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## Three arrested in Rajendranagar for MDMA, ganja trafficking

Hyderabad: The Rajendranagar police on Thursday arrested three persons and seized MDMA drug and ganja from them. The arrested are Sangadi Santosh (26), a resident of Kakinada in AP, Gandhi Sandeep (23), a resident of Bengaluru and Kandepalli Shiva Kumar (23), a resident of Rajahmundry in AP. According to Yogesh Gautham, DCP (Rajendranagar), Santosh and Shiva Kumar were purchasing drugs from a source through Instagram and got the MDMA and ganja from Bengaluru to the city through private buses. The source whose identity the police did not reveal sent the drugs to the city through Sandeep. “

## BRS to move Supreme Court, High Court over ECI inaction against Congress

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Hyderabad: Accusing the Election Commission of India (ECI) of being biased towards the ruling Congress ahead of the Jubilee Hills by-election, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Thursday announced plans to approach the High Court and the Supreme Court against the Commission's inaction. The party leaders questioned the Commission's continued silence despite the misuse of power and violations of Model Code of Conduct by the Congress. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, former MP B Vinod Kumar and BRS general secretary Soma Bharat Kumar said neither the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sudarshan Reddy nor the ECI had acted on multiple complaints backed by evidence of code violations by Congress leaders including Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. They said the Commission's partisan attitude was eroding public faith in democratic institutions. Vinod Kumar recalled that the ECI had earlier imposed a 48-hour campaign ban on former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao and former Minister G Jagadish Reddy for MCC violations, but was showing lenience towards Revanth Reddy.

“Isn't it a violation when the Chief Minister warns that welfare schemes will stop if people don't vote for the Congress? Or when Congress candidate Naveen Yadav threatens BRS workers? Why is the CEO silent?” he asked. The BRS leader said party chief Chandrashekhara Rao had de-



puted him and Bharat Kumar to represent the party before the Chief Election Commissioner. “We met the CEC in Delhi and questioned why no action was taken despite clear proof,” he said, recalling how former CEC TN Seshan once defied even the Prime Minister's Office to uphold the ECI's autonomy and sanctity of elections. Bharat Kumar said the ECI's inaction was a serious threat to democracy. He demanded deployment of central forces in Jubilee Hills, stating that the State police were working under the Congress's influence. “If Revanth Reddy violates the code, the ECI looks away. This raises doubts whether the Election Commission even exists?” he said.

## BRS seeks deployment of Central forces, ECI intervention in Jubilee Hills bypoll

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Hyderabad: Amid rising political tensions in Telangana ahead of the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election, the BRS on Thursday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to intervene immediately to ensure free and fair polling. The party requested the Commission to deploy Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and take direct control of security arrangements, alleging misuse of State machinery by the ruling Congress ahead of the voting on November 11.

BRS Parliamentary Party leader KR Suresh Reddy met the Chief Election Commissioner in New Delhi on Thursday and submitted a detailed representation, signed by himself and MPs Divakonda Damodar Rao and B Parthasarathi Reddy, seeking deployment of CAPF, installation of CCTV cameras and live webcasting in all polling stations. The party alleged that large-scale rigging, fake voter ID creation and intimidation of its cadre were being orchestrated by the Congress under the supervision of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The BRS stated that the Congress, aided by the local police and civic authorities, was unleashing a reign of terror by abducting and threatening BRS workers, particularly from minority communities. It alleged that hundreds of non-resident voters, especially burqa-clad women from minority communities, were being brought from Hyderabad's Old City to cast proxy votes using fake identity cards. “The Election Commission must assume direct control of the election process and restore confidence among voters. Local agencies have completely failed to act impartially,” Suresh Reddy said in the representation. The BRS demanded that sensitive divisions including Yousufguda, Rahmathnagar,



Borabanda, Erragadda and Srinagar Colony be declared hyper-sensitive and placed under round-the-clock monitoring of the ECI in Delhi. It also cited credible intelligence reports indicating booth capturing and mass rigging plans by Congress candidate Naveen Yadav and his associates, allegedly aided by the local police. The party demanded that the entire constituency be declared sensitive, with CAPF deployment in all divisions. The BRS also sought the appointment of special Central observers for general, police and expenditure monitoring, along with preventive surveillance on lodges and community halls being used to house outsiders. It urged verification of voter rolls to eliminate duplicates. Suresh Reddy stated that Article 324 of the Constitution empowers the ECI to ensure elections remain uninfluenced by the ruling party. He called for the Commission to act promptly and decisively, failing which the Congress could seriously distort the democratic mandate.

## Jittery Congress uses police to target minorities as Jubilee Hills bypoll draws nearer



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Hyderabad: In clear signs of the desperation of the Congress to win the Jubilee Hills bypoll, where minority leaders have started speaking out against failures of the Congress government and against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's 'divisive' comments, police personnel in mufti and in uniform barged into the Tolichowki residence of BRS leader and advocate Abdul Wahid past midnight, allegedly holding out threats to his family members. BRS leaders alleged that the police were acting at the behest of the Congress and AIMIM parties. Former Bodhan legislator Shakeel Aamir Mohammed alleged that throughout Wednesday, the police were harassing Wahid's family members, pressuring them to reveal the whereabouts of Wahid. “The police are working on instructions from the Congress party with a motive to instill fear among BRS leaders,” Shakeel Aamir alleged. Meanwhile, Wahid's family members released footage recorded by closed circuit television cameras in their home, which showed plainclothes policemen, believed to be from the Commissioner's Task Force, entering the house and checking the rooms. The visuals went viral on social media on Thursday.

## Rs 3.33 crore cash seized during Jubilee Hills bypoll checks

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Hyderabad: The enforcement teams set up for the Jubilee Hills by-election have seized Rs 3.33 crore cash since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force from October 6.

The District Election Officer, R V Karnan, on Thursday released a cumulative seizure report and said, “The enforcement teams seized Rs 4,63,297 worth of 685.585 litres of liquor during the checks in the Jubilee Hills assembly by-poll. Another Rs 1,37,840 worth of freebies (laptops, vehicles, pressure cookers and sarees) were also seized”.

## Fear of ants forces young mother to die by suicide in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: In a heartbreaking incident reported from the outskirts of Hyderabad, a young mother ended her life after struggling for years with an overwhelming fear of ants. The woman, identified as Manisha, was just 25 and lived in Ameenpur with her husband and three-year-old daughter.

Police say Manisha had been battling an intense phobia of ants since childhood, a condition known as myrmecophobia. Despite receiving treatment earlier, the fear never left her. According to investigators, she wrote a note explaining that she could no longer live with the constant anxiety and asked her husband to take care of their child.

## PM Modi invokes ‘Chhathi Maiya’ to flay Oppn, says 'naamdars mocked Maha Kumbh'

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Patna: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a blistering attack at the RJD-Cong-led Mahagathbandhan on Thursday, accusing them of ruining the state with their 'jungle raj', despite Bihar being the birthplace of social justice in previous decades. Addressing a mega rally in Araria district, the Prime Minister invoked 'Chhathi Maiya' to lambast the Opposition and called out their attempt to mock the most pious festival of Bihar by equating it with a drama. “Will you accept anyone referring to Chhathi Maiya as drama, will you accept anyone insulting Chhathi Maiya?” asked PM Modi, evoking a strong response from the gathering.

PM Modi further slammed the 'naamdars', a reference to dynast leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav, and called out their 'irreverence and disrespect' for Maha Kumbh as well as Lord Ram. He said that the naamdars used to mock Maha Kumbh -- the month-long festival which saw crores of pilgrims taking holy dip in Prayagraj and saw devotees coming from across the world. “They don't hesitate in making sarcastic taunts at our spiritual beliefs. They don't believe in Lord Ram, they didn't visit Ayodhya, they didn't attend Pran Pratistha,” PM Modi said. “You may dislike Lord Ram, but why can't you visit Ayodhya and seek the blessings of Maharshi Valmiki, Mata Sabri, Nishad Raj... temples dedicated to them are also built in close vicinity,” he added. The Prime Minister said that this shows that they detest the backward population as well as Dalits; however, for the NDA, its only purpose is the empowerment and upliftment



of all communities. Further seeking to draw a comparison between RJD's jungle raj to NDA's progressive governance, he stated that an entire generation's future was destroyed because of them. Highlighting the jungle raj's legacy, he said, “Zero highways, zero bridges were built in 15 years of jungle raj, zero sports complexes were built, zero tourist circuits were developed.” In contrast, PM Modi said the NDA government worked tirelessly to pull Bihar out of jungle raj. “After the double-engine government was formed in 2014, Bihar's development has gained new momentum. IIT has opened in Patna, IIM has opened in Bodh Gaya, AIIMS has opened in Patna, the work on AIIMS Darbhanga is progressing rapidly, now Bihar also has a National Law University, IIIT is also there in Bhagalpur, and four central universities have also been established in Bihar,” said PM Modi, giving insight into developmental works undertaken in a decade-long rule of double-engine government

## CM Nitish Kumar casts his vote in Bakhtiyarpur, shows inked finger

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Patna: Voting for the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections was underway in 121 constituencies across 18 districts on Thursday, amid tight security arrangements at all polling stations. While the polling started on a moderate note at 7 a.m., Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was among the early voters to cast his vote. He reached a polling station in the Bakhtiyarpur constituency, accompanied by a small entourage and exercised his franchise. The Chief Minister also flaunted his inked finger before the mediapersons, after casting his vote. Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister also appealed to every voter of Bihar to come out of their homes and participate in the festival of democracy by exercising their right to vote. Taking to X, he wrote, “In a democracy, voting is not only our right but also our responsibility. Today, the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections is taking place—all voters are requested to exercise their right to vote. Vote and inspire others to do the same. First vote, then refreshment.” The fate of 1,314 candidates will be sealed in the first phase, including 1,192 men and 122 women. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), a total of 37,513,302 voters, including 19,835,325 men, 17,677,219 women, and 758 third-gender voters, will decide the fate of 1,314 candidates in the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections. In the first two hours, voter turnout of 13.13 per cent was recorded. Over 37.5 million voters across 121 Assembly seats will decide the



political future of 1,314 candidates. The political future of several stalwarts from the NDA and the Grand Alliance is at stake in this phase. In the constituencies where voting is taking place in the first phase, 121 candidates from the NDA and 126 from the Grand Alliance are contesting. The constituencies where polling is underway include Madhepura, Saharsa, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, Siwan, Saran, Vaishali, Samastipur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Munger, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Patna, and Bhojpur districts.

## Private colleges reschedule protest over fee reimbursement dues to November 15

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Hyderabad: The private professional, degree and PG colleges have rescheduled their protest meeting, involving 10 lakh students, over the fee reimbursement dues issue to November 15. Earlier, the meeting was scheduled for November 11. The Federation of Associations of Higher Institutions (FATHI), comprising private professional, degree and PG colleges, said the venue and further details regarding the meeting would be communicated separately. “All students of private affiliated colleges are requested to take note of this change and attend the meeting on the revised date to express their collective voice on issues concerning the future of higher education in Telangana,” the FATHI said. Meanwhile, the FATHI will hold a State-level meeting of private affiliated colleges' faculty and staff at LB Stadium here on November 8. It urged all teaching and non-teaching staff to partici-



pate in large numbers. The private colleges have been demanding that the State government clear their Rs 5,000 crore out of Rs 10,000 crore fee reimbursement dues, which have been pending for the last five years.

## Rowdy sheeters to be closely monitored: CP Sudheer Babu

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Hyderabad: Rachakonda Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu directed all police officers under the commissionerate to maintain constant surveillance over rowdy sheeters and property offenders within their jurisdiction. The Commissioner on Thursday instructed all zonal DCPs, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors that they should be fully aware of the rowdy sheeters under their limits, including their residences, current movements, and daily activities. He further said that strict measures should be taken to prevent rowdy sheeters from getting involved in settlements, criminal activities, or disturbing public peace. Additionally, the Commissioner directed the SOT and Crime Teams to keep surveillance on the movements of all anti-social elements in their jurisdiction.





# Indian Chronicle

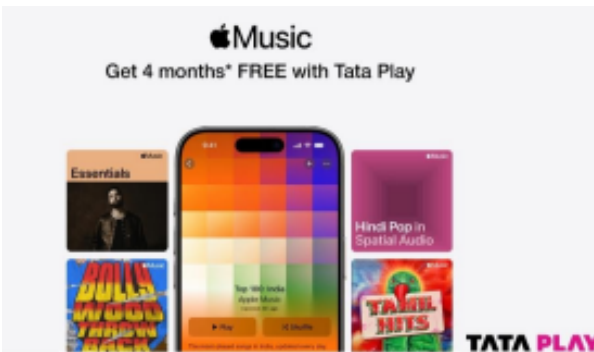
English Daily

## On India's disgraceful record in fatal road accidents

The highway accident on November 3, 2025 that claimed 19 lives at Chevella near Hyderabad was far too routine to change India's disgraceful record in fatal road accidents. The driver of a gravel-laden truck apparently swerved to avoid a pothole and rammed into a bus. There were no dividers, no streetlights and no signages on that stretch of National Highway 163. India's roads are a major public hazard. Pedestrians, bus riders and two-wheeler motorists constitute the majority of the over 400 people who die on India's roads on average, the equivalent to a full transcontinental flight going down. Flight disasters invite scrutiny, multi-agency probes and quick remedial actions but road accident deaths that mostly involve poorer folk trigger perfunctory probes and glacial change in rules, if any. Government documents identify human error as the most common cause but deeper reasons — vehicular and infrastructural — are unaddressed.

In India, the road test for getting a driving licence examines whether the person is able to handle a vehicle of certain specification, largely a skill test, rather than one of his knowledge and execution of safe driving practices. No safety training is mandated. Most accidents are collisions from the back — whereas exemplar driving tests in other countries filter out tailgating tendencies and arbitrary lane changing. The system of certifying and monitoring drivers and vehicles is broken and corrupt. For nearly all Indians, navigating RTOs is unpleasant. The SaveLIFE Foundation advocates License Seva Kendras — on the lines of Passport Seva Kendras — so that they are transparent, digitised, and ensure good driver skills and safety awareness. One in five accidents are head-on collisions, which have happened even on four-lane highways,

## Tata Play users can now access Apple Music across platforms through Tata Play Binge, Mobile app, and Fiber



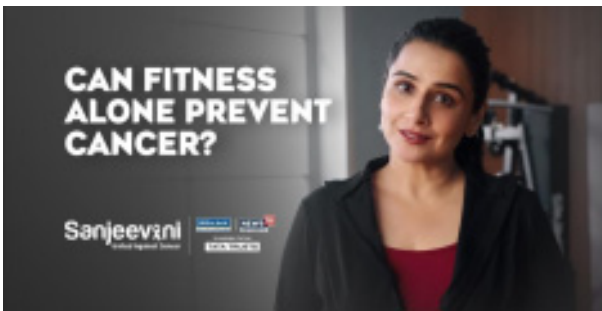
Hyderabad:Subscribers get up to 4 months of Apple Music free (4 months for new users, 3 months for qualifying returning users), with access to over 100 million songs, curated playlists, and live radio, all in one platformTata Play, India's leading content distribution platform, has launched a special Apple Music promotional offer to enhance customer value. The offer will be available to all subscribers across platforms and plans — including Tata Play Binge, the Tata Play Mobile app, and Tata Play Fiber. Whether you're a Direct-to-Home (DTH) subscriber, an OTT user, or a broadband customer, you can now enjoy access to Apple Music as part of your Tata Play experience.As part of this offering, new Apple Music users will receive a complimentary four-month subscription, while qualifying returning users are eligible for a three-month free trial. Apple Music's promotional plan across Tata Play's ecosystem marks a significant step in offering subscribers value beyond entertainment.“At Tata Play, we're constantly innovating to enrich our subscribers' entertainment experience,” said Pallavi Puri, Tata Play's Chief Commercial and Content Officer. “This promotional offer is a testament to our commitment to delivering more value and convenience, giving our customers easy access to over 100 million songs, curated playlists, and live radio through Apple Music — now accessible via Tata Play platforms.”Shalini Poddar, Director - Content and Services, Apple India said, “expanding our collaboration with Tata Play marks an important step forward in our growing partnership. With the integration of Apple Music, we're delivering a more immersive and personalized audio experience for Tata Play's audience and bringing Apple Music to even more customers.” Subscribers can avail the offer through promo code redemption, which transitions into a direct Apple Music subscription after the trial period. Once the trial period ends, the service is available at INR 119 per month.

## Akarapu Arun Patel working at booth level in Jubilee Hills by-election



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 6 (Indian Chronicle):““As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy conducted booth meetings in the Yousufguda Division covering booths 238 to 248.”Chinna Srisailem Yadav, senior film actor Suman, and Uppal Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel participated in the meetings. “They urged the party cadre to work in coordination at every booth level to ensure a massive victory for Congress candidate Naveen Yadav.”Chandu, Rajesh, Pasha, Sumith, Tarun, Nagesh, Bahubali Lakshmi, and booth committee members also took part in the program.

## Break the Fitness Fallacy: Vidya Balan Reminds India That Cancer Screening Saves Lives;



Hyderabad The third edition of Sanjeevani: United Against Cancer - a transformative initiative by Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation, News18 Network, and knowledge partner Tata Trusts—launches today with a clarion call: early detection saves lives, and screening is everyone's responsibility, regardless of how fit they feel.

At the helm of this life-saving movement stands Vidya Balan, the campaign's powerful voice and beacon for change. Through two evocative short films, she dismantles complacency and shatters the dangerous myth that fitness is a shield against cancer. Her unwavering advocacy challenges a nation to stop waiting for a crisis to act and instead embrace the empowering truth that early screening is the strongest defense against this silent epidemic. Two powerful narratives, one life-saving message.The film confronts a deeply held misconception prevalent among health-conscious Indians. It showcases individuals dedicated to rigor-

ous workouts, disciplined diets, and exemplary lifestyles - and then delivers an uncomfortable truth: fitness alone is not enough. Cancer respects no boundaries of discipline or health status. Vidya's reassuring yet confronting message cuts through: "Screening is not about fear. It's about hope and action."

In the other film, Vidya draws the parallel between film-making and life's most critical test. She reminds viewers that while scenes can be rehearsed and perfected, a missed screening cannot be undone. A missed sign could mean a missed chance at survival. This is the essence of why early screening matters - not as fearmongering, but as empowerment. Early detection transforms cancer from a death sentence into a manageable condition, restoring hope, time, and futures. The message is clear: early detection is the only true rehearsal life offers. Those who take it gain the most precious gift - time to act, time to heal, and time to live.

The campaign crystallises some non-negotiable truths: Talking about the initiative, M V S Murthy, Chief Marketing Officer of Federal Bank said, "At Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation, we believe health is not an expense - it is an investment in India's future. Through Sanjeevani, we have reached thousands of people across the country, and this year we are determined to reach even more. Early detection is not a privilege; it is a right that must reach every Indian. These films, powered by Vidya Balan's conviction, will inspire millions to make that potentially life-saving choice. Because when screening becomes habit, survival becomes possible"

## JSW MG Motor India partners with Axis Bank to promote EVsIntroduces BaaS – a unique EV ownership program through Dual Loan solution

Hyderabad: JSW MG Motor India, in collaboration with Axis Bank, has introduced an innovative Dual Loan program designed to make electric mobility more accessible and future-ready for Indian customers. Anchored in MG's pioneering Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) model, this initiative allows customers to avail separate loans for the vehicle and its battery, significantly reducing the upfront cost of ownership. The program offers up to 100% on-road funding and flexible tenures of up to 8 years for the battery, turning conventional fuel expenses into predictable, long-term value, and making sustainable driving a practical, intelligent choice. “For electric mobility to move from aspiration to adoption, we must make ownership both practical and progressive. The Dual Loan program builds precisely on that premise, separating the battery from the vehicle cost to give customers financial flexibility without compromise. Much like how consumers have embraced subscription models in technology, BaaS allows them to experience cutting-edge mobility with smarter economics. Together with Axis Bank, we're turning innovation into everyday access, accelerating India's journey towards a more sustainable future.” Said, Anurag Mehrotra, Managing Director, JSW MG Motor India.

Commenting on the partnership, Munish Sharda, Executive Director, Axis Bank, said, “At Axis Bank, we are committed to offering customer-friendly solutions and driving innovation in vehicle financing. We are delighted to partner with JSW MG Motor India on the pioneering Dual Loan program, which enhances the EV financing ecosystem in India by providing smart and flexible options across segments. We are confident that this collaboration will help make



greener choices more accessible to customers and support the wider adoption of electric vehicles.”BaaS (Battery-as-a-Service), launched in September 2024 by JSW MG Motor India, addresses one of the biggest barriers to EV adoption — the high upfront cost — by separating the cost of the battery from the vehicle. Building on this innovation, JSW MG Motor India and Axis Bank, who have been partners since 2019, have now introduced the dual loan financing, further strengthening their collaboration across channel and retail finance solutions. This innovative financing solution not only makes EV ownership more affordable but also gives customers greater flexibility to upgrade their vehicles without being constrained by price. With Axis Bank as a financing partner, the program reaches a wider customer base and expands access to smart mobility solutions. Through this collaboration, JSW MG Motor India and Axis Bank aims to provide customers with greater choice and financial control, while also contributing to the growth of India's EV ecosystem.

## Parameshwar Reddy joins Komatireddy Venkat Reddy in campaign for Naveen Yadav's victory



KISHORE VADDEPALLI , Uppal, November 6 (Indian Chronicle):““In support of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-election, Uppal constituency

Congress in-charge Parameshwar Reddy participated in an intensive door-to-door campaign at Rahmath Nagar Division along with Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. “During the campaign, Minister Venkat Reddy interacted warmly with residents, explaining various welfare schemes being implemented by the Congress government. He urged the people to cast their votes in favour of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav and ensure his victory.”The Minister highlighted that Telangana is the only state in the country providing 6 kg of fine rice per person, 200 units of free electricity, LPG cylinders for 7500, interest-free loans for women's self-help groups, free RTC bus travel for women, and Indiramma housing schemes for the poor and elderly.Senior Congress leaders Bhavani Shankar, GHMC Floor Leader Dharpally Rajasekhara Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Chilka Madhusudhan Reddy, and several party activists participated in the campaign.

