

Kothagudem excise staff protest against CI after constable’s suicide attempt

Kothagudem: Staff at the Kothagudem excise police station revolted against CI Jayashree, accusing her of harassing them while a female constable attempted suicide.

The constable, K Akhila, attempted suicide by consuming tablets used for allergy symptoms and other common ailments last Friday, and was treated. She said she had taken the step unable to bear the alleged harassment by the CI. Akhila’s family members staged a dharna at the excise office on Monday demanding action against the CI.

Pakistani officials allegedly stop Hindu pilgrim from joining Sikh jatha for Guru Nanak birth anniversary



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

“Pakistani officials told us you are Hindu, you cannot go with a Sikh jatha,” said Amar Chand, who was sent back along with six family members after crossing over to Pakistan to participate in the birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev.A jatha (group) of nearly 1,900 Sikh pilgrims had crossed the Attari-Wagah border on Tuesday to take part in the Parkash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev. Chand said he was among those pilgrims.

He claimed that his family wanted to offer prayers at

gurdwaras in Pakistan on the occasion of Parkash Purb of the Sikhism founder. “They sent us back because I was a Hindu,” he said.According to Chand, he and his family completed all formalities after crossing the Attari-Wagah land route. “We were asked to board a special bus for pilgrims. We spent ₹95,000 (Pakistani currency) on bus tickets for all seven members,” he told PTI.He alleged that five Pakistani officials then arrived and asked them to disembark. “The Pakistani officials told us you are Hindu, you cannot go with a Sikh jatha,” said Chand. “Then they sent us back,” he added, saying Indian officials questioned their Pakistani counterparts about the reason for the decision.Chand, who was earlier a Pakistani national and came to India in 1999 before obtaining Indian citizenship in 2010, said the amount spent on bus tickets was not refunded.A resident of Delhi, Chand also claimed that seven other Indians from Lucknow were similarly turned back.Meanwhile, the jatha, which is visiting Pakistan from November 4 to November 13, will visit Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, Gurdwara Panja Sahib, Gurdwara Sacha Sauda, and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur.Earlier, the Centre had refused permission for Sikh pilgrims to travel to Pakistan for the Parkash Purb citing the security situation. Later, the Union government allowed a Sikh jatha to visit the gurdwaras in Pakistan.

BRS govt spent Rs 5,328 crore on Jubilee Hills development, says KTR

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday released the Jubilee Hills Progress Report, detailing the development and welfare works undertaken in the constituency during the BRS regime from 2014 to 2023. He said the previous government had spent Rs 5,328 crore for infrastructure, housing, welfare and social development, directly benefiting over 2.12 lakh people.According to the report, the highest expenditure of Rs 2,463 crore went toward public transport and roads, including the Rs 333-crore Shaikpet flyover, Rs 408 crore for road maintenance under the CRMP scheme and Rs 1,722 crore for an 8.4-km Metro Rail stretch. The BRS government spent Rs 919 crore on public health, which included Rs 900 crore for the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) at Erragadda, and funds for KCR Kits, Kanti Velugu, nutrition kits and Arogya Lakshmi schemes.

For housing, Rs 324 crore was used for constructing double-bedroom houses. In the social welfare sector, Rs 705 crore was spent on schemes such as Aasara pensions (Rs 564 crore for 25,905 beneficiaries), Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Lakshmi (Rs 63 crore for 6,320 families), Dalit Bandhu (Rs 10.6 crore), BC Bandhu (Rs 3.8 crore), and Ramzan and Christmas festive support for over

TVK declares independent contest, Vijay named Chief Ministerial candidate



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Chennai: Bringing to a close weeks of political speculation, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on Wednesday announced that it would contest the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections independently, with its founder and actor Vijay named as the party’s Chief Ministerial candidate. The decision was formally announced at the party’s special general council meeting held at a private hotel in Mamallapuram. The meeting, presided over by Vijay, was attended by more than 2,000 general council members, party district secretaries, and office-bearers from across the State.The session began on a sombre note with a two-minute silence in memory of the 41 people who died in the Karur stampede during Vijay’s rally on September 27. The tragedy, which had cast a shadow over the party’s activities, was acknowledged as a “painful lesson” that strengthened TVK’s resolve to ensure better safety measures at future public events.

During the meeting, the general council adopted 12 resolutions setting the political and policy tone for the upcoming polls. One of the key resolutions urged the Election Commission of India to halt the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise could disenfranchise eligible voters.The TVK accused both the DMK government in the State and the BJP-led Union government of “failing to protect Tamil interests”, particularly in connection with the repeated arrests of fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.Another resolution condemned what it described as the “shocking deterioration” of law and order in Tamil Nadu, pointing to the Coimbatore college student sexual assault case as evidence of the State’s “failure” to ensure women’s safety.The council also raised concerns

about the hardships faced by delta farmers following delays in paddy procurement and the sprouting of harvested crops in fields, and criticised the government’s alleged inaction against encroachments on wetlands. It further demanded the publication of a White Paper on industrial investments to bring transparency in job creation and infrastructure development.The resolutions reaffirmed that decisions regarding electoral alliances would be taken only by Vijay and that the party would spearhead its own front in the 2026 elections. Meanwhile, police removed party banners and restricted flag displays around the venue, citing security concerns.

Revanth Reddy threatening Jubilee Hills voters, says BRS

Hyderabad: Former MLA Balka Suman charged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with intimidating voters ahead of the Jubilee Hills by-election, calling his remarks a new low in the State politics. He said no Chief Minister in the country’s history had ever resorted to threats during a poll campaign.

Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, Suman stated that the fear of defeat was visible in Revanth Reddy’s statements and his impatience could be sensed from his personal attacks on BRS working president KT Rama Rao. He accused the Congress government with unleashing a State-sponsored intimidation, citing attacks on the BRS activists in Jubilee Hills constituency.

He said Congress candidate Naveen Yadav and his associates were threatening BRS supporters and questioned how a person with a criminal background was allowed to serve as Naveen Yadav’s chief election agent.Meanwhile, BRS minority leaders accused the Congress of betraying Muslim voters. BRS leader Mukheeb Chanda said Muslims had lost faith in Revanth Reddy’s leadership, considering his proximity to the BJP and failure to deliver on promises such as the construction of a graveyard in Borabanda.“Revanth Reddy repeatedly backtracked from promises made to the minorities especially burial grounds for Muslims. Mohammed Azharuddin was given a Cabinet berth, only as a poll tactic,” he added.

Hyderabad police to deploy AI for smarter investigations and policing

Hyderabad: City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar on Wednesday announced that the department is considering the use of advanced technology and Artificial Intelligence to expedite investigations and enhance policing efficiency.Stressing that basic and core policing remain the foundation of effective law enforcement he warned that strict action would be taken against any negligence that tarnishes the image of the police force.Addressing senior officers and Station House Officers at a review meeting held at the TGICCC in Banjara Hills, Sajjanar outlined priority areas including law and order maintenance, crime control, community engagement, technology adoption, and human resource management.

KTR condemns Revanth Reddy’s anti-Muslim remark, demands apology



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao found fault with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his controversial remark that there are no Muslims without the Congress. Condemning the statement as insulting, he demanded an unconditional apology from the Chief Minister to the Muslim community.“Muslims existed long before the Congress was formed. Revanth Reddy should come out of his ignorance. Just like there will always be Hindus even if there is no BJP, Muslims will remain even if there is no

Congress,” he asserted.Stating that the Chief Minister’s comment was a desperate attempt to communalise politics ahead of the Jubilee Hills bypoll, he said Revanth Reddy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a “Fevicol bond,” as a Congress-BJP joint government was effectively running Telangana.

“While Rahul Gandhi accuses the CBI and ED of being political tools of the BJP, Revanth Reddy happily handed over the Kaleshwaram project case to the same agencies. What more proof is needed to show his double standards?” he asked.Referring to the ACB case against him in the Formula-E race controversy, the former Minister said the Governor had already permitted prosecution but the Congress government stalled it since the charges were baseless. He countered the allegations by daring the Chief Minister to undergo a lie detector test together on a public platform.“I am ready for a lie detector test on the Formula-E race case. Let Revanth Reddy also take one in the ACB case on the Cash for Vote scam. People will know who is the real culprit,” he said. The Constitution of India establishes Freedom of Religion as fundamental right to all it’s citizens. Thanks to Babasaheb Ambedkar, Freedom of Religion was ingrained in the soul of the Constitution under Articles 25 to 28. It is the Constitution of this great nation that allows...

KTR dares Revanth Reddy for open debate on Hyderabad’s development record

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday dared Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for an open debate on Hyderabad’s development during the 10 years of BRS rule versus the two years of Congress governance. He asked the Chief Minister to fix the date, time and place for the debate.“Let’s settle who developed Hyderabad and who ruined it. I am ready to come anywhere, whether it is his Jubilee Hills palace, the Integrated Command Control Centre, Gandhi Bhavan or the Assembly. If Revanth Reddy is honest and courageous, let him come for a debate. The people will see who has delivered and who has destroyed,” he said.Unveiling the Jubilee Hills Constituency Progress Report at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao said the Chief Minister was speaking out of frustration after sensing defeat in the Jubilee Hills by-election.“We can speak to him in a language he understands, but we choose restraint out of respect for his office, even if he does not respect it himself,” he asserted.Explaining Hyderabad’s transformation under the BRS regime, he said the K Chandrashekhara Rao government had built 42 flyovers and underpasses, while the Congress had neither laid a single new road nor filled even a single pothole.He ridiculed the Chief Minister for merely inaugurating projects completed under the BRS rule without executing any new works. The Swachh Hyderabad initiative had turned the city into a model for urban governance, introducing thousands of Swachh autos and collecting 7.5 metric tonnes of garbage daily.“Hyderabad won 30 national and several international awards as India’s most liveable city. Now, Congress has turned it into a cesspool,” he said, pointing out that the



Congress government was billing citizens for water that was supplied for free during the BRS regime and forcing people to depend again on water tankers. The Chandrashekhara Rao government had built one lakh double-bedroom houses in Hyderabad, while the Congress regime demolished thousands without building new ones.Rama Rao reminded that the BRS had completed the Hyderabad Metro Rail, ensured 24-hour power supply, and illuminated Telangana with LED installations.“Now, power cuts are back. Show us one LED installed by your government,” he said, also slamming Revanth Reddy for intimidating L&T officials connected to the Metro project and forcing them to exit the project.The BRS government had developed over 16,000 nurseries across Telangana, while Congress had cut trees and damaged biodiversity in its alleged plan to sell Hyderabad Central University land worth Rs 10,000 crore at Kancha Gachibowli.

NASA-ISRO’s NISAR satellite to be declared operational on Nov 7, says ISRO chief



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

New Delhi: NASA and ISRO are all set to declare their first-ever jointly developed NISAR satellite operational on Friday, ISRO chairman V Narayanan said here on Wednesday.The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR), said to be the most expensive Earth observation satellite ever built, has the ability to monitor most of the planet’s land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days.The 2,400 kg NISAR satellite was launched on July 30 from ISRO’s Satish Dhawan Space Centre using the GSLV rocket. “Entire data calibration has been completed, and we will have a conclave on November 7 to declare the satellite operational,” Narayanan said at the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) here.The NISAR mission is the first to carry two SAR systems – the L-Band and S-Band sensors. The L-band radar can penetrate forest canopies and measure soil moisture, forest biomass, and the motion of land and ice surfaces.The S-band radar is more sensitive to small vegetation, and can observe certain types of agriculture, grassland ecosystems and moisture in snow. Both sys-

tems can collect data through clouds and precipitation, day and night.“All the data is very outstanding. Every 12 days, the Earth can be scanned, and it is going to be a highly useful satellite,” Narayanan said. The ISRO chief also said the first uncrewed mission of the Gaganyaan project — India’s human spaceflight programme — is expected to take place in January, with plans to send its astronauts into space on a home-built rocket by 2027.Narayanan said over 8,000 tests have been carried out for the mission so far, and ISRO plans to conduct three uncrewed missions before sending astronauts to orbit the Earth.He said India also plans to launch the first module of the Bhartiya Antariksh Station by 2028 and make the complete five-module orbital lab operational by 2035.

Minister Azharuddin gets surprise World Cup win credit from Revanth Reddy

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Hyderabad: In what could be billed as a master class in creative history, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy once again gave cricket fans a reason to scratch their heads on Wednesday.While addressing an election rally in Shaikpet, he proudly credited his new Cabinet colleague Mohammed Azharuddin with leading India to a World Cup victory. A touching tribute, but except for one tiny detail. ‘Azhar Bhai’ never actually did that.An enthusiastic Chief Minister declared that he had made Azharuddin his cabinet colleague. He was the one who “brought laurels to the country by winning the World Cup”, the Chief Minister roared as the crowds silently listened while Azharuddin himself, standing a foot away from him, looked the other side.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Intense battle on in Bengaluru for a 'new' Congress CM

The penultimate month of 2025 has begun in an unexpectedly turbulent manner in Karnataka. After all, the struggle for the pinnacle of power in the south-western state of India – the CM post – had been set in motion right from the day Congress assumed power in May 2023. While it is still unclear whether it had the backing of the high command or not, it seemed like there was an undeclared agreement between the top two leaders – Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar – that the two would trade places at the midpoint of the five-year government, which happens to be this month.

As the deadline drew near, the pulls and pressures from both lobbies started impacting the political atmosphere in the state for some weeks now. While the CM, who has survived similar power struggles throughout his long career, emphatically denied existence of any such power-sharing arrangement and asserted that he would last the full term, the Deputy CM, also the state unit chief, was not openly contradicting it yet had enough backers within the state Congress unit and government to raise a call in his favour. After having joined the Congress nearly 20 years back, Siddaramaiah has proved to be more useful and effective to the New Delhi power lobby. His smart usage of the potent minority and backward caste cards have kept his detractors a little wary of what his next moves could be and presumably, a better candidate for remaining at the top of the helm. In contrast, a life-long Congress man, Shivakumar, has been feted for his crisis management dexterity and ability to raise funds for various political wheeling-dealing in States where Congress is in power. Yet, he has been deprived of the CM chair as he doesn't have the aggregating influence of his arch-rival,

CP Rachakonda Visits Keesaragutta Temple



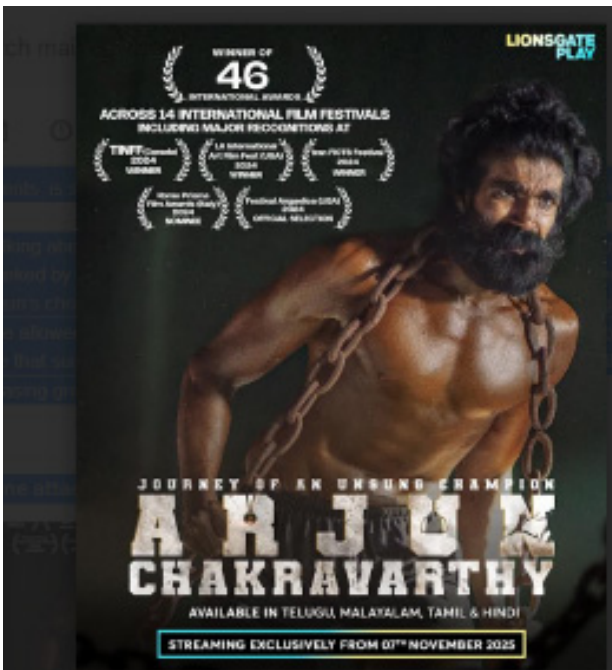
Hyderabad: Today CP Rachakonda, Sri G. Sudheer Babu, IPS, visited Keesaragutta Temple on the occasion of Karthika Pournami and reviewed the security arrangements. The commissioner instructed the staff to strengthen security measures and ensure the smooth conduct of the celebration.

Tension Over MLA Tellam Venkat Rao's Political Future "Hearing Before Speaker Today"



““BHUKYA RANJITH NAIK, BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM DISTRICT BUREAU, NOVEMBER 5, INDIAN CHRONICLE: “The political future of Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkat Rao has become the center of intense speculation in district political circles. With the Speaker scheduled to conduct a hearing on November 6 (today), all eyes are on the explanation he is expected to present. “Although an MLA from the BRS, Tellam Venkat Rao has been actively participating in Congress meetings and appearing frequently at government programs in recent days. His visible political engagement with rival party activities has sparked curiosity about his next move. “However, the MLA has clarified that his participation is solely for the development of the Bhadrachalam constituency, not for political realignment. Meanwhile, BRS leaders consider his actions as a sign of indiscipline and anti-party activity. “The case has gained further significance as it coincides with the disqualification petitions filed against ten BRS MLAs accused of switching allegiance to the Congress. “As per Supreme Court directives, the Speaker is expected to deliver a decision within three months, which has accelerated the pace of the inquiry. “Political observers note that the hearing will be crucial — whether Venkat Rao retains his MLA post or faces disqualification will largely depend on his response before the Speaker. “While Congress leaders are extending their support, BRS cadres are openly criticizing his recent moves. “According to analysts, even if he loses his position, Tellam Venkat Rao is likely to secure an important role within the Congress, a factor believed to be influencing his current political calculations. “Amid these developments, people in Bhadrachalam express concerns that development activities might be affected and political instability could emerge in the district. “In conclusion, the decision that Tellam Venkat Rao takes today is expected to become a turning point not only for his political career but also for the political landscape of Bhadrachalam.

Arjun Chakravarthy storms onto Lionsgate Play with a Kabaddi saga of grit and glory, premiering November 7 on Lionsgate Play



Hyderabad: A warrior. A sport. A story that deserves to be told. Arjun Chakravarthy: Journey of an Unsung Champion, the Telugu biographical sports drama that captures the beating heart of kabaddi and the spirit of a forgotten hero is set to stream exclusively on Lionsgate Play from November 7. Driven by the vision of director Vikrant Rudra, the film transports the viewers to the 1980s Andhra Pradesh, an era when kabaddi was more than a sport, it was an identity, a battle, and a way of life. Starring Vijaya Rama Raju as Arjun Chakravarthy, alongside Dayanand Reddy, Sija Rose, Ajay, Ajay Ghosh, and Durgesh Lankalapalli, the

film unspools the remarkable journey of an orphan, Arjun, whose struggles and triumphs echo the dreams of every athlete who dares to fight for glory.

Born an orphan and raised by former kabaddi player Rangaiah, Arjun's dreams of representing India. But his journey, marked by systemic neglect, personal loss, and inner demons becomes a powerful tale of resilience and redemption. Winner of 46 international awards and inspired by true events, Arjun Chakravarthy is more than a sports drama; it's a salute to the unsung heroes of Indian sports and one man's unyielding pursuit of greatness in a world that almost forgot his name.

Talking about how the film came to be, Director Vikrant Rudra said, “With Arjun Chakravarthy, my goal was to show the raw heartbeat that pulses under every athlete's story, the victories that don't make headlines and the defeats that transform character more than score ever could. Kabaddi has long demanded everything from its players but rewarded so few. Through Arjun's journey, viewers will witness the immense emotional cost behind every medal, every match, and every moment when the world turns away. The story, while rooted in real events, is shaped by thousands of athletes who sacrificed quietly, embodying both heartbreak and hope.” Talking about the film, Lead actor Vijaya Rama Raju said, “Stepping into Arjun's shoes was a test of will and understanding. His path, marked by loneliness, tenacity, and heartbreak, echoes every unsung player who waged silent battles, both personal and professional. Arjun's choices, his love for Devika, the single-minded pursuit of kabaddi glory, forced me to examine what makes a true champion. This role allowed me to salute not just Nagulayya, but every athlete denied recognition. In many ways, Arjun's story changed me - it reminded me that success isn't about applause, it's about endurance. Through this film, I hope audiences feel the cost and courage involved in chasing greatness when the world won't look your way.”

MMRDA's 70 KM Underground Tunnel Project - A Game-Changer For Mumbai's Traffic Problems

““DNV Srikanth, “Manikonda, “Nov 05, “Indian Chronicle ““Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) had proposed a 3 stage underground tunnel project which is aimed to be completed in 3 phases. This underground tunnel project constitutes the construction of network tunnels across Mumbai connecting key locations and roads. An official from MMRDA had elucidating the 3 phases told “To avoid congestion and bottlenecks in city the project is aimed to divert through traffic via underground tunnels”. “- Phase 1: A 16-km tunnel linking Worli (coastal road) to BKC and Mumbai Airport Terminal 2. - Phase 2: A 10-km stretch connecting both express highways with direct airport access. - Phase 3: A 44-km north-south corridor to streamline freight and commuter traffic. ““MMRDA plans to take up the implementation of first phase immediately in which a feasibility report is being prepared that helps in finalising cost estimates, construction methodology and essential approvals and permissions. ““The first phase of the project is a tunnel which is nearly 16 km long tunnel linking Worli (coastal road) to BKC and Mumbai Airport Terminal 2, also provides connectivity to the proposed Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train



station at BKC. ““The second phase of the project connects two major thoroughfares - the Eastern Express Highway that links commuter belt on the eastern part of the city and Western Express Highway that links commuter belt on the western part of the city. ““The third phase is a longest tunnel which is roughly 44 km long north-south corridor that serves freight and commuter traffic.

