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Dragging armed forces into politics not good for the country

Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's latest remark, that the country's 10 per cent (read upper castes) "hold control over the Army," is unfortunate, reprehensible, and silly. It is unfortunate because it adds more divisiveness in the political arena and toxicity in public discourse. As it is, political and intellectual elites promote divisive agendas based on religion, region, language, caste, etc.; now, another dimension has been added to the acrimony arising out of the Mandal phenomenon.

What Gandhi said is reprehensible because it unnecessarily drags the armed forces into the political arena, which stinks all the time. At a time when the Narendra Modi government and the military are focused on defence preparedness against the backdrop of an increasingly hostile and jihadist Pakistanis and the treacherous Chinese, the east India can afford is an unnecessary controversy about the armed forces. The remark is also silly because it is likely to boomerang on the Congress, which has been striving to cobble together a united Opposition against the mighty Bharatiya Janata Party. Luminaries of the grand old party keep accusing the Narendra Modi government and BJP-RSS leaders of following policies and programmes that polarise the country, so it doesn't behove well that the most important Congress leader himself promotes a divisive agenda.

Quite apart from the incongruity of Gandhi's views, there is also the matter of their impact on the GOP's electoral prospects. Had it been positive, his views, however reprehensible, could have been understandable, though not justifiable. As they say colloquially, 'Ganda hai par dhandha hai (This is not nice, but we have to do it).'

Every word of the Vande Mataram song.. is filled with patriotic sentiments.. a source of pride for India



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Revenue Additional Veera Reddy""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 7):- Revenue Additional Veera Reddy said that the great Bhankinchandra Chatterjee composed the Vande Mataram song to instill a sense of patriotism in every citizen. Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy participated in the song singing program at the Collectorate Conference Hall on the occasion of the 150th year program of the collective singing of Vande Mataram as per government orders. Speaking on this occasion, the Additional Collector of Revenue said... Every word of the Vande Mataram song is filled with patriotic sentiments and proudly states that India is one. He said that to bring a sense of happiness to India at such a time, songs and songs have been made heard among the people about the greats, great people and great songs of that time. He said that by singing the Vande Mataram song every day in school, the feelings of patriotism, discipline and unity will be further strengthened among the students. He said that this song has special importance in the history of the country. "SC Corporation ED Shyam Sundar, Collectorate AO Jaganmohan Prasad, Civil Supply Officer Rojarani, district officers of various departments, employees and others participated in this program.

Free Dental Camp Organized at Uppal Government Degree College"

"KISHORE VADDEPALLI , Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):""A free dental camp was organized at Uppal Government Degree College under the auspices of the NSS and Health Club, in collaboration with Sri Siri Multi-Specialty Dental Clinic. During the camp, Dr. Soujanya conducted dental check-ups for students and offered several important suggestions on oral hygiene. She demonstrated the correct methods of brushing and maintaining oral cleanliness through a live demo and explained the consequences of neglecting dental care. She also advised that everyone should undergo a dental check-up at least once every six months and highlighted the harmful effects of smoking on oral health."



Dr. N. Rajasree emphasized the importance of brushing teeth twice a day and said that timely detection and treatment are essential to prevent dental problems. NSS Programme Officer Jaldia Vishwanath Kumar stated that most human diseases originate from poor oral health and that protecting our teeth helps safeguard overall body health. The event was also attended by Health Club Convener Dr. A. Ravi Prasad, Academic Coordinator K. Geetha, Dr. S. Yamuna Rani, Dr. V. Srinivas Rao, Dr. R. Chandrasagar, Dr. P. Venkateswarlu, and faculty members Sravanti, Sripatha, and Anusha, among others.

Volkswagen Virtus records highest ever monthly sales in October 2025



Hyderabad:Volkswagen India today announced, its leading premium sedan, Virtus has recorded its highest ever monthly sales of 2,453 units in the month of October 2025. With a share of over 40 % of the Premium sedan segment in the last two months, the Virtus remains an undisputed leader in the segment. The brand also announced a significant milestone for India 2.0 cars, the Taigun and Virtus that

have clocked cumulative sales of over 1,60,000 units in the domestic market. The achievement highlights Volkswagen's growing relevance in India's premium car segment, driven by customers who prioritise design, driving dynamics, performance, and safety. Commenting on the milestone, Mr. Nitin Kohli, Brand Director, Volkswagen India said, "We are grateful to the loyal Volkswagen customers who have made the Virtus an undisputed leader in the premium sedan segment for nearly 20 months in a row. The Virtus is not just a statement of style and performance, but has truly attained acult car status similar to many iconic Volkswagen cars, thanks to its well-rounded package. We are delighted to see Virtus sustain and record meaningful growth in the premium sedan segment with a share of over 40 % in just 40 Months." With both the SUVW and sedan complementing each other in appeal, the India 2.0 range continues to strengthen the brand's position in the premium car market. Sustained volumes of the Taigun and the Virtus' rising share in premium trims underline the success of the brand's strategy to introduce globally benchmarked products tailored for Indian customers. For more information about Volkswagen products and services, customers can visit their nearest Volkswagen showroom or www.volkswagen.co.in

Indian Parliamentary Delegation Holds High-Level Meeting with German Social Democratic Party



Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy ""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 7):- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy participated in the high-level meeting of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation with the German Social Democratic Party. Berlin, Germany / New Delhi: With the aim of strengthening mutual cooperation with the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), a key member of the world's Progressive Alliance, a delegation of Indian Parliamentarians participated in the two-day High-Level Political Dialogue Program. The program was organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in partnership with the SPD. The event was a meaningful platform for discussions with German politicians, policymakers, experts and various institutions. The Indian delegation included Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, MP from the Indian National Congress (INC), Manikyam Thakur (Tamil Nadu), Alfred Kannangam S. Arthur (Manipur), Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party, and DMK (Tamil Nadu). The delegation was supported by Christoph P. Mor, FES India Director, and Anurag Shankar, Senior Program Manager. Benedict Ivanovs and Simone Döbbelin coordinated the event on behalf of the FES Berlin

team. During the two-day event, the Indian delegation held several key meetings with key leaders and policymakers from the SPD on political and economic international developments. Leaders from SPD & FES: "Mirko Günther, FES, Head of Asia-Pacific Department, Philipp Fink, International Secretary, SPD Henning Mayer, Basic Values ??Commissioner, SPD Matthias Miersch, SPD Parliamentary Group Chairman" Addis Ahmedovic, Foreign Affairs Representative & MP, SPD Aidan Ozoguz, Former Vice President of the German Bundestag & MP, SPD Hubertus Heil, Former Federal Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Current MP SPD & Special Representative for India Armand Zorn, SPD Parliamentary Group Vice President & MP. In addition to this event, important discussions were also held with experts from the German Federal Foreign Office, SWP - German Institute for International and Security Affairs, ECFR - European Council on Foreign Relations. Several key issues were discussed during the two-day meetings. MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that the current political and economic situation in Germany & Europe, opportunities for enhancing cooperation between Indo-German progressive parties, responsibility of progressive forces in protecting the interests of the people, inequality, climate crisis, geopolitical tensions, and the need for a collective response to emerging threats to democratic values ??were discussed. He said that the visit paved the way for increasing political understanding between Indo-German progressive parties, strengthening relations at the parliamentary level, and creating avenues for future cooperation within the Progressive Alliance. He said that the delegation made it clear that progressive forces need to stand together to protect democracy, social justice, and public welfare worldwide. After the conclusion of the two-day program, the team met with Martin Schulz and discussed several key issues. He is the President of the FES, former President of the European Parliament, former Chairman of the SPD, and candidate for Chancellor of Germany.

Horticulture crop... Oil palm cultivation... Expansion targets should be achieved in the district and steps should be taken to increase farmers' income



- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao""(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..November 7):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao has instructed the officers of the local bodies of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District to take steps to achieve the expansion targets of oil palm cultivation, which is a horticulture crop, in the district and to increase the income of farmers. "On Thursday, an awareness seminar was organized at the Collectorate Conference Hall on the expansion of oil farm cultivation under the auspices of Horticulture, Agriculture, Cooperatives, and Oil Fed for AOs, PACS Secretaries, and Horticulture Officers. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector instructed the officials to implement every scheme effectively so that the income of farmers increases. He said that the officials should work in coordination to increase the area under oil palm plantations. The target is to

cultivate the crop in 3500 acres in the district, and the officials should be advised to identify and educate the farmers for cultivation, and to inform the farmers about subsidies, intercropping income, drip subsidies, etc. He instructed them to show successful farmers as role models and increase the area under cultivation. He said that the scheme should be implemented so that farmers benefit from the cultivation of oil farm crops in the district. He said that facilities like orchards, vegetables, modern cultivation methods, cold storage, processing units, etc. should be provided effectively. He said that farmers should be made aware so that they can grow oil farm crops instead of paddy. He said that the government is providing subsidies on drip and sprinkler methods to farmers for high yields with less water through the Telangana Micro Irrigation Project. With the availability of subsidies by category, farmers have the opportunity to reduce cultivation costs and increase their income. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao has directed that the mandal level officers should hold meetings with the farmers of the relevant departments at the Rythu Vedita one day every month, provide complete awareness about the schemes, and implement the activities effectively at the village level so that the farmers benefit. "District Horticulture Officer Madhavi, Agriculture Officer Ramana Reddy, Cooperative Officer Sridhar Nagarjuna, chairmen, horticulture, agriculture departments, mandal level officers, secretaries of primary agricultural cooperative societies, and others participated in this meeting.

Continuous Learning is the Path to Success: Telangana Governor, Chancellor Jishnu Dev Varma at Satavahana University's 2nd Convocation

"CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BU- REAU, NOVEMBER 07, INDIAN CHRONICLE""Continuous learning is the true key to success, said Telangana Governor and Chancellor Jishnu Dev Varma, addressing the students at the 2nd Convocation Ceremony of Satavahana University in Karimnagar on Friday. "The Governor emphasized that discipline and determination lead students toward success. He described the intellect of students as their true laboratory, urging them to use their creativity, hard work, and innovative thinking to move forward in society. He stressed the importance of opportunity, equality, and innovation as pillars of personal and social growth. "During the convocation, the Governor presented Ph.D. degrees to 25 scholars and gold medals to 161 meritorious students who excelled between 2018 and 2023. "Governor Varma called on the university faculty to

focus on achieving NAAC and NIRF rankings, and to uphold high standards of academic excellence. He noted that education should not remain confined to the blackboard and chalk, as the modern learning environment is driven by technology and digital learning, which has eliminated geographical and accessibility barriers. "He added that skills and continuous learning are essential for success, urging students to embrace global knowledge and modern technological expertise while staying connected to the cultural roots of Telangana. "True development lies in creating an equitable society where everyone lives with dignity," the Governor stated. He encouraged students to overcome fear and fatigue, to move forward with courage and hard work, and to adopt a spirit of service from their student life onward. The event was attended by Prof. J.B. Rao, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad; Prof. U. Umesh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Satavahana University; District Collector

Naveen Yadav's victory is certain in Jubilee Hills:- Former Congress MLA Mynampally Hanumantha Rao



""Congress campaigning from house to house in Somajiguda Yellareddy Guda""(Mandava Srisailam.. Hyderabad Indian Chronicle..November 7):- As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, Congress candidate Valla Naveen Kumar Yadav, Bhuvanagiri MP in Somajiguda division Yellareddy Guda, "Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, under the direction of 282 Booth In-charge Potnak Pramod Kumar, participated in the Hanuman Temple area, Nallapochamma Temple area, Law College area, Sanjay Gandhinagar PGR statue areas, and senior Congress leaders Mynampally Hanumantha Rao Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyamlu and went door to door to introduce the Congress party's Welfare schemes were explained to the people. Within two years of the formation of the government, free bus facility for women, 500 rupees kitchen gas cylinder, 200 units of free electricity to every household, Arogyasri scheme increased to 10 lakhs, implementing many welfare schemes, especially the TRS government that was in power for ten years and did not give ration cards to newly married couples, many poor people faced serious difficulties, the Congress people's government distributed ration cards and provided six kilograms of rice to everyone who had a ration card, built houses for the homeless and the poor with five lakh rupees through the Indiramma House Scheme, and developed CC roads, CC sewers, street lights, community halls in the slums in many ways. A campaign was conducted to support the Congress people's government, which is developing CC roads, CC sewers, street lights, community halls in many ways, and vote for Naveen Yadav's hand symbol and win with a large majority.

Mass Singing of "Vande Mataram" to Highlight Its Significance at Uppal Ring Road Junction



Traffic Police Organize Patriotic Event with Students"" KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):""As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the composition of the national song "Vande Mataram," the Rachakonda Traffic Police organized a collective singing of the patriotic anthem at the Uppal Ring Road Junction on Friday morning at 10 a.m. The event was held under the guidance of Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu and led by DCP Traffic D. Srinivas. "The program saw enthusiastic participation from students of Little Flower College, traffic officers, and the public. During the singing, motorists at the junction stopped their vehicles and joined in the rendition of Vande Mataram, expressing their respect and devotion to the nation. "Among those who took part were ADCP Lakshmi, ACP Traffic M.V. Srinivas, Uppal Traffic Inspector G. Nagaraju, Traffic Inspector Mallesh, Uppal Police Station Inspector Bhaskar, and Admin SI Madhav Reddy. "Speaking on the occasion, DCP Traffic D. Srinivas said that a century and a half ago, two words that arose from the heart of a great Bengali poet, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, became a powerful mantra for India's freedom movement. "Today, we are not merely celebrating an anniversary of a song — we are commemorating 150 years of national pride, unyielding spirit of freedom, and unwavering devotion to the motherland," he stated. "He further explained that Vande Mataram laid the philosophical foundation of seeing the land, its water, fields, and people as divine. "This song was not written for any particular religion or region — it is the symbol of unity for all Indians. From North to South, East to West, regardless of language, caste, or faith, when this song is sung, we all feel like children of one Mother," he added. "Students and motorists appreciated the Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu for inspiring such a meaningful patriotic event and expressed their happiness at being part of it.



Pamela Satpathy; Police Commissioner Gaush Alam; Additional Collector Ashwini Tanaji Wakade; Municipal Commissioner Prapul Desai, and several other dignitaries.

Sai Chaitra Wins Two Gold Medals



“CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, NOVEMBER 07, INDIAN CHRONICLE:“Kamineni Sai Chaitra from Karimnagar has brought pride to her insti-

tution by securing two gold medals for achieving top ranks in both her undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Sai Chaitra, who pursued her BBA at Vivekananda Degree College in Karimnagar and later completed her MBA, stood first at the Satavahana University level in both courses. “She was awarded two gold medals by Telangana State Governor Justice Devi Varman during the second convocation ceremony of Satavahana University held on Friday in Karimnagar. “To mark this achievement, a felicitation program was organized at Vivekananda Degree College, where College Principal Srinivas and NSS Program Officer Sagar congratulated Sai Chaitra on her remarkable success. “Speaking on the occasion, Sai Chaitra said that with hard work and dedication, one can reach great heights. She also shared that her next goal is to crack the Civil Services Examination. She expressed her gratitude to her teachers for their continuous support and guidance.

Vande Mataram Song 150th Anniversary Celebrated at Uppal Government Degree College

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI , Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):““The patriotic song “Vande Mataram,” which played a vital role in awakening the spirit of nationalism during India’s freedom struggle, completes 150 years today. On this occasion, NSS volunteers, students, and faculty members of Uppal Government Degree College collectively sang the Vande Mataram song and paid rich tributes to the great leaders of the national movement. “Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar said that the national song inspires unity and patriotism and called upon everyone to rededicate themselves to the nation’s development with a spirit of togetherness. “Vice Principal Dr. A. Ravi Prasad, NSS Program Officer Vishwanath Kumar, Dr. N. Rajasree, Dr. G. Tirupathayya, K. Geetha, Dr. S. Yamuna Rani, P. Vijay Kumar, Dr. V.



Srinivasa Rao, Dr. R. Chandrasagar, Dr. P. Venkateswarlu, Sravanti, Anusha, Srilatha, and others participated in the event.

Indiramma house works should be completed quickly

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



““(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..November 7):- Yadadri

Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the works of Indiramma houses in various stages should be completed quickly. District Collector Hanumantha Rao inspected the construction works of Indiramma houses in Jamila Peta and Rayarao Peta villages of Bibinagar mandal. On this occasion, the District Collector spoke to the concerned officials.

He asked how many Indiramma houses are under construction in the village. He asked how many houses are in the stage of completion. He said that the money will be deposited as soon as the various stages are completed. He advised the beneficiaries to complete the construction works of the houses quickly and take up the house. The concerned officials participated in this program.

BC JAC Leaders Placed Under Preventive Arrest

“CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, NOVEMBER 07, INDIAN CHRONICLE:“Police have taken BC JAC (Backward Classes Joint Action Committee) leaders into preventive custody ahead of the Telangana Governor’s visit to Karimnagar. The arrests were made following the leaders’ announcement that they would obstruct Governor Dr. C. P. Radhakrishnan’s visit in protest against the delay in granting constitutional status to 42 percent BC reservations, as the Governor has not yet signed the related bill. The detained leaders were shifted to the City Training Centre near Ujjwala Park. Speaking on the occasion, BC JAC leaders stated that arrests cannot suppress the BC movement and vowed to intensify their agitation until 42 percent reservations for BCs are implemented. “Among those arrested were BC JAC leaders Kesipreddi Sridhar Raj, Aadi Mallesh, Ennam Prakash, Narsingoji Srinivas, Nagula Kanukayya Goud, Penta Ajay Patel, Madasu Sanjeev, Doggili Sridhar, Rachamalla Raju, Kasa Raju, and Anumas Nithin.



Habsiguda Corporator Kakkireni Chetana Harish Inspects PNT Colony Along with Municipal Officials



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):““Habsiguda Division Corporator Kakkireni Chetana Harish toured PNT Colony on Friday along with

municipal officials to inspect local civic issues. “During the visit, residents brought several problems to the corporator’s attention — they requested the laying of CC roads, complained about irregular power supply and high voltage issues, and pointed out that streetlights were not functioning properly. Responding positively, the corporator directed the concerned officials to resolve all these issues at the earliest. “Speaking on the occasion, Chetana Harish said that she has been actively bringing public grievances to the notice of the officials and striving for their speedy resolution. She added that whenever residents report any issue, she personally visits the site to ensure prompt action. “Among those who participated in the inspection were DE Nagamani, Electrical ADE Dasharath, Lineman Praveen, BJP leaders Bommagoni Raghupati Goud, Alkapuri Suresh, Katta Bhaskar, and local residents Uppalayya, Narsimha, and Mallikarjun, among others.

Panka procession in honor of Khaja Mohalla Hazrat Jamal ul Bahar Dargah

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Avez Chisti”“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Indian Chronicle November 7):- The Panka procession of the local Khaja Mohalla Hazrat Jamal ul Bahar Dargah in Bhuvanagiri town was organized grandly. The District Library Chairman Avez Chisti participated in this program and started the Panka procession. Speaking on this occasion, he congratulated the Dargah Committee, which has been organizing this Panka program grandly in Bhuvanagiri town for the last few years. Pappu Siddique Maison Aun and others participated in this program.



Sweeper's daughter Chukka Latha gets Doctorate from OU



“Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 07:Under the supervision of Professor Sunanda Pandey from the Department of Sociology, Osmania University On the topic "Research Scholars' Aspirations, Job Opportunities and Edu-

cational Wastage - A Comparative Study of Selected Universities in India”“The OU Examinations Department announced a doctorate to Chukka Latha for completing her research. ““Chukka Narsaiah Pochamma, a native of Usmanpur, Karimnagar, is the daughter of the couple, Latha. ““Latha’s father, Narasaiah, died while she was in her mother’s womb. Her mother, Pochamma, worked as a sweeper and educated Latha. ““In line with her mother’s wishes and her own aspirations, Chukka Latha studied hard from a young age and completed four PG courses and a B.Ed. course. After completing her B.Ed course, she also completed her PhD course from the OU Sociology Department and obtained her doctorate. ““His mother died of cancer while she was pursuing his PhD course. ““However, without getting discouraged, completed her research with determination and received her doctorate. ““She thanked the faculty and other friends of the OU Sociology Department who supported her research. “Dr. Latha said that she is dedicating her doctorate to her parents, Chukka Narasaiah, Pochamma. “Photo write-up: Dr. Chukka Latha, who received her Doctorate from OU”“.....

Distribution of Books and Pens to Students on TRS Leader Gandham Nageshwar Rao’s Birthday

“ KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):““On the occasion of BRS state leader Gandham Nageshwar Rao’s birthday, books, notepads, and pens were distributed to students at Zilla Parishad High School, Old Ramanthapur. The distribution program was organized on behalf of the TRSF team, and the materials were handed over to the students by Gandham Nageshwar Rao himself. “A large number of leaders, party workers, and admirers visited Gandham Nageshwar Rao’s residence to extend their birthday greetings and felicitate him on the occasion. Among those who participated in the program were BRS leaders Srikanth Goud, Manish, Maduri Srinivas, Ravi, Goutham, Naveen, and others.



Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in the campaign along with Ministers Komatireddy and Jupally



““(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 7):- On the occasion of Jubilee Hills elections, Telangana State Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Varyulu Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Excise and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, conducted a campaign in Rahamatnagar on Thursday morning. They informed the people about the frauds committed during the BRS rule in Telangana state and the development schemes implemented during the Congress rule and requested votes. They asked them to vote for local boy Naveen Yadav and make him win.

Youth Must Set Clear Goals and Strive for Excellence

In-Charge Collector Garima Agarwal Inspires at Rajanna Sircilla Youth Festival”

““P. S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU. ““In a stirring call to the younger generation, In-Charge Collector Garima Agarwal emphasized the importance of setting clear life goals and relentlessly pursuing them with discipline and dedication. Addressing the gathering at the District-Level Youth Festival held at the Rajiv Nagar Mini Stadium in Sircilla Municipality, she inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp and extending her best wishes to the participants. ““Organized under the aegis of the District Youth and Sports Department, the festival forms part of the 29th National Youth Festival, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. ““In her address, Collector Garima Agarwal urged students and young aspirants to draw inspiration from the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, who epitomized the power of youth, self-belief, and service to the nation. She encouraged them to use social media judiciously, focusing on self-improvement rather than distraction. The Collector further motivated participants to exhibit exceptional talent in various competitions and to represent the district with distinction at state and national levels. ““The event witnessed vibrant participation from over 400 youth and artists representing diverse colleges and cultural troupes across the district. Competitions included folk dance, folk songs, story writing, poetry composition, painting, elocution, and a Science & Innovation Exhibition, all



aimed at nurturing creativity and innovation among young minds. ““Dignitaries present at the event included Sircilla Market Committee Chairperson Swaroopa Reddy, District Youth and Sports Officer A. Randaas, and Municipal Commissioner Khadeer Pasha, along with several other district officials, who lauded the enthusiasm and talent displayed by the youth. ““The day concluded with resounding applause and renewed inspiration, echoing the timeless message of Swami Vivekananda—“Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.”

Science fair helps in developing scientific attitude among students.



“SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT, NOVEMBER 7 . (Indian Chronicle):““Andhra Pradesh Vijayawada Regional Officer Ramesh Menon said CBSE Regional Science Fair Exhibition is a program organized by CBSE to develop scientific attitude among students and showcase their knowledge. The regional science fair exhibition competition was held for two days at St. Peter’s High School, Bowenpally, Seetharampalem, Secunderabad. 170 CBSE schools from different regions participated in this competition. Vijayawada Regional Officer Ramesh Menon was the chief guest and T A Reddy guest of honor at the closing ceremony on Friday. The students were praised after looking at the samples. Speaking on this occasion, he congratulated the management of St. Peter’s High School for hosting this program and said that Vikashith and Atmanirbhar Bharath are inte-

gral to india. The purpose of the exhibition is to provide a platform for students to showcase their knowledge by connecting new ideas with current concepts. “align with the goals of Skill India and Startup India.



Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle November 7):- Uttam Kumar Reddy.. Government Whip MLA Beerla Ailaiah participated in the campaign along with Padmavati..Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah participated in the campaign along with Uttam Padmavati at Rahmatnagar 168 booth in Jubilee Hills.

**“Continuous Learning is the Key to Triumph:
Governor Jishnu Dev Varma Inspires Students
at Satavahana University Convocation”**



“ P . S . A S H O K A N “ K A R I M N G A R
BUREAU” Delivering an inspiring address to the youth,
Telangana Governor and Chancellor of Satavahana Uni-
versity, Jishnu Dev Varma, asserted that continuous learn-
ing and disciplined perseverance form the cornerstone of
true success. He exhorted students to overcome fear and
fatigue through focus, dedication, and self-confidence, de-
scribing the intellect of students as their own experimental
laboratory, where creativity and knowledge converge to
shape the future.” Presiding over the second convocation
ceremony of Satavahana University, the Governor con-
ferred Ph.D. degrees upon 25 scholars and presented gold
medals to 161 meritorious students who excelled academi-
cally between 2018 and 2023.” In his address, Governor
Varma emphasized that discipline, confidence, and intel-
lectual curiosity are essential attributes that lead students
toward excellence. He urged them to cultivate innovative
thinking and moral responsibility, which are indispensable
for nation-building. “The mind of a student is a laboratory of
endless possibilities; through effort and imagination, one can
shape not only personal destiny but also contribute mean-

ingfully to society," he remarked. "Encouraging the faculty and administration, the Governor called for concerted efforts to enhance the university's standing in NAAC and NIRF rankings, setting new benchmarks for academic distinction. He emphasized that education should transcend traditional classroom boundaries and evolve in harmony with technological innovation and global advancement. "Highlighting the transformative power of digital learning, he noted that it has bridged geographical divides and democratized access to education, providing equal opportunities to all learners. He urged students to embrace global knowledge and emerging technologies while preserving the cultural ethos and heritage of Telangana. "True progress lies in building an egalitarian society where every individual thrives with dignity," Governor Varma said, adding that talent can flourish anywhere when nurtured by determination and perseverance. He encouraged students to adopt a spirit of service from their academic years, reaffirming that hard work, creativity, and lifelong learning remain the surest path to personal and societal advancement. "Later, the Governor visited the District Collectorate, where he received a ceremonial police guard of honor and inspected various departmental exhibitions. The event commenced with the rendition of Vande Mataram, followed by cultural performances and patriotic songs by Bal Bhavan students. "Distinguished dignitaries in attendance included Principal Secretary Dhan Kishore, District Collector Pamela Satpathy, Commissioner of Police Gouse Alam, Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanajji Wakade and Lakshmi Kiran, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, and several senior district officials. "The ceremony concluded with a renewed spirit of inspiration, echoing the Governor's timeless message—"Knowledge is infinite; those who learn without ceasing shall lead without fear."

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector
Hanumantha Rao said that the moisture content
of the grain should be purchased immediately

“(Manduva Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 7):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the moisture content of the grain should be purchased immediately in view of the favorable weather. On Friday, the District Collector made a surprise inspection of the PACS grain purchase center in Anantaram village of Bhuvanagiri mandal. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said... He asked how much grain has been purchased so far. He said that more lorries will be sent to load it to be transported to the center today. He checked the moisture content himself. He asked how many heaps of moisture content there are. He told the center managers to buy the heaps of moisture content today, no matter how late it is. “Farmers are facing difficulties due to untimely rains. They ordered that the purchase of grain be completed before the weather changes again. They inquired whether there were enough tarpaulins



at the purchasing center. They wanted the farmers to keep the tarpaulins in them. They examined whether the farmers had basic facilities. The relevant officials participated in the program.

Additional Collector Directs Rice Millers to Ensure CMR Supply, Mandates Bank Guarantees.



“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU. In strict adherence to state government directives, Additional Collector Revenue Gaddam Nagesh convened a comprehensive

sive review meeting with rice millers in the district to oversee the supply of Custom Milled Rice (CMR), allocation of kharif season paddy, and submission of requisite bank guarantees.⁴⁴ During the session, detailed assessments were made of the paddy allocations to all rice mills and the quantities supplied to the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Addressing the attendees, Additional Collector Gaddam Nagesh emphasized that all rice millers in the district are obligated to supply CMR in accordance with state government regulations.

Furthermore, he instructed that every mill must furnish a valid bank guarantee as mandated by the government.” He reassured the stakeholders that paddy allocations would be executed strictly in line with government policies, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability. The meeting was attended by District Civil Supplies Officer Chandraprakash, DT officials, and other key staff members.

Farmers Protest Against Cotton Purchase Due To High Humidity



“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 07. “Wankidi, Farmers staged a protest at the cotton purchasing center in the mandal center on Thursday. The farmers were upset when CCI (Cotton Corporation of India) officials refused to buy cotton because of the high moisture content. As the CCI purchases began at a ginning mill in the mandal center, farmers brought cotton to sell in about 30 vehicles. However, the officials refused to buy cotton from many farmers because the moisture content exceeded the 12 percent limit set by the government. Angered by this, the farmers staged a sit-in on the NH-363 highway. Speaking on the occasion, they said, “The rains have soaked the cotton that we have cultivated for six years. It is natural that the moisture content is high.

However, this time we are begging the government to buy cotton." They alleged that such refusals are unfair if the farmers book slots and come in hired vehicles. The traffic

jam that lasted for about three hours stalled for kilometers on both sides of the highway. Later, the farmers stopped writing after police and CCI officials, led by SI Mahender, held talks with the farmers and assured them of a solution to the problem."



(Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. November 7):- Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy's son Sriram Reddy participated in the wedding ceremony and expressed his best wishes... Bhuvanagiri former Municipal Chairman Pothamsetty Venkateswarlu, Yadadri District Congress Party General Secretary MD Mazhar and others.

Indira Mahila Shakti Sarees Poised for Statewide Distribution; 64 Lakh Units to Empower Women SHG Members.



“P.S.ASHOKAN”KARIMNGAR BUREAU “In-charge Collector Garima Agrawal has announced that Indira Mahila Shakti sarees, intended as uniforms for women’s self-help group (SHG) members across the state, are nearing completion. To gain firsthand insight into the production process and ensure adherence to quality standards, presidents and general secretaries of district federations from 32 districts convened in Sircilla for an intensive review meeting at the integrated district offices on Friday.”Addressing the gathering, Collector Agrawal emphasized that the distribution of these sarees would not only bolster employment for thousands within the Sircilla textile sector but also invigorate the local handloom and garment industry. She noted that the sarees are meticulously crafted, reflecting the high level of skill and dedication of the workforce.”Highlighting the broader objectives of the state government’s women empowerment initiatives, the Collec-

Vande Mataram 150th Anniversary Celebrated at Uppal Police Station under the Supervision of CI Bhaskar

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):““The 150th anniversary of the patriotic song ‘Vande Mataram’, which played a vital role in awakening the spirit of the Indian freedom movement, was celebrated at the Uppal Police Station. The event was organized under the supervision of Circle Inspector K. Bhaskar, where Sub-Inspectors and police staff collectively rendered the Vande Mataram song and paid rich tributes to the great national leaders who fought for India’s independence.” On this occasion, CI Bhaskar stated that the national song stands as a symbol of inspiration and unity, urging everyone to rededicate themselves to the nation’s development. He recalled that a century and a half ago, two powerful words — “Vande Mataram” — emerged from the heart of the great Bengali poet Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, which became a divine mantra for India’s liberation struggle.”“Today, we are not merely celebrating the anniversary of a song, but honoring 150 years of national pride



and self-respect,” he added. Sub-Inspectors Madhav Reddy (Admin), Madhu, Chiranjeevi, Vinay, and other staff members participated in the celebration.

Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy holds discussions with leaders for the victory of Maganti Sunitha Gopinath



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI , Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):”“As part of the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election campaign, Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy held discussions at Somajiguda Division on various strategies to ensure the victory of BRS party candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath.”“With only three days of campaigning left, the leaders decided to undertake programs that would make the campaign more effective and connect better with the public.Among those who participated in the meeting were MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy, Mallapur Division Corporator Devender Reddy, Meerpet Housing Board Division Corporator Prabhadas, and BRS State Leader Sai Zen Shekhar, along with several others.

ACB Catches Corrupt Fish Rs.75 Thousand Rupees ACB Officials Caught Red- Handed While Taking



Madron Rice Mill, refused when the officials asked him to give him a truck sheet so that he would not be able to harvest rice during the Rabi season. The officials, who were angry with him, registered a 6A case against him on September 9. He approached the High Court after he gave a request to the Collector that it was not ration rice but the higher officials ignored him. He expressed his grief over the authorities not releasing the seized rice despite the High Court's orders to release it after examining the seized rice. Unable to bear their harassment, he approached the ACB and reported it to the ethics officers. The victim alleged that there is large-scale corruption in the Civil Supplies Department, including high-ranking officials. "[19:36, 7/1/2025] +91 99485 55073: End..

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Responds on Uppal-Narapally Elevated Corridor Works

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):““On behalf of the All-Party JAC, Mekala Madhusudan Reddy brought to the attention of Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Kishan Reddy that the Uppal-Narapally Elevated Corridor (Flyover), which was launched in 2018 with a promise to be completed within 18 months, has remained incomplete even after seven years, with less than 50% of the work finished.“He stated in his letter that the project has been halted at several stretches, causing severe inconvenience to commuters and local residents, and urged the Centre to resume and expedite the remaining works to ease public hardship.“Responding to the representation, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari acknowledged that the project was significantly delayed beyond the scheduled completion period. He assured that, considering the difficulties faced by the public, steps would be taken to resume the flyover works immediately and bring the elevated corridor into public use at the earliest, as mentioned in his reply letter.

Mumbai Airport sees surge in self-service travel adoption, over 6.3 million passengers used DigiYatra in 16 months



GNS News Agency,Nov 7

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai has witnessed a sharp rise in the use of technology-enabled travel solutions, with more passengers opting for self-check-in kiosks, self-baggage drop units, and biometric-enabled DigiYatra services over the past 16 months.According to data shared by the airport, between April 2024 and August 2025, more than 3.86 million passengers printed boarding passes through self-check-in kiosks.Domestic carriers dominated usage, with IndiGo (2.58 million boarding passes), Air India (1.09 million), and Air India Express (53,301) accounting for the largest share. Among international airlines, Air France (90,902), Emirates (18,356), and Lufthansa (18,017) recorded significant

engagement.The adoption of self-baggage drop (SBD) machines has also grown steadily. Over 7.15 lakh bags were processed through 32 SBD units during the same period, with an average processing time of 17 to 20 seconds. Domestic carriers handled nearly 6 lakh of these bags, while international airlines such as KLM, Air France, Emirates, Lufthansa, and Swiss Airways contributed more than 70,000.Monthly adoption rates of SBD rose from 4.15 per cent to 13.9 per cent for international flyers and from 5.26 per cent to 6.28 per cent for domestic travellers between April 2024 and August 2025, the airport said.Biometric-enabled DigiYatra services have seen the sharpest growth. CSMIA's 46 DigiYatra e-gates and 40 face pods processed 6.3 million passengers in the 16 months, with monthly adoption climbing from 12 per cent in April 2024 to 32 per cent by August 2025. The facility allows passengers to clear checkpoints within two to three seconds on average.

The airport said these shifts are supported by its modernised Airport Operation Command Centre (AOCC) and avio, an AI-powered mobile-first platform developed by Adani Airports that enables predictive analytics and real-time operational efficiency.Other tech initiatives include the deployment of autonomous cleaning robots, with plans to introduce smart washrooms and more artificial intelligence-driven solutions across the terminals."CSMIA continues to lead India's aviation sector in digital transformation, witnessing a sharp rise in passenger adoption of self-service and tech-enabled travel solutions," said a CSMIA officer.

Chandigarh Super Bazar staff get justice after 25-year legal battle

GNS News Agency,Nov 7

In a landmark ruling that brings closure to a 25-year legal battle, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled in favour of over 100 laid-off employees of the now-defunct Super Bazar Chandigarh, a former cooperative consumer store society.The division bench, comprising Justices Harsimran Singh Sethi and Vikas Sur, ordered the immediate release of long-pending payments, including service benefits, notice pay, and compensation, to be funded from the society's liquidated assets.The judgment, delivered on September 16, stems from the society's closure in 2000. The court upheld the employees' claims against the Registrar Cooperative Societies, Union Territory of Chandigarh, and the society's management, dismissing administrative appeals and addressing the workers' decades-long struggle for fair treatment.The ruling includes substantial financial relief for the employees, whose services were terminated on October 10, 2000. Key payouts include:• Service benefits with interest: The workers will receive full gratuity, leave encashment, and other benefits, with 6 per cent simple interest per annum added from the date these were due (October 10, 2000) until payment.

• Three months' notice pay: The court ordered payment of three months' salary in lieu of notice, as required by law, but never provided in 2000. This amount also carries 6 per cent interest from the termination date.• Compensation for lost opportunities: The court noted that the Chandigarh Administration had promised to absorb work-



ers into other departments but failed to do so. As many are now too old to find new jobs, the judges mandated "suitable compensation" from the society's assets, considering their years of service and current hardships.

• Provident Fund release: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is to receive Rs 32.05 lakh (including interest up to 2012) for unpaid contributions, with this amount to be paid to the workers within eight weeks of the order, ensuring no deductions from their shares.The funds for these payments will come from the society's liquidated assets, estimated at over Rs 11.50 crore, including fixed deposits earning interest. The court directed that any remaining amount after three years be deposited with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies for future claims, ensuring no further delays.

Minister Sridhar Babu's Vision Catalyzes Rural Transformation: Groundbreaking for CC Road and Drainage Works under SC Sub-Plan



."P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNGAR BUREAU.""" The developmental momentum in rural Telangana continues to accelerate under the dynamic leadership of IT, Industries, and Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, asserted Single Window Chairman Kotta Srinivas."""In alignment with the directives of Minister Sridhar Babu and TPCC General Secretary Srinu Babu, a bhoomi pooja (foundation-laying ceremony) was performed on Friday at Puttapaka village in Manthani Mandal for the construction of CC roads and drainage systems in the Scheduled Caste Colony. The project, valued at 75 lakh, is being executed with financial assistance from the SC Sub-Plan funds."""The ceremony was attended by AMC Chairman Kududula Venkanna, Single Window Chairman Kotta Srinivas, Mandal Congress President Ayili Prasad, SC Cell Division President Manthani Satyanarayana, and Mandal President Manthani Rakesh, among others."""Addressing the gathering, the leaders an-

nounced that the mandal has been sanctioned 72 crore under the SC Sub-Plan, earmarked for the development of essential rural infrastructure such as cement-concrete roads, drainage systems, and sanitation improvements. They emphasized that these initiatives reflect the government's unwavering commitment to equitable growth and inclusive development."""Chairman Kotta Srinivas stated that the Congress government remains steadfast in fulfilling its pre-election pledges by fostering infrastructural advancement and uplifting marginalized communities. "The visionary leadership of Minister Sridhar Babu has brought renewed momentum to rural progress. With his continued guidance, Manthani Mandal will soon emerge as a model of sustainable and inclusive development," he remarked."""The leaders reiterated that comprehensive village development and social upliftment are achievable only under the progressive governance of the Congress administration, which prioritizes welfare-driven policies and grassroots empowerment."""The event witnessed participation from Single Window Director Peddiraju Prabhakar, Village Congress President Chatlapalli Santosh, former Sarpanches Ayili Srinivas and Kalvala Rajesham, and local leaders Savai Ganesh, Chatlapalli Madhu, Kannuri Rajabapu, M.D. Hussain Bhai, Sheelam Prabhakar, Kannuri Sudarshan, Kannuri Pochayya, Kannuri Rajayya, Kannuri Tirupati, Illutam Venkatesh, Rodd Naresh, and Manthani Srikanth, along with numerous Congress workers and villagers.

Boy Missing from Don Bosco School

"KISHORE VADDEPALLI , Uppal, November 7 (Indian Chronicle):""An incident of a student running away from Don Bosco Navajeevan Rehab School in Ramanthapur has been reported under the Uppal Police Station limits."According to Admin SI Madhav Reddy, a boy named Sai Prasad Kame (11) from Nanded district of Maharashtra was found wandering suspiciously at Malkajgiri Railway Station.

The Child Welfare authorities admitted him to the Don Bosco Navajeevan Rehab School in Ramanthapur."However, the boy escaped by jumping over the gate when no one was around. School in-charge Tirupati lodged a complaint at the Uppal Police Station. Based on the complaint, Uppal Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation.



After MBBS student raped, CM Mamata says 'female students staying in hostels must not venture out late at night'



GNS News Agency,Nov 7

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said that female boarders, especially those from outside the state, should follow hostel rules and not venture out late at night. She made the statement after a student of a private medical college in Durgapur, hailing from Odisha, was allegedly

gang-raped on Friday night when she went out with a friend for dinner."Students staying in hostels, especially those who have come to West Bengal to study from outside the state, are expected to follow the rules of the hostels. They should avoid venturing out late at night, although they have the fundamental right to go wherever they want."But the police have certain logistical limitations in monitoring the movement of every individual. Officers would not know who is leaving home at night and cannot stand guard outside every home," she said, reports PTI.She was speaking to reporters at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here before leaving for natural disaster-hit north Bengal to review relief and rehabilitation work.Banerjee termed the incident "shocking", and said that no accused would be spared. "This is a shocking incident... We have zero tolerance for such crimes. Three accused have been arrested and police are conducting searches for others. Nobody will be spared," she said in her first reaction to the incident.Banerjee said that the institution of which the woman is a student of also bears responsibility for the incident.

Chandigarh Citizens Foundation launched to unite residents for public good

GNS News Agency,Nov 7

A group of eminent citizens has launched the Chandigarh Citizens Foundation to foster civic collaboration and sustainable growth in the tricity.Led by Gen V P Malik (retld), the platform will unite professionals across 12 focus areas to drive community-led change.Eminent residents of Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula have announced the launch of the Chandigarh Citizens Foundation (CCF), a civic platform aimed at bringing people together to exchange ideas, collaborate on public-interest initiatives, and promote sustainable and inclusive growth in the tricity.Launching the foundation's website, CCF president Gen V P Malik (retld), a former chief of the Indian Army, said the initiative fulfils a long-felt need for an institutional platform where citizens and professionals from various fields can connect and contribute to issues of local, national, and global relevance.