## Uppal Bhagayat Resonates with Shiva's Name — Grand Conclusion to Laksha Deepotsavam



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI , Uppal, November 6 (Indian Chronicle):““The Laksha Deepotsavam celebrations organized by the Uppal Bhagayat Welfare Association concluded on a grand and devotional note, filling the air with chants of “Om Namah Shivaya.” The event, held under the leadership of Association President Sri Mekala Madhusudhan Reddy and executive members, took place in the premises of the Bhagayat Association Community

## Empowering Passion and Unleashing Possibilities with the EOS R6 MARK III and RF45mm F1.2 STM



Hyderabad:Canon today announced an addition to the EOS R mirrorless system, the new full-frame EOS R6 MARK III camera and the RF45mm F1.2 STM, a new large aperture standard prime lens designed for professional filmmakers and photographer from across genres. Succeeding the EOS R6 Mark II, which was released in 2023, the EOS R6 MARK III features a higher 32.5-megapixel resolution and improved speed, performance, and reliability. It also incorporates powerful video capabilities that support professional workflows. As for the RF45mm F1.2 STM, it is Canon's widest aperture non-professional lens in its RF lens lineup. A versatile and easy-to-use 45mm focal length on full-frame cameras, it broadens accessibility of an f/1.2 lens to users. On APS-C cameras like the EOS R50, users can expect a portrait-friendly 72mm full-frame equivalent focal length.

### Higher Resolution and Speed

With the EOS R6 MARK III's 32.5-megapixel resolution, finer details can be captured in higher definition but with more cropping flexibility. The higher megapixel count comes in useful when it comes to a close crop of faraway subjects. The EOS R6 MARK III can capture up to approximately 150 shots when shooting up to 40 fps in the high-speed continuous shooting (electronic shutter) mode. Despite the higher processing load, it maintains the same high-speed continuous shooting rate: up to 40 fps (electronic shutter), and up to 12 fps (mechanical/electronic first-curtain shutter).

### Capturing the Moment

The EOS R6 MARK III features a user-friendly pre-continuous shooting feature. Before the shutter button is fully pressed, up to 20 continuous shots can be recorded in any still recording format including RAW, C-Raw, and HEIF, on any AF mode. Frames can be accessed for post-processing like any other image. Autofocus algorithm enhancements offer more tenacious subject tracking, increasing the success rate when shooting difficult subjects and simplifying the post-shooting workflow. The EOS R6 MARK III also inherits the Register People Priority function also found in the flagship EOS R1, allowing pre-registered people to be prioritised for detection and tracking when shooting photos or videos in group situations such as events, concerts, or team sports.

### Innovative Body

The EOS R6 MARK III retains the basic operability, reliability, and durable body design of the EOS R6 Mark II, with enhanced button customisation and improved ergonomics for handheld vertical shooting. It uses the LP-E6P battery pack and supports the BG-R20/BG-R20EP battery grip, which holds two batteries to power longer shoots and improves ergonomics for handheld vertical shooting.

### f/1.2 Made Accessible

As Canon's first f/1.2 lens of its class, the RF45mm F1.2 STM is a compact, lightweight and affordable option for users who desire bokeh. The lens also delivers greater low light flexibility and AF support. The 45mm focal length allows users to capture a natural perspective, while moving seamlessly between wide environmental shots and intimate close-ups—often with just a single step.

## All Vehicle Drivers Must Follow Traffic Rules: Uppal Traffic Inspector G. Nagaraju



VADDEPALLI Kishore, Uppal, November 6 (Indian Chronicle):““Uppal Traffic Inspector G. Nagaraju has urged all vehicle drivers to strictly adhere to traffic rules and regulations. In view of the recent increase in road accidents, the Uppal Traffic Police conducted an awareness program on Thursday at the Uppal IDA lorry adda for auto, trolley auto, and DCM drivers. “Inspector Nagaraju and his team educated the drivers on road safety norms, the dangers of wrong-route driving, and the importance of wearing helmets and seat belts while driving.

He reminded them that heavy vehicles and goods carriers are strictly prohibited during no-entry hours — from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. — to avoid inconvenience and risk to commuters.“He also cautioned that vehicles violating these rules would face penalties and challans.



## Budget State Board Schools in Uppal Mandal Seek Resolution of Issues: TRASMA Representatives Submit Petition to Ministers Sridhar Babu and Atluri Laxman Kumar



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 6 (Indian Chronicle):““Representatives of the Telangana Recognized Schools Management Association (TRASMA) submitted a petition to Ministers Sridhar Babu and Atluri Laxman Kumar,

urging them to address the key issues faced by Budget State Board Schools in Uppal Mandal.“The delegation, led by TRASMA Uppal President Vijayender Reddy, State President Yadagiri, and State Advisor Shekhar Rao, highlighted the major challenges being faced by budget private schools that cater to economically weaker sections. They expressed heartfelt gratitude to the ministers for allocating funds to these schools that serve underprivileged communities.“The representatives also discussed several critical issues related to the functioning of Budget State Board schools, including:““ Implementation of the Real Estate Act (RERA) classification and applicability of the Right to Information Act,““ Installation of speed breakers near school premises to ensure student safety,““ Framing and monitoring of rules for play schools, among others.“The ministers assured the delegation that all the concerns raised would be examined positively and promised all possible support for the welfare and stability of budget private schools.“Working President Srinivas, along with Executive Body Members Sandeep Chandana, Raju, Timothy, Kalapa Chary, Ismail, Johnson, Sandeep, Shobha Devi, Nalini and others participated in the meeting.

## SNAILS SEEN IN THE CITY.



SEUNDERABAD CANTONMENT,NOVEMBER.6. (Indian Chronicle):“African snails are a growing menace in cities, especially in Bowenpally in the cantonment area. They are destroying the plants, no matter how they came to this area, they gather in groups on the big trees in this area and graze the green trees due to which the green trees are dying and the trees are standing, if this is the case, they are getting into the water tanks of the plants in the surrounding areas, especially on the fruit trees, so the townspeople are facing problems. These snails thrive in moist, shady places and can be found in gardens, parks and even homes. In this order, in the cantonment area, next to Bowenpally Mallareddy Gardens, there is an area of more than three acres belonging to the military, and there is a useless gar-

bage dump and rain water in the place where snails are seen in groups of green trees and walls. On the main road in this area, the locals are panicking after seeing the snails on the walls. “They came to India from Africa only a few years ago.“They breed mostly between July and February.“A snail lays hundreds of eggs per month.“Their lifespan is five to six years. The leaves and gum stalks attack not only the seeds but also the big trees, these snails have attacked Boppai, oil farm, chili, jama, banana and plantations in many parts of the city and in many districts of Andhra Pradesh.“Snail numbers are increasing in cities like Hyderabad, causing damage to plants in homes and parks. The government needs to take appropriate measures to eradicate them.“ They live in earth holes in gardens, under flower pots, between stones, compost piles, leaf piles and wood piles of papaya trees. These snails easily spread from one plant to another Now it has become a problem in many parts of Bowenpally and Old Bowenpally. A single snail has the habit of laying hundreds of eggs and they grow rapidly.“Devender, Cantonment Board Health Superintendent said, “We are taking cherry trees to prevent the development of snails in the military area of Bowenpally, we are spraying medicines to prevent them in this area, we are also taking cherry trees as a way to heat them, we are threatening to burn them, and we are monitoring the mechanism by setting up the machinery

## Huge support for BC student protest at OU

““Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 06:The BC student JAC initiated a protest at the Osmania University Arts College campus for 42% BC reservation, chaired by Nukala Madhu Yadav, with Rajya Sabha member R Krishnaiah, Krantidhal founding president Prithviraj Yadav, BC JAC co-chairman Gujja Satyam, former corporation chairman Dudimetla Balaraju, and BC Rajyaadhikara Samiti founding president Dasu Suresh as chief guests. They spoke and demanded that the Centre introduce the 42% BC bill in the winter session of Parliament. They have increased pressure on governments through strong public movements and have ensured their rights, Students want to achieve.Fighting movements from the front“Everything worked out...BC“Also for the movement“Students are the strongest movement They want to grow constructively. Initiation In the program, Dr. Jampala Rajesh, AIOBCSA Kiran, JAC“Chairman



Kommanaboyina Saidulu Yadav, State President Chirala Vamsi. Vice Chairman Mamidala“Ravi, Bari Ashok Kumar, Officer Representative Nukala Madhu Yadav“General Secretary Kola Rajasekhar Mudiraj, DYFA R“L Murthy Venkat, Secretary“Santosh, Ashwan, Sridhar, AISF Uday, SFA Ajay“Others participated.

## Dr. Lion Reddy Srinivas Rao Felicitated on Receiving Honorary Doctorate



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 06, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Noted social worker Lion Reddy Srinivas Rao was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by Maestro Global University, Malaysia, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to social service. To mark this rare honour, the MRPS Medchal–Malkajgiri District Committee organized a grand felicitation ceremony at their office, where he was honoured with shawls and garlands. Speaking on the occasion, speakers recalled that Srinivas Rao, who hails from a middle-class agricultural family in a remote village of Khammam district, came to Hyderabad for higher studies

and was actively involved in student movements during his early years. Later, his focus turned toward community welfare and social service. As a member of the Lions Club International, which serves communities globally, Srinivas Rao organized numerous medical camps and humanitarian initiatives across Telangana. He has also played a pivotal role in the All India Human Rights Association, serving as President for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad for nearly 15 years, during which he relentlessly worked for the rights of the poor and underprivileged sections of society. Speakers lauded the Maestro Global University for recognizing his selfless service and contributions to social development through the conferment of the honorary doctorate. They praised Srinivas Rao's lifelong dedication to social causes, describing him as an inspiration to many. Prominent attendees included Tippaaru Laxman Madiga, MRPS National Leader and Medchal–Malkajgiri District In-charge; Keshapaga Ramachander Madiga, MSP District President; Manohar, MJF State Leader; Anji Madiga, District Official Representative; Ealla Santosh, State Leader of the SC/ST Working Journalists Association; and Edapaka Suresh, District General Secretary, among others.

## Parameshwar Reddy Campaigns for Naveen Yadav Along with Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 06, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““In support of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-election, Parameshwar Reddy actively participated in the door-to-door campaign held in Rehmat Nagar division. During the campaign, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy interacted warmly with residents, explaining the welfare schemes being implemented by the Congress government and appealed to the public to vote for Naveen Yadav to ensure his victory. He highlighted that the government is distributing 6 kilograms of fine rice per person, providing 200 units of free electricity, LPG cylinders at ₹500, interest-free loans for women self-help groups, free RTC bus travel for women, and sanctioning Indiramma housing to eligible beneficiaries.



## Farmers Protest Against Land Acquisition for Dumping Yard in Bommarajupeta Village



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 06, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Farmers of Bommarajupeta and Ponnala

villages staged a protest today against the proposed land acquisition for a dumping yard in Survey No. 322 of Bommarajupeta village. The Revenue Inspector (RI), Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO), and Thumkunta Municipal Commissioner had reportedly sent a proposal to acquire the land for the project. Opposing this move, the farmers, along with local leaders, marched to the Collectorate and staged a dharna demanding immediate cancellation of the proposal. The protest witnessed participation from several local farmers, including District Farmers' Association President Ayagari Ravi kiran Reddy, Ponnala Deputy Sarpanch Ramesh Reddy, Parvathala Devender Reddy, Narasimha Reddy, Lachhava, Krishna Giri, and other farmers from Bommarajupeta. The protesters stated that setting up a dumping yard in fertile agricultural land would severely affect their livelihoods and urged the district administration to identify an alternative site.

## Honest Conductor Returns Lost Purse Containing Rs.7,000 to Passenger

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 06, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““An inspiring act of honesty by an RTC conductor from Kushaiguda Depot has won many hearts. Conductor Sheikh Abdul Aleem (E236095), who was on duty on the 16A/5K route from Ambedkar Nagar to Mehdiapatnam on Tuesday evening, found a lost purse inside the bus during his service. On opening the purse in the presence of the driver, he discovered Rs.7,000 in cash, a bunch of house keys, and a hospital prescription. Using the phone number written on the prescription, Aleem contacted the owner, Indira, who informed him that she had boarded the bus at Dubai Building and got down at Nagaram bus stop. Upon reaching home, she realized her purse was missing and was deeply distressed. She expressed immense relief and gratitude when she received the conductor's call informing her that her purse had been found. Later, Indira visited the Kushaiguda Depot, where the purse was safely handed over to her by Depot Manager V. Venugopal. Indira became



emotional, saying she had borrowed the Rs.7,000 for her son's hospital expenses and that the conductor's honesty was nothing less than God's grace. She thanked the RTC management and the conductor for their integrity and sincerity, adding that such acts prove the RTC remains an organization built on honesty and public trust.

## ABVP OU branch launches pamphlet for comprehensive development of the university



“Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November06: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Osmania University Branch launched a pamphlet on “Osmania Comprehensive Development” at the Arts College campus. Speaking at the event, State Secretary Rambabu said that many intellectuals, sci-

entists, political leaders and social leaders have emerged from Osmania University. Osmania University has been the foundation of socio-ethnic movements, but it is unfortunate that there have been no faculty appointments for the last 12 years. He said. He informed that out of 1,268 approved posts locally, only 312 are working. He said that it is sad that even though it is a historic university, it does not have proper research facilities, laboratories and management support.“Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has shown special interest in the development of Osmania, calling it the pride of Telangana. He said that it is not enough to give 1000 crores to Osmania, but to take Osmania to a level where it can compete with universities like Stanford and Oxford. The Chief Minister returned in December and visited the Arts College campus without any police presence. He said that he would announce funds of Rs. 1000 crore.““The student council workers welcomed the Chief Minister and urged him to genuinely release the Rs 1000 crore needed for the development of Osmania and use it in the interest of education.““However, the student council warned that appropriate procedures would be taken if that promise was used for vote banking for political purposes.““The program was attended by Hyderabad Metropolitan City Secretary Prithvi Teja, National Executive Member Jeevan, State Joint Secretary Raju, National Media Team Member Srihari, University Secretary Shiv Shankar, State Executive Member Shekhar, City Executive Member Bhanu Prakash, student leaders Sridhar, Eekshit ABVP leaders

## A decision should be made to legally give 42 percent to tomorrow's cabinet, but we do not agree with it from a party perspective.

““Osmania University students' 72-hour protest for reservation increase ends.. R Keishnaiah.““Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 06: Tomorrow's cabinet meeting should take a decision to give legal effect to the provision of 42 percent reservation for BCs in local bodies. Telangana BC Jack Chairman and Rajya Sabha member R, Krishnaiah has warned the government that there is nothing that the party cannot accept. On the call given by the BC Jack demanding an increase in BC reservation in local bodies to 42 percent, a large protest was held at Osmania University Amid widespread hunger strikes, Telangana BC JAC President R. Krishnaiah today retired after giving students tooth juice.“They demanded a constitutional amendment to provide a permanent solution to the issue of reservation in education and jobs as well as local bodies based on population. They appealed to all political parties to come to a consensus for this.In the case of reservations in local bodies, verdicts have also been given against BCs in the states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. But BCs have not been reversed in those states. But in our state, he said, it is a matter of pride that the state has imposed a state ban to protect BC reservations. He said this is a symbol of the consciousness of BCs in our state. With the bandh that took place on the 18th of last month, the government called on the constitutional institutions to open their eyes and come forward to give the BCs' share to the BCs. The BCs have become conscious. The fighting spirit has increased and they have warned that if they do not achieve it now, when will they achieve it again? According to Article 243-D6 of the Constitution, the state government has been given the constitutional authority to increase the BC reservations in local bodies. Therefore, the assembly law was passed and elections can be held immediately after the JVO. If any legal issues arise, there is a possibility of winning the BC cases that anyone has gone to the Supreme Court in any court because the assembly law was passed and the census was done. Similarly, when the Supreme Court gave 10 percent reservation to the upper castes, it lifted the 50% ceiling in the case. Moreover, Indira If there is medical data in the Sawhney case 50% ceiling“That can be overcome“Supreme Court opinion also it is. Now in all aspects If you look at it, there is a chance of



winning the case. According to law, according to law There are no constitutional barriers“Therefore, the case will be won in the Supreme Court.“Because to increase reservations Judicial Legal“No constitutional impediments.No, the case is strong. Reservations“Caste-wise calculations to increase They said they made a law in the assembly.Among these initiatives was the founding of the Kanti Dal.President Prithvi Raj Yadav,National B.C. Welfare Association Co.Coordinator Dr. Ryaga Arun Kumar,Gujja Satyam, Dasu Suresh, Jampala“Rajesh, the scoundrels.“Chirala Vamsi, Mamidala Ravi, Bari Ashok Kumar, Nukala Madhu Yadav, Kola Rajasekhar, Murthy Venkat, Santosh, Ashwini, Sridhar, Udaya, Ajay and others participated.

## Farmers Protest On The National Highway

Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad,District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.November, 06““Cotton farmers staged a protest on the national highway in Wankidi mandal. They criticized the government's announcement that even though more than 12 quintals of cotton were grown per acre, only 7 quintals would be purchased through CCI.



# Outsourcing Meter Readers, Bill Collectors Should Be Included in I.M.F.I.S Portal: Telangana State Outsourcing Employees JAC Appeals to Officials



Kishore Vaddepalli, Hyderabad, November 5 (Indian Chronicle):“Under the leadership of the Telangana State Outsourcing Employees Joint Action Committee (JAC), representatives met with Water Board Managing Director Ashok Reddy, Executive Director Mayank Mittal, Director

Md. Abdul Khader, and Revenue CGM Kiran Kumar. “They submitted a petition requesting that 673 outsourcing meter readers and bill collectors working in the Water Board be registered in the I.M.F.I.S (Integrated Management of Financial Information System) portal.”

“The JAC members stated that even the Secretariat officials mentioned that data related to the meter readers had not yet been provided to the I.M.F.I.S portal authorities. They also explained to the officials that, as per G.O. 60, the meter readers fall under Category-2. “The officials responded positively to their request. “Telangana Outsourcing JAC Working President Mandala Balakrishna Reddy, along with Kadaganji Ramesh, Srikanth, Naveen Reddy, Raju, Venkat, Prashanth, Suresh, Vinod, Dhanunjay, Appala Ramulu, and Sriramulu participated in this meeting.

# They Gave My Land To Someone Else And They Are Promising Justice.

"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 06. “The truth is like fire.. Even the Chief Minister has done injustice to our sons and husbands, despite the law. If you ask, what will you write like this..I know! I know what I will do? -What is the hidden meaning in the second article “Vimala, a resident of Khamana village in Wankidi mandal, alleged that her three acres of land had been encroached upon. MRO Kavitha alleged that it had been illegally given to someone else. The victim lodged a complaint with the local Tahsildar’s office demanding justice for the injustice done to her. The victim, former MPTC Praveen, former ZPTC Ajay Kumar and former Sarpanch Thukaram stood in support of the victims. The victims were about to go to the wall. The three acres of land were encroached upon. They alleged that the patta was given to someone else without their knowledge. They questioned how reasonable this was. When the local Tahsildar Kavitha was asked for an explanation, she was accused of giving inconsistent answers saying that no one can do anything to me and that anyone can do what they want. Former MPTC Praveen said that the MRO who illegally issued the patta should be suspended. He condemned the injustice. He expressed his concern that this is a blow to the innocent. He said that the previous MRO Madhukar did not admit that he had done anything wrong. Later, two or three SURVOs came and “He said that justice was not done. He said that he had filed an application with the Collector Grievances and given it to the current MRO Kavitha. When he got suspicious and looked at Bhu Bharathi, he alleged that the land of the victim Vimala had been encroached upon. He demanded that this MRO be suspended immediately. The victim woman Vimala wept bitterly. She was heartbroken that her land had

Government of Telangana Department of Revenue Statement of Revenue in Form R-100					
Statement of Revenue in Form R-100					
Sl. No.	Owner's Name	Area (Acres)	Revenue (Rs.)	Remarks	Signature of Officer
1	1. Vimala, Son of Late M. Venkateswara Reddy, Village No. 10, Panchayat No. 10, Mandal No. 10, District No. 10.	3.00	120000	Encroached land of Vimala, Son of Late M. Venkateswara Reddy, Village No. 10, Panchayat No. 10, Mandal No. 10, District No. 10.	Signature of Officer
2	2. Vimala, Son of Late M. Venkateswara Reddy, Village No. 10, Panchayat No. 10, Mandal No. 10, District No. 10.	3.00	120000	Encroached land of Vimala, Son of Late M. Venkateswara Reddy, Village No. 10, Panchayat No. 10, Mandal No. 10, District No. 10.	Signature of Officer
3	3. Vimala, Son of Late M. Venkateswara Reddy, Village No. 10, Panchayat No. 10, Mandal No. 10, District No. 10.	3.00	120000	Encroached land of Vimala, Son of Late M. Venkateswara Reddy, Village No. 10, Panchayat No. 10, Mandal No. 10, District No. 10.	Signature of Officer

been taken away. Even the media persons there were shocked by the scene of the victim Vimala’s suffering. He pleaded for justice and asked for the title of her land, and was moved to tears. The victims alleged that a large amount of money was paid. Most of the victims in Vanj are yet to come to light, and some of the victims are going to be shocked after this incident. More details are yet to be known in the second part of the article. The victim Vimala said that she has only one daughter and no sons. She said that her husband had gone to bed a year ago. She expressed concern that the illegal people who saw this as an opportunity had seized and registered the three acres of land. She said that if justice is not done, she will die and asked the authorities to provide justice.”

