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## Man fails to pay highest bid of Rs 1.17 crore for vehicle registration number HR 88 B 8888

Chandigarh: Call it passion, pride or sheer stubbornness. A man in Haryana bid a whopping sum of Rs 1.17 crore for a fancy number for his vehicle and made it to headlines. But as the last date arrived to pay the bid amount, the highest bidder was nowhere to be found leaving the transport department officials scratching their heads.

But the Haryana Transport minister Anil Vij was not amused at the development. He ordered officials to check the man's income and paying capacity.

## Telangana HC extends stay on BC quota in Panchayat polls, next hearing on Jan 29

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Hyderabad: Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday extended the interim stay on GO Nos. 9, 41 and 42, which provide 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes in the forthcoming Panchayat Raj elections.

The stay will continue until January 29, 2026, the date fixed for final hearing. The Government Orders were first stayed on October 9, after the Bench noted that the enhanced BC quota pushed the overall reservation in local body elections to 67 per cent, breaching the 50 per cent cap laid down by the Supreme Court in Vikas Kishanrao Gawali case. Notices were then issued to the State to file its counter within four weeks. When the matter was taken up on Wednesday, the Bench expressed displeasure that neither the State nor the implead petitioners who are supporting the impugned G.O's had filed the required counter-affidavits, despite earlier directions. The court adjourned the batch of Writ Petitions, while ordering that the interim stay



should remain in force. The petitions challenge the validity of the enhanced reservation, alleging that the State acted contrary to constitutional limits. Following the adjournment, the matter now stands posted to January 29, 2026, for final hearing.

## Revenue Minister Ponguleti defends HILT policy amid Rs 5 lakh crore scam allegations



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Hyderabad: Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Wednesday defended the Congress government's decision to allow industrial land-use conversion at nominal rates under the new Hyderabad Industrial Lands Transformation (HILT) Policy. The move follows precedents set by earlier Congress governments in undivided Andhra Pradesh, which proposed shifting polluting indus-

tries outside the ORR and repurposing the existing zones for residential and commercial development, he claimed.

Citing recommendations of the Cabinet subcommittee led by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, he said applications were invited and applicants were asked to pay a percentage of market value for registration and zone conversion. Alleging that the BRS too allowed similar conversions, he asked on what basis the BRS was claiming a Rs 5 lakh crore scam. Speaking at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Minister announced that the State would launch the new Bhu Bharati platform in January, formally ending the Dharani system. The NIC-developed platform will integrate land, survey and registration records into a single-page digital interface.

He said 413 revenue villages without maps were prioritised, with pilot surveys completed in five villages. New survey numbers and Bhudhaar cards are ready for distribution after local body polls. A second-phase survey will cover 373 villages next year, followed by a third phase across all districts. A Bhu Bharati mobile app will also be launched next month, he said, adding that market value revision within GHMC limits would be taken up soon.

## Telangana HC stays CAT order on IAS officer Ronald Rose



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Wednesday put on hold an order of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) directing the allocation of senior IAS officer D. Ronald Rose to the Telangana cadre, bringing back into focus the cadre disputes that followed the 2014 bifurcation.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice Ghoushe Meera Mohiuddin passed the interim suspension while hearing a writ petition filed by the Union Government questioning the Tribunal's jurisdiction. The CAT, in its April 9 order, had instructed the

Telangana Government to bring Ronald Rose onto its rolls, though he had originally been allotted to the Andhra Pradesh cadre at the time of bifurcation.

The Centre argued that cadre allocation of All India Service officers rests exclusively with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and cannot be altered through Tribunal directions. Appearing for the Union Government, Additional Solicitor General B. Narasimha Sharma referred to the earlier ruling in the case of former Telangana Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar. Though Somesh Kumar continued in Telangana for years based on CAT orders, the High Court eventually directed him to report to his parent cadre in Andhra Pradesh. The same principle, the ASG submitted, governs the present case as well. The Bench was also informed that Ronald Rose had earlier sought a cadre swap, but the DoPT rejected the request as the officers proposed for exchange were also allotted to Andhra Pradesh. After hearing the submissions, the Court stayed the CAT's order and asked the DoPT to place on record the report of the Pratyush Sinha Committee, which had examined cadre allocations of IAS and other AIS officers after bifurcation. The matter has been adjourned for six weeks, with directions to both the DoPT and the Telangana Government to file their counter-affidavits before the next hearing.



## Rajnath Singh, Belousov to discuss key defence issues tomorrow

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

New Delhi: India's keenness in procurement of S-400 missile systems, upgrade of Sukhoi 30 fighter jets, and purchasing other critical military hardware from Russia will be on the agenda for talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov on Thursday. Top military officials said the overall focus will be to further expand the already close defence and security ties between the two countries, with a particular focus on ensuring expeditious supply of military hardware from Russia to India.

Belousov will be part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's delegation to India. The talks between the two defence ministers will take place a day ahead of the summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Putin. In the meeting with Belousov, the Indian side is likely to push for the supply of military hardware within the prescribed time

## Bomb scare at Kothagudem railway station after stray dog bites into explosive

Kothagudem: A crude bomb exploded on the railway tracks at Kothagudem railway station when a stray dog bit the bomb on Wednesday. It was said that the dog bit the bomb wrapped in a cloth bag, mistaking it for edible food and died. The government railway police, three-town and one-town Inspectors of Police Shiva Prasad and Karunakar rushed to the spot on learning about the incident, along with a dog squad and launched an investigation into the incident. Police found five unexploded bombs in the bag. It was suspected that someone tried to take bombs on the Singareni Fast Passenger Train that leaves the station early in the morning and might have left the bag on the tracks, fearing police inspections.

## Revanth Reddy issues veiled warning to voters to choose only Congress-backed candidates

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Hyderabad: In a veiled warning to the public against voting for candidates not backed by the Congress, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged people to elect sarpanchs and ward members who could work in coordination with Ministers and legislators. He said choosing others could halt funds and development works in their villages, a remark that drew criticism for its direct political messaging during the election schedule. His comments came as the BRS lodged a complaint with the State Election Commission, accusing the Congress of using public money to celebrate the government's completion of two years in office and misusing the platform for poll campaigning.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for works worth Rs.262 crore in Husnabad constituency, the Chief Minister said the government would extend maximum support to villages but insisted that capable local leadership was essential to ensure development. Earlier in the meeting, his claim that the increase in irrigation coverage after the formation of Telangana was due to the Congress government left many in the audience puzzled. He said Telangana had surpassed Punjab to become the top paddy producing State in India because of irrigation projects built by Congress governments. The statement drew no applause and instead sparked discussions that it was the BRS government under K Chandrashekhara Rao that constructed multiple irrigation projects during its ten-year rule. It was widely known that the area under irrigation and paddy pro-



duction had more than doubled in the decade following the formation of Telangana. Questions also arose on how Revanth Reddy could lay foundations for roads connecting gram panchayats in the Husnabad constituency in the middle of the election schedule, which several people said amounted to a violation of the election code. The meeting itself saw a muted response from the public, with several attendees leaving as the Chief Minister arrived late. Many chairs remained empty despite repeated requests from local Congress leaders urging people to remain seated. His claim that the Congress government had recruited 60,000 employees also prompted questions, with many pointing out that notifications for these posts were in fact issued by the BRS government months before the 2023 Assembly elections.

## Government withdraws order on mandatory Sanchar Saathi app installation

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Hyderabad: Facing widespread criticism over its directive to make the Sanchar Saathi app mandatory on all smartphones, the Union government on Wednesday announced that it had decided not to proceed with the compulsory pre-installation requirement. Officials, however, noted that even as concerns over user privacy were being raised across the country, the app witnessed an unexpected ten-fold surge in downloads within a single day.

In a press release issued through the PIB, the Ministry of Telecommunications said the government's objective had solely been to extend cyber-security protection to all citizens. The move to mandate pre-installation, it said, was aimed at ensuring easier access to the app, particularly for users who may not be fully aware of cyber-fraud risks. The Ministry reiterated that Sanchar Saathi is secure and designed only to safeguard users from cybercriminal activity. According to official data, the app has recorded 1.4 crore downloads so far, with users collectively reporting



around 2,000 fraud incidents every day. The number of users continues to grow rapidly, and officials said the proposed mandate was intended to accelerate adoption and make the platform more readily available.

## BJP slams Telangana CM over remarks on Hindu deities, Rajya Sabha MP's 'dog stunt' in Parliament



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

NEW DELHI: As Parliament prepares for a full-day debate on the national song Vande Mataram on December 8, two controversies involving Congress leaders — one concerning alleged disrespect to Parliament and the other relating to remarks on Hindu deities — have drawn nationwide attention and triggered strong backlash from the BJP. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi criticised Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for "mocking" the Hindu faith and also targeted Rajya Sabha MP Renuka Chowdhury for what he termed a "dog stunt" in Parliament.

He alleged that the Congress has developed a tendency to insult the Hindu faith and Indian culture, and said the Telangana Chief Minister must apologise for his "distasteful and repulsive" remarks about Hindu deities. Trivedi's criticism came after Reddy allegedly mocked the existence of multiple Hindu gods and questioned references to "three crore" deities. "Whether elections are underway or have concluded, the depth of contempt and hostility within the Congress towards Indian culture and the Hindu faith becomes evident time and again," he said, adding that such remarks are unacceptable. "This is the same Chief Minister who once said, 'Congress means Muslims, and Muslims mean Congress'," he alleged.

Reddy's comments, which invited widespread criticism, included: "How many gods do Hindus believe in? Are there three crores? Why do so many exist? There is one god for those who are unmarried — Hanuman. There is another god for those who marry twice. And there is yet

another god for those who drink alcohol." Trivedi also criticised the Congress party's alliances, referring to the DMK's earlier statements on Sanatan Dharma, and questioned whether the Congress was deliberately encouraging "anti-Hindu rhetoric" to create social discord, potentially at the behest of "other forces." He also launched a scathing attack on Congress MP Renuka Chowdhury, accusing her of first "equating" Parliamentarians with a dog and later mimicking canine sounds when questioned about a privilege motion against her. He said Chowdhury had "disrespected the temple of democracy" by bringing a dog to Parliament premises and then "started barking" when asked about parliamentary conduct. The Parliamentarian, known for her loud laughter, first said it was not the dog but those inside the Parliament who bite. Today, when the media questioned her, she responded by mimicking a dog instead of answering directly," Trivedi said.

## IndiGo cancels over 70 flights amid crew shortages across India

Mumbai: IndiGo has cancelled over 70 flights, including those from Bengaluru and Mumbai airports, on Wednesday, mainly due to crew shortages, sources said.

Scores of IndiGo flights were delayed at various airports, as the carrier struggled to get the crew for operating its flights, sources said. IndiGo said there have been cancellations and delays. "We have had several unavoidable flight delays and some cancellations in the past few days due to various reasons including technology issues, airport congestion, and operational requirements," the airline spokesperson said in a statement.

"IndiGo has been facing acute crew shortage since the implementation of the second phase of the FDTL norms, leading to cancellations and huge delays in its operations across the airports," a source told PTI.

"The situation turned bad on Tuesday for the airline and the shortage turned worse on Wednesday with scores of flights cancelled and delayed from across airports in the country," the source said.



# Indian Chronicle

## English Daily

### For democracy’s sake, an index for legislatures

Over the past few years, India’s legislatures have made notable progress in adopting modern practices such as paperless proceedings, live streaming, and digitisation of records. In the past decade, the scope and complexity of governance in India have expanded at an unprecedented pace. This demands both political commitment and deep technical understanding. State legislatures need to evolve into robust, research-driven and high-performing institutions capable of sustained scrutiny, meaningful debate and accountable lawmaking. Instead of being platforms for informed discussion and consensus-building, assemblies often find themselves paralysed by ideological divides.

This culture of disruption diminishes productivity and weakens public faith in legislative institutions. Recent reviews of state legislatures show that assemblies, on average, meet for 20-25 days a year. If our legislative assemblies are to remain temples of democracy, they must restore a sense of discipline, dialogue and dignity. Strengthening functioning is essential to ensuring that governance keeps pace with the aspirations of a rapidly changing India. Legislative quality influences law-making, oversight of the executive, public engagement and delivery of development outcomes. Currently, there are limited ways, mostly through RTIs, by which the state legislature’s quality and innovation can be measured. There is a need for an institutional mechanism through which state legislatures can assess their functioning, identify gaps, and strengthen their institutional performance. Measuring, tracking and comparing state-level legislative performance is necessary to evaluate democratic performance within India’s federal structure.

### Tight Security Arrangements for the Global Summit



Hyderabad: Additional DGP Mahesh Bhagwat conducted a review meeting at Future City in Kandukur mandal, Ranga Reddy district, to assess the security and bandobast arrangements for the upcoming Global Summit. Officials from various departments participated in the review. Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu, Additional DGP Mahesh Bhagwat, and IGP Ramesh Reddy inspected the entire meeting venue and reviewed the security arrangements planned for the summit.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Bhagwat instructed officials not to allow any lapses in security and emphasized strict coordination among all departments. He noted that as the summit is being held at an international level under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Telangana, tight security measures must be ensured involving Law & Order, Traffic Police, Special Branch, Intelligence, OCTOPUS, Greyhounds, Dog Squad, and Bomb Squad teams.

Officials also discussed the required facilities for the summit, including barracks, mess, kitchen, and sanitation infrastructure. Around 600 delegates, including representatives of international investment groups, heads of multinational companies, leaders of major Indian firms, and top industrialists, are expected to participate. VIP delegates will be protected with a three-tier security system. To strengthen surveillance across the summit venue, over 1,000 CCTV cameras are being installed, all of which will be connected to a centralized police control room. For traffic regulation, nearly 1,000 traffic police personnel will be deployed. Traffic marshals will be appointed to manage diversions, barricading, and vehicle parking. Police have planned robust traffic management on all routes leading to the summit to ensure there is no inconvenience to commuters. Traffic diversions will be in place on designated routes for two days for the smooth conduct of the event.

### Unidentified Male Body Found in Shamirpet Lake Check Dam

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 3, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "An unidentified male body was found floating in the waters of the Shamirpet Lake check dam on Tuesday afternoon. The police received the information around 3:00 PM through Dial 100. Responding immediately,



Shamirpet Police reached the spot and, with the help of swimmers, retrieved the body. According to officials, the body was severely decomposed and the face was unrecognizable, indicating that it may have been in the water for approximately 3–5 days. No external injuries were found on the body. However, police noted a clear tattoo on the right arm—shoulder area and a black thread tied around the right wrist. The deceased is estimated to be about 5 feet 2 inches tall. A case has been registered at Shamirpet Police Station. The body has been shifted to Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem examination. Police have launched efforts to establish the identity of the deceased and are collecting information from nearby areas as part of the investigation.

### Sonalika Surges ahead with New Record- Breaking Performance of Highest-Ever YTD overall Sales of 1,26,162 tractors in Apr-Nov '25



Hyderabad: India's No. 1 tractor export brand Sonalika Tractors has achieved a new record breaking performance to clock highest-ever overall YTD sales of 1,26,162 tractors in Apr–Nov '25. The exceptional performance reflects on Sonalika's relentless leadership and the pivotal role in driving accelerated farm mechanisation across India and global landscape. The new robust performance signals India's accelerating shift from conventional farming to technology-powered agriculture.

Farmers are increasingly relying on heavy duty tractors for better efficiency and enhanced productivity.

Powered by next gen technology platforms, performance driven technology and powerful engines, Sonalika's heavy duty tractors are designed to excel across varying soil conditions in 150 countries worldwide. The remarkable new sales momentum is fueled by the rapid adoption of modern tractors and implements, favourable policy environment and consistently improving MSP structure that increases farmer's confidence to adopt new farming style.

Sharing his views on the new record performance, Mr. Raman Mittal, Joint Managing Director, International Tractors Limited, said, "The future of agriculture belongs to stakeholders who innovate with purpose, and we remain committed with continued investments across next-gen R&D for developing smart farming solutions. Our new record performance of highest-ever YTD overall tractor sales of 1,26,162 units in Apr-Nov '25 is a powerful sign of the transformation underway in Indian agriculture.

### Lexus India Introduces the New RX ‘Exquisite’ Grade, Further Strengthening Its SUV Portfolio



Hyderabad: Lexus India has introduced a new 'Exquisite' grade to the RX 350h line-up, further strengthening the model's presence in the luxury SUV segment. This addition reinforces Lexus' ongoing commitment to offering guests mobility solutions that seamlessly combine advanced hybrid performance with refined design and enhanced comfort.

The introduction of the new RX 350h Exquisite grade starting at Rs 89,99,000 Ex-showroom onwards offers guests a wider range of options and features to choose from, while staying true to Lexus' commitment to advanced technology and exceptional comfort. The pricing of RX 350h and RX 500h, reflect Lexus' continued focus on delivering outstanding value.

The pricing for the current RX grades is provided in the table below.

Model	Grade	Description	Rs	Ex-showroom
RX 350h Audio (New)	Exquisite (New)	RX 350h with Lexus	89,99,000	
		RX 350h with Mark Levinson (New)		

### MG SELECT Celebrates Triple Milestone: 15th Experiential Centre, 1,000 Sales, #2 in Luxury EVs



Hyderabad: JSW MG Motor India announces the expansion of its luxury retail channel, MG SELECT. The network now encompasses 15 Experience Centres across 14 major cities in India, underscoring the brand's commitment to delivering a refined and exclusive automotive retail journey tailored for luxury car buyers.

The MG SELECT Experience Centres are spaces for the brand's flagship vehicles: the MG M9 - Presidential Limousine and the MG Cyberster - India's highest-selling sports car. These venues provide an immersive, gallery-like setting, ensuring the display of these models is the focal point of the customer interaction.

MG SELECT has crossed the 1,000-unit sales mark since inception, firmly establishing JSW MG Motor India as the second largest player in India's luxury EV segment. This milestone highlights strong, sustained market demand for the select portfolio and is a key driver behind the brand's impressive 32% year-to-date growth in 2025. The recent inauguration of the 15th MG SELECT store in Jaipur further underscores JSW MG Motor India's ambition to redefine luxury mobility in India. Located at Tonk Road near Sanganer Flyover, the Jaipur showroom exemplifies MG SELECT's philosophy of 'Reimagining Luxury', featuring spacious, serene, and technologically advanced environments that elevate the car buying journey. Anurag Mehrotra, Managing Director, JSW MG Motor India, remarked, "Our rise to become the second largest luxury EV brand in the country speaks to a singular belief. True luxury is felt in every touchpoint when precision, ambition and care move together. Through MG SELECT we have crafted an ownership world where innovation meets desire and where every interaction feels intentional. We are shaping the next era of electric mobility for India's most discerning customers, with a commitment that is both bold and deeply personal."