Massive Response to Mega Health Camp Organized by Neredam Balayya Bhagyalakshmi Trust: Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Attends as Chief Guest“

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 5 (Indian Chronicle) ““A Mega Health Camp was organized on Wednesday under the auspices of the Neredam Balayya Bhagyalakshmi Trust, led by Trust Chairman and Uppal Constituency JAC Leader Neredam Bhaskar Goud, along with Dr. Neredam Manush Goud and family, at Novital Bentik Hall, Chilukanagar. Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and inaugurated the Mega Health Camp. On this occasion, Neredam Bhaskar Goud was felicitated grandly and his birthday was celebrated with a cake-cutting ceremony. “Speaking at the event, MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy appreciated the efforts of the Trust for organizing a free medical camp, conducting free eye check-ups, and distributing spectacles to the needy. He praised the social service initiatives being carried out by the Trust. “During the camp, free eye tests were conducted for about 2,000 people, and spectacles were distributed free of cost. Free homeopathic medicines were also provided to the attendees. The health camp received an overwhelming public response. Several representatives and community leaders participated in the program, including BC JAC members, caste association leaders, colony association



representatives, and Auto-Trolley Union members such as Ambati Jagadish, Srinivas, Venkatesh, Shravan, Gajjala Satyaraj Goud, Puppala Venkateshwarlu, Kompalli Ravinder, Palle Nursing Rao, Eerelli Ravinder Reddy, Pittala Naresh, Bajaru Jagannath Goud, Narasimha, Sudhakar, Babu, Koheda Prasad, Bal Reddy, Mohan, Keshav, Suman**, and BC Political JAC leaders Aili Venkanna Goud, Ambala Narayana Goud, Durgayya, and others.

Road Closure at Dammaiguda Anushakthi Nagar Causes Major Inconvenience to Siddhartha Colony Residents

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN



CHRONICLE) ““Residents of Siddhartha Colony are facing severe inconvenience after a few individuals allegedly blocked the main road connecting Anushakthi Nagar Water Tank to the colony. The closure of this key route has forced residents to take a long detour through the main road,

adding several hundred meters to their daily travel. Locals said the issue is affecting everyone school children, elderly people, and daily commuters as they struggle to reach schools, hospitals, and workplaces. They questioned the authority behind closing the road and demanded that immediate action be taken to reopen it. Residents stated that they have been submitting petitions to officials and local representatives for years, but their requests have been ignored. They expressed frustration that no one has paid attention to their repeated appeals.

The situation has worsened further after underground drainage works, which began recently, were left incomplete midway. Residents accused those responsible for the road closure of acting for their own personal benefit while violating the public's right to free movement. They urged authorities to intervene and restore access to the blocked road immediately.

Winning in sport begins with healthier everyday habits, like good ORAL HEALTH, says cricket legend Rahul Dravid



Hyderabad: In a recent episode of Breakfast with Champions, legendary cricketer and Head Coach Rahul Dravid brought critical attention to an often-overlooked element of peak athletic preparation: ORAL HEALTH. Drawing on his experience at the highest level of competitive sport, Dravid highlighted how meticulous attention to the "smallest things" now defines the pursuit of excellence, confirming that ORAL HEALTH is fast becoming recognized as an essential factor in achieving and maintaining superior sporting performance.

Dravid emphasized that in modern, high-stakes competitions, success hinges on securing the slightest advantage, or the "1% margins". He asserted that dedication to physical condition now extends to every detail of an athlete's well-being, especially ORAL HEALTH. Dravid cited the example of elite global sport, noting that Hansi Flick, the coach of FC Barcelona, made ORAL HEALTH checkups compulsory for athletes, alongside their physical requirements. This decision underscores a growing global trend to elevate oral care from basic hygiene to an indispensable component of performance fuel. "You don't necessarily think about this, but when I read that and read the research around it, it makes absolute sense. If you're going to look after yourself as a professional athlete, you've got to look after your ORAL HEALTH as well," Rahul Dravid said. Reflecting on his own career, Dravid underscored this crucial link:

"Even looking after sometimes the smallest things can impact your performance and can make a difference in your performance... people are going to that level of attention and that level of detail looking after everything whether it's oral hygiene or nutrition everything makes a difference". Proactively maintaining optimal ORAL HEALTH is vital to eliminating potential distractions and physical impediments, providing the competitive advantage athletes constantly seek. The strategy is clear: Prevent Problems. Perform Better. Rahul Dravid's compelling message serves as a timely reminder that for athletes striving for top performance, ORAL HEALTH goes beyond basic hygiene, it can quietly contribute to giving a competitive edge.

Maganti Sunitha Gopinath rushing in Jubilee Hills by-election“



“Maganti Gopinath who undertook many service programs from his own funds ““ Alwal BRS woman leader Sridevi's call ““ Jubil Hills, November 5. (Indian chronicle) ““ Maganti Sunita Gopinath on the way to victory in Jubilee Hills by-elections, Gopinath's service to the people at his own expense in the by-elections that came with the untimely death of Gopinath. The people of Jubilee Hills constituency are expressing their dismay that Sunita's victory is certain, the Congress will not be able to fulfill the free promises given by the Congress in two years, the party will be destroyed by internal quarrels, when KCR is in power, KCR will distribute Kalyan Lakshmi, Shadi Mubarak, KCR Kittu, Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu, BC Bandhu, sheep to the Yadavs, for the poor people. The people of Jubilee Hills constituency are hopeful that the welfare programs undertaken by KCR will win Sunita as Sri Rama Raksha.

Chintala Nirmala Reddy Elected as TPCC Member Ahead of Jubilee Hills By-Election

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE) ““ On the occasion of the upcoming Jubilee



Hills by-election to be held on November 11, 2025, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chintala Nirmala Reddy, who has been elected as a Member of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee and is currently serving as the Vice President of the Telangana State Mahila Congress. I sincerely wish her continued success and hope she reaches greater heights in her political journey while continuing to serve the people with dedication and commitment. I also express my thanks to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud for their support and leadership.

116 Teachers Honored with National Teacher Award–2025 Across India Grand Felicitation by Dr. Radhakrishnan Teachers Self Help Group



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Recognizing excellence in the field of education, the Dr. Radhakrishnan Teachers Self Help Group organized the National Educators Awards–2025 at the Central Hindi Training Institute, Secunderabad. The event, held from 10:00 AM to 3:40 PM, honored 116 teachers from across the country for their exceptional contributions to education. Dr. Ajit Kumar Chauhan, President of the Teachers Self Help Group, said the awards were presented to acknowledge teachers dedication and the new benchmarks they set in the education sector. The service of teachers is the strength that builds future generations, he stated. Telangana State In-charge Babita Chakkilam and state co-ordinators were also felicitated during the program. RKT

SHG Director Bhola Singh mentioned that the platform helps teachers share their experiences and innovations, emphasizing that the organization is moving forward with the motto Unity of Teachers Strength of the Future. The event featured Dr. Surabhi Dutt as the chief guest and Dr. Rajeev Singh as the special guest, both congratulating the award recipients. Other participants included Treasurer Pramod Pal, Program Manager Santosh Mane, National Representative Dr. Indrajeet Singh, PRO Dhananjay Singh Kushwaha, and Advisor Ganga Pachauri. The event was coordinated by Geetanjali Vashisht, and Dr. Basanti, the State Coordinator, handled the program management. The organization encouraged teachers to register for free on the official website www.rktshgindia.org to join the national network of educators.

Bonthu Sridevi Yadav Leads Door-to-Door Campaign in Support of Congress Candidate Naveen Yadav at Jubilee Hills

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“an intensive door-to-door campaign was conducted across booth centers 85, 86, and 87 in the Erragadda area of the Jubilee Hills constituency. Cherlapally Division Corporator and Standing Council Member Bonthu Sridevi Yadav, along with fellow corporators and the Deputy Mayor, actively participated in the campaign extending full support to Congress candidate Naveen Yadav. During the campaign, Bonthu Sridevi Yadav interacted with local residents, listened to their concerns, and explained in detail the various public welfare schemes and development programs introduced by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for the welfare of the people. She highlighted the government's commitment to providing better infrastructure, women's empow-



erment, education, and healthcare facilities. She appealed to the public to stand united and ensure a resounding victory for Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the upcoming by-election, emphasizing that his victory would further strengthen people-oriented governance and the continuation of welfare initiatives in the state.

Kodakanchi Shiva Goud in the race for Medak District Youth Congress President



Shiva Goud as the closest friend of Mynampally Rohit““ Narsapur, November 5. (Indian chronicle)““Kodakanchi Shiva Goud from Shivampet town of Medak district is in the front line in the race of Youth Congress president. Shiv Goud has been doing many service activities in Shivampet mandal center at an early age and is known as a close friend of Mynampalli Rohit, recently when Mynampalli Rohit visited Narsapur town he united the youth and became a close friend of Mynampalli Rohit, Shiv Goud is known as a businessman at a young age. He has achieved success in Shivampet town, and the youth of Shivampet mandal want to allocate Shivampet mandal post to Sivagoud in the coming Youth Congress presidency.

Uppal Bhagayat Welfare Association's Laksha Deepotsavam Continues to Enthrall Devotees: Fourth Day Marks the Grand Kalyanam of Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy with Sri Valli and Sri Devasena“



“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, November 5 (Indian Chronicle):“Under the auspices of the Uppal Bhagayat Welfare Association President Mekala Madhusudhan Reddy and executive members, the Laksha Deepotsavam being held at the Bhagayat Association Community Hall continued on its fourth day with great devotional fervor. The event began with Deeparadhana (lighting of lamps), followed by the Kalyanam (celestial wedding) of Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy with Sri Valli and Sri Devasena, celebrated amidst divine splendor and devotion.““Renowned scholar and Bharata Teertha Award recipient Brahmasri Santosh Kumar Shastri delivered a spiritual discourse, emphasizing the importance of imparting Sanatana Dharma values and traditional wisdom to the younger generation. Likewise, noted astrologer Brahmasri Sri Rama Sharma blessed the devotees and explained the significance of the Kartika month Deepam, appreciating the organizers for conducting such a grand spiritual event.““The rituals of Rudrabhishekam, Bhasma Lingarchana, and Maha Mangala Harathi mesmerized the devotees. Later, devotional songs by children and elders filled the atmosphere with divine bliss, immersing all in Lord Parameshwara's

grace.““A large number of devotees, including association members, local residents, and women, participated with great enthusiasm, received Tirtha Prasadam, and sought the blessings of Lord Shiva for peace and prosperity.

Uppal MLA, Bairi Naveen Goud, Visits Chevella Road Accident Victim“

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy visited Tadem Vennela, a resident of Saibaba Nagar in the Kapra Division and a teacher at Tandur Minority Gurukul School, who was injured in a recent RTC bus accident near K h a n a p u r



visit, MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy spoke with hospital authorities and ensured that all medical expenses for the victim would be covered by the government. He also emphasized the need for the government to implement stronger road safety measures to prevent such accidents in the future. BRS leaders Prasad Goud, Madhu, and others were present during the visit.

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Thungathurthi Ravi, and Karre Rajesh Join Door-to-Door Campaign for Congress Candidate Naveen Kumar Yadav in Jubilee Hills By-Election

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“As part of the ongoing campaign for the Jubilee Hills by-election, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao actively participated in door-to-door campaigning in support of Congress candidate Naveen Kumar Yadav. During the campaign, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao interacted with local residents and explained the Congress Party's policies, welfare programs, and the government's commitment to people-centric development. Peerzadiguda Municipal Congress President Thungathurthi Ravi and Ghatkesar Mandal Congress President Karre Rajesh joined the Minister in visiting several areas within the Jubilee Hills constituency, meeting residents and appealing to them to support and ensure the victory of Congress candidate Naveen Kumar Yadav in the by-election. The campaign saw enthusiastic participation from Peerzadiguda Congress leaders Sharath Goud, Pathan, Sudhakar, and several local Congress workers and supporters, who collectively worked to strengthen the party's outreach and connect with voters at the grassroots level.



DYFI 46th Foundation Day Celebrations“



“Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 05““Celebrations in Rampur village of Rebbena mandal, garlanding the portrait of Bhagat Singh and hoisting the DYFI flag, District Vice President Chapidi Purushottam. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was formed in the general assembly on November 1, 2, 3, 1980 in Ludhiana

city of Punjab state. Since then, it has been continuously working on youth issues, education, medicine, employment, social issues and working for the unity of the country and not letting the country be divided into pieces. They said that the BJP government in the country has promised to provide two crore jobs to the youth every year and has deceived the youth after coming to power. They said that two crore jobs have not been created. They said that industries should be set up in the district and job opportunities should be provided to the unemployed. They also demanded that farmers should be provided with a remunerative price for cotton regardless of its moisture content. The promises made by the Congress government in the state to the unemployed for two years, such as unemployment allowance, job calendar as promised to the unemployed for two years. They demanded that the government immediately release the job calendar and provide unemployment allowance. DYFI District Assistant Secretary Atmakuri Satish, DYFI District Committee Member Chapidi Shiva, Village Secretary Dongri Gajanand, Vice Presidents Krishna and Ashok Naik participated in this program.“

Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy calls for a massive victory for Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills by-election“

“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, November 5 (Indian Chronicle):“As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy participated in the election drive at Erragadda Division in support of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav, along with Deputy Mayor Srilatha Reddy and Bonthu Sridevi. Speaking on the occasion, they stated that the comprehensive development of Jubilee Hills constituency is possible only under the Congress Party. They highlighted that the welfare programs initiated under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership are effectively reaching the people. They expressed anger that, realizing Congress's assured victory, TRS party members have started spreading false allegations against the Congress Party. Several senior leaders and party workers took part in the program.



Ray of Sunshine Foundation Launched in Hyderabad to Support Cancer Patients, Promote CPR Awareness, and Empower Athletes“



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“The Ray of Sunshine Foundation (ROSF), a new NGO founded in October 2025 by Srikanth Thaduri and Johannah Samuel Hull, was launched in Hyderabad with the goal of spreading positivity and providing meaningful support to those in need. The foundation works through three main focus areas: 1. Supporting Cancer Patients ROSF raises funds and offers motivation to cancer patients, aiming to bring hope and positivity into their lives. The foundation believes in being a source of light like sunshine for individuals and families fighting cancer. 2. CPR Awareness and Education The foundation plans to conduct CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) awareness drives and training programs across India. These sessions, which include hands-on demonstrations for both pediatric and adult cases, are designed to empower people with the skills to save lives in emergencies. 3. Supporting Deserving Athletes ROSF provides financial support to athletes from various backgrounds, including sponsorships for race fees, jerseys, and shoes. The goal is to reduce financial barriers for athletes,

especially those from rural areas, so they can continue to pursue their sporting dreams. The foundation will also host CPR workshops for young students and new parents, helping them learn essential first-aid techniques for emergency situations. As part of its first major campaign, ROSF has launched a November initiative aiming to raise INR 5,00,000 to support prostate cancer patients and spread awareness about men's health. Upcoming Activities by Ray of Sunshine Foundation (ROSF): November La Ultra, 5th Edition (November 2025): Fundraising ultra run for November. CPR Workshop (December 7, 2025): Community training session in basic life support. Year-long fundraising programs: Supporting athletes and CPR education initiatives. Media Contact: Srikanth Thaduri Mobile: 9949113931

Silent Protest Today.... District BC JAC Chairman Rupunar Ramesh“

“Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 05““Asifabad As per the call given by the State JAC, a silent protest will be held in front of the statue of Mahatma Jyotibapule on the 6th of this



month to achieve 42 percent BC reservation, said District BC JAC Chairman Rupunar Ramesh. Speaking at a press conference organized on Tuesday, he said that we will continue the fight tirelessly to achieve 42 percent BC reservation and we will achieve reservation with the spirit of Mahatma Jyotibapule. He urged that tomorrow's silent protest be successful. BC JAC District Coordinator Avidapu Pranay, Division President Prashant, and others participated in the program.

Guru Nayak's 556th Birth Anniversary: Celebrations In Wankidi“



““Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 05” “Wankidi The 556th birth anniversary of the first Sikh Guru Guru Nanak was celebrated grandly at Jetwan Buddha Vihar in Wankidi mandal center on Wednesday. Ashok Mahulkar, district

president of the Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha, said that he founded the Sikh religion and united the people, preached that all people are equal, and taught knowledge to the innocent people. He was born in the year 1469 in Talwandi village of Pakistan, and this day is considered a sacred festival in the Sikh religion and is celebrated grandly on every Kartik Pournami day. Samata Sainik Dal district president Durgam Sandeep, Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha mandal president Durgam Durgaji, and community president “Shyam Rao Lahuji Durge, Rajeshwar Upre, Upasaks Shyam Rao Donduji Durge, leaders Kobragade Chandramani, Jaipal, Mahesh, Annarao, Jade Venkati, Kobragade Suresh, Tirupati, Chunarkar Balu, Karthik, Santosh, Prakash, and others participated in this program.” [17:55, 5/11/2025] +91 99485 55073: End..

Massive Response to KTR Roadshow in Somajiguda: Bannala Praveen Mudiraj“

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 5 (Indian Chronicle): “A huge crowd turned up for K.T. Rama Rao’s (KTR) roadshow in Somajiguda on Tuesday night. During the event, BRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj presented a model car to KTR. Speaking on the occasion, Praveen said that people were giving an overwhelming response to KTR’s roadshows and were voluntarily participating in large numbers. He stated that the Congress Party, which came to power through false promises, had deceived the people, and now those deceptions were being exposed to the public through digital screens, which the people were appreciating. “Praveen further added that citizens have expressed their commitment to vote for the BRS Party and ensure the victory of Maganti Sunitha with a huge majority, by casting their votes for the Car symbol.



Buy Cotton Without Hassle... : District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre



“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 05” “Asifabad: Cotton procurement process to avoid hardship for farmers District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre said that it should be undertaken. In a meeting organized at the Integrated District Collectorate Building Conference Hall in the district center on Tuesday, District Additional Collector (Revenue) David along with officials of the district agriculture, marketing, transport, fire and police departments, CCI officials and ginning mill owners held a review on cotton purchase, arrangements in ginning mills, management of the Cotton Kisan mobile app- awareness to farmers, and safety measures in ginning mills. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that the ginning mill owners, CCI and marketing officials should complete the necessary arrangements for the purchase of cotton for the 2025-26 season. He said that

cotton was cultivated in 3 lakh 30 thousand acres in the district this season and that there is a possibility of a cotton yield of 38 lakh quintals and arrangements should be made in that direction. He said that the support price for cotton has been fixed at Rs 8,110 and steps should be taken to purchase cotton under the auspices of CCI through 24 ginning mills in the district. He said that agricultural officers and agricultural extension officers should educate farmers on the use of the mobile app so that they can book slots through the Kapas Kisan app and bring them to the purchase centers on time. He said that inspections should be conducted in each ginning mill under the auspices of the fire department and security arrangements should be examined and appropriate instructions should be given to the mill managers. He said that transport department officials should keep the necessary vehicles ready for farmers to sell cotton and focus on the welfare of workers working in the mills. He said that drinking water and shade should be provided to farmers at the purchase centers and that the officials should take steps to ensure that the purchase process is carried out without any difficulties for the farmers. Deputy Collector Justin Zol, Marketing Department Officer Ashwak Ahmed, Transport Department Officer Ram Chander, CCI officials, ginning mill owners and other concerned officials participated in the program.

Devotees Throng Velugugutta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple on the Occasion of Karthika Pournami

“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, November 5 (Indian Chronicle): “A huge number of devotees thronged the Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple at Velugugutta, Uppal, on Wednesday on the auspicious occasion of Karthika Pournami. Devotees lit traditional lamps and offered prayers to the Usiri (Gooseberry) tree, marking the festive spirit of the day. The temple was filled with divine radiance and devotional fervor.” “As part of the celebrations, donors Vijay Kumar and Raju Bhai organized an annadanam (free food distribution) program, which drew a large participation of devotees. The temple Executive Officer, Peddigari Srikanth, felicitated the donors for their contribution and stated that elaborate arrangements were made to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for all devotees visiting the temple.



Grievance and job fair program to be held on the 6th of this month will remain as usual



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao ““(Manduva Srisaalam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 5):- The grievance and job fair program to be held on Thursday will remain as usual, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said in a statement today. The grievance and job fair program to be held on the 6th of this month, Thursday, will remain as usual and applications will be received on the problems of the people and employees, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said. He said that the people of the district can come to the Collectorate and file complaints.



Suram Shankar, Pawan, Santosh, along with several BRS leaders and activists, participated in the program.

Auto Driver Dies After Attempted Self-Immolation Near Traffic Police Station



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “A shocking incident occurred near the Kushaiguda Traffic Police Station, where an auto driver who attempted self-immolation on Tuesday night succumbed to

injuries while undergoing treatment. Police said the man took the extreme step after being caught in a drunk-and-drive check. According to police, the deceased, identified as Singireddy Meen Reddy (32), a resident of Bhagat Nagar, Jawahar Nagar, Jammigadda, was earning his livelihood by driving a rented auto (registration number AP 28 Y 1789). On November 4, 2025, at around 8:30 PM, Kusaiguda Traffic Police were conducting drunk-and-drive checks at Radhika Crossroads. Meen Reddy was found driving the auto under the influence of alcohol. Police seized the vehicle and informed him that it would be released only if a sober person came on his behalf to collect it. Disturbed by the incident, Meen Reddy reportedly poured petrol on himself near the traffic police station around 10:20 PM and set himself on fire.

Locals and police personnel immediately alerted emergency services, and a 108 ambulance shifted him to Gandhi Hospital for treatment. However, due to severe burn injuries, he died at around 5:10 AM on Wednesday (November 5) while undergoing treatment. Preliminary investigations suggest that Meen Reddy had been struggling with alcohol addiction and financial difficulties for a long time. Police believe he was mentally distressed and feared that the auto owner would confront him after the vehicle was seized, which led to his drastic decision. Malkajgiri Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation.