# CP Orders Strict Surveillance on Rowdy Sheeters Across Rachakonda



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 06, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu, IPS, has directed all police officers under the commissionerate to maintain continuous surveillance on rowdy sheeters and property offenders within their respective jurisdictions. He instructed all Zonal DCPs, Inspectors, and Sector Sub-Inspectors to have complete information about every rowdy sheeter under their limits including their residential addresses, movements, and day-to-day activities. The Commissioner emphasized that stringent action should be taken to prevent rowdy sheeters from engaging in settlements, criminal activities, or any actions that could disturb public peace and safety. He also directed the Special Operations Team (SOT) and Crime Teams to intensify surveillance over the movements of all identified rowdy elements and ensure effective preventive measures are in place to curb any untoward incidents.

# Public Groups Protest In Asifabad Over Sravani's Murder

"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 06. “A protest program was organized by public organizations on Thursday at the Asifabad Tehsildar’s office demanding justice for the family of Sravani, who was murdered due to casteist hatred. They demanded strict action against the accused, immediate financial assistance and a government job for the family. They appealed through a petition to the state government and the



police department to respond immediately and provide justice to the victim’s family.

# Human Rights Committee Demands Provision Of Electricity.



...District Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee Rathod Ramesh “Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 06. “Parandeli, Mukhadanguda in Keerameri mandal. District Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee Rathod Ramesh has requested the district electricity department to provide three- phase electricity to the villages. The villagers have expressed their concern that without three- phase electricity, agriculture has become rain- fed and they are facing difficulties in running motors in the fields. They expressed their anger that the supply is being dis-

rupted due to the wires hanging from the electricity poles and there has been no response despite repeated complaints. The committee said that it will continue the struggle until the problem is resolved.

# Nemali Anil Kumar Participates in Mallapur Sadar Sammelan

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 6 (Indian Chronicle):“On the occasion of Karthika Pournami, senior Greater Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar participated in the Sadar Sammelan program organized by the Mallapur Yadav Association. He extended Karthika Pournami greetings to all Yadav brothers and sisters. The event was attended by village elders of Mallapur, members of the Mallapur Yadav Association, and Congress leaders among others.

# Such festivals promote unity Greater Congress leader Nemali Anil



Nacharam, Indain Chronicle, October 6: “As part of culture and tradition, the festivals organized by the Yadava

community contribute greatly to unity, said Greater Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar. On the occasion of the Pournami festival, Greater Congress senior leader Nemali Anil Kumar participated in the Sadar Sammelan program organized by the Mallapur Yadava Association.

The bull parade performances during the event captivated the audience. He advised that such traditional celebrations should be conducted in a spirit of brotherhood. He also extended Sadar festival greetings to all members of the Yadava community. “Village elders of Mallapur, members of the Mallapur Yadava Association, Congress leaders, and others participated in the program.

# Committed to the All-Round Development of Colonies: MLA Bandari Lakxma Reddy

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 06, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“MLA Bandari Lakxma Reddy stated that he is fully committed to the all-round development of colonies within the Uppal constituency. On Thursday, the MLA laid the foundation stone for the construction of a CC Road at Shirdi Nagar in Kapra Division, taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.80 lakhs. Speaking on the occasion, he assured that he would work beyond party lines to ensure the comprehensive development of the constituency. He further added that he would make every effort to resolve issues brought to his attention at the earliest. BRS leaders Bairi Naveen Goud, Colony President Rajendra Prasad, Sukumari, Poornachander Rao, Vaikuntham, Brahmachari, Rathil Murugan, Prabhavathi, Kishore, Prasad, and several party workers participated in the program.”



# Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Pays Tributes to Tanneeru Satyanarayana



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 06, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy paid floral tributes to the portrait of Tanneeru Satyanarayana, father of former ex Minister and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao, on the occasion of his Dasadina Karma held at Om Con-

vention, Narsingi. Speaking on the occasion, Bandari Laxma Reddy remembered Satyanarayana as a man of values who earned goodwill and respect in society. He expressed his condolences to Harish Rao and the family members. BRS leaders, party workers, and several others from the Uppal constituency participated in the program and paid their tributes.

# AAP Gujarat chief visits family of farmer who died by suicide in Gir-Somnath



GNS News Agency, Nov 6  
Aam Aadmi Party’s (AAP) Gujarat chief Isudan Gadhvi met the family members of a farmer, who allegedly died by suicide due to debt pressure and crop failure, at Revat in Una taluka of Gir-Somnath on Thursday. On the occasion, Gadhvi announced an assistance of Rs 51,000 from his Prarthana Foundation to the family. A community leader named Munnabhai also offered Rs 1 lakh assistance to the family.

Speaking to the media, Gadhvi urged the state gov-

ernment to announce a policy to prevent farmer suicides. “This is the second incident of a farmer dying by suicide in Bhanwad. Gaffarbai, a resident of Revat village of Una, has cut short his life due to financial crisis owing to unseasonal rains and worries about loan repayment. A mountain of grief befallen this farmer’s family. I request the government to announce assistance to the family. At the same time, the government should announce such a policy so that no farmer needs to die by suicide anymore.” Farmers in the America and Israel do not die by suicide. Farmers in America and Israel are not poor, they have bungalows and cars because that is the policy for farmers in those countries,” the AAP leader claimed. “You (BJP government at the Centre) have waived off loans worth Rs 16 lakh crores of industrialists,” he pointed out and demanded that such a decision should be taken in the case of farmers too. Gadhvi also visited some villages of Kodinar of Gir-Somnath district hit by unseasonal rains. A statement from AAP on Thursday, quoted Gadhvi as saying, “Pipli village of Kodinar is still flooded with rainwater but the government remains unmoved. Farmers suffer repeated losses due to the flood — many farmers are already in debt. Despite being the backbone of the economy, farmers in Gujarat are helpless today due to the policies of the government.”

# Three months after deportation, Bangladeshi woman with two Aadhaar cards comes back, held in Bhosari

GNS News Agency, Nov 6  
Police found her living in Bhosari with two fake Aadhaar cards and suspect she paid agents to cross the border. A Bangladeshi woman deported in August re-entered India illegally via West Bengal and was arrested in Pune. An investigation has revealed that a Bangladeshi woman, now arrested by the Pimpri Chinchwad police for illegally residing in India, was deported to her country just three months ago by the Mumbai Police. Police said that even after her deportation, the woman, identified as Fatima Amjad Akhtar (35), came back to India last month by illegally crossing the international border between India and Bangladesh at West Bengal. Currently residing in Bhosari in Pimpri Chinchwad, Fatima was found with two Aadhaar cards in two different names in India, which she is suspected to have procured with the help of agents in Pune, police said. The Anti-Terrorist Bureau (ATB) of the Pimpri Chinchwad police got information about the suspect Fatima Akhtar that she was a Bangladeshi national overstaying in India, after her visa period had expired. Police inspector V D Raut of the ATB said, “During the search operation, our team traced Fatima Akhtar’s location and nabbed her from Bhosari on November 4.” We have seized two Aadhaar cards from her possession, both having her photographs, but in two different names Mala Vitthal Davkhar and Fatima Fahimuddin,” said Raut. Police said Fatima came to India from Bangladesh on a tourist visa by road via the international border in West

Bengal in July 2019. She went back in October same year. Again, she came to India on a tourist visa on February 25, 2020. But later she did not go back even after her visa period expired, police said. Police suspect that during her illegal stay in India, she procured an Aadhaar card in the name of Mala Vitthal Davkhar with the help of an agent in Pune. Meanwhile, she got married to Mohammad Fahimuddin of Karnataka and then procured another Aadhaar card, police said. Police said Fatima met Fahimuddin, who is also in his 30s in Karnataka and later the couple claimed to have got married. They were currently residing in Bhosari. Police have recovered their marriage photographs. Police said Fatima was doing some household jobs in Pune, while her husband is an electrician by profession. Police suspect he was aware of Fatima’s Bangladeshi nationality before they got married. When the police nabbed Fatima and examined her documents, it was known that she was earlier held for overstay by a Mumbai Police team and deported to Bangladesh in August 2025. Accordingly, the Pimpri Chinchwad police have started a communication with their Mumbai counterparts for gathering information about Fatima’s case. Police are investigating how she returned to India even after deportation. Police suspect that Fatima left Bangladesh, infiltrated to India allegedly by giving a few thousand rupees to some agents or racketeers operating at the international border across West Bengal, and from there reached Pune a few days before.



## Days after he ‘lathi-charged’ residents for bursting crackers near his bungalow, Bengal SP gets transfer order



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Cooch Behar Superintendent of Police Dyutiman Bhattacharya has been removed from his post and transferred as commandant of the third battalion of the Special Armed Force. Though administrative sources described the transfer as routine, it came soon after a controversy over an alleged baton charge by the SP on people allegedly bursting firecrackers near his bungalow at 1 am, during Kali Puja. According to an order dated October 23, Bhattacharya was replaced by Sandip Karra, who was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Zone) in the Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) had permitted only eco-friendly green crackers between 8 pm and 10 pm on the night of October 20, Monday. That night, a group of men and women were allegedly bursting crackers near the SP's residence in the Railgumti area of Cooch Behar town. Residents later alleged that Bhattacharya, along with other policemen, had baton-charged them.

The next day, residents blocked the road near the SP's residence in protest. Police arrested ten people, including three women, to disperse the crowd. The ten were produced before the Cooch Behar Chief Judicial Magistrate's court on Wednesday, where the three women were granted bail. The case is scheduled for hearing on Friday. Purported CCTV grabs of the alleged baton charge went viral on social media, sparking heated debates. Leader of Opposition and BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari condemned what he called "high-handedness" by the SP, while BJP workers gheraoed Kotwali police station in protest on Wednesday.

Speaking to local media, Bhattacharya denied using force and defended police action. "Some people were bursting crackers near my house. We thought it would end shortly, but it continued past midnight. My wife counted 60 such firecrackers; some even fell inside our residence. Our dogs were scared and screaming. The guards went and asked them to stop. There was no beating," he said. Shiben Roy, the lawyer representing the arrested, said, "Out of the ten people arrested, three got bail. Police slapped stringent sections against those who blocked the road. But where is the evidence?" North Bengal Development Minister Udayan Guha said, "This may be a routine transfer. I do not have information on whether it is related to the alleged lathi-charge." BJP MLA from Cooch Behar Dakshin, Nikhil Ranjan Dey, however, welcomed the transfer. "The SP who beat up men and women with lathis should have been booked and punished. But we welcome the transfer," he said.

## Bombay HC refuses unconditional stay on Rs 250 crore award against Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

The Bombay High Court earlier this month refused to grant an immediate unconditional stay on the execution of an arbitral award of nearly Rs 250.82 crore granted in favour of L&T-STEEL JV Mumbai against Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL), related to a contract for designing and building certain Metro stations and tunnels. A single-judge bench of Justice Somashekhar Sundaresan passed an order in an interim application of MMRCL seeking an unconditional stay on the award without any requirement to make any deposit of amounts awarded. The application was filed by MMRCL in its commercial arbitration petition challenging the arbitral award under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

The high court held that "no case is made out such the impugned award is tainted by such perversity that it brooks no deposit for stay on its execution". Justice Sundaresan noted that the award would be stayed, subject to MMRCL depositing the entire awarded amount along with the interest till date in the court within eight weeks. In case of deposit of the amounts, the judge said the contractor shall be entitled to withdraw the same along with accruals by providing "full unconditional bank guarantee" as per high court rules. The bid for contract in question was made by respondent L&T-STEEL JV Mumbai in May 2015 before the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST). The Arbitral Tribunal, consisting of three members by majority, directed MMRCL to pay Rs 250.82 crore to the contractor, of which Rs 21.26 crore was related to cost variation due to additional work carried out beyond the scope of the project. Moreover, Rs 229.56 crore was attributable to the claims towards reimbursement for the impact of GST introduction for the period between July 1, 2017, and September 30, 2022. MMRCL-appointed arbitrator dissented. The majority award was passed by the presiding arbitrator and the arbitrator nominated by the contractor. The arbitrator appointed by the MMRCL, the third member, on the other hand, had dissented from the majority and held that on additional works, the contractor owed a refund of Rs 27.09 lakh to the corporation and the GST amount was limited to Rs 134.42 crore.

Aggrieved by the majority award, MMRCL had approached the high court earlier this year. Advocate General Birendra Saraf for MMCRL claimed that the award was



"ex facie perverse and has made such obvious blunders that no reasonable arbitral tribunal could have taken the approach adopted by the Arbitral Tribunal". The MMRCL contended that it was "entirely arbitrary to provide any compensation for impact of GST introduction, without such data breaking down the components of the price bid of the contractor". Saraf claimed that the Tribunal "shut out" the Corporation's witness statement by the engineer-in-charge of the project, who had supervised the project, and who could have elaborated on technical and contractual aspects. He said that evidence of the said witness could be considered as he was independent since he was not on the payroll of the corporation and was only assigned a specific role in the project. The contractor, through senior advocate Vikram Nankani, sought dismissal of the plea and added that the Tribunal did not exclude the engineer-in-charge's evidence but had treated it with caution, considering he was not an independent witness.

"It is apparent that the witness was not shut out by the Arbitral Tribunal. The witness was examined and cross-examined," the bench noted, adding that the Tribunal had "discounted" his claims to expertise in his opinions since he could not be treated as an independent expert. The judge clarified that the present order was not the final adjudication of merits of the matter. The high court said the impugned award was "not facially untenable and is not undermined by patent illegalities". The high court went on to note, "The closest the Corporation came to approaching this standard was with the contention about the witness being shut out, but that is not a convincing manner of reading the approach of the Arbitral Tribunal to the witness."

## 17th Rojgar Mela: Young govt recruits in Shimla determined to explore more opportunities

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Gaurav, 23, from Bilaspur district in Himachal Pradesh, 20-year-old Sheetal from Kaithal district in Haryana, and Kuljeet Singh, 21, from Sangrur district in Punjab were among 93 young people who received appointment letters during the 17th Rojgar Mela held in Shimla on Friday. Sheetal and Kuljeet Singh were appointed as Branch Post Masters in the Department of Posts (DoP) in Himachal Pradesh, while Gaurav received his appointment letter for the post of Sub-Inspector in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Although all three expressed happiness over securing employment in the government sector, they told The Indian Express that they do not wish to stop here, as many more opportunities lie ahead, and they are still young. "We don't want to stop here. We know there are ample opportunities ahead of us, and we want to explore them too," they said. Gaurav, a resident of Sungai village in Bilaspur district, said, "I'm a BSc graduate and completed my BEd from Himachal Pradesh University in 2023. My father is a truck driver and my mother a homemaker. After passing Class 12, I began preparing for various competitive exams, including NDA, CDS, and others. In some exams, I cleared the written test but couldn't qualify for the physical test. In March 2024, I cleared both the written and physical tests for the Sub-Inspector post in CISF. My training will begin next month in Hyderabad. I have already started preparing for the post of Assistant Commandant in CISF." Sheetal, who has completed basic training for the Branch Post Master post at Sangrah in Sirmour district, got selected on her first attempt. "I was selected for the post of Branch Post Master based on my academic performance in Class 10. Our results were announced on August 14 this year. I got this job on my first attempt, but I don't want to stop here. I know there are many opportunities ahead. I've promised myself to perform this job diligently, but I've also decided to pursue higher studies and explore more career options," said Sheetal who is currently pursuing her Class 12 studies.



Kuljeet Singh said, "I completed my education up to Class 10 from my native village Maniana, in Sangrur district, and got the job in August this year in the Department of Posts. Currently, I am pursuing Class 12 in Commerce. I believe this is just the beginning and I have a long way to go. I completed my basic training as a Branch Post Master in the Solan district. I'm also preparing for the defence services. There are promotion opportunities within the Department of Posts, too, but I want to explore all possible avenues for growth." Kuljeet Singh, who had no prior connection with Himachal Pradesh before joining the Department of Posts, admitted that working as a Post Master in the hill state is not easy. "Sometimes, we have to walk around 6 to 7 kilometres daily on hilly slopes. To make it easier, I brought my motorbike from Sangrur," he added.

The 17th Rojgar Mela was held at the auditorium of the Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Bemloe, Shimla, as part of a nationwide event organised at 40 locations where appointment letters were distributed to 51,000 young recruits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the new appointees. Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Social Justice and Empowerment B L Verma was the chief guest at the Shimla event.

## At Rs 418 crore, new cable-stayed bridge to link Goregaon and Andheri; BMC to commence construction in November



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Come November, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to commence works on the construction of a new cable-stayed bridge in the western suburbs linking Goregaon to Oshiwara across the Goregaon creek (Oshiwara). The project is estimated at a cost of Rs 418 crore and is expected to be completed by October 2028.

In a bid to alleviate traffic congestion on the S V Road and Link Road in the western suburbs, the BMC has rolled out plans to establish a new north-south link running parallel across the existing routes. Slated to be 542 metres long, the proposed bridge will run across Goregaon Creek along the 36.6-metre-wide DP Road and connect the Link Road with two congested areas — Bhagat Singh Nagar in P/South ward (Goregaon) and Oshiwara in K/West ward (Andheri). The proposed bridge will also serve as a new approach road to the Bhagat Singh Nagar block. Once established, the bridge will serve as a new link for commuters travelling between the busy areas of Andheri, Oshiwara,

Lokhandwala, and Goregaon. While the project plan was first mooted in 2022, the construction was stalled owing to a delay in getting permissions from agencies such as the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA), as the proposed bridge passes over the protected mangrove area. In May, the High Court finally granted the civic body approval to construct the cable-stayed bridge. While the overall length of the bridge is 542 metres, the cable-stayed portion of the structure will encompass 238 metres. According to BMC officers, the cable-stayed design was chosen owing to its environmental advantage as the reduced number of piers required for a cable-stayed structure will impact fewer mangroves. Furthermore, it also prevents obstruction to the natural watercourse and serves as an aesthetic structure in the prime locality. At an overall width of 28.55 m, the total bridge will comprise six lanes with three carriageways on each side. Besides the main carriageways, the bridge is proposed to comprise a 0.45 metre median as well as a 1.5 m-wide utility corridor along each carriageway. Having issued notices for work in the mangrove area earlier this month, the BMC is eyeing to commence construction work on the bridge in the first week of November. The bridge is estimated to be constructed over a period of 36 months, excluding the monsoon months. The expected deadline is October 2028. "We are aiming to commence work on the project by the first week of November. The cable-stayed design of the bridge, besides being better for the environment and waterway, will reduce the timeline of the construction period compared to a conventional bridge. Upon commissioning, the bridge will facilitate smoother North-South vehicular movement and will significantly reduce the load on S V Road as well as the Link Road. Eventually, this bridge will also connect the Link Road to the proposed Mumbai Coastal Road (North)," said Abhijit Bangar, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects), told.

## Chandigarh chief engineer Sanjay Arora shunted out after investigation exposes his inaccessibility

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

A few days after an investigation by The Indian Express exposed that Sanjay Arora, the Chief Engineer of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, was inaccessible to the public, the officer was removed from his post on Friday. The action came on the basis of the directions issued by Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria. The development has been confirmed by Chandigarh Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla. Till the filing of this report, the charge has not been handed over to anyone else.

On October 6, The Indian Express had highlighted how over a period of eight days, its correspondents tried meeting Arora — posing as common citizens with the aim of presenting a grievance before him about a civic issue — but they could not even catch a glimpse of the officer even during designated public hours, let alone secure a meeting. This was despite the administration's claim that its officials are easily accessible to the public. At the level of Chief Engineer, who oversees the city's core infrastructure and services, the gates, however, remained firmly shut. Even during the notified "public meeting hours," citizens waiting outside his office were told only one thing by his staff: "Arora is in a meeting." From a widow seeking a livelihood to students worried about roads and drainage, their grievances never reached the officer tasked with addressing them.

The public meeting hour, meant to bridge the gap between officials and residents, remained a closed door. Later, when asked whether he was meeting people as per the public hours, Arora stated, "Haanji, bilkul, 12 se 1 milta hoon sabse (Yes, I meet the public from 12 noon to 1 pm)." When told that not one correspondent could access him over several days, he responded: "I can give my PA's number. They can fix an appointment." When Arora was reminded that he had not been available to the public since September 24,



he said: "I may be caught up somewhere... Hina Rohtaki is a Special Correspondent with , Chandigarh. She covers Chandigarh administration and other cross beats. In this field for over a decade now, she has also received the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award by the President of India in January 2020.

## BJP MLA Basavaraj was in touch with Bengaluru realtor murder accused before and after crime, say Karnataka Police in counter to case-quashing plea

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

The Karnataka Police Thursday informed the high court that BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj was in touch, personally and through close associates, with a gangster arrested for the murder of a real estate operator, both before and after the crime. The police have cited the close association unearthed by investigations between Basavaraj, 63, and the prime accused in the murder case, Jagadish P alias Jaga, 45, as well as an evidentiary statement given by the mother of the victim regarding the MLA's role in a property dispute with her son, V G Shivaprakash, 44, as reasons to sustain the case and KCOCA (Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act) charges.

The prosecution presented the statements of objections to petitions filed by MLA Basavaraj for the quashing of the murder case against him, as well as the quashing of charges brought under KCOCA, 2000, in the murder case. The investigation of the murder case of Shivaprakash alias Bikla Shiva had revealed that some persons closely connected with the MLA "had prior contact with the main accused before and after the commission of the crime," the prosecution has stated to refute allegations by the MLA of being falsely implicated in the murder case. The probe had also revealed that MLA Basavaraj himself "had prior contact with both the deceased and the principal accused before and after the occurrence of the crime," the prosecution said to counter the contention that the case against the MLA is politically motivated. The police have said in the objection statement that two of three complaints filed by the murder victim with the police before his death had also named the MLA as being involved and interfering in a property dispute. The MLA was named in a complaint by the victim dated February 18, 2025, but not in a complaint dated February 21, 2025. However, this does not absolve his role since a complaint dated February 25, 2025, filed by the victim had again named the MLA, the police have stated.

