature due to the quantity of the syllabus. "The exam and mark-oriented attitude on top of this forces the students to mug up their textbooks rather than understand them. Just giving one or two PT periods a week might not solve all the stress that follows the academic pressure put on students. The change needs to come from the grassroots level classes, and the syllabus needs to be cut down according

In memory of a pioneering industrialist of MadrasSriram V.

It was a #TIL moment for me. For years, I had passed by A.R.K. Colony, a cul-de-sac off Eldams Road, and always wondered as to what those initials stood for. You could have knocked me down with a feather when I got to know recently that they expanded to Anantharamakrishnan. Yes, S. Anantharamakrishnan, the founder of Amalgamations, that engineering conglomerate, has a space in the city named after him.

It was S. Muthiah's *Getting India on the Move*, the 150-year Saga of Simpsons of Madras that, in recent years, brought to light much of the good work done by Anantharamakrishnan, or 'J' as he was known within the group. What never fails to stun me are two aspects – the first is the zeroing in on the name Amalgamations for a group that, in the initial stages at least, came together by acquiring several companies. You cannot beat the kind of branding that says it all. The second was the belief, in 1949, that India would one day rise as an automotive giant. Spurred by that, J set up India Pistons Limited as the country's first automotive component manufacturer at a time when not a single car was made in India!

The other great move was kickstarting the Indian diesel revolution. Legend has it that it was at Wall Tax Road that a truck operator was actually paid by Simpson & Co., then importing Perkins diesel engines, to convert his vehicle to operate on this alternative fuel to petrol. That was in 1948 and what followed was the country moving over, continuing today when public transport, of people and goods, is still diesel based. The transport operators were greatly beholden to J, and many venerated him. One such was Venugopala Mudaliar, who lived in a large house off Eldams Road. The land was part of the 13-acre estate known as the Baobab, the erstwhile residence of John Bruce Norton, Advocate General of Madras in the 19th century, and later that of P. Chenal Rao, MLC. Other divided parts of the property had equally illustrious residents, namely Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar and Sir Mohammed Usman. When Venugopala Mudaliar developed his land as a residential enclave, he named it S. Anantharamakrishna Iyer Colony,

to the topic's relevance in today's world," she adds. The principal of Sree Narayana Public School in Kerala, Krishnaprasad S, talked about how parents need to be in a sensitisation session on parenting, handling their stress and not pushing the students to extremes. "Every school should have facilities to identify stress among students; teachers are the best people for the same. Understanding their potential and aptitude instead of pushing them without understanding their side will not help," he added. Many students also lack the necessary skills to cope with stress due to inadequate guidance and emotional support from both the side of educational institutions and schools. Without knowing how to cope, they often end up being labelled as a 'rebel kid' and unwelcomed targeted as well. Enabling access to proper professional mental health is extremely important in situations like these. Implementing mental health awareness programmes and having a counsellor on campus can be a first step towards helping those who need it. Meditation, yoga, and wellness workshops have also been seen to help some of the students manage stress; however, it is important to understand that each student might have different coping mechanisms. Ensuring the same is healthy is more important. How can one help?

There are mainly two stakeholders who can create an impact on this issue apart from students themselves – teachers and parents. Teachers can offer individual attention to students struggling with academics, recognise signs of stress, and guide students towards appropriate support systems. Students should feel comfortable reaching out to teachers, counsellors, or parents when experiencing academic stress. For this, a friendly and comforting bond between the two is needed. “We need to make sure the teacher-student ratio decreases as much as a school can afford. If teachers are overloaded with work, it will become more difficult for them to identify red-flag behaviours in children, like a sudden decrease in academic interest,” said Sangeetha P L, a clinical psychologist. Students of Govt Girls High School, Ernakulam, hug each other after appearing for the last exam of this year’s SSLC examination.

S. Ramakrishnasayee, a professor and guest faculty at La Chataelaine Junior College in Chennai, emphasises how teachers should be generous in their praise. "If a student who has been getting 15 marks out of 100 scores in an examination scores 20 or 25 marks in an examination, it is progress. Progress is not a relative concept. Let the child perform to their potential. Let it progress by and by. Education is all about that," he added. "School examinations just have a line of 'passing marks', and often the goal becomes to just ensure the students get past that rather than gain any knowledge in class. That system needs to change," says P N Suresh, a students' mentor and career counsellor from Kerala. Another step that can help is through the governments. They can allocate resources to ensure schools have trained counsellors available to help students as well as conduct national awareness programmes to educate students, teachers, and parents on the importance of mental well-being and how to address stress effectively. There can also be training programmes for teachers to recognise early signs of anxiety and depression to ensure early intervention and better student support. Even though there are programmes initiated, the implementation has not been successful, as the number mentioned earlier points out. To bridge the gap between policy and implementation, schools must ensure that mental health initiatives are effectively integrated into the curriculum. Ramakrishnasayee says, "Students can have stress-free studies if they are given freedom to pursue subjects of their choice. Parents and teachers should find out the students' aptitude and guide them. With the judicious mix of freedom and discipline, children can achieve optimum progress in academics." Another major stakeholder is parents, as they will be able to understand their child's strengths and skills over the years and set realistic expectations. With open communication and ensuring a reliable support system, they can also ensure the student feels free to approach them in case of extreme stress. Sangeetha also mentions how the lack of physical play and activities often increases the stress that students face. "I believe ensuring skill-based education rather than being mark-obsessed will definitely ensure a better learning space for children," she added. Moreover, collaboration between school authorities, teachers, parents, and students is essential in fostering a holistic education system that prioritises mental well-being alongside academic success. A collective effort towards reducing academic stress will lead to happier, healthier, and more productive students who are better prepared for the challenges of the future.



which over time was truncated to A.R.K. Colony. A plaque inside the compound still carries the full name. This, I think, is the only public marker for J – the man who set Madras off on its journey to becoming an auto major. There is also a statue to him inside Huzur Gardens, Sembium, in front of the India Pistons plant. That led me to ponder over which other industrialists of Madras have roads in their honour. There is a T.S. Krishna Nagar in Mogappair, remembering one of the four T.V.S. brothers. Ganapati Colony in Gopalapuram commemorates T.R. Annapathy Iyer, the founder of the Rane Group. And I assume Arunachalam Road in Kotturpuram commemorates A.M.M. Arunachalam, while Murugappa Road commemorates his father Dewan Bahadur A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar and older brother A.M.M. Murugappa. Though remembered more for his philanthropy, it must not be forgotten that K.V. Al Rm Alagappa Chettiar, commemorated in Purasawalkam, was an industrialist. Raja Sir Annamalai and his son Raja Sir Muthiah of the Chettinad Group have roads in their names. The former also has R.A. Puram named after him and his second son Ramanathan is the name behind M(ayor) R(amanathan) C(hettiar) Nagar.