About JSW MG Motor India

SAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with a presence in over 100 countries and JSW Group (India's leading conglomerate with interests across B2B and B2C sectors) formed a joint venture - JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. in 2023. The joint venture aims to build a smart and sustainable automotive ecosystem while continuing to stay focused on developing a diverse portfolio of vehicles to give car buyers better access to advanced technologies and futuristic products with attractive value propositions. JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. is committed to introducing world-class technology, strengthening the manufacturing landscape,

92,02,000

RX 500h F-sport+ RX 500h with Mark Levinson Audio 1,09,46,000

The Lexus Exquisite grade brings together Lexus' advanced hybrid system which combines a highly efficient and responsive 2.5 – liter inline 4-cylinder engine and high-output motor. A high-level balance between direct driving performance and excellent fuel economy has been enabled by effectively combining a highly responsive engine, bipolar nickel-metal hydride battery with enhanced battery performance and hybrid system along with convenience features, and luxurious interiors. The premium interior key features include spacious cabin, 10-way power adjusted front seats, heated and ventilated seating for front & rear seats which are unique , and ambient lighting, designed to elevate every drive. The F-SPORT grade is the only Performance Hybrid Electric Turbocharged Luxury SUV in India. The 2.4 L-T HEV on the RX 500h features a front unit integrating a 2.4L turbocharged engine, motor, a 6 -speed automatic transmission and eAxe with a built-in high output motor driving the rear wheels and a high-power bipolar nickel-metal hydride battery under the rear seats. . The RX 500h features Dynamic Rear-Wheel Steering for excellent manoeuvrability and stability, along with DIRECT4 technology that blends turbocharged power and instant motor

torque for smooth, powerful, and continuous acceleration. The RX features a Mark Levinson® 21-speaker audio system that delivers exceptional clarity and depth, turning every drive into an immersive listening experience. The RX offers Lexus Safety System+, with Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, Cross Traffic Alert, Safe Exit Assist with Blind Spot Monitor delivering advanced protection and confidence on every drive.

best of innovation across its business operations, and generating significant employment opportunities through extensive localization.

About Morris Garages

Founded in the UK in 1924, Morris Garages vehicles were world-famous for their sports cars, roadsters, and cabriolet series. MG vehicles were much sought after by celebrities, including British Prime Ministers and even the British Royal Family, for their styling, elegance, and spirited performance. The MG Car Club, set up in 1930 at Abingdon in the UK, has thousands of loyal fans, making it one of the world's largest clubs for a car brand. MG has evolved into a modern, futuristic, and innovative brand over the last 100 years. Its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Halol, Gujarat, has an annual production capacity of 1,00,000 plus vehicles and 6,000 direct and indirect employees. Driven by its vision of CASE (Connected, Autonomous, Shared, and Electric) mobility, the innovative automaker has augmented across-the-board 'experiences' within the automobile segment today. It has introduced several 'firsts' in India, including India's first Internet SUV – MG Hector, India's first Pure Electric Internet SUV – MG ZS EV, India's first Autonomous (Level 1) umium SUV – MG Gloster, the Astor- India's first SUV with personal AI assistant and Autonomous (Level 2) technology, MG Comet – The Street-Smart Car and India's first Intelligent CUV, MG Windsor.

### Cyber Awareness Program Held at Sri Chaitanya Junior Girls College, Peerzadiguda

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 3, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Medipally Police conducted a large-scale cyber awareness program at Sri Chaitanya Junior Girls College, Peerzadiguda, on December 3, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. The event was organized as part of a six-week initiative under the theme "Cyber Saardhi", aimed at educating young students on the rising threats of online crimes. Around 800 students participated in the session. During the awareness program, students were briefed on various forms of online fraud, safe internet practices, and immediate steps to follow when they become victims of cybercrime. Key points highlighted in the session include: 1930 Cyber Helpline: Students were advised to immediately contact the toll-free number 1930 in case of online financial fraud. Quick reporting increases the chances of freezing the fraudulent transaction and recovering the amount. Golden Hour Reporting:



(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. December 3) :- Padmasali Sangam Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District President State Working President Chikka Venkatesham and Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy were sworn in as Cheri MLA in the Congress party on Tuesday in the presence of Anil Kumar Reddy, Nara Venkataswamy, Udutha Satyanarayana, Maccha Narasimha, Rikula Venkatesham, Maccha Pandu, Udutha Naresh, Rikula Pandu, Maccha Srisailam, and others participated in this program.

### Chilukanagar Corporator Bammala Geetha Praveen Launches Borewell Works at Balaji Enclave Park



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 3 (Indian Chronicle): "Chilukanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bammala Geetha Praveen inaugurated new water borewell works at Balaji Enclave Park on Wednesday. She formally launched the works by breaking a coconut, accompanied by members of the Balaji Enclave and Raghavendra Nagar Colony Welfare Associations, along with BRS party workers and local residents. "Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen said that the borewell installation is part of the park development works earlier inaugurated by MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy. She assured that all amenities in the park would be completed soon with the support of the contractor and that the park would be developed in a way that benefits all residents. "BRS state leaders Bammala Praveen Mudiraj, Balaji Enclave Association president Jagadishwar Reddy, Venu Gopal Reddy, Omkar Singh, Raman Gupta, Shankar; Raghavendra Nagar Colony president Jagadishwar Reddy, Yakoob Reddy; Raghavendra Nagar-2 president Prof. Ramulu, advocate Srinivas, BRS leaders Eddula Kondal Reddy, Kokkonda Jagan, Shyam, Agriculture Department Supervisor Balu, and several others participated in the program.

### Cantonment Board Election or Merger Decide within March“Secunderabad cantonment.



December 3 (Indian Chronicle): "The Delhi High Court questioned the central government for failing to hold elections to cantonment boards across the country for over five years and issuing repeated notifications to govern with unelected civilian nominated members. Sandeep Tanner and Yogesh Kumar from Delhi and Agra Cantonments have approached the High Court to hold elections for 60 Cantonment Boards in the country. On their behalf, lawyers presented their arguments in the High Court on the issue of election management. There are 60 Cantonment Boards in the country, while the election of the board members was held in 2016 and the tenure of the board members ended in 2020, the central government's action in this case was an abuse of power, and the people who were democratically elected should rule the people, Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya heard the arguments. Judge Tushar Rao commented. According to section 12 of the Cantonment Act, 2006, the Cantonment Board should continue with elected members. But the central government is issuing notifications under Section 18 to change the constitution and not hold elections Judges said. "Issuance of notices to Central Government" The court directed to issue notices to the Central Government and the Director General Defense Estates (DGDE) to file their answers explaining how repeated notifications can be issued under Section 13 when the law says that the boards should function only through democratically elected boards. The court said that the petition will not be considered as a public interest litigation. Meanwhile, the Central Government's Standing Council on behalf of the Government of India explained in the court that the election was delayed due to the failure to reach an agreement on the proposal from several states to include the civilian areas of the cantonment boards in the nearby municipalities on behalf of the Government of India.



## Uppal BJP Leaders Burn Effigy of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for Alleged Remarks on Hindu Deities



\*\*\* KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 3 (Indian Chronicle): "Responding to a call given by the BJP state leadership and instructions from State President Ramachandra Rao, BJP leaders in Uppal on Wednesday staged a protest condemning Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his alleged inappropriate remarks against Hindu deities, which they said hurt the sentiments of Hindus." Under the leadership of Uppal Division President

Marinedi Phanindra, the protesters burned an effigy of the Chief Minister. "Speaking on the occasion, senior leader Dharmareddy said that it was highly inappropriate for a sitting Chief Minister to make such comments about Hindu gods. He warned that if such remarks were repeated, the BJP would give a befitting reply." Division President Phanindra criticized the Chief Minister, stating that his statements had deeply offended Hindu community members. He questioned the status of the six guarantees promised by the government and alleged injustice in the proposal to include Muslims in the BC reservation category. He further accused the government of failing to fulfill promises made to women and playing with the future of students. "Phanindra warned that if Revanth Reddy continued to make unwarranted comments against Hindu deities, the government would be compelled to face serious consequences." Senior BJP leaders Balavanchari, Division General Secretary Teega Vithal Mudiraj, Treasurer Duvvala Ramesh, senior leader Sridhar Gupta, Division Vice President Anji Reddy, Yuva Morcha leaders Adepuru Ramesh, Mahila Morcha leaders Maddela Padma and Krishnaveni, along with leaders Tallapalli Srinivas Goud, Fakir Narsi Reddy, Swami Goud, and youth leaders Venkata Sai Mudiraj, Jayaram, Vinay, Vikram, Nishanth and others participated in the protest.

## Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Inspects Ongoing Storm Water Drain Works in South Swaroop Nagar

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, UPPAL, (Indian Chronicle): "Development works in the Uppal division are progressing at a brisk pace, with Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy closely monitoring the projects on a regular basis. As part of this, on Wednesday, Parameshwar Reddy conducted an extensive inspection tour of South Swaroop Nagar, Uppal." He reviewed the storm water drain development works being carried out at a cost of ₹98 lakh, along with DE Vineel Goud and AE Raj Kumar. The new storm water drainage system is being constructed to permanently address drainage issues in South Swaroop Nagar. The Corporator stated that the CC road works will also be completed very soon. "South Swaroop Nagar Colony President Gajjala Venkata Reddy, Ramanayya, Uppal Division President Bakaram Laxman, senior Congress leaders Eega Anjaneyulu, Prathap Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Ram Reddy, Sunku Shekhar Reddy, Manda Muralikrishna Reddy, Tumalla Rajender Reddy, Harish Reddy, Naresh, Surender Rao, Basireddy, Jala Srinu, Narayana Rao, Nangi Srinu, Vinod, Harish Reddy, Bhasha, Mechanic Yadagiri,



Raju, Pappuguttula Raju, Manager Srinu, Brahmaiah, Jagannath, Patel Krishnaswamy, Abdul Kareem, Hussein Bee, Kajun Bee and others participated in the programme.

## Forest at Dusk... Are Officials Negligent? "Green Protection or a Series of Sins?" "Contractors"



Axe – Century-Old Trees Felled "In Tune with Bribes Sanctuary at Risk" "Plantations Lost... Environment in Peril" "Cry of the Wildlife – Forest Cleared for Roads!" "PCCF Silent... A Major Blessing for Illegality!" "The once-vibrant forest areas are witnessing a slow decay as officials tasked with their protection appear to turn a blind eye. Under the guise of forest conservation, a disturbing chain of mismanagement and exploitation is unfolding, transforming what should be a sanctuary for nature into a theater of human negligence. Contractors operating with permits and clearances are reportedly felling century-old trees, erasing centuries of ecological heritage. Investigations reveal a troubling nexus of corruption, where bribes and under-the-table deals compromise decision-making, putting both protected areas and wildlife at grave risk. Plantation areas are being degraded, soil erosion is increasing, and vegetation loss threaten

## INTUC Leaders Convey Congratulations to Medchal District Congress President Vajresh Yadav



\*\*\*KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 3 (Indian Chronicle): "Newly elected Medchal-Malkajgiri District Congress Committee President Totakura Vajresh Yadav was congratulated by Congress senior leader Gaddam Ravikumar, along with INTUC and Congress leaders, who met him and conveyed their best wishes."

Those who extended their greetings included INTUC former State Secretary Karunakar Naidu, INTUC District President K. Pani Kumar, KPHB Division Congress President Praveen Kumar, Vice President Podugu Apparao, senior Congress leader Shiva Rao, Ramanthapur Congress in-charge Tavid Boyina Giribabu, senior Congress leader and Greater Hyderabad Vishwabhramin Association President Pabboju Bikshapati Chari, among others. "On this occasion, INTUC leaders assured Vajresh Yadav that the workers' unions would extend their full support to the party's



activities in the district. They also pledged to contribute their efforts towards strengthening the party and enhancing its reputation in Medchal district.

## Bhuvanagiri MLAs Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy in the new flagpole procession of Sri Pachchalakatta Someswara Swamy Temple



"(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. December 3) :- Bhuvanagiri MLAs Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, who participated in the new flagpole procession of Sri Pachchalakatta Someswara Swamy Temple, are the elders of the flagpole donor Chenna Swathi Mahesh. The new flagpole will be installed in the Sri Pachchalakatta Someswara Swamy Temple with the help of the flagpole donor Chenna Swathi Mahesh.

On Tuesday, the temple committee chairman Kolluri Raju and temple chief priest Kappagantula Nagaraju Sharma participated in the new flag pole procession program.



Bhuvanagiri town leaders Challa Gurukula Ravi Babu, Pola Srinivas Gupta, Bachchu Narendra Gupta, Bachchu Srinivas Gupta, temple committee members Soma Ravinder Reddy, Kavya Swathi, Bachchu Raju, Sanatana Hindu Temples Parirakshan Samiti District President Devarakonda Narasimha Chari, temple priest Kappagantula Praveen Sharma, Kaleru Lakshmana Rao, Nemuri Ashok Goud, Gas Chinna, Dakuri Prakash, Gangaraju Satish, Kaliya Nagaraj, Indira Reddy, Darga E Devender, Muhurtham Ravi, and devotees in large numbers participated.

## Government should provide rights to the disabled and also recognize and promote their talents in the society

:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao " (Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. December 3) :- The District Collector extended his greetings on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities to everyone.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the government will provide rights to the disabled and also recognize and promote their talents in the society. "On Wednesday, the Divyang Day celebrations were inaugurated by District Collector Hanumantha Rao, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskara Rao, ZP CEO Shobharani, District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy, District Welfare Officer Narasimha Rao, and Jyoti Prajwalan. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that it is a great thing that people from many places have come here to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. He said that the government is providing special opportunities for the disabled and they should take advantage of them. He said that the disabled are not only physically disabled but also mentally and mentally stable. He said that the disabled should move forward with confidence. He said that our district is in 6th place in terms of issuing UDID cards. He said that a special mega camp will be organized for the disabled and their problems will be solved. He said that tricycles and battery cycles will also be provided to the eligible disabled. He said that there are not few people with disabilities, and they have also climbed high peaks. Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao said that teachers are going to their homes in every mandal in the district for the children of the disabled. They are meeting their special needs. Therefore, he said that the disabled should take advantage of this opportunity. He said that certificates have been given to all those who applied online for the certificates. "District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy said that job cards will be given to the disabled according to their ability under the employment guarantee scheme. He said that pensions of Rs. 5 crore and seven lakhs will be deposited in the accounts of the disabled for 12,626 people in the district. He said that Rs. 72 lakhs have been deposited in their accounts under employment guarantee for 24251 working days in the district. "He said that Sadaram camps are being orga-



nized in the district. He said that all the disabled are moving forward in various fields with their talents. "Games competitions were organized for the disabled and prizes were given to the winners by the Collector. Members of the Divyang Committee were honored. APD. Jangareddy Sadaram Executive Member Maitreyi. District Hospital Superintendent Pandu Nayak. MEPMA officer Ramesh, CDPOs, APMs, members of Divyangga associations, District Unity President Renuka, District Welfare Office staff and others participated.

## Election code of conduct should be strictly implemented.. Work without any negligence:



cess was transparent and impartial. Candidates should double-check whether they have brought all the documents as per the rules and regulations while filing their nominations. If the candidates have any doubts or difficulties in filing their nominations, the officials should help them through the help desk. They should complete the form without any mistakes. They said that no nominations should be accepted after five hours and that strict security should be made during the nominations. They should accept the election duties without any mistakes and every officer should perform his duties responsibly. The concerned officials participated in this program.

## HILTP aims to hand over lands to corporates – Former Minister Jagadishwar Reddy



- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao " (Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. December 3) :- District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the election code of conduct should be strictly implemented and work without any negligence in the elections. As part of the third phase of nominations for the Gram Panchayat elections on Wednesday, the District Collector inspected the cluster nomination reception centers under the Katepalli cluster and Motakondur mandal center in Motakondur mandal. Speaking on this occasion, the District Collector asked how many nominations were received for the village sarpanch and ward members today. He wanted to ensure that the nomination pro-

\*\*\*Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, December 3: "Former Minister and MLA Jagadish Reddy alleged that the Congress government is planning a major scam in the name of HILTP, stating that the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transform Policy is a conspiracy to hand over large chunks of industrial lands to private hands. He criticised the policy as a drama being enacted for personal gains by the ruling party. "He said that under the HILTP (Hyderabad Industrial Land Transform Policy), industrial lands worth nearly ₹5 lakh crore in Hyderabad are proposed to be transferred to private corporations, which the BRS party strongly opposes. "On Wednesday, Jagadish Reddy toured the Nacharam Industrial Area along with BRS MLAs and leaders, interacted with workers and industrial representatives, and reviewed the local industrial land issues. The leaders staged a protest at the Shahi Industry gate, holding placards and raising slogans against the government's decision. "Speaking on the occasion, Jagadish Reddy said that while relocating pollution-causing industries to distant areas could be justified, shifting non-polluting industries is unacceptable.



# Revanth Reddy, who insulted Hindu deities, should unconditionally apologize to the Hindu community... Potagani Gopal Goud



condemning the inappropriate comments made by Telangana CM Revanth Reddy on Hindus and Hindu

“Indian Chronicle OU December 03: A protest program was organized under the auspices of the Nacharam Division Bharatiya Janata Party,

deities. A protest was organized demanding that CM Revanth Reddy immediately apologize for speaking in a way that hurt the sentiments of Hindus. BJP Tribal Morcha State Presidents Nenavath Ravi Nayak and Medchal Urban were present at the program. District spokesperson Potagani Gopal Goud, division presidents Naveen Kumar, Malka Prakash, Padam Venkatesh, Chandramouli, Naveen Goud, Venkat Nayak RK Naidu, Chilla Ashok, Venkateshwarlu, Surrender, Shekhar Gupta, Krishna, Srinivas Yadav, Anand Kumar, Kaushik, Balakrishna, Virupakshi Naveen Reddy, Shekhar, Manjulavani, Kalavathi, Parvathi and division leaders, activists, and Hindu relatives are expected to participate in large numbers.

