

Indian Chronicle

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Humans-AI jugalbandi is the way forward

Artificial intelligence (AI) is proving to be one of the most transformative technologies in human history. Just like internet, AI is a technology wave that will make significant changes to established ways of doing things. And reflection of such transformation is always evident. From content writing to software coding; from customer service to process automation; AI-powered platforms are bringing in significant changes to multiple fields and sectors. As an outcome, several jobs are becoming redundant. According to a 2023 study by published by a team of researchers from OpenAI- OpenResearch, and the University of Pennsylvania, several jobs would face the heat of AI-powered automation.

Jobs like interpreters and translators; survey researchers; poets, lyricists and creative writers; animal scientists, public relations specialists; writers and authors; mathematicians; tax preparers; journalists; financial quantitative analysts; and web and digital interface designers are found out to be most vulnerable. Even jobs like data scientists are also listed in the report as a job, which will get impacted. Three years into the survey, many of its predictions have proved true. Media industry has been disrupted badly across the world as generative AI chatbots like ChatGPT, Gemini, Grok, Perplexity handle most of the writing work and thereby have reduced demand for writers, editors and related jobs.In the technology industry, demand for coders is going down as AI tools write most of the codes. Similarly, entry level jobs-L1& L2 in the software services industry are getting reduced as the tasks get automated. In the era of Agentic AI, many processes across sectors like financial services, manufacturing, retail and others are being automated.

Distribution of Fruits at Homeopathy Hospital on the Occasion of Revanth Reddy's Birthday

“KISHORE VADDEPALL, Uppal, November 8 (Indian Chronicle):”“As per the directions of Uppal in-charge Mandamula Paramesh Reddy, Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel organized Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's birthday celebrations at the Homeopathy Hospital in Habsiguda, where fruits were distributed to 100 patients.On this oc-



casion, Arun Patel stated that providing Indiramma houses to the homeless, assistance to farmers, and employment opportunities to youth reflect the transformational changes brought by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government. He added that the welfare governance being implemented upholds the self-respect of the poor."Among those who participated in the program were Medchal District General Secretary Kishore, Division Youth Congress Presidents Vasu Naik, Gummula Bhanu, Pasha, Bhaskar, Sumit, Tarun, and hospital doctors.

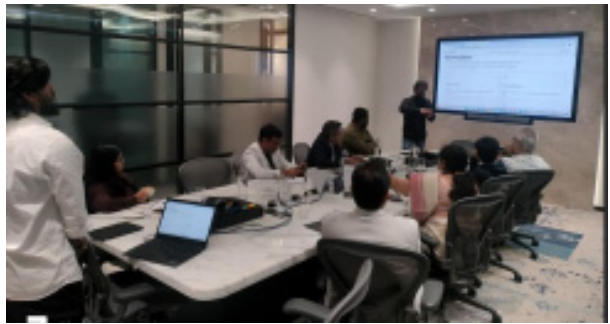
Colony Welfare Association President Mallesh Goud Submitted a Representation to the Corporater

““Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 8: “““On Pending Works”“In the Tirumalanagar Colony under the limits of Meerpet H.B. Colony Division, the Colony Welfare Association President Mallesh Goud and his committee members invited the local Corporator Jeripothula Prabhudas and submitted a representation regarding the pending works, including underground drainage and CC road construction.”“Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Prabhudas stated that the underground drainage and CC road works in Tirumalanagar Colony have been par-



tially completed, while some works are still in progress. He assured the colony residents that the remaining works will be brought to the notice of the MLA and that he would coordinate with the concerned officials to ensure their early completion.”“Those who participated in the program include Secretary Amarendra Babu, Treasurer B.D. Das, Legal Advisor Srinu, Krishna Mohan, Ramesh, Raju, and several others.

T Kanpur's Entrepreneurship Cell brings flagship Indian Business Model Competition UpStart 2025 to Hyd



Hyderabad: Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Kanpur, organised its flagship startup pitching competition UpStart 2025 in Hyderabad today along with Bangalore. The event was organized at TEC Hitech City and was attended by over 13 startups, along with prominent dignitaries, including angel investors and Venture Capital firms. The Hyderabad event, part of the larger UpStart Nationals, was the second event organised by the Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Kanpur, this year, and looked to support, accelerate, and empower startups in the city.

Categorised as an Indian Business Model competition, UpStart 2025 in Hyderabad allowed city-based entrepreneurs with a 10-minute pitching session to angel investors and venture capital firm representatives. Selected startups from the city would be going through several rounds of screening, along with face-to-face mentoring sessions later. Furthermore, the finalists would also be participating

in the UpStart Finals, to be organised at the IIT Kanpur campus on January 25, 2026. The Hyderabad event would be followed by chapters in Bangalore (November 8) Mumbai (December 6), before the finalists are announced. Registrations for the Mumbai chapter are still open! Stay tuned for further updates by following our official Instagram account.The Entrepreneurship Cell team from IIT Kanpur shared their insights on the event, saying, "Today's event further supplements our vision of extending an olive branch towards the Indian startup ecosystem and entrepreneurs. Mentorship and critical funding are some of the catalysts of a successful startup journey, and from the innovation and conviction that was showcased here, we are determined about being on the proper track. We also hope to witness similar thoughtful business ideas in our remaining locations."The flagship startup pitching competition in Hyderabad was participated in by startups from different sectors, along with prominent investors and VCs such as Navikarna Ventures, Hyderabad Angels, GMR, Impel Ventures, BM Capital Family Office, Caspian Equity, sucSEED Ventures, ah! Ventures and many more. Apart from the startup pitching competition, the event provided a unique mentorship and networking opportunity for entrepreneurs. Saturday's chapter at Hyderabad also follows the opening event at the national capital, where over 23 startups from different stages of developments participated, along with angel investors and VCs from GMR Group, Inflection Point Ventures, IAN Group, Finvolve, GrowX Ventures, and others. The participating startups brought on innovative ideas in fintech, health tech, deep tech, Web3, and Cybersecurity, among others.

Majestic Celebrations Mark Sankashta Hara Chaturthi at Manthani's Sri Mahaganapati Temple



."P.S.ASHOKAN KARIMNGAR BUREAU. The auspicious occasion of Sankashta Hara Chaturthi, a sacred day believed to dispel sorrows and obstacles, was observed with exceptional grandeur and devotion at the Sri Mahaganapati Temple in Manthani on Saturday. The temple resonated with chants of "Ganapati Bappa Morya" as throngs of devotees, filled with fervent faith, gathered to offer prayers to Lord Gananatha, the remover of impediments and the harbinger of prosperity."“Devotees undertook the Sankashta Hara Chaturthi vrata (vow) with utmost piety, observing day-long fasting and concluding it only after moonrise at 8:41 p.m. The rituals, performed in the sanctified ambience of the temple, were marked by profound spiritual discipline and heartfelt devotion."“The temple premises, located on Tammicheruvu Katta Street, radiated divine splendor, adorned with an exquisite array of flowers and illuminated lamps. As part of the sacred observance, devotees offered 121 modakas (sweet dumplings) and durva grass to Lord Vighneshwara, acts believed to bestow immense spiritual merit and fulfillment of desires."“The divine celebrations drew not only residents of Manthani but also devotees from surrounding villages, creating an atmosphere of collective faith and festivity. Regular worshippers, particularly those who frequent the temple on Tuesdays dedicated to Lord Ganesha, witnessed an elevated sense of sanctity and spiritual energy on this Chaturthi."“The temple priests, Palli Sanjeev and Palli Ramu, led the special rituals and adorned the deity with magnificent floral and traditional decorations, enhancing the spiritual aura of the sanctum. The celebration of Sankashta Hara Chaturthi in the holy month of Karthika thus became a sublime expression of devotion, unity, and divine grace, reaffirming the faith that sincere worship of Lord Gananatha removes all obstacles and ushers in peace and prosperity.

Birthday Celebrations of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Held Grandly Under the Leadership of Ramantapur Division President Mohammad Rafiq

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 8 (Indian Chronicle):“On the occasion of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's birthday, the celebrations were held grandly under the leadership of Mohammad Rafiq, Congress Party President of Ramantapur Division, at Gandhi Nagar, Ramantapur. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Congress leaders and party workers, who cut a cake and distributed sweets to mark the occasion.Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Rafiq said that ever since the Congress government came to power, welfare schemes initiated by the Chief Minister have been reaching the poor effectively. He expressed confidence that under Revanth Reddy's leadership, Telangana will continue to progress and develop. He also advised opposition parties not to spread false propaganda about the ongoing welfare programs, stating that all six key schemes are being implemented successfully."“Among those present at the celebrations were TPCC representative Mohammad Toffiq, Ramantapur Division Working President Vallappa Srikanth, senior Congress leaders Jaleel Pasha, Mogili Lingam, Division General Secretary Sandeep, Besta Bhaskar, Srinivas Goud, Bhaskar, Arun Sai, Samuel,



Muthyala Jangaiah, Seema Kalla Arun, Sai, Jangaiah, Chinna, Mohammad Nayeem, Shaga Sridhar, Bullet Ashok, Swamy, Soori, Icon Madhu, Saianna, Sai, Gautham, Nagamallayya, Kiran, and several others.

Grand Celebration of Revanth Reddy's Birthday under the Leadership of V. S. Prakash Reddy



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 8: “““On the occasion of Telangana Chief Minister Enmula Revanth Reddy's 57th birthday, a grand cake-cutting celebration was held at the Nacharam Congress Party office under the leadership of V. S. Prakash Reddy, along with senior leaders and women leaders of the Nacharam Division."Speaking on the occasion, V. S. Prakash Reddy said that people across the country recognize Revanth Reddy as India's No.1 Chief Minister, for his commitment to implementing every welfare scheme he had promised.



He further stated that no one can challenge or shake Revanth Reddy's leadership even for the next ten years."Those who participated in the program include Mamidala Santosh Reddy, Nursing Rao, Methuku Srinivas Reddy, Shareef Uddin, Sai Baba, Prem Kumar Goud, Yadayya, Azeem, Srinivas Reddy, Errakunta Naveen, Praveen, Esuf, Shanti Garden Naresh, Vijay, Firoz, Revanth, Srinivas Reddy, Kumar, Saddam, and women leaders Uma, Shayini, Mamata, Vijay, and several others.

Revanth Reddy's Birthday Celebrated with Annadanam under the Leadership of S. V. Kittu

““Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 8: “““Under the leadership of Congress senior leader S. V. Kittu, grand celebrations were held in Mallapur to mark the birthday of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Special prayers were performed at the temple in Suryanagar, Mallapur, followed by Annadanam (food distribution) to devotees and the needy."“Those who participated in the program include

Congress Party Senior Leaders — Umesh Goud, Kappra Sai Goud, Nemali Anil, Raju Goud, Sudershan, Balraj Goud, Maktala Raju Goud, Suresh Goud, Srikanth Reddy, Josh, Muzeeb, Ferose Khan, Akbar Pasha, Anwar, Vaasu, Yadhi Reddy, Venkatesh Goud, Niranjan, Shailaja, Sony Goud, Intiyas, Shilpa, Jayanth Goud, Vinesh Yadav, and Amjad.

Collector Unveils Bhadrachalam Electronic Media Press Club Brochure Media Plays a Vital Role in Public Awareness: Collector Jitesh V. Patil

Shaik Sharief,Bhadrachalam, November 8, Indian Chronicle:"The newly printed brochure of the Bhadrachalam Electronic Media Press Club was unveiled on Saturday at the District Collector's Office by



District Collector Jitesh V. Patil.Speaking on the occasion, the Collector emphasized the significant responsibility of electronic media in disseminating government welfare information to the public and highlighting social issues. He urged the media representatives to maintain accuracy and uphold public trust while reporting.The club, recently registered with active participation from various satellite news channels, is committed to serving society through responsible journalism, the representatives stated.The event witnessed the presence of Honorary President Kuppala Nagaraju, Press Club President Pokala Srinivas, Secretary Bala Kiran, Vice President Jaswanth, Joint Secretary Thammalla Rajesh, Publicity Secretary Prem Kumar, Treasurer Lanka Rajesh, along with club members Raju, Suresh, Ravi, and others.The members expressed their determination to continue working proactively to bring developmental activities, people's issues, and civic needs to the forefront in the coming days

Parameshwar Reddy attends Tirupati Reddy's daughter's wedding and blesses the newlyweds

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 8 (Indian Chronicle):“Uppal Constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy attended the



wedding ceremony of Rachana Reddy, daughter of Enumula Tirupati Reddy, in-charge of Kodangal Constituency and brother of Telangana Chief Minister Enumula Revanth Reddy. The wedding took place on Saturday at HICC Novotel, Hyderabad. Parameshwar Reddy blessed the newlyweds, Rachana Reddy and Anshuman Reddy, and conveyed his best wishes to Tirupati Reddy on the joyous occasion.

Grand Celebration of CM A. Revanth Reddy's Birthday

“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 8: “““In Nacharam 6th Division, the 57th birthday of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was celebrated grandly. On this occasion, a special puja ceremony was performed at a temple, praying for his good health, long life, and



strong leadership for the people of Telangana."Later, at Sadhana Foundation, Nacharam, food, fruits, and various essential items were distributed to orphans and poor people, symbolizing the service-oriented vision of our Chief Minister. The event was organized under the leadership of Bandaram Srikanth Goud and held in a grand manner."On behalf of Nacharam 6th Division Congress Party, heartfelt birthday wishes were conveyed to our beloved Chief Minister Enmula Revanth Reddy, with prayers for him to celebrate many more birthdays in the years to come."Participants in the program included Bandaram Srikanth Goud (President, Nacharam 6th Division Congress Party), G. Krishna Reddy, H. R. Mohan, M. Ram Reddy, Badari, K. Ramesh Goud, Bandari Raghu, Sevadal Venkatesh, E. Krishna Yadav, Nuttulaakanti Raju, Mohammad Khudiyas, Mohammad Khayeem, Gollam Naresh, Chi. Naresh, Javed, Sri Gaddam Srinivas, Kumar, Mohammad Jaffar, Mohan Chinna, V. Srimanth Goud, T. H. Balaraj, Rajashekar, K. Panduranga Goud, Leelavathi, Smt. Bharatamma, and several others.

CM Revanth Reddy's Birthday Celebrations Held Grandly in Boduppal



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle): “at the Boduppal Municipal Congress Party office, the birthday of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was celebrated under the leadership of Party President Pogula Narasimhareddy. Former ex Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav, B Block General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, and former Corporator Bhukya Suman participated in the celebrations, cut the cake, and conveyed their greetings. Former ex corporators, senior leaders, and several party workers also took part in the event.

Bonthu Sridevi Yadav Extends Birthday Wishes to CM Revanth Reddy



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle): “Leader who has won the hearts of the people, tirelessly working for the development of Telangana heart-felt birthday wishes to Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy. May you continue to achieve greater success in public service with good health and long life. Bonthu Sridevi Yadav Standing Committee Member, Corporator Cherlapally Division

Vajresh Yadav Joins Campaign for Congress Candidate Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle): “The 13th day of the election campaign in support of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav from the

Jubilee Hills constituency continued with great enthusiasm in the Rahmatnagar division. Medchal constituency Congress in-charge Totakura Vajresh Yadav actively participated in the campaign and appealed to the public to support the party candidate.

Constable dies by suicide after falling into financial troubles due to online betting



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 8 (Indian Chronicle): “A police constable died by suicide after facing severe financial problems allegedly caused by addiction to online betting. The tragic incident took place under the jurisdiction of the Uppal Police Station. “According to Uppal Police Admin SI Madhav Reddy, the deceased constable, identified as Srikanth (42), was residing at Mallikarjuna Nagar, Uppal, and was serving at Film Nagar Police Station. Srikanth belonged to the 2009 batch of police recruits. Reportedly, he had been absent from duty since October 23 and a notice had been sent earlier that morning from Film Nagar Police Station instructing him to report back to work. “Upon receiving information through Dial 100, Uppal police reached his residence in Mallikarjuna Nagar and found Srikanth hanging. His father broke open the door and brought him down, but he had already passed away. Preliminary investigation suggests that Srikanth had fallen into debt after becoming addicted to online betting, which led to severe mental distress and financial strain, ultimately driving him to take his own life. “The body has been shifted to Gandhi Hospital mortuary for postmortem, and Uppal police have initiated an investigation into the incident.

The source is Santa's special response



“Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 08: The 17th Moor Santh was organized on Saturday at Marri Krishna Hall in Tarnaka under the joint auspices of CSR Memorial Foundation and Gram Bharathi. Before that, special prayers were performed to the cow. Marri Ravinder Reddy, Sudarshan Reddy, Vasantha Reddy, Gram Bharathi representative Ootkuri Lingam and others attended the program and inaugurated the Moor Santh. Farmers and artisans from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and other states set up more than 100 stalls



with 500 types of cow-based agricultural products. Nature lovers, farmer consumers A large number of people visited the original shrine. The program was attended by Janahita Seva Trust Murthy, AV Rao, Muralidhar, Prabhakar Reddy, Aakuthota Rama Rao, Karunakar, Sivakumar, CSR Foundation Marri Krishna, Original Shrine Coordinator Bommakanti Malleshram, Foundation members Jyoti, Hema, Shekhar and others.

Kuchipudi Dance Performance Enchants Audience at Uppal Mini Shilparamam



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 8 (Indian Chronicle): “As part of the weekend cultural programs at Uppal Mini Shilparamam, a captivating Kuchipudi dance performance was presented on Saturday evening by Uma Reddy, dance guru of Nrityanandi School of Dance, along with her disciples. “The performers enthralled the audience with graceful renditions of classical pieces such as Maha Ganapathim, Mooshika Vahana, Ekadantaya Vakratundaya, Ramachandraya, Bho Shambho, Shlokam, Brahmanjali, Rara Venugopala, Koluvaitivaaranga Sai, Swagatam Krishna, and Garuda Gamana. “Dancers Aadhya, Aaradhya, Geethika, Hansini, Harsha, Harshika, Lasya, Krithika, Nehana, and Pragyaa Sri showcased remarkable talent and devotion through their performances, winning the ap-

preciation of the audience.

Congress Leaders Celebrate CM Birthday with Social Service Activities



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle): “Under the leadership of Peerzadiguda Municipal Congress Party President Thungaturthi Ravi and RV Foundation, the birthday of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was celebrated in a grand manner. On this occasion, cakes were cut at the offices of Amma Odi Foundation, Delight Foundation, and Maa Foundation, and notebooks were distributed to students. Thungaturthi Ravi, along with Karre Rajesh and Singireddy Srinivas Reddy, participated in the celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, Thungaturthi Ravi said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has introduced sev-

eral reforms for the better future of students in Telangana. He mentioned that free bus travel for students, English-medium education in government schools, digital classrooms, and various welfare schemes have been implemented to ensure quality education for poor students. He added that RV Foundation would continue to support and encourage educational initiatives inspired by these ideals. Congress leaders from Pirzadiguda, Ghatkesar, and Pocharam municipalities Vanguri Paramesh, Sudarshan Reddy, Surender Reddy, Somayya, Pandu Rangareddy, Satish, Mahesh, Amar Nath, Krishna, Jalagam Sharath Goud, Kapil, Raju along with members of the respective foundations, participated in the event.

Door-to-Door Campaign in Support of Naveen Kumar Yadav at Maruthi Nagar



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle): “As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, a door-to-door campaign was conducted in Maruthi Nagar, Erragadda division, under the leadership of Garika Sudhakar, urging people to ensure a huge majority for Congress candidate Naveen Kumar Yadav. Those who participated in the campaign included Garika Sudhakar, Konda Swami, Dayanand, Yeru Ashok, Banda Dinesh, Gaddam Kiran, Dhanush, and others.