Health issues in middle age can be linked to pregnancy years earlier



After Tania Saiz had a stroke at age 47, she went on a quest for answers. She wasn't aware of any significant health issues before the episode, and she had no known family history of cardiovascular disease. But as she looked for possible explanations, she discovered a clue from her past. While she was pregnant with her daughter nearly 20 years earlier, she had developed preeclampsia, a complication in which the mother's blood pressure spikes to dangerous levels. She was surprised to learn that the condition had raised her long-term risk for stroke.

"It was never brought up again," beyond the initial postpartum period, Saiz said of her diagnosis, and it was not discussed as something that could influence her health later in life. For most of modern medicine, the health care system has treated pregnancy as a finite event — a nine-month blip in a woman's medical history. Once a woman reached the end of pregnancy, the prevailing wisdom held that she more or less returned to her pre-pregnancy state.

But in recent years, a growing body of evidence has found that this is not always the case. Experts now believe that pregnancy can offer a window into a woman's future health, and can provide valuable information about her long-term risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke and other cardiovascular conditions. "What happens during pregnancy doesn't just end when the baby's born," said Saiz, now 52, and a volunteer patient educator for the American Heart Association. If she had known this earlier, she said, she could have taken steps to protect herself. Despite efforts by some medical organizations to raise awareness about these risk factors, few health care providers ask women who are more than a few months post-pregnancy if they experienced any complications, or manage their care accordingly, experts said. Not screening women with a history of complications is a "missed opportunity" to prevent disease, said Dr. Amy Yu, a stroke neurologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. [Link to long-term health](#)

The connection between several common pregnancy complications and cardiovascular or metabolic health later in life is significant, experts said. Women who experience hypertensive disorders during pregnancy, which include preeclampsia and high blood pressure and affect about 15% of pregnancies in the U.S., are at an increased risk for nearly every cardiovascular health condition, including chronic high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, heart failure and stroke, according to major studies. A Mayo Clinic study published last year suggests that they also develop coronary artery disease an average of seven years earlier than women without this history. And they are twice as likely to experience a heart attack that isn't due to a blockage in major arteries. The risks are "striking," said Dr. Vesna Garovic, a co-author of the study and the chair of nephrology and hypertension at the Mayo Clinic. Women diagnosed with gestational diabetes, which affects up to 10% of pregnancies in the U.S., are about 10 times more likely to be diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes compared with women without this history, which itself is linked to heart disease, stroke and dementia. Gestational diabetes "really is a red flag" for developing diabetes down the road, said Dr. Sarah Lassey, co-director of the Diabetes in Pregnancy Program at

‘Jo log zindagi mein kuch ukhaadh lete hain...’ Delhi Crime star Huma Qureshi credits father’s support for excelling in her life

A father who pushes you toward your dreams is one who sees the greatness you forget in yourself. Humayun Qureshi stands by these golden words and, in a recent conversation with The Male Feminist, shared how her father's relentless support and encouragement helped her fulfill her goals in life and career. "Unhone kabhi mujhe ye nahi bola ki main koi cheez kar sakti hoon ya nahi. Aaj bhi humare ghar mein, mere kisi aur bhai se poonche na poonche, mujhse humesha discuss karte hai (He has never said that I can or cannot do anything. Even today, in my house, no matter who he asks, my father always discusses things with me). He gives me that place," the Jolly LLB 3 actor told the host.



“Imagine your father giving you this seekh (lesson) in life, ki jo log zindagi mein kuch ukhaadh lete hai, ban jaate hai, insaan ke bachhe hi toh hote hai, Mars se thodi aate hai (Those who do something in life, become something, they are also children of human beings, they do not come from Mars). This is the biggest gift my father has given me,” she added.

Role of a father's support in his daughter's life Neha Cadabam, senior psychologist and executive director at Cadabams Hospitals, shared that a father-daughter relationship is unique, and even after a daughter becomes an adult, a father's voice still holds emotional weight. "Fatherly encouragement often signals emotional safety, validation, and belief. Psychologically, when a parent, especially a father in many cultures, affirms your goals, it helps internalise a sense of competence and permission to act boldly," she said. Huma Qureshi credits her father's support for her success in life Huma Qureshi with her family (Source: Instagram/ @iamhumaq) According to her, a strong father-daughter relationship correlates with higher well-being, lower psychological distress, and greater fulfillment of basic psychological needs. The steady backing of a father can indeed encourage daughters to take risks – after all, she knows she has an emotional anchor to fall back on in case things go awry.

Rima Bhandekar, psychologist, Mpower, Aditya Birla Education Trust, agreed, adding that supportive parenting is all about asking your child what they want to be, without adding "you should" right after. "Having a supportive parent is one of the predictors of a child confidently choosing their own career, even if it is far from parental legacy and societal expectations. This provides children with the space needed to choose what feels right for them, such as resources, encouragement, and emotional stability without judgement of tradition, societal status, prestige, and money."

