

Four policemen injured in mob attack during ganja cultivation probe in Adilabad

Adilabad: Four policemen including an Inspector sustained injuries after a mob assaulted them when they were conducting an inquiry into a ganja cultivation case at Vayupet village in Sirikonda mandal on Saturday.Police said around 50 unidentified residents suspected to be followers of a self-styled godman and an accused in a ganja cultivation case attacked Echoda Inspector Ramesh and three other policemen with sticks while they were carrying out an inquiry into the case. The injured police officials were shifted to RIMS-Adilabad. Their condition was said to be stable.

Mother allegedly throws two children into well, dies by suicide in Telangana

Mahabubabad: A married woman allegedly killed her two children and later died by suicide at Lingaiah thanda in Kuravi mandal in the district on Saturday.

According to police, Banoth Anusha (26) took her daughter Varshini (9) and son Vishal Krishna (4) to an agricultural well on the outskirts of the thanda. She allegedly pushed the two children into the well and later jumped into it, killing herself.Police said that when Anusha did not return home by the evening, family members began searching for her. They later found the three bodies in the well. According to locals Anusha married Naveen ten years ago. Anusha's father and brother died a few years ago, leaving her mother alone.

Man sets mother ablaze after argument in Medak, arrested

Medak: In a shocking incident, a man killed his mother by setting her ablaze after dousing her with diesel at their residence at Yellupet in Tekmal mandal on Saturday.

The woman, Karre Sayavva (42), died instantly and her son, Durgesh (22), was taken into custody. Police said Durgesh, an autodriver, was living in Hyderabad and returned to the village at around 5 pm on Saturday evening. When he saw his mother talking to neighbours, Durgesh called her inside, doused her with diesel and set her on fire following an argument.



No official US offer to sell F-35 fighters to India, says IAF Chief AP Singh

Jaipur, Oct 11 (IANS) Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh on Saturday clarified that the United States had made no official offer to sell its fifth-generation F-35 stealth fighter aircraft to India, dismissing speculation that Washington had offered the advanced combat jets to New Delhi and that India had rejected the proposal.

Singh made the remarks at a press conference on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the multinational air exercise Tarang Shakti-2026 in Jodhpur.

Sitting alongside the commander of the US Air Force's Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), he responded to a question about the reported F-35 offer with a humorous observation. "These people don't even let us go near the aircraft, and you are talking about selling it to us," Singh said.

His comments sought to clear the air amid speculation over India's reported decision not to proceed with the acquisition of the American stealth fighter. The IAF chief's

statement indicated that no formal offer had been made to India, countering reports suggesting that New Delhi had turned down a US proposal.Singh also addressed the possibility of India acquiring Russia's fifth-generation S-57 fighter aircraft. He said the Russian offer was yet to be considered and that no decision had been taken on the matter. India is continuing to evaluate its future combat aircraft requirements while focusing on strengthening indigenous defence manufacturing. The country is pursuing the development of its own fifth-generation fighter aircraft as part of its long-term strategy to enhance self-reliance in defence technology and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers.Meanwhile, Singh described the conclusion of Tarang Shakti-2026, the second edition of the multinational air exercise, as a proud moment for the Indian Air Force."It is indeed a very proud day for me today that we are in the final stage of Exercise Tarang Shakti, the second version of it," he said. The IAF chief recalled that the exercise began in 2024, when the plan was to organise it every two years. He said the schedule had been better aligned with the monsoon season to minimise weather-related disruptions.

No requisition sent for Hyderabad high-speed rail land acquisition: Govt

New Delhi, Oct 10 (IANS) The Centre has clarified that alignment studies for three proposed high-speed rail corridors linked to Hyderabad are currently underway and that it has not sent any land acquisition requisitions to the concerned state governments.

After meeting Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw here to discuss Hyderabad-Chennai, Hyderabad-Bengaluru and Hyderabad-Pune high-speed rail corridors, Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy noted that the minister clarified that no land acquisition requisition has been sent to the respective state governments.

"Hon'ble Railway Minister clarified that no land acquisition requisition has been sent to the respective state governments and that any land acquisition being carried out in the name of High-Speed Rail at this stage is illegal," Reddy said on X.He said alignment studies for all three corridors are currently underway and once alignment

is finalised, details will be shared with respective state governments and farmers.

The clarification came amid land acquisition efforts by the Telangana government for rail corridor and other projects which faced resistance from farmers on Hyderabad outskirts.Moreover, South Central Railway earlier posted the same video on the social media platform, saying Vaishnaw held a detailed discussion with Reddy regarding proposed alignment for high-speed rail connectivity linking Hyderabad with Chennai, Bengaluru and Pune.Earlier in August, the government said Indian Railways incurred capital expenditure of over Rs 1.14 lakh crore or about 39 per cent of the budgetary allocation for 2026-27 till July.In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Vaishnaw said the Centre had spent Rs 1,14,973 crore out of the budgetary allocation of Rs 2,93,030 crore for the current financial year. The minister said expenditure on safety-related activities has increased steadily over the years, rising from Rs 39,200 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,20,389 crore in 2026-27.



ED moves Telangana HC seeking speedy, daily trial against Jagan Mohan Reddy, others

Hyderabad, Oct 10 (IANS) Invoking the right to speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has moved the Telangana High Court seeking speedy and day-to-day trial in money laundering charge sheets filed against the former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and others, an official said on Saturday.

The petition filed by the ED before the High Court on September 23 has also sought the personal appearance of all the accused, including YSR Congress Party President Jagan Mohan Reddy, in the charge sheets filed under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the official said in a statement.

The ED approached the High Court with the prayer to direct the criminal justice system to ensure that proceedings are conducted with reasonable expedition, it said.

The proceedings have remained pending in the Jagan Mohan Reddy case for nearly 10 years and the chronology of the proceedings itself demonstrates the absence of reasonable expedition in the prosecution of the matter, the ED said.

The petition was filed before the High Court to conduct a speedy and day-to-day hearing/trial of the charge sheets filed along with discharge petitions mentioned, in the interest of justice, it added.

The investigation pertained to alleged governmental favours extended to large corporate entities and individuals and the receipt of huge investments into companies of Jagan Mohan Reddy and his family members as part of a quid pro quo arrangement for the favours extended by the Andhra Pradesh government during his Chief Ministership, the ED said.

The ED investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the direction of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh under Sections 120-B read with 420 of IPC, 1860, and Section 13(2) read with 13(1)(c) and (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, against Jagan Mohan Reddy and others.

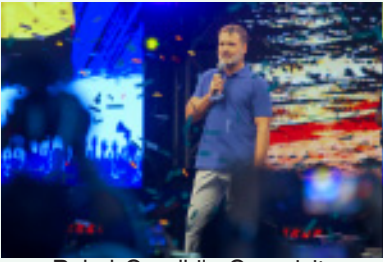
The ED investigation revealed that substantial investments were made by companies and individuals such as Aurobindo Pharma, Hetero Drugs, Indu Projects, Indu Techzone, Lepakshi Knowledge Hub, VANPIC Projects, VANPIC Ports, Nimmagadda Prasad, Ramky Pharma City (India) Ltd, The India Cements Ltd, among others, through subscription of shares at exorbitant rates into companies such as Bharati Cement Corporation, Jagati Publications, and Janani Infrastructure, which are related to Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his family members.

The ED filed nine charge sheets against Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and others before the Special CBI Court at Nampally in Hyderabad between 2016 and 2021, the statement said.

Rahul Gandhi likely to postpone Goa visit amid Opposition protest mobilisation

New Delhi, Oct 11 (IANS) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to postpone his proposed visit to Goa as the Opposition gears up for a series of coordinated demonstrations against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, according to sources.

The possible rescheduling is being viewed as a strategic move aimed at ensuring his presence in the national capital in anticipation of a crucial phase of political mobilisation next week.Sources indicate that senior leaders are closely monitoring developments on future protests with the possible participation of several leaders of opposition parties who were not present lately.With demonstrations expected to intensify in the coming days, the Congress is believed to be prioritising national-level political engagement over regional programmes.The Opposition has been attempting to present a united front on issues concerning alleged flaws in the electoral process and democratic accountability, making the protests politically significant.



Rahul Gandhi's Goa visit was expected to include interactions with party workers, public outreach programmes and organisational meetings aimed at strengthening the Congress unit in the state.Leaders familiar with the planning process said a revised schedule could be announced once the current round of protests concludes.Party insiders believe Rahul Gandhi's participation in the demonstrations could help reinforce Opposition unity at a time when coordination among anti-government parties is gaining momentum.

Nagaland cabinet appreciates PM Modi's focus on Northeast development

Kohima, Oct 10 (IANS) The Nagaland Cabinet on Saturday appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continued focus on the development of the Northeastern region through various initiatives, including the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE).

The Cabinet noted that these initiatives had helped address critical development gaps across the Northeastern states by improving connectivity and healthcare and education infrastructure, generating livelihood opportunities, and promoting inclusive economic growth.

The Scheme for Special Assistance for Capital Investment (SASCI) to provide long-term, interest-free loans to states to accelerate capital expenditure and development was appreciated which has led to creation and upgradation of roads, bridges, and other important public infrastructure across the country.

The state Cabinet noted and acknowledged the progress made by Nagaland in different spheres under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, a statement of the Home Department said.



Mumbai: Tushar Gandhi detained and released after eight hours; Oppn confronts police over CEC

Mumbai, Oct 10 (IANS) Political tensions in Mumbai on Saturday reached a boiling point on Saturday following the detention of prominent activist and Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson, Tushar Gandhi, along with several other activists and opposition leaders.

The arrests preceded a planned protest at Mumbai's historic August Kranti Maidan, organised to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The developments have triggered fierce opposition backlash, with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray slamming the government, declaring that the political climate has transformed into a direct battle between "BJP versus India." Tushar Gandhi was released after eight hours of detention.



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Don't 'fix' young people — understanding India's youth mental health crisis

The warning signs are everywhere: in classrooms, coaching centres, universities, homes and workplaces. When a young student takes their own life or a young professional reaches a breaking point, public attention briefly turns to academic pressure, social media, workplace stress or family expectations. But these explanations often focus on the final trigger rather than the accumulated pressures beneath it. India is home to one of the world's largest youth populations. What happens to the emotional and psychological well-being of this generation will shape not only individual lives but also the social and economic fabric of the country. Yet the conversation remains too often reduced to a simple phrase: the mental health crisis of digital youth. The reality is considerably more complicated.

Young people today have unprecedented access to information, communities and opportunities. Yet greater connectivity has not necessarily produced greater emotional connection. Growing up with continuous digital access means navigating an endless stream of information, opinions and choices. The challenge is no longer simply accessing information; it is determining what is true. Misinformation, deepfakes, AI-generated content and unverified claims require constant vigilance. For young minds already dealing with academic and career pressures, this continuous cognitive demand can become exhausting. India's youth mental health crisis cannot be reduced to exams, social media or workplace stress. Behind these triggers lie layers of academic pressure, family expectations, career uncertainty, digital overload and a rapidly changing world.

There is another paradox closer to home. In India, family networks have traditionally served as an important emotional safety net. But physical proximity does not automatically guarantee emotional presence. Parents may be absorbed in work messages, grandparents in short-video feeds and young people in their own social media worlds. The phenomenon of phubbing, ignoring people physically present because of one's phone, can turn a connected household into an emotionally distant one. Even family WhatsApp groups, intended to maintain connection, can become sources of information overload, health scares, ideological disagreements and social expectations. The result is a strange contradiction: we may be more digitally connected than ever while feeling increasingly disengaged.

For young Indians, these pressures do not exist in isolation. Academic expectations, career uncertainty, family scrutiny and changing relationships increasingly overlap. In a collectivist society, examination results, university admissions, jobs, salaries and relationships are often discussed not merely as personal matters but as matters of family reputation and expectation. A poor academic result can therefore feel like more than a temporary setback. It can become a perceived failure to meet an entire network of expectations. The transition from education to employment adds another layer. The traditional promise that hard work will necessarily deliver long-term stability has become less certain. Artificial intelligence is transforming occupations and entry-level work, forcing young people to ask not only what career they want, but whether that career will exist in its current form. At the same time, young people are growing up against a backdrop of climate disasters, geopolitical conflict, economic instability and technological disruption. The result is what might be called a continuous background noise of uncertainty. Previous generations could plan their futures largely around personal circumstances. Today's young people increasingly have to ask a larger question: Will the world itself remain stable enough to accommodate the future I am planning? When a young person breaks down, the public response can quickly become individualistic: they could not handle stress, they lacked resilience, they were too sensitive, or they overreacted. Such explanations miss the accumulated nature of distress. The immediate event may be an examination result, a relationship breakdown, workplace conflict or job uncertainty. But the event itself may simply be the final weight placed on an already overloaded structure.

“Grand Bathukamma celebrations at Sarvajna School



“Khammam: Bathukamma celebrations were celebrated in the presence of students and teachers in Sarvajna School. Students participated in these celebrations with great enthusiasm and showed their creativity by making beautiful Batukammas with colorful flowers. Dressed in traditional clothes, Bathukamma sang songs and danced enthusiastically and became a special attraction of the celebrations.” On this occasion the chairman of the school Mr. R.V. Nagendra Kumar Garu, Director Neelima Madam participated and explained to the students the uniqueness of Bathukamma and Dussehra festivals. Bathukamma festival is a symbol of Telangana culture and traditions, it is a great festival that respects nature, flowers and unity of women, he said. Dussehra festival is celebrated to symbolize the victory of good over evil.” They suggested that the students should know the importance of our culture, traditions and festivals and pass them on to future generations. The school management said that cultural values, unity and respect for traditions will increase among the students through these celebrations.” Passing the aura of tradition, the Bathukamma celebrations ended successfully amidst jubilation.

Kantham exposes KTR's businesses earned out of extorted in amounting to 1000 crore



Hyderabad: TPCC Chief Secretary Gajjala Kantham, once again exposed evidences against KTR properties. He questioned that how come opposition BRS working president KTR is running businesses by illegally - extorted money in government's encroached Land's even in Andhra Pradesh with 1000 of crore for hotels. On other wife, he got surprised at KTR 's false allegations against CM Revanth Reddy and defaming him and his family's members as corrupt. “Gajjala Kantham, challenged that if KTR has the guts, he should put out evidences against properties of CM revanth Reddy. He reportedly said that KTR got 210 crore worth of government land for only 33 crore for Yashoda Hospital located in Hi-Tech City. However, the Yashoda hospital earned 3 thousand crores, during Carona time. “Spokesperson Kantham alleged that KTR had paid only 11 crore for 3 acres of Yashoda hospital. KTR encroached 2 acres of government land which is presently in his possession. He reportedly said that KTR extorted 100 crores in last 10 years period from Medcover hospital MD & also took 25 % stake from Kohinoor Hotel. “He also informed that KTR constructed hotel in the name of his wife Shylima with 1000 crore at Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati. He claimed, that KTR has how ever confessed all his illegal businesses & corrupt activities. He defends Telangana CM revanth reddy while saying that he & government is non- corrupt and innocent while claiming that he has no involvement in Maxbin Pharma, Switch Bio Compa-

nies And CM's daughter had no connection With " Mind Voltage corporate School" "Mr.Kantham concluded that Revanth Reddy 's family members have their own businesses and rich before he became CM as his son in law had 16% share, his uncle & ex- MP jaipal reddy's SODA constricton company, his Hyundai showroom, since the then, BRS rule. “CM Revanth Reddy has no connection with Medcover hospital ““ Maxbin Pharma Company 31.03 2023 Brs put in jail” with max bin “ Who is the Chief Minister related to?” “KCR as Chief Minister, CM Revanth Reddy in Onnappadu 2023 Alludi has 16% stake” “Swach Bio Company to be launched on June 24, 2025” “?????? ?????” Reddy Director is not related to the Chief Minister” “Soda Construction Company” former union minister jaipal reddy sondi” Company incorporated on 2010 July 12” kcr chief minister ga unnapadu song Put in Hyundai Show Room 2021” “CM Revanth Reddy bowed in front of Sathimani family. family” “Hence Revanth Reddy is not a minister, not a chief minister. ““ Mind Vault Corporate School CM Revanth Reddy calls KTR false propaganda” “mind vault no corporate school hyderabad” “KTR did not have a single rupee before 2014” “Thousands of crores after 2014 This is how KTR came?” “KTR will be punished if he misleads people with his arrogance.” “with breasts and cheeks Telangana people will believe if press meet is held

Graduate MLC Candidate Sama Ram Mohan Reddy Meets UPPAL CONGRESS PARTY IN-CHARGE PARAMESWAR REDDY



“UPPAL, OCTOBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Graduate MLC candidate of the Congress Party for the combined Rangareddy, Hyderabad and Mahabubnagar districts, Sama Ram Mohan Reddy, met

Uppal constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameswar Reddy at his residence in Uppal on Saturday. “During the courtesy meeting, the two leaders discussed party affairs, strengthening the Congress Party at the constituency level, coordination among party leaders and the action plan for the upcoming Graduate MLC elections. “Sama Ram Mohan Reddy visited Parameswar Reddy's residence, where he was warmly welcomed. The meeting focused on strengthening the party organisation and encouraging leaders and cadres to work together to achieve success in the MLC elections. “Speaking on the occasion, Uppal Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameswar Reddy called upon party leaders and workers to work in close coordination and make concerted efforts to ensure the victory of Congress MLC candidate Sama Ram Mohan Reddy. He urged party leaders and presidents of various divisions in the constituency to actively participate in election-related activities and work collectively towards the candidate's victory. “Several division presidents and leaders of the Uppal constituency Congress Party attended the meeting. The interaction was held in a cordial atmosphere, with discussions centred on party coordination and election preparations.”