The "investigations have revealed sufficient material indicating his role in the murder of the deceased for illegal gains from property," said the statement. The police have referred to a statement given in court by the victim's mother under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which has evidentiary value, of threats to her son to substantiate the objection to quashing the case against Basavaraj.



Bengaluru BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj moved the Karnataka High Court on October 14 against the invocation of the KCOCA, 2000, in the murder case.

A senior counsel appearing for the MLA argued that the mother of the victim had denied naming the MLA in a video statement given before the media. He also argued that the stringent KCOCA law was wrongly invoked against the MLA since there is no evidence to suggest his involvement in organised crime activities. Basavaraj moved the Karnataka High Court on October 14 against the invocation of the KCOCA, 2000, in the murder case. He had earlier moved the court in July — soon after being named in the July 15 murder case — for quashing the complaint. On August 13, the high court granted an order protecting the MLA from "coercive action" by the police. The CID police, which has taken over the investigation, filed an application last month for the removal of the protection against arrest accorded to the MLA by citing alleged non-cooperation in the probe. Shivaprakash was killed outside his house on a public street near the Halasuru Lake on the evening of July 15 by a gang of armed assailants. The Bengaluru police had named BJP MLA Basavaraj and a local gangster, Jagadish P alias Jaga, 45, with whom the MLA is closely associated, among the accused in the FIR. The murder is alleged to have occurred over a dispute concerning a property in east Bengaluru over which two rival gangs had staked a claim of ownership.



## Anti-stubble-burning move backfires: Paddy waste left to rot for over a year in Punjab village



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Around two acres of land along the main Patiala–Sirhind road near Nandpur village in Punjab’s Fatehgarh Sahib district have turned into an eyesore, with paddy stubble piled high lying in the open for more than a year. Only a small portion has been cleared, while the rest continues to rot, emitting a foul smell and appearing damaged after a year of monsoon and harsh weather. The stubble was initially collected from nearby farms to discourage stubble burning and was meant to be supplied to a nearby biomass power plant in Jalkheri village of Fatehgarh Sahib district. However, residents say the stock is being cleared out at a snail’s pace. “Strangely, the biomass power plant is operational, but they are picking this stock at a very slow pace. Looking at its condition, we do not even know if they are usable now,” said Avtar Singh, a resident of Chalila village.

The Jalkheri biomass power plant, located about 8 km from this site, is a 10-MW unit originally commissioned by the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) in 1992. It was shut down shortly after commissioning but re-commissioned in June 2024 after being leased to a private player. The plant, fully renovated by the company, has a stated capacity to consume one lakh tonnes of paddy stubble annually. While the plant is reportedly operational and

supplying power to PSPCL under a purchase agreement, locals question why the stock languishing here was never utilised. “The plant is working and claims to be 100% environment-friendly. Then why was this stock collected if it was not going to be used?” asked Surjit Singh, a villager. Just a few kilometres away, near the Fatehgarh Sahib border, another batch of paddy stubble wrapped in tarpaulin sheets has been lying unused for months. “The sheets were yellow when wrapped. They have turned white now—that is how long it has been,” said a regular commuter on the route. This stock reportedly belongs to an animal feed company. Amid the ongoing campaign against stubble burning, farmer leaders say such neglect sends a contradictory message. “If they want to stop stubble burning, the area should be cleared and prepared for fresh storage,” said Jagmohan Singh Patiala, state general secretary of farmers’ union Bhartiya Kisan Union (Dakaunda).

Jaspreet Singh, the fuel head at Jalkheri biomass power plant, said the stock would be cleared soon. “This time, it was a 93-day-long monsoon, so it became difficult to clear this stock. However, a year ago, the stock was 10 times more than what it is today. The remaining stock will also be cleared up in the coming months. The plant initially could not operate at full capacity and gradually picked up its pace. We are concerned about the environment, and we will clear this place in the coming months,” he added. When contacted, Harjeet Singh, Director (Generation), PSPCL, said, “We are receiving power from the Jalkheri biomass power plant as per the power purchase agreement. As for the stubble lying in the fields, we have no information since it does not fall under our purview.” Meanwhile, Mohit Singla, Executive Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), Fatehgarh Sahib, said the onus was on the company. “They have stored it on that land and are using it gradually in their power plant. It is the prerogative of the company to use it as per its requirement. Otherwise... stubble is always stored in the open only,” he added.

## Vijay Mallya to Mehul Choksi: Arthur Road jail’s Barrack 12 back in spotlight as India rebuts ‘poor prison conditions’ claim

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Barrack No. 12 of the Mumbai Central Prison, better known as Arthur Road jail, is once again in the spotlight after its photographs – with plush indoors, tiled bathrooms, and natural light – were submitted to the Belgian authorities by India amid the bid to extradite fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi, wanted in the Punjab National Bank case. In the argument opposing his extradition, Choksi had claimed that the conditions in India’s prisons are “poor”. The same argument was previously raised by fugitive offenders Nirav Modi, who is wanted in the same case, and Vijay Mallya, while facing a similar predicament in the Kingfisher Airlines loan default case.

The submissions claimed that there is no natural light or fresh air in the country’s jails, that they are overcrowded much beyond their capacity, and, therefore, failed to meet human rights standards. The Indian authorities countered the claims stating that they were “excuses” to avoid extradition to face criminal charges. In cases where the accused are to be lodged in Mumbai, the authorities have been submitting photographs of Barrack Number 12 at Arthur Road jail. Tight-security ‘anda’ cells, high-profile prisoners The jail itself was one of the earliest prisons in the country, established in 1926 by the British. Spread over six acres, there are over 20 barracks, which have separate cells within them. The capacity of the prison is just about enough to hold 1,000 prisoners, but it usually has over 3,000 inmates. The barracks include high-security spaces, called ‘anda’ cells for their construction in an egg-like shape. These anda cells were used to keep high-profile prisoners, or those in need of more security, including those accused in the 1993 Bombay serial blasts case. After the arrest of Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab for the November 26, 2008, terrorist attack in Mumbai – also known as the 26/11 attack – a separate structure was constructed to keep him in solitary confinement in a high-security space, away from the main prison barracks for safety. This ground-plus-one structure has been expanded with other barracks installed to house high-security prisoners since. After Kasab was executed in 2012, the building, called Barrack No. 12, was upgraded further,



and has since been used to house multiple prisoners, including political leaders. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Chhagan Bhujbal, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, former state home minister Anil Deshmukh, and NCP’s Nawab Malik, all of who were arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in separate cases; former Star India CEO Peter Mukerjee, who was in jail from 2015 to 2020 for allegedly murdering Sheena Bora; HDIL promoters Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, accused in the alleged PMC bank fraud case; and others. The structure has eight cells on each floor, with attached bathrooms; inmates are provided with a mattress, pillow and bedsheets, along with melamine crockery. In the submissions made before the Belgian authorities, photographs and videos of these cells have been provided. They show a well-ventilated barrack, with three large windows on either side for cross ventilation, ceiling fans, clean toilets, and a plasma TV in the cell. The Belgian authorities have been informed that the cell also has a long corridor outside, where prisoners can take a walk at specific timings. Similar submissions were made in previous extradition proceedings, including in the case of Mallya, when the British judge, while ordering his extradition in 2018, had expressed satisfaction about the cell in which Mallya was proposed to be lodged. The extradition process is still pending. In Nirav Modi’s case as well, in 2020, his lawyers had submitted to the UK authorities that Arthur Road jail is an “old-fashioned sweatbox”. His extradition process too continues to remain pending.

## BMC to auction out 4 properties to recover property tax dues, first in 40 years

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

The four properties that will be auctioned include a land parcel of the Shanti Sadan CHS at Chunabhathi whose base price has been fixed at at Rs 47.09 crore having a space of 2,500 sqm, another plot of land owned by the Housing Commissioner of Bombay with a base price fixed at Rs 37 crore with an area of 3,000 square meter, a privately owned house with shops at South Mumbai’s Kalbadevi with a base price of Rs 26.01 crore with an area of 1,648 sqm and the privately owned Rajani Bungalow at Borivali, with a base price of Rs 10.43 crore with an area of 624 sqm.

“We have listed out all four properties and have issued public notices about the auction drive. At present, the registration process is ongoing. We will have an online auction on October 29, when buyers will submit their bids,” Vishwash Shankarwar, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, told on Friday. In the past year, the BMC’s coffers have recorded a dip. According to data, the civic body’s fixed deposit has recorded a massive dip of Rs 12,000 crore in the past three years, as BMC’s overall fixed deposit, which stood at Rs 91,690 crore in 2021-22 came down to Rs 79,498 crore in 2024-25. In February, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani announced several measures to generate revenue for the civic body during its budget announcement. Earlier this month, BMC also announced selling of 426 housing units to generate revenue – a first-ever move taken by the BMC. Also, earlier this year, the BMC announced leasing out its own plots to private stakeholders to generate revenue. Authorities levy a property tax, which is more like a cess, on all real estate and commercial properties located within the jurisdiction of the civic body. Once the property owners default on paying taxes, the civic authorities send them notices with penalties. However, if the owners continue to default on the tax payment, then the properties are seized or attached temporarily, and put on auction, adhering to legal proceedings. The last time a property was auctioned was in 1984, civic sources



confirmed. The BMC last month had set up an external agency to carry out the bidding process. Civic officials said that if the authorities fail to get responses from enough bidders, then a re-auction of the property may be taken up. The officials said that for a successful auction, a response from a minimum of three bidders needs to be recorded in the system. “Most of these properties were entangled in legal proceedings since they have multiple owners. For example, the Rajani House has seven owners. Therefore, there was an issue with these properties on who is going to pay the taxes, and the legal proceedings went on for a very long period of time. Therefore, it has been decided now to recover the tax amount, the properties will be auctioned out, and if there is any balance amount due, then it may be equally divided among the owners,” the officer said. The authorities said that initially, five properties were listed. However, one of the property owners had settled the dues just before the auction notice was published. The base price of the auction has been fixed based on the ready reckoner rates. Property tax is among the highest sources of revenue for BMC, which collected Rs 6,011 crore this year against an annual target of Rs 6,200 crore, till March 31. The BMC authorities maintained that this year, they made the highest-ever property tax collection in BMC’s history.

## How India managed to get 3 accused in drug peddling case deported from UAE in the past 4 months



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

On Thursday, the Mumbai police’s Crime Branch announced the deportation of Mohammad Sohail Shaikh, 31, who was part of a drug network gang, from Dubai to Mumbai, where he was placed under arrest. Shaikh is the third person to be deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Mumbai in connection with peddling, after the deportation of two suspects, identified as Taher Dola and Mustafa Kubawala, from Abu Dhabi in June and July this year, respectively. Sources indicate another deportation is in the works in the same case.

While in the past, the UAE government had extradited or deported 19 accused — reportedly between 2002 and 2018 — a majority of them were linked to terror activities like the 1993 serial blasts in Mumbai. It is not common for offenders in one case to be deported one after another at such short notice, the police said. “There are two factors at play here. Firstly, over the past few months, especially, there have been positive interactions between the India and UAE

governments that smoothened the process,” an officer said. Since the past year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has met UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the BRICS summit, where he emphasized strong ties between the two nations. He has also held meetings with the Abu Dhabi and Dubai crown princes. Secondly, when it comes to narcotics cases, the laws in the UAE are very strict, which worked in India’s favour, the officer said. “Ever since we registered the narcotics case, we gathered enough evidence to pinpoint the role of the accused. We got our chargesheets translated into Arabic, which had all the evidence along with the location of the accused in the UAE,” the official said. “Based on the information provided, the accused were arrested there. Once they were convinced of their role in drug cases based on the evidence we provided, they assured us that they would be deported soon, which happened over the course of the year,” the officer said.

The officer added that this was an ideal case where the probe began with the arrest of a woman with merely 641 grams of mephedrone in January 2024. “However, with the growing menace of mephedrone in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed “forward and backward” links too should be traced in all drug cases. Hence, we decided to unearth the entire network. During the course of the investigation, the police arrested 12 individuals, traced the factory where mephedrone was being manufactured to Sangli, busted it, and seized drugs worth Rs 252 crore. The police identified Salim Dola as the main accused linked to the Dawood Ibrahim gang that was running the network. Along with him, the alleged roles of his son Taher, nephew Mustafa Kubawala, and right-hand man Shaikh alias Lavish were identified and named as wanted accused. “While Salim Dola managed to flee to Turkey from the UAE after he realised the authorities were onto him, we managed to get the others. This is a major blow to Salim Dola’s empire as all those close to him have been arrested. We want to pass the message that people fleeing India and operating drug networks from abroad are no longer safe,” the officer added.

## Calcutta HC ends protection for BJP’s Suvendu Adhikari from police action without court permit; SIT to probe five cases against him

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

In a setback for Leader of Opposition in the Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, the Calcutta High Court on Friday withdrew the blanket protection that had prevented the police from taking coercive action against him without court permission. The single-judge bench of Justice Joy Sengupta observed Friday that such protection, granted earlier as an interim order, cannot remain in force indefinitely and has to come to an end. “An interim order can’t be continued for an indefinite period,” Justice Sengupta said. While the court dismissed 15 cases filed against Adhikari, it directed the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations in five other FIRs that the BJP leader had sought to be quashed.

Almost three years ago, Justice Rajasekhara Mantha of the court had ruled that no new FIRs could be filed against him without the court’s prior approval. On December 8, 2022, Justice Mantha had stayed 26 FIRs lodged against Adhikari and directed that future complaints would also require the court’s permission. A senior BJP leader told The Indian Express, “Just before the elections (next year), this verdict



will create trouble for a leader like Suvendu Adhikari. We fear that during campaign programmes, he may be framed or even arrested to stop his campaign against the ruling Trinamool Congress.” Reacting to the verdict, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, “It’s a big setback for Adhikari. We repeatedly said such blanket protection can’t continue for an indefinite period. The High Court has basically given a positive nod to our demand.”

## Pune air pollution: PMC urged to ensure each ward has one gas or electric crematorium



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

To address the rising air pollution in Pune, city-based NGO, Parisar, has urged Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to implement a time-bound plan to ensure that each ward has at least one gas or electric cremation facility, while also promoting the use of environment-friendly cremation facilities and bringing a check on the burning of waste. Parisar representative Shweta Vernekar, on behalf of the Pune Air Action Hub, said the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) should support its ongoing activity of distribution of information pamphlets at hospitals and pass centres, while giving the death pass containing details of the locations of electric and gas crematoria in each ward.

“Work on a time-bound plan to ensure that each ward in Pune has at least one gas or electric cremation facility, with a long-term plan of having more of these facilities in general,” she said. As waste burning creates pollution, Vernekar said the issue has been flagged by the hub re-

peatedly. A joint meeting with the civic Solid Waste Management Department and Environment Department to address the waste dumping and burning issue has been planned, while the PMC has taken up mapping of garbage vulnerable spots to monitor and reduce dumping and burning through focused interventions,” she said.

Vernekar has urged PMC to issue a circular to all housing societies to arrange an electric heater for their security guards, along with other measures such as providing warm clothes and a cabin to ensure that they do not burn bonfires to keep themselves warm during winter. “The SWM Department vehicles are supposed to collect this ‘garden waste’ free of charge on a particular day every week, but this system doesn’t seem to be working efficiently as of now,” Vernekar pointed out. “Pune has so far invested in mist fountains, fog cannons, and mechanised sweeping machines. However, a proper scientific assessment of the amount of pollution reduced and the period for which it stays low is not seen, considering these are all solutions that do not directly work on the source of pollution,” she added. Vernekar emphasised the inclusion of ward-wise tree cutting information in the Environmental Sustainability Report (ESR) and that tree cutting data be recorded and published in a way that makes intelligent analysis possible. It is high time that these crucial records are digitised to facilitate understanding of trends and take required action promptly, she said. Prioritising the implementation of the Pune Bicycle Plan, increasing Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML) fleet to the required 6,000 buses as per the revised Comprehensive Mobility Plan of Pune, and implementing the Parking Policy of Pune.

## Kannada actress Divya Suresh identified as driver of car involved in Bengaluru hit-and-run

The Bengaluru traffic police have identified Kannada actress and reality TV star Divya Suresh as the alleged driver of the car that knocked down three people on a motorcycle in the Byatarayanapura area of the city in the early hours of October 4. The legal procedures for prosecuting the actress, who was a contestant on the Kannada edition of the Bigg Boss reality show, in the case have been initiated, the police said. According to a police complaint filed on October 7 by the motorcycle rider, Kiran G, 25, he was travelling with his cousins Anusha and Anitha near the Nithya Hotel in Byatarayanapura at around 1.30 am when an unknown speeding black car knocked his vehicle down.

While Kiran and Anusha, 24, suffered minor injuries due to the accident, Anitha, 33, suffered a bad injury to her leg and had to be taken to the BGS Hospital, where her leg was found to be broken, the complaint said. The doctors at

BGS prescribed surgery to repair the leg, the complaint added. According to Kiran, he did not approach the police until three days after the accident, as he was busy with Anitha’s medical treatment. The First Information Report (FIR), which was registered under sections for causing danger to public life, noted that the car driver left the scene of the accident without stopping. While the police complaint stated that the accident involved an unidentified black car driven by a woman driver, the investigation based on CCTV camera footage near the scene of the incident led the police to track down the vehicle as belonging to Suresh, who was also the driver, said a senior traffic police officer for the Bengaluru west region. “The matter is under further investigation,” a police officer said. Three years ago, Suresh had announced a hiatus from her social media account by citing injuries she had suffered in an accident.



# Trump says talks with Canada off after ad invokes Reagan as free-trader



WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, Nov 6U.S. President Donald Trump intensified his criticism of Canada on Friday after terminating trade talks over a Canadian political advertisement that used Republican icon Ronald Reagan saying tariffs cause trade wars and economic disaster.Trump, who imposed import tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum and autos earlier this year, called the video ad fraudulent in a Truth Social post Thursday.

Read about innovative ideas and the people working on solutions to global crises with the Reuters Beacon newsletter. Sign up here."Based on their egregious behavior, ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED," Trump wrote on Truth Social.Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney had removed most of Canada's retaliatory tariffs on U.S. imports imposed by his predecessor, and the two sides have been in talks for weeks on a deal for the steel and aluminum sectors.On Friday, Trump accused Canada of trying to influence the U.S. Supreme Court as it prepares to hear arguments next month over the legality of Trump's sweeping global tariffs.In an early morning Truth Social post he also said former President Reagan embraced tariffs, but Reagan was a free market and free trade proponent.REAGAN VOICEOVER CRITICISES TARIFFSOntario Premier Doug Ford said this week that the ad from his provincial government, more than

a week old, had caught the Republican president's attention.Ford has frequently urged Carney to take a more aggressive approach with Trump. Carney has visited Trump in the White House twice since becoming Prime Minister in March.The ad's voiceover consists of Reagan, a hero to many U.S. Republicans, criticizing tariffs on foreign goods while saying they cause job losses and trade wars."I heard that the president heard our ad. I'm sure he wasn't too happy," Ford said on Tuesday.Item 1 of 2 Commercial trucks head towards the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Pacific Highway Port of Entry from south Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, November 26, 2024. REUTERS/Jennifer Gauthier[1/2]Commercial trucks head towards the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Pacific Highway Port of Entry from south Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, November 26, 2024. REUTERS/Jennifer Gauthier Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabThe Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation said the ad used "selective audio and video", and that it was examining legal options.(by Reagan in 1987), and the Government of Ontario did not seek nor receive permission to use and edit the remarks," a Foundation statement said.The video uses five complete sentences from the five-minute weekly address, spliced together out of sequence."When someone says, 'Let's impose tariffs on foreign imports,' it looks like they're doing the patriotic thing by protecting American products and jobs," Reagan says. "And sometimes for a short while it works - but only for a short time."He also says: "...over the long run such trade barriers hurt every American worker and consumer", and that the result of trade wars is that "Markets shrink and collapse; businesses and industries shut down; and millions of people lose their jobs."The ad does not, however, mention that Reagan was using the address to explain that tariffs imposed on Japan by his administration should be seen as a sadly unavoidable exception to his basic belief in free trade as the key to prosperity.Trump's trade war has increased U.S. tariffs to their highest levels since the 1930s and he has regularly threatened more duties, sparking concerns among businesses and economists.Carney told reporters on Thursday that Canada will not allow unfair U.S. access to its markets if talks on various trade deals with Washington fail.



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

When President Donald Trump pulled the drape off a scale model in the Oval Office this week, the subject wasn't policy or defence — it was marble. The President unveiled plans for what he called the “most beautiful ballroom anywhere in the world,” a \$300 million addition to the White House that he says will be funded entirely by private donors and his own money.A builder's dream inside the White HouseMr. Trump told reporters the project had already raised \$350 million, exceeding its estimated cost. “All donor money and money that we put up, we’ve raised,” he said. “It’s going to be... the most beautiful ballroom anywhere in the world, I think.”

Asked how much of his own fortune he was contributing, Mr. Trump smiled: “I won’t be able to tell you until I finish, but I’ll donate whatever is needed, I’ll tell you that.” He added later, “Oh, millions of dollars. Yeah.”The ballroom — sometimes referred to by aides as the Trump Ballroom — will replace the existing East Wing structure, with renderings showing chandeliers, sweeping staircases, and arched windows. Its neoclassical design, reminiscent of Mar-a-Lago, reflects the president's long-standing affinity for grand interiors and visible legacy projects. “You’ve seen the model in the Oval Office,” said White House Press Sec-

# Arson suspect in deadly Los Angeles fire pleads not guilty

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

The man accused of deliberately setting the blaze that grew into one of the most devastating wildfires in Los Angeles history, killing 12 people and incinerating thousands of homes, pleaded not guilty on Thursday (October 24, 2025) to three federal arson-related charges.Jonathan Rinderknecht, 29, is charged with "maliciously" starting a fire on January 1 that was quickly suppressed but continued to smoulder beneath dense vegetation near Pacific Palisades before reigniting a week later amid fierce winds.