Nearly 15 years ago, the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology updated their guidelines to include pregnancy complications as an official risk factor for disease, as evidence of a connection began to emerge. But new findings take a long time to make their way into both medical school curricula and clinical practice (for clinical practice, about 17 years), and many physicians and health care providers themselves are unaware of the risks, said Dr. Gina Lundberg, clinical director of the Emory Women's Heart Center. The knowledge gap among clinicians filters down to patients. "This is not something that our mothers and grandmothers were aware of," said Dr. Lauren Hassen, director of the Cardiology Postpartum Transition Clinic at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Until the late 20th century, the medical community thought that heart disease almost exclusively affected men. As a result, the causes of the disease in women still aren't fully understood. "More women die of heart disease than anything else, and we do not know all the risk factors," Lundberg said. But even with growing evidence of a link between pregnancy and heart disease, standard medical intake forms do not typically ask women about pregnancy complications, and patients' pregnancy records do not typically follow them throughout the medical system, so the pregnancy history is often overlooked. "We don't really have a seamless transition from obstetric to internal medicine care for these cases," Garovic said.

Some experts say that, gradually, more obstetricians are counseling newly postpartum women about long-term risks. But they often struggle with when and how to discuss the lasting implications of what their patients have experienced, especially when patients have just survived a traumatic pregnancy or delivery. "If they give you that information in the heat of it, you're already overwhelmed and terrified for your baby, right? So they often shy away from that until a later appointment, which sometimes never happens," Lundberg said. And so, many women remain in the dark about the risks. A recent study conducted by Yu found that less than half of women who experienced a cardiovascular or metabolic complication during pregnancy received basic follow-up screening for blood pressure, cholesterol or blood sugar in the three years after pregnancy. How to manage your risk? Your primary care provider doesn't ask you about your pregnancy history, be proactive about bringing up any complications you experienced, said Eleni Tsigas, the CEO of the Preeclampsia Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy group. "You've been given the gift of a normal baby," Tsigas said. "We don't need to wait until we get the diagnosis of diabetes or hypertension or heart failure," she added. "There are things we can do to be well ahead of that."

Depending on your medical and pregnancy history, a clinician may recommend more frequent or comprehensive screening for diabetes or heart disease, including more regular blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar readings. Experts also recommend taking basic steps for heart and metabolic health, including eating a heart-healthy diet, getting the American Heart Association's recommended amount of weekly physical activity and managing stress and sleep. "Most women put themselves last" when it comes to tending to their health, Lundberg said. "We kind of lose track of ourselves," particularly when caring for families, Hassen added. She and other experts said they were hopeful that educating women about these risks would motivate them to carve out time for themselves.

she explained. When a father stands by a child, it helps them realise that their self-worth isn't connected tightly to fulfilling someone else's dream, but their own passion. They are better prepared to handle setbacks on their own, said Bhandekar, adding that they are more likely to stand firm in their choices due to the nurturing space provided by parents who value who they are, not just what they achieve.

Apple announces fifth India store, set to open in Noida next week

New Delhi: Apple on Friday announced that it will open its first retail store in Noida on December 11, marking the launch of its fifth own store in India. The new outlet, Apple Noida, will be located inside DLF Mall of India and will offer customers a dedicated space to explore Apple products, get expert support, and experience the brand's services in person. The company revealed the store's design earlier today, showcasing a colourful design inspired by peacock feathers — a symbol of India's pride and creativity. This theme was also used during the recent openings of Apple Hebbal in Bengaluru and Apple Koregaon Park in Pune, reflecting Apple's effort to celebrate modern India through its retail experience. Apple said Noida represents design, ambition, and innovation, and the new store will become a place where people can discover, create, and grow with Apple products. The store will feature Apple's latest devices including the iPhone 17 lineup and the M5-powered iPad Pro and MacBook Pro 14".

Temba Bavuma explains how presence of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli will help offload some pressure from ODI captain KL Rahul



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma said that unlike the Test series situation where the sudden injury to captain Shubman Gill might have unsettled the Indian unit, KL Rahul, who is set to lead in the 3-match ODI series, will have had a bit more time to process getting appointed as the captain. The South African skipper also said that with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma returning to the Indian fold to play the OODI series, a little bit of pressure will be offloaded from Rahul.

"If you look at the Test series, that was something that

worked in our favour. To lose their captain in a big series, I think it's not easy to just replace him. I mean also as a player, as a batter as well. He fulfils a big and integrated role within their batting with the guys generally kind of bat around him. So I think within the Test series, that was a big loss for them," Bavuma said on Star Sports. "I think in the ODI setup, you know I mean at least KL Rahul, he's the stand-in captain. He's had a little bit more time to come to terms with I guess the prospect of being captain. He would have had time at least to prepare and really come to terms on what he needs to do. I think he's probably in a bit of a better situation and having guys like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma back into the team. so I think those guys will naturally take on a little bit more responsibility and kind of offload the pressure on him," he added. Gill got injured in the 1st Test in Kolkata and he left the field clutching his neck. He was hospitalized later in the day and while he improved, it wasn't enough for him to make a comeback in this series. The skipper was subsequently ruled out of 2nd Test in Guwahati as well as the ODI series. Regular vice-captain Shreyas Iyer also misses the series after he was injured taking a catch in the Australia series last month. He was admitted to a hospital in Sydney to due a laceration of the spleen with internal bleeding and was discharged after a few days.

IND vs SA | Temperament, talent, and timing: Is Tilak Varma ready for ODI spotlight?

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

On Friday evening at Ranchi, with the temperature dipping enough to warrant a small crowd to zip up their jackets, Tilak Varma ran his hands through his ruffled hair that's coiffured by the hair stylist Aalim Hakim, picked up a ball from the ground, and bowled his off breaks for quite some time. He then had a short chat with the batting coach Sitanshu Kotak as he donned his pads and went in for a batting stint. The same routine followed on Saturday afternoon, an optional nets day where he was joined by captain KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravindra Jadeja and Dhruv Jurel. Tilak was all around the nets, chatting with Kotak or the local spinners, or with his teammates like Jaiswal.

At one stage, on Saturday, two of India's support staff members whispered something to him, and soon he was whisked away by the broadcasters to the other side of the ground, where he gave a long-ish interview to them. It remains to be seen if he plays the ODI, but there are a couple of slots open from the last ODI team of India seen in Australia.

Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel are missing, and while Jadeja will slot into Axar's spot, the vacant spot to fill Shreyas' absence might well come down between Ruturaj Gaekwad and Tilak. The other option is the left-hander playing instead of Nitish Reddy, the third seamer in the team after Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana. Rahul did say how "Ruturaj has had to wait for a chance as the team is settled," and how "he will get his opportunity at some stage". It could well be Tilak, who was the Player of the final in the T20 Asia Cup, who gets his chance now. Be that as it may, he is at a fascinating stage of his career. The one thing that was missing in the Indian batting debacle in the recent Test series was some heart, jigar, apart from the most important skills. If there is one thing that's Tilak's calling card, it's his braveheart temperament. Cue up the six he hit off Haris Rauf in the second ball of the final over of the Asia Cup. Ravi Shastri nailed it on air: "What a temperament. To pull off shots like this in a huge game, in a pressure game, and do it calmly and so composed... this is magnificent." India's Tilak Varma bats during the Asia Cup cricket final between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025. India's Tilak Varma bats during the Asia Cup cricket final between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025. It was quite a shot. Unlike in the 15th over, where he bowled from round the stumps and into the hitting range of the left-handed Tilak, who smashed him for a four and a six, this time Rauf had at least got his angle right. He was over the stumps, and yet,



Tilak jumped all over him. It was a hard-length delivery angling away from the off stump, but Tilak stayed still, bent his back knee, fetched the ball and swung it up and over into the on-side stands. That set off Gautam Gambhir, who ferociously thumped the table in utter rage-filled glee.

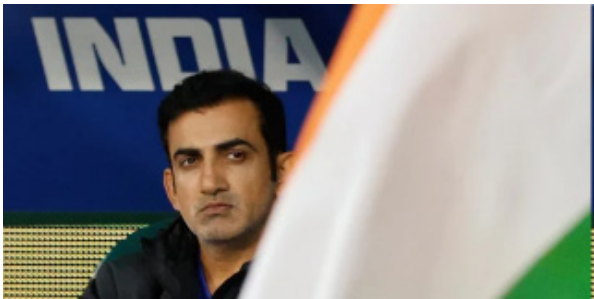
It wasn't just the stunning boundary hits that caught the eye, but what he did in the interim that really spoke about his temperament. In that pressure-cooker situation, he held the innings together, showing immense game-awareness, confidence, and guts to drag the game to the end. In between, he handled the sledging from Pakistanis with great maturity.

In an event in Hyderabad after the Asia Cup, when he was asked about the sledging, he said he couldn't even begin to tell what stuff was hurled at him. The world, courtesy of a viral clip, heard one episode. When the Pakistani wicketkeeper yelled out at him, 'Yeh Mumbai nahi hai' (This is not Mumbai, in reference to Tilak's exploits for the Mumbai Indians in IPL), to reiterate the stakes involved, Tilak just kept quiet. And near the end, after a vital hit, he turned and glared at the player. It's that temperament which enabled him to steer the team to a triumph that raises hope of his potential in the ODI format. He isn't just a hitter. He isn't just a finisher. He has the heart to soak up the pressure, has the game against both spin and pace, he has the nous to rotate strike with singles and twos, and possesses this admirable quality where it seems he rarely over-extends himself. It can all work in ODIs. Though one has to consider the failure of the T20 star Suryakumar Yadav in ODIs, and reign in any unbridled hype, the signs do look good. His stylist Hakeem notes his hair as having 'texture and bounce'. It can be said about his batting and personality, too. India needs someone with temperament and skills who can flow along serenely or up the tempo in that middle order in the absence of Shreyas Iyer. It could be Tilak Varma.

Gautam Gambhir and importance of having plan B to mentally deal with pressure situations

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Former World Cup-winning coach Paddy Upton had found Gautam Gambhir to be one of the most insecure and emotionally weak cricketers in the Indian dressing room. (CREIMAS) It's been an interesting couple of weeks for India's head coach Gautam Gambhir after India's series loss to South Africa. There have been criticisms galore, but he did front up to the media at the end of the series. It's been an interesting couple of weeks for India's head coach Gautam Gambhir after India's series loss to South Africa. There have been criticisms galore, but he did front up to the media at the end of the series. One of the key things he had said then was the kind of attitude he expects from the dressing room. "It comes from care. How much do you care about the dressing room and the team? Accountability and the game situation can never be taught. You can talk about skills, you can work on skills, you can keep talking about the mental aspect of the game, but ultimately when you go in, if you keep putting the team ahead of your own self, not thinking, 'this is how I play, and this is how I will get the results, I don't have plan B,' so sometimes you will get these kind of collapses as well." It's a trait that he himself had displayed during his playing career, at times detrimental to his own self. An interesting nugget was presented in a book by Paddy Upton, who was India's mental conditioning coach during Gambhir's playing days. Upton pointed out how Gambhir managed to rise as world no 1 batsman despite his confidence issues. In his 2019 book, 'The Barefoot Coach', Upton discussed the myth of mental toughness of elite sportspersons and used Gambhir's case as an example to make his case. In his telling, not everyone needs to have the stereotypical confidence, and Gambhir had shown how he could rise to the challenge of scoring runs for the team. "... But at the same time, he was undoubtedly one of the best and most determined and successful Test batsmen in the world. Something he would prove yet again in 2011 World Cup final," Upton added. "I did some of my best and least effective mental conditioning work with Gautam Gambhir, the International Test Cricketer of the Year in 2009. I worked with him up until that time but I had little to do with him being



named world's best cricketer," Upton writes in his book. "When he scored 150, he would be disappointed not scoring 200." Gambhir had responded to Upton's statements back then. "There is no sinful intention in Upton's views as he is a nice man, and in any case, my insecurities are well documented. "I wanted myself and the Indian team to be the best in the world. That's why I was not satisfied even after scoring 100 as it has been mentioned in Paddy's book. I see nothing wrong there. As a driven individual, I have tried to raise the bar for myself all alone," Gambhir would say."