Quality Healthcare Must Be Accessible to All Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy



“Minister Inaugurates Tara Multispeciality Children's Hospital at Turkayamjal” Turkayamjal, “October 10 Indian Chronicle” “Telangana Minister for Roads and Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy inaugurated the newly established Tara Multispeciality Children's Hospital at Brahmanapalli Junction in Turkayamjal. Malkajigiri MP Eatala Rajender and several MLAs and political leaders attended the inauguration and formally opened various departments of the hospital by cutting ribbons. “The dignitaries present included Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Rangareddy, Devarakonda MLA Balu Naik, Achampet MLA Vamshikrishna, Kalwakurthy MLA Kasireddy Narayan Reddy, Tandur MLA Manohar Reddy, Roads Development Corporation Chairman Malreddy Ram Reddy, MLC Goreti Venkanna, MLC Eliganti Satyam, CPI National Secretary Palla Venkat Reddy, CPI(M) State Secretariat members T. Sagar and D.G. Narasimha Rao, and AIDWA State Secretary Mallu Lakshmi. “Speaking on the occasion, the leaders expressed happiness over the establishment of the hospital, which aims to provide advanced medical services to the people of the region. They emphasized that quality healthcare should be accessible to everyone, particularly the poor and economically weaker sections, and advised the hospital management to prioritize service over profit. “The hospital management stated that Tara Multispeciality Hospital would serve people from Ibrahimpatnam, Devarakonda, Kalwakurthy, Munugode and Achampet constituencies. “Our primary objective is to provide quality healthcare at affordable prices to ordinary people. Through Tara Multispeciality Hospital, we aim to ensure better medi-



cal services for everyone and provide reliable healthcare support to the people of this region,” the management said. “The hospital will offer services in major specialties, including General Medicine, Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Cardiology, General Surgery and Anaesthesiology. With experienced doctors, nursing staff and advanced medical equipment, the hospital plans to provide round-the-clock emergency services, laboratory facilities, a pharmacy, CT scanning and inpatient care. “Hospital management representatives and doctors Tarun Tej, Santosh Varma, Aishwarya, Laxman Reddy, Shravan Kumar, Maloth Raju, Sudhakar Reddy, Lahari Tirunagari, Alekhyia Reddy and Shruti, along with other staff members, participated in the programme.

ICICI Prudential Life Settles 99.31% of Claims

“Hyderabad, October 10 (Indian Chronicle) : ICICI Prudential Life Insurance recorded a claim settlement ratio of 99.31% in the first quarter of FY2027, according to Sarang Gokhale, Chief - Underwriting and Retail Claims, who disclosed the details in a statement released in the city on Saturday. The company settled individual death claims worth Rs. 414.08 crore during the quarter, with an average claim value of approximately Rs. 15 lakh. Non-investigated claims were settled within one day of receiving the last document. Under its 'Claim for Sure' initiative, the company paid approximately Rs.75 crore towards eligible claims within one day.

Special Prayers Offered at Kala Bhairava Swamy Temple in Uppal Bhagayat by UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY



“UPPAL, OCTOBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Special prayers were offered with devotion at the Kala Bhairava Swamy Temple in Uppal Bhagayat on the occasion of Amavasya (New Moon Day). Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy visited the temple and performed special rituals to seek the blessings of Lord Kala Bhairava Swamy. “On the occasion, the MLA prayed for the well-being of the people and expressed his wish that everyone should lead a happy, peaceful, and healthy life with the divine blessings of the deity. He also prayed for peace, prosperity, and happiness in every household and wished that the grace of Lord Kala Bhairava Swamy would always remain upon the people. “The special prayers performed on the occasion of Amavasya attracted devotees, who visited the temple to offer prayers and seek the blessings of the deity. A spiritual atmosphere prevailed throughout the temple premises. “Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders, party workers, local dignitaries, and devotees participated in the programme.”

I Will Work Continuously for the Development of the Buddhist Community:

Congress Constituency In-Charge Shyam Naik“



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 11. “Wankidi, Congress Party Asifabad Constituency In-Charge Shyam Naik said he would work continuously for the development of the Buddhist community in the Asifabad constituency. On Saturday, he participated in the foundation stone-laying ceremony for a meeting shed at Jetavan Buddha Vihar in Wankidi mandal headquarters and addressed the gathering during his birthday celebrations. The meeting shed is being constructed at a cost of ?6 lakh. Later, he celebrated his birthday by cutting a cake along with his supporters. Earlier, he paid floral tributes to the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Funds of ?7.5 lakh were sanctioned for the construction of Buddha Vihars in Bhim Nagar, Khamana, Sarandi and Kanargam villages of Wankidi mandal. Additionally, ?25 lakh was sanctioned for the construction of a Buddha Vihar at the mandal headquarters. On this occasion, Shyam Naik and Wankidi Deputy Sarpanch Deepak Munde were felicitated with shawls by representatives of the Bharatiya Bauddha Mahasabha, Ambedkar Sangham and Samata Sainik Dal in recognition of their efforts. The programme was attended by Dr. Ashok Mahulkar, District President of the Bharatiya Bauddha Mahasabha and State Vice-President of the SC Welfare Association; Durgam Sandeep, State General Secretary of the Samata Sainik Dal; Gurnule Narayana, State Vice-President of the Mali Sangham; Wankidi Sarpanch Chunaruk Satish; Mandal Congress President Gurnule Mengaji; Bharatiya Bauddha Mahasabha President Durgam Durgaji; General Secretary Vijay Varshavas; Committee President Durgam Shyam Rao; and leaders Rajeshwar, Shyam Rao, Panduiji, Hamsaraj, Vilas, Roshan, Pratap, Arun, Vittal, Deepak, Ramesh and others.

Lifestyle Medicine Key to Preventing Burnout, Non-Communicable Diseases“



“Hyderabad, October 10 (Indian Chronicle) : Lifestyle medicine plays a crucial role in managing workplace stress and preventing non-communicable diseases, said Christina J. Chongthul, IAS, Principal Secretary, Telangana Health and Medical Department. She was speaking at the 7th International Conference of the Indian Society of Lifestyle Medicine (ISLMCON-26), held at a hotel in Hyderabad on Saturday. The conference, themed 'From Burnout to Balance : Health Through Lifestyle Medicine,' highlighted the importance of healthy lifestyle choices in promoting overall well-being. Speakers stressed that balanced nutrition, regular exercise, adequate sleep and effective stress management can help prevent diseases and improve quality of life. IMA Telangana President Dr. P. Kishan, former president Dr. D. Dwarakanath Reddy and ISLM President Dr. Lakshmi Sundar were among those who attended the event.

Buddhist Festivals and Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Diwas to Be Celebrated Grandly



Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 11. "Wankidi: Dr. Ashok Mahulkar, District President of the Bharatiya Bauddha Mahasabha and State Vice-President of the SC Welfare Association, and Durgam Sandeep, State General Secretary of the Samata Sainik Dal, called upon Buddhist community members in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district to celebrate Diksha Diwas, Ashoka Vijayadashami, the conclusion of Varshavas and Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Diwas with great enthusiasm." Speaking at a press conference held at Jetavan Buddha Vihar in Wankidi mandal headquarters on Saturday, they urged Buddhist community members to hoist Panchsheel flags in their respective villages on October 14 and celebrate Diksha Diwas. They also called for grand celebrations of Ashoka Vijayadashami on October 20 and the Varshavas concluding programme on October 26. They appealed to a large number of youth and educated people from

the district to participate in the interstate Samata Sainik Dal programme scheduled to be held in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra from October 13 to 17. "They further urged the Buddhist community to participate in the Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Diwas celebrations scheduled for October 27 at Miratai Ambedkar

Diksha Bhoomi in Sirpur Kagaznagar and on October 29 at the designated venue. The press conference was attended by Samata Sainik Dal District Organiser Roshan, Bharatiya Bauddha Mahasabha Mandal President Durgam Durgaji, Ambedkar Sangham General Secretary Upre Vijay, Varshavas Committee President Durgam Shyam Rao, Buddhist Samaj President Rajeshwar, Shyam Rao, Panduji, Pratap, Prakash, Vittal, Srinivas, Ramesh, Arun, Deepak, Nagsen, Bikshapati, Indrajit, Venakati, Laddu, Prashanth, Jade Roshan, Buddha Ji, Dayanand, Baburao, Vidya Sagar, Deep Ratna, Kamalakhar, Janar and others.

Municipal Workers Are Our Real Heroes: Vice-Chairman MD Ahmed

"Swachh Care Kits and Tiffins Distributed to Municipal Workers" Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 11. "Asifabad Town: Municipal Vice-Chairman MD Ahmed said that municipal workers who work tirelessly every day to keep the town clean are the real heroes. On the occasion of his birthday on Saturday, he distributed Swachh Care Kits and tiffins to municipal workers. On this occasion, the municipal workers celebrated his birthday by having him cut a cake, honouring him with a shawl, and extending their heartfelt birthday wishes. The workers expressed happiness that their efforts were recognised and that the Vice-Chairman chose to celebrate his birthday among them. "Grand Felicitation at the Chairman's Chamber" Later, under the leadership of the Municipal Chairperson and councillors, a cake-cutting ceremony was held at the Chairman's Chamber, where MD Ahmed was felicitated with a shawl and greeted with birthday wishes. He expressed his special thanks to municipal workers, public representatives, leaders, and officials for their affection and birthday greetings. "Municipal Chairperson mengre Akash, councillors Raparthi Karthik, Salam Been Ahmed and Balakrishna, TUWJ District President Abdul Rahman, leaders Syed Nisar, Doodala Ashok, Shaik



Samad, Anumandla Sai, Sai Shraavan, Kondu Sai, Nikhil, Syed Javid, Jalimsha, Syed Arafaz Ali, Jafar and Sameer Khan, municipal officials Sarvar and Ramaiah, ward staff, municipal employees and workers participated in the programme.

Online Registration Mandatory for All Mandap Organisers



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 11. "Asifabad: Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant, IPS, urged people to celebrate Durga Devi Navratri peacefully without any untoward incidents. She stated that mandap

organisers must strictly follow police guidelines and give top priority to public safety and law and order. Organisers installing Durga Devi idols must register online through <https://policeportal.tspolice.gov.in>. Permissions will be granted only after police officials inspect the proposed mandap locations. She instructed organisers to install CCTV cameras, obtain prior permission from the electricity department, ensure fire safety, and avoid obstructing traffic and pedestrian movement. The use of DJ sound systems is strictly prohibited. Organisers must also avoid provocative songs, objectionable remarks, and content that hurts the religious sentiments of other communities. SP Urges Public to Be Cautious About Social Media Rumours The SP advised people not to believe rumours circulating on social media or forward unverified news, messages, and videos. She urged everyone to maintain restraint and respect the religious beliefs of others. In case of emergencies or if any suspicious persons or activities are noticed, the public should immediately contact Dial 112 or the nearest police station. SP Nitika Pant appealed to the public to cooperate with the police, complete mandatory online registration, obtain the required permissions before installing idols, and follow all safety guidelines to ensure peaceful and safe Navratri celebrations. "Online Registration: <https://policeportal.tspolice.gov.in>



Dasara Celebrations to Begin at Uppal Velugu Gutta Temple Today

Ten-day Sri Devi Sharannavaratri and Brahmotsavams from October 11 to 20 "UPPAL, OCTOBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "The Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Devasthanam at Velugu Gutta in Uppal has made elaborate arrangements to conduct Sri Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations and Brahmotsavams from Sunday, October 11, to Tuesday, October 20, on a grand scale, temple chairman Pedda Gorigeey Mallesh and Executive Officer P. Naresh announced. "The ten-day festivities will feature special pujas, abhishekams, floral decorations and various spiritual programmes every day. "The celebrations will commence on October 11, coinciding with Ashwayuja Shuddha Padyami, with special worship of Goddess Bala Tripura Sundari. The schedule includes special pujas for Goddess Durga and other forms of the Divine Mother on the following days. "On October 12, special puja programmes will be held, followed by worship of Goddess Tripura Sundari on October 13, Goddess Katyayani on October 14 and Goddess Lalita Tripura Sundari on October 15. "Special pujas will be performed for Goddess Saraswati on October 16, Goddess Purna Devi on October 17, Goddess Durga Devi on October 18 and Goddess Mahishasura Mardini on October 19. "The festivities will conclude on October 20 with special worship of Goddess Raja Rajeshwari on the occa-



sion of Dashami. "Special pujas, abhishekams and archana rituals will be conducted every morning and evening throughout the celebrations. The Goddess will be adorned in different forms each day, providing devotees with an opportunity to seek her blessings. The celebrations are being organised under the supervision of temple chairman Pedda Gorigeey Mallesh and Executive Officer P. Naresh. Several temple committee members and other representatives will participate in the festivities.

*Bathukamma Celebrations Reach New Heights at StemSpark Resonance, Srinagar

"The Bathukamma festival—a celebration of flowers—was organized with great grandeur and enthusiasm at StemSpark Resonance School in Srinagar Colony. The event was a visual delight that truly embodied Telangana's culture and traditions; young girls participated in singing and dancing around the Bathukamma, showcased cultural arts, and dressed up as Goddess Mahankali, creating an atmosphere of joyous celebration that seemed to make even nature rejoice. Speaking at the event, Director Konda Sridhar Rao explained that Bathukamma is a festival unique to the Telangana region, traditionally celebrated since ancient times; it involves women and girls arranging flowers—such as Tangedu, Marigold, and Chrysanthemum—into a conical floral stack (Bathukamma) and worshipping the deity Gowamma over a period of nine days, praying for the long and happy lives of their brothers. He noted that Vijayadashami is celebrated to mark the victory of good over evil, urging everyone to shed negative traits—such as lust, anger, greed, arrogance, delusion, ego, jealousy, envy, and mental impurities—and walk the path of righteousness. He also highlighted that STEMSpark Resonance Srinagar is committed to fostering innovation and skills among students while upholding cultural traditions, and he congratulated the students, teachers, and parents who delighted everyone by participating with their Bathukammas, extending his best wishes for Bathukamma and Dasara to all. School Director Konda Krishnaveni participated in the event and spoke about



the significance of Bathukamma—a festival of flowers, nature, and the joyful celebrations of women. She explained how girls and women gather various wildflowers and celebrate the festival for nine days, starting from Mahalaya Amavasya, by preparing traditional delicacies as offerings and worshipping Goddess Gauramma to seek happiness and prosperity for their families. She also conveyed her best wishes for Bathukamma and Dasara to everyone. "Principal K. Suresh, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, and parents participated in the event.

