

Danam Nagender seeks SC stay on Telangana HC disqualification order

Hyderabad: Khairtabad MLA Danam Nagender on Saturday reportedly filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court, seeking a stay on the Telangana High Court judgment delivered on Friday disqualifying him from the Assembly. He urged the apex court to grant him time to appeal against the High Court judgment. He also sought a stay on the High Court order declaring the Khairtabad Assembly constituency vacant, according to reports.Download Interactive Maps

Modi: Developed Nations Emit 6 Times More Per Capita Than India

New Delhi, Sept 19 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India's development was both rapid and sustainable as he highlighted the country's progress in renewable energy, nuclear power and environmental protection.

Inaugurating a two-day international conference on environment and climate in New Delhi, Modi flagged global climate inequality, saying developed countries produced six times more carbon emissions per capita than India, though developing nations were often unfairly blamed for climate change.

"India's per capita carbon emissions are less than half the global average," Modi told the gathering of environmental experts, Supreme Court judges, legal experts and senior government officials. He said India consistently presented this fact at international forums and urged citizens to highlight it as well.

Modi said India was the only G20 country to have met its Paris Agreement commitments ahead of schedule. Its performance in expanding non-fossil-fuel and solar energy capacity and preventing carbon emissions was being discussed worldwide, he added.

The Prime Minister said India was rapidly expanding nuclear power generation and opening the sector to private participation. He criticised environmental campaigners who, he said, approached courts to halt nuclear projects despite advocating clean energy.

India's non-fossil energy capacity had increased by 400 per cent, he said. Solar power capacity had risen from 2 GW about 12 years ago to more than 160 GW, while wind energy capacity had tripled and hydropower capacity had also recorded strong growth.

Under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, more than 50 lakh houses had installed rooftop solar panels, Modi said. The government had provided assistance of nearly ₹80,000 to each participating household.

Highlighting advances in clean mobility, Modi said India had recently launched its first hydrogen-powered train, which he described as the world's longest, marking the beginning of a new era in green transport.



Annual electric vehicle sales had risen from about 3,000 before 2014 to nearly 25 lakh last year, he said. FASTag had reduced waiting time and fuel wastage at toll plazas.

Modi said the country's Metro network had expanded from less than 250 km across five cities before 2014 to more than 1,000 km in 20 cities. The complete electrification of the railway network had also saved crores of litres of diesel, he added.

Referring to conservation initiatives, Modi said more than 70,000 Amrit Sarovars had been constructed. Natural farming clusters had been created across 12.5 lakh hectares, while about 3,000 climate-resilient crop varieties had been developed.

He said India was also reducing its carbon footprint through agroforestry and that its very dense forest cover had increased by 22 per cent over the past 12 years.

Describing plastic waste as a major environmental challenge, Modi said India had banned single-use plastic and was promoting a circular economy based on the principle of "reduce, reuse and recycle".

Rs.1.38 Cr Demonetized Currency Seized in Kazipet; 8 Held

Hyderabad:., Sept 19: The Kazipet police arrested eight persons for allegedly attempting to circulate demonetized Rs.500 and Rs.1,000 currency notes illegally in Kazipet.

The police seized old currency notes worth Rs.1.38 crore from the accused. They also recovered Rs.6,000 in valid currency, 10 mobile phones and a car from the possession of the arrested persons. The gang was caught during vehicle checks, police said.

The police were baffled as to how the accused managed to secure the demonetized currency notes in large numbers and planned to circulate it.



US Tightens H-1B Visa Rules, Extends \$100,000 Fee for One Year

Washington: The Trump administration has moved to tighten oversight of the H-1B visa programme, directing the US Departments of State, Labour and Homeland Security to scrutinise applications from employers with recent or planned layoffs of similarly situated US workers, while renewing a USD 100,000 fee requirement for certain H-1B visa petitions.

According to a White House fact sheet, US President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order and a Proclamation on Friday to strengthen programme integrity, improve interagency coordination, and address what the administration describes as abuses of the H-1B system.

The Executive Order directs the US Secretary of State, Secretary of Labour and Secretary of Homeland Security to consider an employer's recent or planned layoffs of similarly situated US workers when reviewing H-1B visa applications.

The three departments have also been directed to consult with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to gather additional information to administer the H-1B programme, including data on wages, industrial conditions, and employment specialisation, the fact sheet said.

Separately, the Proclamation renews the USD 100,000 fee requirement for certain H-1B visa applications, which was first imposed on September 19, 2025. The White House said the measure is intended to curb practices that displace US workers and undermine national security.

The administration said the earlier proclamation had significantly reduced H-1B registrations by some of the largest IT outsourcing firms.

"Since the 2025 Proclamation took effect, H-1B registrations filed by the largest IT outsourcing firms have been reduced by 92%," the White House fact sheet said.

The White House also cited changes in consular processing and the composition of H-1B workers following the 2025 measure, stating that it had resulted in a nearly 97 per cent decrease in consular processing requests and a shift from lower-paid foreign labour towards higher-skilled and higher-wage workers.

Calling for further changes to the programme, the administration said, "More work must be done to improve interagency coordination in the assessment of H-1B visa petitions."

The fact sheet also argued that employers' use of lower-paid foreign labour can put downward pressure on wages for skilled American workers.

"Abuse of the H-1B visa program decreases wages for skilled American workers because the availability of cheaper foreign labor places downward pressure on domestic pay," the White House said.

It further alleged that some employers had laid off highly qualified American workers before hiring H-1B workers.

"Many employers have laid off large numbers of highly qualified, highly skilled American workers, only to promptly hire large numbers of H-1B workers who are often lower-skilled and lower-paid," the fact sheet said.

The administration also pointed to the outsourcing model used by certain H-1B sponsors, arguing that some jobs held by H-1B workers eventually move outside the United States.

The White House cited employment figures to underscore its argument for greater protection of American workers. It said unemployment among recent computer science graduates had reached 6.1 per cent, while the rate for recent computer engineering graduates was 7.5 per cent before the 2025 proclamation, describing both figures as more than double the rates for biology or art history majors.

LPG consumers must complete Aadhaar authentication for subsidy from October 1

New Delhi: Domestic LPG consumers will have to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication to book refills at the regulated retail selling price with applicable subsidy from October 1, the government said on Saturday, as it seeks to ensure subsidised cooking gas reaches only eligible households. Consumers who have already completed the authentication will not need to take any further action. As of September 19, 27.43 crore active domestic LPG consumers, or 89.9 per cent of the total, had completed biometric Aadhaar authentication, according to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry.

Congress appoints three district presidents in Telangana

New Delhi, Sep 19) The All India Congress Committee has appointed presidents for three District Congress Committees in Telangana under the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan. The appointments have been made with immediate effect after approval by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.

According to a press release issued by AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal, the new District Congress Committee presidents are as follows: MD Mustafa has been appointed president of the Ramagundam Corporation District Congress Committee. Chigirintha Parijatha has been named president of the Ranga Reddy District Congress Committee and Patolla Chandrasekhara Reddy has been appointed president of the Sanga Reddy District Congress Committee.

The appointments form part of the ongoing organisational restructuring exercise being carried out by the party under the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan. The initiative aims to strengthen the Congress organisation at the district level across the country by placing leaders in key organisational positions. The three districts — Ramagundam Corporation, Ranga Reddy and Sanga Reddy — are important units in Telangana. Ranga Reddy and Sanga Reddy are among the larger districts surrounding Hyderabad, while Ramagundam Corporation covers the industrial and urban areas of the region.

Party sources said the appointments are intended to give a fresh push to organisational work and prepare the district units for future political activities. The new presidents will be responsible for coordinating party programmes, strengthening booth-level networks and expanding the party's outreach in their respective areas.

The AICC has been gradually announcing organisational appointments in various states as part of the broader restructuring process. Similar exercises have been undertaken in other states to revitalise the party structure from the grassroots level. The newly appointed presidents are expected to assume charge immediately and begin work on strengthening the district units.

Further organisational announcements for Telangana and other states are likely in the coming days as the party continues its focus on organisational consolidation.



Election Commission serves SIR notices to Arvind Kejriwal and family

New Delhi, Sep 19 The Delhi Election Commission has served notices to former Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and four members of his family under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The notices have been issued under the "Unmapped with Last SIR" category. Those who received the notices include Kejriwal, his wife Sunita Kejriwal, son Pulkit Kejriwal (25), father Gobind Ram Kejriwal and mother Gita Devi. The five family members are among 110 electors flagged in Part-51 (KG Marg) of Assembly Constituency 40 (New Delhi).

Under the SIR exercise, an unmapped voter is a person whose current electoral-roll details cannot be matched with the corresponding records of the previous SIR. Such electors are required to submit documents to establish eligibility and verify their entries.

The Commission has also identified mapped voters with discrepancies in details such as name or date of birth and is issuing notices in both categories as part of the claims and objections process.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was also flagged during the same exercise. Her name appeared in the list of discrepancies for Assembly Constituency 14 (Shalimar Bagh). The Commission later said that her details and documents were verified and her electoral entry validated. Her name will be included in the final electoral roll scheduled for publication on November 4, 2026.

The Aam Aadmi Party reacted sharply to the notices served on the Kejriwal family. In a post on X, the party questioned how the names of a three-time Delhi Chief Minister and his family members could be missing from the voter list and suggested the action was politically motivated.

Officials clarified that the notices form part of a larger verification drive. Around 33 lakh electors in Delhi have been flagged either for lack of mapping with the previous SIR or for logical discrepancies. Hearings and document verification are underway, and the final electoral roll is due on November 4.



Mamata Moves SC Challenging EC's Decision to Freeze Party Name, Symbol

New Delhi, sept 19

Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Election Commission's decision to freeze the Trinamool Congress' name and party symbol amid a dispute between two rival factions of the TMC. The Election Commission on Friday allotted separate names and symbols to the two rival factions following its interim decision a day earlier to bar both groups from using the 'All India Trinamool Congress' name and its reserved symbol pending a substantive determination of the dispute.

In its interim order issued on Thursday night, the poll panel, after hearing leaders of the two factions led by Banerjee and Arup Roy, said the matter requires substantive determination by the poll body under provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968.

In her plea filed in the apex court, Banerjee has made the Election Commission and Ritabrata Banerjee, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, as party respondents.

On September 18, Banerjee attacked the EC over its decision to freeze the Trinamool Congress' name and 'Jora Ghash Phul' symbol, likening the loss of the party's identity to the pain of a mother losing her child and calling it a "black day" in the country's democratic history.

Banerjee had said she would not accept the interim arrangement as a settlement and vowed to fight till the end to reclaim the party's original identity and its 'flowers-and-grass' symbol politically, democratically and legally.

Her statements came hours after the poll panel allotted her faction the name 'Mamata All India Trinamool Congress' and the 'Football Player' symbol for the October 6 bypolls to Nandigram and Rejinagar.

The rival faction led by Arup Roy was allotted the name 'Democratic Trinamool Congress' and the 'Envelope' symbol.

Assembly bypolls to Nandigram in East Medinipur district and Rejinagar in Murshidabad district are scheduled for October 6, with vote counting on October 9.

The bypolls in West Bengal were necessitated as Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari won from both Nandigram and Bhabanipur, and chose to vacate Nandigram, while AIUP leader Humayun Kabir won from both Naoda and Rejinagar, and decided to give up the Rejinagar seat.

The EC order comes in the aftermath of a rebellion in the TMC legislature party after the Assembly poll defeat in May which later spread to Parliament.



Indian Chronicle

English Daily

India faces another tariff blow

Tariffs are the new weapons of modern trade wars. United States President Donald Trump has been using this weapon to bully foes and friends alike. India, which has been bearing the impact of his tariff tantrums, is up for another challenge now. The US House of Representatives has given Trump another weapon to launch a fresh tariff war and disrupt global trade. It passed the 'Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026' by 262–159, empowering Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on buyers of Russian oil. The Bill is designed to squeeze Russia's revenue from oil and gas exports amid the war in Ukraine. However, this legislation could have major implications for India's economy and oil markets, as Moscow remains a major supplier of crude oil to New Delhi. It could also have implications for the US-India trade ties if Trump imposes further levies. A 100 per cent tariff would severely hit Indian manufacturing sectors—including textiles, electronics, and gems—by destroying price competitiveness in the vital American market. India has saved billions by importing discounted Russian crude oil, which helps stabilise domestic inflation for its 1.4 billion citizens. However, these energy savings risk becoming a liability if the US levies massive export penalties. It is estimated that a full-scale tariff implementation could knock nearly 0.8 per cent off India's GDP growth over the next couple of years. India currently imports 88 per cent of its crude requirements, with Russia being one of its major suppliers.Stream History Documentarieln fact, when Moscow began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russian crude oil became a significant part of India's crude import basket. According to data from the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), India imported \$40.8 billion worth of Russian crude in FY2026 — nearly a third of its total crude imports. It must be pointed out that India buys Russian oil to secure affordable energy for the country, not to finance any war, and these purchases have helped stabilise global supplies and prices. If the Trump administration goes ahead with imposing a 100 per cent tariff, it would be in addition to the 10 per cent that America currently imposes on imports from India as a penalty for not doing enough to stop the import of goods made using forced labour.

Field Visit Helps Arend Students Gain Practical Knowledge“Students visit

“Kakatiya-era temples at Sandarelli and Tadicherla Open Cast Mine”Manthani, September 19(Indian Chronicle): Students and teachers of Zilla Parishad High School, Arend, in Manthani mandal, undertook a one-day educational field visit aimed at providing students with practical exposure to history, science and industry.“As part of the visit, the students visited two Kakatiya-era temples at Sandarelli in Mutharam mandal and the Tadicherla Open Cast mining area. The visit enabled them to gain first-hand knowledge of historical heritage, architectural practices and industrial operations.“At Sandarelli, teachers explained the historical significance of the Kakatiya period, the lifestyle of people during that era, architectural techniques and the distinctive features of the temples. Students closely observed the intricate sculptures on the temple walls and learned about the craftsmanship involved in creating the stone idols. They were also briefed on the historical and political circumstances that led to the construction of large temples along the banks of the Maner River.“The students also examined Nagashilas believed to belong to the Chalukyan period and stone sculptures dating to the post-Kakatiya period in the surrounding areas. Teachers explained their historical importance. The opportunity to observe historical remains in person generated greater interest among the students in learning about history.“Later, the students visited the Tadicherla Open Cast area, where they were introduced to the importance of coal in the country's industrial development, various methods of coal extraction and the technology involved in open-cast mining. The students observed the coal mining process directly and gained practical knowledge about the industrial



sector.“School Headmaster Edulapalli Narasimha Rao said field visits provide students with practical experience in addition to classroom and textbook knowledge. Such programmes help develop observation skills and improve students' understanding of historical, scientific and industrial subjects, he said.“He added that students can understand concepts more easily when they observe and learn about them at the field level. The field visit was organised in coordination with the teaching staff with the objective of enhancing students' knowledge and practical understanding.“Teachers Suvartha, Padmaja, Mamatha, Giyazuddin, Srilatha, Srivani, Sahendar, Raju and Aman participated in the field visit conducted under the leadership of Headmaster Edulapalli Narasimha Rao.

Sai Darbha Sisters Perform Bhajans and Devotional Songs at Uppal Mini Shilparamam



UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 19 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A devotional music programme was organised with spiritual fervour at Uppal Mini Shilparamam on Saturday by the Sai Darbha Sisters. Members of the Sai Darbha Sisters performed several devotional bhajans and songs, captivating the devotees with their melodious renditions.“The programme featured devotional compositions including Sri Ganesha Pancharatnam, Sri

Vighnarajam Bhaje, Namo Namo Ganapathi, and Shiva Rama Krishna, among others.“Arundhathi, Swarnalatha, Manasa, Lakshmi Prasanna, Preethi and others rendered devotional songs, creating a serene and spiritual atmosphere at the venue. The devotees who attended the programme listened with keen interest to the bhajans and devotional songs performed by the musical group.

Mynampally's Initiative Brings Momentum to Development Works in Kowkooor Rs 1.60 Crore Box Drainage Project Begins in Kinda Basti

Alwal, September 19 (INDIAN CHRONICLE)“Development works in Kowkooor's Kinda Basti under Yapral Division have gained momentum with the commencement of major drainage infrastructure works. In the presence of local residents, construction of a box drain from the Hanuman Temple, through the Pochamma Temple, up to the existing Priyadarshini nala was formally initiated. Steel material required for the project has also been dumped at the work site. The box drainage project is being taken up at an estimated cost of ₹1.60 crore.Speaking on the occasion, Thudimella Mallikarjun, senior Congress leader and social activist, said that the development works in Kowkooor were moving forward with the support and initiative of former MLA Mynampally Hanumanth Rao. He said his intervention had helped bring greater momentum to long-pending infrastructure requirements in the area.Mallikarjun further stated that 1,000-mm stormwater pipeline works, estimated at ₹90 lakh, from Hanuman Temple Main Road to the Hanuman Temple in Kinda Basti would commence shortly. With ₹1.60 crore allocated for the box drain and ₹90 lakh for the stormwater pipeline, the combined drainage infrastructure works represent a ₹2.50-crore project for Kowkooor.He stated that the entire budget for these works had been allocated by the Congress government. The objective, he said, was to strengthen drainage infrastructure, make Kowkooor a flood-free area, and develop it as a Model Kowkooor by providing essential civic amenities to residents.The programme was at-



Khan, Kaleel, Narasimha Reddy, Tiwari, Praveen, Subedar Yadav, Ramakrishna, Sadiq, Laxman, Murali, Satish, Arun Kumar, Rajkumar, Manjula, Pramila, Lakshmi, Jyothi, Sujatha, Lavanya, Anjali, the contractor and others.

Routes to reach Ganesh Nimajjanam Point ...Traffic instructions to be followed

INDIAN CHRONICLE KHAMMAM K SANJAY “

“(1) Ganesh idols coming from Rural Mandal and Raparthi Nagar, BC Colony, Vegetable Market, RR Nagar, Old Collectorate Back Statues....Vehicles coming from Gattaya Center, Bank Colony, Videos Colony should reach ZP from Illandu X Road and reach Nimajjanam Point via Church Compound.”“(4) Venkatagiri X Road, Srinivasa Nagar, Grain Market Area, Prakash Nagar, Guttala Bazar, Zaheer Pura Thanda Ayyappa Swamy Temple Area idols should reach the church compound through the main road and from there reach the immersion point.”“(5) Idols coming from Gollagudem Maduranagar Raghavaiah Nagar Mamata College, Harvest School Area, Allipuram, Kothagudem, Allipuram X Road should reach Nimajjanam point via Cheruvu Bazar, Church Compound via Tata Motors.”“(6) Bonakal X Road, Church Compound, Police Headquarters, Mission Hospital Area, Mustafa Nagar, Sambani Nagar, Parikamukkala Colony, Sriram Nagar.The idols coming from Sriram Hills have to climb the main road to reach the immersion point.”“(return trip”“(7) After Immersion People and vehicles will reach from Immersion Point to Jayashankar Statue and proceed towards Prakash Nagar, Srinivas Nagar, Zaheer Pura Thanda, Ayyappa Temple, Venkatagiri X Road Crossing Damsalapuram Bridge From Under Bridge Damsalapuram village through SVM School Srinivasa Nagar, Ayyappa Temple, Prakash They can go towards Nagar and reach their destinations via the main road.”“(8) Mustapha Nagar, Mamata Road, Illandu X Road, NTR, Ballepalli Mamillagudem, New Bus Stand Raparthi Nagar, Rural Pipe going from near Jayashankar statue, cross the road near Sriram Hills, Raghava Medicals and cross the road via Parikamukkala Colony to Allipuram X Road and from there to Tatamotors, Lakaram, Mamata X Road and reach Indira Nagar, Sri Sri can reach the bypass and go to their destinations.”“(9) Only one way traffic is allowed on exit roads after Vinayaka immersion, so all people can observe this and help traffic police.

School Area, New Bus Stand Area, Saibaba Arch, RTA Office Area, Bank Colony, Disabled Colony, Ballepally, Khanapuram Tekulapally, New Vision College pipe will reach NTR Circle through bypass and from there Illandu X Road, Govt Hospital ZP Centre, Cheruvu Bazar Bonakal X Road, Church Compound, Mustaf Nagar Sambaninagar, Raghava Medicals, Sriram Hills, Damsalapuram Pond Road to reach Nimajjanam Point.”“(2) Vehicles coming from Pumping Well Road, Gandhinagar, Motinagar, PSR Road, Gandhichowk Saradhinagar, Bokkalagadda via Nayabazaar via Jubilee Club Mayuri Centre, Mamillagudem, Buran Puram, Bus Depot Area, Kaman Bazar, Kasba Bazar via Kinneret Centre, ZP Centre, Cheruvu Bazar, Church Compound The immersion point should be reached.”“(3) Sri Sri, Circle, Sri Nagar Colony, Rotary Nagar, Indira Nagar, Old Mamata Medical College, Mamata X Road, Kavi Raju

Prominent Film Producer Dil Raju Visits Ganesh Mandapam

“Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, September 19.”“Prominent film producer and Telangana Film Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju visited the Maha Ganapati idol installed by the Ashoka Yuvajana Sangham under the aegis of the family of Secunderabad MLA and former Deputy Speaker Teegulla Padma Rao Goud at Takara Basti in Monda Market, Secunderabad. On the occasion, he performed special prayers to Lord Ganesha and sought His blessings.“Speaking on the occasion, Dil Raju said that the Ganesh celebrations organised under the leadership of Padma Rao Goud have been unique every year and have attracted devotees in large num-



bers. He said that such celebrations, conducted with devotion, not only bring people together but also reflect the rich culture and traditions of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.“Secunderabad MLA and former Deputy Speaker Padma Rao Goud said that the Ganesh celebrations were being organised with devotion and active participation of the people. He said the festivities were being conducted in a manner that reflects the cultural heritage of the twin cities.“Youth leader Kishore Kumar, along with representatives of the Ashoka Yuvajana Sangham and local residents, participated in the programme.