Hyderabad announces squad for U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy matches

Hyderabad: In the BCCI Men's Under-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy for first two matches to be played against Maharashtra and Saurashtra at Andhra on December 7 and 12 respectively. The team: Aditya Vardhan (c), Huzaifa Imran (vice-capt), G. Parthiv Varma, Ram Charan Markatta, Biradar Satvik, P. Prince, Guru Vidhwan (wk), B. Varshit Reddy (wk), Md Basheer, Rithvik Rudra Nisangi, Ved Reddy,

Virat Kohli vs Marco Jansen Chapter 1: A little known first meeting between a legend and a net bowler at the Wanderers



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Early birds mostly get the worm, sometimes journalists landing on cricketing greens too soon also get rewarded. This is a story about the serendipitous sighting of an international cricket star. It also comes with a reminder – every acclaimed wicket-taker was once a modest net bowler. Like South Africa's all-rounder Marco Jansen – the chief script writer of South Africa's historic 2-0 Test against India – was once. This week during the Guwahati Test, on a pitch more suited for spinners, Marco got wickets with his pace and bounce. He also smashed 7 sixes in his 91-ball 94 when most host batsmen struggled.

But South Africa's 'find of the 2025 series' had presented his calling to the Indians, Virat Kohli specifically, six years back as a 17-year-old net bowler. How times change? Marco, the pacer on an ascendancy, fresh from bothering the Indians with his brutal bounce, will test Kohli in the ODI series that could decide his international future. He could possibly be his highest hurdle, if he plans to be around for the 2027 World Cup.

Unlike at Ranchi, where the entire town and MS Dhoni is expected to turn-up for the first ODI, the first Kohli-Marco face-off took place at the training arena at the Wanderers. This was January, 2018. It was an hour before India's net session before the final Test of the series they had already lost, a father and his twins were seen sitting in a dusty dug-out. Spotting an Indian journalist, they got talking. It turned out, the father of the two budding pacers, Koos Jansen, had driven for an hour and a half from Potchefstroom to be at the Wanderers. Virat Kohli South Africa ODIs India's Virat Kohli bats in the nets ahead of the 1st ODI match against South Africa in Ranchi.

The two lanky 17-year-olds, incredibly tall for their age, wearing identical maroon tracks, hadn't slept much the night earlier, dreaming of bowling to Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. They played for their school team but they had the 'look and feel' of potential internationals. The taller of the two was Marco and the other was Duan. The father was a rugby player who had quit after an injury when 38 and had pushed

Tanvi Sharma's inaccuracy in line smashes costs her Syed Modi semifinals against Hina Akechi



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

It's at 16-16 in the second, when Tanvi Sharma was on the brink of a comeback after trailing a set down in the first, that she over-hit a desperate down-the-line smash against Hina Akechi to eventually lose the Syed Modi International 21-17, 21-16. The World Juniors runner-up has the potential to set up the opponent, wrong-foot them and put them into grave discomfort. But she can fritter chances, allowing nervy inaccuracy to come in her way. Coach Park Tae Sang will be unhappy. Tanvi had been nailing the same flat, deep smashes until then, but it was clearly lack of composure that saw her fail to push a decider, and moments like those can be the difference between a title, like Saina Nehwal's at the Philippines 20 years ago, and Tanvi contesting a Super 300 final to take the next step. While the Indian trailed by 4 points at crucial junctures in the opener against the tactically sounder Japanese, ranked World No 40, she had her chances in the second.

Hina Akechi had the natural directional advantage of her southpaw stroke angles. But she is also deceptively powerful on her smashes – which she peppered towards the lines, even testing Tanvi's forehand reach in the opening game. Her court movement and variety in changing directions through crisscrosses also bothered the Indian as she couldn't quite maintain leads after securing them twice in the match. The shuttler from Osaka led 8-4 and 19-15 but

his sons into cricket because of their frame. Fast bowling was an easy option to choose. With mother a netball player of repute, they had sporting genes. Their big day at the India nets didn't unfold the way the two brothers had imagined. By afternoon, Marco and Duan looked faded. On that tour, India had way too many pacers. With Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Shardul Thakur and Navdeep Saini around, the net-bowlers sat twiddling their thumbs.

All the Jansen boys got to do was fetch balls that the Indian batters hit to the adjoining rugby arena. Marco once tried to hold on to a miss-hit but failed. Nothing was going his way. Marco would soon stroll to his father and make a face. The caring parent would ask him to soak in the experience. The boy wasn't buying that optimism. As the Indian batsmen started moving to the main stadium, he sat glum, the tragedy of missing the chance of bowling to his hero, written on his face. That's when Kohli decided he wanted to bat more. The assistant coach looked at the net bowlers and shouted – Any left-arm pacer there?. The Jansen brothers jumped out of the dug-out in an instant and were soon bowling to Kohli. Marco would beat the master batsman a few times. Kohli would shake his head and say "well bowled". They would run harder, bowl faster but get tired soon. Marco Jansen South Africa's Marco Jansen bowls a delivery on the third day of the second cricket test match between India and South Africa in Guwahati, India, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025. (AP Photo/Anupam Nath)

As Kohli ended his training, the father would shout – "Boys, get a picture with the great man." The teenagers were reluctant but eventually mustered courage and approached Kohli. A member of the Indian support staff team would take a picture. The taller of the twins would Whatsapp the picture to the journalist. More shy than he was when receiving the Man of the Match after the Guwahati Test last week, Marco would share his experience of bowling to Kohli. "This was a once in a lifetime opportunity," he would say. How wrong he was or was the young boy underplayed his potential? In three years time, in 2021, India toured South Africa again. By now Marco had made rapid strides, he was part of the South Africa's Test side. He would make his debut in the first Test at Centurion. Kohli was still the captain but not the batsman he once was. His last Test hundred was two years back. In the first innings, Marco didn't get a chance to bowl to Kohli. In the second, Marco was on top of the run-up bowling to the legend who had said 'well bowled' to him at the Wanderers net. In a theatrical coincidence, Marco would get Kohli on his first ball. It was the usual Kohli dismissal – caught behind trying the poke at a ball angled away by the left-arm pacer. He would get Kohli two more times in Tests and once in a T20 game. In ODIs he has bowled 11 balls to the Indian star without success.