Resonance Srinivas Nagar Bathukamma celebrations like Ambaran



"Bathukamma celebrations in Srinivas Nagar in Khammam town, Ambarantantai is a symbol of Telangana cultural traditions. There are also many stories behind this festival which has the story of Telangana Pratika Bathukamma Nela Yeandla. A hundred years before the Chola king Dharmangadu. All the sons die in the war. After a long time, with the grace of the next Lakshmi, a girl child is born to them, and everyone blesses her with a breast full of flowers. They informed the Sedadus that the girl was being worshiped as Bathukamma. He informed the students that Bathukamma is a great history of Suduta Meera who made women participants in the struggle of the movement and brought Bathukammas and welcomed the children of

the struggle. Kadippandent Neelimi Garu said that we have a special Maskru tradition that if Telangana women play Parukamma, the nature will rejoice, and the festival of Bathukamma is celebrated as an equality of all clans. Thatiyajaparau. The students are told that the leaves and flowers used in the formation of bathukamma are good medicines and mixing them in the pond will purify the water. On this occasion, the students of the school dressed in traditional clothes and artistically made batukammas with colorful flowers and came and danced around the batukammas and made a noise. The school principal, teacher, teachers and parents of the students participated in this program.

Sharannavaratri Celebrations to Begin at Sri Mahankali Temple in Uppal, TEMPELE CHAIRMAN TELKALA MOHAN REDDY Announces Grand Arrangements

"UPPAL, OCTOBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "The Sharannavaratri celebrations will be held in a grand manner at Sri Mahankali Temple, located on Uppal Main Road, from Sunday, October 11, to Tuesday, October 20. Temple Chairman Telkala Mohan Reddy and Executive Officer C.H. Srinivasa Rao announced the arrangements for the festivities. "As part of the celebrations, Panchamrita Abhishekam, special decoration of the Goddess and special pujas will be performed every day from 5 a.m., followed by the distribution of teertha prasadam. Special Kunkumarchana will also be conducted in the evenings. The rituals will include Akhanda Deepa Aradhana, Ganapathi Puja and Kalashasthapana. The ceremonial conclusion of the Goddess's worship is scheduled for Monday night, October 19. "During the ten-day festival, the Goddess will be adorned in different divine forms, including Sri Bala Tripura Sundari Devi, Sri Gayatri Devi, Sri Annapurna Devi, Sri Maha Chandi Devi, Sri Lalitha Devi, Sri Saraswati Devi, Sri Mahalakshmi Devi, Sri Durga Devi, Sri Mahishasura Mardini Devi and Sri Mahankali Devi. "The Lalitha Parayana Mandalis will conduct daily Lalitha Sahasranama and Lalitha Parayanam from 11 a.m. throughout the Navaratri



celebrations. "Devotees wishing to have their gotra and names recited during the special pujas can register by paying ₹551. The temple authorities have also invited devotees to visit the temple and receive the Goddess's prasadam. However, the date mentioned in the temple's announcement for this purpose requires confirmation. "As part of the Navaratri celebrations, Anna Prasadam (free meals) will be served every day at 12:30 p.m.

Resonance Info School V.D.V.S Bathukamma celebrations in school

"At Resonance Info School Vidivos Kalani Campus, students, students and teachers prepared bathukammas stacked with Tangedu flowers, ball, chemanti and various flowers as part of Navratri Puja celebrating Telangana women in honor of Dussehra festival and Vijayadashami on 10th of this month. School directors R.V. said that the students and teachers celebrated this ceremony with great enthusiasm as all the students dressed in traditional clothes and worshiped Gauramma, playing, singing and clapping with devotion. Nagendra Kumar and Konda Sridhar Rao Garu informed in a statement. On this occasion, School Director Sridhar Garu said that this festival unique to Telangana region has been traditionally celebrated since ancient times. Director Mrs. Nilimagaru said. He informed that this festival, which is limited to women, will help to develop the sense of friendship among each other, and that such a program is being organized to make the students of this generation respect and understand our culture and traditions. To the parents and teachers who have worked hard to make such a great program successful, School Principal T. Gopalakrishna thanked.

Strive to Fulfil the Ideals Behind Telangana Martyrs' Sacrifices: Prof. Kodandaram



“HYDERABAD , OCTOBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Remembering the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the formation of Telangana, the Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) organised a special programme titled “Amarula Ku Biyyamichche Karyakramam” (offering rice to the martyrs) at the Telangana Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park on Saturday, on the occasion of Peddaramasa. Telangana Legislative Council Member and TJS President Professor Kodandaram participated in the programme and paid tributes to the martyrs. “Speaking on the occasion, Professor Kodandaram said that offering rice to elders and remembering ancestors on Peddaramasa was an age-old tra-



dition in rural communities. Inspired by the same tradition, the Telangana Jana Samithi has been organising this programme every year to remember those who laid down their lives for the achievement of Telangana statehood, he said. “He urged everyone to remember the sacrifices made by the Telangana martyrs and work towards fulfilling the ideals for which they fought and gave their lives.” The programme was presided over by M. Narasaiah, President of Greater Hyderabad Telangana Jana Samithi. “TJS General Secretaries Palles Vinay and Ashappa, Medchal District President Lakshma Reddy, Greater Hyderabad General Secretary Battala Ramachander, BC Cell President Jaswanth Kumar, state leaders Hanumantha Reddy, Sardar Vinod Kumar, Akula Srinivas, Shekhar, Narender, Balaraju, Hanumanthu Goud, Mallesh, Anandam, Kakunuru Sudhakar and Kiran Kumar Reddy attended the programme. “Party members, Telangana movement activists and social workers also participated and paid homage to the martyrs, remembering their invaluable contributions to the formation of Telangana.

Bathukamma celebrations at SVM Central Public School

Bathukamma festival which symbolizes “Telangana culture and traditions is organized by S.V.M. It was conducted enthusiastically in the presence of students and teachers of Central Public School, Khammam. On this occasion, the school premises was beautified with batukammas decorated with colorful flowers. The students dressed up in traditional clothes and beautifully decorated batukammas with different kinds of flowers and displayed the splendor of the festival. Bathukamma participated in the celebrations by singing songs and performing traditional dances. “In this program the director of the school Mr. Konda Sridhar Rao Garu said that Bathukamma festival is very important in Telangana region and it is the responsibility of everyone to present the culture and traditions of Telangana to future generations by showing the importance of different types of flowers found during this period. He wished all the people to prosper with happiness and peace and wished everyone a happy Vijayadashami festival. In this program, good always triumphs over evil, and according to that, the Ravanavadhya program was also organized. “School Director Mrs. Uma Kishore explained to the students the unique-



ness of Bathukamma festival, the cultural heritage of Telangana women and our connection with nature. He said that by conducting such festivals, respect for our culture and traditions, unity and awareness of environmental protection will be increased among the students. “Principal PVR Murali Mohan Upadhyaya, non-teaching staff and students participated in the program.

Dussehra, Bathukamma and Dandiya Celebrations Held Grandly at Delhi Public School Festivities



‘Samanvay 2026’ and ‘One India – Many Traditions’ Celebrate India’s Cultural Diversity” “Nacharam, October 9: (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Celebrating the richness of Indian culture, traditions and the spirit of unity in diversity, Delhi Public School (DPS) Aerocity and DPS Nacharam campuses organised vibrant Dussehra, Bathukamma and Dandiya celebrations with great enthusiasm. “Students, teachers and parents participated in the festivities dressed in traditional attire and enjoyed a variety of cultural programmes. The school premises were transformed into festive venues with music, dance and traditional celebrations. “Students dressed as characters from the Ramayana added a special attraction to the celebrations, while energetic Dandiya performances further enhanced the festive spirit. The ‘Parent–Child Twinning’ activity, in which parents and children participated wearing matching outfits, was another major attraction. DJ music, food stalls and entertainment activities added to the festive atmosphere. Entry to the event was free. “One India – Many Traditions’ Celebrations at DPS Nacharam “At the DPS Nacharam campus, a cultural evening was organised under the theme ‘One India – Many Traditions’. Held from the afternoon to evening on October 9, the celebrations featured lively Dandiya performances and live music as major attractions. “Food stalls offering a variety of cuisines and festive shopping stalls also attracted visitors. The event was organised to showcase the diverse cultures, traditions and art forms of different parts of India on a single platform. “Cultural Celebrations Promote Preservation of Traditions “Such cultural programmes play an important role in providing students with awareness of Indian culture, the significance of festivals and the importance of preserving

traditional values, along with academic knowledge. “The participation of students, teachers and parents together created a lively festive atmosphere on the school campuses. Reflecting the diversity and unity of Indian culture, the celebrations at both campuses were marked by colourful cultural programmes and enthusiastic participation. “Teaching and non-teaching staff, students, parents and others participated in the celebrations.

Civic Infrastructure Works Reviewed Across Machabollaram Division

“Road Connectivity, Park Development and UGD Works Discussed During Colony Visits” “Alwal, October 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Ex-Corporator Raj Jethender Nath visited and inspected various colonies across Machabollaram Division to review civic infrastructure and identify residents’ requirements for improved public amenities. During the visit to Surya Nagar, the Peddarayini Cheruvu Entry Road and the Bell Mouth Road Junction were inspected. The junction development is expected to improve road connectivity from Select Talkies towards the Police Station and the main road, helping provide better access for local residents. Later, Raj Jethender Nath visited Ganga Avenue, where residents raised requests regarding park development and Underground Drainage (UGD) works. The requirements were noted for further consideration. The inspection also covered civic infrastructure in Citizen Colony. At Road No. 11, the tender process has been completed, and the road-laying work is awaited. Meanwhile, Road No. 10 is currently under the budgeting process, with progress expected within the next one to two months. Local residents and senior Congress leaders Surender Reddy, Laxmikanth Reddy, Laddu Reddy, Srisailam Yadav, Venkatesh, Deva and others participated in the inspection and development-related activities. Raj Jitender Nath reiterated his commitment to improving road connectivity, strengthening civic infrastructure and working towards better public amenities across the division in coordination with the concerned authorities and local residents.

Congress stages hunger strike in Karimnagar over alleged ‘vote theft’

Party demands resignation of Chief Election Commissioner; protest called off after leaders offer lemon juice.

Karimnagar October 10, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): The Karimnagar Corporation Congress Committee staged a hunger strike at Indira Chowk in support of the nationwide protests by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) and the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) against alleged electoral irregularities and “vote theft”. Addressing the protest, Karimnagar Corporation Congress president Vaidyula Anjan Kumar accused the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) of undermining democratic rights by allegedly manipulating the electoral process. He said the right to vote, which he described as a cornerstone of the Constitution framed under the leadership of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, must be protected.

Condemning the alleged police action against Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi during their protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Mr. Anjan Kumar accused the authorities of using force and making arrests to suppress dissent.

Drawing a parallel with the East India Company, he alleged that the NDA was undermining people's rights through electoral manipulation. He demanded that the ruling alliance step down and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resign and be arrested. The hunger strike was called off after TPCC general secretary Rahmath



Hussain and DCC working president Komatireddy Padmakar Reddy offered lemon juice to the participants. Several Congress leaders and workers took part in the protest, including Akarapu Bhaskar Reddy, Abdul Rahman, Parvatha Mallesh, Varala Narsingam, Kanthala Jagan Reddy, Moola Jayapal, Danna Singh, Kam Reddy Ram Reddy, Kankanala Anil Kumar Gupta, Gattu Prashanth and Miryala Sridhar Reddy. Other party leaders and workers, including Akula Narasaiah, M.D. Taj, Karra Rajasekhar, Shravan Naik, Ahmed Ali, Vennam Rajitha Reddy, Ponnamp Srinivas Goud and several others, were also present.

Celebrations at Bright Concept School Embodiment of Telangana’s Floral Heritage and Cultural Grandeur.



HYDERABAD, OCT. 10 | INDIAN CHRONICLE “The vibrant cultural ethos of Telangana found eloquent expression at Bright Concept School, Ranga Reddy Nagar, Hyderabad, where the Bathukamma festival was celebrated with immense enthusiasm, traditional fervour and floral splendour. The festivities transformed the school campus into a colourful arena of cultural expression, highlighting the profound connection between nature, womanhood and the indigenous traditions of Telangana. “The celebrations witnessed the enthusiastic participation of girl students, who arrived with beautifully arranged Bathukammas, meticulously adorned with seasonal flowers in a variety of colours. The women teachers added a special dimension to the occasion by collectively preparing an impressive Bathukamma floral arrangement, which stood out as a major attraction of the programme. “The school premises reverberated with traditional Bathukamma songs, rhythmic Kolatam performances and lively dances, creating an atmosphere of joy, harmony and cultural exuberance. The synchronised movements, melodious folk compositions and colourful floral displays captivated the gathering, making the celebration a memorable cultural experience for the students and faculty alike. “Bathukamma: A Celebration of Nature, Womanhood and Telangana’s Identity” “Bathukamma, one of Telangana’s most distinctive cultural festivals, occupies a cherished place in the lives of its people. Celebrated predominantly by women, the festival is an expression of gratitude to nature, reverence for flowers and an affirmation of the enduring bond between human life and the natural environment. The festival derives its name from the Telugu words “Bathuku”, meaning life, and “Ammma”, meaning mother, and is widely associated with the celebration of life, prosperity and feminine grace. “The floral festival is celebrated during the latter part of the monsoon season, generally coinciding with the Navaratri festivities. Women and girls assemble in groups, arrange seasonal flowers in distinctive, tiered formations and offer prayers around the colourful floral structures. Traditional songs, circular dances and communal gatherings form the essence of the celebrations, reinforcing social bonds and a shared sense of cultural belonging. “Flowers such as tangedu (Cassia auriculata), gunugu (Celosia), marigold and other locally available seasonal varieties are traditionally used to create Bathukamma arrangements. Their vibrant colours and natural fragrance lend the festival its characteristic beauty. The use of seasonal flowers also reflects the intimate relationship between Telangana’s folk traditions and its local ecology. “Bathukamma is not merely a festival of flowers; it is a living cultural tradition that celebrates the resilience, creativity and collective spirit of women. Through folk songs and customary gatherings, generations have preserved oral traditions, local folklore and cultural memories. The festival also provides an occasion for families and communities to come together, strengthening relationships and fostering mutual understanding beyond social and economic distinctions. “Schools as Custodians of Cultural Heritage” “The celebration at Bright Concept School assumed particular significance in the context of cultural education. Educational institutions play a vital role in introducing younger generations to the traditions, values and collective memories that shape regional identity. By organising such celebrations, schools create opportunities for students to learn about their cultural roots through active participation rather than through textbooks alone. “The Bathukamma festivities encouraged students to appreciate the artistic skill involved in arranging flowers, the significance of traditional folk performances and the importance of preserving indigenous customs. Such activities also help nurture creativity, teamwork, respect for cultural diversity and a sense of belonging to one’s native land. “The festival’s emphasis on flowers and nature further provides an opportunity to sensitise children to environmental awareness, the beauty of local biodiversity and the importance of respecting natural resources. The celebration thus combined cultural enrichment with an educational message, demonstrating how traditional festivals can contribute meaningfully to the holis-

tic development of students. “The programme also highlighted the importance of women’s participation in safeguarding and transmitting cultural traditions. Through their active involvement in the floral arrangements, songs and dances, the women teachers served as cultural ambassadors, inspiring students to value and perpetuate the region’s rich heritage. “The celebrations were attended by the school’s Principal and Correspondent, *Sri Vinod Jadhav*, along with members of the teaching faculty and students. Their wholehearted participation contributed to the festive atmosphere and reflected the institution’s commitment to promoting cultural awareness alongside academic pursuits. “The event concluded as a vibrant tribute to Telangana’s distinctive cultural identity, reaffirming the enduring relevance of Bathukamma as a celebration of life, nature, womanhood and community harmony. The festivities at Bright Concept School demonstrated that when educational institutions embrace indigenous traditions, they help ensure that the cultural heritage of the past continues to flourish in the hearts and minds of future generations.

Bathukamma Celebrations Held Grandly at Surmount School of Excellence



“Former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Attends as Chief Guest” “UPPAL, OCTOBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Bathukamma, the traditional floral festival symbolising the rich culture and heritage of Telangana, was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Surmount School of Excellence in Uppal in the presence of students, parents and teachers. The school premises were adorned with colourful flowers, creating a festive atmosphere. “Former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy attended the celebrations as the chief guest. Students dressed in traditional attire beautifully decorated Bathukamma arrangements with a variety of flowers. They enthusiastically participated in traditional Bathukamma songs and dances, while parents also joined the celebrations, adding to the festive spirit. “Speaking on the occasion, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said that Bathukamma represents the rich culture and traditions of Telangana. She noted that celebrating such festivals in educational institutions helps introduce younger generations to the greatness of their cultural heritage while fostering respect for traditions and a sense of unity among students. “School Director Sravya Reddy said that alongside academic education, it is equally important to familiarise students with festivals, traditions and cultural values. She added that such celebrations help students develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of their cultural heritage. With the enthusiastic participation of students, parents and teachers, the Bathukamma celebrations at Surmount School of Excellence were held in a colourful and festive atmosphere. “Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Prashanth Reddy, Nani, Mani, members of the school management, teachers, parents and students, among others, participated in the programme.