At an arraignment on Thursday before U.S. Magistrate Rozella Oliver in federal court in Los Angeles, he pleaded not guilty to three felony counts in a grand jury indictment returned on October 15 — arson, destruction of property by means of fire, and illegally setting timber afire.If convicted as charged, he would face a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison and a statutory maximum sentence of 45 years behind bars.Mr. Rinderknecht, who was arrested earlier this month in Florida and appeared in court in shackles and wearing white jail garb, was ordered to remain held without bond as he awaits trial.The bearded defendant tried to insist to the judge that he wanted to "talk about" his detention, but his lawyer, Steve Haney, cut him off. A trial date of December 16 was set.

In seeking bail for his client, Mr. Haney had argued that his client essentially was being charged with an arson allegedly committed seven days before a much larger fire for which he is being blamed.Speaking to reporters after the hearing, Mr. Haney questioned the fairness of a legal theory blaming Rinderknecht for the supposed reignition of a fire that had not been adequately extinguished."So why are they blaming him for whatever the fire department didn't do?" Mr. Haney asked rhetorically, adding that the Defence



was not conceding the prosecutors' assertion that one fire was a continuation of another.Mr. Haney said his client has no prior criminal record and no documented history of mental illness.The indictment holds Mr. Rinderknecht responsible for one of the most destructive Los Angeles fires on record, a conflagration that laid waste to the affluent coastal foothill community of Pacific Palisades. The blaze levelled some 6,000 structures, with property damage estimated at \$150 billion.According to prosecutors, Mr. Rinderknecht had been working as an Uber driver on New Year's Eve before dropping a passenger off and heading to a hilltop trail near Pacific Palisades, where he once lived.Once there, according to court documents, he listened to a rap song whose music video depicted things being set on fire, then proceeded to light a real blaze shortly after midnight and fled the scene, only to return a short time later to watch the flames and firefighters.The Palisades fire coincided with another massive wind-driven blaze about 35 miles (56 km) to the east known as the Eaton Fire, which wiped out much of the community of Altadena.

# Donald Trump says he’s ending trade talks with Canada over TV ad



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

President Donald Trump said late on Thursday that he was ending “all trade negotiations” with Canada because of a television ad opposing U.S. tariffs that he said misstated the facts and called “egregious behavior” aimed at influencing U.S. court decisions.The post on Mr. Trump's social media site came after Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he aims to double his country's exports to countries outside the U.S. because of the threat posed by Trump's tariffs.Mr. Trump posted, “The Ronald Reagan Foundation has just announced that Canada has fraudulently used an advertisement, which is FAKE, featuring Ronald Reagan speaking negatively about Tariffs.”

“The ad was for \$75,000. They only did this to interfere with the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, and other courts,” Trump wrote on his social media site. “TARIFFS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY, AND ECONOMY, OF THE U.S.A. Based on their egregious behavior, ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED.”Carney's office didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday night.Earlier on Thursday (October 24, 2025), the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute posted on X that the ad created by the government of Ontario “misrepresents the 'Presidential Radio Address to the Nation on Free and Fair Trade' dated April 25, 1987.” It added that Ontario did not receive foundation permission “to use and edit the remarks.”The foundation said it is “reviewing legal options in this matter” and invited the public to watch the unedited video of Reagan's address.Carney met with Trump earlier this month to try to ease trade tensions as the two countries and Mexico prepare for a review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade deal Trump negotiated in his first term, but has since soured on.

# Trump-Kim meeting speculation flares ahead of U.S. President’s visit to South Korea

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

The last time U.S. President Donald Trump visited South Korea in 2019, he made a surprise trip to the border with North Korea for an impromptu meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to revive faltering nuclear talks.Now, as Mr. Trump is set to make his first trip to Asia since his return to office, speculation is rife that he may seek to meet Mr. Kim again during his stop in South Korea.If realized, it would mark the two's first summit since their last meeting at the Korean border village of Panmunjom in June 2019, and fourth overall.

Many experts say prospects for another impromptu meeting aren't bright this time but predict Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim could eventually sit down for talks again in coming months. Others dispute that, saying a quick resumption of diplomacy isn't still likely given how much has changed since 2019 — both the size of North Korea's nuclear program and its foreign policy leverage.Mr. Trump has repeatedly expressed his desire to restore diplomacy with Mr. Kim as he boasted of his relationship with the North Korean leader and called him “a smart guy.” Ending his silence on Mr. Trump's outreach, Mr. Kim last month said he held “good personal memories” of Mr. Trump and suggested he could return to talks if the U.S. drops “its delusional obsession with denuclearization” of North Korea.

Both Washington and Pyongyang haven't hinted at any high-profile meeting ahead of the October 31-November 1 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in South Korea. But South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young told lawmakers in mid-October that it was possible for Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim to meet at Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone again when the U.S. President comes to South Korea after visiting Malaysia and Japan.“We should see prospects for their meeting have increased,” said Ban Kil Joo, assistant professor at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy in Seoul. He cited the recent suspension of civilian tours to the southern side of Panmunjom and Mr. Kim's comments about a possible return to talks.If the meeting doesn't occur, Mr. Ban said Mr. Kim will likely determine whether to resume diplomacy with Mr. Trump when he holds a major ruling party conference expected in January.

No notable logistical preparations that imply an impending Kim-Trump meeting have been reported, but observers note that the 2019 get-together was arranged only a day after Mr. Trump issued an unorthodox meeting invitation by tweet.Since his earlier diplomacy with Mr. Trump fell apart due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea, Mr. Kim has accelerated the expansion of an arsenal of nuclear-capable missiles designed to strike the U.S. and its allies. He has also strengthened his diplomatic footprint by aligning with Russia over its war in Ukraine and tightening relations with China.Subsequently, Mr. Kim's sense of urgency for talks with the United States could be much weaker now than it was six years ago, though some experts argue Mr. Kim would need to brace for the end of the Russia-Ukraine war.

“Considering the current situation, it seems difficult to imagine Kim Jong Un coming over for talks,” said Kim Taehyung, a professor at Seoul's Soongsil University.With an enlarged nuclear arsenal, stronger diplomatic backing from Russia and China and the weakening enforcement of sanctions, Mr. Kim has greater leverage and clearly wants the

U.S. to acknowledge North Korea as a nuclear power, a status needed to call for the lifting of U.N. sanctions. But that would run counter to the U.S. and its allies' long-held position that sanctions would stay in place unless North Korea fully abandons its nuclear program.“If a meeting with Kim Jong Un happens, Mr. Trump would brag of it and boast he's the one who can resolve Korean Peninsula issues as well, so he has something to gain... But would the U.S. have something substantial to give Kim Jong Un in return?” said Chung Jin-young, a former dean of the Graduate School of Pan-Pacific International Studies at South Korea's Kyung Hee University.Koh Yu-hwan, a former president of South Korea's Institute of National Unification, said that any meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim around the APEC meeting is unlikely to produce meaningful results. To get Mr. Kim back to talks, Mr. Koh said Mr. Trump would have to bring something enticing him to the table this time around.Even if they don't meet this month, there are still chances for Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim to resume diplomacy later. Mr. Kim may see Mr. Trump as a rare U.S. leader willing to grant concessions like the nuclear state status, while Mr. Trump would think a meeting with Mr. Kim would give him a diplomatic achievement in the face of various domestic woes.There are both hopes and worries about potential dialogue between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim.

Some call for the role of diplomacy to ease the danger of North Korea's enlarged nuclear arsenal. But others caution against Mr. Trump settling for rewarding North Korea with an extensive relaxing of sanctions in return for limited steps like freezing its unfinished long-range missile program targeting the U.S. Such deals would leave North Korea with already-built, short-range nuclear missiles targeting South Korea.Kim Taewoo, another former head of the Institute of National Unification, said “such a small deal” would still benefit South Korea's security because decades-long efforts to achieve a complete denuclearization of North Korea have made little progress.“If North Korea possesses an ability to strike the U.S., can the U.S. freely exercise its extended deterrence pledge in the event that North Korea attacks South Korea?” Mr. Taewoo said, referring to a U.S. promise to mobilize all military capabilities to protect South Korea. The country has no nuclear weapons of its own and is under the so-called U.S. “nuclear umbrella” protection.Mr. Chung, the former university dean, said there are virtually no chances for North Korea to give up its nuclear program. But he said that giving North Korea sanctions relief in return for partial denuclearization steps would trigger calls in South Korea and Japan for their countries to also be allowed to have nuclear weapons.

tending World Tamil Conference held in Thanjavur in 1995.The hotel has 100 rooms, 17 villas, a presidential suite, three restaurants, a swimming pool, three banquet halls, a board room and a bar. The tariff for the rooms varies from ?6,000 to ?17,000. Shortly after taking control of the hotel, the TTDC renamed it as Hotel Tamil Nadu Unit II. It has put up boards and fixed TTDC stickers on the glass doors. It has replaced the systems with HMIS software, which is widely used in the hotels run by TTDC.

According to sources, no other hotel of the TTDC charges such high tariffs. The Hotel Tamil Nadu at Mahabalipuram comes next in the list. The maximum rent for a sea-facing room hovers around ?9,000. No other TTDC hotels have a swimming pool except its new entrant.R. Venkatesan,

# TTDC names SRM property as Hotel Tamil Nadu unit-II

With the State government taking over SRM Hotel in Tiruchi, it has become one of the most luxurious and highly valued hotels of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC).The prime property, situated on Race Course Road, was brought under the administrative control of the TTDC, which runs 54 hotels in different parts of the State, including Mahabalipuram, Chennai, Ooty, Kodaikanal, Tiruchi, Madurai, and Rameswaram. The TTDC's comes as the 30-year-lease period of SRM Hotels Pvt Ltd and six weeks time granted by the Supreme Court to the SRM management to pay ?20 crore to the State government expired.According to sources, the then AIADMK government granted 4.7 acres of land to SRM management on lease to build a high class hotel mainly with the aim of providing good accommodation to the foreign delegates at-



# Why has IUCN red-flagged the Western Ghats? | Explained



The story so far: The expansive Western Ghats and two national parks in India—Assam’s Manas national park and West Bengal’s Sundarbans national park—have been categorised as being of “significant concern” in the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) list of natural World Heritage sites across Asia.

Why the survey?

The IUCN’s World Heritage Outlook 4 report released earlier this month attributes four biggest threats to the loss of habitats and species in South Asia: climate change, tourism activities, invasive alien species, and roads. The report categorises the natural sites as “good”, “good with some concerns”, “significant concern”, and “critical”. “Each of these categories not only shows the potential for a site to preserve its values and underlying attributes but also indicates the urgency of measures that need to be taken to improve the conservation outlook and ensure the long-term conservation of all sites,” says the report. The IUCN assessment of over 200 natural and mixed World Heritage sites “offers the most in-depth analyses of threats facing natural World Heritage around the world and their protection and management status,” says Grethel Aguilar, IUCN director general, in the introduction to the report. “A key finding is that almost 40% of sites face conservation concerns, with climate change continuing to be the most prevalent threat,” Aguilar says. The report points out that percentage of sites with “a positive conservation outlook has, for the first time, decreased significantly.” “Do we have ‘good’ protected areas?”

Of the 228 sites assessed since 2014, some 63% of sites had a positive outlook in 2014, 2017 and 2020, “however, the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 shows that in 2025 only 57% of these sites have a positive conservation outlook.” The threats are also shapeshifting in the natural World Heritages sites in Asia. While in 2025 climate change is the most prevalent threat, in 2020 it was hunting. Tourism comes next. Invasive alien species are now the third biggest threat.

“It is also notable that roads and railroads are now among the top five greatest threats to natural World Heritage in Asia, while in 2020 this was not the case.”

Protected areas in South Asia are being usurped rapidly, obliterating natural habitats. The other threats include: forest fires, hunting, roadkill, waste disposal, encroachment, illegal logging, road construction, says the report.

Of the 32 Asian sites categorised as “good with some concerns,” four happen to be in India: The Great Himalayan

National Park Conservation Area, Kaziranga National Park, Keoladeo National Park, and Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks. Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim has been rated “good” in its conservation outlook, valuing “attributes [that] are currently in good condition and likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained.” The Western Ghats, a mosaic of forests and grasslands, are older than the Himalayas and have an exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism, habitat to some 325 globally threatened (listed in IUCN’s Red List) flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species, according to UNESCO. This includes the Nilgiri tahr, a stocky, agile goat found nowhere else in the world.

What makes the Western Ghats vulnerable?

But the Western Ghats are highly endangered not least by hundreds of hydropower projects such as the proposed Rs 5,843 crore Sillahalla Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project in the Nilgiris, which involves constructing dams across River Sillahalla and River Kundah, with an aim to generate 1,000 MW of power for Tamil Nadu’s plains. Tourism is creating problems of garbage, often consumed by wild animals such as elephants and exacerbating conflict. Plantations are replacing natural ecosystems. And climate change has forced fauna to adapt by redistributing themselves from fast-warming lower altitudes to higher reaches, such as the Nilgiri flycatcher and the black and orange flycatcher. Exotic species are colonising natural forests, such as eucalyptus and acacia (both originally from Australia), introduced here during the colonial era. As for the Sundarbans mangroves where tigers swim, salinity, heavy metal contamination, and unsustainable resource extraction threatens the ecosystem; and sea level rise, frequent storm surges reduce mangrove biodiversity, says the report.

Is there hope yet?

Outside India, seven sites in China have been proclaimed “best protected and managed protected areas,” including Badain Jaran Desert-Towers of Sand and Lake, Chengjiang Fossil Site, and Mount Huangshan. Natural World Heritage sites make up less than 1% of the Earth’s surface, but nurture more than 20% of mapped global species richness. “This includes over 75,000 species of plants, and over 30,000 species of mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles and amphibians,” says the report. This report is timely. “The world has agreed to halt biodiversity loss through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention is uniquely placed to meet these challenges by bridging the gap between nature and culture, and protecting places with extraordinary biodiversity, functional habitats and high ecosystem integrity,” says the report. By analysing the conservation outlook of natural and mixed World Heritage sites over the past 10 years, the report presents a “litmus test of conservation action”. “This report is more than a health check. It is a guide for action,” says Aguilar. There is hope yet. For instance, the report says several of Asia’s World Heritage sites offer “good practice examples” by bringing in younger generations, and local communities in conservation efforts: such as in Mount Wuyi in China and the Sinharaja Forest Reserve in Sri Lanka.

# Gaza malnutrition to have 'generational' impact on newborns, UN warns

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

A senior UN official warned Wednesday (October 22, 2025) of “generational” impacts in Gaza from malnutrition among pregnant women and babies, urging a surge of aid to help prevent potential lifelong health issues. “The sheer extent of the devastation looked like the set of a dystopian film,” Andrew Saberton, deputy executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), told reporters after his visit to the war-torn enclave.

He said that a quarter of Gaza’s population is “starving.” “That includes 11,500 pregnant women for whom starvation is particularly catastrophic for both mother and newborn,” said Mr. Saberton, whose agency leads reproductive and maternal health programs around the world. As a result, 70% of newborns are premature or underweight, compared to 20% before Hamas’s October 2023 attack on Israel kicked off the war. “Malnutrition will have generational effects, not on the mother, but on the newborn, likely to result in ever longer lasting care and problems throughout the life of the baby,” he said at UN headquarters in New York.

The recent ceasefire has allowed more freedom of movement for humanitarian workers, said Mr. Saberton, but only a “trickle of aid” is being allowed in, that is “nowhere near enough.” The lack of medical supplies and facilities is also a major factor, he said, with over 94% of hospitals damaged or destroyed, and only 15% of operational



facilities offering emergency obstetric care. “Maternal death rates are high, partly due to the fact that simple things like contraception are no longer available,” he said, noting some potential mothers are “looking for and doing unsafe abortions.” In addition, some 700,000 women and girls struggle each month with a lack of privacy, water and sanitary pads during their menstrual cycle. Mr. Saberton warned that an estimated 170,000 people face “significant urinary or reproductive tract problems” that if “not sorted quickly and early, will bring potential lifelong implications.” Appropriate drugs and medical attention could “easily” fix the issues, he said.

# COVID-19 vaccines may help some cancer patients fight tumors

The most widely used COVID-19 vaccines may offer a surprise benefit for some cancer patients – revving up their immune systems to help fight tumors. People with advanced lung or skin cancer who were taking certain immunotherapy drugs lived substantially longer if they also got a Pfizer or Moderna shot within 100 days of starting treatment, according to preliminary research being reported Wednesday in the journal Nature. And it had nothing to do with virus infections.

Instead, the molecule that powers those specific vaccines, mRNA, appears to help the immune system respond better to the cutting-edge cancer treatment, concluded researchers from MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and the University of Florida. The vaccine “acts like a siren to activate immune cells throughout the body,” said lead researcher Dr. Adam Grippin of MD Anderson. “We’re sensitising immune-resistant tumors to immune therapy.” Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has raised skepticism about mRNA vaccines, cutting \$500 million in funding for some uses of the technology.

But this research team found its results so promising that it is preparing a more rigorous study to see if mRNA coronavirus vaccines should be paired with cancer drugs called checkpoint inhibitors — an interim step while it designs new mRNA vaccines for use in cancer. A healthy immune system often kills cancer cells before they become a threat. But some tumors evolve to hide from immune attack. Checkpoint inhibitors remove that cloak. It’s a powerful treatment — when it works. Some people’s immune cells still don’t recognize the tumor.



Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is naturally found in every cell and it contains genetic instructions for our bodies to make proteins. While best known as the Nobel Prize-winning technology behind COVID-19 vaccines, scientists have long been trying to create personalized mRNA “treatment vaccines” that train immune cells to spot unique features of a patient’s tumor. The new research offers “a very good clue” that maybe an off-the-shelf approach could work, said Dr. Jeff Collier, an mRNA specialist at Johns Hopkins University who wasn’t involved with the work. “What it shows is that mRNA medicines are continuing to surprise us in how beneficial they can be to human health.” Grippin and his Florida colleagues had been developing personalized mRNA cancer vaccines when they realized that even one created without a specific target appeared to spur similar immune activity against cancer. Grippin wondered if the already widely available mRNA coronavirus shots might also have some effect, too.

# All you need to know about: fibromyalgia



Fibromyalgia is a chronic condition that causes widespread pain all over the body. It is still unclear what causes fibromyalgia, and there is no cure for it, but its symptoms can be managed. The condition is often misunderstood, but there is no doubt that it is real and is believed to affect 2 to 3% of the population globally. Here is all you need to know about the condition.

What is fibromyalgia?

Fibromyalgia is a pain disorder. It is a chronic or long-term condition. It causes pain and tenderness in the muscles and soft tissues of the body and is often accompanied by fatigue, sleep disturbances, memory issues and mood problems such as stress, anxiety and depression. Anyone can develop fibromyalgia, but researchers believe that having certain health conditions can increase the risk of developing it. It is also thought to run in families. Women are more likely to get the condition than men.

What causes fibromyalgia?

While what causes the condition is still not fully understood, multiple factors are thought to be responsible. Certain inherited genes may have play, as well. Pain signals that function in the brain and nervous system not working as they should, could also be a reason. This could be due to an increase of, or unbalanced levels of, certain chemicals in the brain. Researchers also believe that physical (such as an illness or trauma) or emotional stressors could trigger or worsen the condition. Risk factors include being a woman; family history of the condition; age, as while the condition can develop at any age, it is more common above the age of 40; having a chronic illness especially rheumatic conditions such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus as well as other illnesses such as irritable bowel syn-

drome; infections and trauma.

What are the signs and symptoms?

The commonest symptom of the condition is widespread musculoskeletal pain. The pain is a constant ache that lasts for three months or more. Pain can be dull, sharp, shooting or burning. It can start in one part of the body, but can move around to other parts. Any part of the body can be affected, and pain can range from mild to severe. The other common symptom is fatigue with sleep disturbances. People with this condition may sleep an adequate number of hours but still wake up tired. The pain they experience can disrupt sleep. Insomnia may also be experienced. Mild to moderate activity as well as prolonged inactivity may exacerbate the fatigue, and the pain severity. Other symptoms include: headaches and migraines, digestive problems such as diarrhoea and constipation, restless leg syndrome, as well as face and jaw pain such as temporomandibular jaw disorders. People with fibromyalgia also experience memory and thinking problems. Known as ‘fibro fog’, this makes it difficult for people to concentrate on tasks or think clearly. Anxiety and depression are also common symptoms. Those who have the condition may experience ‘flare ups’, periods where they experience symptoms, and periods where they feel better. Certain events or situations could trigger flare-ups, and these could be different for each individual. Stress, changes in diet, inadequate sleep and contracting an illness could all be potential triggers. There is no specific test to diagnose fibromyalgia, which can make diagnosing the condition difficult. Additionally, symptoms can vary from person to person and certain symptoms can be similar to be those of other conditions. The extent of, and duration of pain may be checked. A diagnosis may involve a physical examination, history of symptoms and the ruling out of other conditions, which may involve tests and imaging. Fibromyalgia may co-exist with other conditions.

Treating the condition depends upon the individual’s age, symptoms experienced and overall health. There is no single treatment that works for everyone with the condition. The goal is to manage symptoms and improve health. Medication, including anti-pain medicines, anti-depressants and anti-seizure medicines may be prescribed. Other treatments include exercise cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and patient education. Exercise is considered effective to help loosen, relax and strengthen muscles as well as to reduce pain and improve sleep. Water exercises may be recommended. CBT could help with learning relaxation strategies, mindful techniques, busting stress and learning to manage problems through changes in behaviour and thinking. Patient education involves teaching patients how their pain works, what could make it worse and what could improve it. One important factor is to find a doctor who understands fibromyalgia, to help with treatment. The Indian scenario A 2023 research paper in The Open Rheumatology Journal, which looked at 121 fibromyalgia patients, found a high prevalence of psychological comorbidities and sleep disturbance and highlighted the lack of studies on fibromyalgia in the Indian population.