"This platform will create opportunities for citizens to collaborate through events, seminars, conferences, and outreach programmes on subjects that promote human well-being and sustainable living," Malik said.To steer its activities, the foundation has formed 12 subject-specific focus groups covering areas such as health and well-being; national security and international affairs; music, literature, visual and performing arts; science and technology; conscious leadership and business; economic growth and sustainable development; sustainable urban development; urban planning, design and architecture; tourism; education; sports; and women empowerment and social welfare.

Malik said around 200 professionals have already volunteered to join these focus groups and are planning a series of activities in the coming months.The CCF will func-



tion as an umbrella organisation, co-opting and collaborating with other groups that share its objectives. It also plans to engage in research and policy advocacy aligned with its goals.The governing council of CCF includes former Punjab chief secretary Vini Mahajan as vice-president; Dr K K Talwar (Padma Bhushan); R I Singh (Padma Shri), former chief secretary of Punjab; industrialist Rajinder Gupta (Padma Shri); theatre director Neelam Mansingh (Padma Shri); retld IPS officer Samant Goel; Keshni Anand Arora, a ormer chief secretary of Haryana; former Panjab University vice-chancellor Prof Arun Grover; senior advocate M L Sarin; and IAS officer Balamurugan as honorary general secretary."This is entirely a citizens' initiative, driven by volunteers. Anyone willing to contribute time and effort is welcome to join," Malik said, adding that details are available on the foundation's website, chandigarhcitizensfoundation.org.Members of the governing council recently called on Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, who extended his best wishes to the foundation for its work in public welfare.

The Services Of Voluntary Organizations Are cCommendable.



"Collector Venkatesh Dhotre,MLA Kova Lakshmi""Distribution Of 14 Types Of Goods In Malan Gondi""Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad,District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.November, 07.""Asifabad, Collector Venkatesh Dhotre and MLA Kova Lakshmi said that it is commendable that voluntary organizations are coming for-

ward to provide services to the tribals of remote areas of the district. Mala of Asifabad mandal in the district"The Collector and MLA participated in a program organized by Nestle NGO in Ngondi village to distribute 14 types of essential commodities in flood-affected villages on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector and MLA said that it is commendable that Nestle India Limited NGO has come forward to provide assistance to the victims in the flood-affected areas. They have provided 14 types of essential commodities to the homeless in the flood-affected villages and have also met the remote tribals to distribute the commodities."He said that it is a pleasure to provide these. He said that the goods with good nutritional value are being provided and people should take advantage of these. Earlier, the villagers welcomed the officials with Gussadi dances amidst the drum beats. Asifabad Revenue Mandal Officer Lokeshwar Rao, representatives of Nestle India Limited voluntary organization, PACS President Ali Bin Ahmed. Representatives of Nestle India Limited, villagers, and others participated in this program.

Submission of Representation to EE by Leader Anil"Complete Development Works Speedily – Nemali Anil Kumar"



"Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 7: ""Greater Congress senior leader Nemali Anil Kumar urged the concerned officials to expedite and complete the ongoing development works in the Mallapur Division limits. Accordingly, on Friday, he met Executive Engineer (EE) Nagender at the Kapra Circle office and submitted a representation."On this occasion, he reviewed the progress of CC roads, BT roads, and underground drainage works being carried out in the Mallapur Division under the Uppal Constituency. He requested that the works be completed within the stipulated time. Responding positively, the EE assured that the works would be completed on a priority basis and instructed the concerned officials to speed up the process.

"Manthani Police Issue Stern Warning to Rowdy Sheeters: Zero Tolerance Toward Breach of Public Peace"

"P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNGAR.BUREAU""In a decisive move to uphold public order and ensure community safety, Circle Inspector (CI) Raju of Manthani issued a stern warning to all identified rowdy sheeters operating within the Manthani Sub-Division."Acting on the directives of Ramagundam Commissioner of Police Amber Kishore Jha, and under the supervision of Peddapalli DCP Karunakar and Godavarikhani ACP Madatha Ramesh, a special counseling session was organized at the Manthani Police Station for individuals listed under the rowdy sheet category from the jurisdictions of Manthani and Ramagiri Police Stations."Addressing the participants, CI Raju urged them to reform their behavior and lead disciplined lives, empha-

sizing that any attempt to disrupt peace or create public unrest would invite stringent legal action. He further revealed that the police department has intensified surveillance on habitual offenders, ensuring that any deviation from lawful conduct will be dealt with firmly and without leniency."You may have erred in the past, knowingly or unknowingly," CI Raju stated, "but this is the time to change. The police department is willing to support those who genuinely wish to transform and reintegrate into society. However, those who persist in criminal or intimidatory activities will face uncompromising legal consequences."Sub-Inspector Ramesh and other police personnel were present during the session.

A startup revolution, the goal of ‘innovation capital’



At the TN Rising Investment Conclave in Hosur recently, a young founder from Torus Robotics walked up to the stage, papers in hand, ready to exchange an investment memorandum of understanding with the Government of Tamil Nadu. What set this apart from most of the other corporate majors exchanging MoUs that day was their journey so far — starting with government-backed incubation and refining a difficult problem with patient mentorship and modest seed support. That morning, they were no longer petitioners for opportunity. They became partners of the government in a significant sector with ₹100-crore investment. Welcoming startups such as Torus Robotics and many more as investors in the State is a symbol of what we set out to build: a system where a startup nurtured by the government can mature into a collaborator of the State. This is a deliberate outcome of a strategy that marries innovation with inclusion and policy with purpose. Exponential growth in startups

For decades, Tamil Nadu’s industrial identity has been anchored in manufacturing excellence. Over the last four years, we have extended that strength into deep-tech and innovation, quietly, steadily and inclusively. When our government assumed office, the State had 2,032 Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)-registered startups. Today, the number has crossed 12,100, which is roughly a six-fold rise in just four years. It is a matter of pride that 50% of them are women-led. Tamil Nadu has been recognised as ‘Best Performer’ in the States’ Startup Ranking 2022 by the Union Government’s DPIIT, which is a move up from ‘Emerging State’ category in 2018. Chennai was ranked 18th in Asia in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2024, and among Asia’s top 10 for Affordable Talent. Tamil Nadu also leads the nation in the number of incubators and has been named a model State for the innovation ecosystem by the Atal Innovation Mission.

This is an outcome of a three-pillar strategy that the State has followed to facilitate startups and spark innovation. The first pillar is using State capital as a strategic catalyst. Through the Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED), seed grants of ₹10 lakh are provided to startups, and ₹15 lakh to women-led, green-tech and rural-livelihood ventures. So far, 169 startups such as Ippopay, Gallabox and Dream Aerospace have received ₹18.79 crore, which have gone on to attract more than ₹537 crore in investments — a 28X multiplier on the State’s seed rupee. We are extending this capital logic to frontier sectors. For instance, the Tamil Nadu Space Tech Fund of ₹10 crore offers milestone-based assistance up to ₹50 lakh on a 1:1 match with external investors, backing both core and downstream space applications, from satellites to Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven geospatial solutions. Focus on inclusion, gender parity. Our second pillar is employing principles of inclusion, and not as charity but strategy. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) Startup Fund, launched in 2022-23 with an initial ₹30 crore and enhanced to ₹50 crore in 2023-24, delivers equity investments to level the playing field. Forty-three startups such as OrbitAid, Unibose and TAMS Tribal Green Fuel have received ₹60.80 crore so far. We followed it up with the Periyar Social Justice Venture Lab — an acceleration programme designed to support social enterprises and empower entrepreneurs from SCs and STs. More than 30 such startups are already engaged, and the model is already yielding appreciable results with eight companies having successfully raised the next round of funding totalling ₹16.9 crore. We have focused

on gender parity through Thozhili bootcamps that have equipped over 200 women in Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Erode and Chennai — 15 women entrepreneurs received ₹14.70 lakh for incubation expenses. For physically challenged founders and transgender founders, Special Seed Grant Funds of up to ₹5 lakh with structured mentorship and incubation access have been established. For rural innovators, the Gramam Thorum Puthozhil scheme (Establishing Start-ups in Villages) has been implemented. The aim is to have 100 startups in 100 villages, using equity-free TANSEED grants of ₹1 lakh and incubation via regional hubs.

Our third pillar was building a decentralised and connected ecosystem. Ten regional hubs — Chennai, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Erode, Salem, Cuddalore, Hosur, Thanjavur, Coimbatore and Tiruchi — bring infrastructure, mentors and markets closer to entrepreneurs. A Metro Hub functions in Chennai, and Thoothukudi has been announced as the next addition. We are also creating the pipeline earlier with 100 Pre-Incubation Centres being rolled out in Tier-II/III/IV institutions. The first 25 have been sanctioned at ₹7.5 lakh each (total cost of ₹1.87 crore).

Digital rails tie these hubs together. MentorTN has onboarded 320 mentors and 1,171 startups and facilitated 1,120 hours of mentoring. TANFUND connects startups to capital with 300-plus investors and 2,500-plus entrepreneurs registered, 221 Investor Connect programmes conducted, 1,417 startup-investor connections and ₹127.09 crore raised so far. StartupTN is also a key partner in Naan Mudhalvan’s hackathon programme ‘Niral Thiruvizha’, through which we guide student projects toward becoming successful commercial startups. The collaboration connects academic and entrepreneurial ecosystems to help students develop technology-driven solutions for real-world problems.

We have complemented capital and infrastructure with tools that reduce friction and raise quality. The StartupTN Smart Card gives early-stage startups subsidised access to essential services, helping them save precious cash and scale faster. A bilingual call centre answers queries in Tamil and English, ensuring that first-time founders are not lost for want of information. Through BrandLabs, our ‘Nil-Brand-Sell’ course of 250 minutes in Tamil and English helps founders turn great products into credible brands. Our Corporate Innovation Initiative, through an Open Innovation portal, connects startups with large enterprises such as Bosch, Kauvery Hospitals, Hero MotoCorp, PayU, Pierer Innovation and Daimler India Commercial Vehicles among others, to solve real-world challenges. The results are visible, measurable and nationally acknowledged. What has changed in the last four years? The answer is systems, not slogans. We revitalised StartupTN, expanded it Statewide, and made inclusion the architecture of growth. We ensured that everyone could access the same rails of mentors, markets and money. Those who once left ideas behind now find a hand extended and a path ahead. We moved from ranking at the bottom to leading the table, from episodic initiatives to compounding institutions. We did not inherit a thriving startup engine. We built one. Global summit in Coimbatore The Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit (TNGSS) 2025, taking place in Coimbatore (October 9-10, 2025) is a milestone in our efforts. Over two days, it will bring together over 30,000 visitors, 2,000 delegates, and 750 exhibitors, creating a vibrant space for collaboration and growth. To ensure meaningful connections, we are deploying a first-of-its-kind AI-enabled matchmaking app to help every participant find the right partners, investors, or resources for their specific needs. The summit is also thoughtfully designed with inclusive infrastructure, including dedicated facilities such as feeding rooms and crèches to ensure a welcoming environment for women participants. Investors, founders, students and global leaders from 35 countries will join hands to shape the next chapter of Tamil Nadu’s startup story. From masterclasses by Google, Meta, Microsoft, and Harvard Innovation Labs to insights from leading unicorns and industry pioneers, every session will open new doors. With dedicated pavilions on space-tech, corporate innovation, power brands, and government partnerships, this summit is designed to connect you with opportunities, whether you are an entrepreneur, investor, policymaker, or student.

Why are the new rules for Panchayats in Odisha getting flak? | Explained

The story so far: The Mohan Majhi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Odisha announced the new Odisha Panchayat Samiti Accounting Procedure (Amendment) Rules, 2025, after state cabinet approval last month. However, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Congress have strongly criticised the amended rules, stating that it undermines people’s representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

What are the amended rules?

As per the amended rules, officials at the ground level will now enjoy greater financial authority to pass bills without requiring the counter-signature of elected representatives. Previously, Block Development Officers (BDOs) could clear bills only up to ₹2 lakh, with any amount above that needing the approval of the Panchayat Samiti chairman, an elected representative. Under the new provision, BDOs can independently sanction bills up to ₹10 lakh. Similarly, the power to grant administrative approval for Panchayat Samiti plans and estimates has been delegated to the Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad, a senior district-level bureaucrat, even though Zilla Parishads are headed by elected chairpersons. The amendment also expands the authority of engineers to accord technical sanction for larger development projects. Depending on their ranks, engineers can now clear projects ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹4 crore — a sharp rise from their earlier financial limits. Similarly, financial authority has been transferred to engineers in implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA), a central government scheme. Administrative approval powers have also been revised for general developmental schemes. BDOs can now approve projects up to ₹20 lakh, and Panchayat Samiti Chairpersons (elected representatives) up to ₹50 lakh.

What has the opposition said?

According to the government, these amendments will expedite bill processing, ensure timely approvals, and facilitate smooth implementation of developmental programmes across all Panchayat Samitis while retaining the supervisory role of the chairpersons. However, the BJD has alleged that the recent amendment was a conspiracy to downgrade the authority of elected representatives in PRIs on purely political grounds. In the 2022 rural polls, the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD had secured an emphatic victory, winning 766 of 853 Zilla Parishad seats with 52.73% of the



Why is the regional Biju Janata Dal party upset? Are bureaucrats getting power over elected representatives?

vote — nearly 90% of the total. Although panchayat elections are not contested on party symbols, BJD-backed candidates had virtually swept the polls across the State. The next panchayat elections are due in 2027. The BJP, buoyed by its unexpected triumph in both the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections of 2024, is under tremendous pressure to replicate that success at the grassroots level to consolidate its influence. Observers note that the BJP, through its control of the bureaucracy, can now implement development programmes without depending on PRI members — most of whom are aligned with the BJD.

Why is the BJD angry?

For the BJD, the issue goes beyond financial control or political leverage. The party contends that the BJP has sought to tamper with a legacy: the strengthening of the three-tier PRIs, a system nurtured by both the late Biju Patnaik and his son, Naveen Patnaik. Biju Patnaik was credited as the first Chief Minister in India to introduce 33% reservation for women in PRIs, later extending it to chairperson posts. Naveen Patnaik further raised this quota to 50% in 2012. The BJD has also objected to the rebranding of its flagship scheme Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha as Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha, with provisions substantially altered. Under the original scheme, each panchayat received ₹50 lakh, but allocations have now been reduced to just ₹7-8 lakh, the BJD said.

religion, caste and the never-ceasing struggle for livelihoods



The political dynamics in Seemanchal — encompassing the districts of Kishanganj, Purnia, and Katihar in Bihar — reveal a paradox. Its citizens, in one of India’s most backward regions, yearn for governance that will liberate them from cycles of dependence on weather and migration for a better living. But the demography of the place, the overarching influence of the Bharatiya Janata Party from the Centre, and the fragmented polity ensure that simple equations of communal and caste support continue to overdetermine electoral variables in the region. While livelihood issues remain the primary concern for working and underprivileged classes, the electoral landscape here is heavily influenced by a mix of identity politics, caste, and religion. The issue of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has loomed large over the region, though it has been handled to some extent. Anomalies caused by its hasty implementation were acknowledged by some Booth Level Officers (BLOs) but have since been corrected. For example, at Booth no 167 at the Upgraded Middle School in Dhobiniya West, Kishanganj Assembly constituency, close to 93% of those who were excluded were marked as dead. The BLO in charge of the booth said this anomaly had crept in because the reasons for omission were marked in a hurry, as there was little time left to verify the names of residents in the area, which included an itinerant tribal population. The BLO said the error was corrected subsequently, with many marked as “dead” changed to “permanently shifted”. The final roll published by the Election Commission of India does not contain the reasons, but mentions that five voters were added afresh to the roll. BLOs across booths, especially in those areas where women voters were disproportionately high among the exclusions, argued that this was done with the families’ consent as many young women had already registered in their spouses’ places and there were no undue or faulty deletions.

Still, the threat of disenfranchisement remains high for some residents who have been denied official documents since 2005. For instance, residents of an Iranian colony in Kishanganj, who asserted that they have lived in the area for generations since British rule, complained that many of them had received notices from the election officers citing inadequate documentation, even after enrolment in the SIR. Haider Ali, a resident, showed that his father held a passport and was enrolled in the 2003 voter list. He himself had other identity documents but received a notice from the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO). Other residents, including some with valid passports, had also received notices. Mr. Ali and a dozen others whose names were in the draft roll managed to be included in the final rolls, but he said there were over 200 people in the area who lack identification documents because of a dispute over their identity since 2005.

The travails faced by the Iran-origin residents of Kishanganj, who follow the Shia branch of Islam, were however an anomaly, said Tanzil Asif, the editor of Main Media news portal. He said that Muslim residents in the region had largely secured identification documents fearing harassment ever since the BJP had raked up the “outsiders-infiltrators” campaign. Senior Congress leader and Kadwa MLA Shakeel Ahmad Khan also noted that Muslims in Seemanchal, contrary to their diversity, have long been stereotyped, and with the BJP’s rule at the Centre, have become more proactive in equipping themselves with sufficient identification documents. The final voter list was uploaded on the website of the Bihar Chief Electoral Officer on September 30, but in largely illiterate areas, such as the flood-prone Sikorna village in Kadwa, there was little awareness of this, as residents awaited physical verification. Mr. Khan echoed his party leadership’s strong denunciation of the EC and the SIR process.

AIMIM entry Kishanganj, where nearly 70% of the population is Muslim, had offered a new dynamic in the 2020 Assembly election with the entry of the All India Majlis-e-

Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) into the fray in Seemanchal. While some AIMIM legislators had defected to the parties in the INDIA bloc after the polls, the “spoiler” factor of the party is still fresh in memory, especially among the Muslim community. Mr. Asif asserted that the AIMIM was not a significant force now and that its most well-known face, State secretary and Amour MLA Aktharul Iman, has largely held his own only due to his personal appeal. Mr. Iman refuted the allegation that his party was communal, saying that it functioned within constitutional boundaries and he himself, as a senior legislator, had always articulated the interests of not just Muslims, but of marginalised sections such as Dalits. He quoted numbers to suggest that parties such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal — to which he belonged before joining the AIMIM — paid little more than lip service to issues related to Muslims and had not provided commensurate representation to the community in contrast to the dominant Yadavs. Yet, he said, the AIMIM had sought to join the INDIA bloc to counter the majoritarianism of the BJP but it was the RJD and other parties that had shown little inclination to let them to do so. A former close associate of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Master Mujahid Alam, who defected from the Janata Dal (United) to the RJD earlier this year, now seeks to contest on an RJD ticket from Kochadaman. He dismissed the AIMIM threat and suggested that the party’s language, especially that of its leader Asaduddin Owaisi, was sharply communal and could polarise elections. This, he says, is why the INDIA bloc avoids them. Mr. Khan echoed this view, believing that the BJP’s fear-mongering about “infiltration” will ultimately drive long-term residents, including Bengali-speaking Muslims, from places like Kadwa, to continue to support his inclusive and secular views. The communalisation of politics is a clear undercurrent in Seemanchal. At the bustling Gulab Bagh market, farmers and traders expressed satisfaction with the Nitish Kumar government and the BJP, citing good roads, hospitals, and an airport in Purnia. A farmer, Krishnakant Yadav, confidently stated that aside from the “50% of Yadavs and Muslims”, everyone else would vote for the incumbent government, a sentiment echoed by trader Umesh Sahni, who asked rhetorically, “How much more development would residents want?”

A view of the Katihar railway station in Bihar. The people of Seemanchal, of which Katihar is a part, are yearning for development. However, a worker in the same market, Faraz Ahmad, discreetly disagreed, suggesting that voter support was not so straightforward, especially in constituencies like Amour, where voters were wary of the BJP and would likely back the Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance). Gauri Shankar Sah, a trader from Samastipur who had come to Purnia to sell his wares, added that while Seemanchal might see support split along communal lines, other parts of Bihar were more contested, with caste variables playing a more prominent role. His co-worker, Raj Kumar Sahni, emphasised that in places like Rupauli, held by Independent MLA Shankar Singh, local issues often trump broader narratives. The verdant villages of Katihar district promise an abundance of crops and food production to new eyes. But as we delve deeper into these villages, the extent of problems faced by residents in one of India’s most population-dense but backward regions is starkly visible. Villagers in Sikorna, Kadwa, where the Mahananda river flows, identify themselves as Shershahbadi, a Bengali-speaking Muslim community. The frequent flooding of the region has devastated village roads and wreaked havoc in the lives of the residents there, who angrily demanded that Mr. Khan respond to their requests for more development work. In nearby Bharri village, paediatrician Manvendra Nath Thakur pointed to severe issues in the region related to lack of diversity in the economy, corruption, and the regressive outcomes of prohibition, which had led to several youth and teenagers suffering from drug abuse, among others. All of these would be addressed only if the polity moved beyond issues related to identity

Erukala Woman’s House Demolished Despite High Court Stay: Tribal Leaders Seek Justice.“



“P.S.ASHOKAN”KARIMNGAR BUREAU””A major controversy has erupted in Manthani town of Peddapalli district after officials allegedly demolished the house of an Erukala tribal woman in defiance of the Telangana High Court’s interim stay order. Leaders of the Erukala community have appealed to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), urging immediate action against the officials responsible.””According to the complainant, Kurra Sarakka, wife of Kurra Lingayya, both belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (Erukala) community, the family had obtained all necessary building permissions and NOC from the Manthani Municipal and Revenue authorities. In February 2024, they also secured full approval through TS-bPASS

(Letter No. 367075/MANT/0011/2024) for the construction of a G + 1 residence on Survey No. 314 near Bokkala Vaagu within municipal limits.””Sarakka stated that despite a High Court interim order dated 30 October 2025 restraining authorities from taking any action, a team of officials led by Municipal Commissioner Manohar, Town-Planning Officer Ashok, Tahsildar Kumaraswamy, Revenue Inspector Anil Reddy, and police personnel headed by CI Raju and SI Sagar, allegedly acting on the instructions of District Collector Koya Sriharsha, arrived at her house around 5 a.m. on 31 October with nearly 30 police constables.””