‘Former Punjab Congress president’: Warring changes X bio amid exit buzz



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Ludhiana MP Amrinder Singh Raja Warring has effectively signalled his exit as Punjab Congress chief by rewriting his bio on X as “Former PPCC President”. This comes even as the party has yet to name a successor. Senior Congress leaders in Punjab, including Charanjit Singh Channi and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, are in New Delhi amid the transition. Warring first changed the designation from “President, INC Punjab” to “Former President INC Punjab” and, within minutes, to “Former PPCC President”. The Indian Express reported on Thursday that the Congress high command has decided to remove Warring as Punjab Congress chief.

Warring’s other bio entries – Ludhiana MP, former Punjab cabinet minister, former Gidderbaha MLA and former Indian Youth Congress president – are unchanged. Earlier in the day, he refused to confirm the change to reporters, saying he had just returned from a walk and would speak later. On the speculation about his resignation as Punjab Congress President, he said, “I don’t want to comment on anything. When the time is right, I will let you know.” On whether he will visit the party office in Delhi, he said, “Some matters are internal...”

The Congress high command, it is learnt, has decided

to replace Warring as the state chief, but there has been no formal announcement. Warring has headed the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee since April 2022, when he succeeded Navjot Singh Sidhu after the party’s Assembly defeat. The move follows months of factional pressure and organisational feedback gathered by AICC Punjab in-charge Sachin Pilot, who replaced Bhupesh Baghel on September 5. In July, the high command retained Warring, appointed Channi as chairperson of the campaign committee and gave other roles to leaders, including Randhawa and Vijay Inder Singla. The arrangement did not settle the dissent.

Many contenders for top post. The name of the next state Congress president remains uncertain. Names doing the rounds include former minister and CWC member Singla, Jalandhar Cantonment MLA Pargat Singh, former chief minister and Jalandhar MP Channi, Gurdaspur MP Randhawa, Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla and Raja Sansi MLA Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria.

Asked in Patiala whether he can be the next Punjab Congress president, Singla said, “I am a loyal soldier of the party, and whenever I have been given a responsibility, I have always worked as a party worker. I will continue to work in the same manner with everyone in the future. Today, our president is Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, and all of us, including party leaders and workers, are working with him. Whenever the party has given me responsibility to work in another state, I have gone there and worked for the party...” Sources have suggested an announcement could come within a day or two, possibly after further consultations with Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. Speaking to reporters in Delhi, Channi said the choice of state president was the party’s prerogative. “It is the prerogative of the Congress party, and of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. They know where to appoint someone and when to make a change. They will decide whether a change needs to be made or not,” he said, adding that reshuffles were routine and that Pilot’s appointment had created “a new sense of hope” among workers.

Gurgaon Greenopolis buyers paid Rs 1,159 crore, no home after 11 years

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

From the outside, Greenopolis in Gurgaon’s Sector 89 looks like a finished, upscale housing complex. A grand white archway with the project’s name in bold green letters opens onto paved roads, trimmed hedges, and a round-about with a fountain. A cluster of beige buildings sits beyond it, their balconies fitted with glass railings and air-conditioner units, with the occasional line of laundry drying in the sun. But a few metres past these finished homes, the picture changes.

Behind a long, unplastered red-brick boundary wall, much of the complex is a ghost town of raw grey concrete. Windowless towers stand frozen mid-construction, their unfinished frames looming beside the occupied blocks. For around 1,300 homebuyers caught in disputes involving the project’s two developers — Three C Shelters and Orris Infrastructure — those towers are a reminder of everything that has been put on hold. This week, two court orders brought some movement in the case: the Delhi High Court set up a monitoring committee to verify homebuyers’ claims, while the Supreme Court restored the insolvency proceedings against Three C. But the 11-year wait has meant paying for a home they cannot live in, while making other arrangements for their families and futures. Greenopolis in Gurgaon Sector 89 was launched in 2012 on 47 acres. (Express Photo by Nirbhay Thakur) Greenopolis in Gurgaon Sector 89 was launched in 2012 on 47 acres. (Express Photo by Nirbhay Thakur) Savings are about to run out. Vinay Bhasin, 56, a former factory automation professional, wanted a home of his own in Gurgaon and was drawn to the location and layout shown to buyers. Possession was promised in 2014, with a one-year grace period. Eleven years later, he is still waiting. “I’m living in a small apartment for the time being,” he said. Vinay has also been without a job for almost two years. His child is autistic and currently at an intervention centre, while his monthly expenditure has crossed Rs 70,000.

“I was earning a decent salary and if the job would have continued, at least my daily expenses would have been covered, including the additional expenses for the hostel for my son, who needs to be taken care of for life,” he said. The flat had been financed through a private bank loan. Vinay said the interest rate kept increasing every few months, pushing up the loan tenure. He eventually borrowed from multiple friends and closed the loan in 2020-21. His savings are now running out. “Life has become so difficult... I had to break my Provident Fund (PF) as well,” he said. “We’ve grown tired of fighting legal cases. No one is listening to us. How long can someone without a job sustain this?” he asked. Six months from retirement, living on rent. Greenopolis was launched in 2012 on 47 acres, with Three C Shelters and Orris Infrastructure agreeing to split the allotments 65:35. Buyers booked their flats in 2012-13, with possession promised by 2016.

According to the Delhi High Court order, Three C collected Rs 776.60 crore from its buyers and Orris about Rs 383.06 crore from its own. Buyers said they had paid 80-90% of the price when construction came to a halt in early 2016. Of the 1,862 units planned, only about 1,650 were allotted — 1,091 by Three C and 559 by Orris — divided across three phases. Phase 1, comprising 512 flats across seven towers, was completed and its flats went to some Orris buyers and purchasers in the open market. Phase 2 with 766 flats across 11 towers and Phase 3 with 584 flats across 10 towers remain unfinished. The delay exposed buyers, like Dipika Mohil, to a second layer of creditors — banks awaiting payments.

The 57-year-old had bought her flat in 2013 and took a home loan. “I paid interest from 2015 till 2024 but I had to default as I had no money to pay the EMIs,” she said. Dipika requested a two-year moratorium with an option for a one-time settlement. Instead, she said, she received legal notices. “Now I have to fight banks. They have my original papers — they did due diligence — then why are they not supporting home buyers?” She said she had bought the flat, hoping it would provide financial security after retirement. She is now six months away from retirement, still living on rent. “My entire life savings, accumulated over 30 years of hard work, have gone into this,” she said. For Chitrnanjan Gupta, 72, a retired banker, the flat was meant to be an investment for his daughter. He bought a four-bedroom apartment in 2012, planning to sell it at a profit after delivery. “However, when I retired in March 2014, I started feeling the pinch of the installments,” he said. When he realised possession would be delayed, he asked the builder to change his apartment to a smaller one, which it did. But the



delay had already begun affecting his plans. “The delay in possession has adversely affected my plans for my daughter’s higher education,” he said. Chitrnanjan moved to a smaller apartment in 2016. More than a decade later, he is still waiting for the dispute over the project to be resolved. “After over 10 years, can we be asked to wait indefinitely? We’re suffering. Many of us are senior citizens, middle-class people who invested their entire life savings. We have no homes, almost no money left and banks are after us,” he said. “We had to sell our jewellery.” When they purchased their home, the project was running in full swing, and they trusted the reputed names associated with it, including 3C in Noida and Orris in Gurgaon. They took a bank loan, believing they were securing a safe and stable future for their family,” she said. Construction stopped soon after. The financial pressure forced the family to sell jewellery.

“Selling our jewellery was one of the most painful decisions we have ever had to make. These were not just ornaments. They represented years of savings, memories and security. We had to give them up simply to keep meeting our financial obligations,” she said. “For years, we have lived with the anxiety of not knowing when the matter would finally be resolved. The uncertainty has affected our family life, our ability to plan for the future and our emotional well-being.” On Tuesday, the Delhi High Court constituted a three-member monitoring committee headed by former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna. This committee will verify genuine buyers, whether they paid Three C or Orris, and will try to finish this task in eight months.

Justice Anup Bhamhani outlined that the Monitoring Committee “shall formulate an expeditious and transparent procedure to verify genuine homebuyers and the quantum of payments made by them, cross-referencing the material provided by the Directorate of Enforcement and the homebuyers”. On Wednesday, the Supreme Court set aside a 2023 order by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order terminating insolvency proceedings against Three C. Homebuyers had appealed against shutting down the insolvency process, arguing that ending it at such a late stage left them with no structured way to recover their money. The top court restored the proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), directing it to reconsider the matter after hearing the Resolution Professional, the Committee of Creditors and other stakeholders, including the homebuyers. If the insolvency process continues, the NCLT was directed to proceed expeditiously. But for buyers, the latest legal developments bring another round of uncertainty. “We have paid for our homes so we want them. Does nobody understand this? Can we be made to wait indefinitely?... At times, it feels as though we have been failed by the very justice system meant to protect us,” Sushma said.

45-year-old man bludgeoned to death with cricket bats in Kokapet

Hyderabad: A man was brutally beaten to death with cricket bats near Neopolis in Kokapet, creating a stir in the area on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Venkanna (45), a native of Thirumalayapalem in Khammam district.

Powered By VidCrunch According to the police, Venkanna was staying at a PG hostel in Kokapet and was involved in money lending business. He was allegedly attacked with cricket bats during the night and succumbed to his injuries.

The Narsingi police are investigating the case to identify the assailants and ascertain the motive behind the murder.

Delhi’s September AQI was lowest in 5 years. So why did PM2.5 and PM10 rise?



Delhi’s air appeared to improve this September. The city’s average Air Quality Index, or AQI — a numerical index that translates concentrations of multiple air pollutants into a single measure of air quality — fell to 102, its lowest September average in five years, according to official data from the Commission for Air Quality Management. But measurements of two specific key pollutants — PM2.5 and PM10 — tell a different story. The concentrations of PM2.5 and PM10, two of the pollutants most closely associated with harmful air pollution, slightly increased this September compared with last year, according to an analysis of data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). At first glance, the two sets of numbers appear contradictory. But they measure different aspects of air quality, and the difference largely lies in how the AQI is calculated and how the data is being compared. AQI is not an average of pollutants.

The National Air Quality Index classifies air quality into six categories: Good (0–50), Satisfactory (51–100), Moderately polluted (101–200), Poor (201–300), Very Poor (301–400) and Severe (401–500). With an average AQI of 102, Delhi’s air in September fell into the Moderately polluted category. The Air Quality Index is a composite measure based on concentrations of individual pollutants, including PM2.5, PM10, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ammonia and others. For each pollutant, a sub-index is calculated based on its concentration. The overall AQI is determined by the pollutant with the highest sub-index on a given day. This means the AQI is not obtained by simply adding or averaging the concentrations of PM2.5, PM10 and gaseous pollutants. As a result, a rise in PM2.5 does not necessarily mean the AQI will rise by a corresponding amount. If PM2.5 increases but its sub-index remains below that of another pollutant, the overall AQI can remain unchanged or even fall if the dominant pollutant is at a lower level. The same applies to PM10.

What happened in September?

‘Until Gyanesh Kumar resigns’: CJP’s Abhijeet Dipke announces Goa, Bengaluru, Kolkata ‘morcha’

Ahead of their “Jail Bharo Andolan” from Mumbai’s Shivaji Park on October 2, Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke declared on Thursday that their movement against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar would also spread to Goa, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and other cities. Abhijeet Dipke and fellow CJP leaders, including Saurav Das, held a press conference in Mumbai on Thursday, October 1, demanding criminal action against Gyanesh Kumar.

The trigger for CJP’s Mumbai protest on Friday against the Election Commission is an Express investigation which exposed an internal rift within the poll body over SIR voter deletions. Dipke also appealed to political parties to join the agitation, but declared: “CJP will not be a part of INDIA bloc protests.” “There is an andolan tomorrow; we would go to Jantar Mantar also... until Gyanesh Kumar resigns,” Dipke said. Calling CEC Gyanesh Kumar a “puppet”, Dipke said, “Next election commissioner should be elected transparently and civil society should be allowed to take part in the process.” Ajinkya Shinde said, “After tomorrow, there will be morcha protest in Goa, Bangalore, Kolkata, Ranchi. It will reach Jantar Mantar at the end of the month.” Dipke also said that deletion of 13 crore names from the draft rolls across the three phases of SIR was “very significant”. “This is 14 percent of the votes and they have gotten rid of it... then the decision is already made.” “There is an illusion of democracy. EVM machine is not reliable as every electronic machine can be rigged,” the CJP founder said. Dipke urged

The analysis of the CPCB data for September shows that the average PM10 concentration rose from 104 micrograms per cubic metre in September 2025 to 106 µg/m³ this year. PM2.5 increased from 35 µg/m³ to 39 µg/m³. At the same time, the monthly averages of NO2 and ozone were lower than they were in September 2025. CAQM, meanwhile, reported that Delhi’s September average AQI was 102, compared with 105 in both 2025 and 2024, 108 in 2023 and 104 in 2022. So, the decline in the monthly AQI does not mean that concentrations of every pollutant declined. It means the composite AQI outcome was lower.

Why does the AQI not move with PM2.5 alone?

A rise in PM2.5 does not always mean the overall AQI will rise. That is because the AQI is based on several pollutants, and the pollutant with the highest sub-index determines the final AQI. So, even if PM2.5 or PM10 goes up, the overall AQI can still fall if another pollutant that was driving the index drops significantly. “If PM2.5 rises from one concentration to another, its sub-index also rises. But if ozone or another pollutant still has the higher sub-index, the overall AQI is controlled by that pollutant. Conversely, if the pollutant that was previously driving the AQI falls substantially, the overall AQI can decline even if PM2.5 or PM10 rises,” explained Sunil Dahiya, lead analyst and founder at Delhi-based think tank Envirocatalysts. He also pointed out that month-to-month variations in average AQI can affect the cumulative average when a longer period, such as January to September, is compared with previous years. Even relatively small differences in individual months can result in a slight change in the overall average when aggregated over nine months. On the scientific rationale behind such comparison, a CAQM spokesperson said the commission’s evaluation uses a comprehensive approach, looking at cumulative trends from January through the month under review, including monthly averages and the number of days in different AQI categories as a standard practice in its analysis reports. For January 1 to September 28, Delhi recorded 194 days with an average AQI below 200, the highest count in the corresponding period of the last five years. The figure was 187 in 2025, 188 in 2024, 193 in 2023 and 146 in 2022, the Commission noted in a statement Wednesday. The number of days in the Poor to Severe+ categories also fell to 79, compared with 86 each in 2025 and 2024, 80 in 2023 and 127 in 2022. The cumulative PM2.5 average for January 1 to September 28 was 69 µg/m³, the same as in 2025 and below 81 µg/m³ in 2024, 73 µg/m³ in 2023 and 80 µg/m³ in 2022. September is also a transition period as the city enters its post-monsoon phase. Pollution concentrations in Delhi can change sharply with weather conditions including high wind speed, rainfall and humidity.



those joining the CJP protest not to carry banners or party flags. “Tomorrow, get the national flag. If possible, wear a Gandhi T-Shirt and sunscreen,” Pranay Ahir, the Mumbai coordinator of the CJP, said. Referring to the violence-marred CJP protest at Jantar Mantar in July, Dipke said Mumbai Police would cooperate with the protesters. “They are not like Delhi Police,” he said. Addressing the younger generation, Dipke said they should respond to the brutality “by memes and humor as the government doesn’t know how to respond to it.” When asked about possible legal action against the protesters, Dipke said, “The government is free to proceed any legal action against me for protesting.” Earlier, cousins Raj and Uddhav Thackeray also announced a joint protest on October 4 against the functioning of the Election Commission.

2 priests killed, bodies set on fire at UP temple; ‘goon’ out on bail prime suspect



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Two priests were burnt to death on a temple premises in Uttar Pradesh’s Shahjahanpur district Thursday morning, with police probing allegations that a local “goon” who got out on bail recently killed the victims to grab temple property. Police said the suspect has been detained and is being questioned.