Evacuation of orphans and beggars from Gandhi hospital



“Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, November 8: “The local police have shifted orphans and beggars living in the premises of Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad and the surrounding areas of the metro station to the orphanage. Since the hospital is providing three meals a day, a

large number of orphans, beggars and scrap paper collectors have gathered there. Those who have fallen ill have been treated in the hospital and have not gone home after recovering. Some elderly people are being left in the Gandhi premises by their family members. Hundreds of people have made the premises of Gandhi Hospital their home and are filling their stomachs with food donations. As people who have fallen ill due to old age and illness die here, the cases of unidentified dead bodies are increasing day by day. These have become a headache for the Chilakalaguda police. In this context, ACP Shashank Reddy and SHO Anudeep are planning and implementing a special operation to solve the problem. They are identifying orphans and beggars, counseling them and taking them to orphanages. A special drive was conducted on Thursday and tens of orphans were “Chilakalaguda ACP Shashank Reddy and SHO Anudeep are providing counseling. “The orphans and beggars were shifted to Ammananna Orphanage in Chautuppal. The ACP said that the orphans and beggars who have taken up residence in Gandhi Hospital, sweating in the sun and shivering in the cold, will get all kinds of facilities and healthy food in the orphanages and old age homes and that the counseling being done will yield positive results. The unfortunate. He said that it is good to donate food to the needy, but problems are arising due to the constant distribution of food three times a day at the same place. Chilaka Lagoda NHO Anudeep. SI Rakesh. Staff participated.

Inter-state gang of thieves arrested. “GRP police arrest notorious criminal Thanedar Singh

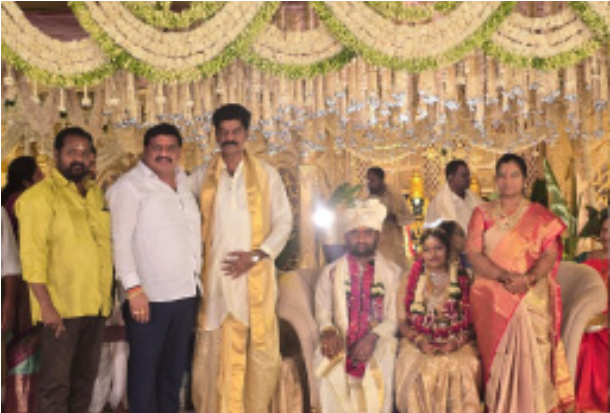


Secunderabad, November 7, (Indian Chronicle) “The Railway Police have busted an interstate gang that was committing thefts in trains without the police being aware of it. According to Railway SP Chandana Deepti, the Vikarabad Railway Police have arrested a notorious interstate thief, Thanedar Singh. He has been committing many thefts, robberies and attacks for a long time. “Thanedar Singha, a resident of Ama village in Anal taluka of Algarh district of Uttar Pradesh, studied up to class 3. In 2004, he started selling cigarettes and snacks on trains at Pune railway station, at the same time he started picking pockets. “They formed a gang with other thieves and committed thefts on trains running between Vikarabad-Secunderabad-Pune... “He started committing thefts on running trains. He lives with his family in Vikarabad and commits thefts on trains. “The Banjara Hills police arrested him under crime number 640/2007, 379 IPC and section 102 for theft in Vikarabad trains in 2007. “In 2012, he was arrested by the Solapur Railway Police in Maharashtra under crime number 13/2012 Us 379 IPC, CC 42/2012. He served 11 months in Solapur jail. “In 2014, the thieves formed a gang with Bholenath Payakrao and Javed, bought a country-made pistol and committed robberies on trains. After a failed robbery attempt on the Aurangabad-Hyderabad passenger train near Zaheerabad, they attacked the passengers and escaped. Later, Bholenath Payakrao and Javed were arrested and their pistol, “But Thanedar escaped. Till 2019, he committed several thefts and robberies in Vikarabad, Raichur and Zaheerabad areas. When the police or pas-

sengers tried to catch him, he would attack them with knives or blades and escape. “In 2019, he escaped from Vikarabad railway station when the GRP police tried to arrest him, snatched a scooter from a man at knifepoint and fled. Later that year, he attacked and injured police at Begumpet railway station. “The accused, who had tied the knot in Begumpet after a trap operation in December 2019, was arrested. SP Chandana Deepti said that during interrogation, the accused confessed to committing 39 robberies, thefts and assaults. The police seized Rs 216,94,000 in cash and 541 grams of gold. He has been sent to Chenchalaguda jail. “After being released on bail in 2021, he resumed thefts and marijuana trafficking. “Raichur police arrested him and sent him to jail. He escaped in the middle of the night while he was under a PT warrant at Mahabubnagar police station. “While absconding, he again smuggled 28 kg of ganja in train number 18519 LTT Express D-2 coach, was arrested by Vikarabad Railway Police and sent to jail. “Latest Case Details: “On October 7 at 3:30 am, on the Aurangabad-Guntur Express (S-1 coach) near Vikarabad, the accused forcibly snatched the mobile phone and valuables from 24-year-old female passenger Sheikh Sana Anjum.. When her husband Sheikh Sameer stopped him, the accused attacked him with a blade, seriously injuring his left hand and threatening to kill him. The accused fled with a Vivo phone and Rs 23,000 in cash. “Other crimes and pending warrants: “Apart from this robbery case, he is involved in 13 other cases like picking pockets of passengers, stealing cash and gold from luggage and bags in various trains. Similarly, he is involved in several cases in Raichur and Wadi areas. Non-bailable warrants (NBWs) are pending against him at Raichur and Wadi railway police stations. In total, Thanedar Singh has been arrested in around 62 cases so far, including robberies, thefts, assault on police



Grand Wedding of Former ex MLA Banoth Shankar Naik Daughter Tejaswi Celebrated in Hyderabad



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle):""The wedding ceremony of Tejaswi and Teja, daughter of former Mahabubabad BRS ex MLA Banoth Shankar Naik and Sita Mahalakshmi, was celebrated in a grand and traditional manner at SNR Pushpa Function Hall, Anthayipalli, Hyderabad. The event was attended by several political leaders, family members, and well wishers who extended their greetings and blessings to the newlywed couple. Telangana State Youth Wing leader and senior leader Regalla Satish Reddy, along with senior leader Koppula Kumar, graced the occasion and congratulated the families. They wished the couple a happy, prosperous, and harmonious married life filled with joy and success.

Drunk Man Crushed to Death Under Tractor



""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 8 (Indian Chronicle):""In a tragic incident under the Uppal Police Station limits, a man died after being run over by a tractor while sleeping underneath it in a drunken state."According to Uppal police sub-inspector Madhav Reddy, the deceased, identified as V. Shekhar (40), a resident of Medchal, was employed in catering work. On Friday, he attended a function at KCR Nagar, Sabera Colony, Ramantapur, and later went to the Happy Bar in Srinagar Colony, where he consumed alcohol."In a heavily intoxicated state, Shekhar reportedly lay down under an unidentified tractor parked in front of the bar. In the early hours of Saturday, the tractor driver, unaware that Shekhar was lying underneath, started the vehicle and accidentally ran over him, leading to his instant death."Based on a complaint lodged by the family members, Uppal police have registered a case and taken up investigation.

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao made a surprise inspection of the PACS grain purchase center in Hanmapuram village



""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 8):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao made a surprise inspection of the PACS grain purchase center in Hanmapuram village, Bhuvanagiri mandal, Yadadri

Bhuvanagiri district. He inquired about how many piles of grain have arrived at the center so far. How much grain has been purchased. He said that the farmers should purchase grain without any difficulties. Farmers should keep tarpaulin covers available.

Ration rice is available only to the people of Thanda..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector

Hanumantha Rao orders to send rice to Thanda immediately
Ration rice distribution to Jethuram Thanda by Ramoji Nayak Thanda
Thanda people thanking District Collector Hanumantha Rao



(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 8):- District Collector Hanumantha Rao noted that it is difficult to go 2 kilometers every month from Mulakalapalli Ration Shop to bring ration rice. Recognizing the difficulty of Thanda



residents, sub-centers have been set up in their Thandas from Mulakalapalli Ration Shop to Jethuram Thanda and from Gollagudem Ration Shop to Ramoji Nayak Thanda for the residents of their Thandas." The residents of Thanda thanked the District Collector for setting up this sub-center.

Government Whip MLA Beerla Ailaiah wishes Chief Minister Varyulu Revanth Reddy a happy birthday



""Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah along with other MLAs wished Telangana State Chief Minister Revanth Reddy a happy birthday by covering him with a shawl. At a private function held in Hyderabad, Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah politely met him and wished him a happy birthday. He expressed special gratitude to CM Revanth Reddy for leading the Telangana State on the path of development and wished the Chief Minister.

If KCR Builds Houses, Revanth Will Demolish Them with Hydra: BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj



""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, HYDERABAD, November 8 (Indian Chronicle):""As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, following the instructions of Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, the constituency in-charge and former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy led a campaign

on Saturday at Ellareddyguda Srinagar Colony area."BRS leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, along with leaders from Chilkana Division and Maheshwaram constituency, participated in door-to-door campaigning across booths 294, 295, and 296, appealing to voters to support BRS candidate Sunitha Gopinath and vote for the Car symbol."Speaking on the occasion, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said that the people of Jubilee Hills should compare 10 years of development under KCR's leadership with the two years of destruction under Revanth Reddy's rule. He alleged that the Revanth Reddy government, under the guise of the Hydra project, is demolishing the houses of poor people, whereas KCR constructed one lakh double-bedroom houses during his tenure to uplift the underprivileged."Booth in-charges Edula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Masa Shekhar, Sundar, Shyam Bunt, Sai and others participated in the program.

Former Minister Jagadishwar Reddy attended the wedding ceremony of Tejaswi

- Teja Nayak, daughter of former Mahabubabad

MLA Banothu Shankar Nayak.. State leaders Chintala Venkateswar Reddy



""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 8):- Former Minister, MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy, BRS Party senior state leaders Chintala Venkateswar Reddy, former MLAs Dr. Gadari Kishore Kumar, Paylla Sekhar Reddy, Budida Bhikshamayya Goud, former MP Badugula attended the wedding ceremony of Tejaswi - Teja Nayak, daughter of former Mahabubabad MLA Banothu Shankar Nayak at the SNR Pushpa Convention Hall in Hyderabad town and blessed the newlyweds. Lingaiah Yadav, Karthik and others participated.

Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Visits Omaujaya Sri Bhavati Kshetram in Keesara



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle):""Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy visited the spiritual center Omaujaya Sri Bhavati Kshetram located at Godumakunta in Keesara and received the blessings of the presiding deity. Devotees regularly engage in spiritual practices, guru devotion, collective worship, and service-oriented activities at the center. The MLA mentioned that community services such as free meals and Sankalpa Seva are also organized in the vicinity as part of the temple's ongoing initiatives. BRS leader Nemuri Mahesh Goud, along with Omaujaya Sri Paramoji Brahma Shastragnya Srirushi Prajnananda Swamy and other devotees, participated in the event.

Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Attends Wedding of CM Revanth Reddy Niece Rachana Reddy at HICC

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle):""The wedding of Rachana Reddy, daughter of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother Tirupati Reddy, and Anshuman Reddy took place in a grand manner at HICC (HITEC Convention Hall), Hyderabad. The event was attended by several political leaders, family members, and well wishers from across the state. Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, along with BRS state leader and former Corporation Chairman Ravula Sridhar Reddy, attended the ceremony and conveyed their best wishes to the newly married couple. The leaders congratulated the families of both the bride and groom, wishing them a happy and prosperous married life. The wedding venue was beautifully decorated, and the event reflected the joyful atmosphere of a prominent family gathering in Telangana's political circles.



A dangerously old building in the cantonment

SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT,NOVEMBER.8 . (Indian Chronicle): ""There was no special drive for the demolition of dilapidated buildings that had become dangerous in Bowenpally under the Cantonment Board. In view of the rainy season, the board officials did not visit the ward-wise field level "An ancient apartment building, which is supposed to be the main canal in the sixth ward under the jurisdiction of the Cantonment Board, is dilapidated and distressed. There is a situation of not knowing when they will collapse due to rains. The board mechanism which should take strict measures to avoid loss of property and life is not working. Recently, due to recent rains, the retaining wall has collapsed, besides this, the adjacent nala wall has washed away and is touching the

pillars of the apartment. Now the pillar has also become dangerous. The people living in it are doing small repairs and living in it knowing that the apartment is dangerous. It is not known when this apartment will collapse. After a major accident and loss of life and property, the authorities should not rush and take action before a major accident occurs. There are two other buildings next to Nala that are also in the same condition and the authorities have identified them and many local residents are appealing to the authorities to take measures to prevent accidents.



Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Attends Civil Judge's Wedding Ceremony at Classic Garden



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle):""Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy attended the wedding ceremony of the Civil Judge held at Classic



Garden, Secunderabad. He conveyed his best wishes to the newlywed couple and participated in the celebrations. Several prominent personalities, public representatives, and well-wishers also attended the event, making it a joyous and memorable occasion.

Grand celebration of CM Revanth Reddy's birthday

""SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT,NOVEMBER.8 . (Indian Chronicle): Revanth Reddy's birthday celebrations were held on Saturday under the leadership of Congress leaders at Cantonment Playground in Boinapally, Cantonment Constituency. The program was organized by a senior Congress leader. Jampana Pratap, former vice president of the Cantonment Board, was the chief guest and cut the cake. Speaking on this occasion, Jampana Pratap said that after taking charge of the post as the second Chief Minister of our state, six guarantees are being implemented for the welfare of the poor. In this birthday celebration "Malyadri. Harikrishna. Kumar. King Kinnera. Mukesh Yadav. Varaprasad. Yadagiri.. Satyanarayana. Karan Singh. Shashi Raj Krishna. Others participated.



Sri Vaidya Foundation Demonstrates Altruistic Eminence — Humanitarian Endeavor Illuminates the Spirit of Social Benevolence

“P.S.ASHOKAN”KARIMNGAR BUREAU”“In an exemplary act of philanthropic magnanimity, Sri Vaidya Foundation extended indispensable provisions to Aavanuri Gattamma, an indigent octogenarian residing in Ambedkar Nagar, Manthani. This compassionate outreach was graciously facilitated by Income Tax Consultant Sirimulla Rammohan, who, on the occasion of his daughter’s transcontinental sojourn to the United States, chose to commemorate the event through an act of social beneficence — aiding a destitute family in need.”“The Chairman of Sri Vaidya Foundation articulated profound admiration and gratitude toward Rammohan and his family, asserting that such initiatives epitomize ethical stewardship and communal empathy. He emphasized that when eminent families intertwine personal milestones with humanitarian service, they engender a ripple of collective conscience and societal elevation.”“Such benevolent undertakings stand as a luminous testament to the transformative power of compassion, fostering inclusivity and dignity among the marginalized. The Foundation conveyed its heartfelt felicitations and sincere appreciation



to the Rammohan family for their altruistic participation, affirming that their gesture serves as a paragon of humanitarian virtue and a quintessential model of social responsibility.

Election Campaign at Srinagar Colony, Jubilee Hills Constituency



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 08, (Indian Chronicle).”“As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, a meeting was held today at Vishnu Splendor Apartment premises, covering polling stations 304 and 305 in Shalivahana Nagar, Srinagar Colony. Former Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy, Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, and former corporator Mahesh Yadav participated in the event and interacted with the residents During the interaction, Dr. Amarish Rao (Cardiovascular Specialist, NIMS



Hospital), Dr. Geetha Nagashree (Oncologist, CARE Hospital), and apartment residents took part in the discussion. Speaking on the occasion, Marri Rajasekhara Reddy recalled the dedicated public service of late Maganti Gopinath and urged the residents to support BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath, who continues his legacy of service and development. He appealed to the voters saying, Strong leadership is possible only with people’s support. Vote for the Car symbol vote for development. Residents of Vasavi Bhuvana Apartments including Dheeraj, Surendranath, Murali, Rohith, and others actively participated in the event.

Chief Minister making false statements out of fear that Congress will lose. :Kishan Reddy

Bad brothers Revanth and KCR have pushed Telangana into a financial crisis.

“Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, November 8,”



Revanth Reddy failed in all aspects which he promised to the public said Kishan Reddy unapressed conference held at BJP head office on Saturday. He Stated that “When the Chief Minister goes to the people, he should explain what he has done and then criticize the opponent and ask for votes. He has not said a single word about the promises made before the elections. He has not said a single word about the promises that the Congress government has implemented. In just two months, he has not implemented a single promise and is only criticizing the opponent. He is making false criticisms of us, our Prime Minister, and our party as part of a strategy to divert the opposition among the people.”“Revanth Reddy the Congress party leader is promoting the politics of BJP and BRS merging. He did the same in the last parliamentary elections. Revanth Reddy while campaigning in the MLC elections made personal criticisms of me. Even though he criticized me personally made false allegations, and criticized my personality.”“The people of the country and the people of Telangana know what BJP is and what Kishan Reddy is. We are not a family party like you. BJP is a party that keeps its promises. BJP is a party that is working without a single allegation of corruption under the leadership of Modi ji.”“The party that made fake videos and campaigned in the last elections is Congress-BRS. The situation is the same in Jubilee Hills. Did Rahul Gandhi who said he would collect Rs 1 lakh crore of corrupt money even without Rs 1 lakh?”“An agreement has been reached between BRS and Congress at the Delhi level. Isn’t this true? Isn’t it true that KTR speaking yesterday said that Rahul Gandhi wanted to get rid of Revanth Reddy? When he lost the Delhi elections... isn’t it true that KTR wanted to fight against BJP on social media with Rahul Gandhi and Kejriwal? And how are they linking BJP and BRS?” if you have the guts I challenge you to show what the BJP-BRS are united.”“What happened to the phone tapping case? What happened to the electricity procurement case? What happened to the grain procurement case? What happened to the land procurement case? Did you take action against just one BRS leader, Revanth Reddy? Have you forgotten how many allegations were made against BRS during the campaign Revanth Reddy?”“Is it true that thousands of rupees were collected from contractors and real estate industries? Is it true that that money was sent to Bihar elections? You don’t have the heart to reimburse students for fees. Health insurance dues are pending. There is no money to buy street lights.”“Where were you when the Centre approved the Triple R (RRR)? The Centre is working sincerely for the development of Telangana. In the last Meet the Press, the projects and funds given by the Centre to Hyderabad were explained. Are you ready to discuss this? Revanth Reddy, if KCR has time, I am ready to explain what the Centre has done for Telangana. Do you have the courage to come and listen?”“Revanth Reddy is talking about KTR and Kishan Reddy as ‘bad brothers’. Chief Minister Revanth is acting like ‘Ulta Chor Kotwal Ko Dante’ (as if threatening a policeman who steals).”“there are any ‘bad brothers’ in Telangana, it’s Revanth Reddy and KCR!”“The Revanth Reddy government is a fake, fraud, false, and failure government.”“The BRS government is also a fake, fraudulent, false, and failure familyprivate limited



government.”“Previously, the KCR Family Private Limited government was in power, now it is the Sonia Family Private Limited government.”“KCR-Revanth are bold in engaging in covert politics!”“Bad brothers Revanth and KCR have pushed Telangana into a financial crisis.”“Bad brothers Revanth and KCR have been involved in corruption in many projects.”“Bad brothers Revanth and KCR who cheated the unemployed and women.”“Revanth and KCR are the bad brothers”“Revanth and KCR are the bad brothers who nurtured the Majlis party and followed their wishes and ideas.”“Bad brothers Revanth and KCR cheated women by not giving them gold, scooters, and interest on savings associations.”“Bad brothers Revanth and KCR cheated farmers with promises.”“Revanth and KCR are the bad brothers who nurtured the Majlis party and followed their wishes and ideas.”“Bad brothers Revanth and KCR are nurturing belt shops in villages.”“Bad brothers Revanth and KCR cheated women by not giving them gold, scooters, and interest on savings associations”“Bad brothers Revanth and KCR cheated farmers with promises.”“Revanth and KCR are the bad brothers threatening real estate.”“Why are these two parties targeting BJP? I am appealing once again... We have defeated Congress in eight seats in the four months of becoming the Chief Minister. We do not need to give a concession to Congress. We have won the MLC elections.”“The state government is taking over the entire Metro from L&T... A Detailed Project Report (DPR) has to be prepared on this. The DPR submitted by the state government is incomplete. The DPR submitted will be discussed by the Metro experts, after which the Urban Development Department in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) will have to take full details and then give its approval to the Cabinet”“It happened before he became the Chief Minister. Warangal will be set up as a manufacturing center for wagons and engines with an investment of about Rs. 800 crore. The Center is serious about the construction of national highways in Telangana. Modi’s government has spent Rs. 1.20 lakh crore on roads. Another Rs. 83 thousand crore roads are under construction.”“They are harassing students by not giving fee reimbursement. Be ready for a discussion with KCR and Revanth Reddy. They should tell me which project I have blocked. Are they ready for a discussion? I did not do religious politics. I did not insult Muslims. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should clarify who the ‘bad brothers’ are. I will not go around like Revanth Reddy who went around all the parties. I am the only one in the party. I was born in BJP, I will work here till my last breath. When I die, I will cover myself with the saffron flag. Whether I have a post or

If Bihar can have SIR before polls, why can’t Maharashtra? Opposition leaders questions state election body



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Two delegations of Opposition leaders in Maharashtra met senior election officials in the state on Tuesday before the upcoming local body polls, and raised several concerns, ranging from questioning why no special intensive revision of electoral rolls was carried out in the state if the same could be implemented in Bihar before the Assembly elections to demanding that voting be conducted using ballot papers.While one delegation of top Opposition leaders met Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) S Chockalingam, another met State Election Commissioner Dinesh Waghmare.