Journalists Demand House Sites – Govt Should Not Cite Court Verdicts as Excuse: Greater Journalists Housing Society Appeals to CM“

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Hyderabad, November 5 (Indian Chronicle): “The Greater Hyderabad Journalists Mutually Aided Cooperative Housing Society has urged the government to immediately allot house sites to journalists without citing court verdicts as an excuse. Senior journalists expressed disappointment that even after nearly two years of the Congress government coming to power, it has failed to provide house sites to journalists. A general body meeting of the society was held on Wednesday at Tyagaraya Gana Sabha in Chikkadpally under the chairmanship of Society President Mamidi Somayya. The meeting discussed issues related to the long-pending allotment of house sites for journalists, the Supreme Court judgment, and the government’s inaction, and passed several resolutions. The meeting passed a resolution appealing to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to allot land to the Greater Journalists Housing Society. Speaking on the occasion, senior journalists Shoebulla Khan, Sarangapani, Pulpalupula Anandam, Vallala Jagan and others said that the issue of housing sites for journalists in Greater Hyderabad has been pending for many years. They criticized the previous government for failing to resolve the issue and doing grave injustice to journalists. “They pointed out that around 1,350 journalists of the society have been waiting for years to get house sites and lamented that many members have passed away without receiving their plots. Despite repeated repre-



sentations to the Chief Minister and several ministers, no concrete action has been taken to allot land, they said. They also alleged that the government was using the Supreme Court verdict as a pretext to deny house sites to journalists. The society demanded that the Chief Minister issue alternative Government Orders (GOs) to allocate land to journalist housing societies. Earlier, Society Secretary Bollam Srinivas presented the annual report. Senior journalists Teegavarapu Shanti, Nagavani, Treasurer Tanneeru Srinivas, and Directors Yerramilli Ramarao, Bhaskar Reddy, Gajjala Veeresham, and others participated in the meeting.

Keesaragutta Temple Bustles with Devotees on Karthika Pournami



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “On the occasion of Karthika Pournami, the Sri Bhavani Sivadurga Sametha Swayambhu Sri Ramalingeshwara Swamy temple at Keesaragutta was filled

with devotees. From early morning, large numbers of devotees arrived at the temple and stood in long queues for the darshan of the deity. The temple premises echoed with chants of Harahara Shambho as devotees performed abhishekams with Ganga water. Women performed milk abhishekams to the Shiva lingas in the temple premises, and families lit Karthika deepams to fulfill their vows. Considering the heavy crowd, temple authorities made special arrangements, including sanitation, drinking water facilities, and strengthened security measures to ensure smooth darshan for all devotees. Temple chairman Tatakam Narayana Sharma and executive officer Katta Sudhakar Reddy said that the arrangements helped devotees have an uninterrupted darshan. With the special rituals held for Karthika Pournami, the temple and its surroundings wore a festive atmosphere throughout the day.

BRS Leaders Hold Review Meeting in Somajiguda to Finalize Campaign Plans Till November 09“



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN

CHRONICLE): “As per the directions of BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), a review meeting was held today at the residence of former minister and Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy in Srinagar Colony, Somajiguda Division, to discuss campaign arrangements up to November 9. During the meeting, leaders discussed strategies to attract voters, meet beneficiaries of welfare schemes implemented under KCR’s government, and seek their support. The session focused on planning campaign activities, coordination between teams, and preparing a route map to ensure the success of the campaign. The meeting was attended by MLC L. Ramana, Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy, Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, MLC Naveen Reddy, former MLA Rohith Reddy, corporators, BRS party leaders, and activists.

BJP Leader Sharath Chandra Extends Helping Hand to Needy Family in Keesara

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Food is Divine A Struggle of Human Life for a Meal Moved by the plight of Tipparapu Manga, a resident of the erstwhile Jammigadda area, whose family has been struggling even to afford a single meal a day, BJP leader Sharath Chandra extended his helping hand on humanitarian grounds. On learning about their distressing situation, Sharath Chandra visited their residence near Bandlaguda, Keesara, and

provided essential groceries including rice, oil, pulses, and other daily necessities sufficient for two months. BJP leaders Tadoori Gagan Kumar, Narsimha Chari, D.L. Suresh, Arun Kumar, and Yashwanth Yadav participated in this noble act of service.



Not for the party that deceives the people..



Make the BRS party candidate Maganti Sunitiha Gopinath who works for the welfare of the people win:- BRS party senior state leader Chintala Venkateswar Reddy ""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 5):- Not for the party that deceives the people..Make the BRS party who works for the welfare of the people win, said BRS party senior state leader Chintala Venkateswar Reddy.“ As part of the

Jubilee Hills by-election campaign on Wednesday, BRS party senior state leaders Chintala Venkateswar Reddy conducted a door-to-door election campaign at booth numbers 322,330,331,332,333 in Swaraj Nagar and Banjara Nagar in Borabanda division. Speaking on the occasion, he said that BRS is the party that worked for the welfare of all sections of the people by introducing many works and schemes that were not promised in the elections in addition to the promises made during the previous BRS government, while Congress is the party that failed to keep the promises made and deceived the people with false promises. He said that in the past, under the leadership of state Chief Minister KCR, the late MLA Maganti Gopinath developed the Jubilee Hills constituency a lot and made Jubilee Hills constituency number one in Hyderabad. Maganti Gopinath's services to the people of Jubilee Hills for the development of the Jubilee Hills constituency over the past 15 years will never be forgotten, and if Gopinath's services are to continue, people should vote for number 3 and make BRS party candidate Maganti Sunitiha Gopinath win in the by-election to be held on November 11. Local booth committee members, BRS leaders and fans participated in this program.

CP Rachakonda Visits Keesaragutta Temple

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Rachakonda Commissioner of Police G Sudheer Babu visited the Keesaragutta Temple on the occasion of Karthika Pournami and reviewed the security arrangements in and around the temple premises. He instructed the police personnel to strengthen security measures and ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations without any inconvenience to devotees. The commissioner also interacted with officers on duty and checked arrangements related to crowd management, parking, and traffic regulation. Large numbers of devotees thronged the temple to offer prayers on the auspicious day. The police made elaborate arrangements, including deployment of additional forces, installation of CCTV cameras, and setting up of barricades to manage the flow of devotees. Officials from the local police



stations, traffic wing, and temple authorities coordinated to maintain order and ensure a peaceful and safe environment for the devotees throughout the celebrations.

Wishing Naveen Yadav's victory in JubileeHills..Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah in Gadapa Gadapa campaign“

“(Manduva Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..November 5):- As part of the Gadapa Gadapa campaign, Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in Jubilee Hills, wishing Naveen Yadav's victory. He conducted a big campaign with leaders and activists in six booths near the Bangaru Maisamma Temple in Rehmat Nagar. He is asking for votes from every voter by explaining the programs and schemes being implemented by the Congress government for the people. He asked the voters to vote for the local people's child Naveen Yadav and support development.



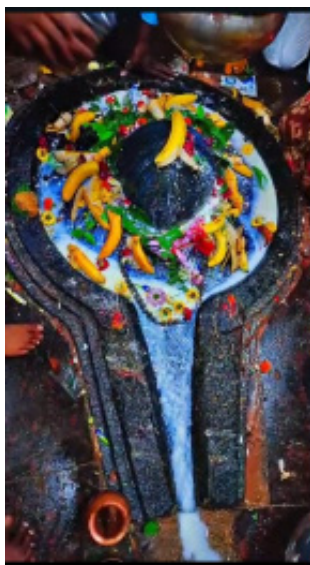
Congress party candidate Naveen Yadav should be made to win the Jubilee Hills by-election to be held on the 11th of this month with a huge majority and should be given as a gift to CM Revanth Reddy:

- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy ""(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle November 5):- Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Congress government in Telangana has given priority to women by focusing on public development and public welfare, and the Congress government has been credited with providing free bus travel to all women in the state and providing ration cards to all eligible people under the Congress government, said Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy. Speaking to the "Indian Chronicle Bureau In-charge of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District" on Wednesday, he said that people are giving a lot of support to the government that is developing the state, and he requested the people and voters of Jubilee Hills to make Congress candidate Naveen Yadav win with a large majority in the Jubilee Hills by-elections and present it as a gift to the state Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He said that the ration card is a symbol of the self-respect of the poor, that the BRS has not given a single new ration card in ten years, and that the people have been prosperous only after the Congress party came to power in the state. She said that as soon as the Congress government came to power, it provided free bus travel to all women in the state through the Mahalaxmi scheme and that BRS has not given a single new ration card in ten years. She said that under the Congress government, ration cards will be provided to all eligible people, old age pensions, Indiramma Indlu, as well as welfare schemes to increase the self-respect of women are being introduced in the Congress government. She also said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has the aim of making all women in the state millionaires, and as part of that, interest-free loans are being provided. She said that business opportunities are being provided through women's associations and that the victory of Congress party candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-election is necessary for the development of Jubilee Hills constituency. She said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Telangana state is moving forward towards development and the government is working in line with the aspirations of the people. If this development journey is to continue, it is the responsibility of every voter in Jubilee Hills constituency to lead Naveen Yadav on the path of success. Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy stated that the people of Jubilee Hills have faith in the Congress, and this faith will be reflected in the form of votes in the upcoming by-elections, and Naveen



Yadav will win a landslide victory. No matter how many tricks TRS leaders have used, no one can stop Naveen Yadav's victory.

Karthika Purnami celebrations were held grandly at the Pachchala Katta Someswara Temple in Bhuvanagiri town on Wednesday on the occasion of Karthika Pournami. Devotees participated in large numbers and special pujas were performed on this occasion. Municipal Commissioner and Temple Committee Chairman Kollori Raju Nagaraju, Sanatana Hindu Temples Preservation Committee President Devarakonda Narasimha Chari, Pantulu Kalya Swathi Nagaraju, Devender, Naresh and others participated in this program.



Journalists should be given house plots “- It is not right to put up corries on the pretext of court judgments“-Greater Journalists Housing Society appeals to the government“



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Hyderabad..Indian Chronicle. November 5):- The Greater Hyderabad Journalists Mutually Aided Co-operative Housing Society has appealed to the government to immediately give house plots to journalists, regardless of the court judgments. Several senior journalists said that it is regrettable that the Congress government has not given house plots to journalists even after two years of coming to power. On Wednesday, a general meeting of the society was held at Thyagaraya Gana Sabha in Chikkadapalli, Hyderabad, under the chairmanship of society president Mamidi Somaiya. In this meeting, various resolutions were passed after discussing the issues of house plots of journalists, Supreme Court judgment, government

stance and other issues. The meeting resolved to request Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to allocate land for the Greater Journalists Housing Society. Society President Mamidi Somaiya, senior journalists Shoyabulla Khan, Sarangapani, Pulipalupula Anandha, Valla Jagan, and others participated in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, they said that the issue of housing plots for journalists in Greater Hyderabad has been pending for many years and that the previous government had done irreparable injustice by not resolving this issue. They expressed concern that about 1350 journalists in the Greater Society have been waiting for housing plots for many years and many are dying without getting a house plot. They said that despite several requests to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and several ministers for housing plots, no action has been taken to allocate land. They said that the government has given up on providing housing plots to journalists, citing the Supreme Court verdict as an excuse. They requested the Chief Minister to provide places to journalist societies through alternative living arrangements. Earlier, society secretary Bollam Srinivas presented a report. Senior journalists Teegavarapu Shanthy, Nagavani, society treasurer Thanniru Srinivas, directors Yerramilli Rama Rao, Bhaskar Reddy, Gajjala Veeresham and others participated in the meeting.

IFWJ inspired to fight against journalists’ issues:- Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Hyd

“(Mandava Srisailam.. Hyderabad.. Indian Chronicle..November 5):- Several speakers said that the Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ) has a rich history of fighting for the rights of journalists across the country. They said that this association is the first journalist association in the country. On the occasion of the completion of 75 years of IFWJ, a diamond jubilee celebration was held under the auspices of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) at the Chikkadapalli Thyagaraya Gana Sabha in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Federation State President Mamidi Somaiya, IFWJ National Secretary Pulipalupula Anandha, Federation State Vice President Valla Jagan, Secretary Thanniru Srinivas, National Council Member Chirra Srinivas, State Council Member Potlapalli Ashok Kumar Goud and others participated in these celebrations and recalled the struggles and achievements of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists Association for the last 75 years on the issues of journalists. Speaking on the occasion, State President Mamidi Somaiya said that IFWJ is the first journalist union in the country and was formed as a trade union on October 28, 1950. He said that more than 30,000 journalists are members across the country, and that it has links with journalist associations in 28 states in the country as well as neighboring countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and other countries and also fights on the issues of journalists at the international level. He said that IFWJ is pressuring the government to implement



some major demands for the well-being of journalists, mainly the Journalists Protection Act, welfare schemes for journalists, and pension scheme for senior journalists. They should be implemented. He said that while maintaining the unity of journalists across the country, it is also demanding the implementation of a wage board for minimum wages. Similarly, he said that the government should provide health cards to journalists in the state and take steps to ensure that journalists get treatment in all corporate and private hospitals. He demanded that pension facilities be provided to senior journalists in the state, and that houses, house plots, and accreditation cards be given to eligible journalists. Mangodi Somaiya called for moving forward unitedly to achieve the demands with the inspiration of IFWJ. Federation leaders Panduranga Rao, Bollam Srinivas, Nagavani, Srinivas Goud, Parvatal and others participated in these celebrations.

“Comprehensive Development of Mallapur Division is the Goal of the Congress Government: Nemali Anil Kumar”



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 5(Indian Chronical)““CC road construction works have begun at Old Mallapur and S.V. Nagar Colony under CM funds in Mallapur Division. The works were initiated with the support of Uppal Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and the initiative of Greater Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar.On Wednesday, Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar inspected the ongoing CC road works. Responding to long-pending requests from the local residents for proper road construction, funds were sanctioned and the works have finally commenced. Locals expressed their happiness and gratitude for the efforts taken by the Congress leaders.

Let’s Make the “Hello Mala Chalo Delhi – Constitutional Rights Convention” a Grand Success: Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy“

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI , Uppal, November 5 (Indian Chronicle):““Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy unveiled the poster for the “Hello Mala Chalo Delhi” movement. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the community is fighting for its constitutional rights and expressed his best wishes for their success.“Dr. Allibilli Mahender, Greater President of the National Mala Maha Nadu, urged all members of the Mala community to attend the “Chalo Delhi Constitutional Rights Convention” in large numbers and make it a success.Among those who participated in the event were Addanki Sainyam Yuv Sena leader Gyar Upender, senior state leaders B. Ajay Kumar, Godishala Naveen, Bethamalla Ramachander, K. Naresh, and others.



Karthika Pournami Celebrations Held at Kapra Sri Lakshmi Chennakeshava Swamy Temple

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““The Karthika Pournami celebrations were held with great devotion at the Sri Lakshmi Chennakeshava Swamy Temple in Kapra. The temple trust board and chairman ensured that all the arrangements for the pooja and festivities were conducted smoothly and in a grand manner. Devotees expressed happiness over the arrangements made by the temple committee during the Deepotsavam held in the temple premises. They appreciated that, within a short time, the committee successfully completed the shed construction in the temple courtyard and organized the first event there with the cooperation of devotees and



Pune Metro to develop 508 metre foot-overbridge, to benefit those using Bengaluru-Mumbai national highway



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

With the construction for extension of Metro Line 2 from Vanaz to Ramwadi set to begin soon, the Pune Metro is gearing up to provide access to those travelling by the Bengaluru-Mumbai national highway bypass at Chandni Chowk through a 580-metre-long foot-overbridge. The Chandni Chowk on the Bengaluru-Mumbai bypass has always been a busy location with those travelling via state or private buses between Bengaluru–Kolhapur–Sangli–Satara–Konkan region and Mumbai either alight at the location to enter Pune city or board vehicle to travel to other locations, including various cities on the highway. Similarly, those travelling to Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park at Hinjewadi or industrial area at Chakan, Shirwal, Khandala, Pirangut use the Chandni Chowk junction on the national highway as bus stand. The national highway is also used as an easy access to hilltown of Lonavala and Mahabaleshwar on either side of Pune.

The two mega sports facilities – Chhatrapati Shivaji Sports Complex at Balewadi and Cricket stadium at

Gahunje which holds various international, national and premiere league sports events are alongside the highway. There are many prominent educational complexes alongside the national highway making the road the busiest one for commuting. While extending the route from Vanaz to Chandni Chowk to 1,123 metres there will be two stations — Kothrud Depot and Chandni Chowk. “The Pune Metro has decided to make access easy for public travelling via national highway at Chandni Chowk and has planned construction of a 580 mete-long foot over bridge,” said a Pune Metro officer. This Metro footover bridge will be connected to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) footover bridge across the national highway at Chandni Chowk for the public to cross the busy national highway, he said, adding this would enable citizens to go to either side of the national highway. From the opposite side of Metro service, commuters can now cross the road and then take the proposed footover bridge to reach Chandni Chowk Metro station. Also, the Pune Metro has planned an integrated double decker flyover above the existing road level at Kothrud depot like the one on Karve Road to address the traffic issue. The two stations to be developed at Kothrud depot and near Chandni Chowk will be 140 metres long and 21 metres wide. In June, the Central Government had given its nod for extending the Metro route from Vanaz to Chandni Chowk so that a continuous link to Wagholi Metro corridor will strengthen East–West mass transit in Pune.

The Maha-Metro is operating Pune Metro Line 1 from Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) to Swargate and Line 2 from Vanaz to Ramwadi, while Pune Metro Line 3 from Shivajinagar to Hinjewadi is being executed by Pune Metropolitan Road Development Authority (PMRDA). The operation of the Pune Metro Phase 1 lines, including Line 1 – PCMC to Swargate and Line 2 – Vanaz to Ramwadi, of the Pune Metro Rail Project has begun.

Can’t deny career benefits due to FIR: HC directs Punsup to promote employee

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Justice Harpreet Singh Brar held that Singh, who joined Punsup as a clerk in 2001 on compassionate grounds after his father’s death, should be treated as a confirmed employee from October 15, 2004. Justice Harpreet Singh Brar held that Singh, who joined Punsup as a clerk in 2001 on compassionate grounds after his father’s death, should be treated as a confirmed employee from In a significant relief to a long-serving employee, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered the Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (Punsup) to grant annual pay increments to Pritpal Singh, confirm his permanent status, and consider him for promotion and other career benefits. The court set aside a June 2024 order by the corporation that had denied these benefits, citing a pending police case against him.

Justice Harpreet Singh Brar held that Singh, who joined Punsup as a clerk in 2001 on compassionate grounds after his father’s death, should be treated as a confirmed employee from October 15, 2004. This is because he continued working beyond the maximum three-year trial period without any formal extension or dismissal, making his confirmation automatic under service rules. The case stemmed from Singh’s appointment letter, which required him to pass a typing test as a condition of service. He cleared it in March 2020, but Punsup withheld his increments and other perks, linking the delay to a 2017 police case filed by the vigilance bureau. No formal charges have been framed in that case to date, and Singh argued that the corporation could not penalise him solely on the basis of the ongoing investigation. Justice Brar rejected Punsup’s stance, emphasising that a minor penalty from separate proceedings does not bar financial benefits like increments or pro-



motions. He observed that denying earned increments amounts to punishing someone without fault. “It would be punishing a person for no fault of his,” the court quoted the apex court, adding that increments can only be withheld as a formal punishment after proven inefficiency or misconduct. The high court further reasoned that an annual increment recognises services already rendered in the previous year and is a vested right, separate from future assessments. “The mere registration of a police case does not equate to misconduct or guilt but serves only as a marker of a future investigation whose outcome remains uncertain,” the judgment stated. Consequently, the court quashed Punsup’s June 13, 2024, order and directed the corporation to grant Singh notional increments from October 15, 2002, with actual payments starting from the date he passed the typing test. It also ordered confirmation of his trial period completion from October 15, 2003, and consideration for promotion and the career progression scheme as per rules. The corporation has three months from receiving the order to comply.

BC student protest at OU successful on second day



“Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 05: The ongoing student agitation under the chairmanship of Saidulu Yadav, who is a leader in the local bodies, education and employment sectors, for the achievement of 42% reservations for BCs, continued successfully for the second day at OU. Intellectual Forum Chairman Chiranjeevulu, BC Jana Sabha Founding President Rajaram Yadav, BC JAC Co-Chairman Gujja Satyam, and Balagoni Balaraju Goud were

BC student protest at OU successful on second day



: Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 05 The ongoing student agitation under the chairmanship of Saidulu Yadav, who is campaigning for 42% reservations for BCs in local bodies, education and employment sectors, continued successfully for the second day at OU. Intellectual Forum Chairman Chiranjeevulu, BC JAC Co-Chairman Gujja Satyam, BC Jana Sabha Founding President Rajaram Yadav and Balagoni Balaraju Goud were present as the

present as the chief guests of this agitation. They said that students should fight at the forefront for the achievement of 42% reservations that are justly due to BCs. EWS Reservation. He said that how can the 50% ceiling, which is not an obstacle to implementation, hinder the implementation of BC reservations? He demanded that the central government immediately implement population-proportional reservations for BCs through a constitutional amendment. In support of the BC student protest, Telangana activists Rama Rao Goud, Nijjana Ramesh, Sambasiva Goud, Reddy Srinu Mudiraj, Hamsa Nama Saidulu, Onteddu Narendar, Avvari Bhaskar, Kota Anand, Vidyarthi JAC Honorary President Dr. Jampala Rajesh, President Cherala Vamsi, Vice Chairman Mamidala Ravi, Bari Ashok Kumar, Working President Kadari Ramesh Yadav, General Secretary Ganesh Goud, Secretary Santosh, Ashwan, Sridhar, Pranay Venkat, Bhushan Wanguri Shiva Nagesh, Kumar, Shravan, Nikhil, Shashi, Karthik, Munna,, Kota Nagaraju, © Satish Student leaders Siddu Yadav, Srikanth etc.

chief guests of this agitation. They said that students should fight at the forefront for the achievement of 42% reservations that are justly due to BCs. The 50% ceiling that cannot be an obstacle to the implementation of EWS reservations How can they obstruct the implementation of BC reservations? They demanded that the central government immediately implement population-based reservations for BCs through a constitutional amendment. In support of the BC student protest, Telangana activists Rama Rao Goud, Nijjana Ramesh, Sambasiva Goud, Reddy Srinu Mudiraj, Hamsa Nama Saidulu, Onteddu Narendar, Avvari Bhaskar, Kota Anand, Student JAC Honorary President Dr. Jampala Reliance Rajesh, President Cherala Vamsi, Vice Chairman Mamidala Ravi, Bari Ashok Kumar, Working President Kadari Ramesh Yadav, General Secretary Ganesh Goud, Secretary Santosh, Ashwan, Sridhar, Pranay, Venkat, student leaders Siddu Yadav, Srikanth, etc

‘SDM hoon main’: Police probe video of scuffle between RAS officer, petrol pump staff in Bhilwara



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

The SDM’s wife then steps out, with Sharma allegedly going after the staff member and shouting at him for daring to slap the SDM. The SDM’s wife then steps out, with Sharma allegedly going after the staff member and shouting at him for daring to slap the SDM. Police are investigating claims and counter-claims after a video emerged purportedly showing a Rajasthan Administrative Service (RAS) officer slapping a petrol pump worker for not prioritising the refuelling of his car in Bhilwara. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Chhotu Lal Sharma, however, claimed the staff had misbehaved with his wife and made inappropriate remarks.