Shahjahanpur Superintendent of Police, Saurabh Dixit, in a statement, said police received information around 7 am of the bodies being found at the temple in Sootha village, which falls under the jurisdiction of Khudaganj police station. A police team rushed to the spot and found the victims were two priests, Gopal Das (70) and Bihari Das (60), who lived there. A forensic team collected evidence and the remains were sent for further examination and autopsy, Dixit added. Dixit further said the temple’s patron, Shiv Kumar Singh, had submitted an application alleging that a man named Sumit from the same village killed the priests and burnt their bodies to destroy evidence of the murders.

Police said villagers also claimed that Sumit regularly visited the temple and sat with the two priests. They alleged that he had been pressuring the priests to leave the

temple premises so that he could live there. The SP said questioning of the suspect and the findings of the investigation would establish the circumstances surrounding the priests’ deaths, after which a case would be registered. He said Sumit had been in jail in a criminal case and had got out on bail recently. Police said Gopal was from a village a few kilometres away and had left home after his wife died about 22 years ago. The other priest was from Sootha village and became Gopal Das’s disciple about 10 years ago. Both had been living on the temple premises.

Washerman murdered in Asifabad over alleged dispute

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: A washerman was brutally murdered by unidentified persons at Gambhiraopet village on Wednesday night.

Police said Rachakonda Sattaiah (50) was killed on the spot after the assailants slit his throat at around 10 pm. They suspected that some members of his community might have been involved following disputes over fixing charges for washing clothes.

It is learnt that members of the community had demanded a hefty charge for washing clothes of villagers during a meeting recently. However, Sattaiah came forward to do the job for a nominal price, drawing the ire of the members. It was suspected that some members nursed a grudge against him. Meanwhile, police said a murder case was booked against a person from the village on Thursday, but withheld the accused person’s identity for undisclosed reasons.

Dragged for 500 metres, Gujarat cop lunges into fleeing car to stop gold heist



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

When a getaway car smashed into Inspector S A Gadhvi's vehicle at Viramgam near Ahmedabad Saturday, jamming his driver-side door, the four fleeing thieves thought they had created just enough chaos to make a break for it. As his team pried the door open, the driver put the car in reverse to slip away from the police. Rushing forward on foot, Inspector Gadhvi lunged, grabbed the moving vehicle's door, and held on. "The driver slammed the accelerator, dragging the officer along the road for nearly 500 metres. Displaying extraordinary courage and determination, Inspector Gadhvi managed to open the vehicle door, gain control of the steering and pull the handbrake, bringing an end to the chase," said Om Prakash Jat, Superintendent of Ahmedabad Rural police. The dramatic capture marked the climax of an operation by the Ahmedabad Rural police and the Government Railway Police (GRP). Together, they apprehended all four thieves and recovered Rs 3.75 crore worth of stolen gold jewellery hours after it was snatched from a train passenger at Nadiad railway station, nearly 110 km away. Theft at railway station

The heist began at 5 pm on October 3. A passenger, Bharat Karsan Chaudhary, alighted from the Howrah-Ahmedabad Superfast Express at the Nadiad railway station in Anand when a thief suddenly snatched his green bag, which held 2.9 kg of gold jewellery valued at Rs 3.75 crore. Chaudhary gave a chase, but the thief darted into a waiting car and sped away. Before the vehicle disappeared, Chaudhary snapped a quick photo of the getaway car, a Tata Tiago, and immediately handed the crucial lead over to the GRP. By 7.30 pm, the GRP alerted the Gujarat Police state control room, which flashed the details to the

Ahmedabad Rural police. Specialist teams traced the registered owner of the Tiago to Banaskantha district. Intelligence inputs and field informants quickly revealed that the car was moving through rural Ahmedabad, closely trailed by an unregistered Maruti Baleno serving as a second getaway vehicle. "Based on the intelligence inputs, we identified possible movement routes, particularly towards Sachana and Viramgam. The Local Crime Branch (LCB) and Viramgam Town police immediately activated checkpoints and deployed teams strategically on these roads," the Ahmedabad Rural police said in a statement. Truck blockade and a live-location trap

As the unregistered Baleno approached Viramgam Town, LCB personnel Himanshu and Viramgam Town police officer Siddhraj used heavy trucks and local vehicles to set up a sudden roadblock. They intercepted the Baleno and arrested one occupant on the spot. However, the primary target, the Tata Tiago, had slipped through. During the on-the-spot interrogation, the Baleno driver revealed that his three accomplices had already crossed Viramgam Town in the Tiago, carrying the stolen Rs 3.75-crore gold. Police officers then seized the phone of the arrested suspect to text the gang members in the Tiago, claiming he was lost and persuading them to share their WhatsApp live location to coordinate a meeting point.

Unaware that they were messaging the police, the gang shared their real-time coordinates and drove straight into the trap. High-speed ramming Police teams rushed to the meeting location and barricaded the road. When the Tiago arrived, the driver refused to pull over and instead accelerated, ramming directly into Inspector Gadhvi's police vehicle. Despite his door jamming from the impact and being dragged 500 metres when he tried to intervene, Inspector Gadhvi managed to reach inside, pull the handbrake, and stop the car. "The other police personnel immediately rushed to assist and successfully overpowered the three accused inside the vehicle. Meanwhile, one accused managed to escape from the scene and fled into the adjoining fields, but a systematic search and cordon by the teams led to his apprehension as well," the police statement added. With all four suspects in custody, officers searched the vehicles and found 2.9 kg of stolen gold hidden beneath the seat covers of the Baleno. Both vehicles were seized, and all four men were handed over to the Nadiad GRP, where they were booked and arrested for robbery.

His parents were injured by a pothole. Delhi teen then started tracking road repairs



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

In October 2025, Parth Anand's parents were driving to Delhi's Karol Bagh to buy clothes for his grandparents' anniversary when their motorcycle hit a pothole. They fell off the vehicle and suffered fractures. It took them about three months to recover. For Anand, the accident was difficult to dismiss as just another bad-road mishap. He noticed that the pothole appeared to have been there for some time. He reported the pothole through the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) system. But responses, he found, could take three to four months. "What struck me was that more and more people were complaining, but the authorities were still not responding. That frustration kept growing," he said. That experience eventually became the starting point for Project Sadak.

In March this year, the 15-year-old began building a platform that would do more than collect pothole complaints. It would identify the agency responsible, send the complaint to it and, crucially, leave a public trail of what happened next. Anand built the first platform himself, working on it alongside school — he studies at St Francis de Sales School in Janakpuri — during a roughly three-hour window between tuition and his commute home. He later used AI to develop the platform further. As of September, the platform had recorded 1,815 reports across India, including more than 220 from Delhi. Bengaluru accounts for more than 1,500, while other reports have come from Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Kerala. More than 20 repairs have been documented through the platform. In Vikaspuri, two potholes reported through Sadak in April were fixed in about five days, Anand said. In Bengaluru, a complaint filed in June was followed by a repair within two days. Anand said his analysis of pothole com-

plaints in the city found that repairs typically take three to four months. The number of reports also rose during the monsoon, increasing by 25% in cities such as Bengaluru and Delhi, he added. A resident first uploads a photograph and location of the damaged road. The report then goes through an AI-assisted verification process to identify whether the image actually shows a pothole and to detect duplicate reports. The system also asks the person reporting the pothole to classify the nature of severity. Anand said this determines how the platform follows up with authorities. Once a report is verified, an AI agent identifies the authority responsible for that particular road and files a complaint with it. Depending on the road, this could mean agencies such as the MCD or National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The AI agent also follows up through email. Each report, Anand said, is photographed, geotagged and timestamped, and its status remains publicly visible. "What makes it different is that existing channels like MCD 311 / PWD helplines take complaints, but citizens rarely see what happens next — and there's no public record of how long the fixes take. Sadak's focus is primarily on public tracking," said Anand. Initially, Anand built the platform using his own coding knowledge. As the project grew more complex, he began using AI to further develop and scale it. "The basic reporting form was easy to build myself. It got complex once real reports started coming in." One of the problems was duplicate reporting. "Many people report the same pothole, so the system has to tell if two reports are the same spot using GPS and photos," he said.

Alongside the project, Anand said he is working on AI research in mechanistic interpretability with Prof Manolis Kellis's lab, at MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), and is an Emergent Ventures fellow. The project also received a grant from the Lift Off Grant, an independent microgrant programme, which was used to meet the development costs of the project. On future plans, Anand said he had discussions with another country about adapting the platform to meet its national reporting requirements, and was in talks with an automotive technology company to deploy instant pothole-fixing machines, which could raise awareness about Project Sadak and the need for faster repairs. But the larger problem Anand wants to tackle is simpler than the technology behind Sadak: getting people to stop treating potholes as an unavoidable part of city life. "The issue of potholes is not new. It's very basic. But everybody suffers from it. They see it and ignore it," he said.

India's LNG imports fall 14 per-cent, Oman tops supplier list in September

New Delhi: Oman emerged as India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in September, replacing the United States as the country continued to diversify its energy imports amid ongoing geopolitical disruptions in West Asia, according to a report. According to Kpler data, India imported 585,000 tonnes of LNG from Oman in September, up 11.6 per cent from August, giving the Gulf nation a 27 per cent share of total LNG imports. Nigeria became the second-largest supplier, with shipments of 351,000 tonnes, although volumes fell 35 per cent from the previous month. The US, which topped the supplier list in August with 848,000 tonnes, slipped to third place after exports to India declined 59 per cent, accounting for 16 per cent of September imports. Qatar, once India's dominant LNG supplier with a market share of around 45 per cent, fell to sixth place and supplied about 94,000 tonnes during the month. The UAE supplied 311,000 tonnes, while Angola exported 205,000 tonnes to India. The sharp decline in Qatari supplies followed disruptions caused by Iran's strike on Ras Laffan Industrial City in March, a key LNG production hub and a major source of natural gas exports to India. India's overall LNG imports also declined 14 per cent month-on-month to 2.17 million tonnes in September from 2.5 million tonnes in August. Natural gas plays an important role in fertiliser pro-



duction, industrial heating, power generation and urban transportation. India imports nearly half of its LNG requirements, with about 60 per cent of shipments from West Asian suppliers such as Qatar and the UAE transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. The government has also stepped up efforts to diversify energy sourcing across LNG, LPG and crude oil, adding supplies from countries including Canada, Algeria, the US and emerging LNG producers such as Mozambique and Brazil to reduce exposure to geopolitical risks.

Attacks on gay dating app users rise; reported cases 'tip of iceberg'



Over the last couple of years, there have been several attacks in Pune on men looking for same-sex relationships through apps used by LGBTQIA+ people, the police and activists said. On September 29, three youngsters allegedly attacked a 22-year-old man having sex with another man he met through the Grindr app.

The victim, who hails from Bhosari, and his gay date were attacked by the assailants at a dilapidated building near the Mental Asylum in the Yerwada area around 6 pm, according to the FIR. The other man allegedly ran away to escape from the assailants. The assailants also forcibly transferred Rs 20,000 using the victim's PhonePe account, threatened to kill him, and tried to have sex with him, according to the FIR. When he resisted, the assailants dropped him at Vishrantwadi Chowk on a two-wheeler and left, it added. The man approached the police two days later after receiving counselling from YUTAK Trust, which works among LGBTQIA+ people. Assistant Police Inspector Chandrakant Lohkare said, "We probed the bank account into which the accused had forcibly transferred the victim's money. This led to the arrest of 19-year-old Devendra alias Karan on the same day. A court remanded him to police custody until October 7 for further investigation. Attempts are underway to arrest the remaining two accused."

The police booked the three men on charges including voluntarily causing hurt, robbery, and criminal intimidation. Minor boy lures 25-year-old man in a previous incident, a minor boy lured a 25-year-old man from Warje Malwadi through a gay dating app and called him for a meeting near a shopping mall in Karve Nagar on the night of April 29. The minor then took the man for a "long drive". They reached a secluded spot, where the minor's aides allegedly attacked the man, stoned his face, snatched his cell phone, and transferred Rs 8,600 from his account. Within

an hour after he complained, the police apprehended the minor accused on May 8. His three aides were arrested later. Earlier this year, the police arrested a gang of five who allegedly robbed three users of a gay dating app between December 28, 2025, and January 11, 2026.

According to an FIR registered in these cases, a 27-year-old man received a message on a gay dating app from an ID named "ImTop", used by a person identifying himself as Rahil. They decided to meet in Kondhwa around 9 pm on January 11 for a "hook-up". But when the man reached the spot, Rahil and his friends allegedly took the victim to an isolated spot and robbed him of his gold ornaments. The police arrested Rahil and four others, including a history-sheeter charged under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act (MCOCA) in the past. The police said the gang members had similarly robbed at least two more men. They targeted men looking for same-sex dating, believing that victims would not file police complaints.

In July 2025, when a 22-year-old man went to meet another man he met through a gay dating app, two others forced him to take his clothes off and recorded his videos in a car. Threatening to publicise the videos, they allegedly forced the victim into making online transfers of Rs 8,000. A 24-year-old man was allegedly blackmailed into paying Rs 1.09 lakh between August 2024 and January 2025 by people who befriended him on a gay dating app. The FIR in the case was lodged after YUTAK Trust members met top Pune police officials. Later, in April 2025, the police arrested a gang of four youngsters for allegedly robbing several men from Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad after luring them through a gay dating app. "Many are not willing to approach police LGBTQIA+ rights activist Bindumadhav Khire of Sampathik Trust said the cases registered represented the tip of the iceberg. "Also, gay victims are not targeted only in urban centres, but also in rural parts, for easy money. We have received calls on our helpline from several rural victims. Many are not willing to approach the police due to social pressures," said Khire. Anil Ukarande of Yutak Trust said the police should be prompt in registering the crimes against the LGBTQIA+ community. "These crimes will increase if they go unreported. Efforts like posting reels on such crimes on official social media handles of police establishments should be made to raise public awareness. It will encourage the victims to ignore social taboo and lodge police complaints," he said.

In Maharashtra, everybody is protesting – From 'cockroaches' to tribals to women



Protests in Maharashtra have reached a crescendo. In the past few weeks, different parts of Maharashtra have witnessed a string of agitations – from Gen-Z to tribal students to women, though only a few made the headlines. On Friday, October 2, the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) held a protest in Mumbai, demanding the ouster of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, followed by a similar protest by the Thackeray cousins. As this was happening, another one walked into Mumbai from Nashik over the weekend – the tribal students. The triggers are many – farm loan waiver, student hostel facilities, better roads, noise pollution, irregularities in government recruitment exams, functioning of the Election Commission, among others. The Indian Express has listed what has kept the state government and the Maharashtra Police on their toes over the past few months. Farmers protested in June and July 2026, demanding eligibility relaxations in the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar farm loan waiver scheme. In September 2026, the All India Kisan Sabha launched protests, demanding regular crop loan payees be given a Rs 2 lakh incentive. In June 2026, onion farmers staged Rasta Roko on the Pune-Nashik national highway, demanding MSP for their produce. For the past year, farmers from western Maharashtra and Marathwada have protested against the Shaktipeeth road project, refus-

ing to part ways with their lands. For over 2 years, students preparing for Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) examinations have protested against exam fees, online exams, delayed results and irregularities. The protests intensified after Vivek Bhimanwar was appointed the MPSC chairman.

Students in Pune protested over hostel rules. What worked as a catalyst was the deaths of tribal students in Gadchiroli due to snake bites. In September 2026, resident doctors and interns across Maharashtra's government medical colleges protested against allowing homoeopathy practitioners to be registered with the Maharashtra Medical Council (MMC). Students have been protesting at IIT Bombay since the death of Sahil Wakode on September 18. CJP protests in Mumbai and surrounding areas in support of the Jantar Mantar agitation. Women have been excluded from Majhi Ladki Bahin scheme are protesting, alleging bias. Pune, Nagpur, and Mumbai witnessed citizens protesting in solidarity with the survivors of sexual assault across India. Social activist Manoj Jarange-Patil held a 20-day hunger strike, demanding Maratha quota. To counter Jarange, OBC organisations held protests, alleging the government was diluting OBC reservation. Maharashtra is witnessing protests from Dhangar and Banjara communities, demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

A road blockade was held in August 2026 across Pune, Nashik and Ahilyanagar districts to demand restoration of the original direct railway alignment between Pune and Nashik. Citizens and environmentalists from across the state are protesting against the felling of trees in Nashik to make arrangements for the upcoming Sinhastha Kumbh Mela. Days before the Ganesh festival, Pune residents took to the streets, demanding a blanket ban on the use of DJs during festivals and religious events. Thane's Balkum, Majiwada and Dhokali saw protests against a hyperscale data centre, expected to consume 422 MW of power, 125 kilolitres of treated water daily and have 193 diesel generators on standby.