Tanvi had her opportunities bridging the gap to 14-16 before she lost the first set. The second set saw a fightback. Tanvi, 0-4 down, went on a run of 6 points, with a spirited uptick in speed and grabbing of initiative. She belongs to the top tier of the sport in terms of speed and nous, knows it too, but tends to fortify her skilled strokeplay with stubborn rigour. Her winners are impressive, but the loose errors can easily outnumber them, and ruin all the hard work and talent. The promising Indian has further polished her flat smashes that travel almost parallel to the floor inches over the net tape, since her World Juniors campaign. Those can be quite unretrievable given the zing imparted on them. The stroke-filled Indian can also conjure net tumbles that trap opponents and has reliable drops close to the net. But her net defense isn't half as formidable, so when Akechi dribbles back in kind, Tanvi struggled.

The left handed Akechi could pin Tanvi to her backhand with down hits and her dribbles tangled up the Indian. A lot of it is to do with the striding to the front court, where Tanvi is unable to commit to the net while still being confident of being able to track back if needed. Coach Park will have to hyperfocus on what is clearly a strong area, with a few chinks that can chip at her confidence. Still, Tanvi did well to go from 0-4 to 6-4, before she dropped off to 7-12 and again clambered back to 15-15. Going for the lines boldly and soaking up the net pressure, the Indian arrived at 16-16. The accuracy issue at that point when she sprayed the smash overhitting it, cast a shadow on the remainder of the game, and Akechi went about coolly constructing points. Patience was lacking in Tanvi, who allowed desperation to cause more mistakes and it was soon 16-20, and a review gave the Japanese a chance at the title making the finals. Another of those Park-lessons will need to be on taking reviews, given how she burnt them twice early in the opener, and sponging energy off the home crowd, and making the most of home conditions. As a gifted stroke maker, Tanvi Sharma would hate to fritter chances on simple (simple to correct) mistakes of execution, like accuracy, after she reads games so well.

Smriti Mandhana wedding row: Choreographer Nandika Dwivedi breaks silence on rumours

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Mumbai: The drama surrounding Palash Muchhal and Smriti Mandhana's wedding refuses to die down anytime soon. The choreographer Nandika Dwivedi, who was hired for the now indefinitely postponed wedding, and is rumored to be part of the reason for the wedding being pushed, has now issued a statement putting an end to the fast-spinning rumour mills. Putting forth her perspective on the matter, Nandika wrote on her Insta Stories, "In recent days, I have observed speculation regarding my involvement in a matter that is profoundly personal for others. I wish to clarify that the assumptions being made about me—especially the notion that I contributed to any relationship disruption—are simply NOT accurate. It is incredibly distressing to witness a narrative develop around something I had no role in, and even more challenging to see how rapidly these stories proliferate without any factual basis (sic)."

"Media sources are particularly publishing articles based on information from platforms like Reddit, where anyone can share whatever they wish, leading to defamation. Please recognize that this will not be easy for me to navi-

gate; I cannot endure false accusations any longer. Please," she continued.

Nandika further stated, "I have been observing those I care for feeling anxious and hurt by false information, and it is affecting my mental well-being. I have received threats that my family members have noticed, which is why I made my account private. I kindly ask everyone to cease the rumors.... I have made significant sacrifices to come to Mumbai, to work and pursue my ambitions. Please do not associate my name with this any further; I am not involved in any of it. Ultimately, the truth will emerge."

Previously, another choreographer, Gulnaaz, who was also a part of the wedding, broke her silence with a social media post that read, "I have noticed a lot of speculation and false claims going around about me & my Friend Nandika, so let me clear this straight. We are not the people involved in this issue. Just because we know someone socially or have a photo with them doesn't mean we are connected to their personal matters. Please let's keep things respectful and not jump to conclusions. We appreciate your understanding and support (sic)."

Shatrughan Sinha meets Sunny and Bobby Deol, pays tribute to ‘elder brother’ Dharmendra with unseen photos



Shatrughan Sinha, who entered the film industry about seven years after Dharmendra, shared the screen with the veteran star on several occasions. Their first collaboration was in the 1969 film *Pyar Hi Pyar*, where Sinha appeared as an uncredited villain. This was followed by a cameo in the 1971 classic *Guddi*, and later a full-fledged role in Dharmendra's 1978 film *Dillagi*, in which Sinha played the role of an advocate. Over the years, their professional association blossomed into a warm friendship.

Following Dharmendra's demise, Sinha took to X to

express his grief and his regret for being unable to attend the funeral or the prayer meet as he was away from Mumbai. On my return from Delhi, went with a very heavy sorrowful heart to our dearest family friend our elder brother's @aapkadharam. He wrote: "On my return from Delhi, I went with a very heavy, sorrowful heart to our dearest family friend, our elder brother Dharmendra's home. It was a heart-touching meeting with his wonderful sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol, his attractive and charming wife Tanya, and their handsome sons Dharam and especially Aryaman."

He added: "It was great meeting them all and remembering Dharmji for the remarkable person he was. He will live forever through the many lives he touched. Prayed for their peace and strength in these sorrowful times." Along with Sinha, athlete PT Usha also took to X to recall a special memory—when Dharmendra sent her a cash prize of Rs 50,000 for her achievements in the 1986 Asian Games. Sharing a picture of the late actor, Usha wrote: "In 1986, after winning 4 Gold & 1 Silver at the Asian Games, Dharmendra ji sent me Rs 50,000 as a cash prize for my achievement. We couldn't meet personally due to our busy schedules, but sometimes love and affection are enough to keep hearts connected even 1,000 miles apart. RIP." Dharmendra passed away on November 24, just two weeks short of his 90th birthday. He was cremated at Pawan Hans in the presence of close friends and family. A prayer meet was held for the legendary actor in Mumbai on November 27.