The video, captured at the petrol station on Tuesday, purportedly shows Sharma getting out of his car and shouting at the petrol pump staffer, who was refuelling another vehicle. He allegedly shouts, “Main SDM hoon, SDM hoon main yahan ka ... pehle tereko pata nahi gaadi lagi hui hai (I am the SDM here, don’t you know my vehicle is here)” and gets into a scuffle with the worker. As another staff member tries to intervene, the SDM allegedly slaps him, who then slaps the SDM back. The SDM’s wife then steps out, with Sharma allegedly going after the staff member and

shouting at him for daring to slap the SDM. The incident took place at 3:44 pm on Tuesday in Rayla, Bhilwara, while the SDM is currently posted in Pratapgarh district. Later, the SDM’s wife submitted a complaint claiming that the petrol pump staff winked at her and misbehaved with her. In her complaint, she claimed that they were headed home to celebrate Diwali and stopped to get fuel. “The person who was refuelling winked at me, which angered my husband. He then scolded the staff member, who then started refuelling another vehicle behind us, instead of ours,” she alleged in her complaint, claiming that the staff also used objectionable language with her. “My husband then stepped out, and three people started assaulting him. The petrol pump owner came and he also started abusing,” she claimed.

As per Bhilwara police, three staff members of the petrol pump were arrested and subsequently let go. Bachhraj Choudhary, SHO of Rayla police station, told The Indian Express, “We are investigating her complaint, but prima facie, there was no eve-teasing. There are CCTV cameras, and the entire incident was captured.” He said that no FIR has been lodged in the case so far, and the petrol pump owner and staff have not filed a complaint. “The three persons were arrested and taken in preventive custody, presented before the tehsildar, and then released,” the SHO said. In response to the alleged incident, Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jolly said, “After reviewing the CCTV footage and media reports that have surfaced in the dispute between the SDM and petrol pump employees in Bhilwara, this case also appears to involve misconduct by the SDM towards the petrol pump workers. However, in this matter, an FIR has also been filed by the SDM against the petrol pump employees, and the police have arrested them as well.” “The Bhilwara Superintendent of Police should personally monitor this case to ensure justice is served. It should not be the case that injustice is done to the poor due to the arrogance of power,” he

‘Scheme to buy votes’: Opposition targets Maharashtra govt after report highlights irregularities in Ladki Bahin Yojana

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Opposition leaders in Maharashtra have raised concerns over the implementation of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, following an Indian Express report on October 22 that highlighted irregularities in the scheme aimed at supporting women. Congress MLA Vijay Wadetiwar criticised the government, stating that the scheme was introduced with the Assembly polls in mind, and once the civic body polls are over, the scheme will be scrapped.

“The state government introduced the Ladki Bahin scheme ahead of the Assembly elections to influence voters. Funds were distributed indiscriminately, but now irregularities have come to light. Men were among the beneficiaries,” said Wadetiwar. “Earlier, there was no transparency in the scheme. The government is now imposing arbitrary conditions. The scheme will likely be discontinued after municipal and district council elections. No matter what ministers say, the scheme will be stopped.” The Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) posted on X, “Schemes launched just to lure votes and their implementation are two different things. This shabby, mismanaged government is good only at announcements and publicity. What else can one expect from leaders who introduce such schemes before elections to cover up vote manipulation?” Nationalist Congress Party (SP) spokesperson Clyde Crasto demanded a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the matter. “Hilarious chicanery! The BJP-led Maharashtra government tried to turn brothers into sisters to garner votes but now stands exposed. This shows that the scheme was a well-orchestrated plan to lure and trick people of Maharashtra to vote for them. As more skeletons tumble out of the Ladki Bahin closet, Chief Minister



Devendra Fadnavis must take full responsibility and set up a SIT to investigate these irregularities and explain the facts to the people of Maharashtra.”

Shiv Sena leader Aadiya Thackeray also questioned the government’s conduct and questioned if such irregularities can take place without the use of government machinery. “The news of a Rs 164 crore misappropriation through bogus beneficiaries in the Ladki Bahin scheme has come out right before Diwali. Could this have happened without the use of government machinery and political backing? The government has a long-standing habit of diverting public funds under the guise of welfare,” said Thackeray. “The same continues in the Mumbai municipal elections. Meanwhile, farmers and citizens remain unsupported. Promises of aid for flood-affected farmers before Diwali have not been fulfilled. But the government must remember—the public sees everything and remembers it.” “BJP introduced a scheme to buy votes before the election, distributing Rs 165 crore to ineligible beneficiaries. This is not welfare, it’s electoral manipulation.

How 2 Mumbai cops stuck in a traffic jam ran into a murderer



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

A traffic jam, two Mumbai policemen returning home from work, and a call for help. More than a decade ago, this sequence of events unexpectedly set into motion the unravelling of a murder case. It was October 10, 2014. Two policemen returning home after a long day’s work were stuck in traffic in the western suburbs of Goregaon. While they were near Oberoi Mall, they saw a man gesturing with his hands, screaming “Mujhe bachao (save me)”. The policemen approached the man and asked him why he was shouting. The man seemed to be intoxicated, and the policemen allegedly heard him say that he had assaulted someone using a screwdriver. The person may have died, he allegedly added. The policemen took the man to the Goregaon police station and handed him over to the on-duty station officer. When the police began questioning him, the man allegedly revealed that he had assaulted a man named Sandeep Dhamnaskar, his employer’s neighbour. He also revealed that the incident had taken place at a local park. A police team was immediately dispatched to the scene. Soon, the police said, it was confirmed—the intoxicated man, later identified as Ranjeet Chauhan, had, in fact, committed a crime. According to the police, Chauhan and Dhamnaskar got into an argument over the latter’s refusal to bring liquor. Dhamnaskar’s wife, Bhakti, who was informed about the spat, rushed to the spot and saw people running helter-skelter. According to eyewitnesses, Chauhan began attacking Dhamnaskar multiple times with a screwdriver. Bhakti also allegedly witnessed the assault. She intervened and, with the help of others, rushed Dhamnaskar to the hospital,

where he succumbed to his injuries. Chauhan fled—only to run into the police at the traffic jam. During the trial before the sessions court, the police relied on the statement of Bhakti, who had witnessed the assault, and the testimony of the two policemen who had seen Chauhan. The sessions court on October 17 found Chauhan guilty of murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The court said that while Chauhan admitting that he had killed a person after being apprehended by the two policemen in the traffic jam cannot be considered as a confession as it was made before the police, the circumstances of how he was caught and handed over to the police can be considered as evidence.



Happy Birthday Akshaya““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, November 05, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Dayakar and Mamatha wish their daughter Akshaya a very Happy Birthday. Many more happy returns of the day, Akshaya! With love from your mom and dad.

How plastic whistles are becoming an anti-ICE resistance tool in Chicago



CHICAGO,GNS News Agency, Nov 5 As the shrill sound of whistles echoed through a parking garage in Chicago's North Side on Tuesday, two people flung their car doors open, ducked inside and shrank down into their seats. Outside, a convoy of federal immigration enforcement vehicles that had arrived in the area just minutes prior sped off. "We just saw a bunch of guys with whistles that chased them out," said Luke, a landscaper who was working nearby and declined to share his full name.

Read about innovative ideas and the people working on solutions to global crises with the Reuters Beacon newsletter. Sign up here.The Trump administration in early September launched a targeting what it said were hardened criminals among immigrants in the U.S. without legal status, though many noncriminals have been swept up in raids.

Since then, the piercing blow of a whistle has become a Chicago-wide means of signaling that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents are present. It warns undocumented people to flee and invites U.S. citizens to come to the scene to record arrests, give detainees legal information and discourage agents from lingering.Anti-ICE signs hang in the window of a home, after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered increased federal law enforcement presence to assist in crime prevention, in Chicago, Illinois, U.S., October 21, 2025. REUTERS/Jim Vondruska Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabThe aggressive immigration enforcement effort - which has no end date - has sparked widespread protests and resentment among residents. Hundreds of federal agents have fanned across the third-largest city in the U.S. and its suburbs, often carrying assault rifles and wearing military fatigues. Agents have teargassed crowds, rappelled from a Black Hawk helicopter to raid an apartment building, dragged immigrants from cars, held people at gunpoint and shot two people, including one fatally.Against this heavily militarized force, whistles have

become a modest but effective tool to fight back."It grew like wildfire," said Baltazar Enriquez, president of Little Village Community Council, a community group in one of Chicago's largest Latino enclaves. "If we have to patrol our neighborhood for the next three years, we're willing to do that just to keep our community safe."The group began handing out the whistles to neighborhood residents over the summer. Since then, relentless promotion turned the whistles into a defining symbol of Chicago's resistance against ICE.A woman holds a whistle she uses to alert others about the presence of federal agents during immigration raids, after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered increased federal law enforcement presence to assist in crime prevention, in Chicago, Illinois, U.S., October 21, 2025. REUTERS/Jim Vondruska Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

and local activist groups have passed out the whistles at local festivals and parades and dropped them off at Little Free Libraries. Some residents have picked up whistles from community groups that advertised them on social media - others have simply bought them from dollar stores and Amazon."Our officers are highly trained," said Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, and "they are not afraid of loud noises and whistles."Their ease of use and low cost have contributed to their soaring popularity on the streets and on social media. But the impact of a whistle against squads of armed, fast-moving immigration officers is limited.On a quiet residential street in another North Side neighborhood, residents ran out of their apartments to confront ICE officers as they detained a group of landscapers. Their whistles and shouts managed to draw a crowd and elicit names of detainees to be passed on to immigration rights groups, but officers still drove away with two people."I'm sure I'll cry again later," said Joanne Willer, a resident of Albany Park who used her whistle to sound the alarm about the detention. "It's just really upsetting."Community members hold whistles used to alert others about the presence of federal agents during immigration raids, after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered increased federal law enforcement presence to assist in crime prevention, in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.,/Jim Vondruska Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabAfterward, other residents of Albany Park, a Chicago neighborhood known for its diversity that was teargassed by federal immigration agents earlier this month, carried different kinds of noise-makers as they patrolled the streets.Jordan, who declined to share her last name out of fear of retribution, carried her son's toy train whistle."I'm Jewish, and I feel very personally tied to what's going on here because of our history as a Jewish people," Jordan said. "I feel like if we're not out here supporting our neighbors, nobody else is going to be doing it."

Vance says Trump's policy rejects Israeli annexation of West Bank

TEL AVIV, GNS News Agency, Nov 5- U.S. Vice President JD Vance said on Thursday President Donald Trump would oppose Israeli annexation of the occupied West Bank and it would not happen, suggesting a move by Israeli lawmakers to that end looked like a stupid "political stunt".A bill applying Israeli law to the West Bank, a move tantamount to annexation of the territory Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, won preliminary approval from Israeli lawmakers on Wednesday.The Reuters Gulf Currents newsletter brings you the latest on geopolitics, energy and finance in the region. Sign up here.Asked by reporters about the move, Vance said: "If it was a political stunt, it is a very stupid one, and I personally take some insult to it."Vance spoke after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned that moves toward annexing the territory that Palestinians seek for part of an independent state could endanger Trump's plan to end the Gaza war, which has yielded a shaky ceasefire so far."The West Bank is not going to be annexed by Israel. The policy of President Trump is that the West Bank will not be annexed. This will always be our policy," Vance said during a trip to Israel to help shore up the Gaza truce.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said after Vance's remarks that the government had not decided to bring the vote on annexation forward at this stage in order to ensure the success of Trump's multi-stage Gaza plan.The U.S. has long been Israel's most powerful and staunch major power ally and the Trump administration is particularly close to Israel with considerable sway over its leadership. Senior U.S. officials including Rubio have been visiting Israel seeking to keep alive the brittle ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas after two years of devastating war that has upended the Middle East.Vance told reporters in Tel Aviv that he "feels pretty good" about the Gaza ceasefire after having talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.Repeated bouts of gunfire and explosions have shaken the deal and the two sides have traded blame for violations of its first phase, which has seen the return of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, a handover of bodies of some deceased hostages, and a partial pullout of Israeli troops.

Item 1 of 4 A member of the Israeli force stands guard as the Israeli forces block the access of Palestinians and foreign activists to olive trees during the olive harvest, near Hebron, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.Both sides have reiterated their commitment to the U.S.-mediated ceasefire after two years of war triggered by the October 7, 2023 cross-border Hamas assault on Israel that killed 1,200 people, according to Israeli tallies.Israel's air and ground



war in response has killed over 68,000 people and reduced much of the tiny, heavily urbanised Gaza Strip to rubble, Gaza health authorities say.The U.S. State Department said Rubio was visiting Israel to support the implementation of Trump's 20-point Gaza plan and pave the way towards reconstruction, stable governance and possible steps towards Palestinian statehood.He was preceded by Vance, who was also due to meet Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer on Thursday before departing.

There are hundreds of thousands of people living in Jewish settlements across the West Bank. The United Nations and much of the international community consider the settlements illegal under international law.Israel's government cites biblical and historical connections to the West Bank, territory that it regards as disputed, and opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state.The settlements are a highly volatile issue that have for decades loomed as a major obstacle to Middle East peace, as they fragment territory Palestinians want for a viable state.Wednesday's vote was the first of four needed to pass the law and coincided with Vance's visit to Israel - a month after Trump said he would not allow Israel to annex the territory.Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party did not support the legislation, which was sponsored by lawmakers outside his ruling coalition and passed by a vote of 25-24 out of 120 lawmakers.Netanyahu's government had been pondering annexation as a response to a string of major Western allies recognising a Palestinian state to put pressure on Israel to stop its war in Gaza, but appeared to shelve the idea after Trump objected.Settlement building has been expanding rapidly since 2022 when Netanyahu's government - the most right-wing in Israeli history with ultra-nationalist coalition partners who seek annexation of both the West Bank and Gaza - came to power.

Zelenskiy appeals to EU leaders over long-range weapons

BRUSSELS -GNS News Agency, Nov 5 President Volodymyr Zelenskiy urged European allies on Thursday to supply Ukraine with long-range weapons after failing to secure a promise from U.S. President Donald Trump to provide Kyiv with powerful Tomahawk missiles.Zelenskiy, who addressed European Union leaders in Brussels, also called on them to agree as soon as possible on a plan to use frozen Russian assets and said Kyiv would use a "significant part" of any funds made available to buy European-made weapons."When we talk about long-range weapons for Ukraine, we mean that the Putin regime should feel real consequences from this war. I urge you to support everything that helps Ukraine get such capabilities — because it really makes a difference for Russia," he said."Just look at how nervous (Russian President Vladimir) Putin became when this topic came up. He understands that long-range weapons can truly change the course of the war."Zelenskiy has been seeking Tomahawk missiles from the United



States. Trump did not rule out providing Kyiv with such missiles during talks in Washington with Zelenskiy last week but appeared cool to the prospect."These long-range weapons are not only in the U.S. - some European countries also have them, including Tomahawks. We are already talking to the countries that can help,"

Northern Ireland court finds soldier not guilty of murder over 'Bloody Sunday' killings



BELFAST, GNS News Agency, Nov 5A Belfast court on Thursday found a British soldier not guilty of murder in the only trial of a member of the British armed forces over the 1972 "Bloody Sunday" killings of 13 unarmed Catholic civil rights marchers in Northern Ireland.The British government in 2010 apologised for the "unjustified and unjustifiable" killings, when members of the British army's elite Parachute Regiment opened fire in the mainly Irish nationalist city of Londonderry in one of the defining moments of Northern Ireland's recent history.

The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.But all efforts to prosecute soldiers have failed and many relatives of victims and their supporters now believe the chance of a successful prosecution of British armed forces is remote.Belfast Crown Court was silent when the verdict was read. The soldier, who cannot be identified legally and is known as Soldier F, was in court but hidden behind a blue curtain to protect his identity.He was found not guilty of killing two men and trying to kill five others.Judge Patrick Lynch said in his verdict that he was satisfied that soldiers had lost all sense of military discipline and opened fire with intent to kill and that "those responsible should hang their heads in shame".But he said the case fell short of the burden of proof.

"Delay has, in my view, seriously hampered the capacity of the defence to test the veracity and accuracy of

the hearsay statements," he said."The evidence presented by the Crown ... signally fails to reach the high standard of proof required in a criminal case; that of proof beyond a reasonable doubt."Mickey McKinney, brother of William McKinney, one of the two victims named in the case, said he put the blame for the failure to successfully prosecute any soldiers squarely with the British state."Soldier F has been discharged from the defendant's criminal dock, but it is one million miles away from being an honourable discharge," McKinney told journalists outside the court.A DEFINING MOMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S 'TROUBLES'Bloody Sunday became one of the defining events of the Troubles, three decades of sectarian violence involving nationalists seeking a united Ireland, unionists wanting Northern Ireland to remain a province of the United Kingdom, and British forces.The shootings fuelled suspicion of the authorities among the Catholic minority and prompted dozens to join the Irish Republican Army's violent campaign against British rule.Thirteen people, all unarmed Catholics, were killed when the soldiers opened fire in the staunchly nationalist Bogside area of Londonderry on January 30, 1972. A 14th victim later died from wounds sustained on the day. The troops said they shot at people armed with guns or nail bombs.

Defence lawyers did not call any witnesses and said that the core of the case, military statements taken over 50 years ago, were manifestly unreliable, with no independent supporting evidence offered to back the prosecution case.Earlier in the trial the court heard a short statement Soldier F gave to police in 2016, in which he said that while he was sure he properly discharged his duties as a soldier that day, he no longer had any reliable recollection of the events and therefore was unable to answer the officers' questions.The British government in 2010 apologised for the killings after a judicial inquiry found that the victims were innocent and had posed no threat to the military.That inquiry had been set up by British Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair in 1998, after an original 1972 investigation absolved the paratroopers of blame.In a statement on the verdict the British government said it was "committed to finding a way forward that acknowledges the past, whilst supporting those who served their country during an incredibly difficult period in Northern Ireland's history."

What will happen to Louvre jewellery after heist? There are two likely scenarios

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

The spectacular heist of jewellery from the Louvre museum in Paris has many people wondering how a theft like this could occur in broad daylight and what might happen to the items that were stolen from the museum.In a matter of minutes, four thieves were able to enter through a first-floor window, break into secure glass displays, and take nine items of jewellery of immeasurable value.Although an alarm was set off and museum guards were nearby, the thieves were able to escape quickly, using motor bikes to get away. They dropped one stolen item, a diamond and emerald-encrusted royal crown that had belonged to Empress Eugenie, Napoleon III's wife.Their loot include jewellery from French imperial times – brooches, necklaces, earrings and a tiara. The French prosecutor's office said the jewels were worth some 88 million euros (A\$157 million), not including their historical value.The speed and professionalism of the heist shows this was a well-planned crime, carried out by highly skilled perpetrators. That suggests they are linked to organised criminal groups.Several media outlets reported a number of smaller thefts from French museums in recent weeks, including gold nuggets from the Paris Natural History Museum. There is no suggestion these thefts were linked to the Louvre heist.

What might happen to the loot?

The stolen jewellery includes well-known pieces that are easily recognisable. This will make it difficult, if not impossible, to sell them on the black market, even to well-heeled collectors and buyers.This problem is well-known from other museum heists – such as the theft of the Canadian "Big Maple Leaf" giant gold coin from Berlin's Bode Museum in 2017 or the famous heist of 13 masterpieces by Degas, Manet and Rembrandt from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston in 1990. Those paintings have never been recovered.Instead, most experts believe one of two scenarios are more likely.In the first, the jewellery would be broken down into smaller pieces. Diamonds and other gemstones may be taken out, altered and then offered for sale. Silver and gold may be used to manufacture

other pieces or may be sold separately.

This scenario would make it easy to conceal the origin of the pieces and sell them openly or online. The combined value, however, would be significantly lower compared to leaving the pieces intact. It is thus doubtful the thieves targeted the specific jewellery for this purpose.Scenario two would involve the thieves, or more likely the masterminds behind them, trying to sell the pieces back to the Louvre or trying to extort money from the French government for their return.This may be done through brokers or other middlemen and may not happen for a while, until there is less public and media attention and the perpetrators feel sufficiently safe to contact – directly or indirectly – museum or state authorities.Given the historical significance of the pieces coupled with the embarrassment caused by the heist, the Louvre and the French government would be keen to have the pieces returned as swiftly as possible and might be willing to negotiate, albeit secretly.Much of this remains, however, speculation. Only a few days have passed since the heist occurred and many questions about the events, perpetrators and their motives remain unanswered. And just who may be behind this spectacular heist from France's largest museum has everyone guessing.The Louvre theft brings to mind the jewellery heist at the Green Vault at the Zwinger Palace in Dresden, Germany, in 2019.In this case, the perpetrators had closely examined the museum's security system for many days and were able to enter the building without being caught on camera. They entered through a window on the first floor and within minutes stole 21 pieces of jewellery from several displays.Unlike the Paris heist, the Dresden thieves entered at night and used brute force to damage the displays to take their loot.Some years after the robbery, German authorities were able to identify and arrest the thieves involved in the heist – all five were members of a notorious Berlin-based crime family. The perpetrators have since been tried and convicted and are serving long jail terms. Most of the jewellery was retrieved and returned – unaltered – to its famous home.