## DJF-W Urges Government to Expedite Allotment of House Sites to All Working Journalists

P . S . A S H O K A N K A R I M N G A R BUREAU.Representation Submitted to Peddapalli District Administrative Officer Bandi Prakash" The Democratic Journalists Federation–Working (DJF-W) has urged the Telangana government to immediately allocate residential house sites to all eligible working journalists across Peddapalli district, irrespective of their accreditation status. District President Kannuri Raju led the federation in submitting a formal representation to District Administrative Officer Bandi Prakash on Wednesday. “Addressing the media, the representatives stated that journalists in the district have been diligently serving as a crucial link between the government and the public for many years, working across various newspapers and television channels. Despite their service, a significant number of them come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and continue to struggle with financial instability. Many journalists, they noted with concern, are compelled to live in rented accommodations, bearing heavy rent burdens due to the absence of their own

homes.”Raju criticized the previous BRS administration, asserting that despite holding power for a decade, it failed to address the longstanding hardships of journalists and restricted itself to rhetorical assurances. He remarked that the party eventually paid the political price for its indifference.”He further recalled that the incumbent Congress government had explicitly promised, during its election campaign, to resolve journalists’ issues and provide them with housing plots. He appealed to the government to honor its commitments by promptly identifying all eligible journalists in the district and initiating the allocation of house sites along with rightful ownership documents.”The delegation included State President Kol Srinivas, National PRO Mamidi Swami, Women’s Wing President Vodnala Latha, Chief Secretary Kannuri Jash Kumar, District Vice Presidents Vennampalli Srinivas and Ravula Raj Kumar, District Publicity Secretary Madeshi Sravan Kumar, and journalists Manthani Lakshman, Assampalli Swami, Bandhala Rajashekar, Badikela Krishna, Vodnala Tirupati, Shakeel, among others.

## Uppal Circle BRSV – Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen conveys congratulations to the new committee

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 3 (Indian Chronicle):“In the Uppal constituency, corporator of Chilkanaigar division and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj honored and congratulated the newly elected president, secretary, and committee members of the Uppal Circle BRSV on Wednesday. “After the felicitation, Corporator Geetha Praveen said that under the leadership of BRSV State Secretary Prashanth Goud, the election of the new President Vinay Kumar Yadav, Secretary Varun Goud, Vice-President Chandradhar, and other committee members is a positive development. She expressed that everyone should work with dedication for the party and that those who work hard will always receive due recognition in the party.”BRSV district committee member Hemanath Reddy, constituency leaders Abhinav, Sujith, Sai, and others participated in the program.



## Dispatch of Masks and Macy Caps to Sanitation Workers “Secunderabad cantonment



. December 3 (Indian Chronicle):“Day by day the severity of the cold is increasing in this context, Akhil Bharatiya

Safai Kangar Sangathan Telangana State President Karan Singh has issued monkey caps to the sanitation workers who are working in the cold under the boundaries of the Bowenpally circle office. Masks were distributed. Jampana Pratap, former Vice President of the Cantonment Board attended the program as chief guest and monkey caps were given to 60 sanitation workers. The masks were dispatched on Wednesday. On this occasion, Jampana Pratap said that in the winter, from early morning in the colonies, Bastillo Karan Singh monkey caps them that they will perform duties to remove litter on the main internal roads. He said that it is appreciated that masks are being provided. . In this program CH. Vinod Singh. Morning walkers are Saibaba Yadav. Satyanarayana. Bandi Srinu. Yadagiri Jampana Ravi Suresh and others participated.

## Uppal Journalists Join Massive Protest Rally



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 3 (Indian Chronicle):“A large number of journalists from Uppal par-

ticipated in the massive protest held on Wednesday at the I&PR Commissioner’s office, organized under the leadership of TUWJ–IJU, condemning the government’s negligent attitude towards addressing journalists’ issues. The delegation from Medchal district was led by district secretary D. Venkatarama Reddy. “During the protest, Uppal journalists raised strong slogans expressing their dissatisfaction and demanded immediate action from the government to resolve long-pending issues. “Senior TUWJ journalists including Vaddepalli Kishore, V. Tirupathi Reddy, Health Committee Chairman Chandramouli, Secretary A.V. Sridhar Rao, along with journalists Shivaji, Yadagiri, Sravan, Anudeep, Stalin, Narendra, Raju and several others participated in the dharna.Speaking on the occasion.

## Good response to Play to Learn program “Secunderabad cantonment.



December 3 (Indian Chronicle):“A program called Play to Learn at Bowenpally seetha rampuram St. Peter’s High School has received a good response, especially in terms of making the curriculum fun for the students. Aruna Reddy Director of school, said that these kinds of programs are effective in increasing students’ interest in teaching. School Director Aruna Reddy and Principal Suvarna, who attended this program called Play to Learn, started this program along with the parents of the students. On this occasion, Aruna



Reddy said that through such programs, students learn in a fun way, which improves their understanding of mathematics. This type of game-based learning methods especially help students to teach subjects like mathematics easily and interestingly. Parents were happy to see their children doing things like running, balancing, classifying objects, pretending to be characters in stories, exploring new qualities, solving small problems, sharing, and taking turns. Parents of pre-primary students, teachers and others participated in the program

## BVP Charitable Trust services are commendable Khazipet ACP Prashanth Reddy



“Warangal, December 03 (Indian Chronicle):“The services being rendered by Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Charitable Trust, Hyderabad, in supporting poor students with scholarships are highly commendable, said Khazipet ACP Pingini Prashanth Reddy. On Wednesday, under the auspices of BVP Oorugallu branch, scholarships were distributed to underprivileged students at Government Practicing High School, Hanumakonda. Speaking as the chief guest, the ACP advised students to set a definite goal and strive hard to achieve it so that their parents feel proud. He said that change begins with the initiative of a single person and cited the lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Abdul Kalam Azad as inspirations. Students should build their personality following the ideals of Swami

Vivekananda, he added. Guest of honour and BVP Telangana Regional Secretary Shivarama Krishna stated that, as per the vision of Trust Chairman Ashwini Subbarao, scholarships of ₹5,000 each are being provided to 600 students this year. Last year, only students studying in Hyderabad received scholarships, with 300 beneficiaries, he said. As part of the program, 16 students belonging to schools in Hanumakonda and Warangal were awarded ₹5,000 each.”Practicing High School Headmaster Veerabhadram, BVP representatives Chanchal Agarwal, K. Satyanarayana, Venkat Reddy, M. Santosh Reddy, Vivekananda Prasad, A.C. Rama Rao, Damodar, Ramulu, Nivedita, students’ parents (single mothers) and teachers participated in the event.

## 200th ‘Gnanamala’ Programme to be Held on December 7“

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 3, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Under the coordination of Kommu Sudarshan, President of the Keesarapally Ambedkar Association, and Tudum Srinivas, General Secretary, the 200th weekly Gnanamala programme will be conducted on December 7. Medchal–Malkajgiri District Congress Committee President Totakooru Vajresh Yadav has been invited as the chief guest for the event. Several community and political representatives will take part in the programme, including Medchal–Malkajgiri District Arya Vaishya Mahasabha President Balide Ramesh Gupta, Medchal District Congress Party SC Cell Convenor Bakkan i Nursing Rao, Ex-MPTC of Godhumakunta village Manchala Praveen Kumar, Ex–Deputy Sarpanch of Keesara Gram



Panchayat Tatakam Lakshman Sharma, Keesara Mandal Ambedkar Association Vice President Bakkani Kumar, Joint Secretary Katta Shankaraiah, Ex–Vice President Bantu Srinivas, Kanukuthri Rushik and others.

## Tight Security Arrangements for Global Summit:ADG Mahesh Bhagwat IPS Reviews Preparations at Future City



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 3, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Ahead of the upcoming Global Summit scheduled to be held at Future City, senior police officials conducted a detailed review of the security and logistical arrangements on Tuesday. Additional DGP Mahesh Bhagwat IPS, along with Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu IPS and IGP Ramesh Reddy IPS, inspected the meeting venue and surrounding areas. During the inspection, ADG Mahesh Bhagwat directed officials to ensure that there are no lapses in security and emphasised the need for close coordination among all departments. As the summit is being organised under the supervision of the Telangana Chief Minister at an international scale, he instructed the teams to deploy comprehensive security measures, involving Law and Order, Traffic Police, Special Branch, Intelligence, Octopus, Greyhounds, Dog Squad and Bomb Squad units. Officials discussed various require-



ments including barracks, mess facilities, kitchen arrangements and sanitation infrastructure for the deployed personnel. Authorities stated that around 600 representatives are expected to attend the summit, including delegates from international investment organisations, heads of multinational companies, top domestic industry leaders and senior officials. A three-tier security system will be implemented around VIP delegates. To ensure round-the-clock surveillance, more than 1,000 CCTV cameras are being installed across the summit zone, all connected to a central police control room. For traffic management, nearly 1,000 traffic police personnel will be deployed. Traffic marshals will be appointed to manage diversions, barricades and vehicle parking. Police announced that strict traffic regulations will be enforced in the area for two days to prevent any disruption to the event. Commuters will face route diversions on designated roads, and heavy police deployment will be in place to ensure smooth movement.



# Overloaded vehicles, outdated vehicles

✦ If they are driven contrary to government rules.  
.. and are endangering people's lives, legal action will be taken:  
✦ Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Transport Officer B. Sai Krishna

“(Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. December 3) :- We are seizing overloaded vehicles, outdated buses and other vehicles that are driving contrary to government rules and are endangering people's lives, said Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Transport Officer B. Sai Krishna. Speaking to "Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Indian Chronicle Bureau in-charge Mandava Srisailem" on Tuesday, he said that a special checkup of vehicles is being carried out as per the orders of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector. As part of this, vehicles coming with overloads, CC buses, vehicles without emergency doors and vehicles that are in violation of the rules will be seized. An awareness seminar will be organized for the drivers of RTC vehicles, mechanics who regularly check the vehicles, and the relevant conductors as per the government rules to sensitize them. Cases have been registered against drivers who put additional luggage in the respective buses other than passenger luggage, 601 AV wagons without fitness have been identified and such wagons have been seized, and fines have been imposed on the owners of those vehicles. He said that there are 3 MVIs and 3 AMVIs in his district, 7 lakhs for AMVI in the month of November, 4 lakhs for MVI, and this is the target revenue being provided to the government including himself. As part of this, each vehicle is checked, taxi connections, compounding fee, and deposited in the government account. As part of this, the details of the money deposited in the government account from March 2024 to March 2025 are as follows. He stated that quarterly tax 2506.87, life tax 4762.69, life tax fee, 940.81, service fee 244.12, detection 302.49, green tax 96.38, a total of 8853.36 crore rupees have been collected and deposited in the government account. Similarly, a fitness point has been set up in Chowtuppal, awareness seminars have been or-



ganized for RTC drivers, lorry drivers, auto drivers, DCM and four-wheeler drivers on the occasion of the Road Safety Week on January 1, 2026, and blood donation camps, health checkups, helmets will be provided to two-wheeler drivers who do not have helmets, and several awareness seminars are being organized for motorists to go home safely, and he urged every driver to participate in this Road Safety Week camp and make it a success. Similarly, he explained that recently, as per the orders of the Additional Collector of Revenue, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, they have provided vehicles to transport farmers' paddy to the market. B. Sai Krishna, Transport Department Officer of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, stated that he always wishes the best for the comfort of passengers, the safety of drivers, and the convenience of the public, and that legal action should be taken against vehicle owners who act contrary to government regulations.

## Three weeks after taxi plunges into sea at Bhaucha Dhakka, FIR filed against contractor

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Nearly three weeks after a 63-year-old taxi driver died as his cab plunged into the sea while driving on an old dilapidated jetty near Bhaucha Dhakka, the Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against the project head and site safety officer of the company responsible for the demolition work of old jetties. The accused were booked for rash and negligent act leading to the death of a person. An officer said the incident took place on November 13 around 8pm when the Yellow Gate police was informed that a taxi with the driver had fallen into the sea at New Fish Jetty, Bhaucha Dhakka.

The police reached the spot and with the help of local fishermen and sailors, pulled the taxi driver out of the sea. He was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead before admission. The cab driver was later identified as Jayaprakash Chhotelal Sharma (63), a Mumbai resident. The police registered an accidental death report and started investigation. The police found that Sharma drove on the old, partially demolished bridge due to which the incident took place. During the



probe, it came to light that on July 24, 2023, the Mumbai Port Authority had awarded the contract for the construction of the New Fish Jetty to M/s Kargwal Construction Pvt Ltd. The work for demolishing some parts of the old fish jetties is being done by M/s Kargwal Construction Pvt Ltd company through M/s R B Dande Associates, the police found. On July 26 this year, the work for demolishing some parts of the old fish jetty was started by M/s R B Dande Associates Company.

## EOW arrests Sheetal Tejwani over irregularities in sale of Mundhwa land to Parth Pawar's firm Amadea



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Pune City Police — which is investigating alleged irregularities involving two separate land parcels in Bopodi and Mundhwa — on Wednesday arrested Sheetal Tejwani, who held the power of attorney for 272 watandars of the Mahar watan land in Mundhwa for its sale to Amadea Enterprises LLP. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, Parth, is a partner in Amadea Enterprises. Mahar watan land refers to hereditary landholdings where the Mahar (Scheduled Caste) community were forced to provide labour for the village administration.

A senior police officer with Pune city police confirmed that Sheetal Kishanchand Tejwani was arrested by the EOW on Wednesday afternoon as part of the probe into the First Information Report (FIR) registered at Khadak police station on November 7. The officer added that she will be produced before a court in Pune on Thursday where her custody remand will be sought. Tejwani was questioned by Pune police in the third week of November. The Pune City police had earlier clarified that the FIR registered at Khadak police station, which was subsequently transferred to the EOW, pertains to alleged irregularities involving two separate land parcels in Bopodi and Mundhwa, linked by a common factor: suspended tehsildar Suryakant Yewale, who is accused of issuing wrongful orders in both cases. Officials said that the case registered at Khadak police station men-

tions the names of nine accused. Six of them were named in connection with the offence related to the land parcel of Survey Number 62 in Bopodi (five hectares and 35 ares). While two others — Tejwani and Parth Pawar's partner Digvijay Patil — were named in connection with Survey Number 88 in Mundhwa (17 hectares and 51 ares). Suspended tehsildar Yewale has been named in both cases. The land parcel in Mundhwa, which was earlier a Mahar watan, was in the possession of the government and was leased to the Botanical Survey of India. A separate FIR has been registered in connection with the Mundhwa land parcel at Bavdhan police station under the Pimpri Chinchwad police against Patil, Tejwani and Ravindra Taru, the now-suspended sub-registrar who registered the deal in May earlier this year.

## IIT Jodhpur professor sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping former student in Noida

IIT Jodhpur professor sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping former student in Noida Vivek Vijay Vargia was a faculty member in the department of mathematics at IIT Jodhpur from February 2009 to December 2024. A Noida fast-track court Monday sentenced an assistant professor at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 for raping a former student in 2019 when she was 35 years old. Vivek Vijay Vargia was a faculty member in the department of mathematics at IIT Jodhpur from February 2009 to December 2024. Vargia knew the woman, as he had taught her for a brief period in 2000. The two met again in 2011, when she was hired for a contractual job in February 2011 at the same institute and began looking for better career options. The rape case against Vargia, then 45, was registered at a Noida police station on June 6, 2019. The woman in her complaint told the police that he raped her when she went to meet him for a job at the GAIL guesthouse in Noida's Film City that day. The police arrested Vargia the next day from Noida's Sector 16 metro station and filed a chargesheet on September 25, 2019. On November 27, Additional Sessions Judge Priyanka Kumari found Vargia guilty of raping the woman and denied the contention behind the six-hour delay in the FIR. "In this case, testimony showed that the police arrived at the scene soon after the incident and that the delay in formally registering the FIR occurred at the police station, not due to the victim's hesitation," the order read.

## Women voters outnumber men in key Pune civic bodies as Mahayuti partners seek credit for Ladki Bahin scheme amid local polls



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Even as alliance partners of the ruling Mahayuti continue to engage in a tussle over who would take credit for the Ladki Bahin Yojana, women voters are likely to play a crucial role in deciding the outcome of the elections in at least four out of the 15 civic bodies in Pune district which voted in the first phase of the local body polls on Tuesday. The polls in Jejuri, Lonavala, Bhore and Indapur witnessed more voter turnout among women than men. High turnout of women was also witnessed in Saswad, Shirur and Vadgaon Maval civic body, where male voters slightly outnumbered them.

In the temple town of Jejuri, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP is facing a challenge from the BJP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena as all the alliance partners are contesting the civic polls independently. The Jejuri Nagar Parishad has been a stronghold of the Pawar family but this is the first time that an election is being held here since the split in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). The Ajit Pawar-led NCP is contesting the seat of president and all 20 corporators, while the Sharad Pawar-led NCP(SP) is supporting them. The party is, however, facing a challenge from the BJP and Shiv Sena, which have fielded their respective candidates for the aforementioned posts. While 5,895 male voters exercised their franchise in Jejuri, the voter turnout among women was higher at 6,436. Credit for Ladki Bahin scheme goes to Ajit Pawar

"It is the leadership of the Pawar family that has always been the choice of voters in Jejuri. The women voters would have voted for the NCP as it is Ajit Pawar that has made them benefit from the Ladki Bahin Yojana of the state government," said NCP candidate Jaydeep Barbhai. The state government's flagship scheme extends a monthly

## Uddhav Thackeray's lawyer appears before Koregaon Bhima Commission over Prakash Ambedkar's application



Prakash Ambedkar's application claims that NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar accused the previous Fadnavis government of conspiring the violence in Koregaon Bhima on January 1, 2018. The Commission issued notices twice to Uddhav Thackeray, asking him to submit the "documents in question", either personally or through his attorney. The Commission issued notices twice to Uddhav Thackeray, asking him to submit the "documents in question", either personally or through his attorney. Former Maharashtra chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray Wednesday appeared before the Koregaon Bhima Commission of Inquiry through his lawyer Asim Sarode and sought time for making submissions in connection with an application filed by Dalit leader Prakash Ambedkar.

Commission's secretary V V Palnitkar said that advocate Sarode, representing Thackeray, appeared before the Commission and filed his vakalatnama. The Commission asked Sarode to make the submissions over Prakash Ambedkar's application during the next session of hearings starting from January 7. When contacted, Sarode said he would make the submission before the Commission on January 8. short article insert Ambedkar filed an application before the Commission in February this year, claiming that Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar, on January 24, 2020, gave a letter to then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, saying the violence (in Koregaon Bhima on January 1, 2018) was a conspiracy hatched by the previous government under the leadership of Devendra Fadnavis.