“They took away our mobile phones, ignored my pleas, and forcibly shifted our family to the police station before razing the building to the ground,” Sarakka alleged, adding that the demolition caused an estimated loss of ₹1.35 crore and rendered her family homeless.””Community representatives condemned the incident as a “blatant violation of the court’s authority and an act of discrimination against a Scheduled Tribe family.” They demanded that the NCST order a full-fledged inquiry, initiate disciplinary and legal proceedings against the officials involved, and provide adequate compensation to the affected family.””Erukala Association leaders have also appealed to the State Government to uphold the dignity and rights of tribal citizens, calling the incident a “serious affront to constitutional justice.”

US, China seek to avoid trade war escalation, salvage Trump-Xi meeting in Malaysia talks



KUALA LUMPUR, -GNS News Agency,Nov 7 Top economic officials from the U.S. and China ended their first day of talks in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, with a Treasury spokesperson describing them as "very constructive".The world's two largest economies are looking to avert an escalation of their trade war and ensure that a meeting happens next week between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.The talks on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit will chart a path forward after Trump threatened new 100% tariffs on Chinese goods and other trade curbs starting on November 1, in retaliation for China's vastly expanded export controls on rare earth magnets and minerals.The recent actions, which also include an expanded U.S. export blacklist that covers thousands more Chinese firms, have disrupted a delicate trade truce crafted by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng over four previous meetings since May.

He smiled and waved to reporters but did not comment as the Chinese delegation left the venue for the talks, Kuala Lumpur's Merdeka 118 tower, the second-tallest building in the world.China's top trade negotiator Li Chenggang is also participating in the talks. A Reuters witness saw Li arriving alongside He earlier in the day.About the talks, a Treasury spokesperson said: "They have been very constructive, and we expect them to resume in the morning".The Malaysian government and the U.S. and Chinese sides have provided few details about the meeting or any plans to brief the media about outcomes.TALKING POINTS

The three officials will try to pave the way for Trump and Xi to meet next Thursday at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea, a high-stakes conversation that could revolve around some interim relief on tariffs, technology controls and Chinese purchases of U.S. soybeans.Minutes before the talks started, Trump left Washington for his tour of Asia and laid out several talking points for the meeting with Xi.He said farmers, hit by a Chinese freeze on U.S. soybean purchases, and the democratic is-

land of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, would be on the list of topics discussed. Trump added he does not have any plans to visit Taiwan.He also flagged the release of jailed Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai, whose case has become the most high-profile example of China's crackdown on rights and freedoms in the Asian financial hub."We have a lot to talk about with President Xi, and he has a lot to talk about with us. I think we'll have a good meeting," Trump said.Trump left Washington on Friday night for a five-day trip to Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, his first to the region and longest journey abroad since taking office in January.Aboard Air Force One, he told reporters that he would also like China to help Washington in its dealings with Russia.DELICATE BALANCEJosh Lipsky, international economics chair at the Atlantic Council in Washington, said Bessent, Greer and He must first find a way to mitigate their dispute over U.S. technology export curbs and China's rare earths controls, which Washington wants to reverse."I'm not sure the Chinese can agree to that. It's the primary leverage that they have," Lipsky said.Some of those announcements may fall to Trump, who is due to arrive in the Malaysian capital on Sunday."We won't know if Beijing has successfully counterbalanced the U.S.'s export controls with restrictions of their own or if they've induced a continuation of an escalatory spiral until Trump and Xi meet," said Scott Kennedy, a China economics expert at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies."If they make a deal, their gambit will have paid off. If there's no deal, then everyone will need to prepare for things to get much nastier."RARE EARTHSTRANGLEHOLDThe world's two largest economies are seeking to avoid a return of their tariff escalation to triple-digit levels on both sides.Bessent and Greer's first meeting with He in Geneva in May led to a 90-day truce, which brought down tariffs sharply to about 55% on the U.S. side and 30% on the Chinese side and restarted the flow of magnets. It was extended in subsequent talks in London and Stockholm and was due to expire on November 10.But the delicate truce frayed at the end of September, when the U.S. Commerce Department vastly expanded an export blacklist to automatically include firms more than 50% owned by companies already on the list, banning U.S. exports to thousands more Chinese firms.

China struck back with the new global rare earth export controls on October 10, aiming to prevent their use in military systems.Bessent and Greer blasted China's move as a "global supply chain power grab" and vowed the U.S. and its allies would not accept the restrictions. Reuters reported that the Trump administration is considering a plan to up the ante with curbs on a dizzying array of software-powered exports to China, from laptops to jet engines.The Trump administration added to the tension on Friday by announcing a new tariff probe into China's "apparent failure" to meet the terms of the 2020 U.S.-China "Phase One" trade agreement that halted their trade war during Trump's first term.Reporting by Xinghui Kok Rozanna Latiff and Danial Azahar in Kuala Lumpur and David Lawder, Trevor Hunnicutt and Steve Holland in Washington; Writing by David Lawder and Brenda Goh; Editing by Tom Hogue

Ontario premier provokes Trump's ire once again with Reagan ad

OTTAWA,GNS News Agency,Nov 7 - The premier of Canada's most populous province has again complicated the country's delicate trade negotiations with the U.S., this time with a political ad targeting Americans that has drawn the ire of U.S. President Donald Trump.The ad, commissioned by Doug Ford, Ontario's outspoken Conservative premier who is sometimes compared to Trump, uses a snippet of Republican icon and former President Ronald Reagan saying that tariffs cause trade wars and economic disaster.Read about innovative ideas and the people working on solutions to global crises with the Reuters Beacon newsletter. Sign up here.In a series of posts on Truth Social late on Thursday, Trump called the ad fraudulent, declaring that "ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED."

Prime Minister Mark Carney, unlike Ford, has sought to lower the temperature with Trump since taking office in March and had hoped for a deal to eliminate U.S. tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum imports.In March, Ford, who often sports a "Canada is not for sale" hat, threatened to implement a surcharge on energy going to several American states if the U.S. moved ahead with tariffs on steel and aluminum. Ford later relented, and the White House claimed victory, saying he had "Backed down."Ford said in a Friday statement that after discussions with Carney, Ontario would pause the U.S. advertising campaign on Monday so that trade talks could resume.But the disputed commercial will continue to air this weekend as the Toronto Blue Jays play in the first two games of the World Series, he added.Ford said the message has reached U.S. audiences "at the highest levels."Some analysts suggested that Ford's ad was only a pretext for Trump's outburst."Mr. Trump doesn't like to be confronted with the truth," said Asa McKercher, an expert in U.S.-Canada politics at St. Francis Xavier University. He said that the ad is an accurate representation of Reagan's views.Trump first saw the ad earlier in the week and said on Tuesday, "If I was Canada, I'd take that same ad also."McKercher said that Ford has often used his aggressive and populist style to appeal to American audiences in appearances on conservative-leaning outlets like Fox News, but that his latest ad may have misfired.The Canadian dollar weakened after Trump broke off trade talks, and Ontario is the province most impacted by auto and steel tariffs."When you use Ford's attack-dog approach, there's always a risk that you're going to get smacked," McKercher said, adding it would be Carney who might need to make concessions to get Trump back to trade negotiations.

Still, Ford's approach attracted some unusual support from politicians on the other side of the political spectrum.Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew, who heads the left-leaning New Democratic Party in the province, posted a message for his "good friend Doug Ford," calling on him to keep running the ads.Green Party leader Elizabeth May cheered "Go Doug Ford!" as she arrived at Parliament in Ottawa on Friday.Pollster Shachi Kurl, president of the Angus Reid Institute, said Ford has acted "as the more pugilistic foil" when the prime minister has adopted a more conciliatory approach to Trump, noting that "it's not a stance that generally hurts him (Ford)."In February, Ford handily won a rare third term as Ontario premier. Earlier this month, Ford said he confronted and threatened to beat up a suspected shoplifter at a Home Depot store, telling an audience at a Toronto club, "Screw this, I'm going after this guy."Trump previously called off trade talks with Canada in June, citing his objection to Canada's digital services tax. Carney rescinded the tax later that month.Under previous

Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit, influential style icon, dies at 93?



BANGKOK, GNS News Agency,Nov 7,Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit, who brought glamour and elegance to a postwar revival in the country's monarchy and who, in later years, would occasionally wade into politics, has died aged 93, the Thai Royal Household Bureau said on Saturday.The palace said she had been hospitalised since 2019 due to several illnesses and developed a bloodstream infection on October 17 before passing away late on Friday.A mourning period of one year has been declared for members of the royal family and household.

The government said public offices would fly flags at half-mast for a month and asked government officials to observe mourning for one year.Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul cancelled his trip to the ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur due to the Queen Mother's death. He told reporters he would travel to Malaysia to sign a ceasefire agreement with Cambodia on Sunday but return to Thailand afterwards.STYLE ICON WHO CHARMED THE WORLDSirikit's husband, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, was Thailand's longest-reigning monarch, with 70 years on the throne since 1946. She was at his side for much of that, winning over hearts at home with their charity work.When they travelled abroad, she also charmed the world's media with her beauty and fashion sense.

During a 1960 visit to the United States that included a state dinner at the White House, Time magazine called her "svelte" and "archfeminist." The French daily L'Aurore described her as "ravishing".Born in 1932, the year Thailand transitioned to a constitutional monarchy from an absolute monarchy, Sirikit Kitiyakara was the daughter of Thailand's ambassador to France and led a life of wealth and privilege.While studying music and language in Paris she met Bhumibol, who had spent parts of his childhood in Switzerland."It was hate at first sight," she said in a BBC documentary, noting that he had arrived late to their first

Thai PM to sign Cambodia ceasefire deal, cuts short ASEAN trip after royal death

KUALA LUMPUR, GNS News Agency,Nov 7 - Thailand's prime minister will travel to Malaysia on Saturday to sign a ceasefire deal with Cambodia and meet with U.S. President Donald Trump, but will cut short his attendance at the ASEAN Summit there due to the death of the Thai Queen Mother Sirikit.Foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were meeting on Saturday at the start of a weekend of global diplomacy in Kuala Lumpur, with teams from the United States and China holding trade talks alongside the summit.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Trump is due to arrive on Sunday morning for the first stop of his trip through Asia, and was set to watch Cambodia and Thailand sign a broader ceasefire deal after he helped broker an end to a deadly five-day border conflict in July.Dozens of people were killed and around 300,000 were temporarily displaced in the most intense fighting between the Southeast Asian neighbours in recent history.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul will arrive in Malaysia on Saturday night and attend the opening ceremony of the ASEAN summit on Sunday, the Thai government said in a statement, after earlier signalling he might have to miss the whole event.He will then have a meeting with Trump where they will discuss economic issues, security and regional development, ahead of the signing ceremony of the ceasefire deal, which is being brought forward so that Anutin can return to Bangkok on Sunday."Thailand has recently received several requests for bilateral meetings at the leadership level, which will lead to the development of cooperation in various areas, including the economy, security, and trade," Anutin said.Earlier he said he would miss next week's APEC Summit in South Korea due to the death in the royal family.ASEAN, at its annual meeting, plans to press for trade multilateralism and deeper ties with new partners, while managing the fallout from Trump's global tariff offensive.It will also welcome East Timor, Asia's youngest nation, as its 11th member.Alongside the regional talks, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will hold a round of trade talks with a Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier He Lifeng.

Trump returns to Asia for ASEAN summit amid trade, security talks

Kuala Lumpur: Southeast Asian foreign Ministers held talks Saturday ahead of a landmark ASEAN summit that will formally welcome East Timor as the bloc's 11th member and mark US President Donald Trump's first trip to Asia since returning to the White House.The meeting serves as a curtain-raiser for the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit, which starts on Sunday in Kuala Lumpur, followed by two days of high-level engagements with key partners, including China, Japan, India, Australia, Russia, South Korea and the U.S.Leaders are expected to focus on regional security, economic resilience, and maritime disputes, with US tariffs and shifting global trade patterns looming large over discussions.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan cautioned his counterparts that "the turbulence of global politics will surely continue to cast a long shadow over our region in the years ahead.""As the international landscape becomes increasingly dominated by contestation rather than consensus, division rather than dialogue, ASEAN finds itself at a crossroads," he said."Our space for neutrality and centrality is narrowing, particularly in areas such as trade, technology and regional security arrangement," he said."We must continue to act as the speakers and not the spoken for."A separate leaders summit of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership — the world's largest trade

meeting. "Then it was love."The couple spent time together in Paris and were engaged in 1949. They married in Thailand a year later when she was 17.Always stylish, Sirikit collaborated with French couturier Pierre Balmain on eye-catching outfits made from Thai silk. By supporting the preservation of traditional weaving practices, she is credited with helping revitalise Thailand's silk industry.CHAMPIONED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For more than four decades, she frequently travelled with the king to remote Thai villages, promoting development projects for the rural poor - their activities televised nightly on the country's Royal Bulletin.She was briefly regent in 1956, when her husband spent two weeks in a temple, studying to become a Buddhist monk in a rite of passage common in Thailand.In 1976, her birthday, August 12, became Mother's Day and a national holiday in Thailand.Her only son, now King Maha Vajiralongkorn, also known as Rama X, succeeded Bhumibol after his death in 2016 and upon his coronation in 2019, Sirikit's formal title became the Queen Mother.Officially, the monarchy is above politics in Thailand, whose modern history has been dominated by coups and unstable governments. On occasion though, the royals including Sirikit have either intervened or taken actions seen as political.In 1998, she used her birthday address to urge Thais to unite behind the then-prime minister, Chuan Leekpai, dealing a crippling blow to an opposition plan to hold a no-confidence debate in the hope of forcing a new election.Later, she became associated with a political movement, the royalist People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), whose protests brought down governments led by or allied to Thaksin Shinawatra, a populist former telecoms tycoon.In 2008, Sirikit attended a funeral of a PAD protester killed in clashes with police, implying royal backing for a campaign that had helped oust a pro-Thaksin government a year earlier.For many Thais, she will be remembered for her charitable work and a symbol of maternal virtue. Her death will be treated with reverence in a country where any criticism is held at bay by strictly enforced lese-majeste laws, which prescribe potential prison sentences for insulting royals, even those who are dead.The government has requested the private sector to modify festive events to align with the national mourning period. K-pop group Blackpink, which includes one Thai member, will go ahead with scheduled concerts this weekend, with organisers asking concertgoers to dress in black and white as a mark of respect.On Saturday, mourners dressed in black gathered in front of Chulalongkorn Hospital where Sirikit had died."When I learned the news, my world stopped and I had flashes from the past of all the things that Her Majesty has done for us," said 67-year-old Bangkok resident Maneenat Laowaler.



The world's two biggest economies are looking to find a way forward after Trump threatened new 100% tariffs on Chinese goods and other trade curbs starting November 1 in retaliation for China's vastly expanded export controls on rare earth magnets and minerals.World leaders, including Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa and Japan's newly elected Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, will join Trump at the summit on Sunday.The U.S. president is expected to hold a highly anticipated meeting with Lula on the sidelines of the summit, although the talks are still unconfirmed.Lula said he plans to argue that the 50% tariffs imposed by Washington on Brazilian goods were a "mistake", citing a \$410 billion U.S. trade surplus with Brazil over 15 years.Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on his way to Asia that he would consider reducing tariffs on Brazil under the right circumstances.Trump stated that he does not intend to hold a similar meeting with Carney and that he is "satisfied with the deal we have" with Canada.Trade talks with Canada, the United States' second-largest trading partner, were abruptly cut off over an advertisement issued by Ontario's provincial government that featured former U.S. President Ronald Reagan saying tariffs cause trade wars and economic disaster.

Nitish-niti: What this moment means for the Bihar CM, his party



It was an uncharacteristic sop, considering Nitish Kumar, while a proponent of state-led welfare schemes, has in the past publicly opposed the language of freebies and direct doles, making it clear that he preferred the subsidy model instead. Critics of the government saw in the announcement a sign of desperation — that the Chief Minister, after almost two decades in power, was no longer his own man. His health, after all, has been the topic of conversation, anti-incumbency was a real fear, and his alliance partner, the BJP, after years of snapping at his heels, seemed to be catching up. Yet, those close to him cite the free electricity announcement to say that Nitish is very much in control. A source close to the CM House explains, “The scheme was, in fact, the BJP’s idea, which his bureaucrats too backed. The CM agreed, but gave his own value-addition to the scheme — that consumers can also opt to install solar panels on their rooftops. For extremely poor families, the government will bear the entire cost, and for the rest, the government will provide appropriate support. He insisted on the solar panel idea so that the burden of the free scheme on the state exchequer would be eased over time.”

Over the past two decades, Nitish has led the JD(U) in four Lok Sabha elections and as many in the state. Irrespective of which way the results went, there has been one constant: Nitish as Chief Minister. He has walked between alliances with the ease of a man crossing a familiar path, each time underlining his worth to his allies and rivals. But this time could be different. At 74, Nitish is visibly slowing down. The man, known to be alert and cautious and with an enviable grasp on facts and figures, often trails off mid-sentence. His interactions with journalists at his Vidhan Sabha office, a regular feature during Assembly sessions, have been curtailed since 2019, and he has shunned media interviews. Two decades is a long time by any measure, but most certainly for politics. As Nitish Kumar prepares to take the field for another campaign, around him, much has changed. A generational shift When Nitish began his first big term in 2005, he was up against Lalu Prasad and his quint-essential family politics that had come to define Bihar. Law-and-order and patronage in governance were the biggest talking points. So Nitish, who had positioned himself as an antidote, put his head down and worked on getting the basics right: roads, schools and hospitals, law and order. The state budget rose from Rs 25,000 crore under the RJD rule to over Rs 1 lakh crore in a matter of few years and now stands at Rs 3.17 lakh crore. The road network in the state went up from 14,468 km in 2005 to 26,000 km in 2025.

But now, as Bihar votes on November 6 and 11, he will have to convince an entire generation of young voters, who have never seen or would have no memory of the Lalu-Rabri regime, that he continues to be their best bet. He will have to work hard to dial down the hope that his opponent Tejashwi Yadav’s employment promises may have stirred in this segment, explain to them how he once redefined the state’s politics, how he moved away from the RJD’s politics that revolved around identity and the *lalten* (lantern, the RJD’s symbol) to a strong welfare model that focused on

education for girls, women’s empowerment and grassroots governance. This generation of young voters, those in the 20-29 age group, has gone up from 15.5% of the population in 2006 to 18.9% in 2026 (based on Census projection data). Meanwhile, there has been a generational shift in Nitish’s rival camp too, with his old foe’s son Tejashwi Yadav projecting himself and the RJD-led Opposition bloc as a youth-led alternative. The Leader of the Opposition has promised that if the Mahagathbandhan came to power, it would ensure a government job for a member of every family in the state. As Nitish Kumar prepares to take the field for another campaign, around him, much has changed. As Nitish Kumar prepares to take the field for another campaign, around him, much has changed. JD (U) chief spokesperson Neeraj Kumar says the party, too, has been reaching out to the youth. “We opened an engineering college in each of the 38 districts. We set up a Youth Commission to identify the problems of the youth and suggest measures to resolve those. We are also giving a monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 to those between 18 and 25 years for two years, besides running a credit card scheme for students of professional courses by giving them loans of up to Rs 4 lakh on a 4% interest rate,” he says.

Ashwani Kumar, leading social scientist and professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, says whether this generational shift works for or against Nitish remains to be seen. “Indeed, Bihar has changed beyond recognition. Yet, Nitish Kumar’s political dilemma in 2025 remains as much generational as ideological. The development-centric Vikas model that transformed Bihar in 2005 now demands an upgrade — a shift from vernacular modernity to an aspirational, cosmopolitan Vikas Plus. He will have to meet the aspirations of a state with one of India’s largest millennial and Gen Z populations. Nitish, the most unusual socialist and Mandal-era wizard, is making a careful effort to emotionally reconnect with this restless generation.” RJD national spokesperson Subodh Kumar Mehta says it was Lalu’s “social investments, which led to a greater participation of the weaker sections in the decision-making processes, that paved the way for Nitish Kumar.” People expected Nitish to carry forward the idea of social empowerment and economic development. Nitish peaked in 2010 but post 2010, his image as a pan-India leader got dented on various fronts,” he says. When Nitish came in, he was a leader without a caste bloc while Lalu’s politics coalesced around his unbeatable Muslim-Yadav social base. Nitish sensed an opportunity. With some deft calculations, he rearranged the existing pieces of the caste puzzle to carve out a new base for himself — the Extremely Backward Classes as a subset of non-Yadav OBCs, Mahadalits and women.