The Opposition asked the poll body to consider the use of VVPAT machines in the Mumbai elections since there is no ward system. “Mumbai does not have a multi-ward system. If the Election Commission cannot provide VVPATs even to Mumbai, then we demand that the election in Mumbai be held on ballot papers,” the letter submitted by the opposition leaders’ delegation said.With the hour-long meeting with Chockalingam ending inconclusively, a joint meeting of Opposition leaders with both Chockalingam and Waghmare is scheduled for Wednesday.

Former chief ministers Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena president Raj Thackeray, Congress Working Committee member Balasaheb Thorat, Peasants and Workers Party general secretary Jayant Patil, Ajit Nawale and Subhash Lande of Left parties and Rais Sheikh of the Samajwadi Party met Chockalingam with the demand letter.”The Opposition parties highlighted several problems in the voters’ list in a meeting held with the CEO. We have requested that our point

should be heard jointly by the State Election Commission and CEO, who is the representative of the Election Commission of India. Our demand is that the voters’ list should be rectified before the local body polls. We presented a number of examples such as a son having age more than his father, more than a 100 people living in one room, etc,” former minister and NCP (SP) leader Jayant Patil said.

Concerns over list of voter deletions, additions raisedThe letter raised six points. It alleged that the Election Commission has not made public the list of names deleted and added in the updated voters’ list to be used for the local body polls. Pointing out that a number of voters from different states reside in urban parts of the state, the letter said that many of them have registered their names twice, in their home state and in Maharashtra.”This is a crime. The Election Commission is responsible for ensuring that this does not happen. What efforts are being taken by the Election Commission for the same? If the Election Commission has undertaken a special campaign to remove double voters in Bihar before the Assembly polls, then why can’t we see a similar effort in Maharashtra before local body polls?,” the letter asked.The Indian Express reported on Monday that the State Election Commission has already conveyed to the Election Commission of India that it cannot hold SIR in Maharashtra until January 2026 as the Supreme Court has directed to complete the local body polls procedure before January 31, 2026.The letter also raised the question on the State Election Commission’s decision to not use VVPAT machines in local body polls. Waghmare has already said that VVPAT machines will not be used in these polls. “We have spent over thousands of crore on these VVPATs. What is the use of it if we are not going to use them? Common people have no trust in EVMS. The only way of confirming the vote is VVPAT and now you are going to close the same,” said the letter.Sources within the SEC said that due to the multi-ward system in local bodies, except Mumbai, the use of VVPATs is virtually impossible.After the meeting, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said, “Two of our delegations held meetings at two places. One was with the CEO and the other was with the State Election Commission. The meeting with the CEO was incomplete as there is going to be yet another meeting tomorrow (Wednesday). There will be a joint meeting of the CEO and State Election Commission with Opposition parties.”

Gang arrested from fake call centre in Bengaluru for committing ‘digital arrest’ fraud on US, Canadian citizens: police



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

“Digital arrest” is no longer a concern limited to India. The Bengaluru city police have arrested a gang of 16 people who, in a manner similar to “digital arrest” frauds, allegedly cheated US and Canadian citizens out of huge amounts of money by claiming to be from federal agencies investigating crimes related to illegal drugs and money laundering.Seemant Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru, announced the arrests on Tuesday and said that a special team would be formed to investigate the matter further.The police received a tip-off that a fake BPO company named Cybits Solutions Pvt Ltd was being run in HSR Layout police limits. The South Division police raided the company on October 7 and found that it had hired more than 25 young people under the pretext of providing legitimate employment.

They were being trained in online cyber fraud and engaged in a criminal conspiracy to collect information from unsuspecting individuals online, according to the police.Seemant Kumar Singh said the accused contacted US citizens via internet calls, falsely claiming that they were investigators or officials from US law enforcement agencies. They would intimidate victims, alleging their involvement in drug trafficking or money laundering cases, and under the pretext of “helping” them, would demand money online to “settle” the matter, thereby illegally obtaining large sums of money through cybercrime. The accused also showed fake police and FBI ID cards.The accused revealed that they had found job offers on WorkIndia, LinkedIn, and similar websites advertising openings in BPOs providing online services to the USA, Canada, and other countries.The company’s managers had lured jobseekers from various states by promising free accommodation and work oppor-

tunities in Bengaluru, the police said. They arranged houses in HSR Layout and BTM Layout, as well as cab and food facilities. After three weeks of telecaller training, employees were instructed to call customers in the US using names such as “U.S. Federal Investigation Service” and “U.S. Postal Service Investigation Section”.

Through a live server provided by the company, they would speak to victims, accuse them of being involved in criminal cases, show fake police IDs, and demand money in exchange for avoiding “arrest”. The defrauded amounts were deposited into the company’s wallets or bank accounts. When investigators examined the computer systems, they found that the accused were using fake “digital arrest scripts” and multiple online calling tools and fake websites to contact US citizens, deceive them, and extort money, the police said.Seemant Kumar Singh said the employees lived in two paying guest facilities and were stepping out only at night to work at the office.A police officer said, “There were clear directions for the employees that they were not supposed to speak with outsiders and not to reveal any information regarding work. The salaries of these employees were about Rs 25,000, but everyone used to get incentives based on the amount they siphon from US and Canadian nationals. We took the data and bank statements and found out that many of the employees have received incentives up to Rs 5 lakh in a month. Definitely, they would have siphoned crores of rupees.

They were speaking English with a US accent.”While the company had been operating for two years, the police say it was just a unit of the entire operation. “In digital arrest, generally, there would be a fake court, a fake police station, and others. But we have not found those things here. We suspect the kingpin is sitting somewhere else,” the officer said.”The employees were trained to act like US federal employees, and scripts were also given to them for reference while making calls. We have informed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for further details to see if any “digital arrest” cases were filed there,” a police officer added.Among the arrested accused, eight are from Maharashtra, four from Meghalaya, and one each from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Gujarat. The police have seized 41 computer systems, two attendance registers, 4 script notebooks, 25 mobile phones, an ID card, one IP device, and four routers.The accused have been sent to judicial custody, but the HSR Layout police said they would approach the court for their custody for further investigation.

MP Etela Rajender inspected the elevated corridor works

““ SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT,NOVEMBER.8 . (Indian Chronicle): ““ Malkajgiri Parliament MP Etela Rajender inspected the work of the elevated corridor being constructed under Secunderabad Cantonment Board on Saturday and gave appropriate instructions and suggestions to the officials. HMDA officer Harikrishna discussed the construction work from Paradise Signal to Medchal and drinking water pipeline construction work.” Local traffic DCP on road diversion, traffic issues “A discussion was held with Rahul Hegde. On this occasion, motorists were advised to make plans to avoid causing problems to the local people. BJP state executive member Banuka Mallikarjun, Cantonment Board ex-vice president Keshav Reddy, Cantonment BJP leaders and activists participated in this programme.



Three arrested for murder of 25-year-old in Dhanas: Chandigarh Police



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

The Chandigarh Police claimed to have solved the murder case of a 25-year-old man by arresting three persons, including the main conspirator. The case came to light after Neha, a resident of Milk Colony, Dhanas, reported her brother Akash missing on October 18, three days after he failed to return home. On October 19, Akash’s decomposed body was found in Patiala Ki Rao drain near the Dhanas bridge. The post-mortem examination was conducted at Government Multi-Specialty Hospital (GMSH), Sector 16, on October 21.

Taking note of the crime, police teams were constituted under the supervision of senior officers to trace the culprits. The investigation involved examination of CCTV footage from nearby areas, analysis of call detail records,

and raids at multiple suspected hideouts. During the course of the investigation, the police arrested Sonu, alias Bunty (19), and Suraj, alias Kancha (20), both residents of Dhanas. The accused were produced before the court on October 23, which granted their police remand. During their interrogation, a third accused, Harsh, alias Chunni Lal (19), also a resident of Dhanas, was arrested on the disclosure of Suraj, police said. Police said during the investigation, they recovered crucial evidence linking the accused to the crime, including blood-stained glass pieces, stones, clothes and the mobile phone of the deceased. The forensic analysis of these exhibits is expected to further strengthen the case, police said. Police said that investigations revealed that Suraj, alias Kancha, was the kingpin behind the murder. The trio had initially attempted to snatch Akash’s mobile phone, but when they failed in their attempt, they forced him to consume alcohol, police said, adding that after Akash became intoxicated, “the accused assaulted him and later brutally killed him using sharp glass pieces and stones”. Police said Suraj, who is already facing another criminal case registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the Sarangpur police station, had a history of criminal activity. The other two accused, Sonu and Harsh, are school dropouts and residents of the same locality, police said. A senior police officer said, “The case was solved through coordinated fieldwork and technical surveillance. Further investigation is in progress to establish the complete sequence of events and gather additional forensic and digital evidence.”

Now, CBI searches IPS officer Punjab DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar’s Machhiwara property

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Friday carried out searches at another property of suspended Punjab Police DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar, held in an alleged bribery case. The CBI sleuths raided his 55-acre farm house cum agricultural land at Mand Sherian village of Machhiwara in Ludhiana district, Friday.

The IPS officer, who was posted as DIG Ropar range, was arrested by the CBI on October 16 after the alleged recovery of Rs 7.50 crore cash, 2.5 kg gold, 26 luxury watches, documents of at least 50 immovable properties etc from his Chandigarh residence. He was subsequently suspended. Sources said the search at Machhiwara property started early morning during which CBI officials scrutinised documents and inspected the premises. Speaking to the local reporters outside the premises, a CBI sleuth confirmed that the raid was the part of ongoing investigation against Bhullar in the bribery case. Earlier, the CBI had also claimed recovery of 108 liquor bottles and Rs 2.89 lakh in cash from his another farmhouse in Bondli village of Samrala, also in Ludhiana district. A separate FIR was registered against Bhullar by Khanna Police under the Excise



Act at Samrala police station for the recovery of liquor bottles. At least 17 live cartridges were also recovered from Samrala farm house for which a separate probe has been initiated as mentioned in the FIR. A 2009-batch IPS officer, Bhullar was arrested by the CBI in a bribery case. The investigation agency said in a statement that “the officer was caught while demanding and accepting illegal gratification from a businessman through his associate for settling an FIR registered against the complainant”.

Punjab State Commission for Protection of Child Rights takes suo motu cognisance of ‘stripping and assault’ on minors in Zirakpur

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Meanwhile, Zirakpur police said that they arrested one of the accused, identified as Ajay, while efforts were underway to nab the remaining suspects. Meanwhile, Zirakpur police said that they arrested one of the accused, identified as Ajay, while efforts were underway to nab the remaining suspects. The Punjab State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has taken suo motu cognisance of the alleged stripping and beating of five minor boys on the VIP road in Zirakpur, and summoned the investigating officer to the Commission’s office at 11 am on October 27, along with the entire case file. Commission Chairperson Kanwardeep Singh issued a summons under Section 17 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. Meanwhile, Zirakpur police said that they arrested one of the accused, identified as Ajay, while efforts were underway to nab the remaining suspects.

On October 20, five minor labourers from Bhudda Sahib village were allegedly stripped naked and beaten by a group of shopkeepers, accusing them of “theft”, on the VIP road. A video of the assault went viral on social media. The minors, however, denied the allegations, claim-



ing they were innocent, daily-waged labourers who came to the area for work. The boys alleged that, apart from the physical assault, they were forcibly fed chillies and denied water when they pleaded. According to the victims, around 9-10 men from Block-B and VIP Road suddenly attacked them without any explanation when they were working. “We were beaten, abused, stripped and even threatened with death,” they alleged. Police reached the spot, provided medical aid to the injured minors, and registered a case based on their complaint.

Bizman robbed of Rs 8.50L; 4 held in separate dacoity case: police

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

panchkula police A police officer said, “Both cases are being investigated on priority. Teams have been deployed to track down the robbers involved in the businessman’s case, while further arrests are likely in the Manimajra dacoity.”

A Panchkula businessman was allegedly robbed of Rs 8.50 lakh in cash by a group of unidentified assailants near the Hallo Majra light point on Tuesday evening, police said on Friday. In a separate incident the same day, the Chandigarh Police arrested four accused for attacking and looting a woman in Manimajra, as part of their ongoing crackdown on street crimes and robberies across the city. In the first case, registered at the Mauli Jagran police station, complainant Ankush Goyal, a businessman from Panchkula, reported that around 7.30 pm on October 22, while driving towards Mauli Jagran, his car was hit by a black Thar vehicle with 3-4 unidentified occupants. The assailants allegedly got down, assaulted him, and snatched Rs 8.50 lakh in cash before fleeing the scene, he alleged. The injured complainant was later admitted to GMCH-32, Chandigarh, for treatment.

Police teams are analysing CCTV footage and technical evidence to trace the vehicle and identify the suspects. Meanwhile, another case was registered at the IT park police station, following a complaint from a 38-year-old woman from New Indra Colony, Manimajra, alleging that on October 22, a group of men, identified as Hunny, Aashu, Chatu, Labbu, Kaku, Naveen, Kalu, Rajan and others, attacked her near House No. 148, New Indra Colony, with rods and batons. The accused allegedly robbed her purse containing Rs 10,000, a mobile phone, and important docu-



Police teams are analysing CCTV footage and technical evidence to trace the vehicle and identify the suspects.

ments before escaping. During the investigation, the police arrested four accused: Naveen (30), Ansul alias Kalu (21), Vijay alias Labbu (33), and Harpal Singh (24), all residents of New Indra Colony, Manimajra. They are currently under interrogation to identify their accomplices and recover the stolen items, police said. A police officer said, “Both cases are being investigated on priority. Teams have been deployed to track down the robbers involved in the businessman’s case, while further arrests are likely in the Manimajra dacoity.”

‘We won’t run, haven’t done anything wrong’: Assam workers in UP deny BJP MP’s ‘Bangladeshi’ label



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

On Friday, a worried Rupachan Ali (33) and his wife Bimala Khatoon sat in their rented under-construction house, clutching their government IDs — Aadhaar card, voter ID, National Register of Citizens (NRC) certificate — afraid that someone might question their identity. The couple from Assam lived in Malesamau, barely one-and-a-half kilometres from the upscale Gomti Nagar locality in Uttar Pradesh’s Lucknow.

A day earlier, they, along with three others from the state, were grilled by BJP Rajya Sabha MP Brij Lal while they were sweeping a road. The MP had uploaded a video of himself stopping the five workers in Gomti Nagar Extension, accusing them of belonging to Bangladesh and labelling them “ghuspathiya (infiltrators)”. Asked about the video, Rupachan said, “We were just doing our regular job, when we were suddenly stopped by a sahab. He asked questions and made a video. Someone showed the video to my mother back in the village, who called me and asked me to come back as she was worried about us.”

Asked if he would go back, he said, “No, we will not run. We have all the documents and we have not done anything wrong. I have a loan to pay. We tried to tell this to the Sahab as well that we have the NRC document but he did not listen. The document has been given to us by the government and we have all the copies with us.” In the video, uploaded on his Facebook account on Thursday, Lal grilled them about their identities. The workers said they hail from different villages in Assam. But Lal replied, “Yeh batate Assam ke hain lekin hain yeh sab Bangladeshi... Woh Bangladesh jo aaj Pakistan ki bhasha bolta hai (They say they are from Assam, but they are Bangladeshi. The same Bangladesh that speaks the language of Pakistan).” “bangladeshi Sanwra Begum and her husband, Mohd Afzal Hussain Standing at the entrance to his home,

Rupachan said he had come to Lucknow about one-and-a-half years ago for work on the advice of a fellow resident in his village, Numberpara. He said they had to come far from home to pay back a Rs 2.5 lakh loan, which they couldn’t do with what they earned from farming. His mother and elder son are living in the village. Husband and wife send half their earnings to them and to pay off the loan. His two other children, an 8-year-old daughter and 6-year-old boy, live with them in Lucknow. They study in a nearby government school Bimala, however, worried about their safety after the video went up. Apart from sweeping roads, she also works as a domestic help in one of the neighbouring colonies and earns about Rs 8,500 a month.

Half a kilometre away, Sanwra Begum — who was also in the video — lived with her husband, Mohd Afzal Hussain. She claimed to have lived in Lucknow for over two decades, working as a cleaner in different localities over the years. “We are from Debradi village in Assam’s Barpeta district. I not only have the NRC document but a PAN card, Labour card and an Ayushman Bharat card issued to me in my village,” she said, while her husband showed the IDs. “We have been working here for years but it is the first time that we have been questioned like this by someone,” she added. Hussain, who said he works with a door-to-door garbage collection agency, added that he had come to the city at the age of 7. He said about a month ago, police had come to verify their identities and they had submitted documents at the local police station. Asked about the viral video, he said their family does not have a “bada phone (smartphone)” and they have not been able to see it, else they would have been worried. “I have worked here all my life. We will show all our documents if anyone asks. But we will not run from here as this is the only work we have known all our life,” Hussain said. On Friday, Pankaj Shukla, Lucknow Municipal Corporation’s zonal sanitation officer for Zone 4, said, “We tried to trace these sanitation workers, but the agency deployed for sanitation of main roads in the Zone 4 area, where the video concerned was shot, denied that they are their employees. There could be a possibility that the workers were deployed by other local contractors, who have been given the contract of cleaning the sub-lanes...” The Indian Express later spoke to the company that had hired these workers. Ranvir, Director of Lions Security Services, which has the contract for cleaning in the internal lanes, said they were daily-wage labourers and they stopped coming after their permanent employees returned. “As our regular workers, who are all registered and wear a proper uniform, were on leave, our local supervisor hired these workers on a daily basis from the nearby jhuggi-jhopri for Rs 300 a day...,” claimed Ranvir.