Along with his application, Ambedkar had attached a news report stating that Pawar's letter to Uddhav Thackeray demanded the formation of a special investigation team

assistance of Rs 1,500 to women aged 21 to 65 with an annual family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh.

The tourist destination of Lonavala too saw more women voting for the Nagar Parishad election than male voters. The BJP and NCP are fighting head on in Lonavala to prove their political supremacy. The NCP has joined hands with the NCP(SP) to take on the BJP. "It was decided at the local level to join hands with the NCP(SP) in return for posts for their workers in various committees to be appointed in Lonavala after the party comes to power," an NCP leader said. In Lonavala, the male voters numbered 17,162, while 17,349 women cast their votes. The Indapur Nagar Parishad too is witnessing a tough contest with Ajit Pawar-led NCP facing a challenge from an alliance of BJP, NCP(SP) and other political parties. The NCP front during the election campaign was led by state Agriculture Minister and Indapur legislator Dattatraya Bharane, while that of the rival group was under former state minister and NCP(SP) leader Harshvardhan Patil. In Indapur, 10,083 women voted while male voters were 9,750.

In Bhore Nagar Parishad, the BJP is trying to make inroads under the leadership of Sangram Thopte, a former Congress legislator who recently joined the BJP, to take on the NCP in a straight fight. A total of 6,437 women voted in the elections here as against 6,428 men. "Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has always fulfilled the promises made to citizens. He is the one who is executing the Ladki Bahin Scheme for women in the state," said Thopte. During the campaign for the civic polls, Fadnavis assured voters that as long as he is the chief minister, he will ensure that women will continue to receive the Rs 1,500 promised to them every month under the Ladki Bahin Yojana. "The Opposition was criticising the Mahayuti saying it would close down the Ladki Bahin Yojana, but it has been over a year and the scheme still goes on. It will continue as long as I am in charge of the state," Fadnavis had said. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde has been claiming that he was the one who launched the scheme for women during his tenure as chief minister. "I will ensure that the scheme will continue as it was in the interest of women in need," Shinde had stated. The NCP, on the other hand, has been reiterating that the scheme is being implemented by the state government under Ajit Pawar's leadership. "Our party president is the state Finance Minister and holds the key to the state government's treasury. It is he who releases funds for the implementation of Ladki Bahin Yojana," an NCP leader said during the election campaign.

(SIT) to probe the Koregaon-Bhima violence and accused the Fadnavis government of protecting the conspirators. Ambedkar initially requested the Commission to pass an order directing Sharad Pawar to submit a copy of the letter given to Uddhav Thackeray, along with the related documents. But in August this year, Pawar informed the Commission through his lawyer that he did not have a copy of this letter. Then, on behalf of Ambedkar, his advocate Kiran Kadam filed an application with the Commission, requesting that a notice be issued to Uddhav Thackeray to produce the letter and related documents. Commission's notices to Thackeray

The Commission issued notices twice to Thackeray, asking him to submit the "documents in question", either personally or through his attorney. But no response was received from Thackeray. So advocate Kadam filed an application seeking a bailable warrant against Thackeray to secure his presence for the purpose of production of the documents. Then, on October 30, the Commission issued a notice to Uddhav Thackeray, requiring him to "show cause" as to why the application seeking a bailable warrant against him should not be allowed. The showcause notice also asked Thackeray to remain present either in person or through an authorised representative on December 2. As Thackeray did not respond, on December 2, advocate Kadam filed an application before the Commission for the issuance of a warrant against him. But Sarode remained present before the Commission on behalf of Thackeray Wednesday. The Commission allowed his request seeking time to make the submissions on Ambedkar's application. The two-member Commission led by retired High Court judge Justice J N Patel was formed to probe into the violence in the Koregaon Bhima area in Pune on January 1, 2018, in which one person had died, and several others were left injured. Former chief secretary Sumit Mallick is the second member of the Commission. Chandan Haygunde is an assistant editor with The Indian Express with 15+ years of experience in covering issues related to Crime, Courts, National Security and Human Rights. He has been associated with The Indian Express since 2007. Chandan has done investigative reporting on incidents of terrorism, left wing extremism, espionage cases, wildlife crimes, narcotics racket, cyber crimes and sensational murder cases in Pune and other parts of Maharashtra. While working on the 'Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) Fellowship on Tigers, Tiger Habitats and

## Uniforms distributed to students at Vyasa Avasam in Hanamkonda

Hanamkonda: In a heartwarming display of compassion and community spirit, Team Altruists, a group of doctors, distributed school uniforms to underprivileged students residing at Sri Vyasa Avasam in Hanamkonda.

TGNPDCL CMD Varun Reddy Karnati, at an event facilitated by Sulakshya Seva Samithi, distributed uniforms worth Rs 50,000 to around 50 students. Speaking on the occasion, he lauded Team Altruists for their kind gesture. The CMD told the students that failures and disappointments were a natural part of life and urged them to bounce back with a fighting spirit, set the right goals and align their efforts with their passion.

Varun Reddy advised the students to become successful in their chosen fields and contribute to society. He assured them of all possible support to Vyasa Avasam, including infrastructure development and other requirements. Noted physician and president of Vyasa Avasam, Bandaru Shiva Subramanyam, thanked

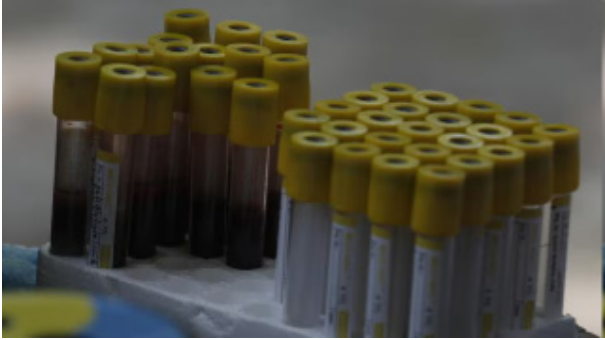
Sulakshya Seva Samithi for supporting the institution. He said the institution was established to connect children from remote areas to the real world and nurture them into responsible citizens.

Founder-president of Sulakshya Seva Samithi, Santhosh Manduva, said the samithi, along with like-minded individuals and organisations, has been undertaking philanthropic activities for the past 13 years as part of its commitment to societal well-being. Representing Team Altruists, Dr Kalyan Rakam said the group of doctors raises funds every year to support underprivileged communities and take up meaningful causes. A special dinner was served to the children on the occasion.

Sulakshya Seva Samithi members Vangala Sai Kiran, Kodam Vinay and Vikas Uttamaraju, and representatives of Vyasa Avasam Kasarla Vasundhara, Vasu Manduva, Boora Ramchander and Venkat Rao were present.



# ‘Want 100% safe blood’: Maharashtra doctors urge NAT screening for risk-free transfusions



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

From the moment a child is diagnosed with thalassaemia, life becomes a cycle of relentless medical interventions: blood transfusions at least twice a month, chelation therapy to combat iron overload, and in some cases, surgeries such as splenectomy just to maintain basic health. Add to this the fear of contracting transfusion-transmitted infections such as Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, or HIV. It is with these risks in mind that a growing number of experts in Maharashtra are calling for a decisive policy change to ensure safe blood transfusions. “Every unit of blood released from blood banks should be screened using Nucleic Amplification Test (NAT),” Dr Poornima Rao, Secretary, Indian Society of Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology, Maharashtra chapter, told The Indian Express. “This is essential to prevent seropositivity post blood transfusion,” she added.

Dr Nita Munshi, President, Thalassaemia Society, Pune chapter, also made a strong case for NAT-screened blood transfusions for all children with thalassaemia major. “Throughout their lives, these medical challenges add profound emotional trauma on top of the already overwhelming physical, psychological, social, and financial burdens,” Dr Munshi said. “We want 100 per cent safe blood,” Ramesh Arora, Vice-President, Thalassaemia Society, added.

‘Children with thalassaemia are particularly vulnerable’ According to Dr Munshi, approximately 10,000 children are born with thalassemia major in India each year, and they require lifelong blood transfusions. The govern-

ment provides these free of charge and has strengthened regulations for blood banks, making the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections extremely low. During the first year of life, transfusions are given once a month, gradually increasing to once every three weeks. By the age of five, children typically receive transfusions at least twice a month, with the volume of blood adjusted according to their weight. “This is a genetic disorder in which a child inherits two mutated genes, one from each parent. Children born with thalassaemia major usually develop symptoms of severe anaemia within the first year of life. Apart from chronic fatigue due to the inability to produce normal adult haemoglobin, repeated blood transfusions can lead to iron buildup in the organs. Daily medication is required to manage this excess iron and prevent complications,” she said. Dr Munshi observed that with a strict regimen of antiretroviral therapy, the HIV viral load can be effectively suppressed and highlighted one case that involved a child who was dependent on transfusions and contracted HIV at the age of nine. “Testing revealed the viral load in the blood, but with a disciplined medication routine and careful management, the child was able to lead a near-normal life. He is 35 and doing well,” she noted. However, there are tragic cases where patients can succumb to secondary infections, she said. “Children with thalassaemia have weakened immune systems and are particularly vulnerable to secondary infections such as tuberculosis or fungal diseases. Managing these conditions often increases the pill burden, with daily medications rising from two to six tablets to address iron overload. HIV infection can further complicate matters by lowering platelet counts and causing anaemia,” Dr Munshi pointed out. NAT screening at blood banks can reduce HIV transmission by shortening the window period, Dr I S Gilada, President Emeritus, AIDS Society of India, told The Indian Express.

Experts say that while India has achieved over 45 per cent decline in annual new HIV infections since the early 2000s, mandatory screening of all donated blood should be ensured. “It is crucial to ensure mandatory screening of all donated blood, strengthen regulation of blood banks and reduce transfusion-related transmission,” Dr Gilada said, adding that it will also prevent the Jharkhand-like scenario where five children with thalassemia were infected with HIV due to contaminated blood from Chaibasa Sadar Hospital. sAnuradha Mascarenhas is a journalist with

# 10 ways of seeing: How a group exhibition in Pune sheds light on the reflections of emerging, established artists



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

One of the paintings on display is motivated by the shloka, Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya, to understand “a woman’s inner strength and her aspiration to rise beyond the darkness of limitation into the light of self-realisation”. Pune’s Vesavar Art Gallery is doing its second annual Year-End Art Showcase 2025, where 10 artists, from up-and-coming names to those whose signatures have made a mark, reveal the shapes of the future. Pune’s Vesavar Art Gallery is doing its second annual Year-End Art Showcase 2025, where 10 artists, from up-and-coming names to those whose signatures have made a mark, reveal the shapes of the future. (Express Photo)

As 2025 draws to a close, it is difficult not to gaze back and then turn our eyes forward. Pune’s Vesavar Art Gallery is doing this with its second annual Year-End Art Showcase 2025, where 10 artists, from up-and-coming names to those whose signatures have made a mark, reveal the shapes of the future. The collection is a melange of styles — from glass to acrylic, and subjects, from nature to women to the self. “I am encouraged by the dedication and hard work that young artists are putting into their art to find their own styles. Established artists, too, are relentlessly pursuing their truth, creating works that are powerful and thought-provoking,” says Pranali Harpude, founder of the gallery, with Kavita Bhandari. The two have curated the show, which will extend till December 31.

short article insert Walk around the gallery, and you are faced with the power of intense self-reflection and spiritual thoughts. Yash Divakar Chawardol’s experience of the layers within, which he realised during Vipassana Meditation, shapes his abstract works. Priyanka Sawant is motivated by the shloka, Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya (Lead me from darkness to light), to understand “a woman’s inner strength and her aspiration to rise beyond the darkness of limitation into the light of self-realisation, empowerment, and freedom. It symbolises the eternal quest for knowledge, truth, and liberation from fear and constraint”. Smrita Marathe’s colourful art speaks of “a single spark in the meaningless, dark void” at the beginning, when even time did not exist. “This is the same gleam we seek in our lives, the quiet hope that arises in moments of chaos,” she says. The collection is a melange of styles -- from glass to acrylic, and subjects, from nature to women to the self. The collection is a melange of styles — from glass to acrylic, and subjects, from nature to women to the self. Shravni Dagade’s paintings reflect the quest for peace of mind as she takes up an empty, white canvas and begins to play with colours. According to her, the different angles and shapes depict a variety of emotions, “the colours represent my extremes and the textures offer glimpses of who I am”.

Santosh Shirsat, who has studied himself as the focus of his paintings for more than 20 years, presents the face. “The shape of the face remains the same, and the ‘self’ in it is reduced. The face is not my own or that of a particular society, but only a human face, trying to express various emotions, such as sadness, compassion, fear, anxiety, anger, and lust...” he says. Mohammed Sadikot’s works in the exhibition are a part of a new series, in which the lines between the human body and the vegetal world are undefined and shifting. The figures in his works are dis-

torted, so that hips could be mounds of earth and ribs can be mistaken for ridges on a bark, while the arms and legs are root-like stilts. It is the artist’s way of telling the viewers to “show down and reconsider harmony”. 10 artists, from up-and-coming names to those whose signatures have made a mark, reveal the shapes of the future 10 artists, from up-and-coming names to those whose signatures have made a mark, reveal the shapes of the future (Manoj Darekar makes us look at the cityscape and the outdoors under a blue sky as if through the wires of a cage. Rupesh Pawar, who comes from a farming background, works with oil but aims to give his works a quality of lightness and transparency. “I avoid rigid formats and work on uncut hand-made paper to let each painting grow organically,” he says. It is fitting that one of the captivating works has faces of glass. These are by Narendrasingh Bais, who has mastered working with glass for over 25 years. Taking inspirations from nature and regular life, he dives into memory, heritage, and identity, creating a dialogue between craftsmanship and storytelling. “Glass is more than a material, it is a living language that captures time and the humavarn experience in its most authentic form,” says the artist’s conceptual note. Saikat Bakshi, a well-known artist and author, conveys the idea of being trapped, of the false notion of free will and freedom in today’s world. Bakshi’s painting, ‘Moments Die, Memories Don’t’, captures the irony that the dead moments stay confined in the form of fossilised memories. “We never escape the prison of our memories even if the moments disappear,” he says. The other conceptual art piece, ‘Trapped’, depicts the illusion of a blue sky through the open window, while the upper section of the opening reminds us of the stifling reality that the image of the sky is just a sticker pasted on a solid brick wall.

# With wins in 3 wards, Kejriwal says public’s trust returning to AAP

AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj in a press conference, meanwhile, hit out at Chief Minister Reka Gupta and alleged she failed her first test after being in power for nine months. AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj in a press conference, meanwhile, hit out at Chief Minister Reka Gupta and alleged she failed her first test after being in power for nine months.

Following the MCD bypolls results, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday said public trust is once again returning to the party.

“In this corporation by-election... the Aam Aadmi Party fielded its dedicated workers in the electoral arena, and the people of Delhi have made it clear through their mandate that public support for Delhi is continuously strengthening towards the AAP. In just 10 months, the public’s trust is once again rapidly returning towards the Aam Aadmi Party. Delhi is very soon returning towards positive politics and good works,” he wrote on X.

Of the 12 wards that went to polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 7 seats, AAP bagged 3 seats, while Congress and the All India Front Bloc won one seat each. AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj in a press conference, meanwhile, hit out at Chief Minister Reka Gupta and alleged she failed her first test after being in power for nine months. “This MCD election was a test of CM Rekha Gupta’s political existence. To save herself and the party, she went multiple times to every ward,” he alleged. “Delhi will soon get a new Chief Minister,” he added. Bharadwaj also accused the BJP of manipulating the final vote count in the Ashok Vihar ward. “Even a day before the election, she [Rekha Gupta] went to the Ashok Vihar ward and distributed free cylinders. The official election website showed that AAP had won the seat with a margin of 179 votes, but in the end, BJP won,” he claimed. According to the vote count, up to the ninth round, the AAP candidate was leading by 422 votes, closely followed by the BJP. However, in the final round, BJP won with a margin of 405 votes.

# Send Shiv Sena MLA Santosh Bangar to jail, says Supriya Sule after video shows him instructing woman in polling booth



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule Wednesday urged Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to jail Shiv Sena MLA Santosh Bangar within 24 hours. Bangar has been accused of violating election rules by entering a polling booth in the Hingoli district and guiding a woman voter when she came to cast her vote in the local body polls Tuesday. “The CM should take action against Santosh Bangar for violating the election norms within 24 hours. He was seen directing a woman on how to vote. Bangar should be sent to jail,” said Sule in New Delhi.

The Baramati MP said those in power have been found violating the norms. “They have been violating election norms brazenly. I don’t know which rules all these viola-

tions fall under. This is not Maharashtra’s culture, but those in power are blatantly indulging in inappropriate things,” she said. Sule said she entered politics to serve the people, not to indulge in such a violation of the rules. “Such a scenario is disturbing. I have not entered politics for personal gain but to serve the people. But what I am noticing is very painful,” she said.

The Hingoli police Tuesday filed an FIR against Bangar for allegedly compromising election secrecy. Reacting to the FIR filed against Bangar, Fadnavis said such behaviour damaged the credibility of the electoral process. “I think at least people’s representatives should show respect to democracy. They should think about how they are behaving during elections and what message they are sending among the people,” he said. The alleged violation of the norm took place at a polling booth in the Kalamnuri area of the Hingoli district. In a viral video, Bangar is seen instructing a woman voter on how to vote. He allegedly directed the woman voter to press a specific button. He has also been accused of sloganeering and using his mobile phone. The Hingoli election officials said the FIR was filed following a thorough investigation into the violations. The collectorate announced that a report will be submitted to the State Election Commission. Voting took place in 246 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats as part of the first phase of Maharashtra local body elections Tuesday. The counting will be held on December 21 after polling in some municipal councils and nagar panchayats has been postponed to December 20.

# Man kills friend after argument by hitting him with a cleaning mop in Thane

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

mumbai police The Vartak Nagar police in Thane identified the victim as Bhanu Pratap Singh, 45, a resident of Chincholi Bunder in Mumbai’s Malad West, and his friend as Raj Kumar Yadav, who works as a driver for Kedar Joshi, owner of the bungalow. A 28-year-old man allegedly beat his friend to death with a cleaning mop over an argument while both were consuming alcohol at a bungalow in Yeoor, Thane, on Tuesday. The police detained the man after his friend’s body was found in the backyard of the bungalow on Wednesday morning.