Through a mix of political messaging and targeted welfare schemes such as 50% reservation in panchayats, the free bicycle scheme and prohibition, Nitish assiduously cultivated the women vote — an effort that paid off as women came out in huge numbers to vote. From 2010 onwards, in a reversal of voting trends until then, female voter turnout in Bihar has consistently outstripped the male turnout. According to Election Commission data, in 2015, for example, 60.5% of women voted compared to 53.6% of men. “Nitish Kumar’s strength is his caste-neutral constituency of women, consolidated through 50% quota in panchayats, the formation of 11 lakh self-help groups with 1.4 crore Jeevika workers, and the Rs-10,000 assistance to 1.21 crore women entrepreneurs. Plus, girls from Class 1 to postgraduate levels get free education in the state; we give Class 9 girls — now also to boys — free bicycles. Tejashwi envies this constituency, cultivated very meticulously by Nitish,” says another JD (U) leader. While the JD(U) may be confident about the women vote, it’s the EBC plank that has chipped away since the 2010 Assembly elections,

when the NDA ended up with 206 of 243 seats — the first vindication of Nitish’s social engineering project.

Since then, several top EBC and Mahadalit leaders have left his ranks — from top EBC leader and former MP Mangani Lal Mandal, who is now RJD state president, to prominent Dalit leaders Uday Narayan Choudhary and former minister Shyam Rajak (now in the RJD). While the JD(U) has worked to retain the EBCs and Mahadalits, who together form around 20% of the population, with land and vocational training schemes, the Opposition camp, too, has been wooing them. In the 2020 polls, when the JD(U) won only 43 out of the 115 seats it contested, it lost from over three dozen seats that had a substantial EBC and SC population. A JD(U) leader explains: “Till the 2010 Assembly elections, JD(U) was the main stakeholder of EBC votes. But with the rise of Narendra Modi since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has also been getting a substantial chunk of EBC votes. Nitish’s core constituency of OBC Luv-Kush (Kurmi-Koeri) also saw cracks in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls when the Mahagathbandhan cut away Koeri votes by fielding seven candidates from the social group.” Besides, his old team of political advisors — former bureaucrat N K Singh, former MP Shivanand Tiwari (now in the RJD), and veteran socialists such as K C Tyagi and the late Sharad Yadav — has made way for a different set of people. Many old-timers in the party point to the appointment of Sanjay Kumar Jha, a former BJP man who is now the JD(U)’s national working president, as evidence of how far the party has left its socialist background behind. Kartikeya Batra, Assistant Professor (Economics) at Azim Premji University who is currently researching Bihar election trends, says, “It is a fair point that EBCs and Mahadalits may not have received fair representation in jobs, politics and other positions of power (during Nitish’s terms). For instance, as per one analysis, in Bihar’s current Assembly, a little over 10% MLAs belong to the (non-Muslim) EBC category, which is much lower than their population share. However, does that mean that JD(U)’s pro-EBC and pro-Mahadalit politics has failed? I would say that ensuring empowerment among marginalised communities is an incremental process. The first step was to ensure basic public goods such as law and order, education and healthcare. Maybe not fully, but that has happened over the last two decades.” On whether the current set of policy priorities have reached a point of saturation, Batra says: “The next obvious aspiration among these social groups will be to occupy positions of power. This does give other parties an opening, but cannot negate what CM Nitish Kumar has done for them in the past.” The indispensable Mr Kumar Nitish Kumar’s JD(U) was the number one party in 2010 (115 seats), number two in 2015 (71 seats, when he was part of the Mahagathbandhan) and number three party in 2020. Despite this apparent slide, Nitish went on to become CM each time. His numbers did not matter, what mattered was which side he chose. The BJP tried its best to decode this “Nitish factor”, but failed. In 2015, with Nitish out of the NDA, the BJP in Bihar had hoped to ride on the Modi wave that brought it to power in the 2014 general elections. But despite a high-pitched campaign by PM Modi, the Mahagathbandhan, of which Nitish was a part then, won 178 of 243 seats and rode to power. Nitish had proved that he held the key to the power cabinet. Nitish walked in and out of the NDA some more, before finally coming back in January 2024. “After Nitish made sure that the BJP had learnt its lesson — that they had no life without him — we returned to the NDA fold on our terms, getting the best ministries,” says a JD (U) source. But with the BJP on a much surer footing since then, Nitish has been looking increasingly vulnerable within the alliance. In the 2020 elections, the JD(U) contested on 115 seats, but won only 43, while the BJP had a much better strike rate (it won 91 of the 102 seats it contested).

Jobs, palayan, and the weight of being a Bihari: Aboard a train full of migrants going home for Chhath Puja

The Amrit Bharat Express that leaves Delhi’s Anand Vihar station in the afternoon and arrives in Motihari in Bihar the next morning is packed to the brim. Every year, as Chhath Puja nears, trains headed east overflow with migrants returning home. This one is no exception. In the sleeper coach, it takes nearly 15 minutes to push through the narrow aisle to the berth. Sacks, suitcases, plastic buckets, cardboard boxes filled with pressure cookers, and utensils lie strewn around. The only way to move luggage is to balance it on the head and squeeze sideways. In the compartment where this reporter has a reservation, 15 adults and seven children share eight seats. The floor and berths are cluttered with bags and new purchases — mixies, dinner sets, blankets — all gifts to take home. Some passengers have no option but to stand through the night. Yet, there isn’t a word of complaint. “Arey kono baat naikhe, sab kehu adjust ho jai. Chhath ba (This is no problem, we can adjust to anything, this is Chhath after all),” a man says cheerfully, giving up his berth for the children.

Bihar Assembly elections, Bihar Assembly polls, Amrit Bharat Express, Chhath Puja, train full of migrants going home for Chhath Puja, train of migrants going home for Chhath Puja, Indian express news, current affairs Passengers huddled near the toilet As the train pulls out, the chatter begins: about how impossible it is to get a ticket home, not just during Chhath but through the year. That soon turns into grumbling about the filthy condition of trains. However, the blame falls not on the Railways, but passengers themselves. “Stuff a train with Biharis and they’ll make it dirty,” a man jokes. “The dirtiest trains are the ones going to Bihar.” His friend nods. “And Chirag Paswan keeps saying ‘Bihar First, Bihari First’. First teach Biharis some civic sense.” The jokes have an edge. They come from a place of shame, not arrogance. Beneath the laughter runs the shared knowledge of palayan, migration, the word that defines modern Bihar and now shapes its politics.

Sitting on the floor near a toilet between a coach and the pantry car are Ramesh Sah, a Bania (OBC) by caste, and Ravikant Pandit, a Kumhar Prajapati (EBC), both in their fifties and both from Chiraiya in Motihari. They work in Haryana and are on their way home for the festival. “What has any government done for people like us?” asks Sah. “If they had, I wouldn’t be sitting between two coaches like this. Governments will come and go, and will keep travelling like this.” Bihar Assembly elections, Bihar Assembly polls, Amrit Bharat Express, Chhath Puja, train full of migrants going home for Chhath Puja, train of migrants going home for Chhath Puja, Indian express news, current affairs Passengers huddled near the toilet Pandit nods, “Everything in Bihar is good. Only migration is the big problem. No party has solved it, no party will. You need a leader like Yogi Adityanath who does what he says.” In another coach, 25-year-old Vijay Thakur, who works as a barber in Gurgaon, sits on the floor near a toilet. For him, migration is not a

political failure but a social one. “My brothers migrated in the 2000s, then I joined them. The problem isn’t politicians, it’s us. We can’t rise above caste, so no leader feels the need to change anything.”

Between coaches S2 and S3, two young men stand clutching their bags. Mohammed Jehangir and Saheb Alam, marble polishers in Delhi, are from Awasani in West Champaran. They have been working outside Bihar since 2014. “There are no jobs at home. I have six brothers, all in different cities,” says Jehangir. More than the physical hardship, what weighs heavily are the slights they face for being a Bihari in another state. Mukesh Sah, a 30-year-old auto driver from Piprakothi in Motihari, sits in the aisle and is forced to get up every time someone heads to the bathroom. “I live with four others in one small room near Kailash Colony (in Delhi). In my village, I wouldn’t tie my buffalo in that space. But the landlord earns lakhs just because he was born in the right place.”

Bihar Assembly elections, Bihar Assembly polls, Amrit Bharat Express, Chhath Puja, train full of migrants going home for Chhath Puja, train of migrants going home for Chhath Puja, Indian express news, current affairs Ramesh Sah and Ravikant Pandit He pauses as another passenger squeezes past him. “Ask anyone in this train how we’re treated in Delhi. ‘Bihari’ is used as an abuse. But we bear it for our families.” When someone jokes that he can soon go home faster on a bullet train. Mukesh laughs. “Bullet train? We’ll still be sitting in the aisle! No one, (PM) Modi or Nitish (CM Nitish Kumar), has done anything for migrants. That’s why people want change now. Yogi ji should contest from Bihar.” In the adjacent coach, Anil Kumar Yadav, a 26-year-old factory worker in Haryana, has similar complaints. “My supervisor calls me ‘Ae Bihari!’ I told him, I don’t call you ‘Ae Haryanvi’. Don’t I have dignity? They employ us because we work hard, but still treat us as somehow less.” The conversation soon turns towards the elections, as naturally as the train rattling over the tracks. “Only in Bihar do people worship the setting sun,” Yadav says, drawing political symbolism from the Chhath Puja rituals. “That’s why Nitish keeps winning.”

Yadav calls himself a Lalu Prasad loyalist — credits the RJD leader with giving dignity to the lower castes — but adds, “He never developed Chhapra. Modi at least takes all investments to Gujarat.” He talks of Bihar’s glorious past — Nalanda, Aryabhata — and wonders why no one builds on it. “Look at Haryana. Gurgaon is like Dubai! Cyber Hub shines like pearls. If they can do it there, why can’t Bihar? Bihar isn’t poor, its governments are.”

However, not everyone agrees. Ramesh Mahato and Vijay Sah, both auto drivers in Delhi, argue over Nitish Kumar’s record. “He’s done good work — roads, electricity, peace,” says Mahato, a steady NDA voter. Sah shakes his head. “Not voting for him this time.” Why? “Because of



darubandi (liquor ban).” But isn’t Prohibition a good thing? “Good? Liquor is available everywhere. Only costlier now. Jan Suraj is saying they’ll lift it, and all those who drink will vote for them — 75% of men in Bihar drink,” Sah says. Jehangir, the marble polisher, is impressed with Jan Suraj because of its founder Prashant Kishor, the strategist-turned-politician. “He talks sense. Very sharp, no journalist can stand before him. He’s quick with replies, like Owaisi (AIMIM chief).” Still, he says he’ll vote for RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, not Kishor. Yet, Kishor’s shadow looms large on the train. Byas Sah and Luv Kumar, painters from Bettiah who are returning from Panipat, say people in their village discuss Kishor often. “We watch his speeches on YouTube. People like the issues he raises,” says Byas. The two debate his promise to end Prohibition and generate jobs. “Maybe that’ll help,” hopes Luv, who says he will vote for the BJP. But their fellow traveller Jeetendra Kumar, 21, interrupts: “That will destroy Bihar!” Byas shrugs. “At least he’s talking about migration. He says every youth will earn Rs 10-12,000 in Bihar itself. Maybe then this tyranny — travelling like packed sardines — and the humiliation we face in cities will end.” In the next coach, Ravi Jha, a young man from Sitamarhi, says his family has always voted for the BJP, but adds he will vote for the RJD. Not because he sees great promise in Tejashwi, but because he does not like the BJP candidate who is a Telugu (OBC), while the RJD candidate is a Rajput. Further down, carpenters Ram Avtar Paswan from Ramnagar and Imamul Hussain from Bagaha share a single berth. Paswan, a Dalit, supports the BJP. “It’s a dabang (fearless) party,” he says with pride. Hussain, who backs the RJD, bursts out laughing. “Dabang? What will they do, beat up those who don’t vote for them? Power doesn’t win votes; money does. The Rs 10,000 given to women will decide the election.” Paswan grins. “Why? Won’t Hindu-Muslim politics help the BJP win? Soon, the polls will be polarised and all Hindus will vote in favour of the BJP.” At that moment, the train jerks violently and halts. “Puncture to nahi ho gayi? Ja ke check karna. Tumko to aata hai (Has there been a puncture? Go check, you know how to do it).” Paswan jokes, nudging Hussain.

Late-career impasse: making sense of the Shami situation



Very few fast-bowlers age successfully. Their wicket-taking nous and cognitive abilities may remain intact, but so extreme are the fitness demands that once they are on the wrong side of 30, bodies tend to fragment and physical frailties become all the more evident. It is no surprise then that in the list of the top-15 cricketers with the longest Test careers, there are only two out-and-out pacemen — James Anderson and Imran Khan. Challenging period

Mohammed Shami, 35, will not join those two illustrious men, with more than 1,000 wickets between them, in that roll of honour, but ever since he made his much-awaited comeback last November after a year-long absence because of an ankle injury, his main focus has been to successfully age. There appears to be a consistent desire to create meaning from whatever is left of his cricketing life even as he comes to terms with the inevitable bodily vulnerabilities.

There has, however, been one major obstacle — India’s selectors are unmoved. While the T20I boat has admittedly sailed past Shami after a below-par IPL (six wickets from nine matches at an economy-rate of 11.23 for Sunrisers Hyderabad), the Bengal quick’s non-inclusion in the touring party to Australia for the ongoing three-match ODI series, despite his prominent role in India’s 2025 Champions Trophy-winning side, would have hurt. His fortunes in Test whites were dealt body blows when he was selected neither for the two multi-day matches India-A played against Australia-A in September nor for the upcoming twin fixtures against South Africa-A. The opening Test of India’s two-match series against South Africa at his beloved Eden Gardens on November 14 thus looks like an unattainable dream. All of which has now given rise to the question of whether Shami still has something to offer the Indian team and if the think-tank still sees value in the speed merchant who, not so long ago, bamboozled batters with his skiddy pace, impeccable skill and inch-perfect control. For one, Shami seems to be suffering from a lack of game-time in red-ball cricket, something chief selector Ajit Agarkar pointed out when the squad for the two-Test series against the West Indies was announced. Since the World Test Championship final against Australia in June 2023, Shami has played one Ranji Trophy match versus Madhya Pradesh in November 2024, one Duleep Trophy encounter for East Zone versus North in August and last week’s Ranji game versus Uttarakhand. “He has not played a lot of cricket,” Agarkar said. “In the last two-three years, I think he has played one match for Bengal and one match in the Duleep Trophy. So, as a performer, we know what he can do. But, he will need to play something.” But it is equally true that he has been a victim of circumstances. After the successful Champions Trophy sojourn, Shami played a full IPL. The Duleep Trophy was his next stop but the tournament’s knockout format meant that the pacer could play just one tie as East Zone crashed out in the quarterfinal. In fact, in that one outing, Shami, watched by selectors Shiv Sunder Das, and Subroto Banerjee and S. Sharath (both of whom have since vacated their positions), gave a decent account of himself despite not bowling at full throttle. He sent down 34 overs in all, troubled batters with his seam movement and lift, and, in a throwback to his menacing past, struck Kanhaiya Wadhawan once on the glove and then on the helmet, off back-to-back deliveries. In the recent eight-wicket win over Uttarakhand, he was the Player of the Match (3/37 in 14.5 overs & 4/38 in 24.4 overs). Handbrake off

For Shami to attract the selectors’ gaze, he perhaps needs to do more than this. It may help — and even liberate — him that he would not be required to hold himself back in the fear of getting injured again, for this may well be his last roll of the dice. “He is a guy who has performed when he has been provoked, and shown intensity and focused harder if he has been challenged and kind of chided... that’s the kind of personality Shami is,” former India batter W.V. Raman, who has seen Shami at close quarters during his coaching stints with Bengal, told The Hindu. “So, I think this is perhaps something that he will take as extreme provocation and maybe force his way back into the side and perform extraordinarily.” This, in turn, will depend on two things. In the event Shami regains his old magic, would the Indian management like to ration his time as a lead pacer the way it does with Jasprit Bumrah? Does it view Shami’s inclusion as a hindrance to the development of a young pace bowler? The decision-makers’ thinking, at least in the second matter, is evidently clear. Khaleel Ahmed (27 years), Punjab’s Gurnoor Brar (25), who was in the Rest of India team for the Irani Cup, and Vidarbha’s Yash Thakur (26), who won the Ranji Trophy last season, all found a place in the India-A squad that played Australia-A, and are also part of the roster that will take on South Africa-A. With Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep part of the first-choice attack, and the likes of Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh already among the back-ups, it does leave Shami with very little room. Moreover, India is pencilled in to play just three Tests in the first nine months of 2026 — one versus Afghanistan at home and two away in Sri Lanka — before it travels to New Zealand for two more. As a result, ODIs might be where Shami finds his opportunities, with the 2027 World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia a good target to aim at. The 50-over format is where he has left his deepest imprint in recent times, setting the 2023 World Cup on fire with a tournament-high 24 wickets from seven matches at an average of 10.70 and then winning the 2025 Champions Trophy. In the UAE, Shami became the fastest Indian bowler to get to 200 ODI wickets (104 matches) and was the second-quickest internationally, behind Australian left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc (102). It is perhaps instructive that, in August, Shami said that winning the 2027 edition was the “only dream left”, and as recently as last week, with reference to his non-selection for the Australia tour, caustically remarked: “If I can play four-dayers [Ranji Trophy], I can also play 50-overs cricket.”

Will he, won’t he?

“It’s all a question of timing,” said Raman when asked if 2027 was a realistic target. “A lot of factors will be at play, but it’s definitely something that cannot be ruled out. Especially [with respect to] fast-bowling, because, of late, there has been a great need for fast-bowlers. “I’m sure that he will fancy his chances, given that he’s done it over a period of time and he knows, perhaps, that he can maintain the fitness that is required. It will be challenging no doubt because beyond a certain stage, every year that passes in your life is going to be challenging.”

Trans people deserve better



As both a trans woman and a woman, I have come to understand that policy is not an abstract document drafted in bureaucratic chambers; it is the scaffolding of our lives. For gender minorities, whose existence is often questioned or ridiculed, the absence of inclusive, enforceable, and humane policy is not just a governance gap; it is a denial of dignity. Families may abandon us, schools may shut their doors, and workplaces may feign diversity while keeping us at the margins. Gender transition is expensive and requires resources most cannot access. The cost of abandonment, coupled with hunger, often leaves little choice but to walk into situations that endanger dignity and safety. A hungry body rarely waits for laws to catch up; it succumbs to survival. Hollow quotas Governments announce quotas for employment, education, housing, and welfare initiatives. But the reality is one of selective dispersal, corruption, and bureaucratic gatekeeping. One only needs to ask how many trans persons have genuinely benefited from these quotas to see the distance between promise and practice. I recall standing in a queue outside a government office, forms filled in triplicate, my gender identity scrutinised with voyeuristic curiosity rather than bureaucratic neutrality. A quota that exists on paper but requires humiliation to access is not empowerment, it is entrapment.