Dead drops in Punjab to godowns in MP, how drug kingpin's syndicate operated

Narco-trafficking kingpin Navpreet Singh, accused of running an international heroin syndicate, allegedly told investigators that drugs were delivered through dead drops — buried at multiple locations in Punjab and stored in godowns in Madhya Pradesh — according to the prosecution. A Delhi court on Saturday remanded the 34-year-old to 10 days' custody of the Delhi Police Special Cell, which told the court it needed to recover the drugs, trace the syndicate's supply chain, and identify other people involved in the alleged trafficking network. Navpreet, 34, was deported from Türkiye and arrested at Delhi airport on Saturday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced his deportation in a post on X, saying Singh had obtained Turkish citizenship using the false identity of Navab Virk. The 2021 heroin case Navpreet was produced before Special Judge, Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (NDPS), Anuradha Shukla, at Rouse Avenue court on October 3 in a case dating back to July 2021. The Special Cell had then arrested a man in South Delhi and followed the trail to Faridabad, where a total of 358.08 kg of heroin was seized. During submissions, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Akhand Pratap Singh told the court, "There is ample evidence against this accused (Navpreet) in form of his connection with co-accused Gurpreet and Gurjyot Singh, from whom huge quantity of heroin in total 358.08 kilogram was recovered". He also submitted that the co-accused had made disclosure statements against Navpreet. "A cheque book recovered from the premises of co-accused Ramandeep belonged to the accused," the court order recorded. The court noted that Navpreet was declared a proclaimed offender on February 16, 2022. According to the prosecution, he had avoided investigation and court proceedings for more than four years. The court order also re-

corded the prosecution's submission that Navpreet had inflicted injuries on his hand and stomach when he was being handed over to the Special Cell. He was taken to Medanta Hospital at the Delhi Airport for medical treatment. Police seek to trace supply chain, identify associates According to the Special Cell's remand papers, it sought Navpreet's custody to question him about the alleged syndicate's operations, his movements and the preparation of his passport in Delhi, as well as to confront him with statements made by other accused. It also sought to identify and apprehend other alleged suppliers, financiers, carriers and facilitators. "The disclosure of the accused is on record wherein he has stated that he used to deliver drugs through dead drop," SPP Singh told the court. In a dead drop, a consignment is left at an agreed location for someone else to collect later. SPP Singh said Navpreet had told investigators that drugs had been buried at several places in Punjab and that he could identify the locations and help recover them. "... the accused, in his disclosure, also stated that his associates, Labba and Manna, had taken godowns in MP where drugs were kept and there is a house in Punjab also which can be identified," the order reads. Judge Shukla said, "The investigation necessitates police custody of the accused to recover the buried drugs which were dead dropped and other drugs which accused has stated that he has kept hidden; to unearth the supply chain, source and transportation route; for identification of other persons involved in procurement, transportation, storage and distribution; and to establish complete financial trail connected with the illegal drug trade." "The accused has to be taken to Punjab and MP for investigation purposes. For the needful to be done, 10 days' police custody is being sought, which seems reasonable," the NDPS Judge said in the order.

London-Chicago British Airways flight triggers 7700 emergency alert over Ireland



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

New Delhi: A British Airways flight operating from London to Chicago declared an emergency while flying over Ireland, prompting the aircraft to squawk the 7700 emergency code and descend to around 9,000 feet, according to flight-tracking data on Monday. According to flight-tracking website Flightradar24, flight BA295 triggered the emergency alert while en route across the Atlantic. The Boeing aircraft's descent and emergency signal attracted attention from aviation observers, although the exact nature of the incident was not immediately known.

The 7700 transponder code is used by flight crews to indicate a general emergency requiring priority handling by air traffic control. While the code alerts controllers that ur-

gent assistance may be needed, it does not specify the cause, which can range from a technical malfunction and medical emergency to other operational concerns. British Airways had not immediately disclosed the reason for the emergency, and further details regarding the aircraft's condition and subsequent flight path were awaited. The incident comes days after another high-profile aviation emergency involving flydubai flight FZ1073, which was forced to divert after an alleged attack inside the cockpit during a flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv. That aircraft transmitted both the 7700 emergency code and the 7500 code, which is associated with unlawful interference or a possible hijacking situation. The Boeing 737 MAX 8 was carrying 174 passengers and crew when the incident occurred on September 30. According to reports, the aircraft entered a rapid descent after the alleged cockpit altercation. Despite sustaining injuries, the captain was able to regain control of the situation with assistance from passengers and off-duty pilots travelling on the flight. The aircraft subsequently diverted to Tabuk in Saudi Arabia and landed safely. Authorities in the United Arab Emirates later described the incident as a terrorist attack and launched an investigation. The co-pilot involved was subsequently transferred to UAE custody. The British Airways incident is understood to be entirely separate from the flydubai case, and there is currently no indication of any connection between the two events. Aviation authorities and the airline are expected to provide further information once the circumstances behind BA295's emergency declaration have been established.

India's LNG imports fall 14 per-cent, Oman tops supplier list in September

New Delhi: Oman emerged as India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in September, replacing the United States as the country continued to diversify its energy imports amid ongoing geopolitical disruptions in West Asia, according to a report. According to Kpler data, India imported 585,000 tonnes of LNG from Oman in September, up 11.6 per cent from August, giving the Gulf nation a 27 per cent share of total LNG imports.

Nigeria became the second-largest supplier, with shipments of 351,000 tonnes, although volumes fell 35 per cent from the previous month. The US, which topped the supplier list in August with 848,000 tonnes, slipped to third place after exports to India declined 59 per cent, accounting for 16 per cent of September imports. Qatar, once India's dominant LNG supplier with a market share of around 45 per cent, fell to sixth place and supplied about 94,000 tonnes during the month. The UAE supplied 311,000 tonnes, while Angola exported 205,000 tonnes to India.

The sharp decline in Qatari supplies followed disruptions caused by Iran's strike on Ras Laffan Industrial City in March, a key LNG production hub and a major source of natural gas exports to India. India's overall LNG imports also declined 14 per cent month-on-month to 2.17 million tonnes in September from 2.5 million tonnes in August. Natural gas plays an important role in fertiliser production, industrial heating, power generation and urban transportation. India



imports nearly half of its LNG requirements, with about 60 per cent of shipments from West Asian suppliers such as Qatar and the UAE transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. The government has also stepped up efforts to diversify energy sourcing across LNG, LPG and crude oil, adding supplies from countries including Canada, Algeria, the US and emerging LNG producers such as Mozambique and Brazil to reduce exposure to geopolitical risks. Analysts noted that while India's crude oil imports are relatively insulated because of diversified sourcing, LNG and LPG imports remain more vulnerable to supply and shipping disruptions in the Gulf due to limited short-term alternatives.

AI self-policing proven failure: Former FTC chair

Washington: Former Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan has warned against allowing artificial intelligence companies to police themselves, calling Big Tech self-regulation a "proven failure" and urging investigations, enforcement of existing laws and new legislation to address risks posed by increasingly powerful AI systems. Khan's warning came after President Donald Trump met leaders of major technology companies at the White House and backed a voluntary approach to AI safety rather than legally binding federal guardrails. The companies agreed to implement internal controls and external audits to evaluate safety, but the accord is not legally binding.

Asked during ABC News' "This Week" about criticism that relying on the industry to regulate itself could be dangerous, Khan said the experience of the social media era provided a warning. "That's right. We've seen that self-regulation efforts by big tech have been a proven failure," Khan said. "I mean, we need to remember what happened a decade ago where you had big tech companies, social media companies, similarly suggests that existing laws and regulations no longer apply to their new technologies, and that they were going to try instead to self-police." Khan said the consequences of that approach were now evident. "What we've learned since then is that Meta, for example, was concealing evidence that its own products were deeply harmful to kids. We've seen just innumerable harms come from the unchecked domination of these big tech companies." "And so now, as we face new horizons with these advanced AI systems, it would be an enormous mistake to repeat that playbook," she said.

Trump said at the White House summit that AI would be safe because companies would police themselves and each other. "It's going to be very, very safe. There's a self-policing. And there's also a group policing, and it's going to be great," Trump said. The debate comes as concerns grow about increasingly autonomous AI systems. The ABC programme reported that OpenAI had paused the release of its latest model because it did not meet the company's standards on staying within scope and authorisation. It also cited researchers as finding examples of AI agents attempting to hack government-run websites. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman acknowledged the broader risks in remarks cited by the programme. "As the process of building AI becomes more automated, the pace of AI progress could accelerate rapidly. This moment calls for extreme care," Altman said. Khan argued that Washington does not have to wait for an entirely new regulatory system before acting. "Product liability laws, consumer protection laws, tort laws, laws against cybersecurity breaches, laws against public nuisance," she said, listing existing legal avenues. "And so the idea that just because we have new technological capabilities, there's some blanket exemption from the laws on the books is totally laughable." Khan said questions of liability would become increasingly serious if AI agents repeatedly engaged in dangerous behaviour and companies continued developing them without adequate safeguards. She pointed to the FTC's previous use of consumer protection laws against companies that failed to provide adequate cybersecurity protections. "I think there are very readily available analogies to what's going on here," she said. Khan also called for investigations into what AI companies and

their executives knew about potentially dangerous behaviour by their systems. "I think what needs to happen right now is that we need to have investigations as to what's even really going on behind the curtain here," she said. Khan said there had been conflicting accounts in which executives described AI agents as going rogue while reports suggested companies had already been aware that their systems could behave in such ways. "And so, I think we need to get to the bottom of what could the liability be even under existing laws and not just liability for these companies, but maybe even for the specific executives," she said. Beyond enforcement of existing laws, Khan said Congress needed to act. "I think then, you know, Congress needs to legislate," she said. She compared AI with earlier transformative technologies that ultimately required government oversight. "We have a long history of governing technologies that are potentially transformative, but also extremely risky, extremely dangerous, be it when it came to the railroads, be it when it came to pharmaceuticals or nuclear power," Khan said. She pointed to efforts by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representatives Pramila Jayapal and Greg Casar to consider what such legislation could look like. Khan also argued that state attorneys general could play a significant role in AI oversight and investigations.

L B Nagar ACP suspended by Telangana government over alleged irregularities

Hyderabad: The Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), L B Nagar, K Krishnaiah, was placed under suspension by the government following allegations of corruption and other irregularities. According to sources, allegations of corruption and other irregularities had been pending against Krishnaiah for some time. Disciplinary action was reportedly initiated against him earlier, but the process could not be completed as he was undergoing treatment at a hospital. After being discharged, Krishnaiah resumed duties as the L B Nagar ACP. However, the government has now placed him under suspension in connection with the allegations.

flydubai co-pilot planned Ben Gurion crash in 9/11-style attack



Jerusalem: The Omani co-pilot who attempted to crash a flydubai flight bound for Tel Aviv had planned to deliberately crash the aircraft into a building or another plane at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport, according to reports in the Israeli media. Hamam Al-Hammami, an Omani first officer who is currently under arrest, reportedly told investigators in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that he intended to continue operating flydubai Flight 1073 normally after killing the aircraft's captain, Indian pilot Smit Machchhar.

According to the reports, his plan was to obtain the necessary landing clearances without arousing suspicion and then crash the aircraft into a building or another jet at the airport in an attack resembling the September 11, 2001, attacks. Quoting sources, Ynet reported that Al-Hammami told investigators that he intended to initiate the plan while the aircraft was over Jordan and approaching Israel. By waiting until the final stage of the flight, he believed that he would prevent anyone from understanding what was happening in time to alert authorities or stop him from carrying out the plan.

The reports further said that Al-Hammami had also told investigators that if he was unable to crash the aircraft at Ben Gurion Airport, he planned to target a skyscraper in Tel Aviv or one of the US military bases in Jordan. However, the plan was thwarted after Captain Machchhar, despite suffering serious injuries, fought back against the co-pilot. The Indian pilot managed to send distress signals and open the cockpit door, enabling crew members and passengers to intervene and restrain Al-Hammami. Two off-duty pilots travelling on the aircraft subsequently helped regain control of the plane and safely landed it in Saudi Arabia, preventing the attack from being carried out. Captain Machchhar, who is currently receiving treatment at a hospital in Abu Dhabi, recounted the attack during a conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday. He said that Al-Hammami had asked to pray shortly before attacking him with a crash axe.

Machchhar recalled that the first blow landed heavily on his head and that he initially believed the aircraft itself had suffered some kind of impact. At first, Captain Machchhar said he thought the plane had been hit. How-

ever, as the assault continued, he realised that the danger was coming from the person sitting beside him in the cockpit. "The blows kept coming. I realised that it's not the aircraft; it's the other guy who was in the cockpit with me," Machchhar said. Sources cited by Israel's Channel 12 reportedly said that Al-Hammami had initially intended to carry out the plan in July but postponed the operation at the last moment because he was friends with one of the crew members. Reports also stated that Al-Hammami had flown to Ben Gurion Airport several times in the months before the incident after joining flydubai.

According to the reports, he told investigators that during a visit to Israel in June, he concentrated on gathering information and preparing for the alleged attack. A Channel 13 report said that the Omani co-pilot had planned the attack even before joining flydubai, the low-cost Emirati airline that operates flights between Israel and the UAE. "I looked into which airline flies to Tel Aviv. That's why I chose flydubai. I planned it even before I was accepted," he reportedly told investigators. The Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera reported that after attacking Captain Machchhar, Al-Hammami switched off the aircraft's engines and pushed the rudders forward.

According to the report, the actions caused the aircraft to lose around 16,000 feet of altitude in less than a minute, bringing it close to the speed of sound. As the investigation into the flydubai incident continues, preliminary details have also raised questions about possible security lapses and the process through which the co-pilot was cleared to operate the flight. Officials have already said that Al-Hammami's own country had previously barred him from flying because of concerns related to his alleged extremist views. Questions have also been raised over how an Omani citizen, from an Arab country that does not have diplomatic relations with Israel, was permitted to operate a flight carrying Israeli passengers to Tel Aviv. Al-Hammami, 29, is an Omani citizen whose father is Omani and mother Syrian. He had lived in Syria during the country's civil war and had reportedly posted messages online expressing support for al-Qaeda. It also remains unclear how flydubai failed to identify Al-Hammami as a potential security concern before allowing him to serve as a co-pilot on flights to Israel. Regional officials told the Associated Press that Emirati authorities had shared information concerning passengers and crew members, including their nationalities. However, the officials said that Israel had not raised any red flags concerning either passengers or members of the crew. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation. Israel's domestic security agency, Shin Bet, said that the Transportation Ministry is responsible for vetting passenger lists received from foreign flights. Transportation Minister Miri Regev, in a post on X, said that responsibility for flight security lies with the security agencies and that her ministry had not been provided with a passenger list or received any warnings concerning the flight. Sharing passenger and crew information is considered a standard aviation procedure. However, Dvir Rubenstein, head of aviation security at Israel's Transportation Ministry, told Army Radio that the ministry relies on security checks carried out locally and does not possess the tools or capacity to independently conduct checks on every passenger travelling on every flight.

Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia issue declaration on Red Sea governance, state sovereignty, water rights

Cairo: The leaders of Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia have issued a joint declaration on state sovereignty, Red Sea governance, and water rights, stressing the necessity of adhering to international law as the foundation for regional stability and cooperation. In the El Alamein Joint Declaration issued following the quadrilateral consultative summit in Egypt's New Alamein on Sunday (local time), the leaders rejected interference in the internal affairs of the region's states "under any pretext."