The Vartak Nagar police in Thane identified the victim as Bhanu Pratap Singh, 45, a resident of Chincholi Bunder in Mumbai’s Malad West, and his friend as Raj Kumar Yadav, who works as a driver for Kedar Joshi, owner of the bungalow. short article insert According to the police, Singh and Yadav, both natives of Uttar Pradesh and childhood friends, went to Yeoor and drank alcohol in an open place on the premises of the bungalow on Tuesday night. They had an argument, during which Singh allegedly abused Yadav and his daughter, which annoyed him, and the argument turned into a fight. Joshi and his family were not there.

“In a fit of rage, Yadav picked up a cleaning mop and started hitting Singh on his head and other parts of his body till he died,” said Pravin Mane, Senior Inspector, Vartak



Nagar police station. Yadav allegedly dumped Singh’s body behind the bungalow and fled from there. After locals found the body and informed the police in the morning, an accidental death report was filed. During further investigation, it was confirmed that Singh had been killed and that Yadav had been with him the previous night. The police then launched a manhunt and nabbed Yadav from Thane. Yadav lived in a rented room in Vartak Nagar along with his wife and daughter. Kedar Joshi filed a complaint after the police informed him of the murder at his bungalow. The police have recorded his statement and will register a murder case against Yadav, who they said had confessed to the crime.

# Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis launches work for India’s first urban tunnel project: ‘Historic day for Mumbai’



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Wednesday kicked off work on the ambitious Orange Gate to Marine Drive Urban Tunnel Project with the formal launch of the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM). The country’s first urban tunnel project aims to ease Mumbai’s traffic congestion and enhance connectivity, particularly for citizens travelling from South Mumbai to the Navi Mumbai International Airport.

Fadnavis said that while the Eastern Freeway allows citizens to reach South Mumbai from the eastern suburbs in 20-25 minutes, the subsequent traffic congestion adds another 30 to 45 minutes to the journey. Furthermore, residents of the western suburbs and South Mumbai have to take a long and arduous route to reach the new Navi Mumbai Airport. “The Orange Gate tunnel was conceived as the solution to this problem,” he said. Fadnavis said that they initially considered building a flyover, but it was deemed impossible due to space constraints and the area’s massive traffic volume.

Terming it an “engineering marvel” and highlighting the project’s technical complexity, the chief minister stated that the tunnel will pass beneath approximately 700 properties, century-old heritage buildings, and the Western and Central Railway lines. It will be 50 metres below the operational Metro Line 3. The project targets completion by December 2028, with the implementing agency aiming to finish the work six months earlier. The work has been entrusted to Larsen and Toubro (L&T).

“Once the Worli-Sewri Sea Link opens next year and the Coastal Road connection is established, people from the western suburbs will have two options to reach the Navi Mumbai Airport. This project will save thousands of hours for thousands of people, making today a historic day for Mumbai’s transport,” the chief minister added. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde stated that the Orange Gate–Marine Drive tunnel will be a major relief for Mumbai’s traffic. “Just as projects like Metro 3, Metro 2A, and Metro 7 have provided relief to the city, this underground tunnel will also transform the face of the transport system,” Shinde said. At a glance The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is undertaking the construction of this underground road at a cost of around Rs 8,056 crore. \* The Eastern and Western suburbs of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai

will be connected via this underground route. \* Travel time will be reduced by 15–20 minutes. \* It will help in reducing noise and air pollution, besides saving fuel. Project details \* This is India’s first urban tunnel project that would pass underneath densely populated areas. \* The total length of the project is 9.96 km, including approximately 7 km of the underground tunnel. \* Each tunnel will have two lanes, each 3.2 metres wide, and one emergency lane. The speed limit in both tunnels will be 80 kmph.

\* For safety, both tunnels will be connected by cross-passages at intervals of 300 metres. \* The tunnels are proposed to allow mechanical ventilation for air circulation, have fire suppression systems, adequate lighting, and an Intelligent Transport System (ITS) for appropriate and modern traffic management. \* The underground alignment of the project minimises land acquisition, preserves the urban environment, and ensures minimal disruption to the city. \* It connects major infrastructure projects like the Mumbai Coastal Road and the Atal Setu. \* The machine used for this project is a Slurry Shield Type Tunnel Boring Machine (Slurry Type TBM), designed for precise and safe excavation in Mumbai’s coastal underground strata, which is mixed and rocky. \* This technology has been proven to be efficient as it was also used in the Mumbai Coastal Road project.

# Hyderabad couple gets seven years jail in loan fraud case

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Hyderabad: A local court convicted and sentenced a couple involved in a loan fraud case registered by the Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) to seven years of rigorous imprisonment on Wednesday. A fine of Rs 30,000 was imposed on them.

Vuppula Dasarath Netha (57) and his wife Vuppala Laxmi Bai had obtained a loan of Rs 24,00,199 from the SBH Aircargo branch in 2007 by submitting forged and fabricated documents. The couple also created multiple sale registrations and obtained loans from two other banks, State Bank of Mysore, Kukatpally, and Canara Bank, Kundanbagh.

They defaulted on all loan repayments, causing financial losses to the lending banks, said Additional DGP CID Telangana, Charu Sinha.

During the trial, a total of 17 witnesses were examined and 60 documents were exhibited, including the forged Agreement of Sale cum GPA, mortgage deeds and bank records.

After the trial, the court convicted and sentenced them to seven years RI and imposed a fine of Rs 30,000. They were shifted to prison.











# Why Microsoft’s AI is being criticised: Explained



What should have been a fairly standard company up-date posted on the social media platform X instead received hundreds of comments, many of them negative, and over a million views before the comment section was locked down. These vehement reactions to the Microsoft executive’s announcement revealed a sharp split between the software giant’s AI roadmap and its customers’ demands.As Microsoft introduced new AI features over the following days, the negative comments only grew.

What AI releases did Microsoft announce?

Along with a link to a company session about Windows, Microsoft 365 Copilot, secure AI, and agent productivity, Mr. Davuluri posted, “Windows is evolving into an agentic OS, connecting devices, cloud, and AI to unlock intelligent productivity and secure work anywhere. Join us at #MSIgnite to see how frontier firms are transforming with Windows and what’s next for the platform. We can’t wait to show you!”

What appeared to trigger many users online was the comment about Windows becoming an agentic operating system (OS), or an AI-powered system on a device capable of processing natural language commands and taking autonomous actions for its users.Since 2023, Microsoft has invested heavily in Generative AI, first by financially backing ChatGPT-maker OpenAI before developing its own AI offerings as the distance between the two companies grew. Microsoft’s AI, or “chat-based generative AI interaction” that it calls Copilot, serves a variety of use cases, ranging from browsing online and maximising productivity to generating multimedia and summarising/correcting your content.Whether a Microsoft customer is using Windows as their OS, Edge as their browser, Outlook for their mail needs, or a Surface PC for their tasks, Copilot is already present or easy to access. Meanwhile, the Microsoft 365 Copilot offering integrates AI with commonly used programmes such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Last month, Microsoft further shared that it was rolling out updates to make every Windows 11 PC an AI PC, powered by Copilot.But when Microsoft posted, “We heard you wanted @Copilot Mode at work,” on X on November 19, the social media platform added a temporary context note that contradicted this, citing unhappy users’ responses.

Meanwhile, Dell COO Jeffrey Clarke noted during the November 25 earnings call that about 500 million devices capable of running Windows 11 haven’t been upgraded. On their side, multiple Windows 11 users have complained of glitches and delays.

Why is Microsoft facing backlash from users?

X users complained that requests for popular non-AI features had gone unheard by Microsoft and that existing issues with Windows were not being adequately resolved. Others raised concerns about potential bloatware in their Microsoft devices and platforms, as well as reduced data privacy, a drop in performance, increased security risks, and increased bugs and advertisements due to agentic AI rollouts.Some users voiced their belief that Microsoft was

Just about everything comes to your door today — from food and groceries to clothes and appliances. For thousands of workers who bring them over, it is always a race against time. Quick commerce companies promise customers deliveries in about 10 minutes, placing an unrealistic expectation on the delivery personnel who have to navigate Bengaluru’s notorious traffic congestion. As a result, delivery workers overspeeding, zooming on footpaths to bypass jams, weaving their way through congested lanes and jumping signals is a common sight in the city.As Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh puts it, the large presence of delivery personnel on pedestrian paths has even created the perception that footpaths are not out of bounds for motorists.

The significant number of delivery personnel on the road and the nature of the gig economy has added to making the city’s roads more unsafe than they already were. There are also several cases of delivery personnel racing against time becoming accident victims themselves. Bengaluru has recorded at least 27 accidents over the last three years where delivery persons have been victims.Bengaluru Traffic Police data accessed by The Hindu shows that violations by delivery partners have increased dramatically. In 2023, the Bengaluru Traffic Police booked 30,968 cases against delivery personnel. This rose sharply to 52,153 in 2024, and climbed again to 63,718 in just the first nine months of 2025. These numbers point not merely to individual lapses, but to a worsening systemic issue tied to the nature of gig work, rising urban pressure, and regulatory gaps.The police have encountered several law and order cases as well. One such incident, described by Singh, involved a worker disappearing with a laptop he was to deliver. At the time of joining, he concealed his previous theft record, and the company, operating within a fast-expanding gig-work environment, failed to conduct proper background checks. When the police probed the case, they found that he had been sacked from another company because of his alleged involvement in a similar case.“Platforms portray as if 10-minute delivery is real, but practically it cannot be done so. Even the platforms are aware of it” Vinay Sarathy, president of the United Food Delivery Partners’ UnionIn 2023, 13 law and order cases involving delivery personnel were reported. In 2024, the number recorded was seven. In 2025 so far, the tally has risen to 24, according to the city crime records bureau.Larger social issue

According to R.S. Deshpande, former professor at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), these rising violations are deeply rooted in broader socio-economic factors. He notes that although gig working models, prevalent in many Western countries, have expanded rapidly in India, the regulatory frameworks that support such systems in the West have not been developed here. The absence of clear laws governing gig work has had cascading effects

focusing more on products aimed at businesses or enterprises collecting user data, rather than everyday users who wanted a cleaner, less complicated OS and device experience.Complaints about Microsoft’s AI roadmap are not new. In fact, Microsoft in 2024 was hit with backlash from users over a tool called Recall for Copilot+ PCs, that would leverage AI to help users find content they had already seen. In order for this to happen, users had to opt in to saving snapshots, or screenshots, of their activity. Privacy experts criticised the Recall feature and highlighted severe security and privacy risks, while users also demanded ways to disable Recall.In response, Microsoft delayed Recall and only shipped it in April this year. However, customer anger online over the company’s AI only mounted in the run-up to the Ignite event.

How has Microsoft responded to concerns?

Microsoft has continued to stress on the safety, privacy, and security of its AI-infused offerings, highlighting that they can be used for organisations, businesses, personal needs, industries, education, IT, and developer needs.On November 15, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella shared a post on X where he hailed the company’s partnerships with other firms such as OpenAI and AMD. He also batted in favour of a more collaborative approach where the success of AI adoption could be gauged through societal change and positive breakthroughs rather than company valuations.“Let us move beyond zero-sum thinking and the winner-take-all hype and focus instead on building broad capabilities that harness the power of this technology to achieve local success in each firm, which then leads to broad economic growth and societal benefits,” Mr. Nadella posted.On November 19, Microsoft AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman took to X to address users’ anger and criticism more directly, but pegged negative reactions to a lack of excitement surrounding the potential of AI.“Jeez there so many cynics! It cracks me up when I hear people call AI underwhelming. I grew up playing Snake on a Nokia phone! The fact that people are unimpressed that we can have a fluent conversation with a super smart AI that can generate any image/video is mindblowing to me,” posted Mr. Suleyman.In response, multiple users complained about AI hallucination, or the risk of their work being undermined by inaccurate information retrieved by AI from dubious or even unusable sources.Furthermore, Mr. Nadella and Mr. Suleyman’s reactions were both branded as being out of touch with customer sentiments.Are other firms facing similar complaints?Yes and no. While multiple Big Tech giants are exploring agentic AI features and products, the reactions from customers have been drastically different.For example, relatively new companies such as ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and Google/Amazon-backed Anthropic face far less criticism from users when they launch new Generative AI products or announce AI integrations. This is because they are fundamentally AI companies, so customer expectations align with the company’s area of exploration. When such companies do face criticism, user complaints are likely to focus on AI product quality, the legality of the AI training processes, cybersecurity risks, or the impact of their chatbots on people’s health and behaviour. The two companies also do not sell consumer-focused devices.However, when legacy giants such as Microsoft or Google—known for their solid market presence and their consumer hardware offerings—rapidly hopped on the Generative AI bandwagon, many users felt as if the highly experimental technology was being forced into every part of their personal tech ecosystem, whether they wanted it there or not.Google also fielded complaints surrounding its AI Overviews in Search, or AI-generated search summaries. Digital experts warned that revenue to media companies, smaller publishers, and Google’s own rivals could be im-

on workers’ lives and has resulted in growing concerns related to traffic disruptions, unsafe road behaviour, and petty crimes. Researchers studying the gig economy echoed his perspective, pointing also to the lack of social responsibility among aggregators, lawmakers’ failure to address the multi-layered dimensions of gig work, and the availability and exploitation of cheap migrant labour as major contributing factors. Singh agreed that these structural conditions amplify both traffic violations and crime.

Meeting with aggregatorsAs complaints grew, the Bengaluru Police convened a meeting last month with platform aggregators that employ gig workers. During the meeting, police presented an extensive set of documented violations committed by gig-economy workers and announced a series of measures. They warned aggregators that they would now begin fixing accountability directly on the companies through existing laws if violations continued.The largest category of violations involves traffic offences.Micromobility EV scooters, popular because they are inexpensive, lightweight, and easy to manoeuvre, make up a major share of these complaints. Yet, as police officers pointed out, almost no formal cases have been booked against riders of these scooters because they do not fall under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. “Legally, these scooters are treated like bicycles rather than motor vehicles,” said Sahil Bagla, DCP (East, Traffic). He noted that police cannot impose penalties unless the scooter causes a traffic disruption, although special drives are conducted regularly to address such behaviour.Traffic Police officials educate the gig workers employed by Food delivery service about various traffic violations and to obey traffic rules, in Bengaluru. The police have warned aggregators that they will now begin fixing accountability directly on the companies through existing laws if violations continued.Traffic Police officials educate the gig workers employed by Food delivery service about various traffic violations and to obey traffic rules, in Bengaluru. The police have warned aggregators that they will now begin fixing accountability directly on the companies through existing laws if violations continued. | Photo Credit: K. MURALI KUMARAccording to documents accessed by The Hindu, other crimes listed by Bengaluru Police involving delivery workers include robbery, assault, molestation, theft, sexual harassment and public nuisance.Another major issue is drug movement. Peddlers have often used delivery services to transport drugs to customers using parcel options provided by aggregators. While many deliveries are unintentional on the part of delivery partners, police have found cases where delivery persons colluded with peddlers, who charged customers transportation fees and passed that money to delivery personnel. In another case, peddlers packaged drugs in medium-sized boxes, filled them with heavy objects to avoid suspicion, and delivered them to locations without the knowledge of the delivery person.

# Higher education regulation: Refining the HECI bill 2025 for NEP 2020 implementation



In the winter session of Parliament, beginning December 1, 2025, the Union Government plans to introduce the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Bill, 2025, as a flagship reform to create a single overarching higher education regulator, replacing the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the sectoral councils, excluding medical and legal education. The HECI is expected to be a robust framework, designed to ensure quality, accountability, and institutional autonomy in higher education and translate the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020’s vision into clear norms on curriculum reforms, better academic delivery, and promote research culture.This article examines the draft HECI Bill 2018 in the context of the vision of NEP 2020 and the backdrop of the global developments in higher education in the last seven years and suggests improvements that would be required for the new HECI Bill 2025 to deliver on its transformative promise.

The 2018 draft HECI Bill: feedback and suggestions from public consultationsEfforts to create a unified regulator in higher education began with the 2018 draft Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) bill, which was placed in the public domain for stakeholder feedback. It is reported to have garnered over 7,500 suggestions from parliamentarians, State governments, academics, students, teacher unions, and industry associations. While the draft bill was applauded for recognising the need to separate regulation from funding, several viewpoints emerged from various stakeholders.

Several stakeholders, particularly from the States, raised concerns over a potentially “Central government-heavy composition” of HECI, arguing that the limited representation from the States could undermine the concurrent status of education and fail to account for regional diversity and also adversely affect the public institutions in rural areas, which often operate with limited infrastructure and faculty. Teacher unions and student groups pointed out the absence of guaranteed representation for faculty and students on the HECI and its advisory bodies.It was also felt that the draft bill continued a ‘command-and-control’ regulatory philosophy, replacing the UGC with an equally intrusive inspectorate, including stringent approval and de-recognition powers that could disproportionately affect smaller and rural institutions. The draft bill also did not adequately articulate how the existing specialist regulators, such as AICTE and NCTE, would be integrated into a coherent architecture. A large share of submissions from academic associations and civil society organisations were reported to have argued that the draft did not sufficiently safeguard institutional autonomy and collegial governance.In response to this feedback from the public consultations, the 2018 draft was not tabled in the Parliament, and the government signalled that the proposed bill would be re-worked in light of NEP 2020.NEP 2020 and the envisaged HECI architecture

NEP 2020 emphasises transparency, public self-disclosure by institutions, minimisation of human interface through technology, and the avoidance of conflicts of interest between these four functions. It also underscores institutional autonomy, graded on accreditation outcomes, and encourages multi-disciplinary universities with strong internal quality assurance systems.The HECI, proposed by NEP 2020, envisages four independent verticals: National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), National Accreditation Council (NAC), General Education Council (GEC) and Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) to address the functions of compliance, quality assurance, setting up academic standards and funding, respectively. The proposed HECI bill, therefore, has to move beyond the narrow academic-standards focus of the 2018 draft and codify the four-pillar architecture, with adequate checks and balances, including a robust role for the States and the academic peers, in the governance processes.Global developments in higher

education since 2018

The seven years since the first HECI draft have witnessed profound changes in the global higher education landscape. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered the largest disruption in the history of education, forcing institutions to shift to online and blended modes of delivery rapidly. Thereafter, the online learning delivery model created opportunities for working professionals to learn without leaving their current jobs. Due to the unprecedented acceleration in the deployment of technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) in industry, skills emerged as a higher priority over knowledge for employment, leading to a dramatic rise in micro-credential skill development courses and stackable learning pathways, to supplement classroom learning.Dr. Radhakrishnan Committee report on accreditation reformsAn overarching committee, constituted by the Government of India, chaired by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, proposed transformative reforms to strengthen assessment, accreditation and ranking of higher education institutions, to expand coverage of accreditation, and to align existing bodies such as NAAC, NBA and NIRF, with the proposed NAC, under HECI. It also recommended a One Nation One Data (ONOD) IT architecture to capture data needed from the institutions for governance, ratings and ranking and maintain the integrity of the same to enable transparent, technology-empowered evaluation and ranking.