Anjaneyulu Sagar Facilitates Water Supply for School

“Serilingampalli Zone AnjayyaNagar division: A solution has been found for the water supply issue that had been plaguing the government school in SiddiqNagar Colony, located within the Anjayya Nagar division, for the past few days.”“The school's Headmistress, Balamani, brought the water shortage—which was causing difficulties for both students and teachers—to the attention of Anjaneyulu Sagar, a leader from the AnjayyaNagar division.”“Responding to the issue, Anjaneyulu Sagar spoke with the relevant DGM officials and arranged for a Manjeera water connection for the school. He covered the necessary expenses for the work using his own funds.”“Speaking on the occasion,



Anjaneyulu Sagar said, “Students studying in government schools and the teachers educating them should not face any hardships. If teachers face difficulties, it directly impacts the students.”“That is why I always step forward to do my part for the students' convenience.” Headmaster Balamani Honored Anjaneyulu Sagar with a Shawl.”“SiddiqNagar General Secretary Ravinder Reddy, along with leaders Ramu, Balaraj, and others, participated in the event.

Ganesh Puja Held at Mallikarjun Nagar

“Nacharam, September 19(INDIAN CHORNICLE):“As part of the ongoing Ganesh festival celebrations, a special puja was organised at Mallikarjun Nagar in Shakti Sai Nagar Division under the leadership of BJP Medchal District Council Member Sangishetty Ravindra Sagar.“On this occasion, Vemula Raju and his wife, along with Vemula Ramesh and his wife, participated in the Ganesh puja and offered prayers to Lord Ganesha. The devotees performed special rituals and sought the blessings of Lord Ganesha for the well-being, happiness and prosperity of the people.“Speaking on the occasion, the organisers said that Ganesh festival celebrations bring people together and promote unity, devotion and community spirit. They appealed to residents to celebrate the festival peacefully, maintain cleanliness around the Ganesh pandals and follow safety precautions during the festivities.“The programme witnessed the participation of local residents, devotees and BJP leaders and workers. The organisers extended their greetings to the people on the occasion and wished that Lord Ganesha bless every family with peace, prosperity and good health.



Ganesh Puja Held in Balkampet



sociation, local BJP leaders, party workers and devotees participated in the programme.

“ Indian Chronicle,“Secunderabad, September 19:”“ As part of the Ganesh Navratri celebrations, special puja rituals were conducted at the Ganesh mandapam set up by the Welfare Association in Balkampet. Former Minister and BJP National Council Member Marri Shashidhar Reddy, Marri Pururava Reddy and local BJP leaders attended the programme and performed special prayers to Lord Ganesha.”They participated in the devotional rituals organised at the mandapam and sought the blessings of Lord Ganesha. Later, they interacted with the organisers and enquired about the arrangements being made for the Ganesh Navratri celebrations.”Speaking on the occasion, Marri Shashidhar Reddy said that Ganesh celebrations should promote devotion and strengthen unity among people. He prayed for the happiness, prosperity and good health of all people with the blessings of Lord Ganesha.”Representatives of the As-

'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' at the Adarsh ?? Nagar Ganapathi Mandapam.



”””Serilingampalli Zone: A 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' (Service Pledge Campaign) event was grandly organized under the leadership of BJP State leader Chintakindi Govardhan Goud at the Adarsh ??Nagar Youth Association's Ganapathi Mandapam in Serilingampally.”“A ceremonial Palabhishekam (ritual bathing with milk) was performed on the portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, followed by the distribution of Anna Prasadam to over a thousand devotees.”“”Speaking as the chief guest at the event, former Ranga Reddy Zilla Parishad Vice-Chairman Nandakumar Yadav noted that service activities under the banner of 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' are being conducted nationwide for a month—from September 17 (PM Modi's birthday) to October 17—to mark the completion of 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public life.”“He commended Chintakindi Govardhan Goud for his initiative to organize Anna Prasadam programs at five Ganapathi Mandapams during the Vinayaka Navaratri festivities.”“He called upon

BJP leaders and admirers of Modi to take this as an example and organize similar service activities in every neighborhood.”“Subsequently, Chintakindi Govardhan Goud spoke, expressing that he considered it a privilege to distribute Anna Prasadam in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has dedicated his life to the people of the nation. It was announced that groups such as the Adarsh ??Nagar Colony Youth, Lingampally Raintree Community, Gopi Nagar Bajrang Youth, and the Prashanth Nagar Colony Welfare Association are organizing Anna Prasadam (food offering) distribution programs for over 6,000 people at their respective Ganesha pandals.”“Leaders including Raghavendra Rao, Nageswara Rao, Ranga Goud, Bejagam Keshavulu, Putta Vinay Kumar Goud, Gopal Yadav, Srinivas Nai, Ravinder Reddy, Alluraiah, Srinivasa Rao, Arun Goud, Dakayya Goud, Krishna, Srikanth Goud, and Ashok, among others, participated in this event.

Interstate Gang Behind Cattle Thefts, Mobile Shop Burglaries Busted

“Hyderabad Correspondent, September 19 (Indian Chronicle): The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force, in coordination with Khammam Police, has busted an interstate gang allegedly involved in 17 cases across Telangana and Madhya Pradesh, including 13 cattle thefts and mobile-shop burglaries, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said on Saturday. Nine suspects have been arrested and three others are absconding. Police recovered 15 mobile phones, three cars, a number plate and Rs 22 lakh in cash. According to investigators, Md. Tabrez and Mohd. Rafeeq were allegedly involved in all 13 cattle-theft cases, while Mohammed Zubair Akthar and Mohammed Naveed were associated with some of the offences. P. Sai Reddy allegedly supplied Xylazine injections used to sedate cattle before they were transported and sold. Police said the gang shifted to mobile-shop burglaries after the demand for cattle declined following the Ramzan and Bakrid period. After an unsuccessful attempt in Vijayawada, the suspects allegedly burgled a mobile shop in Khammam on June 11 and later targeted two shops in Ujain on July 10. The



investigation also uncovered an alleged network for disposing of stolen phones. Police said the devices were routed through Mumbai and Kolkata before being smuggled into Bangladesh through waterways. Mumbai-based receivers allegedly facilitated the transactions, while suspected hawala dealings are also being examined. The gang was intercepted in Hyderabad on August 17 while allegedly preparing for another theft. Police are continuing efforts to trace the absconding suspects and recover additional stolen property.

Youth Must Enter Politics to Push for Social Justice: Teegala Pradeep Goud

“Hyderabad Correspondent, September 19 (Indian Chronicle): Young people must enter politics and become agents of change in the pursuit of social justice, Mahajana Sena Party founder-president Teegala Pradeep Goud said on Saturday, asserting that securing political power for SC, ST, BC and minority communities was the party's primary objective. Speaking at a press conference at Hyderabad Press Club to mark the party's first anniversary, Pradeep Goud said weaker sections continued to face economic and political disadvantages and lacked adequate representation in positions of power and leadership. He alleged that certain dominant social groups were using their political and economic influence to retain their hold over power. Pradeep Goud said his party was not opposed to any community, but was questioning discrimination against marginalised sections. Calling for unity among SC, ST, BC and minority communities, he said greater political participation was necessary to address the issues confronting disadvantaged sections. Young people who had previously stayed away from politics were now showing interest in public affairs, which he said could help drive wider change. Making social justice its central political agenda, the Mahajana Sena Party would focus on mobilising youth and expanding its organisational activities, Pradeep Goud said. The party would work towards greater representation and political empowerment of SC, ST, BC and minority communities, besides launching a broader programme for social and political change in Telangana, he said.



United struggle is the only way to secure journalists rights

”“Aswwraopeta, Sep 19, Indian Chronicle.”“Telangana Journalist Media Union Bhadradi district general secretary G Udayaraghavendra expressed anguish that journalists, who constantly take up their pens and fight for the resolution of public issues, have today been forced into a situation where they have to fight for their very survival. He said that the first general body meeting of the Aswaraopet constituency will be held grandly on the 28th of this month (Monday) at 11:00 AM at the local Camillaids Guest House, with the aim of resolving journalists problems. He unveiled, along with union members, the campaign pamphlets prepared calling for the success of this general body meeting, which will be attended by Telangana Journalist Media Union founder and state president I Prabhakar and state general secretary S Suresh Yadav.”“? With no opportunities and no protection.”“He stated that the meeting is being held as per the directions of the union founder, state president, and prominent senior journalist Inapanuri Prabhakar. Speaking on the occasion, Udayaraghavendra said that journalists, who stand at the forefront day and night in protecting society, today lack job security and health protection. He said that many journalists, without a home of their own, are spending their lives in rented houses. He said it is extremely unfortunate that threats and illegal cases against reporters who work risking their lives in the field of news gathering have become a daily occurrence.”“? Set aside differences come together.”“He called for the time to set aside political and personal differences and for all working journal-



ists to come together to secure their rights. He said that we must raise our own voices and highlight our problems, and that the general body meeting to be held on the 28th of this month will serve as a platform for this. He said that all journalist friends from Aswaraopet, Dharmapeta, Mulakalapalli, Chandrugonda, and Annapureddypalli mandals within the Aswaraopet constituency are invited, and appealed to representatives of print, electronic, and digital media to turn up in large numbers and make this first general body meeting a success. ?Union key leaders Noone Hanumantharao, Penugonda Satyanarayana, Narlapati Subbarao, B Ramu, Maddu Ravi Kumar, Dadi Chanti, Mullagiri Ramesh, Mullagiri Vijay, Rayala Polayya, Salar, Ganesh, executive committee members, and local journalists participated in the programme.

The CM announced Grant -in Aid

Journalist-Ajay Kr Mishra “BETTIAH/BIHAR, SEPTEMBER 19 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) ”“

”“On Saturday the Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary announced Grant -in -Aid Rs 461 crore to the teaching and non teaching staff of non aided college of Bihar which are running under the policy of Bitt Rahit Shiksha Niti (Non Financial Education Policy) .The payment will be sent to the direct account of the staff of non aided colleges of the state.As the teachers have been demanding for the payment of Aid in their accounts for a long time as well as the salary like other government staff.But the CM heard their problems and took a step to send the amount in their bank accounts. “ As before this decision of the government the payments of Aid were sent to the accounts of non aided colleges to distribute the amount in the staff.In this distribution several defalcation came to the light.The governing bodies of several colleges could not adopt impartial attitude in the distribution of the amount.Several teaching and non teaching staff were made the anger of the governing bodies of several institutions of Bihar and the college committee grab the money.After that the victims staff of several colleges have to knock the doors of the court where they could not get justice but also trapped in long proceeding of the law or court.” But the announcement of the government to send the money direct in the accounts of the staff has brought a smiling on the faces of the staff on non aided colleges of Bihar.Therefore the Bitt Rahit Teachers and Staff have decided to warm welcome of the CM and Samrat Chaudhary will be welcomed in a program on Sunday in Shree Krishna Memorial Hall Patna.” As it is noted that Bitt Rahit Shiksha Niti (Non Financial Education Policy) was introduced in Bihar in December 1982 in the period of the government of the Congress Party.When the government changed in Bihar and Lalu Prasad Yadav became the CM of Bihar a hope was risen regards the abolition of the non aided Education policy but the government could not bring any change in this policy and staff became pauper.The you g generation of that period was become the worst victims of the wrong policy and apathetic attitude of the government in this regards.A long struggle has to face the staff of such institutions. After that the formation of the NDA government in Bihar the then CM Nitish Kumar announce to financial aid to such institutions on the basis of the examination results of the students. But in several colleges the amount was devoured by the management committee. “

Silver Jubilee program Organises.

”“On Saturday a 'Silver Jubilee' program' of Rajya Mahila Ayog was organised in Patna after completing period of 25 Years.On this occasion a program regards establishment day was inaugurated by the CM Samrat Chaudhary who also released a postal ticket on this occasion.” As the CM said , the women of Bihar are becoming self independent and economically strong.Such type of development is a good sign for the welfare of women section.Through Jovika”their economic condition has been changed.They have become self dependent. The rising trend of women interest towards the economical development of the state would be a good sign of development. For the safety of women in Bihar the appointment of Police Didi has been completed.Even in educational institutions the women police are deputed for the safety of women .Now the women of Bihar are fearless and they can move in any part of the state.They should remove the sign of fear from their mind.For the development of women in the field of education scholarship program has been launched for higher education. Now the women can continue their higher studies. The CM also released a Souvenir (booklet) regards this program. ”“

Conservation program Organises

“Under 'Eco Club Mission Life' a program will be organised for the conservation of environment and Bio diversity in which the students of the schools in West Champaran district will be participated. As the DDC - West Champaran Kajle Baibhav Nitin said that the students of Primary Schools,Middle Schools and High Schools would be participated in this program .The students of 2674 schools of the district would participate and make the nests of birds with the skeleton of Coconut.After that they would be able to realise the importance of the conservation of bio diversity. They would be able to connect themselves with nature.”“Ajay Kr Mishra “Bettiah/Bihar

Grand Annadanam Held at Nalla Pochamma Temple

”“Nacharam, September 19(INDIAN CHORNICLE) ”“A grand Annadanam (free food distribution) programme was organised today at the Nalla Pochamma Temple in Indira Nagar, at the Ganesh pandal set up on the temple premises. The programme was organised under the leadership of temple committee members Balayya and



Padma.”“On the occasion, special prayers were offered to Lord Ganesha, following which Annadanam was served to devotees. A large number of devotees and local residents participated in the programme and received the sacred prasadam.”“Temple committee members, leaders and activists from various political parties, along with a large number of local residents, participated in the programme.”“With devotional and service-oriented activities being organised as part of the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, the festivities are continuing in a spiritually charged atmosphere.

Saraswathi Vidyaniketan High School Spearheads Green Initiative with "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam"



Tree Plantation Drive.”“Gunjapadugu“ September 19, 2026 “In accordance with governmental directives, Saraswathi Vidyaniketan High School (S V N) EM organized a memorable tree plantation drive under the noble national campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (A Tree in the Name of Mother) on its campus. As part of this eco-friendly endeavor, an individual sapling was distributed to every student to foster environmental stewardship.”“The event was graced by the esteemed Sarpanch of Gunjapadugu, Smt. & Shri Dandaveni Sandhya Banesh, who attended as the Chief Guests. To mark the occasion, the Chief Guests, alongside the School Correspondent, Principal, and faculty members, ceremoniously planted saplings in the school precincts, dedicating each tree as a loving tribute to their mothers.

Talasani Visits Ganesh Mandapams

”“Special prayers held across several colonies”“ Indian Chronicle,“Secunderabad, September 19: ”“Former Minister and Sanathnagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav toured several colonies on a two-wheeler on Friday night as part of the Ganesh Navratri celebrations and visited various Ganesh mandapams. He performed special prayers at the mandapams.”“He first visited the Ganesh mandapam set up at the Golla Komaraiah Colony Community Hall and offered prayers. Later, he visited mandapams in Jai Nagar, IDH Colony, Jai Prakash Nagar, Pardhi Wada, Ammuguda, New Boiguda, Sunnam Battli, BJR Nagar in Bansilapet, Banda Maisamma Nagar, D-Class, Vivekananda Community Hall, Metlabavi and other areas.”“At each mandapam, he interacted with the organisers and enquired about the arrangements for the celebrations. Following the prayers, the organisers felicitated Talasani Srinivas Yadav.”“Bansilapet Division BRS president Venkateshan Raju, along with leaders Yesuri Mahesh, Kothuru Venkat, Venkataramana, Arun Goud, Srikanth Reddy, Nereeti Ravi, Vinod, Lakshmiipathi, Prem, Srinivas, Kumar Yadav, Abbas, Nagabhushanam and others participated in the tour.

Kasarwadavali flyover shut after cracks appear a year after launch; videos go viral



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

A flyover in Thane, opened just over a year ago, has been indefinitely shut after videos showed cracks developing along its sides, raising concerns among the residents. The Kasarwadavali flyover on Ghodbunder Road in Thane, built to cater to heavy vehicle traffic, will remain shut starting Wednesday, September 16, for inspections and repairs. Videos of the flyover’s poor construction circulated on Sunday, purportedly showing cracks on what appeared like an expansion joint and the flyover’s base. When officials arrived at the Kasarwadavali flyover for an inspection, they found the infrastructure indeed needed repairs. After inspection, the Thane Traffic Police announced the closure of the flyover for inspections and repairs.

Traffic restrictions after Kasarwadavali closureAll small vehicles have been asked to take a detour from Vijay Garden D Mart to Vihang Valley Chowk before continuing on Ghodbunder Road, or take a detour from the Anand Nagar signal. Heavy vehicles have been asked to use the slip road next to the flyover. Kasarwadavali flyover The Kasarwadavali flyover on Ghodbunder Road Thane was closed indefinitely on Wednesday after cracks and a hanging piece of concrete were discovered near one of its joints (Express photo by Deepak Joshi)The Kasarwadavali flyover was constructed to bypass the ever-congested Ghodbunder Road. However, this recent closure due to cracks has sparked fresh concerns regarding increased traffic and congestion along the stretch, especially during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. The flyover was inaugurated in July 2025 by Pratap Sarnaik with much fanfare, but since its opening, it has been the subject of a litany of complaints. “This stretch of the Ghodbunder road, before and after the flyover, has always been linked with potholes and accidents. And while the flyover has had a little impact on traffic, it has not been significant,” said Sachin Shingare, a social worker based in Thane associated with the BJP. Before its launch, Ghodbunder Road saw a significant amount of office traffic and heavy freight trailers, most of which lead to the Mumbai-Gujarat corridor through Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) or Vashi. The flyover was then constructed with a capacity of 73,333 passenger cars, with a two-lane, 7.5-metre-wide flyover and an underpass.

Karnataka ‘pseudo-Naxal’ held over threat linked to local polls, land dispute

GNS News Agency, Sept 19

The police in Karnataka’s Tumakuru district arrested a 45-year-old habitual offender, known locally as a “pseudo-Naxal”, in connection with cases stemming from a gram panchayat election rivalry and a long-standing land dispute with his neighbour. Venkatesh, arrested late on Tuesday night in Pavagada, had been missing since August, when two countrymade bombs were allegedly found near his neighbour’s property.

Venkatesh’s wife is a former gram panchayat member. With panchayat elections approaching, the police suspect a rivalry between candidates and their supporters led to a series of threats. The first case in the present sequence was registered in February after a farmer, Narsimappa, approached the police alleging he was threatened for supporting a candidate in gram panchayat elections, without naming Venkatesh. After the police began looking into the alleged threat, Venkatesh allegedly went into hiding. The matter resurfaced in August when his neighbour Girianna alleged that he found two crude bombs near his property. During the investigation, the police also came across a letter demanding Rs 5 lakh from another farmer. The letter was issued in the name of the banned “People’s War Dalam” and carried Venkatesh’s name. The discovery prompted the police to examine whether the Naxal group’s identity was used to intimidate the farmer. Superintendent of Police Ashok K V said, “Venkatesh and Girianna are neighbours and had a dispute over the boundary of their lands. During the dispute, Venkatesh is suspected to have procured countrymade bombs and placed them near the boundary of Girianna’s property,” he said. The police said Venkatesh fled after the bomb case was registered. They tracked his movements and the people he contacted. He was eventually traced near the Kadamalkunte hill, where he went to meet an acquaintance. Although Venkatesh is known locally as a “pseudo-Naxal” and the police are investigating the use of the Naxal outfit’s name in the extortion letter, Ashok



clarified that the accused had no connection to the banned outfit. “We are yet to ascertain who is behind the letter. Though it carried Venkatesh’s name, we suspect this panchayat rivalry and land dispute issue might have been misused. We are investigating,” the police officer said. The police said Venkatesh has over 12 cases registered against him, including those related to murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, robbery, theft, offences under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and offences under the Explosives Act. They also suspect Venkatesh possesses a pistol and has been involved in creating disturbances in the area.

Marathi TV actress alleges highway assault, extortion bid; 2 held in Pune



Nandkishor lodged a complaint with Narhe police on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The police detained the suspects and conducted an identification parade on Tuesday, during which the actress identified the two men.

GNS News Agency, Sept 19

Pune Kalyani Nandkishor Marathi actressFollowing Kalyani Nandkishor’s complaint, two men were arrested and booked on charges related to assault, harassment and attempted extortion. (Screen grab from her video on social media)Days after Marathi television actress Kalyani Nandkishor alleged that she and her cousin brother were assaulted, abused and subjected to an extortion attempt near Navale Bridge on the Pune-Bengaluru Highway on Friday night, the Pune police arrested two men on Tuesday.