Saudi Arabia appoints Sheikh Saleh bin Fawzan al-Fawzan as kingdom's new grand mufti

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Dubai: Saudi Arabia appointed a prominent ultraconservative scholar late on Wednesday as the country's new grand mufti, the kingdom's top religious scholar.Sheikh Saleh bin Fawzan al-Fawzan, 90, took over the position, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported. The decision came from King Salman, based on the recommendation of his son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the report added.

Sheikh Saleh, reportedly born Sept 28, 1935, in Saudi Arabia's al-Qassim province, studied the Quran with a local imam after his father's death.He became a prominent scholar, speaking to the faithful via the "Noor ala al-Darb," or "Light the Way," radio show and via multiple books he's authored and his television appearances. His fatwas, or religious orders, have been shared via social media as well.

Sheikh Saleh has faced criticism in Western media in the past for some of his pronouncements. Human Rights Watch in 2017 reported Sheikh Saleh, when asked if Sunni Muslims should view Shiite as their "brothers," responded: "They are brothers of Satan." The Shiite "lie about God, his prophet, and the consensus of Muslims... There is no doubt about the unbelief of these" people, Human Rights Watch separately quoted Sheikh Saleh saying at another moment.Such comments about the Shiite from religious leaders in Saudi Arabia are common, particularly amid political tensions between the kingdom and Iran. Sheikh Saleh also criticised Yemen's Houthi rebels for firing missiles toward holy sites in the kingdom.In 2003, Sheikh Saleh was quoted as saying: "Slavery is a part of Islam. Slavery is part of jihad, and jihad will remain as long as there is Islam." The sheikh also had a fatwa attributed to him in 2016 banning the mobile game "Pokemon Go" as a form of gambling. Saudi Arabia under Crown Prince Mohammed now owns a sizable stake in Nintendo and the gaming division



of Niantic, the maker of "Pokemon Go".

Sheikh Saleh takes the post after the September death of Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah al-Sheikh, who held the position of grand mufti for a quarter century.The al-Sheikh family, descendants of Sheikh Mohammed Ibn Abdul-Wahhab, long had seen its members serve as the grand mufti.

Sheikh Mohammed's ultraconservative teachings of Islam in the 18th century, widely referred to as "Wahhabism" in his name, had guided the kingdom for decades, particularly after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran saw the kingdom grow even more conservative. The grand mufti is one of the top Islamic clerics in the world of Sunni Muslims. Saudi Arabia, home to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, hosts the annual Hajj pilgrimage required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their lives, making the pronouncements of the grand mufti that much more closely followed.Saudi Arabia has socially liberalized under King Salman, allowing women to drive and opening movie theatres as the country tries to move its economy away from being dominated by its oil industry.

‘Trust’ issue among Tata trustees



Following his reappointment to the board of the Tata Trusts, Venu Srinivasan emailed his fellow trustees on October 21. The mail read: “My dear fellow trustees, thank you very much for the confidence reposed in me, and for the kind words that have been expressed. I sincerely, hope we will now work harmoniously.” Fellow trustee Mehli Mistry, immediately responded: Dear Venu, it has always been our intention to work harmoniously together! The only problem earlier, was the lack of required information requested by us, which you all nominated directors have agreed to provide. We must bury the past, respect each other and move forward as a team unanimously! That’s what Ratan would have expected to do.”Even as it indicates the trustees’ search for harmonious functioning, this correspondence sums up the drama at Tata Trusts that began on September 11 when the reappointment of Vijay Singh to the Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. (TSPL) board was opposed by four trustees — Mehli Mistry, Darius Khambatta, Jehangir H.C. Jehangir and Pramit Jhaveri. After a series of meetings that businessline had with protagonists from both camps in Mumbai recently it is clear that this is not a battle of egos or personalities though one or the other trustee may not like the persona of another.

The core issue appears to be flow of information from the trustees nominated to the Tata Sons board back to the other trustees. The underlying trust (no pun intended) seems to have given way as the camp comprising the four trustees named above alleges that information has not been shared by the trustees nominated to the TSPL board, namely Noel Tata, Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh (he was a nominee until September 11).

They narrate instances of resolutions passed in the TSPL board that were not brought back to the Trust board as provided in Article 121 A of TSPL’s Articles of Association. The said Article was introduced in 2014 and stipulates a range of actions of TSPL board that require affirmative vote by a majority of the Trust nominees (Article 121). The examples quoted range from the 3.8 billion euro acquisition of Italian commercial vehicle manufacturer IVECO by Tata Motors, where the trustees were informed towards the end of the deal, to the more contentious one where the TSPL board approved funding of ₹1,000 crore to Tata International Ltd., a company of where Noel Tata is chairman, in April.

The group ranged against Mr. Tata hints at a conflict of interest here as Tata wears three hats — chairman of the trusts, its nominee on the board of TSPL and chairman of four group companies, namely Tata International, Trent, Tata Investment Corporation and Voltas. In addition, he’s vice-chairman of Tata Steel and Titan. “How can you as the owner (representative of Tata Trusts) sitting on the board (TSPL) vote as director along with the board on a ₹1,000 crore funding resolution related to a company (Tata International) where you’re chairman and also approve it as a trust nominee?,” asks a person speaking for a trustee. Sources close to Noel Tata however dismiss this. “They want every proposal over ₹100 crore to be taken back to them for approval, which is not necessary,” they aver. And according to them, if at all there is a conflict of interest, it is in Mehli Mistry’s business dealings with Tata Power (he manages their logistics), while also being listed as a promoter of the company by virtue of his position as trustee on the Tata Trusts. This is violative of related party provisions in law, they allege. Ironically, Mehli Mistry was the one who had proposed and pushed for the appointment of Noel Tata as chairman of the trusts to replace Ratan Tata upon the latter’s demise a year ago, according to a source. This was against opposition from a fellow trustee who wanted the position to be kept vacant. Story goes that this trustee hosted a dinner for three other trustees the day before the crucial trust board meeting where he persuaded them not to appoint Noel Tata. This move failed after Mehli Mistry, who was part of the dinner, proposed Noel Tata’s name for

chairmanship in the board meeting the next day. Ask Mistry’s camp why he did that and the answer is: “The Tata Trusts have to remain with a Tata!” There was also the worry that an empty chair could attract unwanted characters from outside. Sources close to Mr. Mistry underline that the trustees are even now not against Mr. Tata but they’re sore about “lack of transparency” from him. “There is no issue between individuals on the trust board. It is an issue of issues,” said a person who did not want to be identified.

This person also complains that when the crucial issue of IPO was discussed in the TSPL board, the information was not shared with the trustees. “We asked but were told that that ‘we’re not at liberty’ to share with you,” says the source. This response did not help because Tata is related by marriage to the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) group which has been pushing for a TSPL IPO. The trustees then sought a meeting with N. Chandrasekaran through the three Trust nominees on the TSPL board but that did not happen until one of the other four, understood to be Jehangir H.C. Jehangir, approached Mr. Chandrasekaran with a request for an update. The latter immediately made a two hour presentation over dinner to all the trustees with full transparency including his vision for the group. Impressed by the presentation, Mehli Mistry is supposed to have mailed the other trustees the very next morning with a proposal to nominate Mr. Chandrasekaran for a third term as Chairman of TSPL. This was followed up with a unanimous resolution in the next trust board meeting. The Trusts also resolved that an IPO of TSPL was not in the best interests of the group and Mr. Chandrasekaran was asked to engage with the SP group on the subject. If there is one issue which both camps agree upon, it is on whether or not Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd (TSPL) should go public. The two sides are unanimous that an IPO of TSPL is not in the interests of both the group and the trusts.

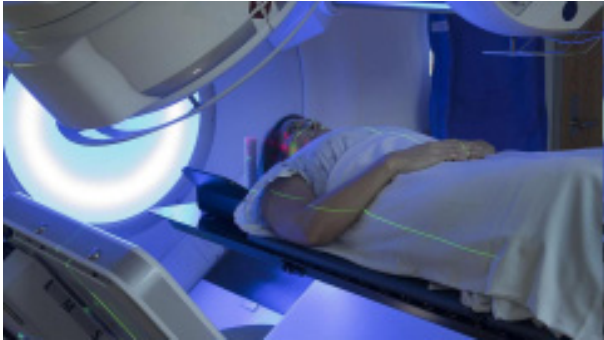
“Why should we bail out the SP group now? Did they ask us before running up a debt of ₹50,000 crore? And where has the money gone?,” asked a person aligned with Noel Tata. When businessline queried about his personal relations, the person shot back saying that it had no impact on his decision. The feeling is that the philanthropic activities of the trusts and the group will suffer if public shareholders enter the equation. “When the telecom business folded up, the entire ₹40,000-50,000 crore debt was discharged by TSPL though the business was housed in a separate company. We could’ve asked the banks to take a haircut but we repaid every rupee. That’s the Tata ethos. Would this have been possible had TSPL been listed? Would the public shareholders allow this?,” asks this person.

The response from the other four trustees is the same. The best interests of the group and the trusts will be served only by keeping TSPL private, they say, adding that neither TSPL nor the trusts should be pressured by the financial problems of a particular shareholder. They also point to how the group is now into sensitive and nationally important businesses such as semiconductors and manufacture of defence equipment which need to be kept out of the public eye. These are also long gestation projects that need continuous financial support with returns in the distant future. The implication is that this will not be possible if TSPL is listed as public shareholders would demand quick returns.

Chandra emerges strongerEven as the trustees quarrel among themselves, if there is one winner it is N. Chandrasekaran. Sources from both camps have nothing but praise for him with one pointing out that he’s taken the group profits from ₹850 crore (when he took over) to about ₹27,000 crore now. They also point to his forays into new generation businesses such as electronics and semiconductors to support their decision to give him a third term. These businesses need to be nurtured and he’s the best placed to do it, according to them. Ask them whose side is Mr. Chandrasekaran on now and they’re both circumspect in answer.

“We don’t know,” is the reply that comes with some wariness built in. Indeed, given his perceived closeness to the powers-that-be in New Delhi, the two sides would rather leave him alone from their disagreement. Chandrasekaran was among the four who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman a few days ago. The others were Noel Tata, Venu Srinivasan and Darius Khambatta. Interestingly, though it was put out that the government had summoned them, sources close to the four trustees ranged against Noel Tata say that the meeting was arranged by Mr. Chandrasekaran at the former’s request.

Study projects deaths due to pancreatic, colorectal and breast cancers to rise by 2030 in India



A recent disease-forecasting study — which analysed data from the Global Cancer Observatory (GCO) — has indicated a rise in cancers linked to lifestyle and metabolic factors and a decline in infection-related and tobacco-related cancers in India. The study, projecting the future burden of 23 major cancer types up to the year 2030, has been published in the BMJ Open this week. Calculated by forecasting age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR), the study found an ongoing epidemiological transition that is a clear shift towards cancers associated with lifestyle and economic development. The ASMR is a way to fairly compare death rates between populations that have different age structures. The authors used an autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model to forecast ASMR for 23 major cancer types until 2030, using aggregated, national-level cancer mortality data for the Indian population from 2000 to 2019.

Led by researchers and oncologists from MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru; Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Kochi; Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, and Department of Statistics, Assam University, Silchar - the study revealed that among males, mortality rates due to colorectal cancer and pancreatic cancer are expected to increase by 6.55% and 9.59%, respectively, from 2025 to 2030. Among females, breast cancer is expected to have the highest increase from 2025 to 2030, followed by lung, colorectal can-

cer, pancreas, ovary, kidney, and lymphomas.

However, among both genders, mouth and oropharynx cancers and urinary bladder cancer mortality are projected to decrease between 2000 and 2030, attributed to the reduction in tobacco use and household air pollution, said Denny John from MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, who is the lead author of the study. “The study provides the first comprehensive, long-range forecast of age-standardised mortality rates for 23 cancer types in India using a robust time-series approach. We used an autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model that has a greater ability for prediction and applicability for cancer forecasting in the country,” Dr. John told The Hindu. “The ASMR of 23 major cancer types was selected for forecasting cancer mortality as this metric takes into account changes in the population’s age structure over time, enabling a more accurate comparison of mortality risk across different periods, regardless of the impact of population ageing. Projections of cancer mortality would be helpful for clinicians, researchers, healthcare administrators, and policymakers in planning facilities, equipment, and staffing allocation in the country,” he said. Highlighting the public health implications of the study, K. Pavithran, professor and head, department of medical oncology at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Kochi, said it underscores the importance of strengthening primary prevention and early detection strategies, especially for cancers that show steeply increasing projections, such as breast and colorectal cancer. “Improving early detection through expanded screening programmes, such as mammography and colonoscopy, and improving diagnostic infrastructure in rural and underserved regions are essential,” the professor said. Narassima M.S., assistant professor at Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, said that since the analysis is based on national-level estimates from the Global Cancer Observatory, this may mask significant subnational and regional heterogeneity in cancer patterns across States, an area that also needs to be focused on for better allocation of resources depending on region-specific patterns.

Drug-resistant bacteria proliferate in Gaza



Ever since Israel intensified its attacks on Palestine in October 2023, sparing not even hospitals, more than 66,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to the latest bulletin from the Gaza’s Health Ministry. But nearly three times that number of people, some 1.6 lakh, have been left grievously wounded. In this crisis comes a worrying report on Gaza’s health crisis in the latest edition of The Lancet Infectious Diseases: according to the paper, disease outbreaks have proliferated in the area, and now the infections are becoming multidrug resistant as well, imposing a new challenge on an already beleaguered population.

Multi-drug resistance is defined “as non-susceptibility to at least one drug in three or more classes”. In the study, the researchers calculated the multiple antibiotic resistance (MAR) index for each isolate. The index is equal to the number of antibiotics to which an organism is resistant divided by the number of antibiotics to which it was exposed. Ballistic, crush trauma Tests on 1,317 samples collected from al-Ahli hospital in Gaza revealed that MAR was reported in over two-thirds of the samples (in the form of pus, wound swabs, and urine) collected last year, “reflecting the overwhelming burden of ballistic and crush trauma,” the paper, authored by scientists including faculty at the Islamic University of Gaza, read. Pseudomonas aeruginosa, a bacteria already known to be associated with serious illnesses, including hospital-acquired infections such as ventilator-associated pneumonia, dominated, followed by Staphylococcus aureus, common cause of skin abscesses and respiratory infections; Klebsiella, known to cause pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and meningitis; and Escherichia coli, which can cause serious food poisoning.

The study also found that two-thirds of all isolates were multidrug resistant. “We found high resistance among Enterobacterales spp. isolates, with more than 90% of wound isolates resistant to amoxicillin-clavulanate, cefuroxime, and cefotaxime. Resistance to ceftazidime and ceftazidime was also alarmingly high in wound isolates,” the paper noted.

Children targeted Gaza’s healthcare system has been progressively devastated by Israel’s onslaught. Since October 2023, one of Gaza’s only functioning microbiology service centres is a small laboratory at Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, which retained power largely via diesel generators and battery inverters. “The hospital, which is one of the only hospitals in Gaza that has remained partly operational, has treated large volumes of traumatic injuries despite frequent airstrikes (beginning as early as October, 2023, and continuing at the time of writing) in the northern two governorates of the Gaza Strip,” the paper read. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), between October 7, 2023, and July 30, 2024, Israel carried out 498 attacks on healthcare facilities in the Gaza Strip. “A total of 747 persons were killed directly in those attacks and 969 were injured, and 110 facilities were affected,” the Independent International Commission of Inquiry for the U.N. reported. As many as 500 medical staff were killed while Israeli security forces also blocked access by humanitarian agencies.

“Direct attacks on healthcare facilities, including those offering sexual and reproductive health care and services, have affected about 540,000 women and girls who are of reproductive age in Gaza,” it added. The U.N. report also said the high number of child deaths is likely attributable to the fact that “children represent a majority of the patients treated in hospitals for blunt and penetrating trauma”.

Medical professionals told the Commission they had treated children with direct gunshot wounds, meaning the kids had been targeted. “Children were operated on without preoperative and post-operative care, increasing the risk of wounds becoming infected, including by insects and para-

sites, resulting in complications and, in some cases, death,” the report said. Vulnerable to disease “A major finding is that about 76% of that sample did come from blast- or trauma-related injuries, which speaks to the volume of blast-related injuries that are coming in as a result of the Israeli military assault on Gaza,” Bilal Irfan, a coauthor of the study and a global health scholar with an interest in bioethics, conflict medicine, and trauma systems, with the Centre for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School, said in an interview with a US daily. We don’t even know the true scale “because of the destruction of almost all the laboratories and the killing of a lot of the medical staff, so to even get a small insight into what is happening in Gaza is extremely important,” Dr. Irfan, who also conducts research at Harvard’s Brigham and Women’s hospital and the University of Michigan, told The Guardian. “We don’t even know the true scale because of the destruction of almost all the laboratories and the killing of a lot of the medical staff, so to even get a small insight into what is happening in Gaza is extremely important.” Al-Ahli Arab Hospital has also been reporting an increasing number of daily admissions with little sterile irrigation fluid, wounds remaining undressed for days, and only ad-hoc donations of broad-spectrum antibiotics, per the paper. “Long-term sheltering of displaced families outside the hospital might also have contributed to transmission of infectious diseases,” it added. Beyond Gaza’s borders The international medical community “has a duty” to act and respond to this crisis, the paper’s authors wrote. “First and foremost, health-care workers and governments worldwide must advocate for the cessation of the Israeli military invasion that has resulted in a surge of trauma injuries and the widespread deliberate targeting of hospitals, laboratories, and water desalination plants; without this ceasefire, the infection burden will escalate further.” It added that drug supply should be coordinated across humanitarian agencies and donors, perhaps through the WHO, so that the antimicrobial response can be tailored to the documented need of hospitals. “If protection of Palestinian health facilities, antibiotic supply pipelines, and functional laboratories are not secured soon, the resistant organisms documented here will probably disseminate far beyond Gaza’s borders,” the paper warned.

As air turns toxic, hospitals see rise in respiratory cases

Hospitals in Delhi have registered a sharp increase in the number of people complaining of breathing difficulties and respiratory ailments amid a spike in the city’s air pollution levels, with doctors increasingly advising them to wear face masks and avoid visiting polluted areas. Delhi’s air quality remained in the ‘very poor’ category for a third straight day on Wednesday, with the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) standing at 353 at 4 p.m., according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

The worst affected by air pollution are children and older adults due to their weaker immune systems and reduced lung capacity besides persons living with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and heart conditions. “Apart from the vulnerable population, which is highly sensitive to pollutants and more likely to experience severe flare-ups, we have the otherwise healthy individuals reporting coughing, wheezing, throat irritation, and shortness of breath from the extreme spike in pollution,” Anil Bansal, a member of the Delhi Medical Association, said, adding that now it is the elderly population that seems to be the worst hit with rising cases of pneumonia and respiratory failure.

According to doctors, people must minimise the time spent outdoors during peak pollution hours, especially in the evening and early morning hours, wear masks when going out to filter out fine particulate matter, use air purifiers with HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters, and keep windows and doors sealed to prevent polluted air from entering homes. Additionally, staying hydrated and consulting a doctor before taking medicines are also important, they said.

Gaganyaan mission: 90% of development work completed, says ISRO Chairman

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan on Thursday said that about 90% of the development work on the Gaganyaan mission has been completed. “The Gaganyaan mission is going on very well. A lot of technological development has to take place. Number one the rocket has to be human rated, the life support system, the crew escape system and of course human centric products. I can say today that approximately 90% of the development work has been completed,” Mr. Narayanan told reporters in Bengaluru. He added that the crewed mission to launch the Indian astronauts into space will take place in 2027 and prior to that ISRO will undertake three uncrewed missions.



Mr. Narayanan said that the crewed mission to launch the Indian astronauts into space will take place in 2027 and prior to that ISRO will undertake three uncrewed missions

day mission and bringing them back safely to Earth by landing in Indian sea waters. On the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite launched on July 30, 2025, Mr. Narayanan said that the satellite is healthy and it would be declared operational in another 10-15 days.

“Initial input states that the satellite is totally healthy and both the payloads are working well,” he said. NISAR is the first sat-

ellite to observe the earth with a dual-frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) — NASA’s L-band and ISRO’s S-band — both using NASA’s 12-metre unfurlable mesh reflector antenna, integrated with ISRO’s modified I3K satellite bus. The NISAR satellite will scan the earth and provide all-weather, day-and-night data at 12-day intervals, and enable a wide range of applications. On the NVS-02 satellite which suf-

fered a technical glitch as ISRO was unable to perform the intended orbit raising operations due to a valve malfunction, the ISRO Chairman said, “The NVS-02 satellite has gone to the elliptical orbit and we could not take it to circular orbit because of a valve malfunction. The failure analysis committee has completed the investigation and zeroed down on the fault. The recommendation of the committee will be placed before the Government.”

Is age catching up with India’s dams?



“At Independence, the new Government of India ... made the building of big dams a central part of its strategy for transforming India, a commitment to which it adhered for decades,” historian Daniel Klingensmith wrote in his 2007 book ‘One Valley and a Thousand’.

The Damodar Valley Corporation, the Bhakra Nangal, and the Hirakud in the 1940s were followed by dams on the Rihand, Koyna, Tungabhadra, Chambal, and Krishna rivers in the decade after. In fact, in the two decades from 1951, India had started work on 418 large dams and by 2000 had completed around 4,000. In Klingensmith’s telling, building dams had become “a way by which the modernity and worth of the nation could be enhanced, tested, and displayed.”Today, however, India faces the challenge of large parts of its hydrological infrastructure ageing en masse. According to the National Register of Large (Specified) Dams, some 1,065 were 50-100 years old and 224 were more than a century old in 2023. Many major dams of the post-1950 period are now in the last stages of their originally intended lifespan, raising safety and performance concerns that transcend problems of engineering alone.