2 families, 2 newborns and a ‘mix-up’ at Udaipur hospital that leaves them with 15-day wait for DNA results

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Udaipur hospital newborns mix up, hospital newborns mix up, newborns mix up, Maharana Bhupal government hospital newborns mix up, Indian express news, current affairs While the police have intervened, no FIR was lodged, Vyas said. Maharana Bhupal hospital superintendent Dr R L Suman did not respond to calls. Two families in Udaipur are awaiting DNA results of their newborns after a mix-up at the district’s Maharana Bhupal government hospital. Anita Rawat from Udaipur and Rameshwari Soni from Chittorgarh gave birth to a child each three days ago, within a span of about 45 minutes. As per Sunita’s husband Sunil, they were initially handed over a boy child, but about an hour later, the staff came and informed them that it’s a girl. Sunil said, “My wife was admitted at the hospital the night before and when a baby was delivered (on October 21), they said that a baby boy has been born. However, about an hour later, they said that it’s a girl, not a boy. They acted rather irresponsibly; the staff was only interested in collecting reward money (on the childbirth). The doctors also didn’t know which woman delivered which child.” Blaming the nursing staff, Ashok Rawat, Anita’s brother, said that “her delivery time was 12:03 am but was shown as 12:46 am which is incorrect and is someone else’s. They are unable to give us a justification for the mix up and have also made ‘corrections’ in their registers. For 45 minutes they didn’t have any clue.” Sunil then approached the local police at Hathipol police station and lodged a complaint. Meanwhile, the hospital also initiated a verification process to confirm and link the infants with their respective families. Hathipol SHO Yogendra Vyas said, “Two women were admitted for delivery and a boy and a girl were delivered. However, when they were handed over to their families, there was some confusion and the newborns were apparently mixed up. The hospital later clarified which child belonged to whom but the families protested. I also went to the spot and verified the



necessary records.” He said the hospital’s records, the blood group details and other test reports helped clear the confusion as to which baby belonged to which family, with the girl child apparently belonging to the Rawats and the boy to the Sonis.

“However, the families said that they don’t want any vehem (confusion) about their child and demanded a DNA test. So, the DNA profiling has been initiated to clear the confusion of both the families,” he said, adding that while the results are expected in about 15 days from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Jaipur, they have asked FSL to submit its findings at the earliest. He said that since both the deliveries were back-to-back, it led to some confusion among the staff. Both the children were kept in the hospital, with the Rawats accepting the girl child – for now – while the baby boy is with the other family. While the police have intervened, no FIR was lodged, Vyas said. Maharana Bhupal hospital superintendent Dr R L Suman did not respond to calls. Sunil said, “If the gudiya (baby girl) is ours, we will wholeheartedly accept her and if, on the basis of the DNA test, they say the boy is ours, we will accept him as well.”

SIR of Tamil Nadu voter list to begin in ‘week or so’, EC tells court hearing ex-MLA’s ‘irregularities’ case over 137-vote loss

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday informed the Madras High Court that it will begin a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu “in a week or so” as part of a nationwide exercise to update voter lists before the 2026 Assembly elections. Appearing before the First Division Bench of Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G Arul Murugan, ECI standing counsel Niranjana Rajagopalan said the SIR process would adhere to the Supreme Court’s guidelines issued in connection with a similar exercise in Bihar.

The counsel added that the Commission had already held consultations with Chief Electoral Officers across states to ensure uniformity in the process. The submissions came during the hearing of a public interest litigation (PIL) by former AIADMK legislator B Sathyanarayanan, who represented the T Nagar constituency between 2016 and 2021. He alleged widespread irregularities in the electoral rolls of his constituency, including deletions of thousands of names — many of them AIADMK supporters — ahead of the 2021 elections. Sathyanarayanan lost the 2021 election to DMK’s J Karunanithi by a narrow margin of 137 votes.

“The extremely narrow margin, compared with the thousands of wrongful deletions and inclusions, clearly es-

tablishes the irregularities which materially altered the election result,” the petitioner told the court. He argued that the voter list had shown little growth over 25 years — rising from 2,08,349 voters in 1996 to 2,45,005 in 2021 — despite a significant increase in population. Calling this “stagnant growth” a “serious legal and constitutional concern”, he sought directions to the ECI for complete re-verification of all 229 polling parts in T Nagar through booth-level officers (BLOs). The petition alleged that BLOs had prepared voter lists “without actual field visits”, allowing duplicate entries, the inclusion of non-residents and deceased voters, and wrongful deletions to persist. Sathyanarayanan claimed he had personally verified voter data in 100 of the 229 booths, identifying numerous discrepancies. Despite submitting detailed reports to election authorities, he said, “no corrective measures were taken”, describing the inaction as “serious dereliction of duty” that undermined the integrity of the electoral process. His petition also cited a report published in a Tamil daily that over 13,000 names of AIADMK supporters were deleted. He further contended that the lapses violated both the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the right to vote under Article 326 of the Constitution, arguing that such failures eroded public trust in the democratic process.

U.S. looking to expand strategic relationship with Pakistan, but not at expense of ties with India: Rubio



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

The U.S. sees an opportunity to expand its strategic relationship with Pakistan but it will not be at the expense of its historic and important ties with India, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said. Ahead of his meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Kuala Lumpur on Monday (October 27, 2025), Mr. Rubio, referring to India's energy ties with Russia, said New Delhi has already expressed a desire to diversify its procurement of crude oil. The U.S. Secretary of State was interacting with journalists ahead of his trip to Malaysia for the ASEAN summit. Mr. Rubio, to a question on the U.S.' ties with Pakistan, said New Delhi is "concerned for obvious reasons" and that Washington's relationship with Islamabad will not be at the expense of the ties with New Delhi. But, I think they (India) have to understand we have to have relations with a lot of

Netanyahu says Israel to decide which international forces in Gaza acceptable

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Israel would determine which foreign forces it would allow as part of a planned international force in Gaza to help secure an end to its war under U.S. It remains unclear whether Arab and other states will be ready to commit troops while Israel has expressed concerns about the make-up of the force. While the Trump administration has ruled out sending U.S. soldiers into Gaza, the force could draw on troops from Egypt, Indonesia and Gulf Arab countries. "We are in control of our security, and we have also made it clear regarding international forces that Israel will determine which forces are unacceptable to us, and this is how we operate and will continue to operate," Mr. Netanyahu told a session of his Cabinet. "This is, of course, acceptable to the United States as well, as its most senior representatives have expressed in recent days. "Israel, which besieged Gaza for two years to back up its air and ground war in the enclave against Hamas after the Palestinian militant group's cross-border attack on October 7, 2023, continues to control all access to the territory. Israel opposed to Turkish role in Gaza force

Last week Mr. Netanyahu hinted that he would be opposed to any role for Turkish security forces in the Gaza Strip. Once warm Turkish-Israeli relations hit new lows during the Gaza war, with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan

Israeli military says it conducted 'targeted strike' in central Gaza

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Israeli forces carried out a "targeted strike" on an individual in central Gaza who was planning to attack Israeli troops, Israel's military said on Saturday (October 25, 2025). A U.S.-backed ceasefire is in force between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas just over two years since the war in the Gaza Strip began, but each side has accused the other of violations. Israel said it had targeted a member of Islamic Jihad. On Sunday (October 26, 2025), the Palestinian militant group said in a statement that the Israeli military's claim of a planned attack by the group was a "mere fallacious allegation". It did not say whether one of its members was killed in the Israeli strike. Witnesses told Reuters they had seen a drone strike a car and set it ablaze. Local medics said four people had been wounded, but there were no immediate reports of deaths. Witnesses said separately that Israeli tanks had shelled eastern areas of Gaza City, the Gaza Strip's biggest urban area. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Several Israeli media sites said Israel, in a reversal of a policy of barring entry to foreign forces, had allowed Egyptian officials into the Gaza Strip to help locate the bodies of hostages taken captive in the Hamas-led attack on Israeli communities on October 7, 2023, that triggered the war. As part of the ceasefire agreement, Hamas has said it will return all the hostages it abducted, but the remains of 13 are still in the enclave. The Israeli Prime Minister's Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Netanyahu says Israel to decide which international forces in Gaza acceptable

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

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U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on a visit to Israel aimed at shoring up the fragile ceasefire, said on Friday the international force would have to be made up of "countries that Israel's comfortable with", but declined to

different countries. We see an opportunity to expand our strategic relationship with Pakistan," he said. "I think the Indians are very mature when it comes to diplomacy and things of that nature. Look, they have some relationships with countries that we don't have relationships with. So, it's part of a mature, pragmatic foreign policy," he said.

"I don't think anything we're doing with Pakistan comes at the expense of our relationship or friendship with India, which is deep, historic, and important," Mr. Rubio added. The U.S.-Pakistan ties have witnessed an upswing in the last six months, especially after President Donald Trump's meeting with Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir following the military conflict between India and Pakistan in May. While India rejected Mr. Trump's repeated claims that he brokered a ceasefire between the two countries, Pakistan credited the U.S. President for ending the hostilities between the two countries. On India-Russia oil trade To another question on if India will be willing to really shove off its purchases of Russian oil for a trade deal with the U.S., Mr. Rubio said New Delhi has already expressed an interest in diversifying its oil portfolio. "If they diversified their portfolio, the more they buy it from us, the more they'll buy it from someone else. But I wouldn't prejudge or — I'm not negotiating trade deals. So I'm not going to speak on that," he said. "But I know they've (India) already expressed a desire to diversify their oil portfolio, even before all of this came up. So, obviously the more we sell them, the less they'll buy from someone else. And, but, we'll see where we wind up on all that," he said.



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on a visit to Israel aimed at shoring up the fragile ceasefire, said on Friday the international force would have to be made up of "countries that Israel's comfortable with", but declined to comment specifically on Turkish involvement. Mr. Rubio added that Gaza's future governance still needs to be worked out among Israel and partner nations but could not include Hamas. Mr. Rubio later said U.S. officials were getting input on a possible U.N. resolution or international agreement to authorise the multinational force in Gaza and would discuss the issue in Qatar



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Bhagavad Gita 'nectar of wisdom' for modern world, say Chinese scholars



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Beijing: The Bhagavad Gita is the "nectar of wisdom" and a "miniature history of Indian civilisation" offering answers to the spiritual and material dilemmas faced by people in modern times, noted Chinese scholars said articulating a rare public reverence for the ancient Indian scripture. Speaking on Bhagavad Gita at a symposium on 'Sangamam – A Confluence of Indian Philosophical Traditions' organised by the Indian Embassy here on Saturday, Chinese scholars termed Gita as a philosophical encyclopaedia of India, highlighting its timeless insights on achieving harmony between material and spiritual pursuits. The star speaker at the event was 88-year old Prof Zhang Baosheng, who has translated Bhagavad Gita into Chinese.

Terming Gita as a spiritual epic and a philosophical encyclopaedia of India, he said its translation was necessary because it revealed India's spiritual outlook — its ideas of duty, action, and detachment — which still moulds Indian life today. Recounting his experiences in India (1984–86) from Cape Comorin (now known as Kanniyakumari) in the south to Gorakhpur in the north, Prof Zhang said everywhere, he sensed Lord Krishna's presence — a living moral and spiritual idol. Through such encounters, Prof Zhang said he saw that Gita is not a remote scripture but a living influence on Indian psychology, morality, and social life — a "cultural anthropology" of the Indian soul. He called the Bhagavad Gita "a miniature history of Indian civilisation itself — a dialogue that captures its ethical crisis, philosophical synthesis, and religious rebirth." Bhagavad Gita struck

At least 5 soldiers, 25 militants killed: Pakistan reports border clashes with Afghanistan amid Istanbul talks

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Five Pakistani soldiers and 25 militants have died in clashes near the border with Afghanistan, the military said on Sunday (October 26, 2025), as delegations from both countries met to try to defuse tensions after the deadliest fighting in years. The militants tried to cross over from Afghanistan on Friday (October 25) and Saturday (October 26) in Kurram and North Waziristan districts, rugged areas along Pakistan's northwestern frontier, the Pakistani military's media wing said. It said the attempted infiltrations cast doubt on the intentions of the government in Afghanistan in "regards to addressing the issue of terrorism emanating from its soil". In Afghanistan, the Taliban government's chief spokesman and the defence ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the reported attacks.

The Taliban denies accusations of sheltering militants and says Pakistan's military operations violate Afghan sovereignty. Officials from both countries are meeting in Istanbul to prevent a relapse into conflict after clashes between their armies earlier this month — the worst border fighting since the Taliban's 2021 takeover of Kabul. That fighting erupted after Pakistan demanded the Taliban rein in

US\$ 100 million Louvre theft could make France's stolen Crown Jewels as famous as Mona Lisa

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Paris: The robbery at the Louvre has done what no marketing campaign ever could: It has catapulted France's dusty Crown Jewels — long admired at home, little known abroad — to global fame. One week on, and the country is still wounded by the breach to its national heritage. Yet the crime is also a paradox. Some say it will make celebrities of the very jewels it sought to erase, much as the Mona Lisa's turn-of-the-20th-century theft transformed the then little-known Renaissance portrait into the world's most famous artwork. In 1911, a museum handyman lifted the Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece off its hook. The loss went unnoticed for more than a day; newspapers turned it into a global mystery, and crowds came to stare at the empty space. When the painting resurfaced two years later, its fame eclipsed everything else in the museum, and that remains so today. That's the uneasy question shadowing on Sunday's robbery: whether a crime that cut deep will glorify what's left behind. "Because of the drama, the scandal, the heist, the Apollo Gallery itself and the jewels that remain will likely receive a new spotlight and become celebrities, just like the Mona Lisa after 1911," said Anya Firestone, a Paris art historian and Culture Ministry licensed heritage expert. She toured the gallery the day before the robbery and did not think it looked sufficiently guarded.

The heist has electrified global media. Nightly newscasts from the US to Europe and across Latin America and Asia have beamed the Louvre, its Apollo Gallery and the missing jewels to hundreds of millions — a surge of attention some say rivals, or even surpasses, the frenzy after Beyonce and Jay-Z's 2018 "Apeshit" video filmed inside the museum. The Louvre is once again a global set. For generations, the British monarchy's regalia has captured the popular imagination through centuries of coronations and drawing millions every year to their display in the Tower of London. Meanwhile, France's jewels lived in the shadow. This week's heist tilts the balance.

One early emblem of that celebrity effect could be the survivor piece itself — Empress Eugenie's emerald-set crown, dropped in the getaway and studded with more than 1,300 diamonds — which may now become the gallery's most talked-about relic. "I'd never even heard of Eugenie's crown until this," said Mateo Ruiz, a 27-year-old visitor from Seville. "Now it's the first thing I want to see when the gallery reopens." Among the treasures that escaped the thieves' grasp are storied gems still gleaming under glass — the Regent Diamond, the Sancy and the Hortensia. Authorities say one other stolen bejewelled piece, besides

a chord with the rest of the world, including in China, leading to its translation into all major languages, he said. In his address, Prof Wang Zhi-cheng, Director of the Centre for Oriental Philosophy Research at the Zhejiang University said Bhagavad Gita, a dialogue from an ancient Indian battlefield over 5,000 years ago, transcended time to answers the anxieties and confusions people face today. Terming Gita as a "nectar of wisdom," he said, "Krishna's answers were engraved into the 700 verses of the Bhagavad Gita. These words are not outdated maxims, but 'spiritual keys' that have crossed millennia." He outlined to the mostly Chinese audience the "core" of three "wisdoms to solve life's problems" — which are the Karma Yoga, Sankhya Yoga, and Bhakti Yoga — propounded by Krishna which provide a way out to deal with the problems faced by the people in the modern world. Highlighting the famous words of Krishna, "whenever dharma (righteousness) declines and adharma (unrighteousness) prevails, I manifest myself on earth," he said, "The wisdom of Gita is the light that 'manifests' when we are lost." "When you feel anxious, remember to 'let go of attachment to results,' when you feel lost, remember to 'recognise your true self,' when you feel empty, remember to 'give more'," he said.

Prof Yu Longyu, Director of Centre for Indian Studies, Shenzhen University said the key points emerged from the studies carried out by various Chinese scholars was that India, as a great civilisation, possesses a profound cultural and philosophical heritage that deserves deep study and transmission. "In modern times, China's leading scholars have often embodied 'threefold learning — Chinese, Western, and Indian'. I therefore call upon Chinese scholars to study Indian culture with dedication, contributing to China's rejuvenation, to India-China harmony, and to peace in the world," he said. Earlier, welcoming the array of Chinese scholars, Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat said it was an extension of last year's conference on Ramayana held by the Embassy. "Over millennia, India's philosophical traditions have sought to answer the most fundamental questions: 'What is truth? What is the nature of reality? How do knowledge and action lead to ultimate freedom?' "The darsanas or philosophical schools — from Nyaya's logic to Yoga's discipline, from Vedanta's introspection to Buddhism's compassion — present diverse pathways to the same quest for wisdom and harmony," Rawat said.



militants it says operate from Afghan sanctuaries, prompting heavy exchanges of fire and Pakistani airstrikes. Both sides reached a truce in Doha last Sunday. Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif, said on Saturday (October 25) the truce was holding and he believed Afghanistan wanted peace. But he warned that failure to reach an agreement in Istanbul would mean "open war". Pakistan's military described the attackers as members of "Fitna al Khwarij" a term it uses for groups it says are inspired by militant ideology and backed by "foreign sponsors".

Empress Eugenie's damaged crown, has since been quietly recovered, though they have declined to identify it. The heist has not dented the Louvre's pull. The palace-museum reopened to maximum crowds on Wednesday, even as the jewels remain missing, and the robbers at large. Long before the robbery, the museum was straining under mass tourism — roughly 33,000 visitors a day — and staff warned it could not easily absorb another surge, especially with the Apollo Gallery sealed and security resources stretched. For France, the loss is more than precious stones and metal, totalling over \$100 million; it is pages torn from the national record. The Apollo Gallery reads as a timeline in gold and light, carrying the country from the Bourbon ceremony to Napoleon's self-fashioned empire and into modern France. Firestone puts it this way: The jewels are "the Louvre's final word in the language of monarchy — a glittering echo of kings and queens as France crossed into a new era." They are not ornaments, she argues, but chapters of French history, marking the end of the royal order and the beginning of the country France is today. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez called the theft an "immeasurable" heritage loss, and the museum says the pieces carry "inestimable" historic weight — a reminder that what vanished is not just monetary. Many also see a stunning security lapse. "It's staggering that a handful of people couldn't be stopped in broad daylight," said Nadia Benyamina, 52, a Paris shopkeeper who visits the gallery monthly. "There were failures — avoidable ones. That's the wound." Investigators say the thieves rode a basket lift up the building's Seine-facing facade, forced open a window, smashed two display cases and fled on motorbikes — all in minutes.

Alarms sounded, drawing security to the gallery and forcing the intruders to bolt, officials say. The haul spanned royal and imperial suites in sapphire, emerald and diamond — including pieces tied to Marie-Amelie, Hortense, Marie-Louise and Empress Eugenie. In Senate testimony, Louvre director Laurence des Cars acknowledged "a terrible failure," citing gaps in exterior camera coverage and proposing vehicle barriers and a police post inside the museum. She offered to resign; the culture minister refused. The heist followed months of warnings about chronic understaffing and crowd pressure points. Drawing crowds to see what isn't there Outside the blocked doors, visitors now come to see what cannot be seen. "I came to see where it happened," said Tobias Klein, 24, an architecture student. "That barricade is chilling. People are looking with shock and curiosity." Others feel a flicker of hope. "

A new online game helps imagine life on Earth in 2100



York: What will the world look like in 2100? This question is central to a new free online game called FutureGuesser. Launched in June 2025, this new form of climate communication combines gameplay with visual climate imagery and encourages players to explore future scenarios.Players are shown an image from the future and asked to guess the location. Information is revealed about how close they are, what the climate change consequences would be, what will happen if no action is taken and how things could be different.Available to play in English and French, the game takes inspiration from GeoGuesser, the online geography game that has enabled millions of people to travel virtually from their phone and guess where they are.