The actress, who played a key role in the famous Marathi serial Lagira Zala Ji, shared videos of the incident on social media, questioned women’s safety on the Pune-Bengaluru Highway, and alleged that similar incidents had

occurred on the route at night. Nandkishor lodged a complaint with Narhe police on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The police detained the suspects and conducted an identification parade on Tuesday, during which the actress identified the two men. The men were subsequently booked under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including charges related to assault, harassment and attempted extortion. “They have been sent to three days’ police custody. We are investigating the matter,” Varsha Deshmukh, police inspector, Narhe police station, said on Wednesday. “Twisted my arm, abused me’ Speaking to The Indian Express on Wednesday, Nandkishor said she was returning to Satara from Mumbai on Friday night, with her cousin driving the vehicle. She said they had stopped near Navale Bridge to meet a colleague when another vehicle suddenly pulled up beside them. “One of the occupants started abusing us and questioned why we had stopped on the roadside. My cousin tried to calm them down politely, and I told them nothing had happened to their vehicle, and they should move on,” she alleged. Nandkishor claimed the confrontation escalated when the men allegedly drove ahead of their vehicle, reversed into it, and demanded money. “They repeatedly rammed our vehicle and kept abusing us. My brother got down and said we would pay the damages as we did not want to engage in an argument. He told them to let us take the vehicle to the garage. This angered them, and they started hurling more abuses. As I got down from the vehicle, they twisted my arm and abused me,” she claimed.

Two traffic police personnel then arrived at the spot and tried to defuse the situation, she said. She alleged that the accused also behaved aggressively towards the officers. “They tried to convince us to pay some amount to the men and leave. The men, however, tried to abuse the traffic police personnel as well,” she alleged. According to the actress, officers from Narhe police station later reached the scene, after which the accused allegedly attempted to flee.

Are women safe?: A question for FadnavisNandkishor said there were five occupants in the vehicle. “However, only two tried to misbehave with us and assaulted my brother. The others tried to calm them down. So, I did not file any complaint against the other three,” she explained. The actress also raised concerns over her medical examination, alleging that she was directed to multiple hospitals. The FIR was registered in the early hours of Saturday, she said. Raising concerns over women’s safety, she asked: “My question to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is: Are women safe in Maharashtra? Can’t they return home safely from work at night? Can’t the police rein in such elements who seem to be freely roaming in the night hours on the Pune-Bengaluru highway?”

UP school teacher shot dead for ‘promoting love jihad’, accused surrenders



A 43-year-old government primary school teacher was allegedly shot dead near his school in Uttar Pradesh’s Bijnor district Tuesday by a farmer who accused him of promoting “love jihad”. The victim, Naushad Ahmed, posted at a primary school in the Purushottampur village, was on his way home from school in the afternoon when the alleged attack occurred. A police team rushed to the scene and recovered Ahmed’s body, which bore bullet injuries.

US-based Pune engineer builds AI app for visually impaired readers

GNS News Agency, Sept 19

Pune-based Seema Kharad, a school topper in Class X and Class XII, wanted to pursue further studies, for which she needed access to higher-education reference books. The problem was not finding these books; it was reading them. Kharad, who is visually impaired, found that few higher-education reference books are available in Braille. Despite being a brilliant student, she was completely dependent on others to record chapters from books or read out handwritten class notes and PDFs.

“Around this time, I was in the US, running various personal experiments on how Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models could be used safely and effectively to make a positive contribution to society. Seema is a family friend and I got to know of her struggles,” says Yogen Prashant Ghodke, a Computer Science Engineering graduate from M.E.S. Wadia College of Engineering, Pune. He moved to the US for his postgraduation in Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, graduating in 2024. Ghodke began to use his academic knowledge and practical skills to develop an Android app, ListenToMe, which converts PDFs, photographs, scanned documents, notices and handwritten notes into audio that sounds natural rather than robotic. Ghodke says that the app can also interpret and describe images, charts and diagrams rather than simply ignoring them, as many conventional text-to-speech systems do. It took three to four months to develop the app. “I was writing code in New York, while Seema was putting the app to the test during her actual daily study routine in Pune. She would test it on actual university reference books, handwritten notes, or complex exam PDFs, and send me honest WhatsApp messages and voice notes flagging bugs and issues. I would debug the issue, rewrite the logic, and push a fix as soon as I had time,” he says. “Because I developed the software alongside an actual power user at every single step, the app avoided the blind spots that often happen when sighted developers build for visually impaired users in isolation,” he adds. A major focus for the founder was vernacular support. “The app seamlessly supports English alongside ma-

The police said the assailant had been lying in wait for the teacher and opened fire as soon as he arrived, before fleeing on a motorcycle. Ahmed was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Following the shooting, the accused, identified as Gaurav Chaudhary, 32, a farmer belonging to the Jat community and a resident of Puranpur Garhi village, surrendered at the Nazibabad police station. He also handed over a country-made pistol allegedly used in the crime. “Gaurav has been taken into custody and will be produced before the court,” said Krishna Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Bijnor. A police officer said that after surrendering, Gaurav claimed the motive behind the murder was his belief that the teacher was actively promoting “love jihad”. Prior altercation During the preliminary inquiry, the police found out that the murder may have resulted from a personal dispute days ago. Gaurav’s family shared a close relationship with a local Dalit family. After discovering that a girl from the Dalit family was in a relationship and was seen roaming with a local Muslim youth, Gaurav allegedly informed both families. Consequently, family members from both sides allegedly thrashed and warned the couple.



jor Indian languages like Marathi, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. According to Seema and her visually impaired friends, it is the only app they have found that reads Marathi books in such a natural, native cadence,” says Ghodke.

Since the app was launched on Google Play Store and Apple App Store in late August, users have processed nearly 7,000 pages of physical books and PDFs into approximately 280 hours of custom audiobooks. There are, at present, more than 110 registered users, with 30 active creators who have produced 140 bespoke audiobooks.

“Analytics reveal that this solo project has quietly crossed borders through organic reach, reaching users across 13 countries on five continents. The community is anchored primarily in India, with 44 active users and the US, with 26 active users – which make up roughly 84 per cent of the engagement. Students are also actively discovering and using the app across Africa, Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia, in countries such as Angola, Chile, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines,” says Ghodke. Users have also created audiobooks in English, Marathi, Hindi, Spanish, Bengali, Punjabi and Portuguese. Ghodke says that user privacy, security, and student dignity were non-negotiable architectural principles from day one. “User documents are never stored long-term, never sold and never fed into public AI training datasets,” he adds.

Maharashtra biker booked for recklessly cutting into Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol’s convoy



A 32-year-old man was booked by the Shivajinagar police after allegedly driving his motorcycle recklessly and cutting across the vehicle convoy of Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol at Sancheti Chowk in the city on Sunday night, police officials said. According to police, a medical test conducted on the rider later revealed that he was under the influence of alcohol.

According to the FIR registered at Shivajinagar police station, the incident took place around 8.30 pm September 13, when Mohol was being taken from Pune airport towards Kothrud in his convoy. The convoy was proceeding from Sancheti Bridge towards SG Barve Chowk when the ac-

cused allegedly drove his motorcycle in a zig-zag and negligent manner. The accused has been identified as Shubham Vijay Vanit (32), a resident of Nana Peth, who was riding a motorcycle. The FIR states that he drove in a manner that could endanger human life or cause an obstruction to traffic and, while doing so, allegedly cut across Mohol’s vehicle from the convoy. The complaint was filed by Ishwar Laxman Bhikule (50), a police constable posted at Pune Police Headquarters. Bhikule stated that he has been performing security duties for Mohol for the past two years and was on duty with the minister when the incident occurred. Police have booked Vanit under Section 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, pertaining to rash or negligent driving on a public way. He has also been booked under Sections 184, 185, 119 and 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Section 185 relates to driving under the influence of alcohol. “He was taken for medical treatment after the incident. He was under the influence of alcohol at the time. He has been served a notice and has been instructed to appear before the investigation officer for probe when needed,” an officer from Shivaji Nagar police station said. The FIR was registered in the early hours of September 14 and investigation has been assigned to Police Sub-Inspector Vikas Kathe of Shivajinagar police station.

Tukaram Munde flags how we pay more for consumables

IAS officer and Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Tukaram Munde, who has made headlines for the hygiene crackdown against top eateries in Mumbai, now appears set to focus on the ‘D’ in FDA. In a post on X, the IAS officer has said that the “most expensive part of a hospital bill may never touch the hospital at all”. “A patient admitted for care has no way of knowing whether the price on a medical consumable reflects its actual cost or a markup fixed long before it ever reached the ward. That gap in information is, at its core, a public health issue,” he has said. In fact, in an interview with The Indian Express recently, Munde was asked if the FDA was planning a crackdown on drug facilities after its food safety action. In his response, Munde detailed how pricing of consumables is a major issue in the healthcare sector. “From a citizen’s point of view, pricing is one of the big issues. Some essential drugs are regulated only by MRP declaration, without real price control. Consumables are one of the biggest challenges in the industry. We studied hospital consumables’ purchase prices vs. MRP across sectors and found large margins.” An IV (intravenous) set, he said, is purchased at Rs 11.05 but the MRP is Rs 325. “So there’s a margin of 2841 per cent... The nebulizer/oxygen

mask items are purchased at Rs 40 or Rs 45 but sold at Rs 650 or 715: a margin of roughly 1300–1600 per cent. Look at miscellaneous disposable consumables (masks, catheters, IV cannula): purchase prices are Rs 197, Rs 29, Rs 22 against MRPs of Rs 500, Rs 300, Rs 424,” he said. “After studying this, I submitted a policy proposal to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, saying we need intervention. I am requesting that these primary in-hospital devices/consumables be brought under Section 4 of the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 (under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955) for regulation, given such margins,” Munde told The Indian Express. He said in the last three months, the Maharashtra FDA has carried out 2,485 inspections against pharmaceutical firms and suspended 230 licences. “For pharmacies and medical shops, we inspected 11,780 establishments, suspended licences of 2,075 and cancelled licences of 394,” Munde said. In his post on X, the IAS officer said the price of consumables is not an elective purchase. “Patients cannot compare prices, seek alternatives, or question a number printed on a box while receiving care and the MRP itself is often fixed upstream by manufacturers and distributors, disconnected from the trade price by a wide, unexplained margin

Used-car sale racket in Gujarat: Police hunt for Tata Motors showroom manager



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

Imagine handing over your car for sale or exchange to someone who promises you an attractive price and/ or a big discount on your new car. But the proceeds of the sale never reach you – and you discover that you have lost both your car and the money that you thought you would make. At least four disputed vehicle transactions have brought a manager at a Tata Motors dealership in Nadiad in Kheda district under police scrutiny. The complaints of alleged cheating against this individual suggest a pattern of deception involving both customers and dealers of used cars.

On Tuesday (September 16), an FIR was registered at the Kapadvanj Town police station against one Rajan Joshi, who police said is a manager at Progressive Cars Pvt Ltd, a Tata Motors franchise in Nadiad that is allied with the dealership's main showroom in Anand. This was the fourth FIR in five days accusing Joshi of used-car fraud – the first FIR had been lodged at Nadiad Town police station on September 9. In the first complaint, the owner of a Maruti Suzuki Nexa XL6 had alleged that Joshi had sold off the car for Rs 6.25 lakh without the knowledge of the complainant, and had also not paid the complainant the money from the sale. Joshi is on the run, police said. A spokesperson at the Progressive Cars Tata Motors dealership in Nadiad confirmed that Joshi was a "Team Leader" there. The spokesperson said Progressive Cars was keen to give a statement, but needed "some time". He alleged that Joshi appeared to have swindled the dealership as well, and that the company was currently gathering details to file a police complaint against him.

The first FIR opened the floodgates for a series of complaints from both car owners and car dealers, police said. Nadiad Deputy Superintendent of Police V R Bajpayee told The Indian Express that a total of 13 individuals had come forward with similar complaints since the matter came to light. "The case pertains to a manager of a Tata Motors showroom in Nadiad. The accused promised the car owners good value for their used cars and went ahead and sold them – in some cases without even letting the owners know. He did not transfer the money to the owners either," Bajpayee said. A phone call from a used-car dealer to an owner whose car was hypothecated to a bank blew the lid off the alleged scam, Bajpayee said. "When the car dealer called the owner for the required No-Objection Certificate, the owner was surprised to know that his car had been sold off without his permission," the officer said.

"It was after this case that 12 other complainants came forward," Bajpayee said. "The police are lodging FIRs in the cases where the complainants are willing to take the legal process forward," he said.

'Rs 25 lakh collected from dealer, zero cars delivered' In the Kapadvanj FIR on Tuesday, a used-car dealer and his brother have alleged that Joshi collected more than Rs 25 lakh in connection with deals involving several vehicles, but had failed to complete the promised transactions. According to the complaint filed by Bhadesh Patel, who runs a used-car dealership called Jay Ambe Auto Consult in Kapadvanj,

Joshi offered to arrange a Honda Amaze, a Hyundai Aura, a Tata Nexon and a Suzuki Ertiga for him. Patel alleged in the complaint that he had paid Joshi several instalments of cash, and made transactions through bank accounts. But despite receiving the money, Joshi allegedly failed to provide Patel with the promised NOCs. In the case of an Ertiga, Joshi allegedly took Rs 7 lakh but did not deliver the vehicle, says the complaint. Patel also alleged that the original owner of an Aura supplied by Joshi had told him (Patel) that he (original owner) had not received the payment for the car. The complaint also alleged that Joshi had taken a Tata Altroz from another person and sold it without paying the owner of the car the promised sum of Rs 7.20 lakh. Alarm bells started ringing after Joshi allegedly stopped responding to phone calls. Patel said Joshi's mobile phone was switched off in the first week of September.

A Hyundai Aura, a WagonR, and three alleged victims Some complainants have said they came in contact with Joshi through the Tata dealership and ended up trusting him, police said. In a complaint registered at the Nadiad Rural police station on September 12, one Dilipkumar Barot, a resident of Manjipura in Nadiad town, alleged that Joshi took his Hyundai Aura saying that the car would be displayed at the showroom, and later sold it without his consent. In his complaint, Barot said he had bought the car in 2022 after taking a bank loan of Rs 8.09 lakh, with a repayment EMI of Rs 13,278. On August 26, Barot visited the Tata showroom to inquire about a new car. There he met Joshi, who allegedly valued both Barot's Aura as well as the vehicle of a friend at approximately Rs 4.20 lakh, the complaint said. According to the complaint, Joshi got back to Barot two days later with an alleged "festive exchange offer" under which benefits of Rs 1.50 lakh to Rs 2 lakh would be available to him. But Barot was not convinced – so Joshi allegedly assured him that he would only take the Aura to display at the showroom, and the car would not be sold without first checking with Barot. Joshi allegedly left his WagonR behind with Barot. On September 8, Barot received a call from Bhadesh Patel, who allegedly told him that he had bought the Aura from Joshi for Rs 4.90 lakh, paying Rs 3.70 lakh by cheque and Rs 1.20 lakh in cash. A horrified Barot tried to contact Joshi, but found his phone switched off. Later that afternoon, a man showed up at Barot's home and allegedly claimed that the WagonR that Joshi had left behind actually belonged to him, and that he too had been duped by Joshi. This man had then driven away with the WagonR, Barot told police. A lawyer's Tata Altroz, and promise of 'benefits' on new car The second FIR lodged at Nadiad Town police station on September 10 was filed by lawyer Nitiraj Mistry, who alleged that he was cheated of Rs 8.60 lakh after he handed over his Tata Altroz for "exchange". According to the FIR, Mistry had purchased the car in his mother's name in 2023 after taking a loan from a bank. Joshi had allegedly told the lawyer that the car would fetch Rs 8.60 lakh, and had collected the vehicle from the parking area of the Nadiad court complex.

Mistry told police that Joshi had asked him to clear the outstanding loan and obtain an NOC from the bank. Mistry subsequently paid Rs 3,47,583 to the lender, obtained the NOC, and sent it to Joshi. Joshi had allegedly told Mistry that the car would be repaired at a workshop in Anand, and that Mistry would receive a cheque after its sale. He also allegedly offered Mistry Rs 1.50 lakh in "dealer and loyalty discounts" on the purchase of a new car. When payment did not arrive, Mistry visited the showroom, and allegedly discovered that another individual had already made full payment for 'his' vehicle, police said. Mistry alleged that employees at the showroom could not explain the transaction to him. He registered a police complaint against Joshi, the Tata Motors dealer, and a staffer named Jigar. DySP Bajpayee said, "Joshi is currently on the run. Teams have been formed to look for him. We are conducting the probe."

Sia urges strict punishment for all four in Golf Course Road hit-and-run case



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

New Delhi: Gurugram's Golf Course Road hit-and-run victim Sia on Wednesday appealed for strict punishment for all four occupants of the car that hit her motorbike, saying it was necessary to convey the right message to society regarding women's safety. Speaking to IANS, Sia said she had high expectations from the court and hoped to get justice. "I have great expectations from the court that I will get justice. It is absolutely essential. If we don't ensure these people are punished, it will send a very wrong message to society," she said.

"I stated in court yesterday that all four who were in the car should be arrested and strict action should be taken against all of them. In my opinion, they should face harsh consequences; that is the only way to send a message to such young men so that anyone thinking of committing such an act would think twice," she added. Responding to the accused's claim that he was hurrying to use the restroom, Sia said: "That is a despicable statement. I have no idea what kind of mentality they – and their lawyer – have. How can these people make false statements when the entire incident was recorded on video?" She further said that if the accused really needed to use the washroom urgently, he could have gone straight from the first lane.

"Instead, they came into the third lane at such high speed, hit me and fled. It wasn't as if it was 3 pm and there was traffic; it was 7 am on Golf Course Road – the three-lane road was completely empty. People could have made their way out from anywhere," she said. "No matter how hard they try, they won't escape; and right now, a lot of people are supporting me. The entire country is watching this case to see how the department handles it. I don't think they would send out the wrong message after an incident like this," she added. Sia also said that had the dashcam on her bike not recorded the incident, she "probably wouldn't have even been able to justify what happened".

"So many women who might be heading to work have to face this kind of harassment. They don't have cameras, and often, cases like this don't even get registered," she

said. She reiterated that all four occupants should be punished so that an example could be set for society. Her brother, Deepankar Chauhan, echoed the view, saying the accused should not be released within a week and that an example should be set for society. Meanwhile, accused driver Kalyan Bainsla has been sent to two days of police custody, his lawyers told reporters. The next hearing is scheduled for September 18. Along with Bainsla, his friend Lavnish, who is also an accused in the case, has also been sent to police custody. Both were arrested by Gurugram Police a day earlier. Earlier, Sia's father, Roshan Chauhan, had appealed for the accused to be remanded in judicial custody. "We appeal to the police to take the remaining two people who were in the car into custody as well. When four people are sitting in a car and one person is engaging in such an act, the others should have stopped him. They did not stop him, which allowed him to engage in such an act and flee," he told IANS, urging strict punishment for all four.

CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2026 focuses on India's Net Zero transition

Hyderabad: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), on day 1 of the 25th Energy Efficiency Summit 2026, brought together policymakers, industry leaders, technology providers, and sustainability experts at the HICC, Hyderabad, to deliberate on accelerating India's transition towards a Net Zero economy. Organised by the CII – Green Business Centre, the Summit was held under the theme "Accelerating the transition to a Net Zero economy through energy efficiency, clean technologies, and sustainable practices." The inaugural day also featured the 22nd Power Plant Summit 2026 and the 20th PaperTech 2026, creating a comprehensive industry platform focused on energy efficiency, clean technologies, industrial decarbonisation, resource conservation, digitalisation and sustainable manufacturing. Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Deputy Chief Minister, Tejpreet Singh Chopra, Chairman, Energy Efficiency Summit 2026, Ajay Sharma, Chairman, Power Plant Summit 2026, Ganesh Bhadi, Chairman, PaperTech 2026, and others addressed the session. The session was also attended by Goutham Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana; Y Harish Chandra Prasad, Past Chairman, CII AP; C Shekar Reddy, National Chairman, CII Indian Green Building Council (IGBC); KS Venkatagiri, Executive Director, CII Green Business Centre; and P V Kiran Ananth, Executive Director – Energy Efficiency

DGFT approves import of 642 UK cars under India-UK FTA quota



New Delhi: The commerce ministry's arm, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), has approved applications from seven companies to import 642 cars from Britain for the remainder of this year under the tariff rate quota provisions of the India-UK free trade agreement, an official said on Wednesday. The Directorate General of For-

eign Trade (DGFT) in July invited applications for the allocation of 2026 import quotas for fully built passenger cars and goods vehicles under the duty concession provisions of the agreement. The applications were sought for a quota of about 5,000 units. "The directorate had received applications from eight companies. We have approved applications from seven. Quota has been approved for 642 cars," the official said. Under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which came into effect on July 15, New Delhi has allowed the import of a total of 3.78 lakh units of conventional-engine passenger cars, including those in the mass segment, from the UK at a concessional customs duty during the first 15 years of implementation of the trade pact between the two countries. Under the pact, tariffs on automotive imports will fall from about 110 per cent to 10 per cent, with quotas on both sides. Only original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), dealers and channel partners duly authorised by the OEMs of vehicles originating in the UK were eligible to apply for the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ).

Alamgir Alam's discharge plea rejected by Supreme Court in money laundering case

New Delhi: In a setback to former Jharkhand Minister Alamgir Alam, the Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to interfere with the High Court order dismissing his discharge plea in a money laundering case. The PMLA case against Alam is linked to an alleged tender scam. His request to be discharged from the case has consequently been rejected.

A Bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sheel Nagu heard the matter and declined to grant relief to the former minister. Earlier, a special PMLA court in Ranchi had rejected Alam's discharge application. Subsequently, the Jharkhand High Court also refused to interfere with that order and dismissed his plea.