Kishore Kumar was ‘busy clowning’ during Mr India recording, says Alisha Chinai: ‘He gave me a look...left without a word’

It was in 1987 that Boney Kapoor released *Mr India*, directed by Shekhar Kapur. The sci-fi classic, starring Sridevi and Anil Kapoor in the lead roles, was shot over nearly a year. Written by the legendary duo Salim-Javed—who split after this film—the movie remains unforgettable, thanks to iconic characters like Mogambo and Mr India, and evergreen songs such as "Kate Nahin Kat Te" and "Hawa Hawa". While *Mr India* evokes nostalgia for many, for singer Alisha Chinai—the voice behind the sensual "Kate Nahin Kat Te"—it also marks her memorable experience of recording with Kishore Kumar.

Alisha was barely 21 or 22 when she stepped into the studio to record the duet with Kishore Kumar, who was more than twice her age and already an icon. Composers Laxmikant-Pyarelal were at the helm. Terrified she might forget her lines, Alisha found Kishore da busy "clowning around," barely acknowledging her presence. In an interview with Pinkvilla, Alisha recalled: "I was so lucky and fortunate that I got to sing with him. After my song with Bappi Lahiri, I received a call from Shekhar Kapur's office and they said, 'We would like you to try this song.' When I went there, Shekhar was present, and then he told me it was going to be a duet with Kishore Kumar. I was very young." She continued: "The song was very oomphy. There was a seduction scene, and she's singing to Mr India, who's invisible—so there were all these oohs and aahs in the track. Mostly, it was the fact that Kishore da was in the same room, which normally doesn't happen these days. There was such electricity and vibe in the studio; it was amazing. That's half the reason why the performance turned out even better." She vividly remembers her first—and only—meeting with him: "We were in the same recording room and Laxmikant ji introduced me to him. He said, 'This is a new singer and she



is going to sing with you.' Kishore da gave me a very raised-eyebrow look and moved on without a word. His expression said, 'Yeh kya gaane wali hai!' He got busy clowning around, making funny remarks, while I tried to focus on getting the song right." "We never had a silly conversation. It was just getting on the mic while he kept clowning. That's it. We sang, and he left without saying anything to me. He didn't comment on what he felt, but from his looks, I guess he was shocked. Then he had to leave, so he left. We never got a chance to interact."

Anupam Kher says Naseeruddin Shah apologised after calling him a ‘clown’: ‘His bitterness sometimes targets me, Dilip Kumar, Rajesh Khanna’



Actors Anupam Kher and Naseeruddin Shah had a very public feud in 2020 after Kher voiced pro-government opinions following Deepika Padukone's controversial visit to JNU. The exchange played out online, with Shah making sharp remarks about Kher's "blood" and upbringing, and Kher responding with equal force. However, in a recent interview, Kher revealed that Shah has since apologised. Speaking to Unfiltered by Samdish in an

interview recorded around Independence Day, Kher said, "I still feel I have great respect for Naseer. However, he sometimes has loose-talk conversations about me."

He then recounted a recent meeting at filmmaker HD Pathak's memorial service, where Shah approached him. "We did meet recently where he apologised to me—said, 'Sorry yaar!' We met at HD Pathak's death," Kher shared. Describing their in-

teraction, he added, "When we met there, he hugged me because I always hug him. I really like him a lot, and he is one of the actors who inspired me to get into acting. But I think sometimes he just says things like that." Kher also expressed a sense of concern, "I don't want to say this out loud, but he is a brilliant and intelligent man and God has given him so much. Nobody is a bigger star than him in parallel cinema, yet I think there is some kind of bitterness that targets some-

times me, sometimes Dilip Kumar, and sometimes Rajesh Khanna." What happened between Naseeruddin Shah and Anupam Kher? In 2020, Naseeruddin Shah, during an interview with *The Wire*, praised Deepika Padukone for standing in solidarity with JNU students despite being "in the top firmament." In the same conversation, he took a swipe at Kher, calling him a "clown." Shah said, "Someone like Anupam Kher has been very vocal. I don't think he needs to be taken seriously. He's a clown... it's in his blood, he can't help it." He wrote: "I never bad-mouthed you or said anything rude to you. But now, I would like to say that you have spent your entire life, despite all the success, in frustration. If you can criticise Dilip Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Shah Rukh Khan and Virat Kohli, then I am sure I am in great company." He continued: "None of these people took your statements seriously... This is not you talking but all the substances you have consumed for years. They have clouded your judgement. If saying bad things about me gets you headlines for a couple of days, then this is my gift to you."

Mira Rajput says she was on a ‘high horse’ with early brand offers; recalls Shahid Kapoor’s reality check: ‘You’re just starting out’



Mira Rajput opened up about how husband Shahid Kapoor has always been her anchor—and the valuable lessons she has learned from him. When Mira Rajput married Bollywood heartthrob Shahid Kapoor in 2015, she instantly became a national talking point. Adding to the intrigue was their age difference: Mira was just 21, while Shahid—who had previously dated Kareena Kapoor—was 34. Even as fans were still processing the news, the couple announced their first pregnancy, welcoming a baby girl in 2016. Mira quickly became a go-to figure for all things motherhood and lifestyle, though not without facing her share of criticism. Yet, behind the scenes, it wasn't a solo journey. Shahid Kapoor was her steady support system every step of the way. In a recent conversation with Masoom Minawala, Mira opened up about how Shahid has always been her anchor—and the valuable lessons she has learned from him. "He has always given me a reality check"

short article insert Now 31, Mira is far more than a mother of two or a star wife. Over the past decade, she has