FutureGuesser uses pictures to give users a visual representation of how familiar landscapes will look in 2100 as a result of climate change.FutureGuesser is part of a broader trend in the use of games in climate communication. Creative board games and video games can reach diverse audiences and communicate climate change in serious, playful, thought-provoking and surprising ways.Games played for pleasure, like Game Changers (an online story-based game produced by Megaverse) can generate conversations on climate actions by creating an innovative visual game world and integrating climate change into the plot. Collective decision making in the game allows players to learn and discuss climate change with others.Our research suggests that this helps players critique corporate power, learn about greenwashing and enjoy an aesthetic experience. In the world of board games, Daybreak challenges players to cooperate and stop climate change by trying out different technical, social and economic projects.Serious games go beyond entertainment to connect with real-world problems. The most successful ones are fun while engaging with social, environmental and economic issues that players really care about.Games can support players in thinking about becoming disaster ready and building disaster resilience. A game called The Flood Recovery Game is being used by researchers to identify disaster recovery gaps. It can also help policymakers create more comprehensive strategies to address flooding.In terms of climate education, interactive in-person game-

based workshops like the Climate Fresk already connects millions of people with science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body that assesses the science on climate change. These three-hour workshops also enable people to consider how they might act to create positive climate solutions.FutureGuesser is a game for pleasure with a serious purpose: to make climate change data visible. Produced in partnership with Réseau Action Climat, a network of non-governmental organisations, it shows the negative effects of climate change in familiar locations such as Antarctica and Easter Island.Research on visual climate communication found that images showing climate impacts such as extreme weather and floods moved people, especially when it featured localised impacts.

There is a balance to be struck between highlighting local relevance and linking to the bigger picture. Showing the future of recognisable places we care about might be powerful in building support for climate action.But photographs from the future don't exist. FutureGuesser uses images generated from a bespoke AI model which combines maps with photographs of locations and data from IPCC reports.

This has a cost. The climate cost of the AI revolution is increasingly measured and documented, and image generation is one of the most energy intensive tasks you can do with AI. Experts in computing have called for "frugal AI": to treat AI as finite, only to be used when necessary, and even then, as effectively as possible.It is important to consider not just the message, but the medium, and the environmental effects of game production. The Playing for the Planet Alliance has produced a carbon calculator for the industry and offers awards and game jams to support the video game industry to take climate action.Now that the images have been created, an effective use of FutureGuesser might be to generate conversations about the effects of climate change, and about how research, game design and communication can be carried out in the most environmentally sensitive way.

People won't act just based on facts alone. The development of creative ways to communicate the climate emergency that connect people with why this matters is essential for people and communities.Already, some games are making an increasingly visible contribution to the conversation but we need greater transparency in the environmental impacts of game production, and consideration of how to minimise these impacts through visible commitments to sustainability as modelled by Daybreak.FutureGuesser demonstrates value of bringing games and visual climate communication together to raise awareness of how climate change affects landscapes everywhere on the planet. We all need to play for the planet. Our research shows that whether played for purpose or pleasure, games can create space for serious conversations about how to tackle climate change.

Piyush Goyal to visit Brussels as India–EU trade talks reach decisive stage

New Delhi: As the ongoing India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations enter a crucial stage, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is set to visit Brussels, Belgium, on October 27-28, the government said on Sunday.Minister Goyal will hold high-level discussions with Maros Sefcovic, Executive Vice-President and European Commissioner for Trade of the European Union. Both sides have intensified efforts to conclude a comprehensive, balanced, and mutually beneficial trade agreement at the earliest.It reflects India's steadfast commitment to deepening engagement with the European Union, one of its largest trading partners, and to advancing an agreement that contributes to resilient supply chains, sustainable growth, and a rules-based global trading system.

"Building on the momentum generated by the 14th round of negotiations held earlier this month, the Minister's visit aims to provide strategic direction and political impetus to the talks," said the Commerce Ministry in a statement.According to the ministry, discussions are expected to cover key areas of the proposed FTA, including market access, non-tariff measures, and regulatory cooperation. The visit will also serve to review progress achieved so far and to identify areas requiring further convergence.Piyush Goyal's engagements in Brussels will include a bilateral meeting with Commissioner Sefcovic, followed by a working dinner, where both leaders are ex-



pected to reaffirm the shared ambition to strengthen the India–EU trade and economic partnership.

This visit takes place against the backdrop of the India–EU partnership gaining renewed strategic depth following the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen earlier this year. The two leaders had underscored the importance of a future-ready trade relationship that advances prosperity, sustainability, and innovation on both sides. According to the ministry, the minister's visit to Brussels marks an important step in translating that shared vision into concrete outcomes.

No short-term impact of H-1B visa fee hike, future resourcing plans will change: Tata Tech CEO



New Delhi: The fee hike for the US H-1B visa by the Donald Trump administration has no short-term impact on Tata Technologies Ltd, although it will change resourcing plans for the future, according to its CEO and Managing Director, Warren Harris. The global product engineering and digital services firm, by virtue of its staffing architecture, which has about 70 per cent of its employees in any country coming from that nationality, is less exposed to visa issues than other "Indian competitors that are India out", Harris said.

"We are not an India-out company. We were very much a global company, with the majority of our employees in different territories who were nationals of those countries. We have Americans running our US operation. We have the Chinese team running our China operation, unlike many of our Indian competitors that are India-out. They are much more exposed to visas," he said.Harris was responding to a query on the implications of the hike in the annual H-1B visa fees to US\$ 100,000 announced in September by Trump. "We are cognizant of the challenge," he added.

Harris further said, "It will certainly change our resourcing plans for the future, but there is no short-term

impact associated with the H-1B decisions that the United States has made." As of the September quarter of this fiscal year, Tata Technologies had a global workforce of 12,402. "We are present in 18 different geographies. One of the principles around which we've architected the company is that we want about 70 per cent of employees in any country to come from that nationality or region. That is what underpins the type of special relationship that we have with our customers, and it is through that we leverage the engine that we built here in India," he noted.

When asked about the US tariff situation and its impact, he said, "At the beginning of the fiscal year, when the tariffs were announced, it prompted many of our customers to revisit their product plans."Not only did they need to look at the products themselves and the viability of the products against the backdrop of the tariffs, but they also needed to look at their supply chains. I think what we've seen is that reset of strategies and plans is now largely played out."

He further said, "The customers that we were expecting to work to make decisions at the beginning of the fiscal year are now making those decisions." It has helped improve the company's performance in the second quarter, Harris said, adding that its aerospace vertical has been essentially immune to the slowdown in automotive and the tariffs, and has thereby continued to grow. "We expect another year where our aerospace business will double in size this year, and we've seen that continue to play out in the second quarter, and we fully expect that will continue in Q3 and Q4," he said without elaborating on the current size of the aerospace business. Tata Technologies had reported a 5.14 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 165.5 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, compared to Rs 157.41 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. Its consolidated revenue from operations in the quarter stood at Rs 1,323.33 crore, as against Rs 1,296.45 crore in the year-ago period.

Doctor's death in Maharashtra's Satara sparks Statewide outrage over police misconduct



A 28-year-old woman medical officer was found dead in a hotel room in Maharashtra's Phaltan town late on Thursday (October 23, 2025) night with a note scribbled in her palm accusing a police officer of rape and her landlord of harassment. Hailing from Beed district, she had been serving as a medical officer at the Sub-District Hospital in Satara for the past two years. Police have registered a case of accidental death and are investigating the matter. The Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (Central MARD) has announced a Statewide black ribbon protest on Saturday (October 25) condemning the death of the young doctor.

Two men, named by the doctor in a note, remain absconding, said Dr. Swapnil Kendre, General Secretary of MARD. "Despite directives from the Chief Minister for immediate action, no arrests have been made so far. Central MARD has demanded the immediate arrest of the accused and a CID or SIT-led judicial inquiry into the case," "The association has also called for systemic reforms to protect doctors from workplace harassment and ensure mental health support. Doctors across Maharashtra will wear black ribbons while on duty to express solidarity and demand justice. The association warned that if action is not taken promptly, it will escalate its agitation through Statewide protests and non-cooperation movements," Dr. Kendre further said.

Police found a note written on her palm, naming Sub-Inspector Gopal Badane and her landlord, Prashant Bankar, as responsible for her ordeal. The note alleged that Badane raped her multiple times for over five months, while Bankar subjected her to relentless mental harassment.Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, spoke to the Satara Superintendent of Police and ordered immediate suspension of the officer named in the note. He directed the SP to take strict action against all accused, emphasising zero tolerance for such crimes within law enforcement.Satara SP Tushar Doshi said, "The woman doctor died by suicide and a note was found written on her palm naming two people, including a police official. A case has been registered against them under charges of rape and abetment to suicide. The accused SI has been suspended from duty. Our teams are trying to locate both the accused. A thorough probe and stringent action will be taken."

Liver cancer is a silent disease: awareness and early diagnosis can make a world of difference

It may be surprising to know that many patients diagnosed with liver cancer say they feel fine. And they probably do: this is because the liver is a resilient organ, it continues to work even when a large portion of it is compromised, and tries to compensate for the damage. And it is because of this that liver cancer, and other liver conditions can often remain 'silent' for long periods, going undetected. That is why regular scans and blood tests in high-risk patients can make a significant difference for early detection and treatment.

A diagnosis of liver cancer can be difficult to accept when you feel healthy. Fear takes over when patients hear the words 'liver surgery'. Patients often imagine that the procedure is extremely risky, but medicine has taken great strides in this field. With meticulous planning and using simple imaging techniques such as MRI and CT scans to map the liver in advance, and in some cases, deliberately blocking a small portion of its blood supply ahead of time so that the rest of the liver is strengthened before surgery, and with the deployment of state-of-the-art tools in the operating room, the procedure now is straightforward and safe, with minimal blood loss.Is minimally invasive surgery possible with liver cancer? The answer is yes. In many cases, a minimally invasive approach with laparoscopic or robotic surgery may be suitable. This involves minor cuts and the use of a tiny camera to give a clear view of deep parts of the liver. These procedures involve less pain, faster recoveries, and importantly, shorter hospital stays.However, these procedures are not for everyone. Factors including size, location and type of tumour defines what mode of surgery is appropriate, as the priority is safe and complete removal of the tumour.Any surgery demands patience, timing and the right judgement. For a surgeon, the hardest part is balance. A surgeon must decide how much of the liver is to be removed and how much of it must be left behind. If too little is removed, the cancer can recur; if too much is removed, liver may fail. Each case is unique and requires detailed planning. In some cases, quick decisions may have to be taken while at surgery, if the liver appears weaker



than expected.

Liver cancer does not always require a surgery. It is not always the first best option, especially if a large part of the liver is damaged or the cancer has spread. In such cases, treatments such as ablation, chemo-embolisation, radio embolisation, targeted therapy or immunotherapy may be used first to control the disease. If the liver's condition improves, then surgery may be considered later. The goal is to tailor-make the best chance for a longer, better life for the liver and thereby the patient.In many cases, liver cancer is preventable. Many cases arise from long-term issues such as viral hepatitis B and C, fatty liver or heavy alcohol use, but these factors can often be prevented. Vaccination against hepatitis B, timely treatment of infections, a healthy diet, controlling one's weight and avoiding excessive alcohol all protect the liver. People with diabetes or obesity should also undertake periodic liver-function tests. Prevention may not sound dramatic, but it saves lives, quietly.Survivors teach me strength. I've seen patients arrive very ill, undergo surgery, change their lifestyles completely and go on to live for many years. Some begin exercising, stop drinking, eat carefully and embrace life with increased positivity. Their courage inspires us. Medicine and surgery can treat the disease but a patient's mindset can go a long way towards keeping them well.

Can the higher education ecosystem catch up with and support India's student founders?

Sixty-six billion-dollar companies in the U.S. trace their roots to India-born founders. While the world continues to benefit from India's innovators, it's worth asking: how are we nurturing that talent at home, especially among students dreaming of building something big?A recent report by the Campus Fund revealed that 35 out of India's 109 unicorns were started by students during college or within three years of graduating. These young founders often see problems with fresh eyes. They're not burdened by 'how things have always been done.' Instead, they imagine freely and often pursue ideas that more experienced entrepreneurs might overlook. Even so, student startups are often an exception, not the rule. They are born not out of a supportive infrastructure, but despite the lack of one. Despite more student-focused incubation programmes, entrepreneurship-embedded educational courses, and youth-centred investment funds, our mainstream education system is still designed to create 'knowledge workers' rather than 'business leaders'.

In the past decade, top Indian academic institutions have produced around 550 startup founders. In comparison, leading global universities have launched two to three times as many. Subsequently, startups in India only con-

tribute to 5-8% of our GDP, much lower than most developed countries. We are 39th in the Global Innovation Index. Not because Indian students lack ambition or ideas. What's missing is the right kind of support and backing, especially in the critical early stages when there's still peer pressure and parental pressure to seek a stable job instead of pursuing entrepreneurship.Consider this: over the past two years, a student-focused incubation programme received nearly 800 applications from across 26 states and 150 towns. This shows that entrepreneurial energy isn't just concentrated in big cities, it's everywhere. However, while talent is widely distributed, opportunities are not.Take two students: one from Mumbai and one from Jaipur. Their ideas may be equally strong, but the student from Mumbai is twice as likely to be able to access to an entrepreneurship cell or early-stage funding. Geography shouldn't determine destiny, but, in India's startup ecosystem, it often does.Proximity and exposureBeyond formal and structured support, just proximity and exposure to entrepreneurial mindsets and action matter. Academics and researchers like Prof. Saras Sarasvathy have proposed that, while our education teaches us to 'predict the future' (causal logic), entrepreneurs often need to 'control the future' (effectual logic).

How is the jewellery sector coping with U.S. tariffs? | Explained



The story so far: India's diamond and jewellery sector has been hit due to the U.S. tariffs. While the U.S. has imposed a 50% import duty on India's cut and polished diamonds, it has imposed a 50-57% duty on studded and non-studded jewellery, upsetting decades of well-set trade. India is the world's largest exporter of cut and polished diamonds. At such a time, the sector wants government intervention which could absorb the shock caused by U.S. tariffs.

Why government intervention?

The U.S. is the largest importer of diamonds from India. In 2024-25, India exported diamonds worth ₹46,000 crore and studded gold jewellery worth ₹23,000 crore. Moreover, India's cut and polished diamond industry employs 8.2 lakh skilled workers. The U.S. tariffs are likely to affect the jobs of 1.7 lakh skilled workers, as per the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council's prediction. Of India's exporters, 85% are Medium and Small Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) which will not be able to bear the shock of the loss of the U.S. market in the short term. The industry has therefore sought short-term measures in terms of policy reliefs, aid for workers, and monetary and marketing benefits for three to six months, to help the manufacturers absorb the shock.

Which are the worst-affected States in India?

Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are the worst-hit States. Most of the diamonds are cut and polished in the factories set up in Gujarat. Rajasthan has a concentration of manufacturing of jewellery with gems and semi-precious stones. Maharashtra is a manufacturing hub for studded and non-studded jewellery, and exports most of the diamonds.

What are the sought policy reliefs?

Some of the key policy reliefs sought by the industry are: to extend the export obligation period for exports made to the U.S. from 90 days to 270 days; allow reverse job work in DTAs (Domestic Tariff Areas) by jewellery manufacturing Special Economic Zones (SEZs); and allow SEZs to sell in the domestic market on payment of duty foregone. In simple terms, if a jewellery manufacturer imports gold for the export of jewellery, such export of ready-made jewellery has to take place within a period of 90 days. If not, an import duty of 6% and GST of 3% is levied. But with the orders from the U.S. suddenly drying up, many exporters are unable to ship their jewellery. That is why, the industry now wants the export obligation period to be increased. The industry also wants the government to allow the SEZs to sell their goods in the domestic market with import duty forgone. Currently, the exporters are allowed to sell in the domestic market, but with a duty of 20% on the finished product. This makes them less competitive as compared to domestic manufacturers. Reverse job order refers to SEZs being allowed to manufacture for domestic buyers so that idle machinery and capability can be utilised; skilled workers can stay gainfully employed; and that factories set up after years of hard work can keep running. What are the incentives demanded?

Some of the demands by the industry are — monetary incentives like interest subvention offered during the COVID period; temporary subsidisation of exports to the U.S.; worker-related benefits like restructuring of personal loans and inclusion under healthcare schemes; and marketing benefits such as giving exporters funding to explore newer markets. Other demands include banking incentives, liquidity packages, and finance extensions, among others.

Why the urgency? The tariffs are disrupting businesses which were set for almost five decades. These tariffs will disproportionately affect MSMEs which have invested for years to build up their businesses. While large exporters will be able to navigate through this change, the bottom-line will be wiped out unless the government intervenes and provides short-term relief for three to six months, says the industry. The total bailout package in the form of various incentives is likely to be to the tune of ₹500 crore as per rough industry estimates. "The U.S. forms 30% of India's gem and jewellery export. Most of this demand is fulfilled by MSMEs, which form the backbone of the sector, and which are now struggling to survive. We need urgent government help," said Kirit Bhansali, chairperson of Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

How an auto driver helped bust child trafficking ring in Tamil Nadu in 2009

EMS News Agency, Oct 8

For D. Joseph, an auto rickshaw driver in Tamil Nadu, it was just another ride from the Tiruchi Government Hospital to the bus stand on June 2, 2009. The occupants were a middle-aged woman and an infant. However, minutes after moving away from the hospital, the baby started crying uncontrollably. The way the woman was handling the little girl and her response seemed unusual. On a typical day, Mr. Joseph used to shuttle between the hospital and bus stand at least a dozen times transporting patients, attenders, staff, etc. But in this trip, he found the baby to be out of place. Sensing foul play, he drove back to the hospital and alerted the police deployed at the out-post. By then, Susila, a young mother had reached there complaining a woman had taken away her baby. A police team rushed to the bus stand and nabbed the woman, later identified as Dhanam alias Dhanamani of Coimbatore district. The baby girl was rescued and handed over to her mother. Had the auto driver not alerted the police in time, the detection would have taken a much longer time as there was not much scope for CCTV footage and other technical evidence at that period. Dhanam had befriended Susila of Kollidam at the hospital and offered to arrange financial assistance. Promising to facilitate sanction of funds under a scheme for girl children, she took the baby on the pretext of taking photographs in a nearby photo studio. While Susila waited for them to come back, the accused had reached the bus stand. For the police, it was a relief that the case was solved within a few hours. Little did they know that there was a shocker in store. Interrogation of Dhanam revealed a larger network of child lifters across Tamil Nadu and a couple of dubious NGOs operating illegal child adoption centres.

Police learnt that Dhanam, a widow, had remarried Abiraman of Annur in Coimbatore district. She started working as an agent arranging women workers for the spinning mills in the western districts of the State. Later, she got introduced to a gang of child traffickers and found their modus operandi the right means for making quick money. She told the police the gang would sell babies abducted from hospitals, bus stands, railway stations and other public places to 'Anbu Illam', an unregistered home for children, at Valliyur in Tirunelveli district. Acting swiftly on her revelations, the Tiruchi police coordinated with their counterparts in Tirunelveli district and conducted a search at the home. They arrested Paramasivam alias Raja and Muthusamy, two of the accomplices of Dhanam, and rescued six babies from the premises. The suspects had kept the babies ready for adoption by preparing fake birth certificates and other documents, the Investigation Officer (I.O.) wrote in a journal published by the State police. Rajan, who ran the illegal adoption centre, was arrested and more suspects were taken into



custody based on his statement. This led to the rescuing of a few more babies from the clutches of traffickers. Sensing the gravity of the crime, the then Director-General of Police transferred the case to the Crime Branch CID (CB-CID) for further probe. Investigators quickly gathered details of all child missing cases reported across Tamil Nadu. About 13 cases reported during 2008-09 from Tiruchi, Srirangam, Lalgudi, Rajapalayam, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Udumalpet, Bhavani and other places matched and were initially taken up for investigation.