According to the High Court's May 6 judgment, material placed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) included documents and statements relating to the alleged collection of commissions in exchange for the award of tenders and Alam's alleged role in the arrangement. The court observed that at the stage of considering a discharge plea, it is required only to determine whether a prima facie case exists against the accused. The ED's investigation reportedly involved searches conducted at multiple locations in May 2024, during which around Rs 37.55 crore in cash was allegedly recovered. According to the agency, the probe uncovered an alleged mechanism for collecting commissions



from contractors in return for the allotment of tenders in the Rural Works Department. The ED has alleged that commissions amounting to roughly 3.2 per cent of the total tender value were collected, of which about 1.5 per cent was earmarked for the then minister. The High Court judgment also referred to statements and documents submitted by the ED. It held that, on the basis of the material available on record, Alam's alleged involvement could not be ruled out at this stage. The court, however, clarified that these observations do not amount to findings on guilt and are limited to an assessment of whether sufficient prima facie material exists to proceed with the trial.

Onion prices fall 9pc in wholesale markets in nine days: Govt



New Delhi: Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare on Wednesday said onion prices had declined by 9 per cent in wholesale markets over the past nine days and expected retail rates to start moderating. The all-India average retail price of onion stood at Rs 53.92 per kg on Tuesday, up 48 per cent from a month ago and 94 per cent from a year ago. According to the latest government data, inflation in onion prices rose to 48.27 per cent in August from 22.54 per cent in July.

To control prices, the Centre last month started selling onions at Rs 35 per kg, lower than market rates, through retail outlets of NCCF, NAFED and Kendriya Bhandar, as well as mobile vans, as part of its efforts to provide relief to consumers. "There is no dearth in the availability of onions.

Since the time that we started the retail intervention to make sure that onions reach consumers at Rs 35 per kg, we have been able to reach about 48 cities in the country. We have used a hybrid way, both transportation by retail rates as well as trucks," Khare told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by industry body PHDCCI. "I can say that now, when we see and analyse the mandi prices in the last nine days, there has been a decrease of 9 per cent in the prices," she said, while replying to a query regarding the price and availability situation of onions in the country. The secretary said the decline in wholesale rates would have a positive impact on retail prices, which were expected to moderate.

The government has begun a calibrated release of onion buffer stocks under a hybrid transportation model, combining railway rakes (Kanda Express) and road transport, to ensure adequate availability and check seasonal price pressures. The disposal of onions from the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) buffer, which began on August 24 through NAFED and NCCF, has helped improve market availability and ease prices. The government maintained 1.21 lakh tonnes of onions in its buffer stock for the current year. Onion production stood at 307.37 lakh tonnes in 2025-26, a marginal dip from 307.67 lakh tonnes in the preceding year. Onion prices typically see a seasonal uptick from August to September due to festive demand, weather-related disruptions, supply chain movements and shifting demand patterns.

Fake-drug racket suspect holed up in Azerbaijan, Karnataka mulls CBI probe

The Karnataka government is considering handing the probe into the multi-crore-rupee counterfeit drug racket unearthed near Bidadi over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), as the prime accused is holed up in Azerbaijan and the racket has interstate links, sources said Wednesday. A Special Investigation Team (SIT), which has arrested five people in the case, is exploring steps to bring back R Prashant, one of the key suspects, from Azerbaijan, where immigration authorities have reportedly seized his passport, the sources said. Counterfeit and expired medicines worth around Rs 5 crore were seized in Bengaluru South district in August. Investigations indicate the medicines were manufactured in other states and brought to Karnataka for distribution. Health and Family Welfare Minister U T Khader, speaking to reporters in Mangaluru on Tuesday, said the state government was considering referring the case to the central agency for a comprehensive investigation, given the alleged involvement of manufacturers and distributors operating across multiple states. Among the arrested accused is Veeresh Kumar Jain, owner of Krupa Health Care. The SIT raided his unit near Minerva Circle in Bengaluru last week. Spurious medicines, illegal repackaging, 50% discount The racket, involving critical-care, ICU, and cancer medicines, was busted at an alleged illegal repackaging and relabelling facility operating from a farmhouse near Bidadi and Hejjala in Bengaluru South. According to the preliminary investigation, the unlicensed facility sourced cheap, substandard, and expired medicines from illegal manufacturing units in states including Himachal Pradesh and Telangana. The operators allegedly transferred the medicines into new vials and affixed forged labels and stamps bearing the names of prominent multinational pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer. The allegedly spurious and substandard medicines were then supplied to hospitals and pharmacies at steep discounts, reportedly around 50 per cent below the market



price, potentially putting patients receiving critical and intensive-care treatment at risk. Treat sale of fake medicines as attempt to murder: Minister Khader said penalties for offences involving counterfeit medicines were inadequate as they often resulted only in licence cancellation or nominal fines. He said he would urge the Union government to introduce stringent legal provisions against the manufacture and sale of counterfeit medicines. The minister also advocated treating the manufacture and sale of fake medicines as an attempt to murder, citing the potential threat they pose to patients. "Those running such mafias and playing with people's lives must be prosecuted under stringent criminal provisions," Khader said. He alleged that existing laws allowed offenders to shift their operations to places such as Kerala or Chennai and establish new businesses in the names of family members. Police and health department officials said they were yet to receive laboratory reports on allegations that the cartel had also supplied counterfeit medicines meant for cancer treatment. MLC's complaint about Pushti powder quality Meanwhile, Khader directed officials from the women and child development and health departments to collect samples of Pushti nutritional powder supplied to children through anganwadi centres in Shivamogga and send them for laboratory testing.

HC bars Punjab government from large-scale ad campaigns till pending DA paid to employees



The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday directed the Punjab government to release the pending Dearness Allowance (DA) to its employees and pensioners within 15 days and barred it from issuing any large-scale advertisement campaigns until the dues are paid. Rejecting appeals by the State and Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) challenging a single-judge verdict, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor also made it clear that if the payment is not made by the end of the deadline, the government will have to pay six per cent simple interest on the outstanding amount. "The State of Punjab and PSPCL are directed to grant and release all up-to-date pending instalments of Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief (DA/DR) to all its employees and pensioners, respectively, at the same rates as has been paid to the members of the All India Services (IAS/IPS/IFS) serving within the State of Punjab, in accordance with the Central Government pattern, within a fortnight," the bench ruled.

"Till all such dues are cleared, the State of Punjab shall not resort to any unproductive expenditures such as large-scale advertising campaigns in print or social media as these expenses cannot justify the denial of dues admissible to State employees", the Bench ordered. The bench also directed the Punjab chief secretary to to ensure "scrupulous compliance of the directions" and "file a compliance report by way of affidavit" by August 31, 2026. The State government had earlier submitted that it was not in a position to comply with the single bench directions to release arrears amounting to more than Rs 15,000 crore. Delivering the order, the division bench laid emphasis on "unproductive expenditures". "...the issue of financial constraints is being raised as a ground for withholding the legitimate dues of the State's own employees. However, as per the information available in the public domain, the State is expending large amounts of money on grant of freebies, doles, advertorial campaigns, and other expenditure, which would not strictly fall within the domain of essential expenditure by a welfare State, cannot be brushed aside, lightly," the bench said.

The bench further held that State cannot withhold the legitimate dues payable to the employees. "Viewed in any manner, large scale advertising campaigns in print or so-

cial media and other unproductive expenses cannot justify denial of dues admissible to the State employees," it added. If implemented, close to 8 lakh employees and pensioners will benefit from the order. The salary of certain employees could increase by approximately Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per month. The State government had challenged the order submitting that it was not in a position to comply with the single bench directions to release arrears that amount to more than Rs 15,000 crore. Rejecting Punjab's submission, a single bench of Justice Harpreet Singh Brar on April 8 had directed the state government and PSPCL to grant 58 per cent DA alongwith arrears to all employees and pensioners at par with officers from the IAS, IPS, IFS and judicial services. The court had given the State to comply with the order by June 30. The petitioners had earlier submitted that DA instalments with effect from July 1, 2023 have not been released to serving employees and pensioners. They had also challenged a liquidation plan submitted by the Punjab government proposing to pay the pending pension and DA to employees over five financial years and for pensioners below the age of 75 years over 42 instalments without interest.

The division bench, however, termed the proposal a "discriminatory approach" and held that the state government was bound by its policy decision of adopting the central government pattern for payment of DA. The then Congress led dispensation in Punjab had in June 2021 approved the recommendation of the 6th Pay Commission to grant DA to the state employees on the patter of central government. It, however, failed to release the money following which employees moved the court. In the high court, the Punjab government had argued that it had not accepted the June 2021 report. It had submitted that a new plan had been introduced on February 18, 2025. The government had further contended that Punjab already provides its employees with higher pay scales than many other states ("high pay master"), and therefore there was no need to grant additional DA. However, Advocate Sunny Singla, appearing for the employee organizations, argued that the Punjab government is legally bound to provide DA to its employees and pensioners in accordance with the central government pattern. He pointed out that IAS, IPS, IFS, and judicial officers were already receiving DA at central government rates, while other employees and pensioners were being unfairly denied the same benefit. According to Singla, the court also directed the government to release the DA pending from January 1, 2016.

The Punjab government is currently paying 42% DA to its employees. However, compared to central government staff, 18 per cent DA remains unpaid. Employee organizations had long been demanding that this gap be eliminated and the outstanding amount be released. Employee organisations also relied on a judgment of the Supreme Court, which held that DA is not a bonus or an ex gratia payment but an integral component of an employee's salary. On this basis, they argued that the pending DA and arrears should be released without further delay.

‘Vicky aaya hai’: Faridabad teacher’s killer used husband’s name to trap her

GNS News Agency, Sept 19

Sandhya, a 30-year-old English teacher at Saraswati Senior Secondary School in Faridabad's Sikrona, was at work when she was informed that "Vicky" was waiting for her. Her husband, Vikas, often went by 'Vicky'. She did not know then what awaited her. CCTV footage from the school shows a man waiting at the school entrance, his face covered with a cloth. As soon as Sandhya stepped out, hoping to find her husband, the man pulled her by the hand and stabbed her at least 20 times. The footage shows Sandhya falling to the ground, screaming, but the stabs didn't stop. A colleague, Tejpal, tried to save her, but the attacker threatened him with a knife. Sandhya succumbed to her injuries soon after. The attacker fled the scene on a bike without a number plate, the school staff said. However, police identified and caught the accused, Amit (21), within two hours. According to the police, Sandhya earlier worked at a school in Faridabad's Kot village. Amit's family owned the school building, and that's how he first spoke to her. Subsequently, Amit started harassing Sandhya. She left the job and moved to the Sikrona-based school, but the stalking continued. Sandhya also registered a police complaint against Amit, following which he apologised. Police said he nursed a grudge. "The victim explicitly asked the accused to stop following her and warned him of legal action if he continued to harass her. Agitated by her refusal to talk to him, the accused planned the attack," a police officer said. Following the murder, Sandhya's husband Vikas registered a complaint at the Sector 58 police station, and a murder case was registered. "Our team acted swiftly on technical inputs and human intelligence. The suspect was traced and nabbed from the area within two hours of the



crime being reported," the officer said, adding that the knife used in the crime had been recovered.

Abhimanyu Hazarika is a Senior Correspondent with The Indian Express, based in Gurgaon. He covers southern Haryana. Education - Post-Graduate Diploma in Print Media, Asian College of Journalism (Class of 2020) - B.A. (Hons) Liberal Arts with a major in Political Science, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts (Class of 2019) Professional Experience Before joining The Indian Express, he worked with Bar & Bench (legal journalism) and Frontline magazine, where he developed experience in court reporting, legal analysis, and long-form investigative features. Reporting Interests His work centres on civic accountability, environmental policy, urban infrastructure and culture, crime and law enforcement, and their intersections with politics and governance in and around Gurgaon. Recent Coverage (2025) -

Social media influencer seeks arrest of CJP founder over assault

GNS News Agency, Sept 19

New Delhi: A social media influencer has submitted a written complaint to the police against Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke, seeking his immediate arrest over allegations of physical assault and concerns related to his personal security. The complainant, Faizan Ansari, alleged that individuals linked to Dipke had physically attacked him in Pune and Aurangabad. He claimed that police complaints had already been lodged in connection with both incidents in Maharashtra and asserted that the previous complaints and related evidence were available with him.

In his complaint, Ansari further alleged that Dipke had extended support to individuals associated with anti-national activities and had allegedly provided financial assistance to people to participate in the protests held at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. He demanded that the police conduct a detailed investigation into the allegations, register an FIR, and initiate action in accordance with the law. Speaking to IANS, Ansari said, "I have submitted a written complaint to the DCP, requesting the immediate arrest of Abhijeet Dipke. I want to tell the public about what I have gone through. I was attacked by him, once in Pune and once in Aurangabad. I have filed police complaints in both cases and have evidence related to them."



Claiming that the protests were being backed financially, he further said, "This is a paid campaign. He is paying celebrities to attend the protest... I received all this information from Mumbai." He further claimed that Dipke's alleged activities could pose a threat to social harmony and public order, urging the authorities to conduct an impartial probe and take strict legal action if any wrongdoing is established. "These people (CJP members) support the person who had once said, 'Bharat tere tukde honge'. I would like to tell Dipke that India will not be broken into pieces; we won't let that happen; however, your party surely will be broken. I will fight this till my last breath."

Construction of highway spur connecting NH-205A to Zirakpur bypass to begin in Dec



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

The construction of the 10.30-km spur (PR-07) — connecting the Ambala-Chandigarh section of the National Highway (NH) 205A to Zirakpur bypass — is set to begin in December this year, with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) targeting completion within two years. A spur is a small section that splits off from a main highway to connect commuters to a particular destination. The six-lane greenfield corridor, whose foundation was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July, is being developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). According to the details, the project has been awarded to M/s Ceigall Infra Ltd for its execution.

HAM is a public-private partnership model used by the government, especially for highway projects, to reduce financial risk for private developers while ensuring timely construction. The government (through the NHAI) will give 40 per cent of the project cost to the developer during the construction period in stages while the private developer will finance the remaining 60 per cent, construct the highway, and is responsible for its maintenance for a specified period. After the road is completed, the NHAI repays the developer's investment through fixed semi-annual annuity

57 booked as trading platform probed for forex investment scam

GNS News Agency, Sept 19Pune Rural police launched a probe into the operations of TP Global FX, a multi-asset trading platform that has been the subject of major criminal investigations — including by the Enforcement Directorate — for allegedly running a massive illegal forex trading and investment scam across India. In a case registered, 57 people linked to the entity including its key officials and local agents were booked. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Narayangaon police station under Pune Rural police last week based on the complaint filed by a 50-year-old businessman from Junnar taluka who was duped of over Rs one crore by the company and its representatives.

"Multiple cases have till now been registered in West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra against the company and its representatives. Based on the case registered at Narayangaon, we will investigate the footprint of the company in Pune district," said an officer. The officer added, "The complainant had approached Kolkata police with the complainant. A Zero FIR was registered at Hare Street Police station in Kolkata which was transferred to Pune Rural police. The case was registered at Narayangaon police station as the complainant is a resident of the jurisdiction." Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office has filed multiple prosecution complaints in connection with the ongoing investigation under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The ED said TP Global Forex trading illegally collected over Rs 2,000 crore from the public in the name of forex trading. The amount was collected in dummy bank accounts opened with the assistance of associates. ED initiated investigation

payments, along with interest, over the concession period. This stretch is expected to become a key missing link in the proposed Tricity Ring Road and aims to provide a seamless bypass for long-distance traffic around Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali.

While speaking to The Indian Express, NHAI project director Aashim Bansal said that the project would allow long-distance traffic travelling from Ambala towards Chandigarh and beyond to bypass the congestion-prone urban stretches of Dera Bassi and Zirakpur. "Vehicles will be routed directly to the Zirakpur bypass and Aerocity without entering these towns, significantly reducing travel time and vehicle operating costs while improving road safety," he said, adding that nearly 20,000 vehicles will be diverted daily away from the congestion-prone urban stretches of Dera Bassi and Zirakpur. By providing a direct, access-controlled connection to the Zirakpur bypass and Aerocity, the corridor will enable through traffic and freight vehicles to avoid entering densely populated areas, reducing travel time, fuel consumption and vehicular emissions while improving road safety and traffic flow. "The 10.30-km corridor has been designed as a fully access-controlled six-lane greenfield highway with grade-separated interchanges, eliminating at-grade intersections and separating through traffic from local urban traffic. This is expected to improve the operational efficiency of the Zirakpur bypass while easing congestion across the Tricity road network," Bansal added. Officials said the PR-07 Spur is an integral component of the planned Tricity Ring Road, which aims to provide uninterrupted, high-capacity movement around the Chandigarh urban agglomeration. Once completed, the link will enable through traffic and freight vehicles to bypass Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali entirely, reducing pressure on city roads. Apart from improving regional connectivity, the project is also expected to boost logistics efficiency, attract investment and support economic growth in the surrounding areas by strengthening the highway infrastructure network.



based on FIRs registered by police in Kolkata, Maharashtra and Gujarat. "As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the website of TP Global FX is neither registered with RBI nor does it have any authorisation from RBI for forex trading. The RBI issued an alert list including the name of TP Global FX vide a press release in September 2022, which was published to caution the public against unauthorised trading platforms," the ED has said. "ED investigation revealed a sophisticated deception was orchestrated by individuals by utilising numerous dummy companies to entice investors/general public into a fraudulent scheme promising high returns on forex trading investments through TP Global FX. The total amount of seized/frozen/attached assets in the case stands at approximately Rs 291 crores, in the form of cash, gold, real estate, hospitality establishments, office spaces, agricultural land, vehicles, cryptocurrencies, and bank balances," the ED has said.

An exhibition with a political edge, open to all – to see, interpret and buy

There's a fire extinguisher covered by typography print, a graffiti-painted toilet bowl with illustrated toilet paper rolling out of it, and blue and orange crates with zines, stickers, matchboxes, and puzzles in them. There are no "Do not touch" signs; everything in the exhibition is meant to be picked up, flipped through, bought, and taken home. Advertising professional Priyanshi said she admired the "smaller tangibles like postcards, comics, and clay miniatures" "because these days people like to have art that they can use". Vasudha, a lawyer, said she wanted the art around her to remind her of a place, an experience or a particular moment. Organisers of the 'Paper and Play' exhibition, ongoing at Gallery XXL in Defence Colony until August 22, said it was important to ensure that interest in the exhibits was not limited to art collectors alone. So the least expensive exhibit costs only Rs 100, Sarah Malik, who has curated the show with Giulia Ambrogio and Priyanshi S., said. "And the most expensive is a hand-painted work by (the Japanese-American graffiti artist) AIKO which costs Rs 2 lakh."

An exhibition with a political edge, open to all – to see, interpret and buy A fire extinguisher artwork. (Express Photo) More than 200 artworks are stickers, prints, and matchboxes; around 500 are publications. "We want the exhibition to be for students, culture workers, and anyone who is interested in art," Malik said. AIKO, who is a co-founder of the artists' collective FAILE, which came to be known for wheatpasting and stencilling images around New York City, said street graffiti offered her a language that was "immediate, free, and alive".

"A mural isn't experienced in isolation, it is shaped by the neighbourhood, the architecture, the people passing by, and even the time of day. Viewers often discover the work unexpectedly, which creates a more direct and spontaneous connection. You don't need a ticket or an invitation to experience it. For me, it's about creating something that captures attention while also encouraging people to pause, reflect, and maybe see their surroundings a little differently," she told over the phone from New York City. Khatra, the artist who created the fire extinguisher artwork as part of a 2022-23 series on the emotional weight of safety in the post-pandemic period, said he wanted to "turn a familiar emergency object into something that invites attention and reflection, rather than disappearing into the background until it is needed". Khatra uses retroreflective vinyl which is used in street signs and on trucks and taxis, along with spray paint and paint markers, which are staples of street art. "Zines" – short for magazine or fanzine; self-published booklets that are usually made by hand or photocopied in



small numbers, with a focus on creative freedom rather than profit – are an important part of the 'Paper and Play' exhibition. Debashish, an artist from Bangladesh, said the nature of the exhibition allowed artists to choose those for whom their art was intended. "These formats, posters, zines, matchbox labels, packaging design... are not exclusively designed for gallery walls or artistic establishments... When I work with these forms, I'm making a decision about who the work is for and how it should travel," he said.

Co-curator Malik pointed out that posters, zines and similar forms of visual communication were able to reach people who may never enter a gallery in the normal course. The language of visuals – brash and eye-catching – has increasingly become part of protests, memes and political culture online; it was a very prominent part, for example, of last month's GenZ and student protests at Jantar Mantar. The political context of art stands out in the Paper and Play exhibition. The names of the zines – 'How To Write (Not another hero) Journey', 'KNAP', 'Sports Sucks' – the text on exhibits such as matchboxes ('Caution: May ignite conversation'), and publications such as 'Modernism/ Murderism' and 'Blatt's Anthology of Gujarati Pulp Fiction', make a series of statements on caste discrimination, queer identity, political resistance, and feminism. None of the works carry description tags, and the name of the artist is taped on the floor, so only those who seek them see them. "I think it prods the viewer to question or think a little bit more about the art in front of them," Malik said. The point is to allow the viewer to interpret the artwork without nudging them towards a 'right' interpretation, they said. Sitting on the floor by a window, a student viewer said: "I don't know where I can display these zines, but I am going to give them to my friends to read. We can pass the matchbox around too, and sit on that spray-painted chair. That chair would have been such a hit at Jantar Mantar."