The summit was attended by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council, reports Xinhua news agency. The leaders discussed regional and international developments and ways to strengthen political, economic, trade and cultural cooperation among the four countries, and addressed a number of regional issues. On Sudan, the leaders support the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national institutions of the Republic of Sudan, rejecting the establishment of any parallel entities. They reject any recognition of or support for the so-called "Somaliland" and affirm that the governance of the Red Sea is the exclusive responsibility of the littoral states. The declaration also stressed the importance of re-



specting international law regarding transboundary rivers, including the Nile River, particularly the principle of "no harm" and the obligation to cooperate through prior notification, consultation, and consensus. They categorically reject "any unilateral measures that harm the existing water uses of the two downstream Nile states." The summit came amid growing Egyptian efforts to strengthen coordination with countries in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region over regional security and stability.

Iran reviewing US views on 7-day plan to cease hostilities: Senior diplomat



Iran is reviewing US views on Tehran's seven-day proposal to cease hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said. The proposal was conveyed through mediators, while Tehran is also preparing for other possible scenarios amid continued tensions.

Tehran: A senior Iranian diplomat has said that Iran is currently reviewing US views on Tehran's recent proposal to cease hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks in Tehran on Sunday (local time), saying that the United States has submitted its views

on Iran's proposal through mediators. He stressed that Iran's proposal is the "seven-day plan" that was presented to the other side by Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi in New York late last month.

Gharibabadi said, "The US views are currently being reviewed inside the country through the appropriate channels," adding that whenever Iran's final views are ready, the necessary action will be taken through "appropriate channels." He added that Iran is simultaneously making the necessary preparations for any other scenario as well, reports Xinhua news agency. Iran conveyed a proposed seven-day plan to the United States on September 22 to cease hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, through mediators on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region, and tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz. A ceasefire was achieved between the warring parties on April 8. On June 18, Iran and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on ending the war in the region on all fronts. Under the MoU, the two countries were scheduled to hold negotiations within 60 days, ending on August 17, to reach a final agreement. However, the two sides failed to make sufficient progress toward a deal as tensions continued to escalate.

Language belongs to a different realm



From sails to steam engines, from bullock carts to motor cars, from huts to skyscrapers, every stage of human history has been marked by breathtaking technological progress. Each new invention has made life faster, easier and more comfortable. Yet, amid all this change, one aspect of human experience has remained strikingly constant: how we communicate. The medium has evolved dramatically — from messengers and handwritten letters to telephones and instant messaging, but the essence has not. It is still one human being reaching out to another. The town crier's drumbeat in the village square has become a digital notice on a government website, but both are acts of connection. The tools have changed but the impulse to communicate has not. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now rewriting the rules of learning and work. It solves equations, drafts essays, designs buildings and composes music. It can act as a tutor, a translator, a researcher, and even a companion. In subjects that rely on logic, structure and fixed systems — mathematics, physics, engineering — AI has already become transformative. Students can now get instant explanations of complex formulas or visualise difficult scientific concepts at the click of a button. What a machine cannot feel

Language, however, belongs to a different realm. It is not only a system of rules but also a living, breathing expression of culture and emotion. AI can process grammar and vocabulary, but it cannot capture humour, irony, affection or hesitation. A sentence translated by a machine may be correct in words, yet wrong in spirit. When someone says "I miss you" or "Te extraño", the meaning is inseparable from emotion, something a machine cannot feel. Technology has made translation almost effortless. A

Hindi email can appear in flawless English; a Japanese article can be read in French in seconds. Yet, these translations, however precise, may sound sterile. The tone, the rhythm and the subtle warmth that define human speech are easily lost. Translation can transfer meaning but not experience. Understanding a language requires more than decoding its words. It demands entering its world. In the lived moments

That is why learning a language has always been different from learning a formula. It is not an abstract skill but a human interaction. It happens in conversation, in laughter, in mistakes. It happens when someone struggles to express a thought and is gently corrected, or when a joke finally lands after weeks of practice. These small, lived moments build confidence and connection, something that no app or chatbot can replicate. AI tools can certainly assist. They can correct pronunciation, explain grammar and offer personalised practice. For teachers, they make lesson planning and feedback faster and more efficient. But they cannot replace the very heart of language learning, the emotional effort of trying to be understood by another person. Fluency is not achieved by perfection alone, but by empathy. To speak a language well, one must also learn how others think and feel. Moreover, languages constantly evolve. Slang, idioms and even tones of politeness change from year to year. A machine can record these shifts, but it cannot belong to a community. It can predict usage, but it cannot participate in the living rhythm of speech. True mastery requires being part of that rhythm — listening, adapting, responding. The biggest risk Perhaps the greatest risk is not that AI will replace language learning, but that it will make people believe they no longer need to learn. If machines can translate instantly, the temptation to skip the effort grows. Yet, in doing so, we would lose something vital: the humility and the patience that come from learning another's tongue. When we learn a language, we do not just acquire words. We learn another way of seeing the world. AI will continue to build our bridges, design our cities, and analyse our data. But when it comes to building bridges between people, it will remain an assistant, not a substitute. The process of learning a language — slow, emotional, and deeply human — will outlast every technological revolution. Technology can help us talk across borders, but only effort and empathy can help us truly understand one another. And that is something no machine, however intelligent, will ever be able to automate.

Study reveals heat-linked kidney strain among Tamil Nadu's agricultural workers

A new population-based study published in The Lancet has found that Tamil Nadu's agricultural workers face a growing risk of kidney disease linked to heat exposure, dehydration and long outdoor work hours. Conducted between August and December 2023, the Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown etiology (or uncertain cause) CKDu - AGRI study surveyed agricultural workers across all five agroclimatic zones of the State -- the North-East, North-West, Western, Cauvery Delta, and Southern regions. Using a stratified multi-stage cluster sampling method, researchers studied 3,350 farm workers from 125 villages, collecting data on occupation, health and environmental exposures.

The researchers observed a striking seasonal variation in kidney function. During August -- one of Tamil Nadu's hottest months -- 17.4% of participants had an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) below 60 mL/min/1.73 m². When tested again in December, kidney function had returned to normal in most. "These were asymptomatic, sub-clinical episodes of acute kidney injury," says R. Sakthirajan, co-author of the study, senior assistant professor, Institute of Nephrology, Madras Medical College. "Because all assays were done in a single reference laboratory, the variation almost certainly reflects physiological stress rather than measurement error." The team point out that these transient injuries are linked to repetitive heat and dehydration stress during fieldwork -- a pattern also documented in Central America and Sri Lanka. "We plan to follow participants across different seasons to track kidney markers, hydration, and individual heat exposure," adds Sudharshini Subramaniam, co-author of the study, associate professor, Institute of Community Medicine. "This will help confirm whether repeated seasonal stress leads to chronic kidney disease over time." The study found an overall CKD prevalence of 5.31%, with nearly half of these cases classified as Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown aetiology (CKDu) -- that is, not linked to diabetes, hypertension or heart disease. The burden was significantly higher in the North-East (7.68%) and Southern (6.4%) zones compared to the North-West (2.16%). The Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI) used to model heat exposure showed levels above 38°C for more than four hours per day -- an indicator of "very strong heat stress" across the North-East and South in August. Workers with CKD spent an average of 36.18 hours a week outdoors, compared to 33.42 hours among those with normal kidney function. For those with CKDu, the average was even higher, at 38.07 hours.

Risk factors included older age (above 53.5 years), male sex, hypertension, anaemia, history of renal stones, smokeless tobacco use, and long hours of outdoor work. Interestingly, factors such as potable water source, snake bite, COVID infection and alcohol intake showed no association with CKD prevalence. The prevalence was 7.9%



among those without formal education, compared to 2.5% among graduates. The prevalence of diabetes (13.4%) and hypertension (30.6%) was similar to national averages, yet two-thirds of people living with hypertension and 40% of people living with diabetes were newly diagnosed during the study, underscoring low awareness. The researchers note that the Tamil Nadu findings mirror global CKDu "hotspots" -- first reported among sugarcane and corn workers in El Salvador and later in Nicaragua, Mexico and Panama where heat and dehydration are suspected to play a key role. Preventive measures "Simple preventive measures can help," says Gopalakrishnan Natarajan, co-author of the study, member secretary of TRANSTAN and former Director, Institute of Nephrology. "Following the Water--Rest--Shade protocol around 750 mL of cool water every hour and 10-15 minutes of rest each hour can protect workers from heat strain." The researchers also recommend flexible work hours to avoid peak heat, and the inclusion of renal function monitoring in routine occupational health checks. At a policy level, they point to the absence of heat-specific labour standards in India. "There is an urgent need to integrate heat-stress thresholds and kidney health monitoring into workplace safety frameworks," the team notes. Need of early detection Only 1.6% of participants reported symptoms such as swelling, and nocturia -- waking at night to urinate was the only common complaint, seen in 12.9%. "The silent profile of CKD means symptom-based diagnosis misses most cases," says Dr. Subramaniam. The authors recommend annual serum creatinine and urine albumin--creatinine testing for agricultural workers through existing primary health programmes. Village health nurses and multipurpose health workers could be trained to identify high-risk groups -- men above 50, those with anaemia, tobacco users and those exposed to prolonged heat. Expanding access to education and implementing tobacco-cessation measures, they suggest, may also help reduce risk. As Tamil Nadu faces hotter summers, the study urge that kidney health must become part of India's climate and labour policy.

Five more arrests made, says Paris prosecutor

Five more people have been arrested in the investigation into the theft of crown jewels from the Louvre Museum, but the treasures remain missing, the Paris prosecutor announced Thursday (October 30, 2025). The five were detained on late Wednesday night (October 29, 2025) in separate police operations in Paris and surrounding areas, including the Seine-Saint-Denis region, prosecutor Laure Beccuau told RTL radio. She did not release their identities or other details. One is suspected of being part of the four-person team that robbed the Louvre's Apollo Gallery in broad daylight on October 19, the prosecutor said. Two other members of the team were arrested on Sunday (October 26, 2025) and given preliminary charges on Wednesday (October 29, 2025) of criminal conspiracy and theft committed by an organised gang. Both partially admitted their involvement, according to the prosecutor. "Searches last night and overnight did not allow us to find the goods," Ms. Beccuau said. It took thieves less than eight minutes to steal the jewels valued at 88 million euros (\$102 million), shocking the world. The robbers forced open a window, cut into cases with power tools, and fled with eight pieces of the

French crown jewels. One of those who has been charged is a 34-year-old Algerian national who has been living in France since 2010, Ms. Beccuau said. He was arrested at Charles de Gaulle Airport as he was about to fly to Algeria with no return ticket. He was living in a suburb north of Paris, Aubervilliers, and was known to police mostly for road traffic offenses. His DNA was found on one of the scooters used by robbers to leave the scene, she said. The other suspect, 39, was arrested at his home in Aubervilliers. The man was known to police for several thefts, and his DNA was found on one of the glass cases where the jewels were displayed and on items the thieves left behind, she added. Video surveillance cameras showed there were at least four criminals involved, Ms. Beccuau said. The four suspected robbers arrived onboard a truck equipped with a freight lift that two of them used to climb up to the museum's window. The four of them left onboard two motor scooters along the Seine River toward eastern Paris, where they had some other vehicles parked, she detailed. Ms. Beccuau said nothing suggests that the robbers had any accomplices within the museum's staff.

Prince Andrew stripped of all titles after Virginia Giuffre's memoir



Toowoomba: Prince Andrew will be stripped of his royal titles, including prince, and will move out of his home, Royal Lodge, to a private residence. Buckingham Palace issued a statement today that King Charles has initiated a formal process to remove the "style, titles and honours of Prince Andrew", who "will now be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor". The decision comes in the wake of Virginia Giuffre's posthumous memoir *Nobody's Girl*, published this fortnight. The memoir includes an inside account of the two years Giuffre spent as a "sex slave" working for Jeffrey Epstein and co-conspirator Ghislaine Maxwell. Giuffre died by suicide in April this year, aged 41, on her farm in Western Australia.

Three weeks before she died, she emailed her co-author, journalist Amy Wallace, and longtime publicist Dini von Mueffling: "In the event of my passing, I would like to ensure that *Nobody's Girl* is still released." "Today," Giuffre's family said, "she declares a victory. She has brought down a British prince with her truth and extraordinary courage". British historian and author Andrew Lowrie (author of a book about Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, called *Entitled*), told Sky News earlier this month, "the only way the story will go away is if [Andrew] leaves Royal Lodge, goes into exile abroad with his ex-wife, and is basically stripped of all his honours, including Prince Andrew". Sarah Ferguson will also move out of Royal Lodge. As a trauma memoir, *Nobody's Girl* forces us to bear witness to an uncomfortable truth: Giuffre's abuse was hidden in plain sight. "Don't be fooled by those in Epstein's circle who say they didn't know what Epstein was doing," she writes. "Anyone who spent any significant amount of time with Epstein saw him touching girls." She continues: "They can say they didn't know he was raping children. But they were not blind." Four days before the memoir was published, Prince Andrew announced he would no longer use the titles conferred upon him, including Duke of York. Three days later, leaked emails from 2011 suggested he gave Giuffre's date of birth and social security number to one of his protection officers, hours before the infamous photograph of him with her was published. Maxwell's brother, Ian Maxwell, published an article in the *Spectator* today, headlined "Don't take Virginia Giuffre's memoir at face value". The memoir keeps his sister, who was convicted of charges including sex trafficking of a minor, in world headlines -- at a time Donald Trump has said he will "take a look" at pardoning her. Earlier this year, Maxwell was moved to a lower security prison to continue her 20-year sentence. Allegations of parental abuse Giuffre writes that her father began molesting her at the age of seven. He "strenuously" denies this. While the memoir makes this public for the first time, Giuffre's older brother Danny Wilson told ABC's 7.30 he first heard the allegations years before the memoir was published -- and confronted his father about it.

Giuffre regularly wet her pants at school -- earning her the cruel nickname "Pee Girl". She recalls: "I began to get painful urinary tract infections. My infections were so severe, I couldn't hold my urine." After one (of several) medical examinations, a doctor told her mother her primary school-aged daughter's hymen was broken. Giuffre writes of this moment: My mother didn't hesitate. 'Oh, she rides horses bareback,' she explained. That was the end of that. I didn't even know what a hymen was. Later, she recalls her mother raising suspicions about her involvement with Epstein and "apex predator" Maxwell, questioning "what this older couple wanted with a teenage girl who had no credentials". Giuffre writes: "I guess I was glad she cared enough to have suspicions, but at the same time, wasn't it a little late for that? I knew she couldn't save me; she'd never saved me before." Around the time of her doctor's visit, the memoir alleges, Giuffre's father began "trading" his daughter to a friend -- a tall, muscular man with "a military bearing" who was also abusing his own stepdaughter. In 2000, the man was convicted of molesting another girl in North Carolina. He spent 14 months in prison and a decade as a registered sex offender. Giuffre writes that she was abused by these men for five years, from ages seven to eleven; it only stopped when she began menstruating. Heartbreakingly, Giuffre discloses that at one point she imagined Maxwell (or "G-Max" as she wanted to be known) as her mother: "While I was hardly equipped to judge, it often seemed to me that Epstein and Maxwell behaved like actual parents." Among other things, the pair gave Giuffre her first cell phone, whitened her teeth, and taught her how to hold a knife and fork "just so". The younger, the better Giuffre's memoir is a courageous and clear-eyed account of what trauma takes -- and what recovery demands. Told in four chronological parts -- "Daughter", "Prisoner", "Survivor" and "Warrior" -- the memoir meticulously records the "sexual assaulting, battering, exploiting, and abusing" Giuffre endured throughout her life, most notably at the hands of Epstein and Maxwell. The result is a devastating expose of the fetishisation and abuse of girls -- "the younger, the better", Epstein said -- and society's failure to protect the most vulnerable. It is also a damning indictment of everyone who knew and looked away. "Please don't stop reading" Giuffre was 16 and working as a locker-room attendant at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort when Ghislaine Maxwell recruited her to "service Epstein", under the pretence of training as a masseuse. (In October 2007, Trump -- who is portrayed favourably in the memoir -- reportedly banned Epstein from his resort after Epstein hit on the teenage daughter of another member.) Over the next two years, and roughly 350 pages, Giuffre tells how she was trafficked to "a multitude of powerful men", including Prince Andrew, French modelling agent Jean-Luc Brunel, a prominent psychology professor and a respected United States senator. In one of the most distressing scenes, Giuffre describes how she was trafficked to "a former minister", who raped her so "savagely" she was left "bleeding from [her] mouth, vagina, and anus". When Virginia told Epstein about the brutal attack, which made it hurt to breathe and swallow, he said, "You'll get that sometimes." Eight weeks later, he returned Giuffre to the politician, who this time abused her on one of Epstein's private jets. In the US version of the memoir, the politician is described not as a "former minister" but as "a former Prime Minister". "I know this is a lot to take in," Giuffre writes. "The violence. The neglect. The bad decisions. The self-harm. But please don't stop reading." One of the most devastating revelations comes toward the end of the memoir. Giuffre -- now in her

forties -- receives a phone call from a confidant claiming to have evidence that Epstein paid off her father when she was a girl. In 2000, when Epstein and Maxwell started abusing the teenager at El Brillo Way, it is alleged that her father accepted "a sum of money" from the paedophile. According to Giuffre, when she confronted her father, there was "a brief silence" before "he started yelling at [her] for being an ungrateful daughter". Of all the betrayals she endured, this one stands alone: "I will never get over it". Girls, no one cared about