Dhanam alone had abducted nine babies from hospitals and other public places and sold six of them to Rajan, the owner of 'Anbu Illam'. Three other children were sold to Muthusamy, a bus driver working with the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC), who paid ₹20,000 for each infant. He was actively involved in arranging babies for illegal adoption centres. Some more suspects who were involved in abduction of babies were identified and detained. The accused led police to the parents who adopted the babies illegally. About 15 photographs of the children were published in newspapers with the CB-CID making an appeal to parents who had lodged child missing complaints across the State to contact the I.O. in case they found their baby among the rescued children. At least 12 children were rescued from the suspects and handed over to their biological parents. Besides Dhanam, Rajan and Muthusamy, who played a key role in the inter-district racket of child traffickers, the CB-CID filed chargesheet against eight others and prosecuted them. The inter-district racket gang that kidnapped and sold babies for illegal adoption would not have come to notice at that point of time but for the alertness of Mr. Joseph, the auto driver, who not only rushed to the police with the information but also assisted in identifying the accused woman. "But for his timely tip-off followed by his proactive and fearless assistance, a one-and-a-half year old girl child would not have been rescued from traffickers and ten more children would not have been handed over to their biological parents," the Investigation Officer wrote.

Xiaomi launches biggest Diwali sale with up to 60% off on smartphones, TVs, tablets, and more

Hyderabad: Xiaomi India, a global technology leader, is ushering in the festive season with its largest-ever Diwali campaign, offering blockbuster deals across smartphones, smart TVs, tablets, wearables, powerbanks, air purifiers, and more. The campaign aims to make celebrations brighter for families by combining cutting-edge technology with unbeatable festive savings. Customers can enjoy discounts of up to 60%, making it the perfect opportunity to upgrade devices, gift loved ones, and embrace smarter living. The sale begins on 22 September 2025 across mi.com, Amazon, Flipkart, and Xiaomi's retail partners nationwide, available for a limited period. Smartphones remain central to festive celebrations, helping users capture memories, stay connected, and work on the go. Xiaomi and Redmi are offering a range of stylish and powerful devices at attractive prices: Redmi Note 14 Pro+ 5G: Features a 200MP AI-powered camera, ideal for capturing festive moments and family portraits. Redmi 15: Equipped with a 7000mAh battery for all-day use, perfect for travelers and on-the-go celebrations. Redmi 14C 5G: Combines stylish design with

reliable performance, making it an excellent first 5G device for students and young professionals. Redmi A4 5G: Brings next-generation connectivity to everyone, ensuring seamless 5G experiences. Xiaomi's tablets balance productivity and entertainment, making them perfect for festive breaks: Xiaomi Pad 7: Available in a Nano Texture Display model to reduce glare and a standard variant, both offering smooth performance and premium design. Redmi Pad 2: Offers the largest battery in its segment, keeping families powered through online classes, gaming, and streaming. Redmi Pad SE 4G: A versatile and stylish device, ideal for gifting or daily use. Xiaomi's QLED TVs transform living rooms into home theaters, bringing entertainment to festive evenings: Xiaomi CineMagiQLED Series: Offers 4K brilliance with Dolby Vision and immersive audio. Xiaomi FantastiQLED Series: Features ultra-rich colors and Amazon Fire TV's smart interface for endless entertainment options. Complete your smart lifestyle with festive savings: Xiaomi's ecosystem products provide convenience, connectivity, and health benefits during the festive season:

Lessons from the history of rebellions in AIADMK and DMK



In the ongoing public discourse on the convulsions in the AIADMK, many wonder why party general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami should not follow the example set by his predecessor Jayalalithaa and the organisation's founder M.G. Ramachandran in taking back those who were once critical of them. In this context, references are being made to former Ministers S.D. Somasundaram (SDS) and K. Kalimuthu, who were re-accommodated by MGR and Jayalalithaa, respectively, after a period of separation triggered by bitter criticism. Similarly, if one were to take a look at the DMK's history, there have been many instances of the party's former president M. Karunanidhi taking back several prominent personalities, including Sathiyavani Muthu and Nanjil K. Manoharan, into the organisation after condoning them for all that they had done against him politically. SDS was one of those who came out of the DMK when MGR formed the AIADMK in 1972. He would often say: "I have been with him through thick and thin and working for the growth of the AIADMK." After being Revenue Minister in MGR's Cabinet for six years at a stretch, SDS developed differences of opinion with the Chief Minister around July 1984 over a couple of matters, such as the entrance test for admissions to professional colleges and the issues of Sri Lankan Tamils. While expressing his views on these issues, he had been "brutally blunt," The Hindu reported on July 10, 1984. It was then that his portfolio was changed from Revenue to Food. When asked about these differences at a press conference in Tiruchi, he retorted: "Why should I resign or quit the party?" SDS called himself a "strict disciplinarian," discharging his work as a Minister with all "sincerity and integrity."

At the same time, some of the district units of the AIADMK organised black-flag demonstrations against him and passed resolutions to boycott him. He was one of the bitter critics of Jayalalithaa (then spelt Jayalalitha), who was the party's propaganda secretary and a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). At one stage, he had accused her of being "de facto Chief Minister." He had trained his guns on MGR, alleging nothing concrete had been done to root out corruption and remove "bootleggers and looters" from the party though it was more than two months since the Chief Minister swore to do so, this newspaper reported on August 28, 1984. He also came down on then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, with whom MGR had re-established ties, for the toppling of the National Conference regime in Jammu and Kashmir and the dismissal of the N.T. Rama Rao ministry in Andhra Pradesh, which occurred in a matter of a month. When the AIADMK's executive met in Chennai on September 1, SDS predictably stayed away, and the party's decision-making body had recommended his removal. Three legislators had followed him after his removal from the Cabinet and the party. His reaction to his dismissal was: "I am happy to be out of the Cabinet headed by a corrupt Chief Minister." Later, he floated a party — Namadhu Kazhagam. At the time of the 1984 Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the State, he initially attempted to strike an electoral deal with the DMK, but Karunanidhi was unmoved. This forced him to go at it alone, and his nominees were fielded in 150 Assembly constituencies and 15 Lok Sabha constituencies. The party's performance was disastrous. He suffered a humiliating defeat in his home constituency, Pattukkottai, at the hands of a less-known AIADMK candidate and forfeited the deposit.

After a period of lull in his political activity, SDS, in April 1986, took out a procession to Raj Bhavan and presented a memorandum to Governor S.L. Khurana, seeking the constitution of an enquiry commission by the Union government against the AIADMK regime to go into his 30 allegations of corruption relating to Excise, Commercial Taxes, Forests, Transport, and Cooperation departments. It was then that MGR's health was failing and he visited the United States at periodical intervals for check-ups. In November that year, SDS surprised everyone when he called on the Chief Minister at his Ramavaram residence and returned to the AIADMK a few days later. Ironically, he later became a key member of the Jayalalithaa camp in the party and contested unsuccessfully from Thiruverambur in 1989 as the candidate of the AIADMK (Jayalalithaa). He once again became the Revenue Minister in 1991 and held the portfolio for five years, before turning against Jayalalithaa again.

Lessons from India's vaccination drive

Vaccination is one of the most effective and cost-efficient public health measures, saving millions of lives. India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is the world's largest, and annually vaccinates 2.6 crore infants and 2.9 crore pregnant women. It contributed to a decline in under-5 mortality from 45 to 31 per 1,000 live births between 2014 and 2021, according to the Sample Registration System 2021. The UIP offers free immunisation against 12 diseases — 11 vaccines nationwide and one vaccine in endemic areas. In the past decade, six vaccines — Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria, Inactivated Poliovirus, Measles-Rubella, Rotavirus, Pneumococcal Conjugate, and Japanese Encephalitis — were added to the UIP across age groups. India's full immunisation coverage was 62% in 2014 (National Family Health Survey-4, 2015-16). To achieve 90% coverage, India launched Mission Indradhanush (MI) in 2014. In 2017, it launched the Intensified MI (IMI) programme to strategically target low-coverage areas and missed populations. By 2023, 12 phases of the MI and IMI had been completed, vaccinating 5.46 crore children and 1.32 crore pregnant women. The MI and IMI phases were integrated into campaigns such as the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and the Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to further the outreach. As a result, full immunisation coverage increased in 2024-25. However, challenges remain in reaching remote and migratory populations, clusters with low awareness, and populations with vaccine hesitancy. Innovative strategies such as 'zero-dose' outreach, digital tracking, and infrastructure improvements are being used to address these gaps. India has maintained its polio-free status since 2011 through continued stringent surveillance. Lessons from the National Polio Programme have strengthened the UIP and vaccine-preventable disease surveillance. India also achieved maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination in 2015 and was declared Yaws-free in 2016. Between 2017 and 2019, through the nationwide Measles-Rubella catch-up campaign, 34.8 crore children aged 9 months to 15 years were vaccinated,

Kalimuthu, like SDS, could not reconcile himself to the rise of Jayalalithaa in the Dravidian major in the second half of the 1980s. He was one of her well-known baiters, along with former Minister R.M. Veerappan. In 1985, when MGR made Jayalalithaa the propaganda secretary again after a brief break, and there were rumours that she might even be inducted into the Cabinet, Kalimuthu, who was Minister in the MGR Cabinet during 1977-86, had openly conveyed his reservations. According to a report on India Today (November 30, 1985): "Kalimuthu has been collecting MLAs' signatures on a statement opposing Jayalalitha's possible induction into the Cabinet and listing her so-called misdeeds during MGR's convalescence in New York early this year." At the time of the split in the AIADMK after M.G.R.'s death, he was naturally with the Janaki Ramachandran faction. In the January 1989 Assembly poll, he finished fourth in Theni, not being able to retain his deposit. When the two factions came together subsequently, he was one of those opposing the merger and set up a party called AIADMK (MGR). However, in May, he chose to work under Jayalalithaa, who had nominated him for the Sivakasi Lok Sabha constituency during the general elections later that year. Though he left the AIADMK about a year later, he returned and in 2001, he was made Speaker of the Assembly. In the DMK, in 1974, when Chief Minister Karunanidhi appeared to have consolidated his position after MGR's departure from the party in October 1972, then Harijan Welfare (which was how the subject of Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare was called in the 1970s) Minister Sathiyavani Muthu revolted against him. She had stunned everyone by levelling, on the floor of the Assembly, charges against officials for being non-cooperative in carrying out welfare measures for Scheduled Castes. She had also alleged that funds, meant for the development of SCs, were used for promoting the welfare of Backward Classes. The Chief Minister had initially sought to iron out the differences with her by seeking the details from her and assuring the public of action against erring officials. But she repeated her criticism and in May that year, she was dropped from the Cabinet. Muthu went on to float a party before merging it with the AIADMK. She even authored a publication strongly critical of Karunanidhi. Muthu was elected to the Rajya Sabha and when MGR, in 1979, expressed support to the breakaway faction of the Janata led by Charan Singh for staking claim to power at the Centre, he chose her and A. Bala Pajamor to be his party's representatives as Cabinet Ministers in the short-lived regime. Muthu's attempt to enter the Assembly after a gap of eight years during the 1984 Assembly poll was not successful as she lost in Perambur. She was with Janaki Ramachandran at the time of the party's split before returning to the DMK in 1989. Four years later, it was the turn of Nanjil K. Manoharan, who was Finance Minister in the MGR's first Cabinet (1977-80) and returned to the DMK subsequently, to express his views against Karunanidhi. In the second half of June 1993, Manoharan, who was then deputy general secretary of the DMK, published a poem in a pro-DMK Tamil daily which was considered, within the ranks of the Dravidian major, "indecent and vile" and aimed at the party leadership. The daily had subsequently carried another poem, which was indirectly critical of Manoharan, who had later denied he had insulted Karunanidhi. He did not mean the DMK chief in the poem. He and Mr. Karunanidhi had mutual love and affection and their friendship was "more than five decades old," The Hindu reported on June 25, 1993. However, the party leadership felt "enough is enough" and decided to sack him. The trigger for Manoharan's poem was apparently his non-inclusion in the board of trustees of the DMK Trust. Yet, within a few days, Manoharan expressed regret and submitted a letter, seeking re-admission to the party. The party was also in the midst of uneasiness between Karunanidhi and Vaiko (then known V. Gopalsamy), one of the leading MPs of the party then. It was stated that Manoharan's "U-turn" was due to his failure to rope in many district secretaries as also Mr. Vaiko to challenge the leadership on the expulsion issue. When Mr. Vaiko was spearheading a revolt against Karunanidhi five months later, Manoharan was taken back into the party.

He had accused then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa of being behind Mr. Vaiko's resistance against the DMK president, this newspaper reported on December 5, 1993. In May 1996, Manoharan was included in the Cabinet led by Karunanidhi and, four years later, he died in harness. A seasoned member of the AIADMK, who knows the history of the two Dravidian parties, however, contends that in the case of his party now, the groups headed by former leaders, O. Panneerselvam, V.K. Sasikala, and T.T.V. Dhinakaran, do not seem to be positively inclined to work under the leadership of Mr. Palaniswami, making the reunion virtually impossible. Yet, a long-standing member of the AIADMK, who is now with Mr. Panneerselvam, says his group's leader has expressed readiness to join hands with the parent body unconditionally. It appears key leaders of the AIADMK, both past and present, are yet to ap-

alongside the introduction of the rubella vaccine into the UIP. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted routine immunisation services, causing setbacks in the gains made under UIP. Disruptive measles outbreaks between 2022 and 2024 signalled immunity gaps and affected large clusters of unimmunised children. In response, the IMI 5.0 in 2023 targeted under-five children across the country. The Zero Measles- Rubella Elimination campaign was launched in 2025 to boost public awareness about immunisation. These efforts aim to surpass 95% national Measles-Rubella coverage and build strong herd immunity. India has prioritised cold chain logistics, system strengthening through the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, and vaccine delivery and vaccination using the U-WIN platform. Building on the success of CO-WIN, U-WIN enables end-to-end digital vaccination and record keeping and tracking of vaccination for pregnant women and children up to 16 years. It enables nationwide, anytime-anywhere access for vaccination services, especially for migratory populations. Complementary digital technologies include the electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network for vaccine stock, the National Cold Chain Management Information System for real-time cold chain tracking, and the SAFE-VAC module for vaccine safety reporting. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India was a frontrunner in vaccine development. The COVID-19 vaccination programme was launched on January 16, 2021, just weeks after the global rollout. By January 2023, over 220 crore doses had been administered, covering 97% of citizens with one dose and 90% with both doses, marking a great achievement in public health on the global stage. Despite pressure from various sectors, India relied on its domestic vaccine development and manufacturing capacity. With proactive public-private partnerships, India not only met its national needs but also supported many low and middle-income countries through the Vaccine Maitri initiative, reflecting the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family).

RBI flags geopolitical risks as key threat to cross-border payments



The central bank is also pursuing multiple initiatives to enhance cross-border payments by linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with fast payment systems (FPS) of other countries. The central bank is also pursuing multiple initiatives to enhance cross-border payments by linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with fast payment systems (FPS) of other countries.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said that geopolitical risks — including sanctions and restrictions on financial systems — have emerged as major factors shaping the future of cross-border payments. "Geopolitical tensions pose significant risks to cross-border payments and financial flows, given the centralised nature of global financial infrastructure and dependence on a few settlement currencies," the RBI said in its latest report on payment systems.

According to the central bank, sanctions, financial restrictions, and other operational barriers can disrupt market access and payment channels. In response, some affected countries are exploring bilateral or multilateral alternatives to reduce their exposure to such disruptions. As part

of its Payments Vision Document 2025, the RBI said it has been working with international partners to reduce friction in global payment systems. One of the key problem areas identified is the delay in crediting inward cross-border remittances to beneficiaries. To address this, the RBI has launched a review to identify bottlenecks in the remittance process and recommend measures to make settlements faster and more efficient. The central bank is also pursuing multiple initiatives to enhance cross-border payments by linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with fast payment systems (FPS) of other countries. These collaborations aim to simplify personal remittances and enable QR-based UPI payments at overseas merchant locations. India has joined Project Nexus, a multilateral initiative involving Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, to interlink domestic FPSs and facilitate instant cross-border retail payments. So far, UPI-based QR code payments have been enabled in Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, the UAE, and Qatar — allowing Indian travelers to make direct payments to merchants through their UPI apps. India continues to lead the world in inward remittances, receiving a record \$137.7 billion in 2024 — more than twice the inflows to Mexico, which ranked second at \$67.6 billion. The RBI said this highlights India's dominant role in the global remittance market, supported by a large overseas workforce whose contributions bolster foreign exchange reserves and economic stability. The report also noted the rapid expansion of India's domestic payment ecosystem. Transaction volumes surged from 3,248 crore in 2019 to 20,849 crore in 2024, while total value jumped from Rs 1,775 lakh crore to Rs 2,83,010 lakh crore during the same period. In the first half of 2025 alone, payment volumes stood at 12,549 crore, with transactions worth Rs 1,572 lakh crore.

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

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

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

India's heavy reliance on imported crude oil makes its economy vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations. This also impacts the country's trade deficit, foreign exchange reserves, the rupee's exchange rate, and inflation rate, among others. The Indian government aims to reduce the country's reliance on imported crude oil but faces challenges due to sluggish domestic oil output amid rising demand. In 2015, the government had set a target to cut the dependence on imported oil from 77 per cent to 67 per cent by 2022. However, import dependency has only increased. The government has implemented several policy reforms to encourage investments in India's oil and gas exploration and production sector. The government is also promoting electric mobility, biofuels, and other alternative fuels to reduce oil imports. While there has been an increase in electric mobility adoption and the blending of biofuels with conventional



fuels, it is not sufficient to offset petroleum demand growth.

India's crude oil imports rose to 121.2 million tonnes in the six months to September from 120.7 million tonnes in the year-ago period. Meanwhile, domestic oil production declined slightly to 14.2 million tonnes from 14.4 million tonnes. Total domestic consumption of petroleum products in April-September rose 1 per cent year-on-year to 118.3 million tonnes, of which only 13.7 million tonnes of products estimated to have been produced from domestic crude oil, resulting in a self-sufficiency level of just 11.6 per cent, per the PPAC data. The computation of the extent of import reliance is based on the domestic consumption of petroleum products and excludes petroleum product exports as those volumes do not represent India's demand. India—the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and also one of its top importers—is a net exporter of petroleum products. Despite higher oil imports and import dependency, the country's gross oil import bill for April-September declined 14.7 per cent to \$60.7 billion year-on-year. The relief was primarily on account of lower oil prices in the international market vis-à-vis last year. Crude oil imports top the list of India's merchandise imports. Unlike most large economies, India is seen as a major growth centre for oil demand given the future consumption potential and relatively low per-capita energy demand currently. In fact, India is among the few markets where refinery capacity is expected to expand substantially over the coming years. India currently has a refining capacity of nearly 258.1 million tonnes per annum.