The body has more than one clock, says new study



Imagine two people who are both 60. Chronologically, they are identical in age. Biologically, they may be anything but. One person's brain may appear relatively young while their metabolic system shows signs associated with accelerated ageing. Another may have an older-appearing immune system but comparatively preserved brain biology. Now add gender to the equation. The biological processes associated with ageing may not be distributed in exactly the same way in females and males. If so, a model that treats everyone as biologically equivalent could be smoothing away some of the very differences researchers are trying to detect.

That is the central proposition of a new multi-cohort and multi-researcher study published in Nature: Biological ageing may need to be measured in a way that accounts for both gender and organ, rather than assuming that one ageing clock can describe everyone. To test that idea, researchers built 38 biological-ageing clocks covering 15 organ systems, drawing on three very different sources of biological information: proteins circulating in the blood, metabolites (small molecules that tell you what is happening in the body) and MRI measurements of organs. Crucially, they trained the models separately in females and males. They found that some aspects of ageing appear to be sex-specific, some appear to be organ-specific, and many are shared. That finding turns the biological-ageing clock from a simple measurement problem into a modelling problem.

What if there is no single biological age? We know how old we are. It is the number on our birth certificate. But biological age is a different question. Scientists have been developing "ageing clocks" that try to estimate how old a person's biology appears compared with others of the same chronological age. The hope is that these clocks might reveal why some people remain healthy into old age while others develop disease earlier. But there is a problem with the idea of a single number. The study suggests that biological ageing may be better understood as a collection of different trajectories rather than a single score. Your brain could be ageing along one path, your immune system along another and your metabolic system along a third. The researchers found that some ageing clocks worked better when females and males were modelled separately. This was particularly apparent for some measures involving body fat, the immune system and metabolism.

But there was no universal advantage to splitting the sexes. In some cases, the separate models became less reliable because they had fewer people from which to learn. The researchers also looked at genetics and found 359 significant genetic associations across the ageing measures. Again, the patterns varied by sex and organ.

Some liver and metabolic ageing measures showed stronger genetic signals in females, while some immune, skin and spleen measures showed stronger signals in males. The interesting message is that different parts of the body may have different mixtures of genetic and environmental influences—and those mixtures may differ between females and males. In other words, there may be no single genetic blueprint for ageing.

An older organ may have different causesThe researchers linked seven imaging-based ageing measures to 2,923 proteins circulating in the blood. The proteins associated with older-appearing organs differed between females and males. That does not mean scientists have discovered a "female ageing protein" or a "male ageing protein". Instead, it suggests that two people whose brains, for example, appear biologically older may have arrived at that state through different molecular pathways. That possibility could eventually matter for personalised medicine.

Can an ageing clock see disease coming? Using long-term health records, the researchers found that some biological-ageing measures were associated with diseases that developed later, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol and type 2 diabetes. Associations were also found with several other conditions and with mortality. But an association is not the same thing as causation. A clock may identify a biological state associated with disease without being the thing that causes the disease. Even sophisticated genetic analyses cannot by themselves prove that making an ageing clock look "younger" would prevent illness.

What about Alzheimer's? Among people who already had mild cognitive impairment, those with older-appearing brains were more likely to progress to Alzheimer's disease. The association appeared in both men and women. But when the researchers directly compared the two groups, the difference between them was not statistically significant.

The end of the single ageing clock? Hormones, menopause, hormone therapy, reproductive history, lifestyle and environmental exposures can all influence ageing. The genetic analyses also focused on people of European ancestry. Whether the same patterns apply across South Asian, African, East Asian, indigenous and other populations remains an open question. And the clocks still need extensive testing in independent populations. Instead of telling someone, "Your biological age is 63," the future might describe something more nuanced: Your brain is ageing along one trajectory, your metabolic system along another, and your immune system along a third. For now, ageing clocks remain research tools, not crystal balls.

Indore water contamination: 20 new diarrhoea cases detected during screening; 142 in hospitals



As many as 142 people are currently hospitalised amid an outbreak of diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water in Indore, including 11 in ICUs, even as 20 new patients were detected during screening of over 9,000 people in Bhagirathpura area, the ground zero of infection. Health teams examined 9,416 individuals from 2,354 households during an ongoing survey in Bhagirathpura, where six persons have lost their lives due to contaminated water, and identified 20 fresh cases, officials said on Sunday (January 4, 2026). According to officials, 398 patients had been admitted to hospitals so far following the outbreak. Of them, 256 patients have been discharged after recovery. They stated that 142 patients are currently undergoing treatment in hospitals, including 11 admitted to intensive care units (ICUs). The outbreak is under control now, they added. Indore water contamination: 20 new diarrhoea cases detected during screening

As many as 142 people are currently hospitalised amid an outbreak of diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water in Indore, including 11 in ICUs, even as 20 new patients were detected during screening of over 9,000 people in Bhagirathpura area, the ground zero of infection. | Video Credit: The HinduChief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Madhav Prasad Haasani said a team from the Kolkata-based National Institute for Research in Bacterial Infections (NIRBI) has arrived in Indore to probe the health crisis. He said experts from NIRBI, which is affiliated with the Indian Council of Medical Research, are providing technical support to the health department to contain the outbreak. The administration has confirmed six deaths so far. Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava had put the death toll at ten, whereas locals claimed that 16 people, including a six-month-old child, died due to the diarrhoea outbreak. Amid the outrage over deaths, the Congress staged bell-ringing protests across Madhya Pradesh demanding the resignation of senior Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya over the usage of the word "ghanta" while responding to reporters' questions about the developments in Indore.

Mr. Vijayvargiya sparked a row on the night of December 31 when he responded with the expression "ghanta" to a question by reporters on camera when asked about the water contamination crisis. The Congress demanded a judicial inquiry and sacking of Mr. Vijayvargiya, who holds the Urban Development and Housing portfolios, since Bhagirathpura is part of his Indore-1 Assembly constituency. State Congress president Jitu Patwari threatened to launch an agitation on January 11 if the party's demands for rectification measures were not met. He demanded registration of a culpable homicide case against Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava and concerned civic officials. "Sixteen persons have died. These deaths are the murder of the mandate that people gave to the BJP in the previous elections. There must be a judicial probe into the deaths caused by contaminated

drinking water, and those guilty should be given strict punishment," Mr. Patwari told reporters. He claimed residents of Bhagirathpura had been complaining for the past eight months that contaminated water was coming from municipal tap connections, but no action was taken. "They are also saying water currently being supplied through municipal tankers in Bhagirathpura is also contaminated," Mr. Patwari alleged. Meanwhile, a sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) in neighbouring Dewas was suspended on Sunday for allegedly referring to a minister's (read Vijayvargiya) controversial remark and Congress's allegations in an official order amid the Indore water contamination crisis, officials said. Ujjain division revenue commissioner Ashish Singh suspended the SDM on charges of serious negligence, indifference, and irregularities in the discharge of official duties. The officials said the SDM had issued a government order on Saturday (January 3, 2026) to deploy subordinate revenue officers to maintain law and order in view of a Congress protest held in Dewas. "The wording of a portion of the Congress memorandum was copied verbatim in the SDM's order issued for official purposes. This amounts to serious negligence," an official told PTI.

The Congress memorandum had targeted the BJP government and stated that Mr. Vijayvargiya's use of the objectionable word reflected "inhumanity and authoritarianism. The word "Ghanta" has different shades of meaning, but in common parlance, its usage conveys nonsense. Renowned water conservationist Rajendra Singh termed the deaths due to contaminated drinking water a "system-created disaster," alleging that deep-rooted corruption is to blame for the tragedy. Watch: Indore water tragedy sparks protests, officials suspendedThe Magsaysay Award winner, popularly known as the "Waterman of India," expressed alarm that such a crisis could unfold in Indore, which has been consistently ranked as India's cleanest city. "If such a tragedy can occur in the country's cleanest city, it shows how serious the condition of drinking water supply systems must be in other cities," Mr. Singh told PTI. Government officials admitted the sewage overflow from the toilet spilled over into the water mains, causing the outbreak of severe episodes of vomiting and diarrhea. "Indore's contaminated drinking water crisis is a system-created disaster. To save money, contractors lay drinking water pipelines in close proximity to drainage lines," Mr. Singh claimed.

He alleged "corruption" has ruined the entire system. The Indore tragedy is the direct result of this corrupt system, he added. "The year-on-year decline in groundwater levels in Indore is the most worrying. I visited Indore for the first time in 1992. Even then, I had asked how long the city would depend on water from the Narmada river?" Mr. Singh said. A large amount of money is lost to corruption in the project to bring Narmada water to Indore from 80 kilometres away, the water conservationist charged. Indore depends on the Narmada River for its water needs. Through pipelines laid by the municipal corporation, water from the Narmada river is brought to Indore from Jalud in neighbouring Khargone district, located 80 km away, and supplied to households on alternate days. According to civic officials, around ₹25 crore is spent every month from the municipal corporation's treasury only on electricity bills for this project. The huge expenditure involved in the project can also be gauged from statements made by Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava. During a seminar in the city on June 27, 2024, Mr. Bhargava had said, "Ever since I became mayor, I have been joking that Indore is one of the richest cities in Asia because we drink water that costs ₹21 per kilolitre and also let it flow wastefully. We are not drinking water, but ghee.

Presentations at work: Where influence often begins

It was a glass-walled boardroom on the 18th floor of a large enterprise client's office. The kind of room where every decision carries reputational risk. The sales leader had prepared well. As he presented, the room stayed calm. Heads nodded. Notes were taken. Halfway through, the client leaned back and said, "This is interesting. But help me understand what should I do differently after this?" The seller moved to the next slide. Internally, he felt a bit of discomfort. Maybe the value will land by the end, he told himself. When the presentation ended, the client smiled and said, "Thank you. We'll come back to you." Walking out of the building, the seller felt uneasy with his shoulders drooping. Not rejected. Just... unclear.

Two weeks later, after follow ups, the client got back saying -? "we don't have the budget." ? Looking back, the problem wasn't trust. The client trusted him enough to give time and attention. The problem was influence. The presentation had explained the solution, but it hadn't helped the client see their problem differently or feel confident about a decision. And that is why, even in 2026, sales presentations still decide outcomes. In sales, most deals are not lost because the product is weak or the price is high. They are lost because the seller failed to influence the audience in the right moment. That moment is almost always the presentation. In 2026, a sales presentation is no longer about informing prospects. Buyers arrive informed. What they are evaluating instead is clarity, credibility, and confidence. In other words, they are deciding whether you can influence their thinking and help them make a safe decision. This is why presentations continue to sit at the heart of successful sales, not as slide decks, but as influence tools. Influence is the real objective of a sales presentation. Many sales professionals believe presentations are meant to "explain" offerings. That belief is outdated. A modern sales presentation has one job: to influence how the buyer frames the problem, evaluates options, and chooses next steps. Buyers today are overwhelmed: with data, vendors, opinions, and internal pressure. In such an environment, the seller who brings clarity influences the room. The seller who structures thinking influences the decision. This is where presentations quietly win or lose deals. Attention has shrunk. Influence hasn't. Research shows that audience disengagement begins within seconds if relevance isn't established early. Buyers don't lack intelligence, they lack patience. They are scanning for signals: Do you understand my problem?

Can you simplify complexity? Are you helping me decide, or just selling? If the answer isn't clear quickly, influence is lost, no matter how good the solution is. This is why influence today is not about persuasion or pressure. It is about earning attention through relevance.

Why most sales presentations fail to influence Despite years of experience, many sales teams still struggle to influence their audience during presentations. The reasons are consistent:

1. Seller-centric narratives



Presentations often start with company history, features, or credentials. The buyer is forced to wait to see relevance. Influence drops before it even begins.

2. Information overload Long decks filled with data create cognitive fatigue. Instead of influencing clarity, they create confusion.

3. Generic storytelling A standard deck signals a standard understanding. Buyers feel spoken at, not spoken to.

4. Lack of presence Influence is not only in slides — it's in how confidently and calmly the seller guides the conversation, handles questions, and pauses at the right moments.

Influence starts with a mindset shift As I like to put it: "The moment you shift your thought process from, 'Selling is convincing' to 'Selling is helping', the pressure eases and you are more relaxed." This mindset shift is critical because influence does not come from force. It comes from helping the audience think better. When sellers stop trying to convince and start trying to help, their tone changes, their structure improves, and their presence becomes more assured. Buyers sense this immediately. How to influence your audience through sales presentations Influence in presentations is built deliberately, not accidentally. Here's what works today: 1. Frame the buyer's problem better than they can Influence begins when the buyer feels understood. Start by articulating their challenge clearly, including risks they may not have fully verbalised. When you help buyers see their problem more clearly, you earn the right to propose a solution. 2. Lead with insight, not features Features inform. Insights influence. An insight changes how the buyer looks at their situation and positions you as a thinking partner, not a vendor. 3. Structure thinking for the room A strong presentation guides the audience through a logical journey: What's happening? Why it matters? What changes if nothing is done? What a better path looks like? What the next step should be? This structure reduces uncertainty and reducing uncertainty is a powerful form of influence. 4. Use stories to make meaning stick Stories translate information into memory. A short, relevant example often influences more than a slide full of numbers because it makes outcomes tangible. 5. Invite participation

Govt issues advisory to regulate stem cell therapy

New Delhi: The government on Thursday said it has issued an advisory to regulate stem cell therapy, saying the therapy is permitted as standard care in routine clinical practice only for disease conditions or indications included in the list approved by the Health Ministry. With regard to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the advisory stipulates that the therapeutic use of any type of stem cell in autism is to remain restricted to duly approved clinical trials, in accordance with the National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research, 2017. The advisory, dated September 16, has been sent to all states and Union Territories that have adopted the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, regarding regulation of stem cell therapy. The advisory reiterates the existing framework governing stem cell research and therapy. The advisory also draws attention to the consequences of non-compliance with the framework governing stem cell therapy. The Supreme Court, in its judgment dated January 30, 2026, held that non-compliance with the statutory mandate must attract consequences, including professional misconduct under Regulation 7.22

of the IMC Regulations, 2002, as well as action under Sections 32 and 40 of the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, which provide for cancellation of registration and penalty. "The Ministry has accordingly requested the concerned state and District Regulatory Authorities and clinical establishments to ensure strict compliance with the applicable framework governing stem cell research and therapy," the statement said. Moreover, the National Medical Commission (NMC), in its advisory, reiterated that stem cell therapy may be offered as standard clinical care only for the approved indications. The advisory further states that unauthorised administration, prescription, promotion or advertisement of stem cell therapy beyond the approved indications would constitute to professional misconduct. According to the statement, the NMC has further advised State Medical Councils to examine cases of alleged violations brought to their notice and, where professional misconduct by a Registered Medical Practitioner is established after due process, take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable statutory and regulatory provisions.

Sleep disorders in children: how to recognise and handle them



Sleep has long been recognised as an active process by the scientific community, contrary to the popular belief of it being a period of inactivity. Sleep is defined as a normal, reversible, recurring state of reduced responsiveness to external stimulation and relative physical immobility. Understanding the functions of sleep is crucial to understanding the consequences of sleep-deprivation and sleep-related disorders. The functions of sleep include: fostering optimal brain growth and development; enhancing learning, attention and memory; regulating emotions, appetite and decision-making; strengthening of the immune functions as well as optimal time for rest and repair of body tissues.

The composition and functions of sleep vary with age and development. The changes noted with increasing age from infancy to adulthood are a decrease in total sleep time and the gradual setting up of a consistent sleep-wake cycle. Sleep health is a topic that has just recently garnered worldwide interest in scientific circles; however, this is yet to make much headway amongst the general public. There has also been a much-needed shift in importance from 'treatment of insomnia' to 'prevention of sleep disorders and maintenance of good sleep health'. The array of consequences of sleep disruption range from irritability to poor academic and work performance to being triggers for major mental illnesses and suicides. The impact of these are equally (if not more) significant in children and adolescents as in adults. Sleep disorders in children have ramifications in three aspects: the sleep disorder in itself and the distress due to it; the long-term impact it has on the child's or adolescent's academics, schooling, physical activity, emotional regulation, risk-taking behaviour and effect on comorbid illnesses which could be physical or mental and the impact of family behaviour on the child's sleep and vice-versa. Let us see what the statistics say about paediatric sleep disorders. Around 80% of the child and adolescent population worldwide have sleep disorders or complaints related to sleep. Persistent sleep difficulties in childhood predict psychiatric problems in adult life and sleep deprivation also increases health complaints in children. Crucially, parental stress related to the behavioural problems in sleep-deprived children can affect their mental and/or physical well being

There are two main types of sleep disorders: primary sleep disorders and secondary sleep disorders, which have consequences of physical or mental illnesses or drug abuse. Primary sleep disorders seen in child and the adolescent population present in various forms. Insomnia, which is defined as persistent reduction in total sleep duration or poor quality of sleep is one. Hypersomnia, which is an increase in sleep duration is another. Parasomnias are undesirable physical events or experiences that occur during entry into sleep, within sleep or during arousal from sleep. There are also sleep-related breathing disorders and sleep-related movement disorders like restless leg syndrome and nocturnal teeth grinding. This apart, there are disorders of the sleep-wake cycle. All these conditions impact sleep in terms of duration and/or quality of sleep.

What is insomnia?
Insomnia can present in the form of difficulty in falling asleep, bedtime resistance, frequent nighttime awakenings, imposed sleep restrictions, unrefreshed sleep and/or poor sleep hygiene persisting over three months. The risk factors for insomnia include: predisposition to mental or physical illnesses; stressors like difficult home or family situations, safety concerns or domestic abuse; poor limit-setting by parents which may cause bedtime stalling or refusal; environmental factors like cramped sleeping conditions, lack of a conducive temperature; sleep difficulties or poor sleep hygiene in parents and excessive use of technology especially in the form of screens. Strategies that can be implemented by family members to help the child with insomnia include identifying the stressors; try to eliminate or alleviate them and initiate good sleep habits. Sleep hygiene is a set of practices that helps individuals sleep better. These include creating conducive and optimal bedroom or bedtime conditions; restriction of screens, beverages and water intake a few hours prior to bedtime; maintaining consistent

bedtime routine; a consistent sleep schedule; regular physical activity; restriction of daytime naps and most importantly, role-modelling healthy sleep habits. If the symptoms of insomnia persist or continue to be problematic, it is best to consult a pediatric sleep expert at the earliest.

What is obstructive sleep-disordered breathing?
This disorder is characterised by snoring and laboured breathing due to a partial blockage of the air passages within the body. The symptoms include nighttime snoring, excessive daytime sleepiness, bedwetting, morning headaches, restless sleep and irritability during the day. The obstruction of the air passages in children is commonly due to tonsils or adenoid enlargement or obesity. The risk factors for this disorder include obesity, exposure to passive cigarette smoke and poor air quality. Steps that can be taken by parents include measures to alleviate risk factors and a consultation with an expert.

What is a nightmare disorder?
This is a type of parasomnia where the child has frequent, vivid and distressing dreams, which often result in awakenings. This disorder is usually the result of a stress in the form of a recent psychosocial issue or a major event that may even lead to diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Family members can do quite a bit to help these children by consistently reassuring the child, avoiding negative associations or responses to the symptoms, encouraging sleep hygiene especially by restricting TV viewing before bedtime. They can also help by re-scripting or reframing the content/plot of the nightmare. Rarely, such children may require therapy and medication.

What is sleep enuresis?
Sleep enuresis or bedwetting is considered normal from infancy up until toddlerhood. However, its persistence after the age of five years qualifies for a diagnosis and needs medical attention. In some cases, children who may have been previously dry by night (for more than 6 months) may resume bedwetting, and this is called secondary enuresis. This disorder is more frequently seen in girls than boys until the age of 11. This disorder is also highly under-reported due to social stigma and a lack of awareness. The risk factors for this illness include a history of similar symptoms in parents, urinary tract infections, excessive evening fluid intake and stress in the form of parental divorce, neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse. The psychological consequences of bedwetting range from self-esteem issues, feelings of guilt and shame, social anxiety and isolation, frequent nighttime awakenings, depressive symptoms and significant family conflicts. Parental strategies for managing bed-wetting start with understanding and recognising the problem followed by help-seeking. This step is often the most crucial and decisive in the management of this problem. The next steps would be: forming a plan, in collaboration with the child, for reduction of fluids before bedtime, encouraging daytime urination, preventing daytime restriction of urination (a malady frequently seen in young girls wanting to avoid public toilets), avoiding negative responses to the symptoms and refraining from punishments. Parents can also instate an alarm system by which the child is encouraged to use the toilet during bed hours. As we can see, the steps require a lot of effort and dedication from the parents; however the results have been shown to be rewarding. Last but not the least, seek professional help when the symptoms begin to interfere with the child's day-to-day functioning. Sleep disorders secondary to psychiatric disorders

Sleep is frequently disrupted in children with psychiatric disorders and neurodevelopmental disorders. Anxiety and depressive disorders are commonly associated with delays in sleep onset and frequent nighttime awakenings, sometimes with nightmares. Restlessness and bedtime tantrums are frequently seen in children with neurodevelopmental disorders like intellectual disabilities, ADHD and autism. These sleep disorders may resolve with the adequate management of the primary psychiatric diagnosis and relevant therapy. In corollary, improvement in sleep difficulties positively impacts the symptoms of the primary psychiatric disorder.