# Powering up the Australia-India clean energy partnership

At a time when both India and Australia are pushing ambitious clean energy targets, it is timely that Australia’s Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen is arriving in Delhi today (October 15) to meet his Indian counterpart, New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi. His visit comes amidst confronting vulnerabilities in the global supply chains of businesses and the government grappling with how to meet ambitious targets in the clean energy transition. The central challenge is clear: how to scale up renewable energy while avoiding an ongoing overdependence on China, which dominates the processing and manufacturing of critical materials. This is where the India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP), launched last year by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Anthony Albanese, must move from vision to implementation. If it is to succeed, both countries need to focus on joint projects, critical mineral cooperation and capacity building, turning climate ambition into practical, resilient outcomes. Mr. Bowen will have the chance to highlight the significance of this partnership when he delivers the Australia India Institute’s Annual Oration in New Delhi this week. A climate change vulnerable region

The Indo-Pacific is already experiencing the harshest effects of climate change. Between 1970 and 2022, the region averaged nearly 10 climate-related disasters a month, causing thousands of fatalities and billions in losses. By 2050, projections suggest as many as 89 million people could be displaced, with 80% of the region’s population directly impacted. To mitigate the challenges, India has pledged to reach 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity by 2030, with about 280 GW to come from solar. And it is already five years ahead of schedule to reach it. In July 2025, half of India’s installed electricity capacity is now from non-fossil sources. Meanwhile, Australia has recently set a 62%-70% reduction in emissions below 2005 levels, by 2035, raising its climate ambition in line with net-zero goals. Mr. Bowen said recently on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly that the emission reduction target is ‘ambitious and achievable, but also investable’. Yet, targets alone do not insulate against structural risks. The global clean energy transition depends on critical minerals, solar components, batteries and hydrogen technologies.

The risks of single country dependence Today, much of this value chain is concentrated in one country. China refines over 90% of rare earth elements and produces nearly 80% of global solar modules, giving it a pivotal role in the world’s renewable energy supply. For India, this dependence is acutely felt in sectors such as electric mobility and wind power, where the import of rare earth magnets and battery materials is unavoidable. For Australia, the story is different but connected: while it is one of the world’s largest producers of lithium and has rich reserves of cobalt and rare earths, it lacks large-scale refining and downstream manufacturing. This vulnerability has already been tested. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed supply chain fragilities when component shortages disrupted production across sectors. More recently, China restricted rare earth exports, which sent a warning signal to industries worldwide. For India, such disruptions slowed the electric vehicle production. A leading Electric Vehicle (EV) scooter company, for instance, produced just 10,824 units of its EV scooters in July, nearly halving output from a year earlier. For Australia, they underlined the risks of being a raw-material supplier alone. These examples make clear why downstream processing, diversification and supply chain resilience are not optional but strategic imperatives.

The REP presents a framework to respond to this challenge. It lays out cooperation across eight areas: solar photovoltaic technology, green hydrogen, energy storage, solar supply chains, circular economy in renewables, two-way investment, capacity building, and other shared priorities. Importantly, it also proposes a Track 1.5 Dialogue,



bringing together policymakers, industry and research institutions to build practical collaboration. A strong basis for collaboration So, what does each side bring to the table? Australia’s strengths lie in its resource base and regulatory stability. It can supply India with critical minerals such as lithium and rare earths, but the real value lies in co-investing in refining and processing infrastructure that strengthens the control both countries can have over the clean energy value chain. Australia’s recent Net Zero Jobs Plan also reflects its focus on creating the skilled workforce needed for this transition, an area where collaboration with India makes sense. India’s own advantage lies in its scale and youth. With nearly two-thirds of its population under the age of 35, India’s demographic dividend can be directed towards clean energy manufacturing, installation and maintenance through programmes such as Skill India. Its growing market demand for solar, storage and hydrogen, combined with production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes, offers Australian firms an avenue to expand investment while helping diversify supply chains. Together, Australia’s resources and India’s workforce can form the backbone of a more resilient and regionally anchored clean energy ecosystem. Mr. Bowen’s Delhi visit could not have come at a more crucial moment. Cooperation to deliver clean energy together could show the world how two democracies can respond to a region under constant threat of climate-related disasters and deliver resilient clean-energy supply chains to address it. Lisa Singh is a former Australian senator and the first woman of Indian heritage to be elected to federal Parliament. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer at the University of Melbourne’s Australia India Institute. Tushar Joshi is a Research Associate at the Australia India Institute and a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. He is a visiting fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, Delhi

# Dr Reddy’s Q2 profit rises 14 per cent to Rs 1,437 crore

New Delhi: Dr Reddy’s Laboratories on Friday posted a 14.5 per cent increase in its consolidated profit after tax to Rs 1,437 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, aided by robust sales in branded markets.

The Hyderabad-based drug maker reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 1,255 crore in the July-September quarter of the last financial year. Its revenue rose to Rs 8,805 crore in the second quarter against Rs 8,016 crore in the year-ago period, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories said in a regulatory filing. “Growth in Q2 was driven by momentum in branded markets and steady contributions from the Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRTJ) portfolio, which helped offset the decline in US Lenalidomide sales,” Co-Chairman and MD GV Prasad stated. The company remains focused on strengthening its core business, advancing key pipeline assets, driving productivity, and pursuing business development initiatives, he added.



# How does glue work: the physics of what makes glue so sticky



For future 6G deployments, RIS can be built directly into the network design, enabling smarter beam management and optimized performance. In both cases, it allows telecom operators to provide better coverage with fewer

The drawbacks of the technology RIS does face hurdles. In case of fast-moving users, like people in cars, trains, or drones, signals change too quickly, making it hard for the panels to keep up. This can lead to delays or weaker connections. To solve this, researchers are developing predictive beamforming and AI-based mobility tracking that anticipates user movement and adjusts signals automatically. Mr. Das noted that to work effectively, RIS must be coordinated with nearby base stations. This requires updates to existing network protocols and control signalling. IIT-B researchers are working on building AI-driven systems that automatically adjust the panels in real time, ensuring smooth performance without manual intervention. The institute's next research directions include developing software-defined RIS with AI-driven control and testing multiple panels working together to further boost performance. IIT-B's team has created a RIS panel that works at 3.5 GHz, which is a key band for 5G. It consists of 256 units arranged in a 16x16 grid, each controlled by a 1-bit PIN diode — a tiny electronic switch that decides how a signal bounces off the surface. By changing the patterns of these switches, the surface can steer signals at different degrees, depending on the need. The design can also block unwanted signals in certain directions, helping reduce interference.

World of glue This question takes us inside the world of glue. What we call glue is really a chemical compound called polyvinyl-acetate (PVA). That name may not say much: it's really a material with long, chain-like molecules

Forty years ago, when he was 24, he drove his grandfather to participate in the tree-felling ceremony. "He said to me, 'Do you know that the trees cry?'" I answered. No way, how could a tree cry?" But as they watched woodsmen chop down the cypress, "the sound of the axes echoed across the mountains, and after about an hour, when the axe struck the core of the tree, the scent of the cypress filled the air, flowing like blood," he said. At the final axe stroke, as the wood snapped, "the sound it made was like a shriek, a high-pitched keee' sound, and then the tree fell with a thunderous thud. In that moment, I thought, Ah... it really cried." I felt as if the tree wept, mourning its own life, as if it knew its life was precious."

A Special Division Bench of the Madras High Court has directed the Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI), Mettupalayam, to remove obstacles in four more blocks of the campus to aid smooth movement of wild elephants through the Kallar elephant corridor. The Bench comprising Justice N. Sathish Kumar and Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy noted in its order dated September 12 that entrustment of D, E, F and G blocks of the institute (out of 12 blocks from A to L) to the reserve forest was essential to maintain sufficient width of one km for the corridor and to remove the bottleneck. Earlier, the Bench had directed for the levelling of elephant proof trenches (EPT) and removal of fences in the outer boundary of A, B and C blocks to facilitate elephant movement. The judges had inspected the campus along with top officials of the Forest Department, District Collector, Dean of FC&RI and the court appointed amici curiae, on September 5. After the inspection, it was found that the D, E, F and G blocks are also required to be merged with the elephant corridor so that about one km corridor width will be available for the smooth movement of elephants.

The recent recognition of the state of Palestine by Britain, Australia, and Canada adds an unprecedented degree of insult to the injury suffered by the Palestinian people. Especially as it comes during the Israeli campaign to obliterate the Palestinian presence in Gaza, the decision signifies the highest form of hypocrisy one has witnessed in international politics. This so-called recognition comes at a time when there is nothing left to recognise with Gaza in ruins and the West Bank all but formally annexed by Israel. The fiction that parts of the West Bank have not been fully annexed is maintained mainly to deny its population the civil and political rights that will accrue to them as Israeli citizens. Maintaining the fiction of a Palestinian Authority serves this purpose very well. The settlement project has, in fact, been gaining speed in the West Bank to deprive its inhabitants from the choicest pieces of land left to them and to create a Jewish presence that will in time dwarf the Palestinian population in the so-called occupied territories. The widespread notion that these settlements are the product of the "extremist" government now in power in Israel is nothing but a myth. The settlement project was the brainchild of Labour governments immediately after the 1967 war and is a continuation of the Zionist idea that all of Palestine was/is

carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. These molecules look like noodles and tend to stick to each other — and also to other surfaces. Atoms are usually charge neutral because they each contain an equal number of positively charged protons and negatively charged electrons. Every molecule, which is made of multiple atoms, is then also charge neutral. We know that like charges repel and opposite charges attract. The puzzle here is to figure out how one charge-neutral molecule can attract another charge-neutral molecule. The answer has to do with a beautiful piece of physics discovered in the early 1900s. Even though every molecule is charge-neutral overall, it can fluctuate such that one part of it can be slightly more negatively charged than another. And when such a molecule comes close to another charge-neutral molecule, it can slightly distort the distribution of charges in the second molecule. Thus the molecule, which was until recently overall charge-neutral, now starts feeling attracted to another charge-neutral molecule — all because they have opposite charges at different parts of their bodies. This kind of force, while it's secretly of the electromagnetic variety, goes by the name Van der Waals force. It's named after the Dutch physicist Johannes Diderik van der Waals. This brings us to the final piece of the puzzle: why do we need those few drops of water? Swimming in water. Imagine you want to stick one piece of paper to another. You'll find the glue bottle and inside you'll see that it's a liquid. This is important. It turns out that manufacturers mix the PVA molecules with water to prevent them from fully sticking to one another. This way, the PVA is swimming in a small pond of water. Since these molecules attract each other due to fluctuating charges, they can stick to each other only if they're relatively close. But if there's enough water around them, these molecules will swim far apart and not feel each other's attraction. On the other hand, when you take some glue and spread it around a surface, the water evaporates, bringing the PVA molecules closer to each other. Imagine there are a bunch of people in a swimming pool: you can make it more crowded by reducing the pool's size instead of adding more people. It's the same principle. If you're quick enough, you can bring the two pieces of paper you need to stick together before the glue dries. This way, the PVA molecules will stick to both surfaces as well as to each other, sealing both pieces of paper together. The same glue trick works on stamps as well — just that the back side of a stamp already has dried glue. A few drops of water just makes these molecules separate out and become more dilute, allowing you to place the stamp on the envelope. Then, the water molecules dry up again and allow the stamp to stick to the envelope. In all this, you might have wondered: what causes the changes in the PVA molecules to fluctuate, leading to the Van der Waals forces? Understanding this requires us to learn a bit of quantum mechanics. If you're interested, you should consider taking a course in physics, for example here in IIT Kanpur, where some of us teach. The next time you receive a courier or a letter from a friend, don't just thank the person bringing it to you. Also whisper a word of gratitude to the molecules hard at work behind the stamp, and which probably also kept it safely sealed all the way to your doorstep.

During a recent downpour, priests in starched robes banged drums and marched to Ise's inner shrines for prayers marking the beginning of the age-old rebuilding process. "The world where we live and the mountain realm are separate, distinct worlds. Therefore, when people go onto the mountain to cut trees or gather plants, they must first receive permission from the mountain deities," according to Okada, the historian. Thousands gather to see these rebuilding ceremonies, part of about 7 million pilgrims a year who converge on the shrine, which has long been the polestar for Shinto devotees. Japan's indigenous Shinto faith, which also acts as a cultural connection for family and community, is largely rooted in animism. In Shinto there are thousands of "kami," or spirits, that inhabit the world. While Ise

Based on the findings and observations during the inspection, the Bench observed that handing over seven blocks (A-G) back to the Forest Department and their merger was essential. It ordered that blocks of the land in A to G shall be resumed back to the Forest Department within six months from September 5. The Bench stated that FC&RI may excavate or strengthen EPTs and erect fences to protect the blocks H, J, K and L. The Bench directed the State Highways Department to install sufficient numbers of speed breakers on Coonoor - Mettupalayam Road, in the same manner as scientifically placed by the Forest Department on Mettupalayam - Kotagiri Road to prevent human - animal conflict. As the width of elephant corridor is being widened to one km, it was agreed in principle during the inspection for the establishment of EPTs and fences along the Kotagiri road from Odanthurai check-post to the end of H block and also on the south-eastern part of the campus near the junction of G and L blocks. This is to ensure movement of elephants along the corridor and to prevent conflict on the southern side of the campus. The order stated the Forest Department can hand over its lands in the southern side of the FC&RI to the institute by following the due process, if need arises, which can be used for future developments. It ordered that the authorities concerned shall consider, as and when need arises from FC&RI, for the use of lands for research or other activities without harming animals.

"a land without people" that was ready to be settled by "a people without land". Britain's part in legitimising this notion is well documented in the Balfour Declaration of 1917 which promised a homeland for European Jews in Palestine in order to secure their support against Germany during the First World War. The British Mandate in Palestine facilitated large scale emigration of Jews from Europe into Palestine and laid the foundation of the Israeli state. Since the creation of the Israeli state, Britain has been supportive of its policies almost as much as the U.S. Its current posture of recognising the state of Palestine is nothing more than a sop to international and domestic opinion horrified by the killings in Gaza. Australia and Canada have traditionally followed Britain's policy toward West Asia and especially towards the Israel-Palestine issue. It is, therefore, no surprise that they have followed suit. However, such symbolic recognitions are no substitute for concrete steps that could force Israel to acknowledge the Palestinian reality. In fact, they obfuscate the issue by creating an aura of "movement" on the issue when none exists. Knowledgeable observers of the Israel-Palestine issue have recognised for years that thanks to Israeli policy of creeping annexation, the two-state solution is as dead as a dodo.



# India, US start drafting trade deal; US delegation likely to visit India: Official



India and the US have begun drafting the language of the trade deal text after a “broad convergence” among negotiators during the visit of Indian officials to Washington earlier this month, a senior government official said on Friday. “The engagement between the two countries on the trade deal is still on, and the language of the deal is being

worked on as there is broad convergence between the two countries on the agreement. US negotiators could also visit India,” the official said. Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, during his visit to Germany, said that India is in talks with the US and will sign a fair and equitable deal.

“We don’t do deals in a hurry, and we don’t do deals with deadlines, with a gun to our head. India looks long term; India never takes decisions in a rush or under pressure. And we have accepted that if there is a tariff on us, there is a tariff on us. We are looking at how to overcome that, and we are looking at newer markets,” Goyal said there. “Trade deals are for the long run, to recognise the future and to get the best deal for the country. I don’t think India has ever decided who its friends will be, or any other consideration other than national interest. Somebody tells me we can’t be friends with the EU — I won’t accept that. So I think we are all in it together. The decision on whether to buy a particular product from a country is something that the entire world will have to take a call on,” Goyal said.

# Is gold’s frenzied rally finally winding down?

Gold price rally 2025: After a blistering rally that pushed it to record highs, gold has now fallen for the third day running amid investors’ concerns over an overheating market. So, is it the end of this incredible valuation surge, which has driven up the yellow metal over 60 per cent this year? To answer that, let’s look at how the current rally has panned out, demolishing some well-established economic tenets along the way.

One, gold’s parabolic valuation increase comes at a time when other markets are also simultaneously surging – shares, crypto, meme stocks, benchmark currencies, etc. In fact, such has been the pace of this rally that gold has outperformed stocks in what is decidedly a bull market in the US, driven by turbocharged AI optimism.

According to analysts, there are other correlations worth considering: while gold is up 60 per cent this year, crude oil is down 20 per cent or so. The gap works out to around 80 per cent, which analysts say is the most in at least a hundred years. The most recent instance when such a varied movement was seen is 2008, when the disparity was about 60 per cent – gold was up nearly 10 per cent while crude oil was down about 50 per cent. This year’s trend beats even that.

The recent surge in gold prices also comes at a time when the US dollar has strengthened against major peers, including the Euro and the Japanese Yen in the past month, following better than expected US economic data. Now, the irony here is that gold is seen as the ultimate safe haven asset, a time-tested store of value. Typically, it goes up when everything else underperforms. This time around, the gold rally has unfolded when most other assets – stocks, crypto and the US dollar (in recent weeks) – have also been on the up. Silver has tagged along too, both because gold generally has a trailing impact on silver and also due to silver’s increased industrial application. “Gold is surging on the same day that US stock indices have (risen) over 1 per cent. This simultaneous climb in both a classic safe haven and risk assets is a powerful illustration that the drivers of the current gold rally are different from historical patterns,” Mohamed A. El-Erian, Rene M Kern Professor at the Wharton School, shared in a post on October 20.

So, what explains this simultaneous climb by the ultimate safe haven asset and other risky ones? To answer that, it might be worth going back to when the gold rally started in the first place. The original trigger came over three years ago, following the sanctions the US imposed on Russia after it invaded Ukraine. After that, central banks around the world, led by China and to some extent India, started diversifying their foreign exchange reserves, which are usually heavily dominated in assets denominated in the US dollar. Gold was the obvious choice, and that led to increased gold buying by central banks as they tried diversifying away from the greenback. That led to a slow, but steady, climb in the value of gold.

But the current gold rally, which has been playing out over the last few months, has a somewhat different trigger: a lot of Exchange Traded Funds (or Gold ETFs) buying across the world. Gold ETFs are essentially open-ended mutual fund schemes that are based on gold prices and



are traded on stock exchanges. But for every ETF unit bought, there has to be some physical gold stashed away as backup, leading to a higher demand for the physical metal that goes in tandem with ETFs. This triggers a general demand-price increase. Consider the example of India: money in gold ETFs in September was nearly seven times higher compared to the same month last year at Rs 8,363 crore. According to Ruchir Sharma, the head of Rockefeller Capital Management’s international business, the gold ETFs floated in the last quarter were the highest ever, and much of this buying is happening on account of the liquidity that is sloshing around the system. This includes the legacy liquidity, which was the result of the quantitative easing initiated by western governments after the pandemic. What is different, though, is that this liquidity is now driving speculative frenzy – including, ironically, in a safe haven asset: gold.

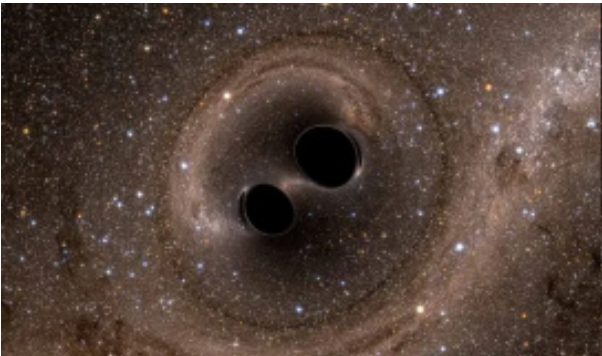
Coming back to the original question: is it the end of this rally? Not really. Most market players are coming around to the view that the rally will continue after a profit booking stint and when these overheating concerns abate. That’s because the appeal of gold as a safe haven continues, given the factors such as central banks’ stance and prevailing uncertainties – monetary authorities around the world are likely to continue with their liberal stance on liquidity and policy rates for now, with Donald Trump’s tariff onslaught and the continuing Russia-Ukraine war posing risks. America’s spending bill and debt overhang, slowdown in China, among other factors, are also concerns which increase the appeal of gold. There is one more generic factor in play: the supply of gold is increasing very slowly, at around 1.5 per cent a year, since mining is limited. That’s been the rate for more than half a century. The supply of dollars goes up by 6-8 per cent per year, in comparison. So, there is a supply-driven reason for the gold prices staying up for longer too. Also, Goldman Sachs, in a September note, indicated that if Trump were to go after the US Federal Reserve’s independence, gold could surge as people might run from the dollar and seek safe haven assets such as gold. If the Fed does not cut rates further, it could inevitably come under further fire from Trump. What could conclusively impact the gold rally in a major way, or at least the liquidity driven part of the rally, is if inflation were to come back in a big way. This would force the US Fed to withdraw some of this liquidity, which could dent part of the appeal of gold. But, on the flip side, that could also upend the stock rally – and in the process increase gold’s appeal as a safe haven asset.