In practice, India’s dam projects have typically assumed a useful life on the order of a few decades. The Bhakra Dam completed in 1963 was expected to serve for at least 100 years as a reservoir but its builders underestimated sedimentation rates, so much so that the reservoir’s capacity had dropped by nearly 25% in the first 35 years of its use. Likewise, the Lower Bhavani Dam in Tamil Nadu had lost 28% of its capacity between 1956 and 2005 and the Nizam Sagar Dam had lost roughly half its capacity just in the first three decades of use since 1931. These examples illustrate one fact clearly: the initial design life of many dams isn’t equal to the actual life. The cost of running a dam at its original performance levels can shoot up as it ages — and this is before the additional ‘climate load’ is factored in. Dams more than 50 years old today have outdated spillway capacities and structural safety factors and require urgent attention to ensure they can continue to function safely.

This photograph shows buildings near the Arbaat Dam, 40 km north of Port Sudan, after it collapsed following heavy rains and torrential floods on August 25, 2024. Dams’ multiple failure modes can be split into three types: structural, hydraulic, and geotechnical. These modes are hard to pry apart in practice but it’s useful to treat them separately if only to identify specific ways to surmount them. A structural failure is when a dam ruptures or collapses due to weaknesses implicit to its structure. Common causes include poor design and/or construction, material degradation, and structural components being forced to withstand forces they weren’t equipped to. For example, progressive concrete deterioration can weaken a concrete dam over time. One way this happens is when silica in rocky aggregates in the structure reacts with alkali compounds in the cement to form a water-absorbing substance. As the substance expands, the concrete starts to crack from within. This category also includes structural cracks, slope instability in earth embankments, and gate and sluice failures. Worldwide, about 42% of concrete dam failures have been attributed to foundational and structural issues. Structural failures in Indian dams have been traced to seepage, corroded piping, and/or weak foundations. A hydraulic failure occurs when the dam can no longer safely store water. The best known cause of this mode, especially in the era of climate change, is overtopping: when flood waters pass over the dam’s pinnacle, potentially breaching the structure en route. When inflow exceeds the dam’s capacity, insufficient spillway capacity or blocked spillways can also lead to overtopping. Similarly, when a dam’s outflow is very fast, it can erode the structure’s downstream face, also resulting in hydraulic failure. In earth and rock-filled dam failures worldwide, overtopping has been the single most common cause (about a third of the time). India’s first recorded dam failure, of the Tigma Dam in 1917, was also due to overtopping, and overall this cause has been the main one in most of the 36 recorded dam failures in the country.

Finally, a geotechnical failure occurs when the dam’s foundations, abutments or the materials within the dam are unstable. Internal erosion in the foundation has accounted for about 29% of masonry dam failures worldwide. Earth-fill dams are particularly susceptible to flawed piping in the dam’s body, where water can seep through the dam or its foundation and eventually cause a breach. Earthquakes and landslides can also trigger structural as well as geotechnical failures. Dams in seismically active zones are particularly vulnerable to quake-induced cracking or slope failures. When the magnitude-6.6 Koynanagar earthquake in Maharashtra shook the Koyna Dam in 1967, the structure developed cracks and began to accumulate hydrostatic pressure, raising fears of a breach. Real-world failures are a combination of these modes. An initial structural deficiency could lead to excessive leaks (geotechnical failure) that weaken the dam. Thus when the part of the river upstream of the dam receives heavy rainfall or when there’s a glacial lake outburst flood (like the one that roiled Sikkim in 2023), the waters overtop the dam and results in a catastrophic breach. The world’s history of dams indicates more than 70% of failures occur in the first decade of operations as this is when flaws in the design or construction are most likely to become evident. But as dams age, delayed maintenance, material ageing, and unanticipated flooding or seismic events can dramatically increase failure risk. After all, as climate change intensifies, it increases the risk of natural disasters of unprecedented magnitude — and to not have precedent means to lose history as a guide. Caring for older dams India’s Central and State governments have developed an evolving framework of policies, laws, and projects to ensure dam safety, led by the safety regime established by the Dam Safety Act 2021. The instrument provides a framework to surveil, inspect, operate, and maintain all specified large dams, and requires institutional mechanisms at both the Central and the State levels to uphold it. At the Act’s heart is the National Committee on Dam Safety, the apex body with the responsibility of evolving dam safety policies and reviewing the work of State-level agencies. The Committee is joined by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), a regulatory body under the Union Jal Shakti Ministry tasked with enforcing policy and resolving interstate disputes. In this scenario, every State with large dams is required to establish a State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) headed by qualified engineers to oversee dams in its jurisdiction. (If a dam is located in one State but operated by another, the NDSA supplants the relevant SDSO.) The 2021 Act also specifies regular inspection schedules. Dam owners — of-

ten a State’s irrigation department or power utility — are required to conduct pre-monsoon and post-monsoon checks every year, among others. The law also requires each dam to have an emergency action plan and an alarm system, and provides for remedial actions that SDSOs can order if a dam is found to be falling short. Before the Act, the Central Water Commission (CWC) had set guidelines for dam owners on regular maintenance and safety reviews. To this end, many States have had Dam Safety Review Panels: expert groups typically populated by experienced dam engineers, hydrologists, and geologists and which audit ageing dams and recommend rehabilitation measures. The Dam Safety Organisation within the CWC also maintains a database of dam incidents and assists States in investigative studies. After any major natural disaster, a dam is also subjected to special inspections. In 2012, the Indian government mooted the flagship Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) to upgrade ageing dams. DRIP places particular emphasis on capacity building, including training State dam engineers in contemporary safety practices and developing an emergency action plans. Upgraded dams as a result have piezometers, inclinometers, and seismic monitors on site watching for signs of distress. These in turn also require dam health monitoring software to be integrated with dams’ operations and for each dam to maintain a log, like its report card.

From 2012 to 2021, DRIP I rehabilitated 198 dams in Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. Work included grouting cracks, strengthening spillway piers, improving drainage and filtration systems in earth dams, replacing gates and valves, installing modern sensors and instruments, and improving operational processes. The government approved DRIP phases II and III in 2020 to cover 736 dams in 19 States, with financial assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for physical rehabilitation and to undertake comprehensive safety evaluations. As of early 2024, reviews for more than 400 dams had reportedly been completed. Dovetailing on DRIP are guidelines to deal with the consequences of natural events rendered more intense and/or frequent by climate change. This includes rechecking the probable maximum flood for spillway designs, improving spillway capacity, and adding auxiliary channels. Older masonry and concrete dams are also evaluated against current earthquake codes and strengthened if required by anchoring, buttressing or adding reinforced concrete overlays. The National Hydrology Project and flood forecasting initiatives have also been working to improve flood management upstream. On the flip side, DRIP doesn’t make room for dams to be decommissioned; instead it focuses on extending the lifespan of dams at all costs. India in fact lacks an official dam decommissioning policy. The Dam Safety Act empowers authorities to declare a dam unsafe and potentially stop its operation, but there’s no procedure to decommission it altogether. Experts have recommended India develop a risk-based framework, i.e. when a dam’s failure risk exceeds acceptable limits and it’s no longer feasible to strengthen it. Calls by experts to decommission specific dams, such as the Mullaperiyar, have thus far only been dealt with in courts.

Economics of ageing As a dam ages, the cost of its upkeep rises. Older dams often require structural strengthening, e.g. by retrofitting their spillways or reinforcing concrete; upgrading gates and mechanical equipment; and continuously dredging and managing sediment. Second, the loss of reservoir capacity thanks to siltation diminishes water supply, irrigation potential, and hydroelectric power generation capacity. Addressing sedimentation by dredging and restoring catchment areas, among other measures, is also expensive. At one point, the Government of India had deemed the Bhakra reservoir’s large-scale dredging to be “cost-prohibitive”.

To evaluate the potential cost of a complete failure, analysts use risk assessment models that consider the probability of failure together with its consequences. In practice, a dam’s hazard classification (low, significant or high) is based on the worst consequences should it fail. Consequence analysis frameworks, such as the one the US’s Department of Homeland Security uses to assess dam safety, enumerate the consequences in three categories: human (populations at risk, potential loss of life), economic (property damage, infrastructure loss, cost of replacement and remediation), and critical services (loss of water supply, power, irrigation). Thus, a comprehensive failure scenario analysis might estimate the asset replacement cost of the dam and its associated structures, the remediation cost for downstream cleanup, and the lost power generation or water supply as part of business losses. Depending on the relevant risks, the analysis may also include intangible costs like environmental damage and long-term economic setback to the region. India currently makes limited formal demands of economic analyses of dam failures. Before the government approves a dam, the project proponent is required to submit an environmental impact assessment (EIA) that includes a dam failure analysis. Since 2021, the Dam Safety Act has required certain dams to have emergency action plans and inundation maps on file. But the government has also been progressively weakening EIA governance, including approving projects sans EIAs and allowing defaulters to pay a fine and continue offending ones. Perhaps the worst failure in India’s history was the collapse of the Machchu-II Dam in Morbi in Gujarat in 1979. This earthen dam was built in the 1970s and was breached after extreme rainfall. Water spilled from the dam in a flash flood that killed more than 2,000 people (although some estimates go up to 20,000).

The failure also demolished most of Morbi town. More recently, the Tiware Dam in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra failed in 2019, wiping out entire villages and killing 19 people. Following tropical cyclone Daniel, the Dema and the Abu Mansour Dams in Libya collapsed in September 2023 and killed more than 3,800. The incident prompted countries worldwide to double-check their own dams — and thus the Himachal Pradesh government found 21 dams in the State had violated their safety norms, including possessing inadequate spillways. The discovery drew calls for older dams to have their safety margins reviewed by independent experts. Dam failures also impose long-term costs as local governments have to restore damaged transport links, compensate and rehabilitate the affected families, and reverse losses in agricultural productivity. Even near-miss events can exact high costs. While the 2018 floods strained but didn’t breach several dams in Kerala, the State’s economy was hit by the emergency reservoir drawdowns and controlled downstream spilling it had to effect. This said, economic evaluations of dam safety are now moving towards risk-based decision-making, which means vouchsafing investments for dams that pose the highest risk, which in turn is a function of the likelihood of failure and the magnitude of downstream consequences. Such an approach helps ensure limited funds are directed to averting the most severe potential disasters, even if the limitedness is arguably artificial and not inevitable. Perhaps the best way to contextualise these measures and policies is to read them in the context of three of India’s great old dams (subjectively speaking): the Mullaperiyar, the Hirakud, and the Bhakra Nangal.

Small farms are more productive than large farms, finds study



Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT Bombay) and the University of Hyderabad conducted a study and found that productivity in India’s semi-arid tropics depends less on farm size and more on access to inputs, credit, and markets. The study involved analysing data from 1975 to 2014 and examining changes through three waves over 40 years. The researchers found that small farms were indeed more productive, especially in the early years (1975–84), citing more intensive family labour, higher attention, and adding more fertilisers per unit compared to larger landholders. The 1960s have shown that smaller farms are generally more productive than large farms in terms of yield per acre. However, the new study proves that even during those early years, the productivity scale was not as tilted towards small farms as previously thought.

The findings suggest that the inverse farm size-productivity relationship, where the productivity decreases as the farm size increases, was never as pronounced in the semi-arid regions of India. As agrarian distress dragged on

in these regions, the productivity advantage of small farms faded in the later years (2009-2014). “The smallholders still matter greatly for food security and rural stability, but they are increasingly vulnerable due to monocropping and high input costs. To strengthen the capacity of smallholders, the need is to improve their access to appropriate technologies, affordable credit, and reliable extension services,” says Prof. Sarthak Gaurav from Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management, IIT Bombay and a co-author of the study. The findings prove that the farm size-productivity relationship is complex, context-dependent, and much weaker than previously thought. The researchers relied on village-level studies from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) datasets spanning over four decades from 1975 to 2014. According to the researchers, this database is considered one of the world’s longest-running agricultural panel studies from semi-arid tropics, a region that missed out on the early benefits of the Green Revolution, as it tracks farming households across multiple decades.

The ICRISAT data is mainly from three representative zones: Akola, Solapur, and Mahabubnagar. The researchers explain that the unique agroecological and institutional conditions here make it an ideal setting to understand how productivity patterns changed in response to delayed but significant transitions in agriculture. According to researchers, they merged household and cultivation data across survey waves and also used external sources, including the India Meteorology Department’s (IMD) gridded data, to fill the gaps. The researchers recommend prioritising the improvements in smallholders’ collective capacity to access markets and inputs. The other recommendation is to help smallholders organise into collectives or producer groups to enable them to pool resources, adopt agroecological practices, and negotiate better prices.

The best defense against deepfakes and misinformation



In a world in which AI is changing the way we communicate, interact, and access information at unprecedented speed, deepfakes have emerged as one of the most insidious threats of the day. Deepfakes, compelling but faked audio, video, or pictures produced through advanced AI methodology, threaten trust, privacy, and democratic debate on a catastrophic scale. With misinformation spreading like wildfire, one needs AI literacy to protect people and society in general. A deepening threat

Deepfakes use advanced AI technologies like Conversational GenAI and Domain Specific LLMs (Large Language Models) to produce very realistic but completely artificial content. From manipulated political orations to simulated celebrity endorsements, the uses are only limited by one’s imagination. What is so insidious about them is that they can evade the human eye, rendering it difficult to distinguish between real and created media. AI literacy enables individuals to critically analyse digital information instead of passively receiving what they hear or observe. One of the approaches is a Human-Centric model for addressing misinformation where AI is merely an aid to augment human judgment, not substitute it. AI literacy enables individuals to grasp the strengths and weaknesses of technologies like Secure GenAI and Sovereign AI, promoting an educated digital citizenry. AI literacy isn’t about knowing how algorithms operate; it’s about understanding how to effectively use verification tools. With some knowledge of the principles of AI, individuals can utilise tools that identify deepfakes and verify facts, which ultimately lead to a healthier information ecosystem. Breaking down complicated AI terminology, such as Human In The Loop (HITL), to students requires relating it to their daily lives. HITL simply denotes that while AI will handle many of the processes, human intervention is still necessary in decision-making and correcting errors. As an example, whereas AI Assist can generate emails or set reminders, a human makes sure the end con-

tent meets intent and correctness. This synergy between automation and human reasoning ensures against missteps and abuse. Educating students on Human In The Loop closes the gap between AI theory and real-world digital accountability. It emphasises that AI does not excuse us from responsibility; it complements our decision-making if used responsibly.

The frontlines of AI education Schools and colleges are best placed to establish foundational AI literacy. School and college curriculum inclusion of AI education is no longer a choice but a necessity. A multi-faceted approach is necessary: Practical workshops: Hands-on sessions where students are trained to detect deepfakes through readily available AI tools and fact-checking websites. AI Ethics: Educating students on the ethical considerations of using and developing AI material, highlighting the necessity for Secure GenAI and Sovereign AI to ensure user information protection and responsible innovation. AI literacy modules: Clear descriptions of terms such as Composite AI and Lifecycle-based Approach, Voice First Interfaces, and AI Agents that illustrate how AI affects everyday life, from virtual assistants to recommendation systems. When students realise that AI technologies are constructed by human beings to benefit human beings, they will be more inclined to engage with content in a critical and ethical manner. Practical applications, such as how Accessible AI makes technology accessible to differently-abled people, need to be taught in the curriculum so that the ability and responsibility of utilising AI tools will be celebrated. Towards easier, safer digital living

The convergence of AI Assistants and Conversational AI can be used as everyday tools that assist users in confirming facts or reporting suspicious content. By enabling students to engage with AI responsibly, we set the stage for an Ease of Living where technology is a trusted countermeasure against misinformation. Deepfakes with the right consent and the right purpose can go a long way, but we need to use them responsibly. Teaching AI literacy early on, we empower the next generation with critical thinking skills, responsible action, and the use of AI as a force for good. As deepfakes become more advanced, so does our response. AI literacy is the best defence against disinformation, allowing students, professionals, and citizens alike to use digital content more responsibly. It is the combined effort of educators, technology companies, media, and policymakers that will be protecting democracy in this age of technology. With informed intellects and moral practices, we can be assured that technology is a force for good, where innovation never comes at the expense of truth, and where education serves as the beacon.

BC reservations, both Congress and BJP caught on a slippery ground

HYDERABAD: The national parties – Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are caught on a slippery ground over 42 percent reservations to BCs in the local body elections and employment and education sectors in the State. Ahead of the local body elections, both the parties had drawn up grand plans to win the confidence of BCs. Much to their dismay, all the plans went awry, triggering unrest among the BCs and exposing their “commitment”.

The Congress on its front has been reiterating its commitment towards the community by stressing that two bills were passed in the Assembly and council on March 17 and 18 this year. The same were sent to the President of India’s assent. However, as there was no approval from the President’s Office, the Congress government issued an ordinance but even that was not approved. Finally, the Panchayat Raj Act 2018 and



Municipalities Act, 2019 were also amended.

But all these efforts did not fructify. Though the Congress government was well aware of all these challenges, it has been stressing that 42 reservations would be extended to the BCs. It had even planned to hold a public meeting in Kamareddy on September 15 but postponed it citing rains. Eventually Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday said the State government would wait till the

Supreme Court’s orders over the issue. The entire episode reflected the Congress government’s “commitment”. Amidst all these developments, it is unclear if the State government would conduct the local body elections before September 30 – the deadline set by the High Court. On the other hand, the State BJP has been facing challenging times and is defenseless over the BC reservations issue. The party has been trying to blame the Congress government, charging that in

the guise of extending 42 percent to BC reservations, it was actually facilitating more reservations to the backward Muslims. But this campaign did not strike a chord with the people as expected by the party. It is learnt that the Telangana BJP leaders had raised the issue with the central leadership in New Delhi during the Vice Presidential elections. However, as there was no clear indication from the party central leadership, the State leaders were left disappointed.

India’s reliance on imported crude oil creeps up further on demand growth amid stagnant domestic production



Indian refiners' heavy imports of Russian crude are seen as a lever that the Trump administration believes it can use to force the Kremlin's hand into ending the Ukraine war.India's oil import dependency was 87.8 per cent in FY24, 87.4 per cent in FY23, 85.5 per cent in FY22, 84.4 per cent in FY21, 85 per cent in FY20, and 83.8 per cent in FY19.Growing demand for fuel and other petroleum products amid stagnant domestic crude oil output led to India's reliance on imported oil inching up further during April-September (first six months) of the current financial year 2025-26 (FY26). Latest data released by the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) shows that India's oil import dependency was 88.4 per cent in April-September, up from 87.9 per cent in the corresponding period of the last financial year. For the full FY25, reliance on imported oil was at 88.2 per cent, a full-year record.

Industry watchers believe that the import dependency level for the entire FY26 could be a tad higher than the April-September level, as was the case in the previous financial year. India's energy needs are consistently growing, leading to higher oil imports. This is fuelled by factors like growing energy-intensive industries, increased vehicle sales, a rapidly expanding aviation sector, growing consumption of petrochemicals, and a rising population. India's reliance on imported oil has generally increased over the years, with the exception of FY21 when demand was suppressed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.India's oil import dependency was 87.8 per cent in FY24, 87.4 per cent in FY23, 85.5 per cent in FY22, 84.4 per cent in FY21, 85 per cent in FY20, and 83.8 per cent in FY19.

India's heavy reliance on imported crude oil makes its

economy vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations. This also impacts the country's trade deficit, foreign exchange reserves, the rupee's exchange rate, and inflation rate, among others. The Indian government aims to reduce the country's reliance on imported crude oil but faces challenges due to sluggish domestic oil output amid rising demand. In 2015, the government had set a target to cut the dependence on imported oil from 77 per cent to 67 per cent by 2022. However, import dependency has only increased.The government has implemented several policy reforms to encourage investments in India's oil and gas exploration and production sector. The government is also promoting electric mobility, biofuels, and other alternative fuels to reduce oil imports. While there has been an increase in electric mobility adoption and the blending of biofuels with conventional fuels, it is not sufficient to offset petroleum demand growth.India's crude oil imports rose to 121.2 million tonnes in the six months to September from 120.7 million tonnes in the year-ago period. Meanwhile, domestic oil production declined slightly to 14.2 million tonnes from 14.4 million tonnes. Total domestic consumption of petroleum products in April-September rose 1 per cent year-on-year to 118.3 million tonnes, of which only 13.7 million tonnes of products estimated to have been produced from domestic crude oil, resulting in a self-sufficiency level of just 11.6 per cent, per the PPAC data.

The computation of the extent of import reliance is based on the domestic consumption of petroleum products and excludes petroleum product exports as those volumes do not represent India's demand. India—the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and also one of its top importers—is a net exporter of petroleum products.Despite higher oil imports and import dependency, the country's gross oil import bill for April-September declined 14.7 per cent to \$60.7 billion year-on-year. The relief was primarily on account of lower oil prices in the international market vis-à-vis last year. Crude oil imports top the list of India's merchandise imports.Unlike most large economies, India is seen as a major growth centre for oil demand given the future consumption potential and relatively low per-capita energy demand currently. In fact, India is among the few markets where refinery capacity is expected to expand substantially over the coming years. India currently has a refining capacity of nearly 258.1 million tonnes per annum.

Centre to allow only senior officials to flag ‘unlawful’ content for blocking



Information TechnologyCurrently, the rules say that such directions can be issued by an “appropriate Government or its agency,” without specifying any particular designation of the official.The Ministry of Electronics and IT is bringing out amendments to one of its content blocking laws, under which it will specify that content notices sent under Section 79 (3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, can only be issued by senior officials at the Centre and state levels, officials said Wednesday.