Sleep disorders secondary to medical conditions Many physical conditions have profound effects on children's sleep. Common conditions like gastro-oesophageal reflux disorder (GERD) where a child has the frequent re-entry of stomach content into the oesophagus may disrupt the child's sleep. Migraines or other pain syndromes affect the onset and maintenance of sleep while seizures may lead to nighttime awakenings. Adequate management of the primary illness helps in reduction of sleep difficulties. Paediatric sleep health as a branch of medicine is still in its nascent stages, however, raising awareness about this is paramount, and the need of the hour. In this digital era, when forces to disrupt sleep are overwhelming, we must learn to prioritise sleep and instil healthy sleep habits in our children, who are our future.



other in 2017. "This year, we focussed on improving surveillance for dengue. We ensured that more reporting units were brought under the system. We brought in compulsory reporting of cases on a daily basis, and included private hospitals as well. The idea was to pick up cases as early as possible to prevent deaths. So, while the initial rise in cases was manageable, we stepped up surveillance to ensure that no case went unreported. This way, we did not miss out on cases," said T. S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Increased surveillance helped in preventing deaths due to dengue, he said, adding: "Now, we are seeing dengue cases throughout the year. We observed that there was no cluster of cases this year. Cases were reported randomly from across the State." Ensuring that private hospitals reported cases on a daily basis helped surveillance to a large extent. "The number of tests performed also increased. So, the dengue positivity also increased. The aim was to prevent deaths," a health officer said.

Call for 'sampoorna kranti' shook Indira govt: How a semi-retired Jayaprakash Narayan stirred student protests into a storm



The JP Movement which began 51 years ago this month left an indelible mark on the country, shaping the course of not only Bihar but also national politics as it paved the way for an alternative to the Congress's dominance. In Bihar, the imprint of the movement led by socialist icon Jayaprakash Narayan is illustrated by the fact that two of its products, Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar, have governed the state for 35 years, with only Jitan Ram Manjhi providing a brief nine-month break in between. While Prasad, the RJD supremo, has transferred leadership duties to his son and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Kumar, the Bihar CM and JD(U) chief, continues to be a crucial player in state politics on the strength of his political constituency that he has meticulously cultivated on the back of a social justice agenda combined with development. As Bihar goes to the polls later this year, leaders in both the socialist and NDA camps moulded by the JP Movement continue to be at the thick of things in Bihar.

While the defining moment of this important chapter of Indian political history is JP's "Sampoorna Kranti" call from Patna's Gandhi Maidan on June 5, 1974, the seed of the movement was planted a few months earlier when, on March 18, students gathered at the Bihar Assembly. The protests against the then Congress-led state government of Abdul Ghafoor were over high college fees, bus fares, and alleged mismanagement of university administration. They came at a time of high poverty, challenges on the economic front, and allegations of corruption and nepotism against the Indira Gandhi government that had started mounting right after her win in 1971.

The late Sushil Kumar Modi, former Deputy CM and another product of the JP Movement, once told this correspondent, "Though it was a students' movement, some young leaders such as me were backing it. When the 5-km protest march started from the Science College to the Vidhan Sabha, there were barely 30-odd people. But as we started walking, the crowd started building up spontaneously. When we reached Vidhan Sabha, there was a surging crowd of thousands of people. The government was caught unawares and the police had to open lathicharge." There were incidents of arson during the protest — the printing presses of two newspapers were torched — and three students were killed. As the situation looked to spiral out of control, some students and young leaders, including Modi and Shivanand Tiwari (later a Rajya Sabha MP), approached JP at his home in Patna's Kadamkuan locality to request him to lead the movement. Though the veteran socialist had been away from active politics for over two decades, the month before, he had visited college students in Gujarat whose protests were triggered by mess fee hikes.

According to activist K N Govindacharya, the veteran leader was angry with the students over the violence, but calmed down when he was told that the miscreants were not from among them. According to Govindacharya, on April 8, JP addressed a meeting of students in Patna and placed a few conditions before them, including that they wouldn't engage in any kind of violence. The students agreed and JP came to lead the movement. By then, JP engaging with the students had alarmed Gandhi who, at a public meeting in Bhubaneswar on April 1, labelled him a "fascist" and accused him of walking on the path of "violence". At Gandhi Maidan on June 5, 1974 then came the Gandhi Maidan meeting and the "Sampoorna Kranti" call in which JP demanded changes on all fronts, from the economic and social to the political. Recalling the meeting, former MLC and socialist litterateur Prem Kumar Mani told The Indian Express, "I was in the audience at Gandhi Maidan that had not seen such a crowd before that. There was no bridge over the Ganga in those days, and yet, people arrived using whatever means of transport they could find. JP, sitting in a chair, talked of 'Sampoorna Kranti', adding it was nothing but the 'sapta kranti' (seven revolutions framework)" of Dr Rammanohar Lohia. "JP also invoked Jawaharlal Nehru to drive home his point. "I am not going to use angry language. But what I am going to say will contain the ideas of a revolutionary. It will not be easy to act upon them. You will have to make sacrifices, undergo sufferings, face lathis and bullets, fill up jails. Properties will be attached. Friends, this is a revolution, a total revolution. This is not a movement, not merely for the dissolution of the Assembly. We have to go far, very far. In the words of Jawaharlal Nehru, the people have still to travel many long miles to achieve that freedom for which thousands of the country's youths made sacri-

fices, for which Sardar Bhagat Singh and his comrades, revolutionaries of Bengal, of Maharashtra, of the whole country were shot dead or were hanged to death. Millions of countrymen filled the jails again and again to attain freedom, but after 27 years of that freedom, the people are groaning. Hunger, soaring prices and corruption stalk everywhere. The people are being crushed under all sorts of injustice. Educational institutions are corrupt. Thousands of youths face a bleak future. Unemployment goes on increasing. The poor get less and less work."

In their book *The Dream of Revolution*, Bimal Prasad and Sujata Prasad quote JP as saying, "Dissent is not just an intellectual luxury but a necessary catalytic agent to which society owes its progress, its revolution, and its technological and scientific advances. Without dissent, society would become stagnant and moribund." As the political situation continued to simmer, JP's call for another public meeting in Patna on November 4 made Gandhi open a communication channel with him, and three days before the rally, the two met in Delhi. As per JP's account, the meeting lasted 90 minutes, with Babu Jagjivan Ram, the Deputy PM, joining towards the end. While the PM requested him not to hold the rally, JP demanded the dismissal of the Ghafoor government and drew her attention to the mishandling of democratic institutions. The talks broke down and as JP went ahead with the rally, the Centre deployed paramilitary forces in Patna. During a lathicharge, JP narrowly escaped injury when Jana Sangh leader Nanaji Deshmukh shielded him. This incident further angered the protesters. Following his failed attempt to bring about a reconciliation between JP and Gandhi, Chandra Shekhar, who later became PM, wrote in his weekly *Young Indian*, "JP is not fighting for political power; he cannot be defeated by deploying state power. Mani said JP, honoured with the moniker Lok Nayak (People's Hero), had also tried to make a point against Gandhi when, in the latter half of 1974, he got her cousin Nayantara Sahgal, the daughter of Vijayalakshmi Pandit, to attend one of his public meetings. The situation in Gujarat took a sharp turn starting in March 1975 after Morarji Desai undertook hunger strikes in support of the Nav Nirman movement of the students in Gujarat and calling for free elections in the state. Things came to a head on June 12, when the Allahabad High Court set aside Gandhi's election from Rae Bareilly in 1971, acting on a petition of socialist leader Raj Narain. This led to JP intensifying the movement and he met the national committees of the Akali Dal, the Congress (Organisation), and the Lok Dal, all of whom called on Gandhi to resign as PM. The non-Congress and non-Left parties held a public meeting on June 12 at the Ramilla Maidan in Delhi, but JP could not attend it as his flight was diverted. He, however, was not deterred and called another meeting at the same venue two days later. "Information had reached the Prime Minister that Jayaprakash Narayan was to hold a mammoth rally at the Ramilla Maidan in Delhi on June 25 at which he was going to ask the armed forces and the police to revolt and disobey orders, which they did not consider lawful," Union Minister Ram Nath Thakur, the eldest son of former Bihar CM Karpooi Thakur, told Gandhi's biographer Pupul Jayakar has written that on being confronted with the escalating situation, the PM told her key advisor and West Bengal CM Siddhartha Shankar Ray, "Siddhartha, we cannot allow this. I want something done. I feel that India is like a baby and just as one should sometimes take a child and shake it. I feel we need to shake India." Within hours of Emergency being imposed on June 25, top Opposition leaders, including JP, Morarji Desai, Raj Narain, Chandra Shekhar, Piloo Mody, Ashok Mehta, and L K Advani, were jailed. So were the many young leaders who had stood with JP and were shaped in the cauldron of those turbulent times. Among them were Lalu, Nitish, Ram Vilas Paswan, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Narendra Singh, Raghuwansh Prasad Singh, and Jagdanand Singh. "While Lalu Prasad and Sushil Kumar Modi had been at the forefront of the JP Movement, Nitish Kumar also joined it at a later stage. After Emergency was imposed, the movement got only bigger, even though most of the student leaders and Opposition politicians were arrested post-Emergency," said Mani. Recalling his memories of the JP Movement, RJD's Shivanand Tiwari told The Indian Express, "When I had attended the March 18 protest outside the Assembly, I had no idea that this was the beginning of a movement that would make history. Fifty years down the line, we see how the movement yielded rich divi-

National Institute of Virology develops portable kit for rapid Nipah virus detection

New Delhi: India will now be able to detect the Nipah virus within minutes as the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has developed a portable 'point-of-care' test kit for detecting the virus. This kit can provide instant results even outside laboratory settings and will be deployed soon in high-risk areas like Kerala and West Bengal, Dr Naveen Kumar, the director of NIV, said. "We have developed a LAMP-based portable kit for quick and reliable detection of the Nipah virus. It provides results in just a few minutes without the need for a laboratory. The kit has also been patented," Dr Kumar said. The Nipah virus primarily spreads through fruit bats and has caused several outbreaks in India. With a mortality rate exceeding 50 per cent, it is one of the most

lethal viral diseases. In India, the capability to culture the Nipah virus exists only at NIV Pune, where genomic analysis, vaccine development, and drug testing are also carried out, said Dr Pragya Yadav, senior scientist at NIV. The NIV is working with a pharma company and research partners to develop monoclonal antibodies to treat Nipah. Additionally, the institute is also working on an indigenous vaccine for the Nipah virus, which is expected to enter trial phases in the coming years. According to data, the Nipah virus samples found in India so far belong to the 'Genotype B' category, seen in both Bangladesh and India, Dr Kumar said. This variant spreads rapidly and causes severe symptoms, whereas the Malaysian variant (Genotype M) is comparatively less infectious.

Much-needed impetus to making Auroville a ‘city of the future’



Named after Sri Aurobindo and based on his vision for the future, Auroville was created as a planned city for the evolution of humanity. Towards this, the Mother, Sri Aurobindo’s spiritual collaborator, invited the architect, Roger Anger, in 1965, gave him a brief and worked with him for the next three years until she approved the final plan known as the Galaxy, in 1968. But, before that, in 1966, the architect and his team made a presentation on Auroville and its city plan at UNESCO, Paris, at Mother’s request. This reveals Auroville as a city with a spiritual centre placed on a lake and surrounded by gardens. Their brief speaks of a city powered by solar energy, optimising pedestrian flow instead of polluting cars, rainwater harvesting, the use of natural air conditioning, and streets with shade to ease walkability: a forerunner of sustainable planning now being emulated across the world, which a faction of residents remains ignorant of, despite all information being available in the public domain of Auroville.

The City Plan, intrinsic sustainabilityFor the experiment to succeed, the Mother limited the population to 50,000 residents with a corresponding urban plan, where all aspects for an evolving humanity would find place. Created for humanity as a whole, as stated in the opening line of the Charter, this experiment was nevertheless aimed at those ready to make a commitment, as the Charter also states: But to live in Auroville, one must be a willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness. On February 28, 1968, the Galaxy Plan was displayed at the entrance of the Amphitheatre and the Charter read out. All men of goodwill were invited to this extraordinary experiment and city, provided they had a thirst for progress and aspired to a higher and truer life.

By 1969, the Mother hired Roger Anger to prepare the first master plan study. Here the most important element after the Matrimandir, the Crown, was presented in detail. Yet, it has had to wait through years of impasse after the Mother’s passing, court cases and, finally, the Auroville Foundation Act, enacted in 1988. With this, the process of formulating an official master plan was undertaken by residents at the request of the Governing Board, as stipulated in the Act, and received all approvals by 2001. It is understood that obstruction or abuse against the Charter or the City plan is wholly against the spirit of Auroville. However, all attempts to simply mark the Crown on the ground, let alone build it, met with constant obstruction by a resident faction. It took over 20 years, many letters from residents to the Governing Board to break the impasse, and 25 court cases against the Auroville Foundation and working groups (including a case filed at the National Green Tribunal claiming Auroville to be a “deemed forest”) to finally allow the Crown to happen. To be noted, the NGT itself struck down the grounds that Auroville was a “deemed forest”, yet proceeded to not only admit the case but also issue a verdict, which the Supreme Court of India has now stayed absolutely. This caused another two-year delay in the manifestation of Auroville, which appears, more and more, the aim of the faction: to obstruct the manifestation of the city; to stall and stall again until people lose interest and the obstructing residents win back their green exclusive fiefdoms and to keep the 3,000 acres of Auroville land gated and guarded for the enjoyment of a handful. Active solutions

Contrary to false propaganda about the removal of green cover, of attempting to implement an outdated plan, of a narrow and rigid interpretation of the visionary and “yantric” Galaxy Plan, the solutions which Auroville offered already between 1965 and 1972, still remain the active solutions for the problems that plague the world. Auroville is not yet another city in the making; it is, in its very concep-

tion and planning, the ‘City the Earth Needs’. It is a vision-driven city and far exceeds the means and knowledge at hand in 1965, when planning started. For example, Auroville was envisioned as a pedestrian city with slow moving e-vehicles only — a concept which was not yet born in a world that was still dreaming of fossil fuel and fast-moving machines to speed up human life. Similarly, at a time when the concept of carbon footprint and food miles had not yet surfaced in the consciousness of humanity, Auroville was conceived as a city (five square kilometres) surrounded by a Green Belt, three times its size (15 sq. km) to provide food for its inhabitants and employment for the bioregion. Out of 1,212 acres of city area, 164 acres are green parks in the city, 3,637 acres are lands making up the Green Belt comprising farms and plantations; the Galaxy footprint only occupies 448 acres of land. That means 764 acres are unbuilt area out of which at least 164 acres (park area) are unpaved and actually green — which makes for an unparalleled 38% of actual green area within the city alone. The Auroville plan accounts for 212 square metre a person against the 10 sq.m to 12 sq.m. of open space a person recommended by the Urban and Regional Development Plans, Formulation and Implementation Guidelines (URDPFI), 2014. It may be noted that all the roads of the Auroville Master Plan together take up merely 1.64% of the total land earmarked for Auroville.

Certainly, trees were planted from the beginning which has done much good to the soil quality, to the water table, and to the microclimate of Auroville. But while the tree plantation was always only meant to be a temporary measure to rejuvenate the soil or grow timber, until the city could be built, much of it came to be done with a vengeance, with an aim to distort the plan, and block any development. This and many other endeavours, with no approvals, became the means of appropriation and trees — most were the imported invasive, water-sucker Acacia auriculiformis — the weapons to claim territory in the name of forests or ecology. Instead of prioritising land for the city area, enormous amounts collected as donations in the name of Auroville, went into consolidating a few acres every year, mostly in the Green Belt. In the face of this apathy land prices began to skyrocket and more developers moved in.

The new impetus for the projectOver 10 years ago, the previous Chairman of the Governing Board had made arrangements so that Auroville could exchange land outside the Master Plan and start securing the city area. In fact, the proposal then, as now, was met with strong opposition and nothing was done. In 2021 the Secretary, Jayanti Ravi was appointed. Her hope of coming to administer a visionary town with an evolved society was confronted with public abuse, denial of all requests to collaborate and media vilification campaigns targeting her personally and the Auroville Foundation, and any Aurovilian standing in their way. Court cases followed, and the Crown that had waited for decades was again blocked and the Master Plan declared unsustainable, un-ecological, and something to discard. Fortunately for Auroville, this time, both the Secretary and the Governing Board decided to stand their ground for the envisioned project of Auroville at this critical time. To strike a balance between the land consolidation needs of Auroville on the one hand and the value perceptions of outlying lands on the other, the Auroville Foundation formed a team of professionals to arrive at the best possible deal while, at the same time, maintaining a good pace so that land consolidation for the city area can be completed at the earliest. It may be noted that the value of the lands needed for Auroville cannot be determined only on the basis of prevailing guideline values as fixed by the State government keeping in view that the Auroville Foundation only needs the lands lying within the Auroville Master Plan. The value of a road-facing land may be high for a commercial developer while for Auroville and the Foundation, the land inside the city area of Auroville is close to being invaluable. The steps followed in land consolidation by the Auroville Foundation involve the Land Board, the Special Officer appointed for land matters, a government-approved evaluator as well as the Land Committee of the Governing Board and the Ministry of Education. Auroville has waited very long, but we are confident that the force that prevails over Auroville and drives its progress, despite many obstacles, is actually the strongest, shortest, most comprehensive and divine way forward for the future of the world and humanity.

tential to be 25.4 GW if wind turbines of less than 2 MW capacity are taken into consideration.

What does repowering and refurbishing entail?

Wind energy generators say that when turbines were installed in the 1980s, potential wind sites were mapped and the mandatory gap required between two wind mills were determined based on the technology available then. All the turbines were in the sub one MW category. Over the years, the wind mill manufacturing sector has matured and technology has evolved. Habitations have come up between wind sites, posing new challenges, and wind energy evacuation and transmission infrastructure close to the wind sites needs to be strengthened to match the generation. Sources in the wind energy industry point out that a 2 MW wind turbine is usually 120 metres high and requires 3.5 acres of land. It can generate upto 65 lakh units of power. A 2.5 MW turbine, which is available in the market now, is 140 metres high and can generate 80 lakh units. It requires five acres. So, when an existing wind turbine is to be repowered by replacing it with a high capacity turbine, more land is required. Further, at Aralvaimozhi in Tamil Nadu, a high potential wind site, the 48 MW installed capacity now is made up of mostly 250 KW turbines and the potential at the site is for 100 MW. A project to have three sub-stations of 230 KVA each at 7800 crore was sanctioned six years ago and is yet to take off for multiple reasons. In Tamil Nadu, wind mills installed after 2018 do not have banking facility. When a turbine is repowered, it will be treated as a new installation and the generator cannot bank the energy generated. This impacts the financial viability of the project, say the sources. What is the way forward? Among the wind energy generating States, the repowering potential is the highest in Tamil Nadu with over 7,000 MW of installed capacity that can be replaced or refurbished. If the small turbines are repowered or refurbished, the contribution of wind energy to total energy consumed during the peak windy seasons can go up easily by 25%, says wind energy consultant A.D. Thirumoorthy. While there have been generators which have replaced turbines in the past without government support, the policy itself does not promote wind energy generation, claim the generators. It should look at challenges on the field and consider how the wind energy potential can be harnessed fully by the generators. “No industry or energy generator will want to invest in a project that is not financially viable.

How the Supreme Court cleared the decks for AMU to claim its minority status: Explained



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

The story so far: In a narrow 4-3 majority verdict, the Supreme Court on November 8, 2024, overturned its 1967 ruling in S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India, which had previously served as the basis for denying Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) its minority institution status. The majority verdict was penned by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud and endorsed by Justices Sanjiv Khanna, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra. Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and S.C. Sharma dissented in separate opinions.

What constitutes a ‘minority institution’?

Article 30(1) of the Constitution guarantees religious and linguistic minorities the fundamental right to establish and manage educational institutions of their choice. Article 30(2) further mandates that the state must ensure “equality of treatment” in granting aid to all educational institutions, regardless of their minority status. Notably, such institutions enjoy greater autonomy than most others. Under Article 15(5), they are exempt from providing reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and may reserve up to 50% of seats for students from their own community. In the landmark T.M.A. Pai Foundation (2002) case, the Supreme Court clarified that a ‘minority’ status should be determined based on the demographic composition of the concerned State, rather than the national population.

What is the background of the case?

In 1875, Muslim reformer and educationist Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College in Aligarh to offer modern British education rooted in Islamic values to Muslims. In 1920, the Aligarh Muslim University Act (AMU Act) was passed, incorporating MAO College and the Muslim University Association into AMU. Under Section 23 of the Act, only Muslims were permitted to be members of the university’s governing body, known as the Court. In 1951, this mandate for Muslim-only representation on the Court was abolished. A subsequent amendment in 1965 redistributed the Court’s powers among other administrative bodies, with provisions allowing the President of India to nominate members to it. However, in 1967, the Supreme Court, in Azeez Basha, upheld the amendments to the Act, reasoning that AMU was neither established nor administered by the Muslim minority since it had been established through central legislation. This decision sparked widespread protests, ultimately leading to an amendment of the AMU Act in 1981, which officially recognised the university’s minority status. In 2005, the university introduced a policy reserving 50% of seats in its post-graduate medical courses for Muslim students. This was subsequently challenged before the Allahabad High Court which struck it down on the ground that the university did not qualify as a minority institution as per the Azeez Basha ruling. In 2006, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court stayed the reservation policy and referred the case to a larger Bench. In 2019, a three-judge Bench headed by former CJI Ranjan Gogoi referred the Azeez Basha decision for reconsideration by a seven-judge Bench. The matter stayed in limbo till October last year when Justice Chandrachud constituted a seven-judge bench to hear it.