Stakeholder expectations from the HECI Bill, 2025

Against this backdrop, different stakeholders look forward to distinctive and sometimes competing expectations from the HECI bill 2025. The State governments expect commensurate representation within HECI’s governance structures, clear articulation of the division of regulatory responsibilities, and protection of their constitutional roles in higher education. The Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) hope for predictable, time-bound approvals; simplified, fully online compliance processes; rationalised inspection and reporting burdens; and a credible pathway to graded autonomy, based on transparent accreditation criteria.Smaller institutions, especially in the rural areas, are likely to press for capacity-building support rather than punitive enforcement. The industry expects a push for regulatory flexibility to recognise new-age programmes, micro-credentials for skilling, and international joint degrees in emerging areas, while expecting HECI to protect minimum standards. If the proposed bill is to enjoy broad legitimacy, it must be seen to credibly address the expectations of each of these constituencies.Challenges in implementing the HECI billWith over 70% of the universities falling under the States’ acts and 94% of the students enrolled in State or private universities, leaving about 6% students in Centrally funded universities, there is a need for better coordination between the Central government and the States and their integration into the governance design, for achieving tangible results.

While the vision is ambitious, India faces several structural and systemic challenges that the new bill must anticipate and address. Most of the institutions, particularly the State-funded ones in urban and rural areas, lack digital infrastructure, qualified faculty, and quality assurance systems and need massive capacity-building to move to self-disclosure-based, technology-enabled regulation. NEP mandates universal accreditation by 2035, but current accreditation coverage remains below 40% and the delayed binary accreditation needs to be sped up by a drastic expansion of assessment capacity.The HECI bill may incorporate reforms to shorten faculty recruitment timelines and institute a reward system based on performance, particularly for research contributions, to attract and retain high-calibre academics.The HEGC funding vertical must balance performance-based funding with baseline equity funding. India needs significant investments to meet the GER target of 50% by 2035. The proposed HECI Bill may contain statutory provisions to ensure that the funding mechanism is transparent, merit-based, and performance-linked, ensuring that the regulatory system functions independently and credibly.The forthcoming HECI bill of 2025 presents a historic opportunity to transform India’s fragmented higher education regulatory system into a unified, modern, and outcome-based architecture, to facilitate the achievement of NEP targets for 2035. However, success will depend not only on legislative design but on the effectiveness of implementation, Centre-States collaboration, robust data systems, sustained funding, and buy-in from the diverse stakeholders. A thoughtfully architected HECI will enable India to build a globally competitive higher education ecosystem, which can accrue significant demographic dividends to the

# A former Minister and his ‘vada case’

Covering court proceedings is exciting for reporters for the sheer variety it offers. Unlike other specialised beats, it gives us the opportunity to follow developments on everything under the sun. A legal correspondent is privy to fine arguments by the best legal minds on constitutional provisions, issues of governance, interpretations of law in criminal cases, spirited public interest litigation, and, of course, judicial sermons. What is truly thrilling, though, is covering criminal trial proceedings. This is where a reporter encounters the ingenuity of criminal lawyers, the desperation of the accused, the smartness or sometimes even collusion of state prosecutors, the innocence of witnesses, and the straight-faced court staff.

Interesting courtroom encounters became staple fare when the M. Karunanidhi regime in Tamil Nadu (1996-2001) set up three special courts in Chennai to try 46 corruption cases against former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, some of her erstwhile Cabinet colleagues, and IAS and IPS officers. The trials were conducted daily. The accused and their lawyers tried every trick to prolong the proceedings. Many of us would see accused politicians suddenly fall sick on crucial hearing dates. Fed up with such tactics, a special judge once went to a hospital, with lawyers, court staff, and journalists in tow, to frame charges against a former Minister, who was lying in bed.

In another case, just as the judge began to read out the charges, Jayalalithaa sneezed loudly. For a moment, everyone in the courtroom believed she was in real distress. She kept sneezing until the judge finished his part.K.A. Sengottaiyan, one of Jayalalithaa’s fiercest loyalists and a former Transport Minister, was facing three cases then. An uncrowned king in the Gobichettipalayam constituency, he had joined the AIADMK as a fan of its founder and actor-turned-politician M. Ramachandran (MGR). He imbibed MGR’s habit of loosening his purse strings. He enjoyed significant goodwill in his hometown, Erode district, for liberally tipping government employees. Journalists there would narrate tales of how the Telephone Department lineman would occasionally “discover” a faulty connection at his home to earn a princely tip.Each time he appeared in court, dozens of supporters would accompany him, standing behind him and the other accused. Quite coincidentally, many prosecution witnesses would turn hostile. Rattled by the



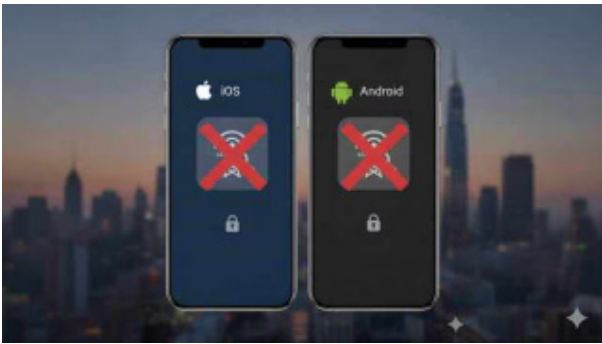
Reporting from court is always exciting, especially during criminal cases, as K.A. Sengottaiyan’s trials from the late 1990s showed

continuing volte-face of witnesses, the prosecution at one point decided to file a perjury case against a hostile witness to deter others.

During court hearings, Mr. Sengottaiyan’s personal assistant would arrange lunch for his supporters from a popular vegetarian restaurant chain. Some journalists were also shown patronage. On one occasion, hot vada with sambar and chutney was distributed not just to his supporters, but also to a section of the special court staff. A now-defunct Tamil newspaper published a report with the headline: “Sengottaiyan buys vada for court staff.” The story created quite a sensation. Special Judge-I Sambandham was furious. He issued a memo to all the staff, irrespective of whether or not they had eaten the vada. From that day, whenever journalists asked the court officer which case was listed for hearing the next day, if it was one of Mr. Sengottaiyan’s, the reply would be: “Naalaikku vada case, sir (Tomorrow is the vada case, sir).”Eventually, Mr. Sengottaiyan was convicted in one of the “vada cases” and could not contest the 2001 Assembly elections. Later, he was acquitted by the Madras High Court, giving his political career a fresh lease of life. On Thursday, the leader, who was recently expelled from the AIADMK, which he served for over 50 years, joined actor-politician Vijay’s fledgling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam.



# Sanchar Saathi app: Apple, Google set to push back citing privacy and system security concerns



Sanchar Saathi is a state-developed cybersecurity application and allows users to report fraudulent calls, messages, and stolen mobile phones. Industry sources aware of the companies' point of view said the phone-makers have no history or precedent of preloading state-owned applications to their devices anywhere in the world. The change poses operational challenges since it could require them to customise iOS and Android specifically for India.

Both Apple and Google are expected to figure out "less intrusive" means of distributing the Sanchar Saathi app, the source said. Samsung is evaluating its options and reviewing the government order, but has not made a decision yet, it is understood. Last week, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) sent a confidential directive to smartphone companies including manufacturers and importers, to pre-install Sanchar Saathi, and insisted that the app's functionality cannot be restricted or disabled. India has over 1.2 billion mobile phone users, of which more than 650 million are said to have a smartphone, making it one of the largest phone markets in the world. Civil society activists are raising alarm bells over the potential implications on people's privacy by mandating the app, since preloading it defeats

the principles of choice and consent, while leaving the potential for 'functional creeping' in the future. 'Functional creeping' refers to a gradual expansion of a system beyond its original purpose.

The government has, however, argued that the Sanchar Saathi app allows users to check the genuineness of their phones through their IMEI number, and in a press statement released on Monday said, "Mobile handsets bearing duplicate or spoofed IMEI pose serious endangerment to telecom cyber security." Apple, Samsung and Google did not respond to a request for comment until publication. Reuters first reported that Apple was not going to comply with the government's order. Companies are considering several options and "a legal challenge is not out of the question," if private discussions with the government to overturn the directive aren't successful, one of the sources said. A second industry executive said implementing the government's order would mean that Google would have to create a custom version of Android specifically for India, with the Sanchar Saathi app pre-loaded. This will not be acceptable to the company, the executive said. Android, the operating system for smartphones controlled by Google, powers most phones in the country. A third executive said for Apple, it would mean violating its internal policy of not pre-loading iPhones with third-party software. These people spoke on condition of anonymity as the companies' pushback plans are currently private. Smartphone makers fear that following the Indian government's order could set a precedent that they were open to preload government-backed apps on their devices, and that could trigger similar requests in other jurisdictions they operate in. While such a move would be unusual in most Western democracies, it is not entirely without precedent. Russia recently directed smartphone companies to preinstall the state-backed messaging platform MAX, a rival to WhatsApp, which critics say could be used to track users.

# Red flags in Govt: Can GenAI models track prompts of officials, leverage citizens' data?

What happens when a government officer uploads an internal note to an AI chatbot for a quick summary? When a police department asks an AI assistant to optimise CCTVs across a city? Or when a policymaker uses a conversational model to draft an inter-ministerial brief? Can the AI system analyse such prompts at scale, identify the user, infer their role, draw patterns across queries and predict strategic intent?

These questions are being debated in sections of the Union government, The Indian Express has learnt, amid growing concern about the rapid proliferation of generative AI (GenAI) platforms in India, especially those run by foreign firms, often bundled as free services with telecom subscriptions. Senior officials say the core issue is not only data privacy but inference risk: whether these systems can derive sensitive insights indirectly from users' behaviour, relationships, and search patterns. Two broad areas are under discussion. First, whether queries made by top functionaries — senior bureaucrats, policy advisers, scientists, corporate leaders and influential academics — could be mapped to identify priorities, timelines, or weaknesses. Second, whether anonymised mass usage data from millions of Indian users could help global firms. One issue being discussed, sources said, is whether to "protect" official systems from foreign AI services.

"We don't know what the level of tracking is on these services, and whether they are able to identify the significance of a user's prompts to make inferences from it. For now, the foreign LLMs are most popular, and there can be more safety in running them directly on a computer rather than on a server. But, of course, the most secure way would be to use locally made LLMs which are currently being developed. Until we have that, we are keeping a close eye on these issues," a senior government official said. Some of these anxieties have led to specific directions from at least one major government department to not use AI services on official workstations. In February, the Finance Ministry directed its employees to "strictly" avoid use of such tools "like ChatGPT and DeepSeek" in office computers and devices over concerns pertaining to confidentiality of official documents and data. "It has been determined that AI tools and AI apps (such as ChatGPT, DeepSeek etc.) in the office computers and devices pose risks for confidentiality of Govt data and documents," the memo by the ministry said. Some departments have already moved to limit exposure. In February, the Finance Ministry issued a directive prohibiting the use of GenAI platforms such as ChatGPT and DeepSeek on official workstations and devices, citing risks to "confidentiality of Government data and documents."

Generative AI platforms can draw deeper inferences about users from their prompts because every input reveals intent, tone, preferences, and context in real time. Besides, some AI companies have signed distribution deals with telecom operators and their free subscription is usually



linked to phone numbers. The concerns come at a time when India is funding the development of indigenous large language models (LLMs) under its Rs 10,370-crore India AI Mission. At least 12 LLMs and smaller domain-specific models are being developed with government support. One of these, led by Bengaluru-based start-up Sarvam, is expected to roll out by year-end, targeting governance and public sector use cases. The government has consistently urged the use of swadeshi digital tools instead of foreign platforms, a message that's grown sharper amid strained trade ties with the United States over tariffs and H-1B visa caps. Globally dominant US-based platforms — ChatGPT, Gemini, WhatsApp, YouTube, Instagram, Gmail, X — shape much of India's digital communication and information environment. Last month, in a meeting with top Secretaries, the Prime Minister is understood to have flagged the need for domestic digital platforms in communication and knowledge ecosystems, not just in payments and identity. IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw publicly shifted to Zoho's Indian office suite, and Home Minister Amit Shah announced that his official email would move to Zoho Mail. Over the last six months, at least three GenAI companies have rolled out free access to user groups in India. OpenAI's basic ChatGPT Go plan will be made available free to consumers in India for a year while Alphabet's Gemini Pro will be offered to each of Reliance Jio's over 500 million subscribers for 18 months. Perplexity AI will offer its Pro version to Bharti Airtel's 350 million users. There is some history to this. At the height of its sour relationship with X (then Twitter) in 2021, several government officials tried propping up Koo as an alternative. The app failed and shut down operations last year. After border clashes with China in 2020, India had banned several popular apps such as TikTok, citing national security concerns. Incidentally, a subcommittee formed by the IT ministry under the IndiaAI Mission submitted its report Wednesday on governance guidelines for AI companies, which among other things, recommended the creation of an India-specific risk assessment framework that reflects real-world evidence of harm. It also advised a "whole of government approach" where ministries, sectoral regulators, and other public bodies work together to develop and implement AI governance frameworks.

# PSU banks gain lead in home, auto loans as retail credit demand rebounds

A low-rate phase is not a signal to rush into a home loan. It gives you the space to plan better, because a home loan is a long-term commitment that stays steady across interest rate cycles. A low-rate phase is not a signal to rush into a home loan. It gives you the space to plan better, because a home loan is a long-term commitment that stays steady across interest rate cycles. Public sector banks have gained an edge over private lenders in the personal loan market, particularly in home and auto loans, as demand continued to recover in the second quarter ended September of FY26. Retail and consumption loan originations grew 18 per cent on a year-on-year basis and 4.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter, led by gold loans, auto loans and two-wheeler loans, says a report. Home loan origination surged to Rs 3.02 lakh crore in Q2, up 25 per cent quarter-on-quarter, supported by an 18 per cent rise in loan volumes and a clear move toward high-value credit. Loans above Rs 75 lakh now contribute 39.4 per cent of total originations. PSU banks strengthened their lead in the segment, lifting their market share to 50 per cent, according to data from CRIF High Mark, a credit information bureau registered with the RBI. Loan origination refers to the entire process of creating a new loan — from the moment a borrower applies to the moment the lender approves and disburses the money. Overall personal loan portfolios grew 12 per cent year-on-year and 2.9 per cent sequentially, helped by a strong recovery in fresh disbursements to Rs 2.92 lakh crore (+32 per cent quarter-on-quarter or QoQ). Large-ticket loans above

Rs 10 lakh accounted for 37.4 per cent of origination value, largely driven by PSU banks. At the other end of the spectrum, NBFCs continued to dominate small-ticket loans, accounting for 90 per cent of volumes, CRIF High Mark said. In the auto loan market, portfolio growth picked up to 16.3 per cent year-on-year and 2.9 per cent quarter-on-quarter as disbursements rose to Rs 96,000 crore (+15.9 per cent QoQ) after two slow quarters. The average loan size increased to Rs 8.7 lakh. PSU banks expanded their share to 40.4 per cent, while NBFCs maintained a strong grip on volumes. Gold loans surged, with portfolio outstanding jumping 35.8 per cent year-on-year and 8.6 per cent quarter-on-quarter to Rs 14.5 lakh crore. This was propelled by stricter norms for unsecured credit and demand for quick, collateral-backed financing amid high gold prices. Origination value grew fastest among all products (53 per cent), with NBFCs leading the volume game and PSU banks leading value. "India's retail credit cycle is on a stable footing, led by a decisive shift toward secured lending and more responsible underwriting," he said. "How India Lends (report) is designed to decode these transitions and equip lenders and policymakers with actionable intelligence." On a year-on-year basis, non-food bank credit grew by 10.2 per cent as on the fortnight ended September 19, 2025, compared to 13.0 per cent during the corresponding fortnight of the previous year (September 20, 2024), according to the RBI. Credit to agriculture and allied activities registered a y-o-y growth of 9.0 per cent (16.4 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year).

# 'Date them till you hate them': This toxic TikTok dating trend is making a comeback



Breakups are never easy, but a new viral dating trend is making the process sound far messier. TikTok's 'date them till you hate them' method has resurfaced, and many users are discussing and debating the idea. According to The Cosmopolitan, the trend stems from TikToker Meg Neil, who shared the "secret" behind how she walked away from a four-year relationship with minimal heartbreak. In her 2023 video, she said: "I dated him till I hated him."

This dating approach is now circulating widely again, raising concerns about how people navigate conflict, emotional withdrawal, and the end of relationships. At its core, 'date them till you hate them' encourages individuals to slowly detach rather than addressing issues directly or choosing a healthy ending. As the explanation goes, it involves emotionally checking out while letting resentment accumulate so that by the time the relationship ends, the person already feels nothing. Neil describes the process: "You're going to watch them disrespect you... until you no longer want to associate with them anymore." While some may recognise shades of this pattern in their own lives, can

internalising such behaviour have long-term consequences, not just for the relationship, but for one's emotional wellbeing and future attachment patterns?

Psychological factors that make avoidance-based breakup strategies feel easier than addressing problems directly. Jai Arora, counselling psychologist and co-founder of Kirana Counselling, tells indianexpress.com, "Avoidance usually comes when something painful is hidden underneath, which we don't want to see, feel or come to terms with. Confronting a partner can also help prevent emotions such as fear of being judged, hurting a loved one, or facing potential abandonment." He continues, "So many of us live with behaviours, which we know deep down are not right or healthy, but we choose to continue anyway." Although such relationships might be able to avoid confrontation successfully, Arora stresses that they can "wear the people down, physically and emotionally." Instead of processing feelings, one can slip into shutting themselves down and be more detached not just from the partner, but from themselves. On a longer time scale, he states that this communication style and pattern of not drawing boundaries when needed can become the default in the person's interactions outside romantic relationships, too, and hamper co-existence with anybody.