As per amendments to the Information Technology Rules, 2021, the ministry will specify that content blocking intimations to social media platforms like YouTube, Instagram and X can be sent by a senior officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary (JS), or equivalent, and a Director or an officer equivalent in rank where a JS has not been appointed. In case of police authorities, only an officer not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), specially authorised, can issue such intimation.A senior government official said that there had been instances in some states, where police officers at the rank of sub inspectors and assistant sub inspectors were sending content notices to social media companies. “We felt there was a need to create a mechanism where not any officer can issue such notices, and that power is only available to the very senior ones,” this official said.Currently, the rules say that such directions can be issued by an “appropriate Government or its agency,” without specifying any particular designation of the official.

“Accountability of the government increases with this change. And we will be giving a reasoned intimation whenever any such order is passed. And the orders will be passed at a fairly senior level, JS and above, and DIG and above,”

IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.To be sure, Elon Musk-owned social media platform X had challenged this specific provision of the IT Act, saying that the government was trying to establish a “parallel” content blocking regime, under which it had empowered any official at the Centre and state levels to issue content notifications. The Karnataka High Court had ruled in favour of the Central Government last month.

Senior officials briefing the media said the changes the government was now bringing about were not related to X's arguments and have no relation to them. The amendments, which are expected to kick in from November 15, are expected to specify that the content intimation to platforms must clearly specify the legal basis and statutory provision, the nature of the unlawful act, and the specific URL/identifier or other electronic location of the information, data or communication link to be removed.All intimations issued under Rule 3(1)(d) will be subject to a monthly review by an officer not below the rank of Secretary of the appropriate Government – the IT Secretary in case of the Centre, and either the Home or IT Secretaries at the state level.On the face of it, the changes the IT Ministry is now making to the law, seem to address some of the concerns X had raised in its plea. As per Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, online intermediaries like X can lose their safe harbour protections if they fail to block access to content which has been flagged by an “appropriate” government agency. Safe harbour protections are key to the functioning of social media platforms, as they afford them legal immunity from hosting user generated content.

This process is separate from Section 69(A) of the IT Act, which also allows for content blocking in cases affecting the “sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State,” whereas under Section 79 (3)(b), any “unlawful” content can be directed to be removed.In fact, one of X's contentions in its case was that the IT Ministry had “directed” all central ministries, State governments, States' deputy generals of police, and effectively tens of thousands of local police officers, that they are authorised to issue information blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b), outside the Section 69A process.MeitY has also provided all Central and state government agencies a “Template Blocking Order” to use to issue these “unlawful” information blocking orders, the plea had said.

and helping stimulate demand,” the Finance Minister added.According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), Diwali sales soared to an all-time high of Rs 6.05 lakh this year. This marks a 25 per cent jump over the 2024 festive sales of Rs 4.25 lakh crore from the Navratri to Diwali period and is the highest-ever sales in India's trading history, according to Research and Trade Development Society, the research wing of CAIT.

Mainline retail accounted for nearly 85 per cent of total sales, indicating a strong revival of the brick-and-mortar market, the survey showed. The reduction in GST rates across key consumer and retail categories, such as confectionery, home decor, footwear, ready-made garments, consumer durables, and daily-use items, significantly improved price competitiveness and increased purchase momentum.About 72 per cent of surveyed traders reported higher sales volumes directly attributable to reduced GST, according to the survey. Consumers expressed greater satisfaction with stable prices amid festive demand, aiding consumption continuity post-Diwali. The non-corporate and non-agricultural sector has emerged as a central pillar of India's growth, driven by 9 crore small businesses, crores of small manufacturing units, and the largest base of consumers.

My patient got tested every 3 months, then sought advice on ChatGPT: How over-testing fuelled his mental anxiety



Today let me talk about a 50-year-old patient of mine, who has a healthy constitution but gets himself tested every one to three months without fail. Neither does he have any family history of a chronic disease, nor do his routine tests show wild variations to merit concern or medication. Lest laboratories refuse to repeat tests, he goes to different labs for sample collection. If any reading is slightly out of range or is marked bold, he compares with the last report and seeks an emergency appointment. Worse, he self-monitors his health with specialised tests like CRP and cortisol without the advice of the doctor. What is driving his anxiety about health?

It would be easy to dismiss over-testing as an anxiety issue. But what he and many like him are exposed to are misinformation and Instagram reels on tests one should take to prevent a major health crisis. For example, he has come to me seeking answers on why his CRP levels are marginally up and why the slight elevation in his liver enzymes indicates a chronic liver condition. Now CRP levels could be slightly higher for a number of reasons. Similarly, slightly elevated liver enzymes can be a short-term aberration related to obesity, alcohol and medication, which is often settled by lifestyle adjustments.My patient has even ignored my assurance, uploaded his test results on Chat GPT and ended up being worried that he was developing a major illness that floated up on his screen. Currently, we are counselling him for mental stress but many of you should know about the tests you should do, what you don't need and how not to waste money.

How frequently should one do a full-body check-up?

‘Main bhi hairaan hoti hun ye meri beti hai’: Madhu Chopra on being proud of daughter Priyanka; why it’s important to express it publicly



Madhu Chopra expresses her immense pride in daughter Priyanka Chopra, reflecting on how she continues to be amazed by her achievements. Discover why publicly expressing parental pride is important and how it strengthens family bonds.Madhu Chopra expresses her immense pride in daughter Priyanka Chopra, reflecting on how she continues to be amazed by her achievements. Discover why publicly expressing parental pride is important and how it strengthens family bonds. (file)Priyanka Chopra has long been a source of inspiration, not just for her fans but also for her family.In a recent interview with Pinkvilla, her mother, Dr Madhu Chopra, shared a heartfelt moment of pride, saying, “Priyanka doesn't just make me proud, she makes the whole world proud, the whole country proud. She has reached that point jab main bhi kabhi kabhi hairan hoti hun wow ye meri beti hai! (where even I sometimes wonder—wow, is this really my daughter?)”This candid confession reflects the immense admiration and surprise even a mother feels watching her child achieve greatness. Chopra also admitted that, at times, Priyanka's words and achievements take her by surprise. “Haan, main abhi bhi hairaan ho jati hun kai baar uski baatein sunkar chaunk jati hun vaah, kaha se iske dimag mein baatein aai. (There are moments when I hear her speak, and I wonder—where does she get these thoughts from?)” she added. This deep appreciation showcases how parents can continue to be amazed by their children's growth, no matter how much they achieve.

Ideally, every adult should do a full body checkup once a year. People with chronic conditions or a family history of certain illnesses may need more frequent checkups, possibly every six to 12 months. Unless there is a worrisome condition that develops in between and which requires specific tests, these are enough.

What is the downside of frequent testing?

Repeating tests at small intervals can yield false positives and build unnecessary tension. This leads to ten more tests that the patient wants, leading to medical mismanagement. Your doctor is the best person to interpret your basic package of tests and suggest specific tests should they suspect a condition.CRP: Most patients ask me if they should get a CRP test, a blood test that measures the amount of C-reactive protein (CRP), a protein produced by the liver in response to inflammation. CRP is not an everyday test because it indicates overall inflammation, which is not a diagnostic tool for a specific condition. Doctors order it to help diagnose and monitor acute illnesses like Covid, autoimmune disorders, arthritis, pneumonia and infections, not to track daily health fluctuations. Besides, CRP is affected by age, obesity, smoking, diabetes, and even intense exercise.HsCRP: This is the high sensitivity CRP test that many people go for, having gotten tested for it during Covid. This is specific for cardio-vascular risk management and is not for everybody. It is recommended for those above 45 with high cardiovascular risks like obesity, diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol, family history, smoking. In fact, frequent repetitions will show different readings as they fluctuate with exercise, stress or even mild infection.Homocysteine: This is an amino acid linked to blood vessel damage, high levels of which indicate Vitamin B12, B6 or B9 deficiency. Although this test is being mentioned in terms of preventive heart health, it is recommended only when you develop an unexplained heart disease or stroke without a history of risk factors, when you have a strong family history of premature heart attacks, or when you have clotting disorders and unexplained B12 deficiency. Also lowering homocysteine has not reduced heart disease risk in patients, a risk which needs to be mitigated by other lifestyle parameters. Repetition is not required unless the vitamin B12 levels need to be correctedSerum cortisol: Being a stress hormone, cortisol levels fluctuate wildly through the day. So a reading cannot give you the exact health status of your body. It is very specific to assess adrenal gland dysfunction.

The importance of expressing parental pride publiclyWhile pride in one's children is often private, expressing it publicly carries significant value. Acknowledging achievements out loud strengthens family bonds and reassures children—no matter their age—that their hard work is recognised and appreciated.According to Srishti Vatsa, a counselling psychologist, family expectations shape many of our personal decisions. Parents often expect children to follow unspoken societal norms, especially regarding career and personal life. Vatsa explains that anxieties about “suitable timing” and societal pressures usually stem from parental fears. “Be conscious of where your fears are coming from,” she advises. “This pressure should not take away the practical aspect of being emotionally and financially ready”. Publicly expressing can serve as a powerful counter to such pressures, reinforcing their confidence and personal agency. In an Indian context, where family values hold immense weight, setting boundaries between familial expectations and personal choices is key. As Vatsa notes, it's crucial to have “family conversations to understand where family influence needs to end, and personal agency should take over.”For Priyanka Chopra, whose journey from Bollywood to Hollywood has broken many barriers, this kind of recognition from her mother is not just a personal victory but a message to countless others striving to carve their own paths.How to support and celebrate loved ones' achievementsMadhu Chopra's words serve as a reminder that parental pride and encouragement can be a great source of strength. Here's how you can apply this in your relationships: Acknowledge Growth – Whether it's a small accomplishment or a significant milestone, recognizing progress helps build confidence. Express Appreciation Openly – A simple statement like “I'm so proud of you” can have a lasting impact.Celebrate Achievements Publicly – Just as Madhu Chopra did, sharing pride with others can reinforce a loved one's sense of accomplishment. Encourage Personal Choices – Support doesn't always mean agreement; it also means respecting and trusting someone's journey. Have Open Conversations – Honest discussions about aspirations, fears, and struggles can strengthen relationships and provide emotional reassurance.

UPI hits record Rs 1.02 lakh crore in single-day payments as GST cuts fuel Diwali demand

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted on Thursday that the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform processed 754 million payments worth Rs 1.02 lakh crore on October 18, marking the highest single-day tally, as consumer demand surged due to the GST rate cuts.During the three days between Dhanteras and Diwali, the average UPI volumes stood at 736.9 million — higher than 647.46 million in the corresponding period a month ago, the Finance Minister said.

“It has been a cracker of a Diwali for retailers this year as GST rate cuts have boosted consumption, enabling the middle class to add more items to their shopping bags this festive season,” she observed.From lab-grown diamonds to casual wear and products to adorn homes, both mass and premium segments of the market picked up, Sitharaman remarked. She pointed out that the roll-out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) 2.0 has injected fresh momentum into India's growth story by enhancing household purchasing power, easing business operations, and simplifying tax administration.

“By rationalising slabs and lowering rates across a range of consumer goods, the reform has delivered tangible savings for households, freeing up disposable income

From cash to escalator handrails, 6 common items you must wash your hands after touching

We are all guilty of doing it — walking through our homes or offices, touching countless things without thinking twice. A doorknob here, a light switch there, maybe a few notes of cash exchanged at a store. These everyday items may look harmless, but they are silent carriers of germs, bacteria, and viruses that can easily make their way onto your hands — and eventually into your body.Here's a look at 6 common objects you touch daily — and why you should make it a habit to wash or sanitise your hands after coming in contact with them.Door Knobs

Think about it — everyone touches door knobs multiple times a day, whether at home, in offices, or in public spaces. According to several studies, door knobs and handles can harbour thousands of bacteria per square inch, including E. coli and Staphylococcus aureus, both of which can cause infections. Since metal surfaces allow germs to survive for hours, it's best to wash your hands immediately after touching public or shared knobs. If that's not possible, use a sanitiser with at least 60 per cent alcohol before touching your face or food.MoneyCash notes and coins pass through hundreds of hands and environments — from sweaty palms to dusty counters. Bacteria and microbes linked to skin and respiratory infections are usually detected on currencies, which are circulated widely. Even though

India is moving toward digital payments, physical currency still dominates in many areas. After handling cash, especially coins, make it a point to wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly.HandrailsFrom staircases to escalators and public transport, handrails are designed for safety — but they often collect layers of dirt, sweat, and microorganisms from hundreds of hands daily. Because they're rarely cleaned, these surfaces can become a hotspot for bacteria and even viruses, such as the common cold and flu. So the next time you grip a handrail for balance, remember to sanitise afterwards.Light switches are one of the most frequently touched but least-cleaned surfaces in any home. From kitchen switches coated with oil splatters to bedroom panels touched after returning from outside, these spots can accumulate germs quickly. In fact, studies show that switchboards can carry more bacteria than toilet seats if not cleaned regularly. Use disinfectant wipes to clean them once a week — and if you have just switched on a light in a public restroom or shared area, make sure to wash your hands soon after.Soap DispensersIt might sound ironic, but soap dispensers themselves can be a source of germs — especially in public restrooms. People often touch the handles or pumps before they've washed their hands, leaving behind a mix of bacteria and viruses.

Rishabh Pant returns, Mohammed Shami ignored as India announce squad for South Africa Test series



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Pant only managed a score of 17 in the first innings but then scored 90 off 113 balls in the second, which ultimately helped India A win the match by three wickets. (AP Photo)Pant only managed a score of 17 in the first innings but then scored 90 off 113 balls in the second, which ultimately helped India A win the match by three wickets.

Rishabh Pant is back from the injury he sustained in England in July this year and has been included in India's squad for their upcoming two-match Test series against South Africa. The first Test will be played from November 14 at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata while the second will be played in Guwahati from November 22. Pant has replaced N Jagadeesan in the squad that hosted the West Indies last month. The other change in the squad is Akash Deep replacing Prasidh Krishna.Pant returns as vice-captain of the team. His comeback to competitive cricket was as captain of India A in their first unofficial Test against South Africa A, which was played from October 30 to November 2 at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. The 28-year-old kept wickets throughout the match, in which South Africa A batted 139.3 overs across two innings. He only managed a score of 17 in the first innings but then scored 90 off 113 balls in the second, which ultimately helped India A win the match by three wickets.Shami remains out

Meanwhile, senior fast bowler Mohammed Shami remains out of the Indian Test setup. Shami had been ignored for the Test series against the West Indies as well, after which the 35-year-old had stated that he is fit to play. He went on to play a leading role in Bengal's 141-run win over Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy with a five-wicket haul in the second innings, after which his childhood coach Mohammed Badruddin had declared that Shami is back in his old rhythm that made him one of the most feared fast bowlers in the world. Shami took a total of eight wickets in the match.Dhruv Jurel is expected to make way for Pant once again, despite his impressive performance with the bat against the West Indies which included a maiden century in the first Test. There is little argument against Pant being slotted right back into the squad, though. He started the epic five-match series in England with two centuries in the first Test. Pant is averaging 64.44 in the five Tests he has played thus far this year.Prasidh was in the Indian squad for the West Indies Tests but was on the bench in both matches, with India choosing to play Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj in both matches. It could be a similar case for Akash Deep in the Test series against South Africa, unless India decide to rest either Bumrah or Sira in the series.Tilak Varma to lead India A in one-dayersMeanwhile, Prasidh has been included in the India A squad for their three-match one-day series against South Africa A in Rajkot. Tilak Varma is set to lead that team with Ruturaj Gaikwad as his vice-captain. Ishan Kishan is also in the team, as is T20I world no 1 batter Abhishek Sharma. Ishan Kishan has also been included in the squad.India's Test squad: Shubman Gill (C), Rishabh Pant (WK) (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash DeepIndia A's squad for one-day team: Tilak Varma (C), Ruturaj Gaikwad (VC), Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag, Ishan Kishan (WK), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Vipraj Nigam, Manav Suthar, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Prabhsimran Singh (WK)

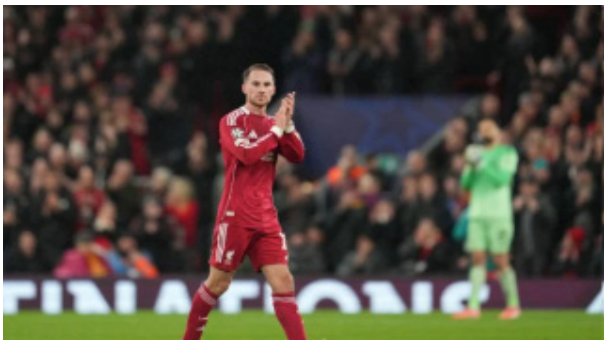
How a few simple tweaks by Arne Slot helped Liverpool outclass Real Madrid

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Remember the scene from the Matrix where Keanu Reeves' Neo managed to stop a huge number of bullets coming towards him in mid-air by just holding up his hands? Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois did something similar when he faced a barrage of Liverpool attacks throughout the match. The Belgian goalie made some world class stops to deny Liverpool but he finally let one in when Dominik Szoboszlai's free kick was met by Alexis Mac Allister who headed the Reds to a 1-0 lead which ultimately turned into the winner.

The victory was Liverpool's second win on the bounce, something they have achieved for the first time since September. Ahead of this match vs Real, Arne Slot's side lost 6 of their last 8 matches which put a dent on their hopes of retaining the title they had won last season. Their defence was failing, the big money signings like Florian Wirtz and Alexander Isak did not hit the ground running and somewhere along the way, they looked to have lost their identity.Liverpool Real Madrid's Eder Militao, left, and Liverpool's Dominik Szoboszlai jump for the ball during the Champions League soccer match between Liverpool and Real Madrid in Liverpool, England, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. (AP Photo/Jon Super)But in one of the more important nights of the season, the Reds finally looked like the dominant unit that had waltzed to the Premier League title last season. It just took a bit of a tweak. That came in the form of Slot deploying Wirtz in the left flank instead of the No.10 role. With the physicality of the Premier League, the German has often been out-run by opponents from the middle of the park which neutralized his strengths. But in the new role vs Madrid, with a wide berth to drift in and out, Wirtz looked like a player reborn.Slot's formation shift back to 4-3-3 with Wirtz on the left helped Liverpool rediscover their dominant identity from last season's title-winning campaign

According to Opta, the German created five chances in the first half vs the Los Blancos, the most by any Liverpool player this season which showed as the team dominated the proceedings. Hounded over his ordinary stats where he is yet to get a goal in 15 appearances for the club, Wirtz showed what he is capable of when playing to his strengths.Manager Slot, who has been under a firestorm of criticism for the Reds barren run, will be a rather relieved man after his side's performance in the last two matches.



Instead of experimenting further, Slot now sets up his team in the familiar 4-3-3 shape which he reverted to against Villa on Saturday, a match which the Reds comfortably won by 2-0.The Dutchman brought in Andy Robertson in place of a struggling Milos Kerkez in the Villa match which acted like a tonic with the Scottish left-back using all his experience to his advantage, giving the Reds a much-needed stability on that side. Robertson's performance against Villa was awarded with a start against Real on Tuesday as he kept the 15-times UCL winners at bay.Another bright spot in the team was right back Conor Bradley, an understudy of now Madrid player Trent Alexander Arnold when he was in Liverpool. With his ex-Liverpool mentor watching from the stands, Bradley burst out from under Trent's shadow, delivering a defensive masterclass as he kept Vinicius Jr quiet. The Brazilian tried a few of his flicks and tricks but Bradley's physicality ensured that the Madrid ace was kept marginalized for the lion's share of the match.With the two wing backs on top of their game, the shaky centre-back partnership of Virgil van Dijk and Ibrahima Konate also looked way more assured, successfully shutting down Real's attacking threat with Kylian Mbappe looking out of sorts. Madrid managed just 8 shots in the whole match with just 2 of them on target which says a lot about how solid the Reds were in the back, a trait that was almost a forgotten art at Anfield if you look at the last few matches.Liverpool looks to have found a bit of rhythm back and the smart thing would be to continue with this formation and a set team. But with Isak, Kerkez, Cody Gakpo and Jeremie Frimpong all destined to come back to the first-team, Slot has a conundrum in his hands on how to keep things in balance.

FIDE Chess World Cup 2025: Vidit Gujrathi held to draw by 12-year-old “Messi of Chess” Faustino Oro, faces tiebreaks



The 12-year-old Argentinean teenage sensation IM Faustino Oro continued to impress at the ongoing FIDE Chess World Cup 2025, holding India's No. 5 Vidit Gujrathi to a draw in back-to-back classical matches and forcing tiebreaks in their second-round clash on Wednesday in Arpora, Goa.

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

The 12-year-old Argentinean teenage sensation IM Faustino Oro continued to impress at the ongoing FIDE Chess World Cup 2025, holding India's No. 5 Vidit Gujrathi to a draw in back-to-back classical matches and forcing tiebreaks in their second-round clash on Wednesday in Arpora, Goa.Fondly dubbed the “Messi of Chess” and touted as the next big thing in the sport, Oro punched well above

his weight by denying a full point to Vidit in both of their games. In the first classical match on Tuesday, Vidit was pushed to the wall by Oro, who maintained a time advantage over the Indian throughout the game and forced the 2023 FIDE Grand Swiss winner to end the game by three-fold repetition.

The second game followed a similar pattern, with Vidit, a former Candidates entrant, behind on the clock throughout, while the 12-year-old had no real trouble securing a draw.Vidit was among a few Indians held to a draw in their first-round matches, alongside top seed and reigning World Champion D. Gukesh and third seed R. Praggnanandhaa. He needed a win to qualify directly for the third round without needing to play the tiebreaks.

Vidit now enters tricky territory, where he will face Oro in a series of short time-control matches. These begin with two rapid games of 15 minutes plus a 10-second increment per move, with reversed colors. If a winner is not determined, the players will play two more rapid games, this time with 10 minutes plus a 10-second increment. If the tie persists, the tiebreaks will move to a blitz segment, starting with two games of five minutes plus a three-second increment, then two games of three minutes plus a two-second increment, before potentially reaching a sudden-death match.Gukesh is in action against Kazakhstan's Kazybek Nogerbek while Praggnanandhaa is taking on Australian Temur Kuypbokarov as both need to win their games to qualify directly to third round. A draw in either of their games will result in tiebreaks as well. India No. 1 Arjun Erigaisi had beaten his opponent Martin Petrov of Bulgaria in their first match and now needs only a draw to proceed.