What did the majority rule?

Justice Chandrachud, in an expansive interpretation of Article 30, affirmed that educational institutions established prior to the adoption of the Constitution are equally entitled to the protections granted under Article 30(1). He clarified that statutory enactments conferring legal recognition or status upon such institutions do not compromise their minority character, provided their foundational purpose was “predominantly” aimed at benefiting the minority community. The majority verdict further emphasised that an institution does not forfeit its minority character simply because its administration is no longer vested with the community. The judges reasoned that founders or the minority community might appoint individuals from outside the community to helm the administrative affairs, particularly if the institution seeks to focus on secular education. “This may be the case for professional colleges which offer specialised courses such as law, medicine, or architecture, where the founders may not possess the knowledge, experience, or insight necessary to manage or administer the institution personally,” they added. Accordingly, the majority overturned the longstanding Azeez Basha ruling, asserting that treating legal formalities for recognition or degree conferral as grounds to nullify an institution’s minority status would constitute a breach of fundamental rights. However, Justice Chandrachud clarified that the onus rests on the concerned religious or linguistic minorities to demonstrate that the educational institution was primarily established for the benefit of their community to qualify for protection under Article 30(1). He pointed out that such an assessment of the “brain” behind an institution’s creation could be conducted through a comprehensive review of documents, correspondence and historical records. Dismissing the Centre’s contentions, the judges further declared that recognising an institution as one of national importance does not inherently diminish its minority character, as the national and minority attributes are “not at odds with each other nor mutually exclusive.” They also refused to assign any weight to either the provision of religious instruction or the prominence of religious buildings, such as the St. Stephen’s College church or AMU mosque, in determining an institution’s minority status.

What do the dissenting opinions state?

Justice Kant primarily differed from the majority on procedural grounds, arguing that the two-judge Bench in Anjanam-e-Rahmaniya v. District Inspector of Schools (1981), which had initially questioned the precedent set by a five-judge Bench in Azeez Basha, overstepped its jurisdiction by referring the matter directly to a seven-judge Bench. He reasoned that this undermined the Chief Justice’s authority as the “master of the roster.” While concurring with Justice Kant on procedural impropriety, Justice Datta questioned the legitimacy of AMU’s minority status, asserting that conferring such recognition after nearly a century would amount to “historical revisionism.” Notably, he critiqued the lack of constructive discussions among the judges on the Bench, revealing that the draft opinions from Justice Chandrachud—later forming the majority judgment—were received late and underwent frequent revisions. In a likely reference to the majority ruling, Justice Datta remarked that judges should refrain from disregarding long-standing precedents in favour of judicial activism. Justice Sharma too concluded that initial support from a minority community does not automatically grant an institution minority status, particularly if the actual control vests with the government.

What happens next?

A regular bench, assigned by CJI Sanjiv Khanna, will now reevaluate AMU’s minority character based on criteria set by the majority without being constrained by Azeez Basha. Meanwhile, the stay on the university’s 2005 reservation policy will persist until a final determination is made. This reassessment is likely to have far-reaching implications for AMU’s autonomy, its authority to reserve seats for

A case for the organic, harmonious growth of Auroville

Auroville, based on the vision of India’s great poet, philosopher, revolutionary and yogi, Sri Aurobindo, was founded in 1968. His spiritual companion, the Mother of Pondicherry, clearly defined its charter: “Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole.... Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual human unity....” For a decade or so, Auroville developed quietly and organically: there was no guru, no CEOs, no private property (for instance, my wife Namrita and I have no children and our house, where I invested the returns from my articles and books, will go back to Auroville on our death), no circulation of money (Aurovillians get a maintenance credited to an account, from which they can purchase food and pay their electricity bill), and the community, originating today from 60 countries, periodically elected groups that looked after finances, administration, forests, land purchasing, and units and factories. More than that, the pioneers of Auroville, with little money, no water and no compost, planted three million trees, making out of a barren plateau, the greenest place in the plains of Tamil Nadu. It also gave birth to a hydra-monster: land that was worth barely ₹1,000 an acre in the 1970s is now worth ₹10 crore, and everybody is rushing in — promoters, restaurants, cafés, guest houses and hotels that have often no other interest than commercial gains. The beginnings of conflict

For a long time, the Government of India did not interfere in the affairs of Auroville. But in the early 1980s, there was a conflict between the Sri Aurobindo Society, a Trust the Mother had created to buy the lands of Auroville and the Aurovillians, mostly westerners at that time. The Society, contrary to what the Charter of Auroville says, felt they were the ‘owners’ of Auroville and started to impose their views and ideas. This led to a conflict, the police being finally called and 16 Aurovillians (mostly French) were imprisoned in the Tindivanam jail in Tamil Nadu. The Government of India had to intervene: its then Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, as well as Mani Shankar Aiyar and Arun Singh were particularly helpful and in 1988, an Act of Parliament was passed. Called the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, it gave certain powers to the central government but left the management of Auroville to the Residents Assembly, constituted by every adult in Auroville and which is the very foundation stone of the city. For the 50th anniversary of Auroville, in February 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited it and seemed happy with what he saw. Many secretaries, generally retired government officials of high ranking, came and went, making sure that the laws of India were respected, but none of them ever interfered in the internal affairs of Auroville.

The impact of the ‘Galaxy’ planThen in 2021, Gujarat-cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Jayanti

S. Ravi, who was serving as Principal Secretary in the Gujarat Health and Family and Welfare Department, was appointed as Secretary of the Auroville Foundation. Everybody seemed happy: Ms. Ravi had worked closely with Mr. Modi, she knew the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and charmed every body at first glance. However, Ms. Ravi was convinced that it was her sacred duty to implement to the letter and with an iron hand the “Galaxy” plan of French architect Roger Anger. This plan has some beauty, but was conceived in the mid-1960s when there was no environmental consciousness, no water shortage, no ecofriendly buildings. The Anger plan meant building huge apartment complexes, which would require millions of tonnes of concrete, with the harmful effect to monsoon flow and water conservation that is known today; also massive roads, cutting through Auroville; and a huge lake, when the water tables of Auroville have already shrunk by half. Apart from cutting the forests of Auroville for roads — that lead nowhere (as all the lands have not been bought) — anybody who opposed these, especially foreigners, was denied visas or ejected out of India. The Land Board was a committee created by the Residents Assembly of the Auroville Foundation Act — responsible for the purchase, exchange and maintenance of the lands of Auroville — it was working exclusively with funds collected from donors in India or abroad. Land exchanges and salesFor the last two years, however, there have been several land exchanges and sales done without reporting and without approval from the working groups concerned on behalf of the Residents Assembly. Auroville has approached, multiple times, the Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi, who is also Chairman of the Auroville Foundation, for help in stemming the land sales and exchanges (as recently as three weeks ago, with this writer present in the meeting), but Mr. Ravi has chosen not to listen to our pleas, even though it has been calculated that at least six of these unofficial land exchanges incurred a loss of around ₹250 crore to Auroville. Auroville needs all its lands, as we plant trees, and trees are life in an India which is rapidly getting deforested by promoters and sharks. Also, Auroville must have a saying in its running. For instance, there is not a single Aurovillian in the Governing Board, which has only outsiders, with no grassroots knowledge of Auroville. At least two senior Aurovillians should be present in that group. Finally, the government must grant some autonomy to Auroville. Auroville is a unique experiment, one of the last Utopias of this world; a wonder in showing how a barren land can be redeemed in 40 years. Therefore, in the spirit of ‘Vasudeva Kutumbakam, the World is One Family’, the government of Narendra Modi should not stifle its freedom and kill the dream. François Gautier is a journalist, writer, and the author of many books on India

Arthroscopy expert clarifies whether extra body fat can trap vitamin D and reduce its availability

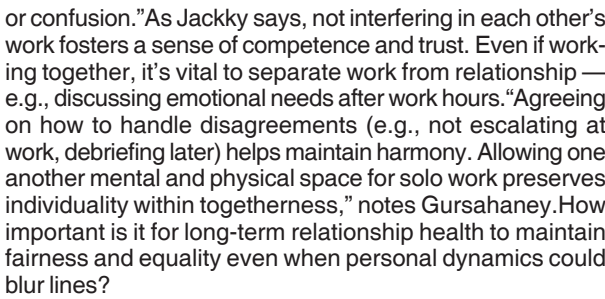


In India, private sector behemoth Reliance Industries (RIL) and Nayara Energy (NEL) have been the biggest processors of heavy crudes. Limited heavy crude volumes

Tariff & anti-dumping duty imposed by USAs per the minutes of the BoT meeting, Rajasthan said US tariffs have resulted in the "cancellation of orders" in the gems and jewellery sector and that "payments were also not coming". The Spices Board said that "US tariffs had created a crisis with a 50 per cent duty on oleoresins". Oleoresins help manufacturers achieve flavour and aroma in their final products. Even as US tariffs have left out generic drugs, representatives from Goa flagged that "pharma exports had been affected due to tariffs. The Seafood Exporters Association also flagged a "significant drop in exports" to the US. While the representative from Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA) stated that the government should subsidise the difference in the US tariffs on India and those with its competitors, the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India said that Market Access Initiative was not available for the last nine months and the utilisation of funds under Export Promotion Mission (EMP) would need to be expedited. EMP was announced in the Budget last year, with the Commerce and Industry Ministry announcing the modalities of the scheme only on December 31, 2025. Beyond US tariffs, representatives also broached concerns over anti-dumping duties imposed by the US. Gujarat's representative expressed apprehension of an impact on exports due to the imposition of anti-dumping duty by the US. The Spices Board also raised concerns due to "anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties (CVDs)". While the US has initiated most anti-dumping investigations against China, it has

Is it still safer than sugar for diabetics?

For short-term blood sugar control, erythritol doesn't spike glucose or insulin levels the way sugar does. "But diabetics are also at higher risk for heart disease. So, if a



Avoids resentment: One-sided privileges (even if unspoken) can lead to hidden frustration over time. Preserves individuality: Equality ensures both partners retain their own identity, ambitions, and dignity. Encourages honest communication: When there's fairness, people feel safer to speak openly without fear of judgment or power imbalance. Models mutual respect: As in Jackky's example, Rakul's refusal to demand special treatment reflects a deeper commitment to professionalism and equality, which keeps both grounded and respected in each other's eyes.



Excessive intake of sugar alcohols can cause bloating, gas, and diarrhoea due to their incomplete absorption in the intestine, said Dt Deepali Sharma, clinical nutritionist, CK Birla Hospital®, Delhi. “

The healthiest approach is to retrain the taste buds. Dr Ghody advised keeping ultra-processed “sugar-free” snacks to a minimum and getting your sweetness from whole fruits, which provide fibre, antioxidants, and vitamins. “Stay well-hydrated, sleep well, and manage stress—these factors influence sugar cravings too,” said Dr Ghody. Sugar-free does not equate to risk-free, Dr Ghody affirmed. “Always read labels, use in moderation, and remember: the best sweetener is balance, not a chemical shortcut,” said Dr Ghody.

BCCI promises kinder FTP cycle, rest between series and tour games



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

With an eye on managing players' workload, providing them adequate rest and recovery time between series, and thus limiting the possibility of picking up injuries, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has promised a better-planned Future Tour Programme from the next cycle. Some of the proposed measures include chalking out the calendar in such a way that the players get more rest between series, and sufficient time to get acclimatised to conditions, more so in SENA countries, including warm-up games before series. "We have instructed our FTP persons who will be meeting very soon in various international forums that our FTP should be in such a way that there is proper rest for the players as well as some kind of acclimatisation or friendly matches before any major series in SENA countries," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told media after a meeting with captains Shubman Gill (Test and ODIs), Shreyas Iyer (T20Is, coach Gautam Gambhir and head of Centre of Excellence (COE) VVS Laxman. Ajit Agarkar, the chairman of selectors, couldn't attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

In the review meeting held in the board headquarters here to discuss the roadmap of Indian cricket in an important season, they discussed the frequent incidence of injuries, possibly due to a packed calendar. Saikia admitted: "Individual players are having injuries because they have to play a lot of matches. If you look at their schedule, in England, three-four players of the 15-member ODI squad got injured. We have to think that they have played two months of IPL before that. All this takes a toll on the health of the players." The schedule is not getting kinder, with India set to feature in seven Tests, 14 ODIs, and 16 T20Is, apart from the Asian Games, until the next IPL in late March. The

board, though, has assured the team management and its captains that they will plan better so that players get sufficient rest. "To avoid those kinds of situations under the present FTP, we are trying to find some ways out. We have a protocol in place for how a player can come back to international matches after injury. We are taking feedback from the captains and head coach to chalk up a proper strategy to avoid these unwanted situations," the secretary assured. He also asserted that, "everybody is on the same page." "BCCI is working very well, like a well oiled engine. There is proper coordination amongst all the wings of BCCI, whether it is women's teams committees or their technical staff or their coaches, vis-a-vis the COE, vis-a-vis the Indian men's team's coaching staff and the head coach. There is no difficulty in the coordination, everything is moving in the right direction." "The only challenge we are facing is that there are too many matches in the year and that is why in the next FTP, we will do certain things. We will take certain measures," he added.

The board secretary defused speculation on former captain Rohit Sharma's future. "He is playing superbly in all matches. So what more do you want? Last match he scored 138 runs so why is there speculation? I do not want to give some fodder for the speculators," he said, stubbing rumours that he was not in the selectors' scheme for the World Cup in southern Africa later next year. He also said they didn't discuss the future of Agarkar, and clarified that the talks revolved only around the roadmap for the 2027 World Cup. "Today he was out of station. He could not be a part of the meeting because this meeting was called at a very short notice, and our head of the selection committee was not in town, so he could not join it. He was in such an area that he could not join online also, in spite of all these efforts," he said.

No issues in Asian Games Regarding concerns on facilities and accommodation in Asian Games, he said: "We are not going to have any difficulties in Japan." There were reports that the cricketers had raised complaints about being put up in container villas of cruise ships. But the secretary said: "If any kind of situation arises, we'll take an appropriate call at the right time, so that we ensure that our players and the support star will get the best of facilities in Asian Games, whether it is from their organisers or us. If required, BCCI will have its own system in place to provide the best facilities to our players," he replied. Meanwhile, three bowlers—Rasikh Salam, Kartik Tyagi and Vicky Ostwal will travel with the Indian team to the Asian Games.

Spanish World Cup winner Marcos Llorente retires from international football

GNS News Agency, Sept 19

Spain midfielder and World Cup winner Marcos Llorente has retired from international football just six weeks after the final. He made 27 senior appearances for the Spanish team. In a farewell letter, the Atlético Madrid player said it was, "a personal decision, one I've thought through very carefully and, above all, one that comes from the heart." He also clarified that the outcome of the tournament would not have made a difference on his choice, saying, "regardless of whether I had gone to the World Cup or not, or whether we had won or not, I had already made this decision."

While he mostly operates as a midfielder, Llorente played as a right-back for his national team during this World Cup where he provided the assist to Álex Baena during Spain's 1-0 win against Uruguay. The La Liga player, still only 31, addressed the relatively young age at which he is retiring, saying, "I realize that I'm still young and that, perhaps, if I continued to perform well, I'd still have years left to play in this jersey." He further said, "I know many of you won't understand this, and I probably wouldn't have understood it either if I were looking at it from the outside." He signed the letter off by thanking his Spanish teammates for



the journey he has been on. "I'll cherish everything I've experienced, but above all, these last 52 days. With a wonderful group that fought until the very end to put Spain at the top. And that's exactly what they did." Llorente currently plays for Atlético Madrid and signed an extension with the club just 5 months ago. While his contract runs out by 2027, in an interview with Sport, he said, "if I am honest I would like to retire at Atlético de Madrid."

Cricket can be dangerous in Asian Games, says former India batter



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

Cricket's inclusion at the 2023 Asian Games had raised questions about the nature of pitches prepared in the multi-sport events, and ahead of the 2026 iteration, former India batter Aakash Chopra has questioned the relevance of the sport in the continental tournament. Cricket at the forthcoming Asian Games in Japan will be played at the Korogi Sports Park in Nisshin, one of the few venues designed to host the sport in the country. However, the ground was remodelled from a baseball facility, with works of the ground only completed in late March, with a hybrid pitch square. Chopra, however, cautioned that under-prepared pitches at the Games could be dangerous for the players involved. "There is a different uproar going on about the Asian Games. We saw it last time as well. Whether it's in China or Japan, these countries have all kinds of top-quality infrastructure, but not for cricket. They also wake up late for cricket. By the time they wake up, they realize that making it is a very difficult job," Chopra said.

"They have tried, but we saw last time as well that if a top-flight bowler bowls fast, the pitches aren't ready at all. They are actually dangerous to play. You feel the safety of your own players is on the line. They prepare the ground but are unable to prepare the square, and no cricket would have been played on it. You shouldn't be surprised at all if it becomes dangerous," he added. Chopra added that there is not enough awareness yet about the suitability of cricket in such multi-sport events. Cricket has previously been played only in three editions of the Asian Games in 2010, 2014 and 2023. "The second problem is that there probably isn't enough realization that cricket is a different kind of sport. The facilities that are required just to perform at the highest level aren't ready at all. They say they can't provide hotels, two people will stay in a room, and that they are

using cruise ships or converted containers as hotels. This is not how cricket actually happens," he said. "You can call it slightly elitist or classist, as to why it is not right for them when it is right for everyone else. You may have a point, but the truth is that cricket is not played like that. When you go to play cricket around the world, you get a single room to stay. You get your privacy, and you are used to that," Chopra observed. Twelve nations will compete in cricket in the men's and women's formats between September 17 and October 3. The Indian men's and women's will begin their gold medal defence with a direct berth in the quarter-finals.

Kidambi Srikanth loses to Lee Cheuk Yiu in China Masters quarterfinals

Shenzhen: Kidambi Srikanth's campaign at the China Masters, a BWF Super 750 tournament, ended after losing to Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong in the quarterfinals here on Friday. Srikanth suffered a 16-21, 16-21 loss at the hands of Lee at the Shenzhen Arena. It was Srikanth's first quarterfinal appearance at a BWF World Tour Super 750 event or above in three years.

Lee's lead in their head-to-head record was also increased as a result of the defeat, as Srikanth has now lost their last four matches in a row with Lee. In the first round of the 2018 India Open, he was victorious over the Hong Kong player for the only time in his career. In the pre-quarters, Srikanth pulled off a stunning upset over Canadian World No. 9 and recent World Championship bronze medalist Victor Lai, winning 21-18, 21-19. He had defeated Chinese Taipei's World No. 21 Chi Yu-jen 21-16, 21-15 in just 35 minutes in the opening round. Later in the day, former World No. 1 pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, a lone Indian challenge left at the 750 event, will take on Danish pair Kim Astrup and Anders Skarup Rasmussen for a place in the semifinals. The Indian held off France's Toma Junior Popov and Christo Popov 21-17, 22-24, 21-9 to make it to the quarterfinal. Earlier, India's women's singles campaign at the BWF Super 750 badminton tournament, came to an end on Thursday after Tanvi Sharma lost 21-17, 18-21, 21-16 against Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki.

Yuvraj Singh wishes mentee Abhishek Sharma on his 26th birthday



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

New Delhi: Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh on Friday shared special wishes to his mentee Abhishek Sharma on his 26th birthday. Yuvraj has been a mentor to Abhishek, helping in his rise to international cricket as he became the No. 1 T20I batter and reinvented the T20I batting template for India.

Sharing a cheeky video, Yuvraj wished Abhishek in the caption on his cakeday. "Sir Abhishek, it's your birth-

day. What an auspicious day. Love the person you have become – sharing and caring for those around you, and a leader! Always learning from your failures and willing to put in more hard work each time! Wishing you a year of runs and tons! Lots of love always," Yuvraj wrote on Instagram. He shared a humorous video with Abhishek, where he can be seen asking the youngster not to play rash shots and making him do sit-ups for his errors. "Bol mai pehli ball te lappa nahi maaranga," Yuvraj can be heard saying as Abhishek holds his ears in sit-ups. "Mai pehli ball te lift nahi maranga," Abhishek replied.

The video further pictured the close bond between the two, with some light-hearted digs from Yuvraj. It also films Yuvraj, Abhishek and Sanju Samson attending the Wimbledon event from the stands. "Kya chahiye aapko?" Yuvraj asked Abhishek in the video shared as the trio watched the SW19. "Aapka Aashirwaad," Abhishek said, as Yuvi replied, "Always." Abhishek has tasted success at the international level and has become a fearsome T20I batter. He has two centuries with 11 half-tons to his name in 55 innings. Abhishek holds the second-fastest century in T20Is for India, having smacked a ton in just 37 balls last year against England. He is only behind former skipper Rohit Sharma in this list, with the 2024 T20 World Cup-winning captain having hit a hundred in 35 balls against Sri Lanka in 2017. Abhishek will be in action next in the upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghanistan in New Delhi and will look to make the most of the opportunities after having mixed outings against Ireland, England and Zimbabwe. The Southpaw has only one fifty in the last 10 innings and has been dismissed in single digits in the last four innings.

Smriti Mandhana says inspiring young girls matters more than cricket records

GNS News Agency, Sept 19 Dubai: India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana believes her biggest measure of success will not be the records she breaks but the number of young girls she can inspire to pick up a bat and ball and dream of playing cricket for India. Mandhana made history with a breathtaking 124 off 64 balls against Hong Kong China in the Women's T20 Asia Cup on Thursday, becoming the leading run-scorer in women's international cricket after surpassing former India captain Mithali Raj's tally of 10,868 runs.