Healthier strategies to navigate difficult breakups "Acknowledgement is a great start," notes Arora, adding that sometimes we feel so much that, as a consequence, we end up feeling nothing. Taking it slow, starting with expressing small needs and then gradually thinking about bigger decisions, like breaking up, can help someone ease into the process. People who feel unable to leave often benefit from planning the breakup instead of avoiding it. "Talking to friends or a therapist can reduce fear and build confidence in the decision. Preparing what to say, choosing a calm setting, and outlining the next steps can make the process feel more contained. And of course, therapy can help regulate emotions and strengthen interpersonal skills," concludes the expert.

# 'Main jitna samaan dump kar deti hun... it can pass off as a general store': Inside 'Qubool Hai' star Surbhi Jyoti's bag

There are bags... and then there's Surbhi Jyoti's bag, a "chalta phirta" portable general store that speaks volumes not just about her lifestyle but also her quirky, warm personality. "Main jitna samaan daal deti hoon, dump kar deti hoon bag mein; it can pass off as a general store. A chalta phirta portable general store," she laughs, instantly drawing you into her candid energy.

For Surbhi, the value of a good old rubber band trumps fancy trinkets. "This, I'm sure, girls know the value of a rubber band!" she exclaims, adding that it probably doesn't even belong to her but to her hairdresser. And this isn't just any bag—it's one that might throw out dental floss, coins, and hand cream all in one go. "Mere bag mein dental floss mil sakti hai, toh mera bag mujhe pooch sakta hai, tu kya kar rahi hai?" Despite the randomness, there's a method to her chaos. Essentials like her phone ("I absolutely never use it without this pop socket"), perfume ("one of my favourites — go for it, guys!"), lip balm, sunglasses, and her trusty tint always make the cut. "The moment you just apply the tint, it just changes your look."

What doesn't impress her? Branding. "I'm not into expensive or branded stuff. I literally see convenience," she states matter-of-factly, admitting that even her fancier tote bag sits unused because "airport pe sab samaan tray nikal ke mein aa jaata hai," whenever she travels, so she prefers



not using it. Even the unexpected finds in her bag have a story — from a Zara ka bill she doesn't remember buying to three rogue coins from God knows where. "I have no idea! But I'm sure they're mine." So, who would she want to carry in her bag? "Hugh Jackman, Meryl Streep, and... my mom, but I know she'll scold me a lot!" she jokes. And let's not forget Christopher Nolan, because, well, scripts can drop anytime. So while it may seem like just a bag, for Surbhi it's a mixed bag of humour, essentials, memories, and selfhood. "Jo bhi cheezein ismein hain, woh mujhe depict karti hain — meri personality ko."

# 'Samajh hi nahi aaya mere saath kya hua': Mouni Roy recalls being misbehaved with early in her career; how body reacts to sudden boundary violations

Actor Mouni Roy recently opened up about an incident from her early years in the industry that left her feeling unsettled. In a conversation with Apoorva Mukhija on Spice It Up, when asked if she had experienced casting couch, she revealed, "Casting couch toh nahi hua, but badtameezi hui hai (Never faced casting couch, but I was misbehaved with). I was 21-22 years old, and I had gone to someone's office where people were inside the office where narration was being given. Suddenly, there was a scene where the girl falls into the swimming pool, she loses consciousness, and the hero gets her out and gives her mouth-to-mouth respiration, and she gains consciousness."

Without naming or describing the individual involved, Mouni continued, "The man literally held my face and showed me mouth-to-mouth respiration. Uss 1 split second main mujhe samajh hi nahi aaya mere saath kya hua (I didn't understand what happened with me in that split second). I started shaking, and I ran down. It really scared me for a really long time."

What happens when one experiences a sudden physical boundary violation?

Sakshi Mandhyan, psychologist and founder of Mandhyan Care, tells indianexpress.com, "When a person experiences a sudden boundary violation, the body reacts before the mind can interpret what's happening. The brain's amygdala detects danger and then activates a survival response. If the mind senses there's no safe way to escape or fight, it often shifts into a freeze response, which is a state in which the body becomes momentarily immobile to protect itself." She continues, "I've heard many survivors say they felt numb, detached, or unable to react. That's not a lack of strength; it's a neurobiological reflex. Once the immediate shock fades, it's important to start grounding the body — slow breathing, noticing the physical surroundings, or simply feeling your feet on the floor."

Mandhyan notes that this is something she sees in therapy quite often. "People replaying the event and blaming themselves for not reacting differently. The truth is, during trauma, the prefrontal cortex, which helps us think and plan, goes offline, while the body's survival circuits take over. The reaction that happens in that moment is instinctive, not chosen," she notes. Mandhyan explains that understanding this can be the first step in releasing guilt. When awareness returns later, what we call delayed integration, it often brings feelings of shame or confusion. Healing starts by recognising that the body did what it needed to do to sur-



Actor Mouni Roy recently opened up about an incident from her early years in the industry that left her feeling unsettled. In a conversation with Apoorva Mukhija on Spice It Up, when asked if she had experienced casting couch, she revealed,

vive. Through cognitive reframing and self-compassion, survivors can begin to change the narrative from 'I should have done something' to 'I did what was possible at that time.' "I also find that body-based practices like mindful breathing, yoga, or trauma-informed movement help reconnect the body and mind, which often separate during shock. Over time, that reconnection allows the experience to be remembered without reliving it," says the expert. Setting boundaries in industries or workplaces where power imbalances make it difficult to speak up "The first step is to learn to trust your inner signals," says Mandhyan, adding that discomfort is often the body's way of saying that a boundary has been crossed. Writing down what happened helps bring structure and clarity to confusion. Sharing with a mentor or perhaps a trusted peer before escalating formally can provide perspective. From a mental health standpoint, learning assertive communication is crucial. "Organisations, on their part, must promote psychological safety, i.e. provide an environment where speaking up does not lead to isolation. Leaders who model empathy and accountability effectively establish a culture where boundaries are respected," concludes Mandhyan.



# Mitchell Starc’s skills and Australia’s high winning percentage makes pink-ball Ashes Test a one-sided affair



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

The pink Kookaburra ball that gains a magenta lustre under the crimson Australian skies is a sight of dread for England. Thrice have they lost Ashes Tests to its malevolent shimmer, by bewildering margins of 120, 275 runs and 146 runs. The fourth exchange, that unfolds in Brisbane, in the cricket’s most fabled rivalry, is cast in the backdrop of a bruising defeat at Perth and the intimidating mastery of their adversaries with the pink ball.In the pink-ball-competence-scale, the two sides are at polar extremes. Steve Smith’s men (or will it be Pat Cummins’s, is a surprise the hosts are preserving for match-day afternoon) are the monarchs. Ben Stokes’s Bazball songbirds are the laggards. Since the inaugural game in 2015, Australia have handsomely won 13 of the 14 fixtures. England have starred in only six games, the last arriving two years ago in Mount Maunganui, and have won only two.

The dichotomy in perception is understandable. England talisman Joe Root notes day-and-night Tests are redundant in Ashes; his contention is the fight for the urn is historic and popular enough not to pursue the route of gimmicks to pull more eyeballs into the longest version. England’s aversion to the colour runs too deep to the extent that they have scrapped it from the county too. Australia are unfussed. Travis Head, England’s Optus destroyer, quips that the hue of the ball doesn’t matter. “Pink ball, white ball, red ball.... who really cares?” he asked reporters two days before the game. Perhaps, it doesn’t matter when he is in the mood for belligerence. Or that he knows all too well that no one breathes more life into the pink ball than Mitchell Starc.A halo forms around Starc when he holds a pink ball.

He was sceptical of the intrusion at the start and grouched that the ball went too soft too early. But he has devastatingly mastered its whims and fancies. The wreckage reads 81 wickets at 17.08, a strike every 33rd ball. With the red ball in hand, the numbers decline to a mortal level of 28.97 (average) and 49.9 (strike rate). The predisposition to bend the ball (white, red or pink) at high pace and a natural inclination to the fuller length ally him; so do the quirks of the ball with an extra coat of lacquer and the overhead conditions.

The ball does not move around for a considerable period, there is no appreciable difference in the amount of seam movement or swing movement but when it does, it does so schizophrenically. Some balls move deviously, some don’t. Some skid; some don’t. It doesn’t scuff up like red balls, but crack up. Its characteristics are closer to its white than red sibling.It’s often during the twilight phase that it turns into an infant terrible, from a disciplined pupil in the first session. Starc’s numbers reveal the truth — he is most devastating in his third spell (30 percent of his pink ball scalps at an average of 12.40) and least effective in his first (16 percent of the share at an average of 27.58). If a wicket falls once every 52.8 balls in the first and second sessions, it drops to 45.1 in the third passage.

But it’s not the swing alone that deepens the pink ball puzzle. Some batsmen have raised visibility concerns. “When the floodlights shine off the pink leather, it is harder to see the pink leather. If you can’t see the seam as a batsman, you’re in big trouble,” former England opener Alastair Cook wrote in The Sunday Times. To ward off the floodlight glare, Smith has been training with “eye blacks”, strips under the eyes.Sighting the seam position was worse when there was white seam on pink leather. “It was like a bullet,” Root once said. Weave in the intrigue of dew, humidity (Brisbane could be torridly humid in December), and the extra grass the groundsmen leave on the surface so that the pinkness of the ball is not discoloured too quickly, the puzzle becomes a mystery.As terrifying a reality as Starc lumbering in from the Vulture Street End is that his pacer-friends own prolific records too. Josh Hazlewood has 40 at 18.50; Cummins 43 at 17.34, and Scott Boland 18 at 13.16. But England shouldn’t feel daunted. The band of Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Ben Stokes and Brydon Carse could throw uncomfortable questions at Australia’s in-flux batting firm. A festival of seam bowling looms in Gabba, under crimson skies and a ball more magenta than pink.

# ‘The brutal truth is that bowling seriously fast means living permanently on the edge of...’: Greg Chappell on pacers like Pat Cummins and Josh Hazelwood’s injuries



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Cummins Hazlewood ChappellWith Pat Cummins still not certain for the second Ashes Test at Brisbane and Josh Hazlewood too being sidelined for the initial part of the Ashes due to a hamstring injury, this year’s Ashes series between Australia and England began without the two premier pace bowlers.

With Pat Cummins still not certain for the second

Ashes Test at Brisbane and Josh Hazlewood too being sidelined for the initial part of the Ashes due to a hamstring injury, this year’s Ashes series between Australia and England began without the two premier pace bowlers. With Steve Smith acting as a captain in the absence of Cummins, who was recovering from a bone strep injury in his lower back, in the first Test at Perth, Australian selectors are waiting to take a call about Cummins’ return for the second Test by Wednesday afternoon. Former Australian captain Greg Chappell has given his take on fast bowlers suffering repeated injuries.“A couple of weeks ago, as Australia began the Ashes without Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood- two of the finest fast bowlers of their generation – the old conversation resurfaced: why do fast bowlers break down so often, and what, if anything, can be done about it?The brutal truth is that bowling seriously fast means living permanently on the edge of what the skeleton, soft tissue, ligaments, tendons and nervous system can endure. Speed comes at a price, and the bill usually arrives in two instalments: once in adolescence, when bones are still growing, and then around 30, when the years of accumulated impact finally catch up,” Chappell wrote on ESPNcricinfo.

# India T20I squad for South Africa: Shubman Gill named vice captain, Hardik Pandya returns from 2-month injury layoff

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

India squad for T20I series against SA: Shubman Gill will mark his return from a neck spasm injury during the forthcoming five-match T20I series against South Africa, subject to fitness clearance from the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence, the board confirmed on Wednesday.Gill had suffered a stiff neck during the first Test against the Proteas at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata last month. Three balls into his first innings, Gill experienced pain on his neck after slog-sweeping a delivery for four. He immediately retired and did not bat in the second innings of a dismal defeat for India at home.

The 26-year-old also missed out on the second Test at Guwahati as India suffered their heaviest Test defeat by 408 runs. The ODI captain was advised rest and recovery and was thereby ruled out of the ongoing three-match series.Hardik returnsIndia have largely retained the T20I squad that was successful in the T20I series in Australia, with star all-rounder Hardik Pandya returning to the fold after a two-month injury lay-off. Pandya last featured in India’s victorious Asia Cup final against Pakistan and was subsequently out of action due to a left quadricpe injury. On Tuesday, Hardik powered Baroda to a 223-run chase in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, smashing an unbeaten 77 off 42 deliveries to seal the chase against Punjab.The T20I series will



begin in Cuttack on December 9, followed by the second match in New Chandigarh on December 11. The third match is scheduled for December 14 at Dharamsala and the 4th one will take place in Lucknow on December 17. The last and final match of the series will take place in Ahmedabad on December 19.India T20I squad: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Shubman Gill (VC)\*, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakaravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Washington Sundar

# ‘And some of them like the Shisha and that’s their way of...’: Michael Hussey on the relaxed team atmosphere in CSK built by former skipper MS Dhoni



GNS News Agency, Dec 3

With MS Dhoni still playing for Chennai Super Kings, the former Indian captain is expected to play in next year’s IPL edition too. While Dhoni had given the captaincy earlier, the former Indian wicket-keeper has been the strongest pillar in the CSK set-up. Former CSK player and now CSK coach Michael Hussey has revealed how the CSK environment is one of the best and how Dhoni is available 24 hours a day and the team’s youngsters and seniors bonded with each other with some even enjoying Shisha, the flavoured tobacco hookah. Hussey was replying after being asked by former England captain Michael Vaughan about the team bonding on Stick to Cricket podcast on YouTube channel The Overlap Cricket.

“So it depends on which environment you are in. The Chennai Super Kings Environment is phenomenal. So maybe westerners, we will go to the bar or you know sir in the dressing room and have a beer and talk about the game and learn about the game there. In India, it’s different because obviously culturally it’s a lot different. But Dhoni is just an amazing guy. His room is available and open 24 hours a day. So anyone can go up there, just sit. He’s got this big lounge room there, players just sit around, they start talking about cricket. And some of them like the Sheeshah, you know the flavoured tobacco stuff. And that’s their way of socialising and talking about the game and things like that. And credit to Dhoni, you know, like he just opens his room up and anyone can come in and lots of the players go in and just sit there and talk. They bring food up. It’s fantastic,” Hussey said on the podcast.

While Dhoni has played in 278 IPL matches in IPL since its maiden edition in 2008 amassing 5,439 runs and more than 200 dismissals donning the wicket-keeper role in the league, the wicket-keeper batsman was retained as uncapped player prior to last IPL mega auction. Hussey, who first played for CK in 2008 and later had multiple stints with the team, has been working with the team as the batting coach and spoke about how Doni sees the game ‘differently’. “He is a special guy. He sees the game differently to most and that’s what I love about him where I sort of see the game and I think yeah I know this is how it should be played or this is what we should be doing in the situation. He would almost like to go to a 180 degree view and try to see it differently. But I think his greatest strength, particularly in a place like India , there’s so many players, you

know, and there’s so much pressure and stress and you can see these young Indian guys, they want it so bad, they’re trying so hard. There’s so much pressure on their place in the team. There’s a billion people watching them, huge crowds. And Dhoni’s got this beautiful way of just being able to take the pressure off them,” Hussey said.

The former Australian cricketer talked about how Dhoni calmed the nerves of youngsters in the CSK team during a match against RCB and how the trait remains Dhoni’s biggest strength. “I’ll give you an example. Well, we were playing this game, Chennai Super Kings versus the Royal Challengers Bangalore, a big rival. It’s at our place, the crowd is pumping, you know, I remember standing in there, I was still playing and in the huddle, and Dhoni, he could see these young Indians walk and nervous as anything, a massive game. And he goes, “Boys, it doesn’t matter if we win or lose today. Just go and enjoy it. Smile to the crowd,’s try and execute your skills. But the most important thing is, I want to win the Fair Play Award this year. So if you get a wicket and the umpire gives it not out, don’t argue with the umpire. Just, get on with the next ball. Just go and relax, and you know that’s the way the game goes. And I remember thinking, what the heck are you talking about? If you get Chris Gayle out for a duck, hit the shirt off and make bloody swinging around. And I remember thinking, “What the heck’s this guy talking about?” But it wasn’t till later that I realised that he was just trying to take the pressure off young Indian players. Just go and play. Some days you win, some days you lose, just try and execute your skills, and just do the best you can. And you could almost see the stress coming out of these Indian players particularly when it was such a big game, you know. So I think that’s his greatest strength,” said Hussey.When asked about Dhoni practising wicket-keeping, the coach shared how he has never seen Dhoni practising catching a ball. “I’ve been a player at Chennai for 8 years, and now coach for about 8 years. I think the only time I’ve seen him catch a ball was when we wanted to knock in a new pair of gloves. I’ve never seen him practice his keeping ever, but he bats a long long time. He hits thousands and thousands of balls,” said Hussey.

# Vikramaditya Chaufla wins Willingdon Indian Racketlon Open in Mumbai

Mumbai: India captain Vikramaditya Chaufla waded through a competitive international field to lift the Willingdon Indian Racketlon Open trophy here.

Chaufla, who has multiple World Championship medals to his name, had to dig deep to get the better of compatriot Animesh Kejriwal in the final of the B category held over the weekend. The final scoreline read 21–18, 21–10, 10–21, 19–18 in Chaufla’s favour.

# Furious Virat, Calm Kohli — how Virat Kohli’s Raipur hundred was different from his century in Ranchi

GNS News Agency, Dec 3

Near the end of October, on a Sydney night after he had an unbeaten 168-run partnership with Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli reflected on the two successive ducks prior to that game.“You might’ve played international cricket for a long time, but the game shows you ways (on his ducks).” The game also bestows, as it has done now with two successive hundreds against South Africa. Both pitches in this series were flat, but the knocks were fascinatingly contrasting. If the Ranchi had a sense of furiousness about it, where he charged the pacers and was more aggressive than usual, the Raipur hundred was serenity personified — like the ODI master of the old.Even the security personnel in the ground knew the hundred was a done deal. As soon as he reached 70, the walkie-talkies crackled. “Cheyy number (6) team ko bolna, taiyaar rahe boundary pey (Inform Team 6 to stay alert near the boundary line),” said a chief official in charge. At Ranchi, a fan had burst through from the stands, leaped over the fence, to fall at the feet of Kohli, who had just got his hundred. They didn’t want a repeat in Raipur, and so the guards spread all around the boundary line, and stood facing the crowd who were soaking up yet another Kohli special.