# The consumption problem: Chinese Communist Party’s annual meet amid sub-5% growth

China Next 5 Year Plan Explained: On Monday, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) gathered in Beijing for its annual meeting. The meeting, which will end on Thursday (October 23), has already seen Xi Jinping, China’s President and General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, speak on the proposals for the 15th five-year plan that will run from 2026 to 2030. However, some other plans have not delivered results as hoped. Back in 2010, a report titled ‘China 2030’, jointly written by Chinese authorities and the World Bank, targeted an increase in consumption such that it would form 66 per cent of the GDP by 2030 on the back of higher household expenditure. That has not happened – as per World Bank data, it stood at 56.8 per cent in 2023. Latest data shows consumption remains an issue despite a shift in policy. Data released Monday showed China’s real GDP growth rate slowed to 4.8 per cent in July-September as per capita consumption rose 3.4 per cent from a year ago, down from 5.2 per cent in the first two quarters. While the Chinese economy can reach its 2025 target of 5 per cent real growth by expanding by 4.5 per cent in the final quarter of the year, it is the growth rate without adjusting for prices that will be of concern to the government. At 3.7 per cent, China’s nominal GDP growth rate in July-September was lower than the real growth rate for the 10th quarter in a row. India knows a thing or two about weak nominal growth – even though real growth surged to a five-quarter high of 7.8 per cent in April-June, nominal GDP growth was at a three-quarter low of 8.8 per cent – and weak consumption demand. It is no surprise then that Indian income and indirect tax rates have been cut this year, at a time when overseas demand for goods could take a hit due to the US’ tariff war. China has also aggressively looked to support consumption. In July, a new child support allowance was revealed, under which families would get an annual grant of 3,600 yuan (around Rs 45,000 or \$500) per child until it was three years old. Pre-school education is being made free, while a new consumer loan subsidy programme has been launched, among other measures. “In essence, domestic consumption comes down to the issue of resource distribution,” ANZ Economist

Vicky Xiao Zhou and Senior China Strategist Zhaopeng Xing wrote in a note on Tuesday. “Policy objectives should focus on directing more resources toward households or individuals with a higher marginal propensity to consume. China has room to improve income distribution through equal employment and government transfer. We expect (the) 15th Five-Year Plan is a continuation of existing initiatives, including retirement age reforms, childcare subsidies, and high school education reform, while introducing more detailed approaches to enhance policy execution.” As can be gleaned from some of the measures announced so far, the Chinese government is trying to solve a key problem: demographics. The population is getting older and smaller, and neither bodes well for consumption – retired people usually spend less than the working young, while a smaller population naturally means a smaller pool of consumers. For China, the demographic shock has been stronger than the US’ tariff war, according to Bai Chong-En, Dean of the School of Economics and Management at Beijing’s Tsinghua University. “I often compare two tables published by the United Nations: one is the 2019 population projection of China and the other is the 2022 population projection. They are very different. In the 2019 one, it was expected that the Chinese population would peak and then decline. But in the 2022 projection, it peaked much earlier and the decline is much stronger... With a growing population, the demand for housing will be stronger. But suddenly, there is this change. That’s part of the reason why the Chinese real estate market is not doing well,” Bai told The Indian Express earlier this month. According to the United Nations’ World Population Prospects 2024 report, the median age of China last year was 39.6 years, higher than the US’ 38.3. India, which overtook China to become the world’s most populous country in 2023, had a median age of 28.4 years in 2024. Rebalancing the Chinese economy is far easier said than done. The 13th Five-Year Plan spanning the years 2016 to 2020 had a consumption focus, although the first Trump administration’s supply-chain and tech restrictions resulted in the 14th plan placing an emphasis on manufacturing and tech self-reliance.

# IIA astronomers’ groundbreaking study confirms black hole activity suppresses the birth of new stars



Chennai/Bengaluru: A groundbreaking investigation by astronomers of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) has confirmed that activity around supermassive black holes can suppress the birth of new stars in their host galaxies. Bengaluru-based IIA, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), traces its origins back to an observatory set up in 1786 in Madras, which in 1899, moved to Kodaikanal.

Prof CS Stalin, a faculty member at IIA and co-author of the study, said the study has been possible because of the recent advancements in observational astronomy. Because of advancements in instrumentation, such as the integral field spectroscopy, we are able to probe regions on very small scales that were not possible a few years ago. These were not resolvable by conventional imaging techniques. And because these observations are available now, we are able to probe the complex connection between active galactic nuclei (AGN) and their host galaxies,” Prof Stalin said. AGN, he explained, are energetic galaxy centres that emit copious radiation and, in some cases powerful relativistic jets. They are powered by matter falling onto supermassive black holes, many millions of times more massive than the Sun. Payel Nandi, a Ph D. student at IIA and the lead author of the study, said they have now proved that the intense radiation from around the black holes and the high-speed jets they emit can work to-

gether to eject gas from the centres of galaxies, potentially shutting down star formation in their central regions, thereby regulating galactic growth. According to her, what makes the study truly unique is the scale and the depth of its analysis. Previous research works have focused on individual galaxies or small samples. “We studied 538 AGN. We carried out a systematic comparison of optical and radio properties, which led us to uncover trends linking black hole activity, gas outflows and star formation suppression,” Nandi said. The researchers said they combined optical data from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) with radio data from the Very Large Array (VLA). Both SDSS and VLA are located in the United States of America.

The analysis and data cross-matching took them nearly four months, added the researchers, who published the study recently in ‘The Astrophysical Journal’. “This work is important for future studies because it helps scientists understand one of the biggest mysteries in astronomy: why some galaxies stop forming stars while others continue to flourish,” added Nandi. The findings also show that to fully understand how galaxies evolve, astronomers must combine data across multiple wavelengths — optical, radio and beyond, said Nandi. “This approach reveals not just what we see as light, but also the hidden forces and energetic processes that govern how galaxies live and die. Such insights are crucial for improving theoretical models and computer simulations of galaxy evolution,” she added. Key takeaway from the study, said the researchers, is that radiation from black holes is the main driver of energetic gas outflows. “Such outflows, which are high-speed streams of gas pushed out from galactic centres, are more than twice as likely in galaxies detected in radio wavelengths (56 per cent) compared to those without radio emission (25 per cent),” added Prof Stalin. He added that the study has put in place a key piece of the puzzle that will help astronomers to eventually understand the full picture of galaxy evolution. “This comprehensive and data-driven study lays a strong foundation for future explorations of how black holes shape the cosmic landscape,” added Nandi.

# Google expands ALU and AMED agricultural APIs to Southeast Asia and Japan

New Delhi: US tech giant Google on Friday announced that it is expanding its Agricultural Landscape Understanding (ALU) API and Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection (AMED) API, initially launched in India, to “trusted testers” in Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Japan. The ALU API, launched for Indian developers in October 2024, identifies fields, water bodies, and vegetation boundaries. The AMED API enhances ALU by providing field-level insights on the most cultivated crops and their sowing and harvest timelines at individual field levels, with data updates every 15 days helping detect agricultural events. The freely available APIs leverage remote sensing and machine learning to provide local ecosystems with insights that can help build cost-effective, simple, and targeted agricultural solutions, the statement said.

“These local use cases have delivered on our ambition for AI to assist targeted, data-driven action and solutions that benefit stakeholders across India’s agriculture landscape,” said Alok Talekar, Lead, Agriculture and Sustainability Research, Google DeepMind. Google highlighted Indian deployments as evidence for wider regional application, saying that the APIs have aided startups, government projects, and research institutions in enhancing sustainability and resilience in the country’s agricultural sector. Together, these models provide essential information and insights that serve as a base layer for the agricul-



ture ecosystem to develop precision agriculture tools, optimise resource allocation, and improve farm management practices, Google said.

India is integrating APIs into Krishi DSS, an Amnexus platform for the agriculture ministry, to enhance advanced analytics for policymakers and field officers. The Council on Energy, Environment and Water plans to use APIs to create targeted income-support mechanisms that promote climate-friendly crops. Google mentioned that startups use APIs to improve climate-smart advisory services for over 10 million farmers and to optimise rural credit processes.

# Indian pharma giant Cipla inks deal to sell Eli Lilly’s weight-loss drug under a different brand name: Why is this significant?



Indian pharma giant Cipla on Thursday announced an agreement with US pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly, acquiring the rights to distribute its blockbuster weight-loss drug Mounjaro. The drug, which was launched in India in March, will be sold by Cipla under a different brand name, Yurpeak, across the country. The partnership is significant, as it allows Eli Lilly’s weight-loss drug to leverage Cipla’s extensive distribution footprint – reaching beyond the traditional large metros where Mounjaro is currently available. The company has described the agreement as “strategic,” coming just months before the primary patent for Novo Nordisk’s semaglutide (Wegovy) — a rival to tirzepatide (Mounjaro) — is set to expire in India in March next year. This expiry could pave the way for the launch of generic versions of semaglutide at significantly lower prices in the Indian market. What will be the price of the drug?

Eli Lilly said that Yurpeak will be priced on par with Mounjaro — at ₹3,500 (MRP) for the 2.5 mg dose and ₹4,375 (MRP) for the 5 mg dose. In comparison, Novo Nordisk’s Wegovy is priced higher, with its lower-dose variants — 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, and 1 mg — costing around ₹17,345 per month, while the 1.7 mg and 2.4 mg doses are priced at ₹24,280 and ₹26,015 per month, respectively. This positions Wegovy as a slightly more expensive option than its rival Mounjaro, which is estimated to cost between ₹14,000 and ₹17,500 per month. The future of collaboration significantly, this is not Eli Lilly’s first strategic tie-up with Cipla, India’s third largest pharma company. The US pharmaceutical giant has previously collaborated with the Indian firm on two of its diabetic products: Humalog and Trulicity. The announcement also comes at a time when Cipla revamped its trade generics business with a new distribution model aimed at increasing direct engagement with retailers. As a result, in FY 2024-25, expanded its retail presence pan-India, reaching an estimated 1.5 lakh pharmacy and retail outlets, according to Cipla. “Under the agreement, Cipla has

the rights to distribute and promote Yurpeak—the second brand of tirzepatide in India. This strategic agreement aims to expand the availability of tirzepatide by enabling broader access across the country beyond cities where Lilly already has an established presence,” the official statement said.

What is tirzepatide?

Tirzepatide is approved for chronic weight management in adults. It is indicated for individuals who are either obese (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or more) or overweight (BMI of 27 or more) and have at least one weight-related health condition, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or type 2 diabetes. The drug is administered as subcutaneous injections and is intended to be used alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity. This class of drugs is composed of polypeptides, small proteins that enhance naturally occurring hormones in the body. Tirzepatide works by increasing glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) levels, which regulate weight through effects on the brain and digestive tract. Higher GLP-1 levels, released in the gut, stimulate neurons that slow gut function and create a sense of fullness. At the same time, GLP-1 activates neural pathways in the brain that trigger satiety—the feeling of being satisfied after eating. The drugs also help manage glucose levels, making them effective for diabetes treatment. Significantly, tirzepatide not only targets GLP-1 receptors but also enhances a second hormone: glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP). This regulates weight through receptors in the brain and fat cells, and its combined action with GLP-1 amplifies the effects of both hormones, according to the company. A wider access

“The introduction of a second brand of tirzepatide in India through our commercial agreement with Cipla furthers Lilly’s commitment to expanding access to innovative treatments for chronic conditions,” said Winslow Tucker, president and general manager, Lilly India. “Our mission—to make life better for people around the world—drives our commitment to accelerate the introduction of innovative medicines and expand access to hard-to-reach communities. With India facing a growing burden of type 2 diabetes and obesity, broader availability of tirzepatide will ensure that more patients can benefit from this innovative therapy.” “At Cipla, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing patient care by facilitating access to the best of global scientific innovation. With the introduction of Yurpeak® (tirzepatide), we are stepping into obesity care with the same commitment and scale that have defined our efforts in respiratory and chronic therapies. Our partnership with Lilly reflects our resolve to address one of the most pressing health concerns of our time and offer patients innovative,



# Aaron Finch on why Axar Patel is ‘a serious package in international cricket’ and one thing he’d like to see Shivam Dube do more of



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Former Australia captain Aaron Finch was full of praise for Axar Patel who played his all-rounder role to perfection as India’s spinners took six wickets in a stunning fight back to rout Australia by 48 runs in the fourth T20I on the Gold Coast on Thursday. Bowling for the first time in the series, Washington Sundar took 3-3 in 1.2 overs while fellow all-rounder Patel had 2-20 as Australia lost their last nine wickets for 52 runs at Carrara stadium. Patel was named man-of-the-match, having also contributed an unbeaten 21 with the bat to push India past 160. “He’s somebody who strikes a ball so cleanly, and he gave India a real injection right at the backend of the innings,” Finch told JioHotstar. “It looked at one stage that they might only get around that 152-153 mark. But then a couple of big blows in the last over off Marcus Stoinis.. just proved the package that he is. Then when he gets ball in hand, he’s a wizard at times. Particularly on surfaces like this, that might offer a fraction of hold at times, but also can skid through. So uses all of his tricks, all of his skills, if you combine that with his fielding, he is a serious package in international cricket. It was a wonderful performance today, richly deserved player of the match.”

Player of the Match Axar Patel said he focused on assessing the pitch conditions before making his move with the bat and looked to exploit the good length while bowling. “I batted at No 8 and had a chance to look at the wicket. There was some unexpected bounce, so I waited for my position and just hit,” said the 31-year-old, who struck an

11-ball 21 to boost India’s total. On his bowling figures of two for 20, Axar said: “I was thinking what was the batter’s strength. If the batter was looking to hit me down the ground, I was looking to hit the good length.” Australia spinner Adam Zampa and paceman Nathan Ellis took three wickets apiece for the hosts to restrict India to what had seemed a below-par total after home captain Mitchell Marsh won the toss and elected to field. Australia cruised past 60 for the sole loss of opener Matt Short (25) but the chase went awry as they lost 3-12 in the late-middle overs to fall to 103 for six. Not even the recalled Glenn Maxwell could stop the rot as the pugnacious all-rounder fell for two with stumps shattered by the last ball from legspinner Varun Chakravathy. India opener Shubman Gill top-scored with 46, anchoring top-order partnerships with Abhishek Sharma (28) and Shivam Dube (22).

While India’s spinners set up the win, captain Suryakumar Yadav gave credit to the batters. “The way Shubman and Abhishek started, they knew this was not a 200-220 wicket,” he said. “They batted very smartly. It was a complete team effort from the batters.” With the first match in Canberra having been washed out by rain, Australia can only hope to draw the series 2-2 in Brisbane. Speaking about Shivam Dube’s all-round impact, Finch said he’d like the allrounder from Mumbai to be a bit more experssive against pace. “I’ll just love to see him just change his mindset slightly with bat in hand. I think at times he’s expected to walk out and try and dominate spin. I would love at times to see him take on the quicks as well. You don’t want to become known as just a one-dimensional player with bat en hand. So, for that point of view, just take it on a little bit more,” Finch explained. “He’s got all the power. He can hit the ball so far, and we’ve seen him start to do it on smaller grounds in the IPL playing in Chennai. He takes on the short ball early. But I’d love to see him do it here as well, and say, ‘You know what, you over pitch, I’m gonna tell you I’m gonna have the confidence to take your downtown with the bat in hand as well.’ India will take a 2-1 series lead into the fifth and final match in Brisbane on Saturday after skittling Australia for 119 in their chase of 167 for eight.

## India spin their way to 48-run win over Australia in 4th T20I, take unassailable 2-1 series lead

GNS News Agency, Nov 6

India’s spinners took six wickets in a stunning fight back to rout Australia by 48 runs in the fourth T20I on the Gold Coast on Thursday. India have taken a 2-1 series lead into the fifth and final match in Brisbane on Saturday, blowing Australia away for 119 in their chase of 167 for eight. India thus cannot lose the series now, with Australia’s best possible result if they win at the Gabba being a 2-2 draw. Washington Sundar, who bowled for the first time this series, took 3-3 in 1.2 overs while fellow all-rounder Axar Patel had 2-20 early in the Australian chase. Axar and Shivam Dube’s early inroads first dented the Australian chase after they got off to a good start. Australia spinner Adam Zampa and paceman Nathan Ellis took three wickets apiece for the hosts to restrict India to what had seemed a below-par total after home captain Mitchell Marsh won the toss and elected to field. Australia cruised past 60 for the sole loss of opener Matt Short (25) but the chase went awry as they lost 3-12 in the late-middle overs to fall to 103 for six. India stifled the batters of runs after the powerplay and they eventually reaped the fruits of that, with Australia losing their last nine wickets for 52 runs at Carrara stadium. It was a freefall for the hosts after that, with Marcus Stoinis falling to Sundar after being stifled for runs by Chakravathy and Arshdeep Singh. Jasprit Bumrah also eventually struck to reduce Australia to their last wicket, which was eventually taken by Sundar. While it had looked like India had com-



plied only a sub-par total, captain Suryakumar Yadav said after the match that they realised early on that this was not an easy ground to score on. “The way Shubman and Abhishek started, they knew this was not a 200-220 wicket,” he said. “They batted very smartly. It was a complete team effort from the batters.” Australia captain Mitchell Marsh, meanwhile, said that the target was chaseable and praised the Indians. “We failed to go over the line. Fair play to India and they are a world class team,” he said. Australia were without a couple of key players in opener Travis Head and fast bowler Josh Hazlewood, both of whom played a role in their victory in the second T20I. Both players have been released to play in the domestic first class competition in preparation for the Ashes.

## ‘I am missing it’: Mauricio Pochettino speaks about returning to manage in Premier League in future



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

United States manager Mauricio Pochettino has said that he misses managing in the Premier League (PL) and does think about returning to coach in the league in future. The 53-year-old said the PL was the most competitive league of all, adding that he still has ambitions of winning the league and the Champions League. Pochettino took over his current role in September 2024, a few months after he quit as Chelsea manager after managing the London club for one season. “The Premier League is the best league in the world. Of course, I am missing it. I am so happy in America, but also thinking one day to come back to the Premier League. It’s the most competitive league,” Pochettino told BBC Sport.

The Argentinian also expressed surprise over Daniel Levy leaving his role as Tottenham Hotspur chairman, admitting that he stayed on good terms with him during his time at the club and after he left as well. “I was very surprised [at Levy’s departure]. His legacy is there. It’s amazing what he did for the club. My relationship always was good with him. During my period in Tottenham and after I left.” “He was a really important person because he gave me the possibility to manage a club like Tottenham. That is, for me, one of the best clubs in the world, with an amazing fanbase,” Pochettino said. He admitted that he felt a bit “empty” about international management owing to long gaps between matches and a lack of communication when players return to play for their teams. “The intensity is completely different because you need to arrive for a few days to prepare the game and play, prepare another game, play, and go back. After November, we are going to have three months until March to prepare another game. In a national

## ‘Trying to keep that second Test as a live option’: Pat Cummins opens up about Australia comeback and future ahead of Ashes 2025

Australian captain Pat Cummins has said that he and the rest of the management are looking at the second Ashes Test against England at Brisbane as a “live option” to resume playing international cricket again. The 32-year-old was ruled out of the series opener at Perth on November 21 due to a lower back injury.

Steve Smith will lead the hosts in Cummins’ place, a role that he has essayed in the past in the fast bowler’s absence. Australia have also named two uncapped seamers in Brendan Doggett and Sean Abbott for the opening fixture in Cummins’ absence. “It’s probably not until you get a bit closer that you can really know where you’re at. The good thing is that I’m pulling up well, and the body is great.”

“We’re trying to keep that second Test as a live option. I’ll have a really good bowl in Perth, and by then I’ll know where I’m at,” Cummins said on Thursday. “It’s all feeling really good. On track and yeah, probably better than I expected. Each session is incremental. Once I get over to Perth, I should be pretty close to a full run-up and getting some overs in,” he added. Cummins was non-committal about how much cricket he would play in the series, even if he returned for the second Ashes Test, adding that it would depend on his workload. “I don’t really want to commit to anything this far out. I’m pretty keen to play as much as I can. But realistically, if we have a big game and bowl 40 or 50 overs and then there’s a game that starts a few days later, it might be a bridge too far.”

# India clinch 2-1 series lead after 48-run win against Australia



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Carrara (Gold Coast): India defended a modest total with a tight bowling performance to beat Australia by 48 runs in the fourth T20 International and take an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series here on Thursday. The architects of India’s win were Axar Patel and Shivam Dube, who shared two wickets each to put Australia on the back foot in the run chase. Washington Sundar struck thrice towards the end as India comfortably defended 168, with Australia folding up for 119 in 18.2 overs after being 91 for 3 at one stage. The final T20 will be played in Brisbane on November 8. The opening match of the series was washed out in Canberra. Openers Matthew Short (30 off 24) and Mitchell Marsh (25 off 19) gave Australia a solid start in the chase, but a flurry of wickets in the middle overs pushed the hosts to a point of no return.

After Axar trapped Short in the powerplay, Dube removed Marsh and Tim David (14 off 9) in successive overs to make a telling impact. The wicket of Marsh came off his

second ball before he surprised David with a short one in the following over. Arshdeep Singh also picked a wicket in the middle overs, and the game seemed done and dusted when Glenn Maxwell saw his stumps disturbed off the last ball of Varun Chakravathy’s fourth over. The strong bowling effort came after a middling batting performance. India never got the momentum they needed after a wicketless powerplay and ended with an underwhelming 167 for eight. Abhishek Sharma (28 off 21) and Shubman Gill (46 off 39) put on 56 for the opening wicket before India lost their way. Promoted to number three to counter Adam Zampa, Shivam Dube (22 off 18) could not make a big impact, while skipper Suryakumar Yadav (20 off 10) departed after hitting a couple of sixes. Pacer Nathan Ellis (3 for 21 in 4 overs) was the pick of the Australian bowlers, using his variations effectively. Zampa leaked 45 runs in his four overs but claimed three wickets, including the dangerous Abhishek. Abhishek stepped out to Zampa in the second ball of his opening spell and dispatched it down the ground for a maximum. The southpaw tried to hit another one out of the park two balls later but was caught at long-on. Abhishek could have been dismissed off the game’s second ball by left-arm pacer Ben Dwarshuis, but Xavier Bartlett dropped the early chance. Abhishek’s friend and opening partner Gill, who is yet to make an impact in the series, had to work hard for his runs. He eased some pressure with a massive hit off Marcus Stoinis in the cow corner region before falling to a back-of-the-hand slower one from Ellis. The wickets kept falling thereafter, robbing the innings of any rhythm. Axar Patel (21 not out off 11) struck some much-needed boundaries towards the end to push the total past 160. India lost four wickets for 42 runs in the last five overs, but a stellar bowling performance carried them over the line.