Post report claims Govt directed LIC to invest \$3.9 bn in Adani, insurer says 'baseless'

GOVERNMENT officials "drafted and pushed through a proposal in May to steer roughly \$3.9 billion in investments to Adani's businesses from the Life Insurance Corporation, or LIC", Washington Post said in a news report Friday. In a "rebuttal to the article", LIC said, "The allegations levelled by Washington Post that the investment decisions of LIC are influenced by external factors are false, baseless, and far from truth." The report claimed that two officials familiar with the matter told the Washington Post that, "The investment plan was crafted by officials at DFS (Department of Financial Services) in coordination with LIC and India's main government-funded think tank, Niti Aayog, the documents show, and approved by the Finance Ministry." In its statement, LIC said, "No such document or plan as alleged in the article has ever been prepared by LIC, which creates a roadmap for infusing funds by LIC into Adani group of companies. The investment decisions are taken by LIC independently as per Board approved policies after detailed due diligence. The Department of Financial Services or any other body does not have any role in such decisions.... These purported statements in the article appear to have been made with the intentions to prejudice the well settled decision-making process of LIC and also to tarnish the reputation and image of LIC and the strong financial sector foundations in India." A government official told The Indian Express that DFS has not written any letter to LIC asking it to invest in the Adani Group. "The documents being mentioned in the media are not from DFS. It's not true that DFS wrote to LIC to invest in Adani companies... DFS doesn't write such letters to LIC," the official said. LIC sources said the state-owned life insurer has not received any letter or document from DFS about investing \$3.9 billion in the Adani Group. "LIC has not asked for any approval from DFS to invest in Adani group. It's not true," a senior LIC executive said. "LIC's investments are all long term. This is done as per the IRDAI regulations and as per the board approved policy. LIC's investments in the shares of Adani group companies are around Rs 39,000 crore. Many of these were done even before some of these came under the Adani fold," the executive said. "LIC investments in other business groups like Reliance, Tatas and Birla are much higher than its investment in Adani. The Rs 5,000 crore investment in

NCDs of Adani Port is less than one per cent of its total investment of Rs 5-6 lakh crore investment every year," the executive said. Emails sent by The Indian Express to Niti Aayog and the Adani Group on the report did not elicit any response. However, in its response to the Washington Post, the Adani Group had said, "We categorically deny involvement in any alleged government plans to direct LIC funds... Assertions of undue political favour are unfounded.... our growth predates Mr Modi's national leadership." According to the claims in the report, the proposal materialised the same month that Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd sought to raise around \$585 million through a bond issue to refinance existing debt. "On May 30, Adani Group announced that the entire bond had been financed by a single investor — LIC — in a deal immediately criticised by opposition leaders and commentators as a misuse of public funds," the newspaper claimed. According to the report, the documents and interviews show "it was just one piece of a larger plan by Indian authorities to direct taxpayer money to a conglomerate owned by one of the country's most prominent and politically well-connected billionaires". As per the claims made in the said report, the DFS documents acknowledged that the proposed investment strategy came with risks. "Adani's securities are sensitive to controversies... causing short-term price fluctuations," the newspaper claimed, quoting one document. It further said the said document noted, "LIC lost roughly \$5.6 billion in gains on paper after the 2023 Hindenburg report, with its investment value falling to roughly \$3 billion by February 2023. The value of LIC's holdings recovered to \$6.9 billion by March 2024, the document said, meaning losses had not been fully recouped at that time. The current market value of the investment could not be determined," the Washington Post report said. Reacting to the report, Congress party President Mallikarjun Kharge said the real beneficiary of Direct Benefit Transfer is not the country's common citizen, but "Modiji's best friend". Party spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said, "The question arises: under whose pressure did the officials of the Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog decide that their job was to bail out a private company facing funding difficulties due to serious allegations of criminality?? Is this not a textbook case of 'mobile phone banking'?" On December 2, 2022,

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.

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 life-saving 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



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 following 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.

DRI seizes Rs 4.15 crore Hydroponic ganja at Hyderabad Airport

Hyderabad: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on Saturday seized 4.15 kg of hydroponic ganja valued at Rs 4.15 crore at the RGI Airport. On specific intelligence, the DRI officials intercepted a passenger coming from Bangkok to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad.

"On searching her baggage, packets containing greenish substance in lumpy form were recovered, which tested positive for cannabis, and was found inside the false bottom of her luggage bag. A total of 4.15 kg of hydroponic weed was seized and the passenger was arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985," said the officials.



Dhyan Chand, Hitler and Olympic gold: On Indian hockey’s centenary, hockey great Aslam Sher Khan takes a trip down memory lane



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

August 15, 1936. A wounded Dhyan Chand removed his spiked shoes and stockings at halftime, stepped back onto the waterlogged Berlin pitch barefoot, and proceeded to dismantle the German hockey team in front of 20,000 spectators and Adolf Hitler himself. For Aslam Sher Khan, 1975 Hockey World Cup winner, this wasn’t just folklore — it was family history. His father, Ahmed Sher Khan, was there on the Indian bench, part of India’s third consecutive Olympic gold medal team and the last to win before Independence. On Friday, as the centenary celebrations of Indian hockey took place at the Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi, Aslam was fixated on the 1936 gold medal-winning team picture, recalling the stories he grew up listening to from his father. The 1936 Olympics have a special, mythical significance in Indian hockey’s 100-year history. “The 1936 Olympics were a crazy one as compared to others. My father would term it as ‘voltage’ and tell me that Germany wanted to show the world that they are superior and hosting the Olympics was one of the ways of exerting that soft power,” Khan told I.Hockey. The 1936 gold medal-winning hockey team picture. (Hockey India)

India were headed into the Berlin Games on the back of two consecutive gold medals, at the 1928 Amsterdam and 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. Favourites to complete the hat-trick, India’s title defence didn’t start exactly as planned. The star-studded team, which had Dhyan Chand as the captain and the likes of Sayed Jaffar, Edward Goodsir-Cullen, Roop Singh, Ahmed Sher Khan, Carlyle Tapsell and Mirzapur Masood, lost 1-4 to Delhi XI in a practice match before leaving the country. “The team dismissed the early loss as they knew the side was too strong to take on anyone. But when India reached Germany, the team lost a warm-up game to a German XI, 4-1,” said Khan. “My

father said that the loss hit a nerve among his teammates and they decided to fully commit to the game with strict meals and bedtime routine in that era when the concept of workload management didn’t even exist.” The Indian team bulldozed past Hungary, the United States and Japan in the group stage, defeating them 4-0, 7-0, and 9-0, respectively. Similarly, Germany won their group with wins over Afghanistan and Denmark. In the semi-final, India decimated France 10-0 and set up a final with the hosts, Germany. “The final and its build-up were unusual. Both teams were supposed to play on 14th August, but due to incessant rain, the final was postponed. A lot of fans who had come to witness the final stayed around the stadium as they couldn’t head back home,” Khan said. The final had everything, from players adapting to the damp ground to Dhyan Chand losing his tooth in a collision with German goalkeeper Tito Warnholtz. The Germans looked determined to end India’s stranglehold. A report in The Hindu on August 16, 1936, noted: “Germany, in particular, were all earnestness and determination to have the single honour of beating the champion nation, having the advantage of their own grounds and climate. A proof of their determination is afforded by the fact the German team, which played the final, had assiduous practice together for the last two years.”

The stadium was full, with an article in the Malaya Tribune stating the attendance count was 20,000 while a Reuters report in The Indian Express said, “the stadium was filled to its capacity.”

The Indians dazzled the crowd and barely let the Germans trouble themselves, scoring eight goals and conceding just one. “There are so many myths about that final, like Dhyan Chand scoring six goals, some mention he scored four goals. But in reality, he scored three goals, and Ali Dara scored two goals. Roop Singh, Tapsell and Jaffar had one goal each,” Khan said. Dhyan Chand himself clarified in the days after the final that he scored three goals. However, one story that Khan said is true about the final is that Dhyan Chand removed his stockings and spiked shoes in the second half and became speedier. “Such was the class of the man. One of the reasons he is the greatest is that, apart from skills, he was the student of the game who knew what to do in different situations. Knowing that the ground was damp, he improvised, and India scored seven goals once he did that,” recalled Khan. Pointing at the picture on display at the stadium named after the sport’s all-time great, Khan sighed and said, “All they gave us in legacy was commitment, and we tried our best to honour it.

What makes J&K pacer Auqib Nabi special: Can swing the ball both ways, commendable accuracy

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Auqib Nabi shaped one at the perfect Test length, getting the ball to move away from the right-handed Hrithik Shokeen late and catching his glove. (Express Photo by Praveen Khanna) Auqib Nabi shaped one at the perfect Test length, getting the ball to move away from the right-handed Hrithik Shokeen late and catching his glove. If there was a collection of two deliveries that explained the hype that has built around Auqib Nabi, Jammu and Kashmir’s 27-year-old right-arm quick, on the domestic circuit, it came in the 63rd over of Delhi’s innings during their Ranji Trophy fixture at the Feroz Shah Kotla grounds on Saturday. After a wicket with the new ball, Nabi returned for a spell and nabbed Anuj Rawat by moving the ball out to catch the edge of the left-hander. In his next over, he shaped one at the perfect Test length, getting the ball to move away from the right-handed Hrithik Shokeen late and catching his glove. On the next one, he bowled a vicious in-swing — getting the ball to reverse swing when it was older and softer — that crushed the front toe of debutant Manan Bhardwaj.

To get the ball to move both ways so seamlessly, with commendable accuracy in length, has been his hallmark. It allowed him to take 44 wickets last season as J&K reached the quarterfinals. On the back of that, he was picked for the North Zone Duleep Trophy team, where he took a hat-trick against the East Zone and picked up a five-for. He has started this season with a bang, with 24 wickets already to his name. His match-winning potential was on display once again after his excellent late burst spurred him to take his third five-for of this Ranji season in just four games. Nabi bowled 16 overs in all, finished with 5 for 35 and played a central role in Delhi being bundled out for a below par 211 on Day 1 in the national capital. “To bowl both outswing and inswing is something I have worked on a lot these past two years. On a wicket like this, I needed to find something. There was help with the new ball but then it fell flat,” Nabi told reporters here on Saturday. J&K won the toss on a cool early winter morning in Delhi and chose to field with expectations for the conditions to play similarly flat and slow as the last two games here. But there was more in it on Saturday for the bowlers than usual when the ball was new. The



visitors reduced Delhi to 14/3 before skipper Ayush Badoni, Ayush Doseja and Sumit Mathur hit fifties. But Nabi’s reverse swing abilities quickly skittled Delhi’s lower order. In reply, J&K themselves were left barely hanging on at 31/3 at stumps. Delhi quick Simarjeet Singh castled all three with the new ball. But to be able to do so when the track falls asleep is where Nabi believes he has the edge. “India has some of the best bowlers: Bumrah, Siraj, Shami. They are the best at bowling on Indian pitches. I often follow them closely and watch their videos to learn how to get wickets on flat pitches,” he said. The pacer based in Kashmir’s valley, born and raised in Baramulla, has now taken 75 wickets since the start of last season, making him the highest wicket-taker among all fast bowlers in the Ranji Trophy in that period. Yet, he has not seemed to feature in the scheme of things for the national team, failing to get picked for India ‘A’ for the ongoing series against South Africa ‘A’. He has a decent record with the white-ball, too; 42 wickets in 29 List-A games and 28 in 27 T20s for J&K. Yet, despite a few trials, an IPL contract has evaded him.

An asterisk against him is pace; his deliveries stay within the 125-135kmph range, not the kind of speed that will get selectors to immediately take notice. But he doesn’t feel down on his luck. “If it is not my advantage that I don’t (bowl very fast), it is my advantage that I can get the ball to move both ways. Not everyone can do that,” he quipped. Brief Scores: Delhi 211 all out in 69 overs (Doseja 65, Badoni 64; Nabi 5/35) lead Jammu and Kashmir 31/3 (Simarjeet 3/14) by 180 runs.

‘Don’t tell they are bigger than an Ashes’: Michael Vaughan on ongoing India vs Australia series

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Former England skipper Michael Vaughan said that even though the current India vs Australia series Down Under have been competitive, it pales in comparison to the Ashes build up. Vaughan said that the Men in Blue taking on the Aussies wasn’t bigger than the Ashes with the lead up to the latter series, set to start later this month, was huge. “No question the India v Aussie series of late down under have been more competitive .. but don’t tell they are bigger than an Ashes .. the build up down in Oz for this Ashes is absolutely huge .. you don’t that for an IND v Oz series ...” Vaughan posted on X.

The India vs Australia series started in October with 3 ODIs which saw the return of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the national set up for the first time since winning the Champions Trophy in March against New Zealand. After the hosts won the series 2-1, the series shifted to the shortest format where India are currently leading the hosts 2-1 in the 5-match series. No question the India v Aussie series of late down under have been more competitive .. but don’t tell they are bigger than an Ashes .. the build up down in Oz for this Ashes is absolutely huge .. you don’t that for an IND v Oz series Josh Hazlewood, who played the first 2 matches of the T20I series and Travis Head, who played the first 3 matches of the T20I series were released from the squad to prepare for the Ashes. India spinner Kuldeep Yadav was

also released from the Indian T20I squad to prepare for the upcoming home series against South Africa. Australia’s Ashes squad for 1st Test The Aussies have dropped young opener Sam Konstas from their Ashes 2025 squad for the first Test, starting November 21 at the Optus Stadium in Perth, with senior batter Marnus Labuschagne winning back his spot in the 15-man squad after strong performances in the domestic circuit for Queensland. The hosts have also named three uncapped players for the series opener against England, including 31-year-old batter Jake Weatherald, who could be in with a chance to make his international debut as opener, replacing Konstas. Meanwhile, Labuschagne could return to his favoured No.3 spot in the batting order after plundering five centuries in seven games across formats for Queensland. After a string of poor scores and Australia’s World Test Championship final defeat to South Africa in June, Labuschagne was subsequently dropped from the side for the West Indies tour. Veteran opener Usman Khawaja’s most recent opening partner, Konstas, has been dropped entirely from the squad following a dismal performance in the Test campaign in the Caribbean, where he managed scores of just 3, 5, 25, 0, 17, and 0. Australia squad: (First Test only): Steve Smith (c), Sean Abbott, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Brendan Doggett, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc, Jake Weatherald, Beau Webster

Ice broken with PCB, options being worked out to bring back Asia Cup trophy: Devajit Saikia



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

The cricket boards of India and Pakistan have managed to “break the ice” on the Asia Cup trophy dispute and will work towards finding a plausible solution in the coming days, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI after meeting PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on the sidelines of an ICC gathering in Dubai. The Asia Cup Trophy wasn’t presented to India by Naqvi, who also happens to be the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairperson, after the winning team refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India position. Suryakumar Yadav’s men defeated Pakistan in the final of the T20 event held in Dubai on September 28.

“I was a part of both the informal and formal meeting of the ICC. PCB chairperson Mohsin Naqvi was also present. During the course of a formal meeting, it was not on agenda but ICC facilitated a meeting between myself and the PCB chief separately in the presence of a senior ICC office-bearer and another senior official,” Saikia told PTI on Saturday. “It was really good to start the process of negotiation. Both sides cordially participated in the meeting which took place on the sidelines of the ICC board meet,” he added, assuring that a solution will be worked out soon. While Saikia didn’t wish to name any ICC official, it is reliably learnt that deputy chairman Imran Khawaja and CEO Sanjog Gupta initiated the discussions between the two cricket boards. “Definitely, in coming times, if things go in a positive way, the issue will be sorted at the earliest,” Saikia

sounded positive.

The trophy has been lying at the ACC headquarters in Dubai with the staff there instructed by Naqvi to not move it without his permission. Naqvi, who is also the interior minister of Pakistan, has insisted that the Indians will have to accept the top prize from him. “Both sides will work out something to solve the issue at the earliest. The ice has been broken now, so various options will be worked out. “There will be options from the other side as well and we will also give options on how to settle this issue and come to an amicable solution,” Saikia said. While there was speculation that a dispute resolution committee will be formed by the ICC to handle the matter, the BCCI secretary categorically denied any such move by the world body. “Although one of the senior persons from ICC is involved in the process of negotiation, there is no requirement of any such thing (a committee) at this stage. The issue will be resolved before any such drastic step is taken by the ICC,” Saikia assured. The two teams clashed thrice during the Asia Cup and tensions were high in all the matches.

The Indians maintained a no-handshake policy with their Pakistani counterparts for the entirety of the tournament as a gesture of solidarity with the Pahalgam terror attack victims. As hostilities mounted, players from the two teams openly mocked each other through offensive gestures resulting in penalties on both the sides for “bringing the game into disrepute.” Saikia also informed that the ICC Board of Directors congratulated the BCCI for successfully hosting the Women’s World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, the Indian women’s team led by Harmanpreet Kaur defeated South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai to claim its maiden ICC title. “... they appreciated India’s efforts... They congratulated India and South Africa (the two finalists) for their wonderful performances. The South African women’s team was congratulated for three successive final appearances. “It is now clear that South African women’s team’s graph is on the rise,” said Saikia, who also attended the Financial & Commercial Affairs (F&CA) meeting as well as HR and Remuneration Committee meetings of the ICC.

‘The impact of it is something we’ll realise in a few months’: Harmanpreet Kaur opens up about winning World Cup

GNS News Agency, Nov 8

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said that winning the World Cup still feels like a dream and hasn’t yet sunk in. She also opened up about a phone call from Sachin Tendulkar ahead of the final vs South Africa where the India legend gave the team a pep talk. “The night before the match, Sachin (Tendulkar) sir called. He shared his experience and asked us to keep our balance. When the game is going fast, just slow it down a little,” Harmanpreet said on The ICC Review.

“Try and control it because when you go too fast, chances are you can stumble. That’s what we need to avoid. I was just thinking of all the advice I was getting from the seniors. To keep control, stay patient, the moment will come and you will be able to grasp it,” she added. Harman said that they will realize the impact of winning the World Cup in a few months but currently they are trying to process it. “To be honest, I’m not able to think about this right now. Maybe, I will realise after a few months what we have achieved. What we have given our country. I can’t process this right now. I spoke about the same with Amol (Muzumdar) sir, it feels like we have won some bilateral series and we’re going back home. The impact of it is something we’ll realise in



a few months. Right now, it just feels like a dream,” she said. “I still can’t believe it. Whenever we are seeing each other, we’re just saying, ‘world champion’. It’s a very different feeling. We were waiting when we would get to feel this way. My mother and father were there.

For me, it was a very special moment to lift the World Cup trophy with them. Since my childhood, they have heard me say that I want to wear India’s jersey, play for the country, lead the team and win the World Cup,” she added.

‘Character you’ve shown throughout this tournament has been outstanding’: What Annabel Sutherland told Jemimah Rodrigues post winning knock against AUS



GNS News Agency, Nov 8

Annabel Sutherland told Jemimah Rodrigues Indian star Jemimah Rodrigues, who played a sublime knock of 127 runs in the semi-finals against Australia, has shared how Australian star all-rounder Annabel Sutherland texted her post the semi-final win and lauded her efforts. (AP) During their World Cup winning campaign, it was India’s semi-final win over seven-time champions and defending champions Australia in the tournament, which set the tone for the Harmanpreet Kaur led Indian team’s win over South Africa in the final last Sunday. With Australia facing their second defeat in a knock out in an WODI World Cup since the semi-final loss against India in 2017 World Cup, it meant that the defending champions were knocked out of the tournament. Indian star Jemimah Rodrigues, who played a sublime knock of 127 runs in the semi-finals against Australia, has shared how Australian star all-rounder Annabel Sutherland texted her post the semi-final win and lauded her efforts. “After the game, it was heartbreaking for them to lose a semi-final. I know how much it means to Bellsy (Annabel) and how much she loves her cricket, even though she doesn’t always show it. She messaged me saying, ‘The character you’ve shown throughout this tournament has been outstanding. You totally deserve to own that moment tonight.’ I looked at that message and thought, what a person! They had just suffered the most heartbreaking loss, yet she still reached out to a friend to encourage me, even though we were opponents at that moment. I have mad respect for her,” Rodrigues said in a video posted by WPL side Delhi Capitals. With 19 wickets in seven matches in the tournament apart from scoring a total of 117 runs, Sutherland was among the Aussie players in prime form in the World Cup. The 22-year-old all-rounder had taken a five-

wicket haul during Australia’s win over India earlier in the tournament and had also played an unbeaten knock against England during the team’s win earlier in the tournament. The Aussie star was among the five players along with Rodrigues, Indian opener Shafali Verma, South African all-rounder Marianne Kapp and Indian player Niki Prasad, who were retained by Delhi Capitals for the next edition of WPL before the mega auction. Sutherland, who first played in WPL in 2023, has scored a total of 150 runs and claimed 13 wickets in WPL so far in her career. Rodrigues shared her thoughts on sharing the dressing room with Sutherland once again. “She’s going to do special things for Australia, which is scary for us, but also for DC. I’m so glad we’ll share the dressing room again,” added Rodrigues. Sutherland has so far six Women Tests, 49 WODIs and 45 Wt20Is for Australia so far in her career and is also currently the number one bowler in ICC rankings. The all-rounder is placed at the 20th spot in ICC rankings for all-rounders. Rodrigues rated the Aussie star in the top three all-rounders in women’s cricket. “Sutherland’s a superstar. Right now, I’d rate her among the top three all-rounders in women’s cricket — maybe even the best. I don’t know if she’d want me to say this, but she truly sets an example,” said Rodrigues.