Every element was present. The brisk imperious walk to the middle, the passionate running between the wicket, the composed taps, crafty nudges, feisty punches, occasional imposing pulls, and the leap-roar-fist celebration. The Kohli faithful would also have smiled at the distinct black wrist band just below the left elbow, and the crossing of legs with the MRF bat resting on the ground at the non-striker’s end. The No.18 fake jerseys all around the park were enjoying the real deal bat, run, walk, smile, guiding the younger Ruturaj Gaekwad through nervy times.Starting off with a sixHe started with a six to get off the mark of the fourth ball, but it was a shot of reaction, rather than aggression. The delivery from Lungi Ngidi had risen to a comfortable height around chest high on the leg and middle line, and Kohli shifted into his ever-so-smooth-swivel-pull. There was a flicked four couple of balls later, but he didn’t hit another four for 12 overs. That was an act of aggression as he walked down the track to the seamer Corbyn Bosch and used a bottom-hand whip to send the ball hurtling past a startled Gaekwad.Yet another serene passage followed where he kept bunting the ball around for comfortable singles. He would drive the spinners to long-on to rotate strike, or press back to nurdle past square-leg.Virat Kohli during the 2nd ODI match between India and South Africa at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur.



(Photo: CREIMAS for BCCI) Virat Kohli during the 2nd ODI match between India and South Africa at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur. Utter easeThere was this utter ease about his knock. Just pure reactions, risk-free cricket, not much predetermination, and he rarely ever extended himself — a re-run of his old specials.Kohli’s guiding hand too was visible. When Gaikwad had a phase where he was struggling because of his penchant to stay beside the line of the ball to work even middle-off deliveries behind square on the off side, or risky urges to drag balls from outside off to on-side, Kohli often had short chats. Now and then, as is his wont, he would turn and stare at the scoreboard as if he were doing some mental calculations.He began to ramp up his strike rate from the 30th over on, taking more calculated risks. He started to charge Bosch and pull Jansen. Off the last ball of the 38th over, he drove Jansen to long-on for the single that fetched him his hundred, but fell in Jansen’s next over, holding out to long-on.

The Kohli effect on the game, just as it did in Ranchi, became visible in India’s run rate. They didn’t accelerate as much as one anticipated as the team was hampered by the long tail, and KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja couldn’t just throw their bats around. Which was needed if they were to get to a gargantuan total that could help them soak the dew factor likely to eventuate in the chase. Before the game started, the ground staff had applied the dew-stopping chemical all around the park. Its effect in the chase, but Kohli seemingly rued the fact that he fell at the inopportune time.As he began walking back, he smashed his bat onto his pad, but had composed himself before he reached the boundary. He ripped off his helmet, raised his bat, turned all around to acknowledge the cheers from the adoring Raipur crowd. When the game gives, it pours.

# India eye series win over South Africa with Kohli and Rohit in form

Raipur: The chatter around the volatile dressing room environment notwithstanding, India will rely on Virat Kohli’s imperious form and Rohit Sharma’s indomitable presence to seal a series victory over a doughty South Africa in the second ODI here on Wednesday.A record-extending 52nd ODI century by Kohli and a rapid 57 from Rohit paved the way for India’s 17-run win in the series opener at Ranchi, where the home bowlers endured a spirited fightback from the Proteas before managing to stop them.With the 2027 ODI World Cup two years away, Kohli and Rohit are not only auditioning every match to prove their fitness and form but are also reportedly managing growing differences with head coach Gautam Gambhir. The issue has dominated off-field talk and is expected to have the BCCI stepping in at some point.Having set up two consecutive victories for India in as many ODIs, including a nine-wicket hammering of Australia at Sydney in October, Kohli and Rohit have shown they will do everything possible to be on that flight to the World Cup in South Africa. Both chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and Gambhir have remained non-committal about their participation in the World Cup and that has prob-

ably been at the centre of simmering tensions.However, India have a lot more to worry about despite the opening win. For starters, the combination does not seem perfectly aligned.Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has built an impressive record in List A cricket, was pushed from opening to No 4. He did not look completely conditioned for the role, with stand-in captain KL Rahul staunchly defending his position at No 6.Washington Sundar is not new to such experiments as the Tamil Nadu all-rounder, who batted at No 3 in the Kolkata Test against the Proteas, has seen plenty of changes in his batting positions. But in the first ODI at No 5, he too was among the batters dismissed in a phase where India slowed down.Washington also had another light day in terms of bowling as he sent down only three overs for 18 runs. To his credit, Harshit Rana did a lot of good to his reputation with two wickets upfront with the new ball, but his knack of giving away runs later on will require more control, especially when only one ball is allowed after the 34th over.In their bid to restore balance between bat and ball, the ICC’s new rule allows only one ball from the existing two to be continued with from the 34th to 50th overs.



## Palash Muchhal visits Premanand Maharaj as wedding with Smriti Mandhana remains postponed



Fans were left in shock after Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana's wedding with music composer Palash Muchhal was postponed when her father was hospitalised on the day of the ceremony due to ill health. This unexpected development was soon followed by rumours against Palash and speculation about possible trouble in their relationship. Amid the chatter, Palash visited Premanand Maharaj, a spiritual leader in Vrindavan.

The composer's photo from his visit, sitting in the front row with folded hands, has gone viral. Palash is seen wear-

ing a white shirt and black jacket in the image. This marks Palash's second public appearance after the wedding postponement; earlier, he was clicked at the Mumbai airport. Recently, rumours also began circulating that a new wedding date for Palash and Smriti had been set for December 7. But Smriti's brother, Shravan Mandhana, has now addressed the speculation. Shravan spoke about these claims and shared that the wedding remains postponed. He told HT, "I have no idea about these rumours. As of now it (the wedding) is still postponed."

What happened between Smriti and Palash?

Smriti and Palash were set to tie the knot on November 23. However, their wedding was postponed after her father fell ill and was admitted to the hospital. Soon after, social media pages and online forums claimed that Palash Muchhal had been unfaithful. The rumours gained traction after Smriti deleted all the posts related to her wedding, along with her Indian cricket team members also deleting their posts. Wedding choreographers Nandika Dwivedi and Gulnaaz Khan were dragged into the controversy as the cheating rumours picked up momentum. Meanwhile, Palash was admitted to a hospital in Sanghli, where the wedding was scheduled, and then returned to Mumbai with his family. His mother defended Palash and shared that he too fell ill after seeing Smriti's father's condition, as he was very close to him. She even claimed that it was Palash — and not Smriti — who first decided to postpone the wedding. Through all the speculations, the couple and their family members have chosen to remain quiet.

## Hema Malini faced 'worst phase' after marrying Dharmendra, had to do 'B-grade' films: 'He offered help but...'

..Hema Malini found out that she owed Rs 1 crore in taxes and this kicked off the worst decade of her life. Dharmendra offered to help but she was having none of it. Hema Malini was enjoying the best phase of her career when she married Dharmendra in 1980. She was one of the top actors of the Hindi film industry, and in her personal life too, despite all the controversies, she was now getting married to the love of her life. Even though he was already married to Prakash Kaur, Hema and Dharmendra had decided that they had to solemnise their relationship. It was around this time, that Hema found herself in a huge financial mess. Such was the mess that it went on for ten years, and Hema went through the "worst phase" of her life. Hema's career, from the beginning, was managed by her parents — Jaya Chakravathy and VS Ramanujam Chakravathy. After making many hit films in the 1970s, and being one of the top earners in the film industry, Hema found out in the early 1980s that she owed tax of Rs 1 crore to the government, and now, she was expected to pay it all. In those days, actors weren't making money in crores, and so, this amount of money was certainly overwhelming, even for a star of her repute.

short article insert In her biography, Hema Malini: Beyond The Dream Girl, written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee, this episode of Hema's life is discussed in detail. The book says that "Dharmendra offered to help, but she would have none of it." Hema also spoke about this time in her life, and said that her mother was quite laidback about paying taxes, despite her father's constant reminders. "My father would keep reminding Amma that we need to pay the taxes, but my mother, being naive, felt it was unfair to expect us to pay so much tax since her daughter was working so hard to earn that money," she shared and added that her parents often had arguments about this issue.

It was after her father's death that they found out about the taxes they owed. "Unfortunately, only after my father's demise did we realise that we had got into a financial soup over the years. We had to clear a lot of pending taxes," she shared. At this point, Hema needed a lot of money, and for

## Mira Kapoor's brand offers bowl therapy to 'cleanse aura' for Rs 10,000; 15-minute healing costs just as much

Mira Kapoor, who is married to actor Shahid Kapoor, has been dabbling with various ventures for a while now, and while she was previously only involved as an investor, Mira is now working in many of her own businesses. Her business, Dhun Wellness, which is a wellness centre providing ayurvedic therapies, based out of Mumbai, has Mira working full-time, and in a recent interview, she spoke about the most popular treatments at Dhun Wellness, where a 15-minute session can cost Rs 10,000.

In a chat with the YouTube channel The Lobby Report, Mira shared that their treatment, named Vibrato, which is a deep tissue massage, is one of the most popular services. The 60-minute treatment costs Rs 6,500. She also mentioned that their Ayurvedic therapies are quite popular with the customers. Upon checking their website, one can see that Abhyanga, which is an ayurvedic massage, costs Rs 5,500 for a 90-minute session. Udvartanam, another Ayurvedic massage, costs Rs 8,000 for a 60-minute session. Shirodhara costs Rs 6,500 for a 90-minute session and Herbal Potli, another offering here, costs Rs 5,500 for 90 minutes.

Apart from the ayurvedic therapies, Mira's center also provides 'Healing Therapies'. They have a 'Bioenergetic Scan' which costs Rs 10,000 for a 15-minute session. The website claims that this involves 'Aura & Chakra Scanner Test' as they use "biofeedback technology to analyse your aura field and chakra alignment, revealing imbalances, blockages and areas needing attention." They also have a treatment called 'Singing Bowl Therapy' which costs Rs 10,000, where they use a "specially tuned singing bowl set designed to harmonise each energy centre". There is also something called an 'Emotional Freedom technique' which costs Rs 10,000 for a 30-minute session. This is a "holistic treatment that combines acupressure and modern psychol-



an actor, the easiest way to do so was by making as many films as she could, and this led to a major compromise in the quality of films that she was doing until then. Mukherjee described in the book that Hema took up a lot of "B-grade" films as none of the big banners were willing to bet on her. By this time, Hema was already a mother to two girls. "It was the worst phase of my life, and it lasted for almost ten years," Hema shared and added, "I had to clear my debts and barring these films, I had nothing. Dance shows would keep me going, but the majority of the money came from movies." Dharmendra and Hema Malini first worked together in Sharafat Dharmendra and Hema Malini first worked together in Sharafat. (Photo: Express Archives) Esha, who was quite young at the time, shared that she got to know about this episode only when she asked her mother about her choice of films in the 1980s. "After Ahaana was born, I realised that Mom had started shooting a lot. She would barely be at home. Later on, when we watched a few films like Durga, Anjaam, Sitapur Ki Geeta and Jamai Raja, I remember asking her why she was doing these movies. That is when she told me about the debt," she recalled. Hema turned to production and direction towards the late 1980s-early 1990s.



In a chat with the YouTube channel The Lobby Report, Mira shared that their treatment, named Vibrato, which is a deep tissue massage, is one of the most popular services.

ogy to help release emotional blockages, reduce stress and restore balance." The business also offers a seven-day sleep-reset and gut-cleanse programme, which costs Rs 1.75 lakh. Dhun Wellness is one of the many businesses that Mira is actively involved in. She is also the founder of Akind, a skincare brand. She is also involved with Athletifreak, an athleisure brand that she runs with her sisters and brothers-in-law. Her husband Shahid Kapoor is also involved in this business. Mira is also an investor at Wellbeing Nutrition, Artium Academy, Uravu, SARVA Yoga, among others.

## 'Paise chahiye tereko?': Sunny Deol attacks paparazzi for filming family during Dharmendra's ash immersion



Nobody has forgotten the clip that went viral last month, showing Sunny Deol confronting paparazzi for repeatedly intruding on his family's privacy while his father, the late legend Dharmendra, was battling a serious health scare. The intense media attention during such a vulnerable period had already sparked conversations about boundaries and sensitivity. Now, just ten days after Dharmendra's passing, a new video has surfaced online, once again capturing Sunny Deol getting upset as photographers breached the family's privacy during Dharmendra's asthi visarjan ritual.

In the latest clip, widely shared on X (formerly Twitter), Sunny is seen storming towards a photographer, grabbing his camera, and reprimanding him for invading the

family's private moment. The actor can be heard asking, "Paise chahiye tereko? Kitne paise chahiye? (You want money? How much money do you want?)," emphasising his frustration and repeated pleas for respect. This comes after an earlier viral clip in which Sunny Deol had publicly expressed his anger at the paparazzi gathered outside while his father was severely ill. In that video, he can be heard saying, "Aap logon ko sharam aani chahiye... Aapke ghar mein maa-baap hain, bacche hain. Ch\*\*\*\*\*n ki tarah video liye jaa rahe ho. Sharam nahi aati? (You guys should be ashamed of yourself. You also have parents, have kids, yet you are making videos like idiots. Aren't you ashamed of yourself?)." The incident reflects a growing conversation in the industry about paparazzi culture and the need for responsible coverage, especially in moments of grief or crisis. Recently, veteran actor Jaya Bachchan also voiced her concerns during a conversation with Barkha Dutt on #WeTheWomen, sharply criticising the behaviour of paparazzi. She said, "My relationship with media is fantastic, I am the product of media. But my relationship with paparazzi is zero. Who are these people? Are they trained to be representing the people of this country? You call them media? I come from media, my father was a journalist. I have immense, tremendous respect for such people." She further added, "But these people outside, wearing cheap tight pants and holding a mobile phone, think that just because they have a phone, they can take your picture and say whatever they want. And the kind of comments they make! What kind of people are they? Where do they come from, what kind of education do they have? What background? They will represent us? Just because they can upload something on YouTube or any other social platform?"

## Family Man Season 3 becomes most-watched series of 2025 on Prime Video in India; reaches 96% of pincodes

In a significant achievement, director duo Raj and DK's spy action thriller streaming series The Family Man Season 3 has emerged as the most-watched series of the year on the OTT platform Amazon Prime Video in India. Following its debut on November 21, the third instalment of the highly celebrated show reached 96 per cent of pincodes across the country in its first week itself, and has become the most successful season in the franchise thus far.

Prime Video, in a statement to the media, also revealed that The Family Man Season 3 has been trending in the Top 5 in over 35 countries, including the UK, UAE, Canada, Australia, Singapore, and Malaysia, setting a new record for the show in terms of opening-week performance. It has also emerged as the most successful title on the network in 2025. "We're deeply grateful to fans and audiences for their continued appreciation of The Family Man. It is their unwavering love that has made the series so popular across ages, regions, and languages. The overwhelming response to the latest season, even after a four-year wait, reaffirms that they value our efforts to make the series bigger, better, and more engaging and entertaining for them. And we are committed to pushing the boundaries of conventional storytelling to bring them fresh, relatable, and truly unmissable content," film-making duo Raj Nidimoru and Krishna Dasarakothapalli, the creators of the show, said. Starring Manoj Bajpayee, Priyamani, and Sharib Hashmi in the lead roles, The Family Man received an additional boost in its third instalment with renowned actors Jaideep Ahlawat and Nimrat



Kaur joining the cast. In her review of this edition of the show, SCREEN's Shubhra Gupta wrote, "Manoj Bajpayee is still the beating heart of the show, as is Sharib Hashmi as his trusty second-in-command; Priyamani continues to be as watchable too."

## Dharmendra gifted ancestral property worth Rs 5 cr to his nephew, not his children for this reason



For Malayalam film audiences, Dharmendra is a name that's extra special. Not just because it belongs to a beloved actor, but also since it's the name of one of the most iconic movie characters of the 21st century. Bollywood acting legend Dharmendra in the 1969 movie Satyakam. (Express archive photo) Veteran actor Dharmendra was a man of the soil—an artist shaped by his love for Dilip Kumar, yet rooted deeply in the simple, agrarian life of rural Punjab. Though cinema made him a legend, his heart remained that of a humble village man who cherished farming and the quiet rhythms of the countryside. His busy Bollywood career rarely allowed him the luxury of being in his village, but whenever he found a break, he unfailingly travelled to his ancestral home in Dagon, about 25 kilometres from Ludhiana. Although Dharmendra had left the village first due to his father's job transfers and later for his film career, his extended family continued to live there, and he visited them whenever he could. During one such visit about a decade ago, he handed over possession of his ancestral land to his cousin brother, who had lovingly tended to it in his absence. Dharmendra's nephew, Buta Singh Deol, has now told media: "He came to the village in 2015–16 when he transferred 19 kanal and three marla of land (1 acre is 8 kanal) to my father Manjit Singh and my uncle Shingara Singh, who has since passed away. Since he had left for

Mumbai decades ago, our family has been taking care of the land and tilling it. He never forgot his roots or us." Buta added that despite the fame and adulation surrounding him, Dharmendra always stayed in touch with his family and childhood friends in Punjab. "Dharmendra uncle was my father Manjit Singh's cousin. The last time he came to the village was in 2019, when his son Sunny Deol contested the parliamentary elections from Gurdaspur. I also went there to campaign for him." He recalled how every year, his family travelled to meet the actor with updates on the ancestral land. "My grandfather, my father, and later I would go to Mumbai annually to show Dharmendra the land-assessment papers, so he knew the property was intact. A few years ago, he personally came and transferred the land to my father and uncle as a gesture of trust and gratitude." Dharmendra's father, a government school teacher, was frequently transferred, and the family eventually settled in Sahnewal, where the young Dharmendra spent much of his early life. Though Dharmendra could not often return to Punjab, he recreated a slice of it in Khandala, near Mumbai, where he owned a sprawling farm. He spent much of his later years there, immersed once again in the world he loved—growing vegetables and fruits, tending to cattle, and enjoying the serenity of farm life. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the actor shared numerous videos from his farm, offering fans glimpses of the simple, earthy lifestyle that had always anchored him.

## Ananya Panday says Kartik Aaryan 'looks out for the entire film'

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Pandey is all praises for her 'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri' co-star Kartik Aaryan, claiming that working with him always brings her joy. Speaking during a media conference in Jaipur, Ananya said that she feels extremely comfortable around Kartik on the set, as he is one actor who not just looks out for himself but for the entire film. Ananya was heard saying, "I feel very comfortable around Kartik, and I have always felt comfortable. I feel very taken care of when he is around, especially on the set, because I know he is looking out for the film, not just for himself or his character, but for the entire film."