evolved into an entrepreneur, launching her skincare brand Akind and Dhun, a luxury wellness sanctuary in Mumbai. And through it all, Shahid—13 years her senior—has been her biggest cheerleader. "He has given me confidence," she said. "Sometimes self-belief comes from within, but other times, there's someone who tells you, 'You've got this.' He has always been that voice. Every time I've had crazy ideas, he has understood what it takes. He's like the wind beneath my wings—constantly saying, 'You got this, do it.' I still remember my second ad. I wasn't sure about the product. I was thinking like a mom and said, 'I don't want to endorse something I wouldn't give my kids.' I was sitting on this high horse saying, 'I don't agree with this brand.' And he told me, 'I don't know if you're doing the right thing. Find the right context. You're just starting out—...in the beginning, you may not get these opportunities later.' It was the hard truth, even if not politically correct." Fortunately, she took his advice. "He told me to find a way around it—and thank God I did. At that point, he was my reality check." Mira also spoke about Shahid's unwavering commitment to family and routine. "The way he wakes up before sunrise, plans his day, makes sure he's home to spend time with the kids—it's inspiring. When he's travelling, he always calls the kids. If he's in Delhi, he'll make it a point to meet my family." A partner, a friend, and an advisor—"He's a great listener," she added. "Sometimes you just want to vent without being judged, and he's that person—but he's not a blank wall either. He understands, but with a 'but...' and that's the kind of space I want to be in. Even when he says, 'Hey, maybe take 30 minutes today and be with the kids—you need those gentle reality checks.' Balancing work and family is a shared effort, she emphasised. "We balance it out. Sometimes I have commitments that take me away for a week, and I tell him I can't move my dates. He'll look at his schedule and figure something out. It's tag-team-ing. You need to divide and conquer."

From Rs 400 in the bank to charging Rs 3 crore per film, Anupam Kher recalls when he was ‘almost bankrupt’: ‘My house, office was mortgaged’

It was in 1984 when a 28-year-old Anupam Kher began his journey in cinema, debuting as a 60-plus retired common man in Mahesh Bhatt's perturbing *Saansh*. Cut to 2025, Anupam has starred in over 500 films, and continues to hold his ground in the industry. However, there was a time in the early 2000s when Anupam's career took a difficult turn. He had a production house and was experimenting with television, and that phase pushed him to his lowest financially, so much so that he was almost bankrupt.

He recalled this period on *Unfiltered* with Samdish, saying, "In 2004, I had almost gone bankrupt because I wanted to become a TV tycoon." Explaining how things spiralled, he added, "We were borrowing money. And I was the first person in my family to ever see Rs 10,000 at once in our family's 100-year existence. The interest kept mounting and it went so high that my chartered accountant told me we were on the verge of bankruptcy because there was only Rs 400 left in the bank. Both my house and office were mortgaged."

Anupam said all of this unfolded at a time when he was doing back-to-back big-banner films, and there was a widespread perception that he was "a very happening actor." Yet, despite the image, he was struggling silently. Over time, he managed to bounce back, and today, he says he is in a far stronger position. When asked how much money he charges per film, Anupam said, "Right now, I make around Rs 2 to 3 crore per film. I'm doing well." Anupam has spoken earlier about overcoming bankruptcy. Speaking to



Hindustan Times, he said, "In 2004, because I am not a business-minded person, I almost went bankrupt and then started all over again. I am a sum total of my failures. People started calling me thespian, veteran, and legend, which meant you should be given a lifetime achievement award and walk into the sunset. But I refused to do that. I went abroad and did an American series. After turning 60, people think about retirement but I started building my body."

Mira Kapoor’s business empire: Backing Rs 960 cr brand, fellow investor with Jennifer Lopez and building an ‘ecosystem of wellness’

Mira Kapoor married Shahid Kapoor when she was just 21, with a 13-year age gap between them. The couple faced some trolls in the beginning, but they held their ground and gradually became one of Bollywood's most adored pairs. While initially, the world knew Mira as Shahid's wife, she grew out of that and became an entrepreneur. Slowly and quietly, she has built a solid presence in the wellness and lifestyle space. "None of my investments are curated, but they have now come into this ecosystem of wellness and lifestyle," she said in a recent interview with Masoom Minawala.

During an interaction with Masoom Minawala, Mira revealed that her entrepreneurial journey started from content creation. She was approached by many brands during this phase and decided to invest in the ones she found extraordinary. "I just wanted to be myself on social media. This is what I like, this is what I like to wear. I followed the format of a blog and, along the way, there were brands that I found and I just felt that there is something there." She added, "A lot of my decision in terms of investments were from that same place—there is a spark, there is a need and the consumer wants it." This year in May, Mira launched Dhun Wellness, a luxury holistic wellness centre in Mumbai's upscale Bandra locality. According to a report in *The Hindu*, it occupies a 6,000-square-foot space, 13 treatment rooms, three private consultation suites and a recovery lounge. According to a report in *Mint*: a 60-minute sound healing session costs Rs 7,500, a 30-minute aura cleansing session is priced at Rs 10,000, an aura and chakra scan costs Rs 10,000, and a seven-day sleep-reset and gut-cleanse programme costs Rs 1.75 lakh.

During the interaction, Mira shared that Dhun Wellness is her passion project and she works at the centre Monday to Friday like a regular job. She said, "Even now, people are shocked that I am there Monday to Friday. That I have a regular day at work. I am there from 10:30 in the morning to any time I need to be at Dhun. Because it's a service business, I sit on the desk, take calls, look at the appointment software. I ask my team—What does that symbol mean? What does that mean? I look at the ad dashboard and the service quality. It's very important to be involved. You can't



just grow being the face of anything, you have to be involved." Mira and Shahid Kapoor are the brand ambassadors and investors in *Athletifreak*, a premium US athleisure brand that entered the Indian market this year, though it launched globally in 2021. It is founded by Mo and his wife Noor Wadhvani. While Mira's sister Noor Wadhvani is the founder of the company, her other sister Priya and Priya's husband Vidit Tulshan are the CEO and COO, respectively. In a way, the business has all the Rajput sisters working together along with their spouses.

Speaking about venturing into business with her sisters, she said in the interview, "Most recently, I invested in *Athletifreak*, which is an athleisure brand. I'm very lucky to have done that with my two sisters. I don't think anyone would ever imagine that three sisters would come together for a leisure apparel. You would think that it could be for yoga, pilates, and that kind of space. It was a conscious choice. It's quality of athleisure apparel that goes from gym to all kind of movements to lifestyle because there is a need for that in India." The prices of Mira's athleisure brand are significantly higher compared to others in the same space. On the brand's website, a men's hoodie is priced at Rs 11,499, a pair of men's shorts at Rs 7,499, and a men's jacket at Rs 8,999.