Beyond the corridors of policy lies the texture of daily life. Try finding a home for rent as a transwoman and you will encounter the labyrinth of prejudice. Landlords hesitate, neighbours whisper, and societies form silent barricades. Housing, a basic marker of stability, becomes a privilege denied. Even public spaces are fraught with ridicule. On buses, people stare and snigger; in markets, whispers follow every step. For many trans persons, the act of boarding a train or buying vegetables is an exercise in courage. To present one's strongest self while enduring relentless humiliation is nothing short of heroic. Yet, policy has not caught up with the reality that safety in public spaces is as much a right as food or shelter. History shows us the cost of systemic exclusion. When African-Americans were denied civil rights, democracy in the U.S. was hollow. When

women were denied the vote, half the world was relegated to second-class. The denial of rights to gender minorities is a repetition of history's cruellest errors. Every time a trans person is denied education, a scientist is lost. Every time a trans person is denied housing, an artist is displaced. Every time a trans person is ridiculed in public, a leader is silenced. Policy cannot remain something done for us; it must be done with us. For too long, gender minorities have been treated as passive recipients of government benevolence rather than active participants in shaping priorities. Representation in politics is not symbolic — it is structural. Without trans voices in Parliament, State Assemblies, and municipal councils, our realities remain footnotes in files rather than the focus of legislation. When decisions about housing, healthcare, or education are made without us, they reproduce the blind spots of privilege. Urgent priorities The first is education, including scholarships, inclusive curricula, and anti-discrimination protocols. A child bullied out of school is not just a statistic; she is a future cut short. The second is to provide affordable, state-supported gender transition and mental health care. Transitioning is not cosmetic; it is survival. The third is employment and housing. Anti-discrimination laws, rental protections, and workplace inclusivity must be enforced with penalties. Representation must translate into payrolls and property deeds. All these are non-negotiable foundations of equality. A nation that sidelines its gender minorities sidelines its own potential. The measure of society is not how it treats its powerful but how it safeguards its vulnerable. Denial of human rights is not merely a trans issue; it is a national issue. By excluding us, India loses talent, creativity, and the unique perspectives diversity brings. Consider the flourishing of arts, sciences, and reform whenever societies widened their embrace. When women entered universities, medicine advanced. When Dalits entered legislatures, democracy deepened. When LGBTQ+ persons are allowed to live openly, culture and business innovated with vitality. India cannot aspire to global leadership while silencing voices at home that seek nothing more radical than the right to live with dignity. As a trans woman, I am reminded daily that resilience is our inheritance, but resilience cannot substitute for rights. Policy must bridge the chasm between personal courage and systemic support. Without it, we remain trapped in cycles of abandonment and ridicule. And most importantly, without seats for us in political chambers and decision-making forums, every law will remain about us but never truly with us. Inclusion in politics is not tokenism; it is the very architecture of justice. The censor board passes derogatory content about us, but a trans person has never been appointed to a mass-media board. Policy is not paperwork. Policy is life. Until gender minorities are woven into its fabric and its political debates with sincerity, our nation will remain a patchwork of promises rather than a tapestry of justice.

Inside Bengaluru's private schools: How workplace hierarchies are impacting teacher well-being



Largely characterised by the model of missionary founded schools which existed as the first private schools in the city, Bengaluru's mid-range to high-income private schools continue to be the benchmark of 'quality education' for most urban middle-class parents. This image, now more than a few decades in the making, finds its place amongst a larger nation-wide phenomenon of commercialised private schooling that is characterised by similar features across infrastructural and intellectual factors. The private schooling phenomenon, as it were, has been highlighted by scholars who suggest that the growing perception of good education continues to attract the middle-class to elite sections of parents for whom private schooling whether mid-range or high-income is the norm. India's private school sector is the 3rd largest school system in the world just behind China's school system and India's Public Education System. Some 73% of students in urban areas attend a private school.

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) posits private schools as one of the key examples of educational development that should be emulated in public schools. It proposes a twin-development model by which simultaneous advancement of both private and public school can take place with the public school emulating the management style and "efficiency" of a private school. However, beneath the seemingly "efficient" functioning with lakhs of students passing out of the ICSE, CBSE and International curricula every year is an unanswered question of hidden workload and labour code violations that have lost their cases multiple times in the Indian court.

Legally, teachers in India do not fall under the category of "workmen" or "workers". This exclusion is rooted in a consistent line of Supreme Court judgments that have sought to define the nature of teaching as distinct from the categories of labour covered by India's industrial and labour laws. The prevailing judicial interpretation hinges on the view that teaching is an intellectual and moral activity, not aligned with the manual, clerical, or operational functions typically associated with industrial employment. This position was firmly established in *Sundarambal v. Government of Goa, Daman and Diu* (1988), where the Supreme Court held that teachers are not "workmen" under Section 2(s) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The court reasoned that including teachers within this category would undermine the "nobility" of their profession and fail to capture the essence of their intellectual labour. The demographic profile of private school teachers in India reveals distinct patterns compared to their public school counterparts. According to existing data, private schools, particularly in urban areas, tend to attract younger, highly educated female teachers. The average age of a private school teacher is 34 years, notably younger than the average of 40 years for government school teachers. This younger age profile also corresponds with differences in household status—private school teachers are significantly less likely to be heads of households, especially in urban contexts (29% in urban areas versus 42% in rural areas). In terms of educational qualifications, private school teachers are reported to possess tertiary education, with 88% in urban areas and 75% in rural areas holding degrees at the undergraduate level or higher. How work culture affects teacher well-being Outside the research and legal precedents into teacher labour is the work culture that

How Trump's H-1B fee threatens India's IT firms and Big Tech business models



The Trump administration has deployed a \$100,000 annual fee on H-1B visas, a move designed to obliterate the business models of India's IT giants and Big Tech's wage arbitrage schemes while leaving America's universities and startups standing. Whether this crude instrument will achieve its intended effect without inflicting collateral damage on America's innovation ecosystem remains an open question. The policy addresses a genuine issue as H-1B workers now account for 65% of America's IT workforce, up from 32% in 2003. This surge did not just occur because of a shortage of American talent. The administration notes that computer science graduates face unemployment rates of 6.1%, while their peers in computer engineering struggle with 7.5% joblessness. Meanwhile, some technology firms filed over 10,000 H-1B applications in fiscal 2024 alone, often in the same years they conducted mass layoffs of American workers.

After a back and forth over the weekend, the Trump administration has confirmed that the fee will apply only to new visa applications. Still, this will devastate India's IT services industry. Companies like Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and Wipro have built empires on a simple arbitrage: import Indian engineers willing to work for substantially less than their American counterparts. Their business model depended on H-1B visas costing a few thousand dollars in filing fees, making it economical to flood the system with applications and cherry-pick the most cost-effective workers. At \$100,000 per visa, this lottery system becomes prohibitively expensive. Indian IT firms face a stark choice: raise prices dramatically or retreat to offshore delivery models. Either option undermines their competitive position against American rivals, though the latter may paradoxically accelerate job losses as entire functions migrate overseas rather than remaining onshore with H-1B workers. American technology companies will face their own reckoning. The minimal cost of H-1B applications previously allowed HR departments to treat visa petitions like lottery tickets. Now each hire becomes a significant capital allocation requiring executive approval. This should naturally filter applications toward genuinely exceptional candidates with irreplaceable skills, which was the programme's original purpose. Yet the policy's collateral damage may prove severe. International students contribute over \$40 billion annually to America's economy, with more than half pursuing STEM fields. These represent the world's intellectual elite, individuals who have already demonstrated commitment to American institutions through years of study and sub-

stantial financial investment. The \$100,000 fee signals that their post-graduation prospects in America have dimmed considerably. Countries like Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom have crafted sophisticated strategies to attract precisely these individuals. As America raises barriers, competitors lower them, potentially capturing the talent that will drive the next decade's technological breakthroughs. The timing seems particularly unfortunate. China's growing technological prowess and geopolitical tensions have intensified competition for global talent. Pushing the world's brightest minds toward rival nations does not eliminate security risks, but merely transfers competitive advantages to America's competitors. A blunt instrument The policy's design reflects a preference for simplicity over sophistication. Rather than treating all H-1B applications equally, a more nuanced approach might have created graduated fees based on salary levels, exempted graduates from elite American universities, or established lower rates for workers in cutting-edge research fields. Such refinements could have maintained the policy's effectiveness against labour arbitrage while preserving America's ability to attract exceptional talent. The current approach resembles using a sledgehammer where a scalpel might suffice. The broader implications extend beyond immigration policy. America's post-war dominance in science and technology rested partly on its ability to attract and retain global talent. The H-1B programme, whatever its flaws, served as one mechanism for this attraction. By making the programme prohibitively expensive for most employers, the administration risks severing connections between American institutions and international talent pools. The policy may also accelerate trends it ostensibly seeks to reverse. If American companies cannot economically hire foreign workers for onshore roles, they may shift entire operations overseas. This could reduce employment opportunities for American workers rather than increasing them. Similarly, the fee structure may inadvertently benefit the largest technology companies at smaller firms' expense. Google or Microsoft can absorb \$100,000 fees more easily than startups or mid-sized companies, potentially concentrating talent among established players rather than distributing it throughout the innovation ecosystem. The administration's approach reflects a broader philosophical shift from balancing corporate needs with talent attraction toward prioritising domestic workers. This addresses legitimate concerns about wage suppression and worker displacement. However, immigration policy operates in a global context where other nations compete aggressively for the same talent. America now seems increasingly reluctant to welcome. The irony is stark: having spent decades building the world's most attractive higher education system and innovation ecosystem, America now risks gifting its carefully cultivated advantages to competitors through self-imposed barriers. Whether the benefits of reduced labour arbitrage will outweigh the costs of diminished talent attraction remains unclear. What seems certain is that other nations stand ready to welcome the exceptional individuals America may no longer want. For global Big Tech and Indian IT firms, the \$100K will clearly make them put their house in order and re-evaluate how they plan to hire and deploy human resources in the coming months.

All-access pass: Chennai rides to the future

Seamless travel between different modes of public transport in Chennai is round the corner. The 'Chennai One' mobile application, developed by the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA), will allow commuters to use a single pass across transport systems. It will be launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday. In the works for long, the application has been developed by integrating the digital ticketing platforms of the Chennai Metro Rail and suburban trains — including the Mass Rapid Transit System — along with the electronic ticketing system of the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC). Commuters will be able to travel in all the three modes of public transport using the application. They will no longer have to download different mobile applications or carry different smart cards.

'Chennai One' is based on insights gathered from a study, titled 'Journey Planner-cum-Integrated Ticketing in Chennai Metropolitan Area'. Officials say this application will be the first of its kind in the country, integrating three different modes of public transport, while giving the option of finding the cheapest and fastest mode of transport available, drawing from even private travel aggregators, if necessary. CUMTA Member-Secretary I. Jayakumar says that while digital ticketing systems are available for Metro Rail and suburban trains of Southern Railway, a new digital ticketing system has been developed for the MTC as part of this mobile application. The ticketing system involves integration of the application with the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) of the Indian Railways. It will be maintained by the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS). "Once the MoU is signed, the digital application will be tested for errors so that commuters can have seamless and hassle-free travel." Mr. Jayakumar says several inputs have gone into fine-tuning the application, which will cover more than 6,000 bus stops (latitudes and longitudes), 650 bus routes, and the nearly 3,500 buses of the MTC fleet. In a study done before commissioning the integrated ticketing system, the CUMTA found nearly 47 lakh commuters using the different modes of public transport in the city every day, with the three major modes of travel — the MTC, Southern Railway, and Metro Rail — having a common distance-based fare system. While the MTC and Metro Rail, which are State-owned transport bodies, have found convergence in recent months through a common mobility card called 'Singara Chennai', suburban trains use an independent digital ticketing system of the UTS. The MTC, having recently launched digital ticketing through the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), has been clocking nearly one lakh digital transactions daily through electronic ticketing machines. Fare integration is the future forward While the CUMTA is coming out with the common digital ticketing mechanism, transport activists insist that a common fare denomination mechanism will be more attractive for commuters to use public transport. Sivasubramanian Jayaraman of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) says digital transactions are the future and with the CUMTA having developed a common ticketing mechanism, fare integration is the way forward. Transport activists point out that the fare structure for all modes of public transport is based on distance, with minor changes reflecting passenger amenities. Hence, a common fare mechanism should be put in place for the commuters to use public transport for longer-distance travel in different modes. CUMTA Member-Secretary I. Jayakumar says the first phase of the common ticketing project is the medium integration of Metro Rail, suburban trains, and MTC buses, and fare integration will be done in the final phase. He adds the future is not far ahead for commuters to travel hassle free by using the CUMTA's integrated ticketing application. Transport activ-

ists insist that a common fare denomination mechanism will be more attractive for commuters to use public transport. According to the data, nearly 35 lakh passengers use MTC buses, nine lakh use suburban trains and three lakh ride Metro Rail services daily. Comparing the unified ticketing mechanism available in Mumbai and Bengaluru, where commuters could travel only on bus and Metro Rail using a mobile application, the CUMTA would roll out a wholesome integrated system, for the first time in the country, through the 'Mobility as a Service (MaaS)' mechanism aimed at providing last-mile connectivity, he says. The MaaS tool developed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in collaboration with German agency GIZ, evaluated five major indicators: travel behaviour, system integration, policy readiness, market potential, and data availability for ticketing system integration of independent public transport operators (PTOs). To assess the use of automatic fare collection (AFC), cashless ticket systems, and inter-modal options, the CUMTA did a readiness survey among the PTOs. It found that the Chennai Metro Rail was the only operator that had implemented all the three systems. Southern Railway did not implement two systems (AFC and inter-modal options) and the MTC was not familiar with any of these systems. The CUMTA also carried out a multi-PTO workflow study, involving a passenger travelling from Ennore to Guduvancheri using the three modes of public transport — taking a suburban train from Ennore to Central (75), the Metro Rail from Central to Airport (740), and an MTC bus from Airport to Guduvancheri (731) using the QR code mechanism. The study also generated management information system (MIS) reports of the various steps for smooth and seamless travel on all the three routes. Railway Board's green signal For the ticketing system, the CUMTA conducted a market study by roping in private and government players, including the CRIS, Chartr, and IIT-Madras, to understand the capital and operational expenditures required for deploying the integrated ticketing system. After this, the only hurdle for the CUMTA to implement the common ticketing mechanism was bringing on board the Railways' UTS, for which the Railway Board gave the green signal through a letter in September 2023. "Ticketing is no longer a simple part of the public transport experience. It is what enables freedom of movement across modes and borders," the UITP, or International Association of Public Transport, highlighted in one of its reports some years back. From London to Singapore, cities across the world had adopted unified ticketing decades ago, resulting in significant ease of commuting. For instance, the UITP report indicated that when the number of travellers rose sharply in the 1990s, Transport for London (TfL) introduced the Oyster card; by 2013, payment for more than 85% of all rail and bus rides were made through it. This is the kind of paradigm shift that Chennai is poised to witness once the CUMTA launches the single ticketing mobile application, wherein a single QR-code ticket would be sufficient to travel on Chennai Metro Rail, MTC buses, and suburban trains. With the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) or the Singara Chennai Card already in place and commuters using MTC buses and Metro Rail with the help of these cards, the CUMTA's mobile application will only enhance commuting. According to CMRL officials, they witness a lot of MTC commuters using the Metro Rail network and vice versa. "While we cannot gauge the exact number of passengers at this point, based on user feedback, we know that after the NCMC launch, we see those using MTC buses take our system. Similarly, a single QR-code ticket for all modes of transport will be of great convenience to passengers. This is because if they travel from point A to point C, the application can be a journey planner, and will help them identify modes of travel.

India and US begin work on trade draft; Goyal underlines: No deal with a ‘gun to the head’



The India-US trade talks, marked by twists and turns, seems to be moving closer towards a conclusion as negotiators from both sides are said to have begun working on the language of the text but a final announcement will require “political convergence,” a senior government official said here Friday. Indicating as much while strongly reiterating the red lines, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, at a conference in Berlin Friday, said that India doesn’t do deals with a deadline or with a “gun to the head.” He framed the negotiations as a process in which India will look at its long-term implications and how it secures the national interest for a country with a young, aspirational population.

In New Delhi, explaining the course of the talks, the senior official said: “There are some non-tariff barriers that are being discussed. Teams had virtual sessions yesterday, and some more virtual talks will happen on Monday. In principle, we have agreed and are finalising the language (of the deal text). As far as the deal is concerned, there is more or less convergence from both sides.”

The official added that “this time” US negotiators could arrive in India for talks. On a question regarding past differences over oil and agriculture, the official said, “We are finding some common ground (on agriculture). As negotiators, we know there aren’t many differences. We are negotiating positively. Engagement is going well. Having said that, the deal has not been announced. It could happen in the future. Deals are announced at a political level. As negotiators, we know we are close,” the official said. The official further said that the India-US trade deal, like other deals announced between the US and other countries, won’t be a conventional free trade agreement (FTA). “It won’t be a conventional FTA because there are reciprocal tariffs which are not WTO most-favoured-nation (MFN) tariffs. Normally, deals are negotiated MFN vs MFN. In that context, this will be a different kind of deal,” the official said. As the US has begun adding more and more items under the Section 232 tariffs net, the official said, “In some of the areas, our efforts

will be to address them.” Underlining the red lines, Goyal said Friday during the Berlin Global Dialogue in Germany that India does not do trade agreements in a hurry or with a “gun to our head”. The minister was in Berlin to participate in the dialogue, a meeting of leaders and German businesses to discuss ways to boost bilateral trade and investments. “We are in active dialogue with the EU. We are talking to the US, but we do not do deals in a hurry and we do not do deals with deadlines or with a gun to our head,” he said. He added that trade deals should be viewed with a long-term perspective. “India looks long-term, India never takes decision in a rush or on the pressure of the moment. And we have accepted if there is a tariff on us, there is a tariff on us. We are looking how to overcome that, we are looking at newer markets, we are looking at a stronger demand impetus within the Indian economy, so we have a very resilient structure. (We are) 1.4 billion people, we are young. So they are not in a situation where they want to do sub-optimal deals, we would like to really look at long term. We recognise that 20-25 years from now, we will be a \$30-trillion economy and, accordingly, we will negotiate based on the future. Trade deal is for the long run, to recognise the future and to get the best deal for the country,” Goyal said. When a panelist remarked that India was being asked to rethink its friendship with Russia, Goyal said: “I do not think India has ever decided who its friends will be based on any other considerations other than national interest... and if somebody tells me you can’t be friends with the EU, I won’t accept that, or if somebody tells me tomorrow I can’t work with Kenya, it’s not acceptable.” The decision to buy a particular product from a country is something that the entire world will have to take a call on, he said. “I was reading in today’s paper that Germany is asking for an exemption from US sanctions on oil... The UK has already sorted or probably got an exemption for procuring oil from the US... so then why single out India?” he said. Goyal’s remarks come as the US has imposed additional tariffs on India over its imports of Russian oil. On October 22, the US also imposed sanctions on Russia’s two largest crude oil producers, Rosneft and Lukoil, barring all American entities and individuals from conducting business with them. “Trade deals are for a longer duration. It is not only about tariffs or access to goods and services; it is also about trust and relationships... Trade deals, in a longer context, are far more than just tariffs, and we are too focused on current issues and tariffs,” he added. India and the US have been negotiating a bilateral trade agreement since March this year. So far, five rounds of talks have been completed. Goyal on Thursday stated that these negotiations are progressing and expressed hope that both sides would work towards a fair and equitable agreement in the near future.

RBI to cap bank lending for corporate takeovers at 70% of deal value



This means if the acquisition cost is Rs 10,000 crore, banks can lend up to Rs 7,000 crore to fund the acquirer which should be a listed company with a profit track record for three years. This means if the acquisition cost is Rs 10,000 crore, banks can lend up to Rs 7,000 crore to fund the acquirer which should be a listed company with a profit track record for three years. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday laid down draft guidelines for bank financing of corporate acquisitions, marking a significant policy shift that opens the door for lenders to fund takeovers, a practice long prohibited in India. Under the proposed rules, banks can finance up to 70 per cent of the acquisition value, with the balance 30 per cent to be funded by the acquiring company through its own equity.

This means if the acquisition cost is Rs 10,000 crore, banks can lend up to Rs 7,000 crore to fund the acquirer which should be a listed company with a profit track record for three years. “The acquisition value of the target company should be determined by two independent valuations, as prescribed under SEBI regulations,” the RBI said in its draft framework. The move follows RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra’s announcement during the October 1 monetary policy, in which he said banks would now be permitted to finance corporate takeovers, an area previously off-limits due to regulatory concerns.

For decades, Indian banks were barred from directly funding takeovers amid fears that promoters could misuse borrowed funds to gain control of companies rather than invest in genuine business expansion. Limited exceptions were made in recent years, mainly for acquisitions carried out under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

process. The RBI has now asked banks to formulate a comprehensive policy on acquisition financing. This must include clear norms on borrower eligibility, security and margin requirements, risk management, monitoring mechanisms, and overall exposure limits. The move is expected to deepen India’s credit market, improve liquidity for mergers and acquisitions, and give banks a greater role in shaping corporate restructuring while maintaining regulatory safeguards against misuse.

The RBI said banks should comply with the rule that the acquiring company and the SPV set up by it, wherever applicable, should be a corporate body and should exclude financial intermediaries such as NBFCs and Alternate Investment Funds (AIF). “(The) Acquiring company should be a listed entity, having a satisfactory net worth and profit making for the last three years. The annual returns of the target company should be available for at least the previous three financial years,” the central bank said in its Draft Reserve Bank of India (Capital Market Exposure) Directions, 2025. The aggregate exposure of a bank towards acquisition finance should not exceed 10 per cent of its Tier 1 capital, the central bank said. Further, the acquiring company and the target company should not be related parties, where a ‘related party’ is as defined in Section 2 (76) of the Companies Act 2013. The credit assessment should be based on the combined balance sheet of the acquirer company and the target company, it said. Post-acquisition debt-to-equity ratio at the acquiring company level or the SPV/target company level, as applicable, should be within prudential limits set by financing banks, subject to a maximum of 3:1, the RBI said. The acquisition finance should be fully secured by shares of the target company as primary security, the RBI said. Assets of the acquirer and/or target company, or other securities held by the acquiring company, may be taken as collateral security as per the bank’s policy. “Banks should put in place rigorous and continuous monitoring of acquisition finance exposures to manage the risks, with early warning systems and regular stress testing to detect and address any signs of stress in the portfolio,” it said. Meanwhile, the RBI said the aggregate capital market exposure (CME) of a bank, on a solo basis, should not exceed 40 per cent of its Tier 1 Capital as on March 31 of the previous financial year. “The aggregate CME exposure of a bank, on a consolidated basis, should not exceed 40 per cent of its consolidated Tier 1 Capital as on March 31 of the previous financial year,” the RBI said.