Suryakumar Yadav says if he meets Ab de Villiers he would ask how the South African managed to balance his T20I and ODI games



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Although the form of Suryakumar Yadav has dipped in recent times, the Indian T20I skipper is one of the prolific run-getters in the T20I format overall. However, he could not convert his run-scoring form in the T20I format into the ODI setup. In 35 innings he has played Surya has scored 773 runs at an average of 25.76. The 35-year old admitted to his shortcomings in the 50-over version of the game and said that when he meets Ab de Villiers, he will take his advice on how to perform in both formats.“If I meet him soon, then I would like to ask him how he managed to balance his T20I and ODI games. I haven't been able to do so. I thought ODIs should be played like T20Is. I want to ask him what he did to be successful in both formats,” Suryakumar Yadav said on Vimal Kumar's YouTube channel.

“AB, if you are listening to this, please get in touch with me quickly because there are three or four important years ahead for me. I'm very keen on playing ODI cricket as well.

Rishabh Pant returns, Mohammed Shami ignored as India announce squad for South Africa Test series

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Rishabh Pant is back from the injury he sustained in England in July this year and has been included in India's squad for their upcoming two-match Test series against South Africa. The first Test will be played from November 14 at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata while the second will be played in Guwahati from November 22. Pant has replaced N Jagadeesan in the squad that hosted the West Indies last month. The other change in the squad is Akash Deep replacing Prasidh Krishna.Pant returns as vice-captain of the team. His comeback to competitive cricket was as captain of India A in their first unofficial Test against South Africa A, which was played from October 30 to November 2 at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. The 28-year-old kept wickets throughout the match, in which South Africa A batted 139.3 overs across two innings. He only managed a score of 17 in the first innings but then scored 90 off 113 balls in the second, which ultimately helped India A win the match by three wickets.

Shami remains outMohammed Shami took eight wickets in Bengal's 141-run win over Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy. (PTI Photo) Mohammed Shami took eight wickets in Bengal's 141-run win over Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy. (PTI Photo)Meanwhile, senior fast bowler Mohammed Shami remains out of the Indian Test setup. Shami had been ignored for the Test series against the West Indies as well, after which the 35-year-old had stated that he is fit to play. He went on to play a leading role in Bengal's 141-run win over Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy with a five-wicket haul in the second innings, after which his childhood coach Mohammed Badruddin had declared that Shami is back in his old rhythm that made him one of the most feared fast bowlers in the world. Shami took a total of eight wickets in the match.Dhruv Jurel is expected to make way for Pant once again, despite his impressive performance with the bat against the West Indies which included a maiden century in the first Test. There is little argument against Pant being slotted right back into the squad, though. He started the epic five-match series in England with two centuries in the first Test. Pant is averaging 64.44 in the five Tests he

Ivan Rodrigues on advice to his daughter: ‘I only told Jemimah one thing – attitude. Your attitude is important. Why is Dhoni Sir a legend?’



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Hero of India's famous win against Australia in the semifinals was Jemimah Rodrigues her with her knock of 127. But ahead of the final, her father Ivan did make sure, after the herculean task her daughter and the Indian side pulled off, she was in the right mindset and gave the example of MS Dhoni's attitude and will power.

“I only told Jemimah one thing – attitude. Your attitude is important. Why is Dhoni Sir a legend? Attitude. His calmness, his willpower, and his application on the ground to take the right decision and take the game deep. India went to the next level when Dhoni Sir came. I gave an example of the India-Pakistan match (2007 World T20 Final). Who did he give the last over to? Joginder Sharma. We thought Harbhajan had overs left. The attitude and approach that he has, if you have that, you can win any tournament,” said her father Ivan, speaking to India Today.“I will be very vulnerable here because someone who is watching this might be going through the same thing. Nobody likes to talk about their weaknesses. I was going through a lot of anxiety at the start of the tournament. It was a lot before a few games... I used to call my mum and cry the entire time, let it all out because when you go through anxiety, you feel numb,” Jemimah said after her 127-run innings. She added that the experience reminded her of the importance of support from loved ones.“During this time, my mom and dad supported

Please help me! I couldn't balance T20Is and ODIs,” he added. The South Africa has scored from 228 games scored 9577 runs.Surya also gave his views on Washington Sundar and Jitesh Sharma who return to the playing XI on Sunday in the third ODI both of them were unbeaten with scores of 49* and 22* respectively guiding India to a five-wicket win. “Absolutely. Those guys were practising really hard and waiting for their chance. Washi (Washington Sundar) showed great flexibility, Jitesh contributed well, and Arshdeep was outstanding. It felt like the right combination tonight,” added Suryakumar.Morne Morkel on Arshdeep Singh's game timeArshdeep Singh, on his return to the Indian side, picked up 3/35 and has been awarded the Player Of The Match for the side in his third T20I at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart on Sunday. The left-arm seamer, despite being the highest wicket-taker for India in the format with 104 wickets, has been warming the bench too often. Indian bowling coach Morne Morkel said there are limited games going into the T20 World Cup, and it is important to see how the players react under pressure.“It is not easy,” said Morkel on Arshdeep. “There will always be disappointment in terms of players and selection, but that is something at times that, as a player, is uncontrollable.”“For us, from our side, we just keep on asking them to work hard and try hard and be ready for when they do get the opportunity. There are limited games now leading into the T20 World Cup, so it is essential for us to see how the players can react in certain situations under pressure; otherwise, it will be unknown to us. So it is a bit of playing those sorts of games and then still having the mindset to win the game of cricket,” said Morkel.



has played thus far this year.Prasidh was in the Indian squad for the West Indies Tests but was on the bench in both matches, with India choosing to play Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj in both matches. It could be a similar case for Akash Deep in the Test series against South Africa, unless India decide to rest either Bumrah or Siraj in the series. India would be wary of the challenge that South Africa pose as the reigning World Test Champions. They made light work of an undercooked West Indies last month but this is arguably be their first Test series at home against a formidable opposition since their shock 3-0 loss to New Zealand last year.Tilak Varma to lead India A in one-dayersMeanwhile, Prasidh has been included in the India A squad for their three-match one-day series against South Africa A in Rajkot. Tilak Varma is set to lead that team with Ruturaj Gaikwad as his vice-captain. Ishan Kishan is also in the team, as is T20I world no 1 batter Abhishek Sharma. Ishan Kishan has also been included in the squad.India's Test squad: Shubman Gill (C), Rishabh Pant (WK) (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash DeepIndia A's squad for one-day team: Tilak Varma (C), Ruturaj Gaikwad (VC), Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag, Ishan Kishan (WK), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Vipraj Nigam, Manav Suthar, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Prabhsimran Singh (WK)

me a lot. There was Smriti, who also helped me... she just knows whose presence is important for me. I am so blessed to have friends who I can call family, that I didn't have to go through it alone. And it's okay to ask for help. The other thing that happened with the anxiety thing was when I was dropped from the team — that really hit me. When they drop you, you have a lot of doubts because I always want to contribute to the team. But that day I couldn't do much... so when you come back in, it's a lot more pressure. But sometimes all you do is hang in there, and things fall into place.”

My job was to finish innings strongly in World Cup final: Richa Ghosh

Mumbai: India's World Cup-winning team was built on trust and role clarity, says dashing keeper-batter Richa Ghosh, who was assigned the finisher's role by head coach Amol Muzumdar.After coming close on two occasions, India finally won their maiden World Cup title, defeating Laura Wolvaardt's South Africa by 52 runs in front of a sea of fans in Navi Mumbai.

“My main job was to finish innings strongly by scoring quickly in the final overs,” the 22-year-old said on JioStar's Follow The Blues.“Whenever I got the chance to bat, my focus was on applying the finishing touches. I aimed to maintain a high strike rate and put pressure on the opposition bowlers.”

“Scoring those extra runs reduces the pressure on our team and gives us a better chance to win,” added Richa, who played a blistering 34 off 24 balls in the final, batting at No. 7 to lift India to 298/7. In reply, South Africa folded for 246.

Sushmita Sen was ‘weeping copiously in a corner’ during Miss India, was certain Aishwarya Rai would win, recalls Prahlad Kakkar: ‘She said it’s fixed’



Apart from their extensive filmographies, actors Aishwarya Rai and Sushmita Sen have represented the country in the biggest beauty pageants of the world. While Sushmita became the first Indian to be crowned Miss Universe, Aishwarya bagged the title of Miss World in 1994. Ad-film maker Prahlad Kakkar recently recalled when the two went head to head during Miss India and exactly what transpired behind the glamorous stages and ramps. While talking to ANI, Prahlad stated that he saw Miss India 1994 from behind the scenes as he had escorted the Devdas actor for the competition. He also recalled how he found himself consoling her rival Sushmita in the middle of the competition.

Talking about the rivalry between the two models, Prahlad said, “That happened in front of me, because when they came up for Miss India, I had escorted Aishwarya to Goa with her mother. I met Sushmita there because I had access to the changing rooms, much to the organiser’s dismay. Halfway through the competition I found Sushmita weeping copiously in one corner. Even though I was from the opposing camp, I went up to her and asked her, ‘What’s the problem?’ She said, ‘It’s all fixed; it’s all rigged. We don’t know what we are doing here.’”

He shared how he convinced an inconsolable Sushmita and recalled, “She told me, ‘Aishwarya is so big, and she is going to be a bigger model. We are all just beginners. They have obviously decided that she is going to be Miss India, and we are all here just for the crumbs.’ I sat her down and said, ‘Have you seen your judging panel? People like Simone Tata, they can’t be coerced.’ She was never going to listen to the dictum of the organisers, and she was going to judge everyone fairly. That is exactly what happened, and Sushmita won.” Recalling the final leg of the competition, Prahlad revealed that the judging panel had added an extra round to the pageant because they couldn’t make up their mind regarding the two models. He revealed that Sushmita won the pageant because of her composure during the final round. He said, “Both of them were stunning, but Aishwarya fell. Finally, there was a question-and-answer round, which was an extra round because they couldn’t decide between the two. Due to her convent education, Sushmita’s answer was far more confident than Aishwarya’s. She won in that last round.”

Emily in Paris Season 5 teaser: Emily is in Rome and it looks good on her

One of Netflix’s heavy hitters, Emily in Paris is returning for a new season, and this time the protagonist is taking over a new European city. Emily’s professional and romantic expeditions have taken her to Rome, and while the teaser doesn’t explain a lot except for the fact that the city looks good on her, the new location seems to have a lot in store for Emily. Apart from a few dialogues sprinkled here and there, most of the teaser has a narrator explaining exactly what is happening on the screen. In a matter of a few seconds, the makers establish Emily’s new location, her beauty, and the suitor who is accompanying her on this journey: Marcello. However, keeping in mind the ending of the last season, Gabriel is bound to lunge into the story at the most dramatic point. The on-and-off partner had an epiphany in the last episode of Emily in Paris Season 4 about the love he feels for the star of the show.

Emily is seen heading even bigger events, traipsing around town in vintage cars, as both she and Marcello look at each other with dreamy eyes in every other shot. Her close confidante or first mate, Mindy Chen, also seems to be doing quite well for herself, and she is the one who tells Emily that Rome is really suiting her. However, a quick observation from Julian about all of Agence Grateau’s employees being in Rome and not in Paris might be a hint to some problems on the business front. Creator Darren Star has, however, admitted that Emily isn’t going to be just in



Rome, and she will eventually show up in Paris. The change in location came because Star “wanted to stay ahead of the audience and take them to unexpected places.” The cast of the show includes Lily Collins, Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu, Ashley Park, Lucas Bravo, Samuel Arnold, Bruno Gouery, William Abadie, Lucien Laviscount and more.

Rishi Kapoor’s rejection from FTII led to a rift between Raj Kapoor and Asrani, claims veteran journalist: ‘He didn’t have the educational qualification’



Raj Kapoor was going through his toughest phase after the release of Mera Naam Joker as he was on the brink of losing everything, even his studio, and at this time, the filmmaker-actor decided to launch his son Rishi Kapoor in the teenage romance film Bobby. Raj decided to cast newcomers Rishi and Dimple Kapadia in the film, and wanted Rishi to get some basic training in acting before starting the film. At the time, the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune was one of the few acting schools in the country and Raj wanted his son to enroll there but he couldn’t make it happen.

In a recent interview with Vicky Lalwani on his YouTube channel, veteran journalist Hanif Zaveri shared, “When Raj Kapoor wanted to launch Rishi Kapoor in Bobby, he wanted Rishi to get some training at FTII. But there was some minimum educational qualification that was required to get admission but Rishi didn’t have that, and he was rejected.” Raj was still keen for Rishi to go to the institute so he started finding out other ways that could help his son get admission.

During this time, late actor Asrani, who had been an acting student at FTII, along with Jaya Bachchan, was also an acting teacher at the institute. Raj hoped that Asrani could be of some help in this department and got in touch with him. “Raj Kapoor went to Asrani and hoped that Asrani would help Rishi in getting admission. But that couldn’t happen and it led to a rift between Raj Kapoor and Asrani,” Hanif said. The veteran journalist said that after this, Raj Kapoor never cast Asrani in any of his films, but it did not affect Asrani and Rishi Kapoor’s relationship. The two worked together in the 1975 film Rafoo Chakkar and later, when Asrani directed the film Chala Murari Hero Banne, Rishi appeared

for a cameo. Hanif claimed that Rishi did not take a penny for his work in the film. Chala Murari Hero Banne starred Asrani in the lead role and the actor had previously shared that he had a tough time casting for the film, which led to his “lowest phase.”

Moscow to host DiamondButterfly Film Award on Nov 24

Hyderabad: Entries from over 20 countries will be vying for the coveted Diamond Butterfly Film Award being hosted by Moscow on November 24, 2025.

According to Consul General of the Russian Federation in Chennai Valerii Khodzhaev, winners will receive cash prizes and the best movie will be rewarded a sum equivalent of US \$1 million dollars. The finalists will be presented with a “Diamond Butterfly” statue containing 5,000 diamonds and made by the famous artist Yuri Kuper whose works have been exhibited in the best art galleries of Moscow, Paris, NY, Geneva. This event, being organised by Eurasia Academy of Cinematographic Arts, is already equated by many with the Oscars in terms of its scale and importance and is one of the most anticipated initiatives of the Russian Ministry of Culture and the Russian Culture Foundation aimed at promotion of national cinema as an instrument of traditional values, history and cultural sovereignty, says Khodzhaev. The changing dynamics in the international cinema market with a freshly generated vibrancy in Eurasia creates further opportunities for investment in new joint incentives that can provide a momentum to the Russia-India filmmaking collaboration and co-production. On India-Russia film industry, Khodzhaev says: “The positive effect of this intercultural infusion is visible in the stronger Russian-Indian bonds which beyond the political matrix transcend people-to-people affinity. The gravitational appeal towards India formed over the years in my country via cinema is inseparably linked to the names of Raj Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Hema Malini. Indian films maintain their popularity among Russians who continue to follow with keen interest the evolution of Bollywood and the current rise of Tollywood, Mollywood and Kollywood movies.”

Kajol’s sister in Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge is Sonakshi Sinha’s cousin, wore Poonam Sinha’s clothes in the film



Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ), which recently completed 30 years, remains one of the defining films of Hindi cinema. Its impact on audiences is timeless, and even actors in supporting roles gained immense popularity, much like the classic Sholay. One such actor is Pooja Ruparel, who is fondly remembered as Kajol’s sister Chutki in the film.

What many may not know, however, is that Pooja comes from a film family, she is the cousin of actress Sonakshi Sinha. In a recent interview, Pooja opened up about her origins and how her debut in Rakesh Roshan’s King Uncle eventually led to her role in DDLJ. Speaking to Hindi Rush, Pooja Ruparel recalled how her relatively unknown

and unpolished background surprisingly helped her land a major film: “My first break did happen because of that, but not in a direct way. My aunt, Poonam Sinha, (Sonakshi’s mother) still loves me a lot and pampers me a lot. Once, I had danced at a Diwali fun fair and my mother had recorded it on a VHS tape. One day, while there was interior designing work going on at my aunt’s place, Rakesh Roshan’s wife, Pinky Roshan, came to visit her and happened to see the tape. She was interested in knowing about me as they were looking for an actress for their film. She asked my aunt if she could meet me and get my phone number, which she did. So basically, I didn’t go out looking for work, it came to me.”

Pooja added, “It’s like what Imtiaz Ali says in one of his films: what you are seeking is seeking you. Eventually, Yash Raj Films took my number from Rakesh ji, and it wasn’t like many people were auditioning for my part or there was tension about whether I’d get it or not. It was very simple, they called me and soon I was on set. So, if things are meant to happen, they do. But if they aren’t, no matter how many auditions you give, it won’t fall in place.” During the conversation, while showing stills from the film’s making, Pooja Ruparel shared a special memory about her costume: “This dress actually belonged to Poonam Sinha. I think my mother had carried a few options, and what they had initially planned for me didn’t work out. Then my mother offered if I could wear this, and they instantly said yes, it worked. So I wore it for the scenes. Thank you, my aunt.” In an earlier interview with SCREEN, Pooja had revealed more about her career beginnings: “Three years after King Uncle, they got my number from Filmkraft’s office and gave me a call. By then, we had refused 100 offers. After King Uncle, every child actor role was offered to me first. Luckily, my parents had the foresight to say that I was not a money-making machine and that I would go back to school, even though we were very middle-class. So, I never felt like I was a star. But when the Chopras call, how do you tell them no?”

Prabhas is ‘a battalion that fights alone’ in Hanu Raghavapudi’s period action epic Fauzi, see poster



After the blockbuster success of Sita Ramam, director Hanu Raghavapudi has joined hands with Prabhas. On the occasion of the star’s birthday on Thursday, production house Mythri Movie Makers shared the title poster for the upcoming military-based action epic titled Fauzi. The makers shared the poster on their X handle with a Sanskrit slogan, which roughly translates to, “Partha (Arjuna), victor of the Padmavyuha formation; Karna, standing on the Pandavas’ side. Ekalavya, without a guru; And this one, a warrior by birth,” possibly hinting that the film will be chock-full of references to the Mahabharata, particularly in the way Prabhas’ character is conceived. The caption for the poster read, “Happy Birthday to our dearest #Prabhas garu.. Taking pride in presenting you as #FAUZI, this journey so far has been unforgettable and only promises to get bigger from here!” The title poster of Fauzi features a burning British flag in the foreground, with Prabhas’ furious face dominating the background. Behind him, Hindi and English words are scattered, with special emphasis on the phrase, Operation Z. The logline of the poster reads, “A battalion that fights alone,” seemingly referring to Prabhas’ character.

Fauzi also stars social media influencer Imanvi. The cinematography is handled by Sudeep Chatterjee, while music composer Vishal Chandrasekhar reunites with Hanu

Malaika Arora gets a special birthday wish from ex-boyfriend Arjun Kapoor: ‘Keep smiling, always keep seeking’



Malaika Arora is celebrating her 52nd birthday on Thursday, and on this special occasion, she received a rather warm and sweet wish from her ex-boyfriend, Arjun Kapoor. Arjun Kapoor posted a picture of Malaika from Paris on his Instagram stories, wishing her smiles and success. Despite parting ways in 2024, Arjun and Malaika have been cordial with each other. Recently, at the screening of Homebound, the two shared a warm hug. When Malaika Arora’s father passed away in September 2024, Arjun was there to support her through the tragedy.

Taking to his Instagram stories, Arjun posted a photo of Malaika Arora enjoying the weather in Paris. In his birthday wish, Arjun wrote, “Happy Birthday, Malaika Arora. Keep soaring, keep smiling, and always keep seeking...”

Arjun Kapoor pens a warm birthday wish for ex-Malaika Arora. Arjun Kapoor wishes smiles and success to ex-girlfriend Malaika Arora on her birthday. As per reports, Malaika and Arjun started dating in 2018, two years after her divorce from Arbaaz Khan. While the two kept their relationship under wraps initially, they soon came out with their relationship and were often seen together around the city. The two shared quite a strong relationship; however, in October 2024, Arjun Kapoor confirmed his breakup with Malaika during the promotions of Singham Again. On the work front,

Malaika Arora is currently seen as a judge on India’s Got Talent alongside Shaan and Navjot Singh Sidhu. Arjun Kapoor is reported to be a part of the No Entry Sequel, which is slated to release in 2026. His last performance in a negative role in Singham Again was quite loved by the audience.

Aamir Khan was paid more than double of what Shah Rukh Khan quoted for beverage brand, was the ‘perfect boy next door’ with Aishwarya Rai

Renowned ad filmmaker Prahlad Kakkar recently opened up about creating an iconic ad for the beverage brand Pepsi in 1993, starring Aamir Khan, Mahima Chaudhary, and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. The ad became quite iconic, and during a podcast with ANI, Prahlad revealed what went behind its production, which was inspired by an American ad film. He revealed that Shah Rukh Khan was also in the running for the very same ad; however, they went ahead with Aamir and paid him a higher fee than what SRK had asked for. Talking about casting for the ad film, Prahlad Kakkar revealed, “Even though the cast for the ad was so brilliant, the battle was in the casting; it took us three months to cast for that film. Aishwarya was a known face, but we wanted a girl who could stop the country, because she appeared for four seconds. That’s exactly what happened, the day the film released, I got 5000 calls the next morning asking, ‘Who is Sanju? Where did she come from?’ Aishwarya played a character named Sanju in the ad. Revealing how Aishwarya was cast for the ad film, he shared, “We were looking all over and I wasn’t happy with anybody, and then some girls found her with a jhola and torn jeans outside an architecture college, she was studying there. They brought her to my office, and what actually made me pause were her eyes. When I looked into them,