However, reflecting on her record-breaking performance, Mandhana said she has never viewed personal milestones as the ultimate measure of her career. "I always felt this is my job. I never thought of anything else than records and numbers and the amount of matches you win for India. That is a measure which you take back; you don't take back how many runs or records you've broken," Mandhana said in a video released by BCCI.

The left-handed opener, who also became the first Indian woman to score multiple T20I centuries, said she would take greater pride in helping the next generation of Indian women cricketers reach the highest level. "If anything of mine could inspire even like 10% girls to pick up a bat and ball and start playing cricket, I feel that would be something which I'll always be proud and happy about," she said. Mandhana also spoke about her desire to see more Indian batters join her among the leading run-scorers in women's international cricket. "Hopefully there will be three-four more in the list of 10,000 from the Indian set-up and that is something which I would like to be measured with. If I come back to the question, taking three or four with you would be great to have in the top five list, and there will be like three or four Indians. I think that's something which I'll measure my career with," she said. The 30-year-old admitted that she never imagined she would surpass Mithali, whom she grew up watching and idolising. "All grown up watching Mithali Di back, she's been such an idol for everyone growing up. I never in my dreams ever imagined that I would get 10,000 and go past



her," Mandhana said.

Despite her landmark achievement, Mandhana insisted there was still plenty of room for improvement in her game. "I wouldn't say that you're ever complete as a batter or a bowler, and if you feel that, cricket will always show you that you're not," she said. Mandhana also highlighted her efforts to improve her six-hitting ability, an aspect that was on full display against Hong Kong China as she smashed seven sixes during her record knock. "I've been constantly trying to improve my six-hitting abilities in terms of being able to even clear the long-off and the long-on fielder or have the confidence to do that," she said. Her 124, which came with 14 fours and seven sixes, was also the highest individual score in Women's T20 Asia Cup history, surpassing Chamari Athapaththu's unbeaten 119 against Malaysia in 2024. The knock was Mandhana's 18th international century, taking her past Meg Lanning and Laura Wolvaardt for the most hundreds across formats in women's international cricket. She also became the first Indian woman to register multiple T20I centuries and set a new record for the highest individual score by an Indian woman in T20Is. Mandhana's innings helped India post 193/5 in 20 overs, which proved to be too much for Hong Kong, as they got bowled out for just 56 runs and lost the match by 137 runs.

‘Serve like Sachin’: BCCI reveals long-term plan for Sooryavanshi's career



GNS News Agency, Sept 19

Within two years of bursting onto the professional circuit, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has captured the imagination of Indian cricket fans at a level no other youngster has come close to. The 15-year-old has risen through the ranks at rapid speed, breaking records within two series of his international debut this year. The Bihar prodigy's future was a part of the crucial review meeting held by the various stakeholders at the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) headquarters in Mumbai on Thursday. Sooryavanshi, who broke Sachin Tendulkar's record as the youngest male cricketer to represent India during the T20I series in England in July, has now been backed to emulate the legendary Mumbaiaika.

"We want Vaibhav Sooryavanshi or any player of his stature to continue and serve like Sachin Tendulkar did for the country or other players who in the past became legends," BCCI secretary Saikia told reporters.

"So we look at Vaibhav in a very serious manner. He's monitored from every angle and every step he is taking forward in his international career. The BCCI is taking a very close look at his future." Saikia also said that the BCCI will not make the mistake of fast-tracking him for bigger assignments and will take the left-hander's progression one step at a time. The secretary also said that the BCCI's Centre of Excellence are tracking up to 15 players in the same age group as Sooryavanshi with the future in mind. "We are very cautious that every right step he should take forward so that it should not be a one series or one year wonder." "We are looking at all the players, not only Vaibhav's relevance, but there are about 10-15 players who are in our targeted group," Saikia said. "They are constantly monitored by our COE head, VVS Laxman, who is taking keen interest in

their future and their training and skill development." Following his underwhelming T20I debut in England with scores of 14, 13, and 15 in three innings, Sooryavanshi emerged as the Player of the Series during India's 3-0 triumph in Zimbabwe. He later sizzled with the fastest-ever List A century during India A's Tri-Nation series win in Sri Lanka. Sooryavanshi was also elevated as East Zone's vice-captain in the domestic season-opening Duleep Trophy. Sooryavanshi came close to recording his maiden First-Class century during the semi-final victory against Central Zone, with a quickfire fifty making him the youngest half-century in the Duleep Trophy.

Naomi Osaka beats Siniakova to reach US Open third round

New York: Four-time Grand Slam titlist Naomi Osaka debuted a new daytime kit for her second-round match and then recovered from losing the second set to overcome Katerina Siniakova in the decider, progressing to the third round of the US Open in New York on Thursday. Osaka, the two-time champion in New York with titles in 2018 and 2020, recovered after losing a 5-3 lead in the second set to defeat Siniakova 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 in 2 hours and 2 minutes. While her first-round walkout outfit was inspired by Allen Iverson, with sweatbands and a hoodie embellished with news-making moments from her career, in addition to a long tulle skirt, Thursday's 'fit' was a bit more understated. The white outer layer is collared and adorned with beaded tennis racquets, and features a long mesh train with strips of fabric that fluttered as she walked. Things were not as smooth on the court once again. Osaka had needed two tiebreaks to scrape past No. 101-ranked Anastasia Zakharova, who broke the former World No. 1's serve four times, in the first round; after that tussle, she admitted to being "so nervous" during it. Against Siniakova, she did not face a break point through her first seven service games — but then dropped serve three times in a row before resetting in the decider. With this, Osaka made the third round of the US Open for the eighth time in 10 main-draw appearances. Having also reached that stage of the Australian Open followed by career-best showings at Roland Garros (fourth round) and Wimbledon (quarterfinals)

Delhi HC asks CBFC to decide on changes to ‘Shoorveer’ song in ‘Mirzapur: The Movie’



New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday said the use of a song revering Maharana Pratap as the background score for a fight sequence in “Mirzapur: The Movie” was “not in good taste” and asked the CBFC to take a decision within a week on the producer’s proposal to make the necessary changes. “Prima facie, it does not appear to be in good taste. We have come to a situation where we are revering violence,” a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia orally remarked while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) against the use of the song “Shoorveer” in the film.

The counsel for the producer said the song was used only in the background to “embellish” the climax, where the protagonists are fighting goons. “There is no comparison of any of the characters with a historical figure. It has nothing to do with crime per se. It is a fight between two factions,”

the counsel said. The counsel for the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) informed the court that the film’s producer had, on its own, approached it to make alterations to the scene and that the authority would soon take a decision on the matter.

As the petitioner’s counsel raised concerns over his plea becoming infructuous following the release of the film on OTT platforms, the court remarked, “If they themselves are modifying the song with background music, the whole purpose of your filing the petition is achieved.” The court listed the PIL for hearing on September 24 and directed, “In the meantime, a decision shall be taken.”

Petitioner Prashant Kumar Singh’s PIL said the musical composition “Shoorveer”, a tribute to Maharana Pratap, was played in a manner that created an “undesirable association” between the revered ideals of the warrior and the violent and unlawful conduct portrayed in the film. ‘Mirzapur: The Movie’ is set against the backdrop of organised crime, gang rivalry and violent criminal activities, wherein the principal characters, including Kaleen Bhaiya, are portrayed as operating and controlling an illegal criminal empire involving unlawful possession and use of weapons, drug and narcotics trade, extortion, threats, murders and other acts of violence,” the plea said. “Such portrayal, when coupled with the use of a musical composition publicly associated with the ideals of Maharana Pratap, is capable of creating an undesirable and misleading association between the values of courage, honour and sacrifice represented by Maharana Pratap and the criminality, violence and unlawful power portrayed through the gangster characters in the film,” it added.

Dulquer Salmaan’s ‘Aakasamlo Oka Tara’ gets November 20 release date

Hyderabad: The makers of director Pavan Sadineni’s upcoming film ‘Aakasamlo Oka Tara’, featuring actors Dulquer Salmaan and Satvika Veeravalli in the lead, on Thursday announced that the film would hit screens worldwide on November 20 this year. Download Interactive Maps

Swapna Cinemas, the production house behind the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, “The journey to the stars begins. #AakasamLoOkaTara / #AOTMovie – 20th November 2026 in theatres. Come along... there’s a beautiful world waiting for you. #AOTonNOV20th @dulQuer @pavansadineni @GeethaArts @SwapnaC.” The makers had earlier marked the birthday of actor Dulquer Salmaan by releasing a new poster of the actor from the film and announcing that he would be playing a character called Krishna. The makers had also introduced Satvika Veeravalli as the female lead of the film some months ago. The film, produced by Sandeep Gunnam and Ramya Gunnam under the Light Box Media banner, is being presented by well-known production houses Geetha Arts and Swapna Cinema.

Geetha Arts, one of the firms presenting the film, had taken to its Instagram page to share the introduction video of the actress. It wrote, “She carries a dream bigger than the sky.... Introducing Satvika Veeravalli – The dreamer who gives wings to #AakasamLoOkaTara #AOTMovie.” The introduction video begins with a child pointing to the sky and asking, “How do I go to space?” Viewers are then given a glimpse of the heroine. The video shows Satvika Veeravalli as a youngster from a rural area who is dissuaded from pursuing her dream of going to space. We hear a man’s voice saying, “Coming from a village that has no roads, you harbour plans of going to space? First, you show us if you can cross the borders of the village. Then, we’ll see.” It is evident that the film will revolve around the character played by Satvika Veeravalli and that she is the protagonist. The



film is about a girl from a remote rural region realising her dream of becoming an astronaut and going to space. The film boasts a strong technical team. It has two-time National Award winner G V Prakash Kumar scoring the music. Cinematography is by Sujith Sarang, while National Award-winning editor K L Praveen has handled the editing.

Namrata Shirodkar gives glimpse of in-house Ganpati Visarjan with daughter Sitara and son Gautam



Mumbai: Actress Namrata Shirodkar gave a glimpse of her Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. She further shared a video featuring her children, daughter Sitara and son Gautam, as the family bid farewell to Ganpati Bappa. In one of the glimpses, Namrata can be seen participating in the Ganpati rituals along with her daughter and son. The family is seen gathered around the beautifully decorated idol, surrounded by flowers and traditional festive decorations. Namrata earlier had also shared a video of herself performing aarti for Lord Ganesha.

In another picture, she posed in front of the Ganpati idol with her pets while dressed in a bright pink traditional outfit. Sharing the festive picture, Namrata wrote, “Ganpati Bappa Morya... Wishing everyone a very Happy Ganesh Chaturthi.” For the uninitiated, Ganesh Chaturthi holds a special significance for Namrata, who comes from a Maharashtrian family. She is the granddaughter of veteran Marathi actress Meenakshi Shirodkar and the elder sister of actress Shilpa Shirodkar. Namrata began her career as a model and was crowned Miss India in 1993. Send Money Overseas She later ventured into films and appeared in movies including Vaastav: The Reality, Kachche Dhaage, Pukar, Astitva, Aaghaaz, Albela and Bride & Prejudice. She also worked in Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada cinema. Her Telugu film Vamsi is particularly significant in her personal life as it was during its making that she met actor

Mahesh Babu. Namrata and Mahesh Babu married in 2005 and are parents to Gautam and Sitara. She then stepped away from acting and has remained closely involved in her family life.

Adivi Sesh, Wamiqa Gabbi’s Goodachari 2 to hit screens on February 5?

Chennai: If sources in the industry are to be believed, director Vinay Kumar Sirigineedi’s spy action thriller ‘Goodachari 2’ (G2), featuring actors Adivi Sesh and Wamiqa Gabbi in the lead, will hit screens on February 5 next year. The film is the sequel to the blockbuster spy thriller ‘Goodachari’.

Vinay Kumar Sirigineedi, who is making his directorial debut with this film, is also producing it and is looking to build on the success of the first part. Sources say that the film, which has been awaiting a release date for quite some time now, will finally hit screens on February 5 next year and add that the makers are looking to redefine the spy thriller genre in Indian cinema with this film. This time around, Wamiqa Gabbi will be seen making an entry as Agent 116.

Bollywood star Emraan Hashmi too will be seen essaying a powerful role in this movie, which will also feature actors Murali Sharma, Supriya Yarlaga, and Madhu Shalini in pivotal roles. Sources have claimed that Emraan Hashmi will be seen sharing screen space alongside Adivi Sesh in the pan-India film and that he will portray a role that will be seen as a parallel lead. More significantly, they claim that he will not be portraying a negative role. The film is being produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Abhishek Agarwal under the banners of People Media Factory, Abhishek Agarwal Arts and AK Entertainments. It is to be released pan India in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. For the unaware, actor Adivi Sesh, who plays the lead in the spy action thriller, had penned a belated birthday post last year for his ‘Goodachari 2’ co-star Wamiqa Gabbi. Taking to his X timeline to pen the birthday greeting a day after the actress had celebrated her birthday, Adivi Sesh had said, “

Actor Anant Nag says PM Modi changed award selection system through public participation



Bengaluru: Veteran Kannada actor Anant Nag, who is the recipient for the 2024 Dadasaheb Phalke Award, has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for changing the system of award selection that was earlier influenced by “nepotism” and “favouritism”. Nag said he was grateful to Modi for announcing the award and dedicated the honour to the people of Karnataka. The award, to be given during the National Film Awards ceremony in Kevadia, Gujarat on September 22, were announced on Wednesday.

“Otherwise, it was a very special category, you know; it was given (through) nepotism and favouritism, and everything was there in this award-giving. But Modi changed it,” Nag told PTI Videos. He said Modi had sought public recommendations for the Padma Awards, prompting Kannadigas to recommend his name. “Modi was the only person who asked people to please recommend the name they had in their mind. That was the first time he brought it out into the public,” he said. Nag said he had not anticipated receiving the Dadasaheb Phalke Award and was still coming to terms with the honour. “Well, I didn’t anticipate that I would be given this Phalke Award, as such. So, I’m trying to come to terms with it. I would dedicate it to the people of Karnataka, and then thank Mr Modi, our dear Prime Minister, for this—because he tweeted it and announced this particular award. So I’m grateful to him, and grateful to this country which has provided me this opportunity,” Nag said, referring to Modi’s post on X where the PM called him “a truly distinguished artist”. Nag, who has completed 50 years as an actor, said he had never expected awards but valued the support of people who admired his work. “I’ve never been in that culture of expecting an award. Reward, yes, anytime. But an award, I was not told,” he said. The actor said he did not have fan associations but acknowledged the people who had supported his career. “I wouldn’t say they are my fans, because I don’t have fan associations and all. But I have people who admire my work and who have blessed me, supported me in my 50-year career as an actor,” he said.

Asked about his advice for youngsters entering the

film industry, Nag said they needed to work hard and please the audience. “They have to work hard, yes. If you want to be successful in cinema, in entertainment, you have to work very hard and then please the audience,” he said. Nag said he was reluctant to travel and was yet to confirm whether he would attend the award ceremony. “If I’m asked to, then I cannot say no. When they’ve conferred such a big award on me, then I should go to it and take it,” he said. Nag said the recognition was an opportunity to celebrate India’s diverse film industries and the country’s love for cinema across languages.

“This country has so many languages, and so many films are made in. And everybody—the other day I was reading a newspaper, it just said that people from abroad, they come and—the kind of craze for cinema which is there in India, in all languages, in all states, is not there anywhere else in the world, not even in Hollywood,” he said. Nag has acted in more than 270 films, mainly in Kannada and a few in Hindi, during his five-decade career in the film industry. The 78-year-old is also a renowned theatre personality.

Nag grew up in a religious family in Bhatkal in coastal Karnataka and was sent to Mumbai for higher education. His early exposure to literature and storytelling shaped his interest in the arts. While in Mumbai, he gradually became drawn to the city’s theatre movement. Nag acted in Konkani, Hindi and Marathi plays for about five years, during which he came under the influence of the theatre personalities such as Satyadev Dubey, Girish Karnad and Amol Palekar. He made his cinema debut with the 1973 Kannada film ‘Sankalpa’ and gradually became an integral part of the parallel cinema movement in the 1970s and 1980s. He was part of the popular Doordarshan serial ‘Malgudi Days’, the television adaptation of R K Narayan’s works, which was directed by his filmmaker brother Shankar Nag. Anant Nag, who served as a Bengaluru Development Minister in Karnataka’s J H Patel government, has spoken about being influenced by the JP movement at its peak. In 2004, he unsuccessfully contested the Chamarajpet Assembly constituency in Bengaluru on a Janata Dal (Secular) ticket. ‘Bayalu Daari’, ‘Na Ninna Bidalaare’, ‘Gauri Ganesha’, ‘Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu’ and ‘KGF Chapter-1’ are among his prominent Kannada films. He played key roles in Hindi parallel cinema films such as ‘Ankur’, ‘Nishant’, ‘Manthan’, ‘Bhumika’, ‘Kondura’, ‘Kalyug’ and ‘Gehrayee’. The previous recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award was Malayalam superstar Mohanlal. The award being announced for 2024 is part of the delayed schedule of the National Film Awards. Instituted in 1969, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award honours the contribution of Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, widely regarded as the father of Indian cinema, who directed the country’s first full-length feature film, ‘Raja Harishchandra’, in 1913.

Anupama Parameswaran reflects on life, says ‘every moment counts’



Chennai: Underlining the fact that life was short and that every moment counted, actress Anupama Parameswaran on Tuesday said that if there was one thing she had now come to understand, it was that “Today is really all we have.”

Taking to her Instagram page to post a reel, the actress wrote, “Not just a reel, an archive of memories.” She further went on to add, “Life is full of surprises, and with them come lessons. Some beautiful, some difficult, all leaving something behind. But if there’s one thing I’ve come to understand, it’s that life is short. Every moment counts. Every memory matters. And today is really all we have.” It may be recalled that Anupama had put out a cryptic post in July this year that came under the spotlight. In it, Anupama had said that peace had found her and that she no longer needed to take any more permissions or be in fear. Taking to her Instagram page to pen the rather cryptic post that gave the impression that she was finally free from something that had been imprisoning her, the actress wrote, Sometimes, you have to let go of the dead ends to finally find your peace. And today, peace found me.” She had further said, “From today, I choose my voice. I choose my life. No more permissions. No more fear. Just me, finding my way back to myself and falling in love with the life I almost forgot was mine. And there’s something I’ve wanted to say for a very long time... Something I wasn’t allowed to say for far too long. I love you all.”

She wrote, “Thank you for standing by me, believing in me, and filling my life with so much love. If I haven’t said it enough before, please know that I have always felt it. Every message, every prayer, every ounce of kindness reached me when I needed it the most. Thank you, Universe, for

leading me back to myself.” Anupama concluded the post saying, “Here’s to healing. Here’s to freedom. Here’s to choosing myself. And here’s to a life that is finally, completely, unapologetically my own.” On the work front, Anupama next has director Sampath Nandi’s explosive action drama ‘Bhogi’ coming up for release. The makers of the film, which features actor Sharwanand in the lead, released the look of Anupama Parameswaran as Kandula Sulochana Rani in the film. The poster released showed Anupama as a village belle, walking barefoot on a dusty rural path. Sources had disclosed to IANS that Sulochana would be a spirited person who is deeply rooted in nature. The character in the film would be seen earning her livelihood by crafting leaf plates from Moduga leaves. Sulochana, sources claimed, would be shown as a person embodying both resilience and quiet strength. The makers had revealed on actor Sharwanand’s birthday that he played a character called Ganga in the eagerly awaited action thriller.

Jyotika, Suriya renew wedding vows as they mark 20 years of marriage



Mumbai: Actress Jyotika renewed her wedding vows with her star husband Suriya as the couple marked 20 years of marriage, celebrating not a perfect relationship but the imperfections, adjustments, sacrifices and understanding that have shaped their journey together. Jyotika took to Instagram, where she shared a video in collaboration with Suriya from their vow renewal. The video accompanied an emotional note, where they reaffirmed their vows, their children and the life they have built together, calling their bond an “imperfect us, with the perfect understanding.”

The caption read: “A vow renewal, celebrating our 20 years of love and war. And no, this is not a celebration of a perfect marriage. This is a celebration of imperfections, of

adjustments, of understanding, sacrifices, of loving each other selflessly. This is a celebration of “us”. The people we have become for each other.” “How ironical- A dream which felt far from reality, is now a reality I will spend my entire lifetime dreaming of! So here are my vows – I vow to be a happy person — because I choose to see only life’s positive side. I vow to celebrate life — because life itself is a gift when the man whom you love, respects you beyond himself.” “One of the vows was to never complain. I vow never to complain- Why should I? when even something as vast as the sky doesn’t have the privilege of touching the ground! Look around, everything in existence is incomplete. It’s how we choose to fill the gaps.”

Another was to be thankful. “I vow to be thankful – as every morning I wake in the arms of a man who protects me, and for my beautiful children who’ve given my life a meaning. And me, a reason to live.” “I vow to be healthy — because that is the only true asset we ever build. Even the fanciest brick houses will always have their leaks, termites, and renovations,” read the third vow. The fourth vow is to be the best mother to their children. “I vow to be the best mother — not because I cook, or clean, or help, but because I smile, a smile that makes my children want to relive the story their appa amma lived.” Promising Suriya, Jyotika mentioned that she vows to “remain” an imperfect wife and also cherish the friendship they share. “I vow, my Suriya, to always remain that imperfect wife, who fights, and then makes up, only to grow a little more closer to you each time.