## Sreenidi Deccan FC signs defender Mohd Aqib ahead of new season

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Hyderabad: Sreenidi Football Club signed up defender Mohd Aqib for the upcoming season. The defender was part of Real Kashmir FC in the I-League 2024-25 season and then featured for Indian Air Force FT in the 2025 Durand Cup. Mohd Aqib began his professional career with Services Football Team and joined Indian Air Force FT before joining Real Kashmir FC ahead of the I-League 2024-25 season. A member of the formidable Real Kashmir defence, he played 22 matches during the I-League 2024-25 season for the Snow Leopards where he registered five assists. The 28-year-old Aqib then played in the prestigious Durand Cup 2025 for Indian Air Force FT and scored a goal. Addressing his signing for the Deccan Warriors, Aqib expressed his enthusiasm, stating: “I am delighted to Sreenidi Deccan FC for the upcoming season. It is a new chapter and a new challenge for me and I am ready to create great memories with the team and the fans.” Sreenidi Deccan FC’s Chief Football Officer, Fabio Ferreira, said: “We are delighted to have Mohd Aqib amongst us for the upcoming season. He has proven himself with exceptional performances last year,



demonstrating consistency, composure and a strong defensive presence. We believe he will strengthen our backline and play a crucial role in our campaign ahead.” The Deccan Warriors have earlier extended the contracts of striker David Castaneda, midfielders Brandon Vanlalremdika, Lalromawia, defender Gurmukh Singh, and goalkeeper Aryan Lamba.

## ‘We do not talk about Ruturaj Gaikwad’s class’: R Ashwin questions CSK captain’s snub from India’s T20I side



GNS News Agency, Nov 6

Former India all-rounder R Ashwin has questioned the Indian team management over the repeated snub of Maharashtra batter Ruturaj Gaikwad from the limited-overs scheme of things. Gaikwad last featured for India in a T20I series shortly after the T20 World Cup win when he toured with a second-string side to Zimbabwe. In 20 innings for India in the shortest format, the Chennai Super Kings captain has racked up 633 runs with a near-40 average and a competitive 143.53 strike rate.

Speaking about his former CSK captain, Ashwin said,

“We do not need to talk about Ruturaj Gaikwad’s class. He’s got all the shots in the book. The only thing is there is no information as to why he is not in the scene after his last T20 series.” “When he played the last T20 the coach was different, the captain was different. The issue is if there is no communication with such players they will largely be left in the dark. I really hope he is being communicated to. He is batting brilliantly in red ball as well. I hope they consider him for a middle-order role,” Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. ‘Ashwin also shed his take on modern T20 openers, insisting that there was no room for anchor players in the mould of Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli. “In modern-day T20 cricket, you will not be selected as an opener if you come with a strike-rate of less than 145. I am very sorry to say. You like players like Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, all these players who are setting it up for you. You could win the T20 World Cup because how Virat played in the final against South Africa. But when you have players like these on one side, you need to fight on the other side. That’s why Rohit took it upon himself,” he said. Gaikwad was dropped from the India A red-ball set-up after a poor tour to Australia last year. He has, however, had a superb start to the ongoing Ranji Trophy season with scores of 91, 55\*, 116 and 36\*. The elegant right-hander was also named in the India A squad for the white-ball games against South Africa in Rajkot next week.

## ‘You told us that Sanju Samson can bat down when we said...’: Former India opener slams management for poor handling of wicketkeeper



After batting at number 3 in a solitary outing in the Australia tour, wicket-keeper Sanju Samson has seemingly lost his spot to Jitesh Sharma, who sparked with a quick cameo in India’s win in Hobart in his customary lower-middle order spot. Former India opener Aakash Chopra has slammed the team management for their muddled reasoning for Samson’s demotion from the opening spot since the arrival of vice-captain Shubman Gill and his subsequent snub from the XI. “The biggest question that is looming large is – what have we decided about Sanju Samson? Sanju not playing is a big, big, big question as to why we are doing like that. We played Sanju and he had done decently as well. I won’t

say he had done extraordinarily, but he was okay. You made him bat up the order against Oman and he scored a fifty,” Chopra said on his YouTube channel. Since the last T20 World Cup, Samson has been India’s third-highest run-scorer in all T20Is and revelled in the opening slot alongside Abhishek Sharma. Samson also struck a record three hundreds in the previous calendar year. Post the return of Gill for the Asia Cup in September, Samson was left with a middle-order role outside his usual slot in the top-order. “You played him in the (Asia Cup) final and he scored a few runs. You only told us that he can bat down the order. We were saying you should make him open only, and if you are not doing that, play Jitesh. That was my original position, but you said you will be able to take care of Sanju Samson and will play him, and you know what you are doing. We respected that,” he added.

Will the same happen to Jitesh?

“You played him, the team won the Asia Cup, and we clapped. After that, his batting didn’t come in Canberra. Okay sir, no problems. You sent him at No. 3 in Melbourne. Surprise, but we say okay sir, but then you dropped him. Now I am unable to understand whether I should again say okay sir, because it’s not understandable what we are trying to do,” he said.



## 22 years of Pithamagan: Revisiting Vikram's haunting brilliance in Bala's seminal classic



Immersion is an overused word when discussing film performances, yet no other term adequately captures what Vikram achieves in Pithamagan. His portrayal of Chithan, a man raised in a graveyard, in Bala's spectacularly sordid post-2000s Tamil classic is, for many, the role that defines him. It is not merely career-defining; it is an act of shedding the artifice of glamour and show business to inherit the trauma and mental instability of the character he embodies. Before Pithamagan, Vikram was already a formidable force, an actor of restless, almost volcanic energy often confined by the formulas of commercial cinema. But in Chithan, he channeled his talent into becoming an anchor of deep humanity in a film brimming with volatility.

Some actors use their bodies not merely as instruments of expression, but as monuments to suffering. Vikram does precisely this in Pithamagan, a film laden with painfully observed detail and grim undercurrents. He doesn't so much deliver dialogue as he does emit guttural sounds and sudden outbursts of rage, like an animal poised on the brink of attack. His posture remains perpetually hunched and defensive, as if forever recoiling from the unbearable glare of the real world. Pithamagan would still be a powerful film with a painful story to tell in the hands of any capable actor, for the authorial voice firmly belongs to director Bala. Yet the film's brilliance lies in the collaboration between actor and director, their synchronization of body language and silence transforms Chithan into a living, breathing being rather than a caricature crafted for awards.

Bala's camerawork in Pithamagan is an exercise in unflinching scrutiny and passionate observation of his actors. He compels the viewer into extreme close-ups of Vikram's eyes that seem at once vacant and intensely alert. In an early scene, when Chithan is taken on for work by a local marijuana dealer, his gaze keeps drifting toward his surroundings, like a child lost in a circus. Vikram infuses these digressions of the eye with just the right measure of wonder, innocence, and agitation, ensuring they never appear awkward or unmotivated.

Vikram remains silent throughout the film, tasked

with counterbalancing Suriya's charismatic and often disarmingly charming turn as his newfound companion. As viewers, we are naturally drawn to Shakthi, the affable conman brought to life by Suriya, whose grounded exuberance keeps the film lively and accessible. To invest emotionally in Vikram, by contrast, requires patience and an ultimate faith in performance itself. The interaction between these two characters, each belonging to entirely different realms of human experience, gives Vikram the opportunity to deliver some of the finest work of his career. Pithamagan is, at its core, a story about society's discarded souls finding solace in the companionship of a man who befriends and understands them without judgment or contrived empathy.

Chithan is a void that sucks in those around him into his orbit. You can't help but be won over by his peculiar ticks. The way he runs with his hands juggling ahead of his body, his tiger-like prow, or the way he moves his mouth when he feels suffocated, it's all created from scratch with the utmost care. His protective instinct toward those around him, especially women, is not driven by morality but by a primal, territorial loyalty: a code more animal than societal in its reflexes. Yet there are glimmers of nobility and honor in Chithan, qualities that only an actor of deep empathy could evoke. Vikram even mirrors the auditory alertness of a dog, his head perpetually raised, responding to the world through instinct. Chithan is trapped in a world he neither understands nor is understood by. If the deep-rooted sorrow and explosive rage he evokes were misplaced, Pithamagan would be an entirely different film. Chithan becomes a pawn in a larger social game, surrounded by people who exploit his innocence, most notably the cruel Shekar, who sees him as nothing more than a freak beneath the grime. His fragile humanity is ultimately forced to submit to the whims of a materialistic world. Vikram helps you care more deeply for a mute witness, without resorting to emotionally manipulative theatrics. He maintains the arc of the robotic Chitha with pinpoint precision, irrespective of the risk of turning in a monotonous, one-note portrayal of a mentally challenged person made to witness some unspeakable horrors. The slow realization that dawns in Chithan's eyes as he watches Shakthi's funeral pyre burn remains one of the most haunting moments in Tamil cinema. That gradual shift, from icy incomprehension to the deafening awareness of his only friend's loss, feels less like a crafted performance and more like an instinctive act of possession, guided by raw, unbridled talent. The role earned Vikram the National Film Award for Best Actor, cementing his reputation as a performer willing to go to any length to realize a filmmaker's vision. Pithamagan stands as a brutal testament to the truth that great performances are not always about boisterous excess, but often about the quiet, introspective precision of emotion that borders on restraint. Chithan remains the crowning achievement of Vikram, who encountered the perfect material at the perfect moment in his career. The film endures as a reminder of what screen acting can achieve when rendered through the prism of startling authenticity and empathy.

## Veteran dubbing artiste alleges Shobana threatened to skip promotions for Mohanlal's film if her own voice wasn't used in it: 'After years of dubbing for her...'



Widely regarded as one of the finest actors of her generation, Shobana commenced her cinema journey as a child artiste at the age of 10 and has since worked in various languages across the country, leaving a lasting impression wherever she sets foot. A two-time recipient of the National Film Award for Best Actress, her performance as Ganga/Nagavalli in legendary director Fazil's classic psychological thriller Manichitrathazhu (1993) remains a benchmark in screen acting that no other performer has ever managed to measure up to, let alone surpass, despite the movie being remade into various languages several times, with most of these films eventually receiving their own sequels as well.

However, there are quite a few movies in which Shobana didn't dub for herself. In fact, even her National Award-winning performance as Ganga/Nagavalli did not feature her own voice but rather those of dubbing artistes Bhagyalakshmi and Durga. One of the most established and famed dubbing artistes in Malayalam cinema, Bhagyalakshmi has lent her voice to Shobana — as well as to many other beloved actors like Urvashi, Revathi, Sumalatha, Suhasini Maniratnam, Menaka, Nadiya Moidu, Lissy, Parvathy, Rekha, Kanaka, Vani Viswanath, and

Samyuktha Varma — in several movies. Recently, the veteran artiste stepped forward and opened up about an upsetting experience she faced during the making of director Tharun Moorthy's Thudaram, starring Mohanlal and Shobana in the lead roles. In a recent interview, Bhagyalakshmi revealed that although she dubbed for Shobana in the movie at the request of its makers, her voice was replaced by the actor's own without her knowledge. She also alleged that there are certain points in the movie where she feels her voice has been retained due to the actor's inexperience dubbing for such demanding moments. "I know Shobana can't do it. They used my voice in the climax. She can't scream or yell like that because she doesn't have experience doing it. The shouting in the climax is mine," she reportedly claimed during an interview with Saina South Plus. Bhagyalakshmi added, "Everyone knows I dub in most of Shobana's films, and people say my voice suits her best. When I was called (for Thudaram), I even asked why Shobana herself couldn't do it, since she speaks Tamil well. But the director and writer said I should dub, so I did. I screamed and shouted in the climax part; it took a lot of effort. They even paid me in full without bargaining." A few weeks later, she called Thudaram's producer, M Renjith of Rejaputhra Visual Media, to enquire about the film's status. Bhagyalakshmi revealed that it was only then that she learned her voice had been removed from the movie, as Shobana apparently threatened not to participate in promotions unless she was allowed to use her own voice. She continued, "Ranjith told me there were some small corrections and then said, 'I was wondering how to tell you this — your voice has been replaced. Shobana dubbed it.' He told me she had insisted that she would not attend promotions unless she dubbed her own role. The actor has every right to use their own voice, and the director has the final say. I don't object to that. But after all the years I've dubbed for Shobana, she or the team could have just called to say she wanted to do it herself. That courtesy was missing." Bhagyalakshmi further criticised director Tharun Moorthy for allegedly making claims that misrepresented the facts during promotional interviews, stating that the idea of having Shobana dub for herself was there from the start. "In the promotions, Tharun Moorthy said they had decided from the beginning that Shobana would dub her own role. That's not true. I didn't want to make a big deal out of it, so I stayed silent until now," she added.

## 'Ranbir Kapoor has made many sacrifices to play Lord Ram, feels like yagya': Ramayana's 'Lakshman' Ravie Dubey reveals, calls 'Ravan' Yash 'very friendly'

We are exactly a year away from witnessing Nitesh Tiwari's grand spectacle — the epic Ramayana. Announced in 2023, the film is currently in active production, with Part 1 slated to release on Diwali 2026 and Part 2 following on Diwali 2027. The magnum opus features Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Yash, and Sunny Deol in pivotal roles. Joining the cast is actor Ravie Dubey, who essays the role of Laxman — Lord Ram's devoted brother who accompanies him into exile for 14 years.

While the shoot is underway, Ravie opened up about how portraying Laxman transformed him — both personally and professionally. Appearing on Ranveer Allahbadia's podcast with his wife and business partner, actor Sargun Mehta, he spoke candidly about the experience. Sargun was the first to share her reaction upon learning her husband had bagged such a significant role in Tiwari's version of Ramayana.

She said, "I've been with him for fourteen years, and it feels like my vanvas has finally ended. All these years, I've wanted him to take on a role where people could see the side of him that I see. Right now, I can't separate him from the character. He's such a deeply spiritual person that I believe he accepted this role as a divine calling, not just another acting opportunity." When asked about his own reaction, Ravie who had often avoided answering this question earlier for ethical reasons, finally shared, "I am just very grateful. This was never even in my foresight. The collaboration itself felt impossible. Ranbir [Kapoor] as Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravan, Sunny Deol as Hanuman, A.R. Rahman sir composing the music, and Nitesh Tiwari directing it. It's incredible. Something like this only happens in dreams. In reality, it's not possible unless some divine energy is guiding you. I will never be able to repay this debt. I am immensely thankful to Nitesh Tiwari, Namit Malhotra, and Mukesh Chhabra. I will be forever indebted to them."

Ravie went on to share how the film has deeply influenced everyone involved. "That role changed me. I had to transform myself to do justice to it because the audience can easily tell when you are faking it. I completely altered my routine. In fact, all of us did including Ranbir Kapoor. He has sacrificed so much for this film. This feels more like a yagya. We all did everything in our power to stay true to these characters in how we behave, react, and even speak." Previously, reports surfaced claiming Ranbir Kapoor has quit alcohol and non-vegetarian food to prepare for the role of Lord Ram.

Ravie then elaborated on his earlier statement comparing the making of Ramayana to a yagya. "I have been on film sets for 25 years, and usually there's a fair amount of chaos. But I have never seen a set run so seamlessly. Everything functions like clockwork — not a single shift gets extended, everyone is punctual, prepared, and completely surrendered to the commander of the ship, which in our case is Nitesh sir." When asked if working on the epic helped him understand the scripture more deeply, Ravie said, "All of us are trying to understand our scriptures better than we used to. But the thing about our puranas is that every time you read them, they reveal a different meaning — one that's both clinical and deeply personal. You absorb the same episode in a new way each time." He also reflected on the cultural importance of the project. "Bringing this epic to life is truly the need of the hour," he said. "Why did the scripture choose Namit ji? Because only he could create this kind of ecosystem." "It's almost impossible to bring together such names — A.R. Rahman composing the music, Ranbir as Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravan. The idea is to create a cinematic experience that connects the entire world to this story, so that the essence of Shri Ram can enter global consciousness." In the same conversation, Ravie also revealed that he hadn't initially told Sargun about his casting. "I didn't tell her for the longest time that I was part of Ramayana," he said. "We don't talk about work at home." Sargun recalled: "Someone randomly came up to congratu-



late me once, and that's when I realised something was up," Sargun recalled. "Later, I read somewhere that he had joined Ramayana. Still, I couldn't ask him about it because he hadn't mentioned anything to me. He officially told me only on the day the team made the announcement. Until then, it was just a rumour for me too. He would never even tell me when he was going for the Ramayana shoot."

Laughing, she added, "A couple of times, I asked the driver about the set and how things were going — that's all. Ravie quipped, "She doesn't really ask about me — she's more curious about Ranbir Kapoor! She always wants to know how he is, how he talks, how he behaves. She's a huge fan." Speaking about Ranbir, Ravie shared, "Ranbir has an incredible aura. He's quiet, graceful, and deeply committed." He added, "Ranbir carries a very soft energy — and I think that's something everyone who meets him would feel." Talking about his co-star Yash, Ravie said, "He's an extremely friendly person — very warm and genuine. Both of them are very different, yet equally kind-hearted." A surprised Sargun interjected, "I didn't even know he had met Yash until now! He's telling you all this — he's never told me any of it." She joked, "Can you imagine? I live with him!" The film is co-produced by actor Yash and producer Namit Malhotra.

## Advertising legend Piyush Pandey passes away at 70

Mumbai: Advertising legend Piyush Pandey, who gave Indian advertising its distinct character, passed away at the age of 70 on Thursday. Filmmaker Hansal Mehta and musician Ehsaan Noorani mourned the loss of the trailblazer who shaped Indian advertising. Hansal took to X and wrote: "Fevicol ka jod toot gaya. The ad world lost its glue today. Go well Piyush Pandey." Ehsaan said Piyush Pandey redefined creativity in advertising. Rest in Peace Piyush Pandey the man who redefined creativity in advertising and creating the most memorable campaigns," he wrote on X, formerly called Twitter. Piyush Pandey was an advertising professional and Executive Chairman India of Ogilvy. He is the recipient of the LIA Legend Award and the Padma Shri award.

## Farah Khan lives in a 7-bedroom house spread across 3 floors with a pool and 'James Bond' lift; says even her watchman's 'kholi' is worth Rs 15 crore

The creator economy is going through a boom at the moment and filmmaker Farah Khan, who is now a full-time content creator on YouTube, has been minting money via her videos on YouTube. While Farah and her cook Dilip often joke that they are 'gareeb (poor)', that couldn't be far from the truth. In her latest video featuring Rakhi Sawant, Farah shared that her apartment is spread across three floors, has seven bedrooms, a private lift and a swimming pool.

As Rakhi entered Farah's apartment building, she asked the watchman about the cost of an apartment in the building, and he revealed it to be Rs 15 crore. But when Farah heard about this from Rakhi, she immediately said, "Bhai mera Rs 15 crore ka nhi hai, tu mera market down kyu kar rahi hai? (It's not Rs 15 crore, why are you reducing the market cost of my house?)" When Farah learnt that the watchman had said so, she quipped, "Voh watchman ka kholi Rs 15 crore ki hai humar building mein. (The watchman's quarter is for Rs 15 crore in our building)." Rakhi tried to ask about the cost of Farah's house, but she refused to reveal the number. Farah then boasted about her house and added, "I have two other floors as well, and there is a swimming pool too." To this, Rakhi joked, "I have wondered why Bollywood doesn't pay me. Little did I know that Farah was taking all the money." Farah explained, "What rubbish! I do everything for free."

Rakhi was quite unimpressed with the elevator in



Farah's building and when she said so, Farah told her that she came up in the service lift and shared that she actually has a private lift that opens up directly in her house. She said, "Glass vali private lift seedha mere ghar mein aati hai (The private glass lift opens directly in my house.)" As she escorted her to this lift, she described it as "James Bond ki lift." When Rakhi joked that she would like to give Farah a 6-bedroom apartment, Farah shared that she already lives in a 7-bedroom apartment.



volve around the life of an enraged convict seeking revenge against his ex-girlfriend after she betrays him. The drama was originally scheduled to hit screens on December 25 this year. Following that, Sesh will be seen in 'G2 – Godachari 2' – the highly anticipated sequel to his cult espionage hit.

Slated to release on May 1, 2026, the film also features Wamiqa Gabbi and Emraan Hashmi in dynamic roles. The project further enjoys a stellar cast with Banita Sandhu, Murali Sharma, Supriya Yarlagadda, and Madhu Shalini in significant roles, along with others. It may be recalled that Adivi Sesh, had earlier said, 'I've always felt that good cinema goes beyond language. With 'Dacoit' and 'G2', I'm not just chasing scale' I'm chasing soul.

## Adivi Sesh tells fan: I am working non-stop to give an unforgettable cinematic experience!

Chennai: Actor Adivi Sesh has now reassured a fan concerned about a media report citing the postponement of his upcoming films 'Dacoit' and 'Goodachari2' that he was working non stop to give audiences an unforgettable cinematic experience.

On X, a fan, quoting a media report that claimed that the actor's upcoming pan Indian film 'Dacoit' had been officially postponed and that it meant that the actor's subsequent film 'Goodachari2' too would now have to shift from its original release date, wrote to Adivi Sesh saying he considered him to be "the Jakkana" (Jakkana is a nickname for director SS Rajamouli) among heroes. Adivi Sesh responded to the fan saying, "Ippude #Dacoit Varsham, buradha lo shoot chesi occchaanu bro. Injury kadha, sorry for the delay. Late ga occchina latest ga osth. Promise you, I'm working non stop to give an unforgettable cinematic experience." (I have just returned from shooting for 'Dacoit' in rain and slush. I have an injury, sorry for the delay. Even if I come in late, I will come in latest. Promise you, I'm working non stop to give an unforgettable cinematic experience.)

For the unaware, both of Adivi Sesh's films — 'Dacoit' and 'Goodachari 2' are pan Indian films that are eagerly awaited. In 'Dacoit', which is expected to release ahead of 'Goodachari 2', Adivi Sesh plays the lead along with Mrunal Thakur. The highly-awaited drama will also feature Anurag Kashyap in a key role. Helmed by Shaneli Deo, 'Dacoit' is being jointly backed by Supriya Yarlagadda and Suniel Narang. Presented by Annapurna Studios, 'Dacoit' will re-