India look to seal series win in final T20I against Australia

Brisbane: On the cusp of another overseas series win, India will look to overcome batting inconsistencies and finish their tour of Australia with authority when the two sides clash in the fifth and final T20 International here on Saturday. With an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series, India have extended their 17-year streak of not losing a T20I series against Australia. Suryakumar Yadav and Co. will aim to finish the series on a high.

The spotlight will be on Shubman Gill and captain Suryakumar Yadav’s batting, while Australia will look to counter India’s spin attack in the final T20 before next year’s T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka. India showed better tactical awareness in the previous match, adjusting to the tricky Carrara pitch. Gill led the way with a promising 46, having started strongly in a 121-run partnership for the second wicket before a late collapse saw India lose four wickets for just 15 runs.

Most problematic Malayalam film of 2025, starring blockbuster director, earned only 1/3 of Rs 5 cr budget in Kerala; lead star soon delivered first directorial bomb



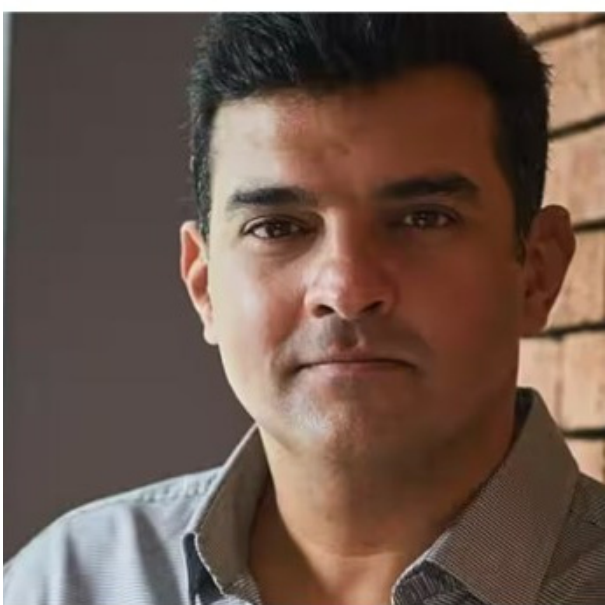
For the actor-director, 2025 has not been favourable so far, with both his movies, one in which he played the lead role and the other he directed, failing big time. The son of ace director-screenwriter Sreenivasan, he entered the world of cinema as a singer and later established himself as an actor and filmmaker. (Screenshot: YouTube/SonyMusicMalayalamOfficial) Achieving a 100 per cent success rate in cinema is extremely difficult, and there aren't many who have managed it. Even the iconic director duo Siddique-Lal, who never experienced failure when they worked together, eventually faced defeats in their individual filmmaking careers. One of the rare filmmakers with an impeccable track record, with most of his ventures emerging not just as successes but as blockbusters, is Vineeth Sreenivasan. However, 2025 has not been his year so far, with both his movies — one in which he played the lead role and the other he directed — failing big time.

The son of ace director-screenwriter Sreenivasan, Vineeth entered the world of cinema in 2003 as a singer, lending his voice to the iconic track "Kasavinte Thattamittu," composed by the legendary Vidyasagar for the Mohanlal-starrer Kilichundan Mampazham. The film was directed by Priyadarshan and penned by Vineeth's father, Sreenivasan. The youngster soon established himself, and opportunities to work with eminent composers began to come his way. As he was flying high as a singer, Vineeth tried his hand at acting and made his debut in hit director Johnny Antony's Cycle (2008). He found success there as well and started juggling acting and singing. Meanwhile, Vineeth Sreenivasan expanded his horizons further and made his filmmaking debut with Malarvaadi Arts Club (2010), featuring a bunch of newcomers, including Nivin Pauly, who later became a massive star in Mollywood. The film turned out to be a blockbuster. His second directorial venture, Thattathin Marayathu (2012), was an even bigger box office success, and Vineeth thus established himself as a skilled multi-hy-

phenate, just like his father. Although his third directorial endeavour, the Shobana-starrer Thira (2013), did not achieve success upon release, it eventually attained cult status. His subsequent movies, like Jacobinte Swargarajyam (2016), Hridayam (2022) and Varshangalkku Shesham (2024), also achieved massive success, though the latter two received criticism from some quarters for being cringeworthy. Meanwhile, Vineeth kept working as an actor too and appeared in notable movies like Traffic, Chappa Kurishu, Oru Vadakkan Selfie, Kunjiramayanam, Aby, Aravindante Athidhikal, Thanneer Mathan Dinangal, Mukundan Unni Associates, Thankam, Pookkaalam and 2018, among others.

Vineeth Sreenivasan's first movie of 2025, Oru Jaathi Jathakam, helmed by his uncle M Mohanan, hit the screens on January 31. It marked their reunion after seven years since the successful Aravindante Athidhikal. Touted as a "dark comedy," the film received poor reviews and sparked controversy as well for its highly problematic portrayal and ridicule of homosexuality. The matter eventually reached the court. In February, the Kerala High Court issued a notice to the movie's director while considering a writ petition that alleged that the movie uses derogatory language to refer to the LGBTQ+ community. The petitioner also criticised the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for permitting the movie's exhibition. In our review of the movie, we had also mentioned that Oru Jaathi Jathakam "reinforces several harmful practices, including casteism, colourism, misogyny, sexism, body shaming and homophobia, among others." According to a report released by the Kerala Film Producers' Association (KFPA) in February — which revealed the budget of Malayalam movies released in January and the share of revenue each generated from cinema halls in the state — Oru Jaathi Jathakam managed to earn a theatre share of only Rs 1.5 crore from Kerala against a budget of Rs 5 crore. According to industry tracker Sacnilk, the movie ended its theatrical run by recording a total India nett collection of Rs 7.06 crore. The film also featured Nikhila Vimal, Babu Antony, Kayadu Lohar, Kunhikrishnan PP and Mridul Nair in key roles. Vineeth Sreenivasan's woes didn't end there; his career as a filmmaker suffered its first box-office bomb a few months later. Karam, his seventh directorial venture, not only flopped big time but also became his first movie to receive mostly negative reviews. Penned by Noble Babu Thomas, who also played the lead role, Karam was jointly bankrolled by Vineeth and Visakh Subramaniam under the banners of Habit of Life and Merryland Cinemas, respectively. Mounted on a reported budget of Rs 25-30 crore, the film, as per Sacnilk, registered an India nett of only Rs 1.08 crore during its theatrical run, making it a massive disaster.

Siddharth Roy Kapur on tackling rising star fees: 'We need to make films that are not dependent on them'



Siddharth Roy Kapur is not only a seasoned producer, but also the former president of the Producers Guild of India. He admits that escalating fees of A-list stars today is indeed a matter of concern for the sustainability and profitability of the Hindi film industry. But he also argues that the solution to that is not to ask the stars to drop their prices, but to find an alternate revenue system that's not dependent on those stars for success.

"If you take Hollywood as an example, in the 1990s, the prices of Tom Cruise, Julia Roberts, and Tom Hanks had reached \$20 million each. What did the studios do at that time? They went to franchises and things that didn't need stars. And they built their own IPs that are not star-dependent. I believe that's also very important for us," said Siddharth on the Game Changers podcast. He quoted the example of Mohit Suri's blockbuster romantic drama Saiyaara, starring newcomers Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, that earned over Rs 350 crore at the domestic box office earlier this year. "Your star fees weren't required there because you weren't dependent on them," said Siddharth Roy Kapur.

"Rather than getting into why stars aren't reducing their prices... if someone's going to pay them, they're going to take that price. Who's going to say no? Our focus should be on how we make films which aren't star-dependent," added Siddharth. He also quoted the success of other non-star projects of this year like Ashwin Kumar's mythological animated film Mahavatar Narsimha (Rs 250 crore), Haruo Sotozaki's anime action fantasy Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba — The Movie: Infinity Castle (Rs 88 crore in India), and most recently, Rishab Shetty's period action fantasy Kantara: Chapter 1 (Rs 579 core and counting). "The audience is telling us that if you give us good content without stars, then we don't need stars either," said Siddharth, however adding that it's best to mix it up. "You must make films with Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, but you must make films without stars as well. Some films require stars. They're star-driven. You need a certain heroism and superstardom to carry them. But the films that don't need stars, don't force stars onto them just because it's a safety mechanism. Be-

cause your cost of production will escalate so much that your non-theatrical revenues might not add up. And you're putting so much burden on the creation of the film that the film, which could've been very good without a star, actually doesn't even turn out to be that good a film because there's a star in it," argued Siddharth.

Of the films Siddharth Roy Kapur has produced under his banner Roy Kapur Films, the non-star projects include Vinod Kapri's thriller 2018 Pihu (headlined by a two-year-old actor), Soni Taraporewala's 2020 dance film Yeh Ballet (a Netflix India Original starring newcomers), and Abhishek Sinha's comedy Tumse Na Ho Payega (starring newcomers, which released directly on JioHotstar). The star-driven projects include Priyanka Chopra and Farhan Akhtar-starrer 2019 family drama The Sky Is Pink, Ishaan Khatter-starrer 2023 war drama Pippa (directly released on Amazon Prime Video), and Shahid Kapoor-starrer cop drama Deva earlier this year.

Rashmika Mandanna is caught in a toxic relationship with Dheekshith Shetty.

The Girlfriend trailer: The trailer of The Girlfriend, starring Rashmika Mandanna and Dheekshith Shetty, was unveiled on Saturday. The upcoming Telugu film, directed by Rahul Ravindran, features Rashmika in an intense role, portraying a woman trapped in a complicated and toxic relationship. Rashmika took to her Instagram handle to share the film's trailer. She wrote in the caption, "This one's not your usual love story... it'll make you think.



partner, she seems uncertain about the decision. The clip then delves into a complicated phase where love turns toxic, as Bhooma experiences doubt, anger, emotional turmoil, and jealousy. Her boyfriend's unpredictable behavior, coupled with the presence of another woman, Durga (played by Anu Emmanuel), leaves her increasingly confused and in pain. Toward the end, Rashmika's character is seen questioning her relationship and the very label of being a "girlfriend." Written and directed by Rahul Ravindran, The Girlfriend has been produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni and Vidya Koppineedi. With Hesham Abdul Wahab's music, the movie is set to hit theatres on November 7.

#TheGirlfriend trailer out now... In cinemas on November 7th."

The trailer opens with Rashmika Mandanna's character, Bhooma, hesitantly asking her boyfriend Vikram (played by Dheekshith Shetty) if they should take a short break. The scene then cuts to the moment when he first proposed to her. While Vikram appears confident about having Bhooma as his life partner, she seems uncertain about the decision. The clip then delves into a complicated phase where love turns toxic, as Bhooma experiences doubt, anger, emotional turmoil, and jealousy. Her boyfriend's unpredictable behavior, coupled with the presence of another woman, Durga (played by Anu Emmanuel), leaves her increasingly confused and in pain. Toward the end, Rashmika's character is seen questioning her relationship and the very label of being a "girlfriend." Written and directed by Rahul Ravindran, The Girlfriend has been produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni and Vidya Koppineedi. With Hesham Abdul Wahab's music, the movie is set to hit theatres on November 7.

‘Everything fell into my lap’: Satish Shah reflected on his career and role in DDLJ in one of his last interviews



Veteran actor Satish Shah, known for his roles in Sarabhai vs Sarabhai, Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro, Main Hoon Na, and Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, passed away on Saturday at the age of 74. Just days before his demise, the actor spoke to Screen as DDLJ marked 30 years since its release. In the heartfelt conversation, Satish reflected on his experience of working on a Yash Raj Films set. He also shared that he never had to ask anyone for work; opportunities simply found their way to him.

Talking about Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol's romantic

classic, Satish Shah said, "Everyone who was a part of DDLJ has a reason to be proud. Naturally, I am also proud." The actor added, "I had just finished doing Hum Aapke Hain Koun and it had become a bumper superhit. I told Yash ji while doing this film that I am getting the same feeling while doing this one that I got at that time. He said, 'Tumhaare muh mein ghee shakkar.' When it happened, he kept telling me that I am a seer. He was a very sweet person." Satish Shah recalled how Yash Chopra used to create a warm atmosphere on the set of Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge and shared, "He used to be on the set and do a lot of leg pulling of one person or the other. It was a very friendly atmosphere. I was at ease also because Shah Rukh had worked with me in earlier films as well." He continued, "I was working with Yash ji for the first time, but I was confident enough about what I can and cannot do. Most of them were friendly; they were kids. I was a senior at that time. I have seen Kajol as a bacha. It was fun. Food and other things were never a problem in a Yash Raj production. Everything was organised." Satish Shah went on to share that he never had to request any role from anyone. "I am not being bashful, but thankfully, I have never ever gone to ask for a role to anybody. It all came and fell in my lap because of my work. Someone from YRF came and asked if I could do this role. I told him my schedule and he only finalized the money and everything. I didn't even have to go to the YRF office. It all fell in place like a jigsaw puzzle. I never had to do anything, actually I am lazy that way," he concluded.

Satish Shah spoke to his Sarabhai vs Sarabhai co-star Ratna Pathak Shah two hours before his demise, reveals JD Majethia

Veteran actor Satish Shah, known for his memorable performances in Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro, Main Hoon Na, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, and Sarabhai vs Sarabhai, among others, passed away on Saturday. The 74-year-old actor succumbed to a kidney ailment. Coincidentally, just hours before his demise, Satish had spoken to a few of his friends and loved ones. His close friend Sachin Pilgaonkar told News18 that the late actor had texted him at 12:56 p.m. Meanwhile, Sarabhai vs Sarabhai producer JD Majethia revealed in an interview with PTI that Satish had also spoken to his on-screen wife from the show, Ratna Pathak Shah, two hours before he passed away.

JD Majethia expressed his shock and said, "I couldn't believe it because he had a chat with Aatish Kapadia at 11 am. He had a chat with Ratna ji at 12:57 pm. And after two hours, we got to know he is no more. The day before yesterday, we were supposed to meet. I was right below his house, but he said he was too tired to meet. I'm about to retire. I told him my family also wanted to meet him. Bohot pyaar karte the betiyon se, very close to my wife (He loved my daughters a lot, was very close to my wife).""He spoke to everyone on the phone. He said, 'Look how I'm sounding, I'm so healthy.' He told me, 'Aav ne pachi madaye, that 'pachi' will never come now. (He told me we shall meet later, but that later will never come now)," Majethia added.

Satish Shah's passing has left his friends from the industry and fans heartbroken. His Sarabhai vs Sarabhai co-stars, in particular, have been deeply affected by the loss. Talking to SCREEN, Rajesh Kumar, who played



Roshesh Sarabhai in the show, said, "This is the worst hour for me. I still cannot process that Satish ji is no more. All I can say is that it feels like I have lost my father. A man full of life and humour. Challenging everything. Made his name and left his mark as an actor. This is a big, big loss to the industry and us (the Sarabhai family). Let's pray for his departed soul and keep him in your prayers." Aatish Kapadia told SCREEN, "I am completely devastated. We were regularly in touch. We have a Sarabhi group where we constantly interact. Apart from the show, he was family for me, so I don't know what to say. He did have a kidney transplant may be that caused complications, but I am not sure. I am completely numb; it's not sinking in. He is the liveliest in our group; to talk about him in the past tense is something I cannot imagine."

Yuvika Chaudhary admits her marriage with Prince Narula hit a rough patch, Sunita Ahuja says, 'It's often the family who has an evil eye...'



Actors Prince Narula and Yuvika Chaudhary's relationship has been in the public eye for quite some time. It began with speculation that things weren't well between the couple. In one of their vlogs, Yuvika and Prince appeared distant, avoiding conversation and eye contact. The rumors intensified after Yuvika revealed on a podcast that a misunderstanding had caused tension between them. Soon after, Prince appeared to take an indirect dig at Yuvika, calling her a liar. Before matters could escalate, the two resolved their differences and dismissed all separation and divorce rumors. Now, months after their personal life came under scrutiny, Yuvika has shared in Sunita Ahuja's vlog that it was the evil eye that had affected their relationship.

In Sunita's latest vlog, Yuvika is seen accompanying her to a temple. The two are shown sitting together, discussing how nazar (the evil eye) can negatively affect many things. Sunita said, "I get to know who has an evil eye or does black magic on me, my kids, or my family. I get that intuition always. There are some people within the family, and also outside, who have an evil eye. Today, Govinda and I are the best couple in the industry; everyone knows about it. We did so much work together, and it's often the family who has an evil eye when he listens to his wife and kids. I always blame my family because they cannot see others happy." Later in the vlog, Sunita mentions that she had heard about issues in Yuvika's marriage a while ago and asks her what happened. Yuvika said, "It was an evil

eye. When you come into people's eyes so much, your energy changes." Talking about how she coped with the rough patch, Yuvika said, "I left things to god. I became spiritual and started loving myself, which helped me come out with those problems." Sunita agreed and said, "It's all a phase. No one can stop what is destined to happen. Whoever tries to break a home, god will punish them, and we will see them."

Film stars fight AI misuse to reclaim 'themselves'

Mumbai: In a digital landscape increasingly distorted by AI-generated deception, India's top film stars are making a beeline to courts to reclaim ownership of their most valuable asset — "themselves". A growing list of Bollywood artists, including Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, and Hrithik Roshan, are filing lawsuits to enforce their "personality rights." This legal approach is a direct response to the alarming surge in sophisticated AI-driven deep fakes and the unauthorised commercial use of their images, voices, and photographs. For these actors, the threat goes beyond a simple advertisement without permission. As technology makes it easier to create hyper-realistic, yet entirely fabricated, images and videos, the potential for reputational damage has become "truly alarming," a point recently underscored by the Bombay High Court while granting protection to actors Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty. "More than misuse for commercial purposes, what is more worrying and threatening is deepfake images and content," Advocate Janay Jain, who represented a group of celebrities in the Bombay High Court, said. "Such content causes grave harm to the person's reputation and image," Jain opined. Personality rights grant an individual legal control over the commercial and public use of their identity — their name, image, voice, signature, or any other distinctive attribute easily recognised by the public. Misuse can range from fake endorsements and unauthorised merchandise to the most insidious threat — malicious AI-generated deepfakes. While India lacks a specific, codified law on personality rights, courts are stepping up, broadening the definition of the fundamental right to privacy by issuing injunctions and restraining the misuse of an artist's persona without due permission.