Reliance, Meta launch Rs 855 crore joint venture for enterprise AI in India

Mumbai: Reliance Industries on Saturday announced that its subsidiary, Reliance Intelligence Ltd, has established a joint venture with US tech giant Meta’s subsidiary to market and distribute enterprise AI in India. A new company, namely Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL), has been formed as a joint venture with Facebook Overseas, Inc., according to an exchange filing. The Mukesh Ambani and Mark Zuckerberg-led companies have committed an initial combined investment of around Rs 855 crore in the unit, aimed at “developing, marketing, and distributing enterprise AI services.” Reliance Intelligence will own 70 per cent of REIL, while Facebook Overseas, Inc., a unit of Meta Platforms, will hold 30 per cent, the filing said. The partnership will provide an enterprise AI platform-as-a-service, enabling organisations to customise and deploy generative models, along with a suite of pre-configured solutions for industries including sales, marketing, IT operations, customer service, and finance. REIL’s AI arm will invest Rs 2 crore towards the initial subscription of 20 million equity shares of Rs 10 each. The transaction does not fall within a related party transaction, and none of the company’s pro-



motors or promoter group, or group companies have any interest in the above transaction, the filing said. No governmental or regulatory approvals were required for the incorporation of REIL, it added. Reliance announced a joint venture in August that will use Meta’s open-source Llama models combined with Reliance’s enterprise reach to offer AI tools across sectors. Meta will provide technical expertise for Llama-based models, while Reliance will leverage its digital infrastructure and access to thousands of Indian enterprises and small businesses.

Know your ORS: Why sugary drinks may be worsening your diarrhoea and WHO formula holds the key



Watching children come to her clinic severely dehydrated despite taking ORS (oral rehydration solution) prompted Hyderabad-based paediatrician Dr Sivaranjini Santhosh to look into what they were having. She found that these tetrapacks often did not have the right sugar-salt ratio. In fact, they had added sugar that made them no different from other flavoured drinks. “A true ORS formulation uses a specific, low amount of glucose to help the body absorb sodium and water. Excessive sugar in drinks disrupts this process, creating a high concentration in the gut that pulls water from the body. The excess sugar can draw more water into the bowels, leading to a severe kind of diarrhoea and fluid loss,” she says. The problem? It leads to more dehydration and diarrhoea in already sick children — something that can turn fatal in the absence of timely medical care. That’s why she decided to begin her campaign against flavoured drinks posing as ORS. What genuine packet of ORS looks like. What genuine packet of ORS looks like.

It took eight years for the country’s apex food regulator (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India [FSSAI]) to stop all fruit-based, non-carbonated, ready-to-drink beverages from using the term ORS in their trademarked name. But her battle continues as the Delhi High Court has stayed the operation of the order after the Johnson & Johnson subsidiary, JNTL Consumer Health, submitted that products worth Rs 155-180 crore have already been manufactured or are in the supply chain. Dr Santhosh says over the last decade or so, many fake products had entered the Indian market. “Even if a product carries the warning ‘not ORS’, people still think that it is an ORS solution because that’s what the brand name suggests,” she says. So, what exactly is ORS and why is it so important to maintain the sugar and salt proportion in the formulation?

The oral rehydration solution — a simple glucose-electrolyte mixture — can reduce deaths and hospitalisation due to acute diarrhoeal diseases, especially in children under the age of five. The glucose in ORS helps the small intestine absorb sodium and water more effectively and offset fluid loss. This is possible because a specific transport mechanism for sodium and glucose remains intact even during diarrhoea. By facilitating rehydration, ORS can prevent serious complications such as dizziness, low blood pressure and organ damage. Its timely use is especially critical for children and the elderly who are more vulnerable to rapid fluid loss. ORS is the result of ground-breaking work by Indian paediatrician Dr Dilip Mahalanabis during the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971. It helped save millions of lives in the following decades. With a deficiency of saline to treat cholera patients in the refugee camps during the war, Dr Mahalanabis started administering patients with the simple salt, water and sugar solution, asking them to consume it till their condition improved. This reduced the case fatality in the refugee camps from 30 per cent to just one per cent. That’s why it was hailed as “the most important medical advancement of the 20th century.” The composition of the ORS is based on the daily sodium and potassium requirement and what is lost in the stool — earlier for cholera and now for the more common diarrhoeal diseases. The glucose in the solution facilitates the absorption of salts in the ORS, which in turn pull in the water, helping in quick rehydration,” says Dr Harish Chellani, former head of the department of paediatrics at Safdarjung hospital. “However, any additional glucose and the change in concentration shifts

the osmotic pressure. So, the water gets drawn out of the cells and into the gastrointestinal tract. This actually worsens the diarrhoea. This is the reason the ORS has to stick to the WHO formulation.”

Nearly eight per cent of children under the age of five globally die due to diarrhoea. In India, the prevalence of diarrhoea in this age group is at 9.2 per cent, according to data from the National Family Health Survey. Dr Sisir Paul, clinical director at Madhukar Rainbow Hospital, says, “For most cases of diarrhoea, you do not need antibiotic therapy. It is the resulting dehydration that has to be managed as it can lead to hypertension, kidney failure and death. Providing ORS solution is an effective way to prevent complications, especially in remote areas where access to health facilities can be limited.” All the more reason why these lifesaving packets cannot have too much sugar. “The absorption of the water will not happen properly if the WHO formula is not followed,” says Dr Ramesh Aggarwal, professor of neonatology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. Dr Chellani argues that high sugar drinks may prompt children to drink more. “People say that the WHO formulation is not tasty and children might not drink it even when they have diarrhoea but that is not true. The use of ORS is actually self-limiting — children will continue to drink it as long as they are dehydrated. The problem with a sweetened, flavoured drink is that children may continue to drink it beyond their requirement. This can not only be dehydrating, it also exposes the children unnecessarily to more salts and sugars.” He says people should avoid giving children aerated beverages during such an episode. “Many believe that lemon-aerated beverages can help when the stomach is tender but in reality, they can distend the stomach and increase the risk of vomiting, leading to further fluid loss.”

The WHO had an older high osmolality formulation — meant for those with cholera that causes higher sodium loss — and a new low osmolality formula. Studies have shown that the low osmolality formula can reduce unscheduled requirement for IV by 33 per cent, stool output by 20 per cent and vomiting by 30 per cent in children. WHO has recommended the use of this formula since 2003. For this solution, you need 2.6 grams of sodium chloride, 13.5 grams of glucose, 1.5 grams of potassium chloride and 2.9 grams of trisodium citrate. This is usually available as a packet of powder that has to be mixed in a litre of water. Such packets are available across all government healthcare centres and with ASHA workers for free. Similar products can be purchased at any neighbourhood medical store. Smaller packets meant for a glass of solution and reconstituted solution in tetra packs are also available but one has to ensure that it is the WHO recommended formulation. Once made, the solution can be used for up to 24 hours, after which a new solution should be prepared. Dr Aggarwal warns that “the sachets should be mixed with the amount of water specified on the pack — mixing it with too little or too much water can change the concentrations. It is easy to mix the one-litre packs as people usually have one litre bottles available at home.” He cautions people against trying to divide the powder in a sachet on their own to mix two or three batches of solution. “If you divide the powder on your own, then there is no way to tell how much salt and sugar is going in. It is best to mix the entire pack,” says Dr Aggarwal. Dr Paul advises against gulping down the powder with water as it changes the composition. All three experts warn against preparing the solution at home. “These packets are easily available everywhere now. Parents should use these salts to ensure that the concentrations are maintained,” says Dr Chellani. Experts say it is best to use ORS salt sachets readily available at government health facilities or neighbourhood stores instead of buying tetra packs. Most of these sachets will mention “as per WHO recommended formulation.” While not all tetra packs are sweetened drinks, the salt sachets are likely to reduce the risk of ending up with products that do not adhere to the concentrations. Sachets usually cost less than Rs 22 as the price of the ORS in India is capped at Rs 1.11 per gram of salt and a packet usually contains over 20 grams of powder.

As air pollution eats into your lungs, these exercise routines can strengthen them



Given the challenge posed by air pollution, we need to stimulate our lungs through exercise to improve their functioning. Your heart and lungs work harder when you’re exercising to provide the extra oxygen your muscles need.

Your body becomes more adept at delivering oxygen to the working muscles and the bloodstream as your level of physical fitness increases. Your body becomes more adept at delivering oxygen to the working muscles and the bloodstream as your level of physical fitness increases. Given the challenge posed by air pollution, we need to stimulate our lungs through exercise to improve their functioning. Your heart and lungs work harder when you’re exercising to provide the extra oxygen your muscles need. Regular exercise strengthens your heart and lungs in the same way that it does your muscles. Your body becomes more adept at delivering oxygen to the working muscles and the bloodstream as your level of physical fitness increases. Over time, this is one of the reasons you are less likely to feel shortness of breath while exercising.

The diaphragm and the muscles between the ribs, which cooperate to power inhalation and exhalation, are two other muscles that can be strengthened by certain forms of exercise. So engaging in both aerobic exercises and muscle-strengthening workouts can enhance the health of your lungs. It all starts with gentle aerobic exercises such as walking and spot jogging. Then you can take to the fol-

lowing routines. Jumping Jacks: Jumping jacks, which involve softly bouncing over the ground and gently landing back down, are an excellent cardiovascular workout. An improved cardiovascular health eases overall respiratory function.

Swimming and water workouts: Swimming in an indoor pool has an impact on lung volume measurements because swimmers’ diaphragm and other respiratory muscles must expand to a greater pressure during the respiratory cycle. This can improve the function of these muscles and change the elasticity of the lung, chest wall or ventilatory muscles. Compared to runners, swimmers have better lung capacity. Easy hacks: Climbing up the stairs helps you process oxygen better. Twisting and bending — forward, backward and sideways — and doing soft lunges with low intensity, all done with gradual breathing, make for a good lung workout. Pilates: Pilates strengthens the diaphragm and other muscles involved in breathing, which improve both inhaling and exhaling. Routines build core strength and spinal alignment, which in turn reduce slouching and allow the lungs to expand more fully. By coordinating movement with deep breathing, Pilates exercises have been shown to improve key pulmonary parameters such as forced vital capacity (FVC), peak expiratory flow rate (PEFR) and maximum voluntary ventilation (MVV). Breathing routines: Inhale and exhale through the nose and when extremely exhausted, inhale through the nose and exhale through the mouth with proper recoveries in between if you are panting.

Pranayama routines like Kapalabhati and Anulom Vilom can increase lung capacity and oxygen intake. Practising these for only 5-10 minutes a day will give a burst of energy and freshness. I would also recommend double breathing, which oxygenates the blood and energizes the body. Stand comfortably with feet apart. Begin with inhaling through the nose with a short sharp inhalation followed by a long breath. Exhale twice through the mouth with a short, then long exhalation. While breathing in, stand tall with your spine erect and while exhaling, squat a little. Yoga is best for strengthening and flexing heart and lung muscles. Practise chest opening asanas like Setu Bandhasana, Bhujangasana, Ustrasana and upward stretching Tadasana. Make sure to combine exercise with the right diet and sleep to make sure that you get full benefits.

Abhishek Nayar reveals why UP Warriorz decided to retain only 1 player ahead of the auctions



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

When the retentions ahead of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 auctions were announced by all five teams on Thursday, one side stood out from the rest. The UP Warriorz, who have not made the Playoffs cut in the last two editions, decided to retain only one player – uncapped batter Shweta Sehrawat – for Rs 50 lakh. It meant that while they would enter the auction with four Right to Match (RTM) cards, they would also need to rebuild their

squad entirely almost from scratch in a bid to win their maiden title in the following or upcoming seasons.

"When it comes to retentions, it's always difficult because you're dealing with world-class players and leaders in their own right. The idea from the franchise was to start afresh, have more money available in the purse, and build a team that can go all the way," head coach Abhishek Nayar told JioStar. A notable omission from the retention list was that of 2025 Women's World Cup Player of the tournament Deepti Sharma, who played 25 matches for the franchise over three seasons and scored 507 runs and took 27 wickets. Nayar said omitting big names from retentions was not an easy decision, but they have a process in place that they believe in fully. "These calls are never easy, but we believe in our process. The goal now is to go into the auction with intent, make smart decisions, and put together a side capable of winning the title," he said. Some of the big international names released by Warriorz include Alyssa Healy, Tahlia McGrath and Sophie Ecclestone. Healy did not play for the franchise in the WPL 2025 due to a stress injury on her right foot. Deepti captained the franchise in her place during that season, in which they finished in fifth place with six points in eight matches.

'He falls into that category': Steven Finn reacts to Australian media targeting Ben Stokes on his arrival in Australia for Ashes 2025-26

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Former England fast bowler Steven Finn has said that the Australian media's tactic of targeting captain Ben Stokes could backfire on them. He felt that certain players, when provoked, could perform even better than normal, and the all-rounder fell into that category. "The West Australian" newspaper had called Stokes "Cocky Captain Complainer" after he reached the country, a fortnight before the first Ashes Test at Perth on November 21.

"Ben Stokes thrives when he has a point to prove. There are players you really don't want to provoke because it makes them even better and even more determined. He falls into that category," Finn, who retired from all forms of cricket in 2023, told the PA agency. Finn, who was part of the England squad that won the Ashes in 2010-11, felt that Australian crowds tended to respect opposition teams when they performed well there, adding that they could turn against the hosts if they did not turn up and perform. "You have to be wary because the Australian press wants to trip you up and find chinks in your armour, but if you're sensible and respectful, I don't see any reason you can't embrace the challenge of playing cricket out there." "Australians respect



people who win. If you puff your chest out like we did in 2010-11 and push back, it can turn the other way. By the time we'd bowled them out for 98 on Boxing Day, they really turned on Australia, and it almost felt like they were supporting us. That's the challenge, and it feels like something Stokes and McCullum could do," he said. England have not won a Test in Australia in their last three visits to the country. Their last win in Australia came in 2011 at Sydney, when they won by an innings and 83 runs to win the series 3-1.

Why winning a World Cup makes a difference? 'In 2005 after losing final, landed at Mumbai airport...auto-rickshaw to go home' – Coach Sudha Shah

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

World Cup Indian women's contingent that scripted history in Navi Mumbai on Sunday in the World Cup final. (Express Photo by Narendra Vaskar) The difference is just a win in the final. But it can throw 20 years into oblivion. Describing the cruelty of how a loss in finals of World Cups get forgotten quickly, the 2005 coach Sudha Shah spoke of how different things were after her team lost the final.

Talking to abc.net.au (Aus), Shah recalled what happened after India lost to Australia by 98 runs in the final played at Centurion, South Africa. "At that time, nobody in India even knew the Women's World Cup was happening in South Africa," she told ABC. All the hard work could come to nought not because their struggles were any less, or their efforts less inspiring, but because the end wasn't a win. "My team did extremely well and players were in good form. They worked really hard for two years to prepare for that but unfortunately we lost the final," she said. It had ended in an almost sad movie-like scene. Hailing an auto-rickshaw and going home to nurse a heart nobody even noticed had broken. "I landed in Mumbai after losing the final and quietly took an auto-rickshaw to go home. No-one even noticed." It was why the win over Australia by Jemimah Rodrigues and Harman's team brought glee to Shah after that quiet journey gen-leapt and turned into a victory parade. The turning point, the ABC piece said, came after the 2017 World Cup, when India reached the second final at Lord's but lost to England. HARMAN though scored an unforgettable 171



beating Australia. The news has trickled out to non cricket countries too, and French media France 24 in their English show, alongside Mamdani's NY win, celebrated the Indian women. "It's quite a surprise I didn't know. Hyperboles are present in Indian sports newspapers today. Defining moment. Historic. Well deserved feat by beating South Africa. They lifted cup of their dreams," the TV presenter said. NYT it had been the hardest, highest glass ceiling. "Cricket is watched by every household in 1.4 billion strong country population. Sport generates millions in revenue. And cricketers are idols given god-like status. Upto now though it was mostly reserved for male cricketers. Four decades ago they won the men's cricket World Cup popularising the game in the country. Now women might change it for whole world," she added.

Mohammad Kaif reasons why Sanju Samson lost his place in playing XI: 'Gill is being groomed as a future captain and player, Sanju has lost his spot'

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Shubman Gill was made the vice-captain of the T20 side earlier this year during the Asia Cup. Once the decision to promote him as vice-captain was made, it became inevitable that Gill would be part of all the T20I games India were playing, and to accommodate him at the top, Sanju Samson has been pushed down the order. However, the form of Gill, the T20I player, has been up and down, and Samson was in prime form in his international career before his position was shuffled. Former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif also claimed that India is looking at Gill as the next captain in the shorter version of the game, and that is a probable reason Samson lost his spot as an opener.

"If Sanju Samson were playing, there would be no confusion, but with Shubman Gill as vice-captain playing in all matches, Sanju Samson seems sidelined. Jitesh Sharma is seen as a better finisher at number five or six than Sanju, which works in Sharma's favor. But because Gill is being groomed as a future captain and player, Sanju has lost his spot. Sanju's record is excellent, strike rate of around 150. But they are backing players by the batting number position now," Kaif said on his YouTube channel. 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



Shubman Gill was made the vice-captain of the T20 side earlier this year during the Asia Cup. Once the decision to promote him as vice-captain was made, it became inevitable that Gill would be part of all the T20I games India were playing, and to accommodate him at the top, Sanju Samson has been pushed down the order.

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.

Richa Ghosh's batting mantra: 'Amol Sir assured me it was okay to take a little time to settle in before pulling off the big hits under pressure'



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Stressing on how clarity of her role helped unlock her big hitting game, World Cup winning sensation Richa Ghosh, said she was told her job was to finish well. "Amol sir (Head Coach Amol Muzumdar) made everyone's role in the team very clear. For me, it was simple, play fearless cricket, look for the big shots, and finish the innings strongly. He also assured me that it was okay to take a little time to settle in. That trust he showed, believing I could pull off the big hits under pressure, helped me immensely," Ghosh told JioStar show 'Follow The Blues', while speaking of her batting.

Ghosh's cameos were bigly responsible for India getting to some big totals after the late innings impetus she provided. However preparation went back far into last two years. "Before the World Cup, I really focused on spending more time at the crease and building my innings. Whenever I got the chance to play, I concentrated on playing ground shots and making sure I didn't throw my wicket away. For me, it was all about keeping the scoreboard ticking with singles and holding up one end. That's what I worked on the most," she said. Ghosh planned to use her higher strike rate to pile pressure on opposition. "My main job was to finish innings strongly by scoring quickly in the final overs. Whenever I got the chance to bat, my focus was on applying the finishing touches. I aimed to maintain a high strike-rate and put pressure on the opposition bowlers. Scoring those extra runs reduces the pressure on our team and gives us a better chance to win," she explained.

It will be a trait that comes in handy next year in the

T20 World Cup. She views deliveries as binaries – if hittable, hit. If the ball is good, then scoot to take single. Keep scoreboard ticking. Not complicating is her quality. "My mindset is simple. Whenever I come to bat, if the ball is in my zone, I go for my shots. Hitting a boundary or a six in a pressure situation really helps release the tension. If it's a good delivery, I'm happy to take a single and target the next ball. That's the method I stick to," she said. Hailing from West Bengal where the talismanic Jhulan Goswami comes from, Ghosh would pay her ode to the legend. "Jhulan didi has played a huge role in my journey. She was my Captain when I made my domestic debut for Bengal. She's always been there to guide me, even when I started playing for India. She taught me how to adapt my game to different situations and shared invaluable advice on improving as a player. I'm truly grateful for her support," she said. She lauded the team dynamic where unity blew away outside noise of tensions especially when three losses mounted. "Honestly, our dressing room atmosphere was fantastic from day one. Even during tough phases, no one was afraid because we always had each other's backs. That support system was our biggest strength. And when we finally won the final, the feeling was just incredible, completely different and absolutely unforgettable," she told JioHotstar. Ghosh recalled how the team song came about and how it had been bubbling away within their hearts for years. "We actually created our team song a few series ago. It was something we really wanted. But we made a pact to only sing it, and reveal it to the world after we lifted the World Cup trophy. Every player contributed to it in some way. So, the moment we won at the DY Patil Stadium, we just knew we had to sing it right there on the ground. It was a magical feeling," she said. Though they had visualised the winning a day before, the euphoric moment of winning the World Cup final had left them speechless. "When those final South African wickets started falling, and Harman didi (Captain Harmanpreet Kaur) took that last catch, we all just scattered in different directions. We were so overwhelmed that we didn't even know how to celebrate! Harman didi was absolutely speechless, just pure joy. And when Deepti didi got that last wicket, even she couldn't process that we'd actually won the World Cup. We were all just living in that moment, soaking it all in before it even sank in," she ended.

Who's the gentleman in Red: This World Cup winning captain's transformation leaves netizens zapped

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Arjuna Ranatunga, looking taller than ever, and considerably leaner, was smiling in red alongside Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva and Muttiah Muralidaran. (X) Arjuna Ranatunga, looking taller than ever, and considerably leaner, was smiling in red alongside Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva and Muttiah Muralidaran. (X) They were the OG Oz-cricketers, though they played in a deeper shade of blue than India. But an entire generation of Indian cricket fans dreaded their might, and were left heartbroken almost 30 years ago, when India lost in the World Cup semifinals. 13 March 1996 was the OG 19th November.

So when Sanath Jayasuriya posted a picture of the giants the Sri Lankan 1996 World Cup winning team that had defeated Tubby Taylor's Australia, it sent several Indians down the balances of nostalgia. A defeat that had back then felt like doom, also gave rise to lifetime of respect and adoration for the defiant, gutsy Lankans. The picture had swashbuckler Jayasuriya, middle order lynchpin Aravind D'Silva and ace spinner Muttiah Muralitharan all kitted out in suits. But one man in a long red, close collar shirt was unrecognisable, to the most fervent cricket fans. Arjuna Ranatunga, looking taller than ever, and considerably leaner, was smiling. And though he held the glass of pineapple punch like he would fling the ball to Chaminda Vaas or Murali any moment, it was a distinctly different looking skipper who earned everyone's love and respect by winning that final. Social media was abuzz with comments about how different he seemed, and gushing of Indians who had been awed like rest of the world. Romesh Kaluwitharana, the tiny keeper would open the innings with Jayasuriya, and go bonkers with his pinch-hitting. The heavyweights wouldn't stop – D'Silva, Ranatunga themselves and then Roshan Mahanama and Hashan Tillekaratne in subsequent years as the aggressive batters revolutionized one day cricket. The



team had often been cornered by aspersions cast on Muttiah Muralitharan's bowling action, but Ranatunga with his chewing gum ruminating face, blinkless stare and steely resolve, would lead from the front and stand sturdy rallying around the embattled spinner often called by umpires.

Ranatunga would also muscle the ball, and guide several calm chases, but it was his girth that the ancient trolls would pick on, especially when Sri Lanka defeated one of the big countries. Indian fans were simply in awe of how modern that team's outlook and unyielding backing of their bowlers, would be. As such, Ranatunga and his rock sturdy leadership helped Sri Lanka draw several mystery bowlers and unconventional actions in subsequent years. Under the Twitter post, Indian fans would wax eloquent on the impact the Sri Lankan team had on cricket minds in India, despite the Kolkata semifinal ending in copious tears. While Sri Lanka's was more a quintet with Vaas than cricket's famous quartets, they were the stuff of nightmares for Indians. A Delhi fan Harshal in the comments would say, "I'm from ??? & I get tremors seeing u guys together ?? Sanath that is not how u bat in WC match, at Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi ??"

Australia's power batting is a risk at T20 World Cup 2026, reasons R Ashwin: 'If the pitches are sticky, India will be in driver's seat'

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Australia's unrelenting T20 aggression was blown to pieces on a tacky pitch by India's slower bowlers during the fourth T20I in Queensland on Thursday, earning them a crucial 2-1 lead ahead of the final match of the series. After making a just-above-par 167-run total, India bundled out Australia for only 119 to register a comfortable victory. The hosts' chase petered out when all-rounder Shivam Dube removed the dangerous Tim David with a slower bouncer and proceeded to remove skipper Mitchell Marsh on 38. Spinners Varun Chakravarthy, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel then broke the back of Australia's order, sharing six wickets between them for only 49 runs.

Ashwin cautioned that Australia's all-out aggressive approach could backfire at the World Cup if the wickets proceed to remain slightly two-paced as it was at the Carrara Oval, playing more to India's strengths. It is understood that the T20 World Cup will be slotted between the first week of February and March in India with Pakistan to play their matches in Sri Lanka. "We had said that the fixture that Australia has set for the T20 series has suited India more than anybody else because in all these places, the ball comes a little slower, and even when you go to Brisbane, you will see that the ball comes a little slower. Obviously, the Ashes are coming, so I don't think they will give you a Test match pitch. So the pitch will come a little slower, and Australia is going to find it hard. "Many people, after previewing and looking at the team a bit, are saying that Australia's team is very strong, very powerful for the upcoming World Cup, but if the wicket comes a little slower, sticks a little, or turns a



little, the performance we saw today is the kind of performance you might end up seeing from Australia even at the World Cu," said Ashwin on his YouTube channel. With their vaunted spin attack complementing the pacers led by Jasprit Bumrah, India's bowling ammunition could prove deadly if the wickets are on the slower side at the back end of the domestic season in early 2026, felt Ashwin.

"But how will the wickets be in February-March? Will they stay a bit fresh, will there be dew? Dew maybe will not be late. So keeping all these factors in mind, Australia's power batting is definitely a risk, but if the wicket comes a little sticky, India is going to be in the driver's seat," he added. "Even today, Australia were in a good position, but when Dube got that double break, especially off Tim David. The last match, I had prepared a bit, and his improvement in batting, especially against spin, has been remarkable. His wicket was then taken by Dube."

Dies Irae trailer: Bramayugam director teams up with Pranav Mohanlal for a chilling horror film, fans eagerly anticipate a cameo from Mohanlal.



As Halloween approaches, filmmaker Rahul Sadasivan, known for redefining Malayalam horror with Bhoothakaalam (2022) and Bramayugam (2024), has unveiled a new trailer for his upcoming film Dies Irae. True to Sadasivan's style, the trailer withholds much of the plot but offers a chilling glimpse into the eerie world he has crafted once again.

The trailer opens with the sound of someone fidgeting with a clip, accompanied by flickering lights in a dimly lit room. The camera soon reveals Pranav Mohanlal, sitting

alone in an isolated house where an unsettling stillness prevails. A super flashes which says: based on true events, before the pace quickens, plunging viewers into a world of dread. The glimpses suggest a narrative centred on an intergenerational curse haunting a family home. The visuals are packed with classic Sadasivan trademarks: invisible forces opening doors, lights flickering and bursting, the protagonist being dragged by unseen hands, and an overwhelming sense of dread. Pranav is seen furiously playing drums, as a haunting voiceover speaks of the dead awakening, culminating in a shot of a woman's corpse opening her eyes.

Scheduled for release on October 31, the film's title, Dies Irae, (Latin for Day of Wrath), references a medieval hymn about judgment and mortality, hinting at deeper philosophical layers beneath the surface horror. Adding to the intrigue, Mohanlal shared the trailer on his official X (formerly Twitter) account, sparking speculation about a possible cameo. Fans noted that Mohanlal, along with the entire Dies Irae team, including Pranav, Rahul Sadasivan, actors Jibin Gopinath and Arun Aijkumar, and the producers, changed their profile pictures to red-toned portraits, further fueling curiosity. Fans flooded X with excitement, speculating about a possible cameo by the superstar himself. Many simply wrote "what if," while others said they couldn't hold back their anticipation. Dies Irae reunites the core creative team behind Bramayugam: cinematographer Shehnad Jalal, production designer Jothish Shankar, editor Shafique Mohamed Ali, and composer Christo Xavier, all known for their contribution to Sadasivan's atmospheric storytelling.

'Aryan Khan shot scenes of Ba***ds of Bollywood with assistants in Mannat, would send those to explain what he wanted,' recalls Arshad Warsi

After the success of Aryan Khan's The Ba***ds of Bollywood, Arshad Warsi is getting a lot of appreciation for his character Ghafoor. Arshad has become a prominent part of meme culture and social media chatter, captivating the collective imagination of netizens, all thanks to his character on the show. Speaking to Fever FM, Arshad opened up about working with Aryan Khan and shared that while he loved the character, he wasn't entirely sure if audience would connect with it.

He shared that Aryan has a tendency to shoot the entire scene with his assistants beforehand, and he then sends the scenes across to the actor, so they know what he is thinking. He shared, "When I heard the song, I liked it. I thought it was the first time I ever heard a song that is funny, because there's something very peculiarly funny about the song. And when he told me the scenes, I found the scenes funny. And he is very good yaar. He shoots the entire scene with his assistants, ADs, everybody in his house and then he sends it to you. It's like him telling, 'This is what we're doing,' so that you're clear about what's happening." He further added, "It's also perhaps because this was his first outing, so he isn't really into the habit of explaining a scene, and also it's not a regular sort of mind that you understand. It is a little bit in the new age, cool dude space, so it takes some time for you to understand, so he used to really explain it like that and I found everything to be very funny." Arshad shared that all the nuances of the character were written on paper and added, "It takes some time for you to understand what's happening, but when you get it, you find it hilarious. Especially the bit that he told me that all these people go inside a fridge; there is his den beneath it. I was



very impressed and was like, I need this in my house." The Ba***ds of Bollywood, recently released on Netflix and backed by Shah Rukh Khan's production banner Red Chillies, has performed exceptionally well, sparking talks of a sequel. While the second season of The Ba***ds of Bollywood is yet to be announced, Arshad recently shared with SCREEN that Munna Bhai 3 is in the works. "See, with part 3 the thing is that once it was not happening at all, but now Raju (Rajkumar Hirani) is actually working on it. He is seriously working on it, and it seems like it should happen now."

Rajesh Khanna had to be rescued by paramilitary forces after fans in Pune jammed the city for 7 hours, co-star recalls: 'Women held on to the tyre of his car'



Despite being a controversial figure in Bollywood in his later years, actor Rajesh Khanna was the biggest superstar of the country in the late 1960s. Few could ever match that level of fame, and his name still comes up as a yardstick when discussing the level of fame an actor has achieved. His co-star, former child actor Satyajit Puri, recently talked about the euphoria around Rajesh Khanna at the peak of his fame. While appearing on the Friday Talkies podcast, Puri recalled shooting with Khanna on a Shakti Samanta directorial. Shakti Samanta directed films like Kati Patang, Amar Prem and Aradhana and was quite instrumental in Rajesh's success. Satyajit shared that even though Rajesh was the biggest star of the country, he couldn't avoid Samanta's anger. He recalled that while shooting in Pune, Rajesh arrived seven hours late to the set, which really angered the director.

"No one has seen or experienced fame quite like Rajesh Khanna, and I have witnessed that with my own eyes. For example, we were shooting in Pune, and his call time was 2 pm, and he didn't show up. He had a very different relationship with the director, Shakti Samanta. So when he finally arrived at 8 pm, Shakti sir got mad and said, 'Kya kaka, tu kya bada star ban gaya hai?' (What is all this? Do you think you are a very big star now?)" said Puri. Puri then revealed the reasoning behind Khanna's tardy behaviour and said that because of the actor's arrival, the entire city of Pune had come to a standstill. "Rajesh Khanna stopped

him mid-sentence and said, 'Ask my driver what happened.' He told Samanta that he landed in Pune at 12:30, but somehow the public got to know of his arrival. From 12:30 to 7:30 in the evening, the entire city was jammed. He couldn't move. Paramilitary forces had to come and rescue him. He told the director, 'I'm lucky that I could reach at this hour, otherwise I wouldn't have reached before 11,' he recalled.

Ranveer Singh hails Deepika-Atlee film as 'never-seen-before' in Indian Cinema

Mumbai: Bollywood star Ranveer Singh on Sunday expressed excitement about his actor wife Deepika Padukone's forthcoming movie with South film director Atlee, saying it is unique. Billed as a "magnum opus", the currently untitled movie marks Padukone's reunion with Atlee, following their successful collaboration in the 2023 blockbuster "Jawan", headlined by Shah Rukh Khan. It is produced by Sun Pictures.

"I happened to visit him (Atlee) on the sets of his current film because my wife (Deepika) was shooting with him. You may have heard it before, but you can take it from me, he is creating something that you may have never experienced in Indian cinema before," Singh told reporters at an event here. The actor, best known for films like "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani", "83", "Padmaavat", "Band Baaja Baraat", has teamed up with Atlee on an ad film for a brand. Singh is working with Bobby Deol and south actor Sreeleela for the project. Singh said he has been a huge admirer of Atlee much before he attained wide acclaim and success with Shah Rukh Khan-led "Jawan". "Before he became a household name with 'Jawan' and emerged as the biggest director in India,

From Thamma to Lokah: Indian cinema's Vampire Boom rakes in the big bucks

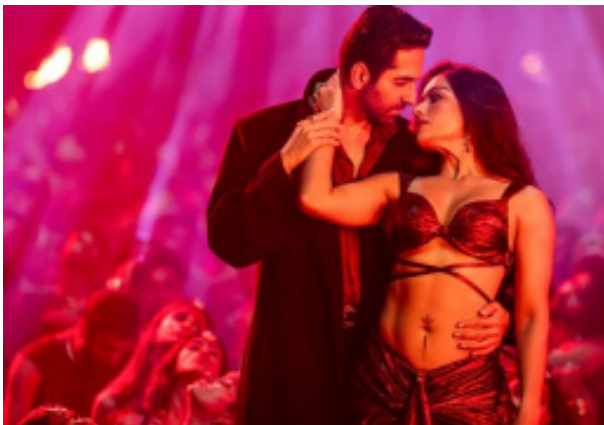


After doctors give up and pronounce him dead, the man vanishes from his bed only to be discovered ravenous inside the hospital's blood bank. He rips open packets containing blood with his "punching-machine-like teeth" and guzzles it down. He effortlessly scales highrises and beats up any baddie he encounters. Yet, sunlight makes him recoil. His newly-developed pallor and appetite suggest a supernatural transformation: He may have exhaled his final human breath but he has respawned as a vampire. The story of this newly-fanged protagonist, who romances an alluring female vampire, is at the heart of the just-released film Thamma. With it, Maddock Films' Maddock Horror Comedy Universe (MHCU) ventures into vampire territory for the first time, after previously populating its world with witches, a headless demon, a ghostly creature and bhediya (Hindi cinema's spin on the werewolf). Released on October 21 as a Diwali-week family entertainer, Thamma arrives at a time when vampire-led narratives, both international and homegrown, are enjoying a resurgence. Led by Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna, the vampire romance has earned over Rs 55 crore in India during the first three days of its release, notwithstanding mixed reviews. The makers are already teasing a larger cross-over ahead — one that could stage an on-screen face-off between bhediya and vampire in future instalments of MHCU.

Unlike the West, where the filmmakers have periodically used horror as a tool to shock, subvert and provoke reflection, the horror genre in India has taken a long time to shed its 'B-grade movie' tag and move beyond jump-scare, sleaze and gore. Today, mainstream cinema has not only embraced it as a potential blockbuster material but also drawn A-listers to come onboard. Little wonder that Indian filmmakers, who swear by "entertainment", are serving horror movies, for the second consecutive year, as crowd-pullers amidst Diwali celebrations after last year's horror-comedy Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. From the beginning, reveals Thamma's director Aditya Sarpotdar, it was decided that the movie would be a Diwali release. "On the eve of Diwali, when a family gets together and decides what movie to watch, they should want to watch Thamma. So, when that is a clear agenda, I feel you have to entertain the audience while you bring in all these other elements of mystery and intrigue without making it too dark," says Sarpotdar, who also directed last year's surprise hit Munjya (2024).

Indian filmmakers, encouraged by the audience's appreciation for movies like Tumbbad (2018), Stree (2018), Bramayugam (2024) are undoing decades of dismissive

Stree 2's Amar Kaushik planning to expand Thamma's horror comedy universe to cricket? Director says he could play a 'betaal'



Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna's Thamma is currently enjoying a successful run at the box office. The film is part of Maddock horror comedy universe, which has produced several hit films like Stree, Stree 2, Munjya, and others. Characters from different films in the universe also make cameo appearances in other films, creating an interconnected narrative. For instance, Varun, who played the role of Bhediya, made a cameo in Thamma,

Diljit Dosanjh sings 'Main hun Punjab' as he touches Amitabh Bachchan's feet on Kaun Banega Crorepati: 'Punjab da puttara'

After ruling 2024 with his record-breaking projects, Punjabi actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh will soon be seen on Amitabh Bachchan's show Kaun Banega Crorepati 17. Making a grand entry with his energetic performance of "Main Hu Punjab", he instantly set the stage ablaze with his infectious charm and magnetic voice, drawing loud cheers from the audience. Ahead of the episode's premiere, the makers released two promos.

In one of the promos, Diljit entered singing "Main Hu Punjab", while Amitabh Bachchan introduced him warmly as "Punjab da puttara" and said, "Punjab da puttara, Diljit Dosanjh ka mai haardik abhinandan karta hu. (I warmly welcome the son of Punjab, Diljit Dosanjh.)" The crowd erupted in applause as the 41-year-old singer humbly bent down to touch the veteran star's feet. The megastar blessed him, and the two shared a heartfelt hug. In another promo, Diljit honoured Amitabh by singing the title track from the actor's 1992 classic Khuda Gawah, which also starred Sridevi. Amitabh was seen fondly recalling his iconic dialogue from the film: "Sar zameen-e-Hindustan, salaam

attitude towards the horror genre with a new-found interest in vampire-led narratives. Released on August 25, the Malayalam-language Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra, produced by Dulquer Salmaan and directed by Dominic Arun, apart from generating incredible buzz and acclaim, grossed Rs 300 crore globally. This makes it the highest-grossing Malayalam film ever as well as one of the biggest Indian films to feature a female lead, Kalyani Priyadarshan, who plays the titular lead and a centuries old yakshi with vampire-like features. During the end credit roll, Lokah teases the audience with a glimpse of two of Malayalam cinema's biggest stars — Tovino Thomas and Dulquer — appearing as supernatural beings in the second instalment of this five-part ambitious franchise. Vampires have seized the spotlight as evident from some of the biggest film releases of 2025. After a Christmas Day opening in America last year, Robert Eggers's gothic vampire horror Nosferatu kicked things off in India with a January release. This remake of Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror (1922), the iconic German Expressionist vampire tale by FW Murnau, earned four Oscar nominations for Best Cinematography, Best Costume Design, Best Production Design and Best Makeup and Hairstyling this year. Considered to be a visionary director, Eggers calls Nosferatu — a tale of obsession between a haunted young woman (Lily-Rose Depp) and the vampire Count Orlok (Bill Skarsgård) infatuated with her — his "most personal" project. Released in April, Ryan Coogler's Sinners drew instant acclaim for its original vision. This southern-gothic vampire musical, set in the 1930s, is steeped in Black history, magic of blues and vampire folklore. The Smokestack twins, Smoke and Stack (both the characters are essayed by Michael B Jordan) return to their hometown to make a fresh start, only to discover that an even greater evil is lurking to ruin their plan. Sinners, apart from amassing about \$362 million worldwide, has emerged as an Oscar frontrunner in multiple categories, including Best Picture and Best Director, alongside Paul Thomas Anderson's One Battle After Another. On October 30, the movie is returning to select Imax theatres for a week-long Halloween run. One of the timeless literary works, Bram Stoker's 1897 classic novel Dracula, has inspired many retellings and spin-offs as well as laid out the template for portrayal of vampires onscreen. The central character of Count Dracula, an aristocrat, who is sustained by the blood of others, also became a metaphor for political and social critique. It gained currency especially after Karl Marx, while criticising unpaid work wrote in his book Das Kapital: 'Capital is dead labour, which is vampire-like, lives only by sucking living labour, and lives the more, the more labour it sucks.' Many vampire stories and horror movies have sunk their teeth into the ills of capitalism the way Sinners does. Others like Ana Lily Amirpour's debut feature A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night is about a female vampire, who stalks potential victims, mainly immoral men, in a fictional Iranian town called Bad City. Oscar-winner Kathryn Bigelow, too, made her debut with Near Dark (1987), which is described as an artsy vampire Western and is about living on the edge. Author Anne Rice humanised vampires in her popular novels and the film Interview with the Vampire (1994), based on her book, deals with existential themes. Experiments with the vampire sub-genre continue as romantic fantasy Dracula: A Love Tale was released in France while action-horror Dracula: Rise of the Vampire was released in the United Kingdom.

keeping the films in the universe interlinked. Similarly, Nora Fatehi, who appeared in the song "Kamariya" in Stree, returned to the franchise with Thamma. In a recent interaction, director Amar Kaushik spoke about this, explaining why even supporting characters in the franchise are important. He was also asked about the dance numbers being a recurring feature in each film of the universe and whether it was becoming excessive. For the unversed, Nora features in the song "Dilbar Ki Aankhon Ka" in Thamma. Speaking on the matter, he said, "Item songs were included in the film very naturally, and if you see the cut of the songs in the film and the cut of the song on YouTube, it is very different. In the films, it is kind of a background shot." He added, "If you look at the song in the film Thamma, Nora is in the background. But if you are watching the song on YouTube, you will feel that it is a full-fledged item song." When asked about Nora playing a character in Thamma, as opposed to her appearance in Stree, where she just appeared in the song, Kaushik hinted at the possibility of casting a cricketer in his future films. "Nora was everywhere. There are many such characters. Some cricketer can also come in the film, and you will think that he is a cricketer, but he will turn out to be a Betaal. If any cricketer wants to act then let me know."