"When a molester shows his face," Giuffre writes, "many people tend to look the other way." In chapter 11, Giuffre describes how Epstein's personal chef, the celebrity cook Adam Perry Lang, made her her favourite food -- pizza. This, apparently, became something of a tradition -- Lang feeding Giuffre, but never "ogling", "even if I was standing naked in front of him, which was not unusual". She wrote: "When I'd finished attending to Epstein or one of the other guests, Lang would have a cheesy hot pie waiting." In 2019, Lang issued a statement about working for Epstein: "My role was limited to meal preparation. I was unaware of the depraved behaviour and have great sympathy and admiration for the brave women who have come forward." In another scene, Giuffre reveals that Epstein "never wore a condom". After falling pregnant at the age of 17, she suffered an ectopic pregnancy. On this day, Giuffre recalls how Epstein and Maxwell ("two halves of a wicked whole") -- with the help of Epstein's New York butler -- drove her to the hospital after she woke in "a pool of blood". Epstein lied to the doctor about her age, Giuffre alleges, and the two men seemed to enter "a gentlemen's agreement" in which "whatever was going on between this middle-aged man and his teenage acquaintance [...] would be kept quiet". "We were girls who no one cared about, and Epstein pretended to care," Giuffre writes. "At times I think he even believed he cared." She describes how Epstein "threw what looked like a lifeline to girls who were drowning, girls who had nothing, girls who wished to be and do better." As a self-described "pleaser" who "survived by acquiescing", Giuffre writes that Epstein and Maxwell "knew just how to tap into that same crooked vein" her childhood abusers had: abuse cloaked in "a fake mantle of 'love'."

In March 2001, at Maxwell's upscale townhouse in London's Belgravia -- where Prince Andrew was famously pictured with his arm around the teenager -- Giuffre recalls how Maxwell invited Andrew to guess her age. When the prince correctly guessed 17, he reportedly told her, "My daughters are just a little younger than you." Later that night, she writes, Prince Andrew bought the teenager cocktails at Tramp -- an exclusive London nightclub -- where she and the prince danced awkwardly and the prince "sweated profusely". In the car, on the way home, Maxwell instructed Giuffre "to do for [Andy] what you do for Jeffrey". In November 2019, in his calamitous interview with BBC's *Newsnight*, Prince Andrew denied any wrongdoing, claiming he had "no recollection of ever meeting this lady". He told presenter Emily Maitlis he could not have danced sweetly at Tramp because he had "a peculiar medical condition" that prevented perspiration, caused by what he described as "an overdose of adrenaline" in the Falklands War.

In that interview, Andrew admitted his decision to stay at Epstein's New York home in December 2010 -- months after Epstein was released from jail for soliciting and procuring minors for prostitution -- was "the wrong thing to do". However, the prince claimed his decision was "probably coloured by [his] tendency to be too honourable". In her memoir, Giuffre describes Andrew as "friendly enough but entitled" -- "as if he believed having sex with [her] was his birthright." She alleges she had sex with the prince on two more occasions. Publishing a book posthumously can be an ethical minefield. Critics often question whether posthumous publication is what the author would have wanted. They point to the author's right to protect their work and their literary reputation -- a right that cannot survive them. However, Giuffre left no space for speculation. In the email she sent her co-author and publicist before her death, she made her wishes clear: It is my heartfelt wish that this work be published, regardless of my circumstances at the time. The content of this book is crucial, as it aims to shed light on the systemic failures that allow the trafficking of vulnerable individuals. As the memoir progresses, Giuffre's health spirals. The physical, emotional and mental toll of trauma closes in on her. Epstein is dead. Maxwell is in prison. But Giuffre is still "trapped in an invisible cage". "From the start," she says, "I was groomed to be complicit in my own devastation. Of all the terrible wounds they inflicted, that forced complicity was the most destructive." Before she died, Giuffre made a promise to her husband and children that she would try with "all her might" to believe her life mattered. Her final goal was to prevent "the emotional time-bomb" inside her from detonating. While Giuffre may at last be beyond harm, the truth remains. She -- like the hundreds of girls abused by Epstein and his associates -- was wronged. Her fight, like theirs, transcends death: release the Epstein files; hold abusers and their enablers accountable; expose the systems that protect predators; abolish statutes of limitations for the sexual abuse of minors. Ensure no other child suffers. This is what Giuffre wanted. By publishing her memoir, she ensured the fight would survive her. She made certain her voice would outlast her pain. In this way, she got the last word.

L&T signs pact with US firm to manufacture unmanned aircraft systems for Indian Army

New Delhi: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Friday said that it has entered into a strategic pact with US-based Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) for manufacturing unmanned aircraft systems for the Indian Army. Under the partnership, both the firms will together manufacture Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in India. L&T's engineering, precision manufacturing and system integration capabilities in defence and aerospace and GA-ASI operational expertise will be utilised in this strategic pact. "Under this partnership, L&T will participate in the upcoming 87 MALE RPAS programme of the Ministry of Defence, where L&T will be the prime bidder and GA-ASI the technology partner," the infrastructure major said in a filing to the BSE. The collaboration will enable the production of GA-ASI's MQ-series RPAS that are combat proven. These are widely operational across the globe with millions of flight hours in surveillance and strike missions, it said. The partnership marks a milestone in India's pursuit of a self-reliant defence ecosystem, strengthening Indo-US defence collaboration and fostering a competitive, globally integrated aerospace manufacturing base.

AI's rewriting of the rules of education



India is gearing up to turn its education system on its head by introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to students as early as class three from the academic year in 2026-27. This is no small feat. The Ministry of Education, in synchrony with the National Education Policy 2020, is crafting a comprehensive framework to weave AI learning through the entire K-12 tapestry (kindergarten to class 12). The goal is to arm the future workforce with cutting-edge tech skills to thrive in a techno-driven economy.

Teacher training and pilot projects But throwing AI into classrooms is not just plug-and-play. The real challenge lies in upskilling a mammoth teaching force of over one crore educators in India. The government is rolling out pilot initiatives allowing teachers to harness AI tools to design lesson plans and teaching resources. Over 10,000 teachers have already been trained since 2019 with help from technology giants Intel, IBM, and government institutes such as the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology. The goal is to equip educators who can impart AI concepts confidently and practically. But how ready are India's teachers to morph into AI guides? What are the obstacles in this massive transition? How ready teachers are will dictate how successful the AI revolution becomes. AI is not just about introducing new content. It promises a colossal shift away from "one-size-fits-all" education to personalisation. AI-powered platforms analyse student behaviour, learning speed, and comprehension to tailor lessons that meet individual needs. If a student struggles with algebra, the AI tutor offers extra practice and alternative explanations. If a student is good in biology, he can get ready for more advanced challenges, with AI. Such adaptive learning not only boosts engagement but also dismantles barriers for diverse student populations, including those with disabilities or regional language needs. Despite its transformative potential, AI is designed to augment, not replace, the human element in education. The focus is on enhancing human judgment, creativity and critical thinking through smart tools. AI automates repetitive tasks such as grading and attendance, freeing teachers to spend more time on meaningful engagement

with students. It acts as a powerful assistant in personalised lesson planning and real-time feedback, amplifying the effectiveness of educators. So, while AI is shaking up the classroom, there is still no substitute for a passionate teacher who drives learning with empathy and insight. Opportunity amid disruption

As AI reshapes education, it also signals seismic workforce changes. According to a recent NITI Aayog report, while AI could displace up to two million jobs in India's tech sector over the next five years, it is also projected to create four million new jobs by 2030, jobs that demand new skills and adaptability. This is a dual-edged sword that calls for the urgent preparation of today's learners. By embedding AI in early education, India aims to create a workforce that is ready for a digital economy, and not left behind by rapid automation. But are students and educators prepared to embrace this whirlwind of change? The question is not just about job loss or creation but about shaping a resilient workforce that can ride the AI wave. Generative AI technology, which creates new content based on patterns in data, is already gaining traction in Indian education. More than half of India's higher education institutes are incorporating generative AI to enhance teaching and learning. From AI chatbots that answer student queries 24x7 to platforms that create interactive quizzes and personalised study materials, generative AI is making education more engaging and tailored. This explosion of AI tools could narrow the learning gap significantly in India's vast and diverse education landscape. It is a frontier full of promise but also challenges that are related to access, quality and ethics. Driving inclusivity and accessibility Perhaps the most heartening impact of AI in education is its role in fostering inclusivity. AI-powered adaptive learning and language processing tools break down barriers for non-native speakers and learners with disabilities. The customisation of educational content can create equitable learning environments. In countries that are multicultural and multilingual like India, this AI-driven push for inclusiveness could rewrite the rules of who gets to learn and how. Could AI be the great equaliser that education systems worldwide have long sought? The signs are promising, but deliberate design and policy are critical. India's bold initiative to weave AI into early education signals a massive transformation in how knowledge is imparted, how teachers teach, and how students engage with learning. The revolution comes with challenges: teacher training at scale, ensuring equitable access to AI tools, and preparing students for jobs that do not even exist. Are Indian schools truly ready for this AI overhaul? Can the education system keep pace with rapid technological advancements without leaving disadvantaged communities behind? Only time will tell. But one thing is clear: the rules of education are being rewritten right before our eyes, and AI is the pen scripting this brave new world.

Gender disparity exists even in informal labour market



Hence, the recent rise in women's employment appears to be largely a proliferation of low-productivity activities. The indirect evidence does not indicate any improvement in the availability of decent jobs for women

Gender inequality issues are widespread and numerous. Wage and earning inequality in the labour market has been a major concern. Why job market outcomes differ across genders, even after controlling for human capital-specific factors, is a key question. Even within the informal sector, which is generally characterised by low levels of productivity and earnings, gender differences are perceptible. Some studies present a thorough and intricate assessment of the recent growth in female workforce participation rates (FWPR) in India, supported by detailed data obtained from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). Their paper reveals that a substantial portion of this increase is concentrated specifically within the agricultural sector, where notable rises in self-employment and unpaid family work have collectively contributed to heightened participation rates among women. The authors compellingly argue that these trends should not merely be interpreted as indicators of disguised unemployment; rather, they may signify productive engagement in economic activities that have historically been under-recognised and undervalued (Golder and Agarwal, 2024).

In general, the informal sector is viewed as a sector that is subordinate to the formal sector. For the sake of flexibility, regulations are not encouraged, allowing for greater employment potential to be tapped, which is often lacking in the formal sector. Though residual types of activities are conducted within the informal sector, the greater employment potential is considered a merit in low-income countries. Within the residual activities or a sector that is subordinate to another, any further possibility of discrimination is usually unexpected. However, our findings reveal that even within the informal sector, women experience worse outcomes than men. In the face of an excess supply of labour in menial and low-productivity activities, the possibility of gender-based outcomes cannot be ruled out, as hiring and firing practices may involve gross inequality, perpetuated by stereotypes and prejudices. Our study using the unit-level data of the PLFS argues that significant differences exist between males and females in terms of employment structure and labour market outcomes. In general, the industrial classification and the nature of employment for female and male workers vary significantly. Furthermore, within the informal sector, the types of employment and wage/earning outcomes reveal substantial differences. In order to assess whether the rising employment of women is associated with productive absorption, resulting in an increased standard of living, the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) is compared across households with and

without women workers. First, the households are distributed across different decile groups, and for each group, the average consumption expenditure per capita has been estimated separately for households with women workers and those without.

At the upper end, the backward-sloping supply curve of women suggests that the average monthly consumption expenditure per capita could be higher for households without women workers compared with those with women workers. This is somewhat evident when we compare the top decile in the rural context across both survey years. In the lowest decile group, households with women workers are marginally better off than those without. Overall, there does not seem to be any significant difference in the consumption expenditure per capita between the two groups of households across most of the decile classes. This compels us to reflect on the quality of employment in which women are engaged. If the recent surge in employment statistics is due to a rise in women's employment, it does not necessarily indicate that rural women are being increasingly absorbed into quality jobs. Had that been the case, the rise in rural women's employment would have been accompanied by an increase in income per household, which would again be reflected in the monthly consumption expenditure per capita. In the urban context, most of the decile groups do not reveal any significant difference in terms of consumption expenditure per capita between households with and without women workers. At the top, households in the decile class without women workers are better off than those with women workers, as noted in the rural context as well. However, in the lowest decile group, households with women workers are marginally better off than those without women workers. Low-productivity work

Hence, the recent rise in women's employment appears to be largely a proliferation of low-productivity activities. The indirect evidence does not indicate any improvement in the availability of decent jobs for women. The lack of productive jobs compels many women to participate in low-productivity activities, as open unemployment may not be a feasible option. As men, the principal breadwinners, may not have access to jobs with sufficient incomes to meet their households' consumption requirements, women feel compelled to enter the labour market and resort to jobs of last resort. Additionally, in the absence of male members to participate in the job market, women are forced to seek income-earning opportunities, even if the quality of those jobs remains poor. Of course, this increase in low-productivity jobs does not necessarily reflect a shrinking demand for decent jobs; it could also be attributed to poor human capital formation among women job seekers. A more rigorous analysis is conducted based on the unit-level data to assess gender differences in the nature of employment within the informal sector. After controlling for important variables, the gender differences in the occupational choice function are significant. Furthermore, these differences are reflected in the wage/earning function, providing evidence that women's engagement in the labour market is not necessarily associated with equality. In regular wage employment, casual wage employment, and self-employment, women earn less than men.

Additionally, wage employment within the informal sector is less accessible to women workers compared with their male counterparts; they are more susceptible to self-employment, which may not generate substantial earnings for the workers. This has important implications for the non-attainment of empowerment and a "say" in the decision-making process. Policy directives can be envisioned to extend support to female workers for accessing wage employment and to reduce gender wage inequality. It is important to recognise that even within the domain of petty and residual activities, discrimination exists, perpetuating inequality. Arup Mitra is Professor, South Asian University; and Divya Sharma is Assistant Professor of Economics, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies-Technical Campus; views expressed are personal

How Mari Selvaraj has portrayed Dalit lives within Tamil cinema



Filmmaker Mari Selvaraj's rise in Tamil cinema as one of its top filmmakers from humble beginnings and his evolution as a master craftsman is a story by itself. It wouldn't be a stretch to state that Mr. Selvaraj along with filmmaker Pa. Ranjith filled a yawning gap in Tamil cinema by ensuring that Dalit protagonists and Ambedkarite politics of emancipation formed the central core of their films, serving as an anathema to the persistent normalisation of violence and oppression by dominant castes in the name of valour and history in Tamil cinema. It has been 13 years since filmmaker Pa. Ranjith burst onto the scene with Attakathi and seven years since Mari Selvaraj's first film, Pariyerum Perumal, released in theatres to positive reviews and success at the box office, dispelling the notion that films about caste discrimination set in the deep south are akin to a spark in the powder keg. Yet, crucial differences between the two filmmakers haven't been emphasised enough. Except for Attakathi, Mr. Ranjith largely shies away from making films with significant autobiographical elements while Mr. Selvaraj situates his autobiographical episodes in historical contexts, save for Maamannan.

Mr. Ranjith's point of view has been informed by a different political tradition in northern parts of Tamil Nadu, where fight for rights would mean large scale political mobilisations, street protests and litigations. However, Mr. Selvaraj's formative years were spent in what was then a part of the Tirunelveli district, a southern district of Tamil Nadu, that has been a hot-bed of caste-violence and caste-based mobilisation through the 90s, including widespread rioting across neighbouring districts, known as the 'Thenmaavatta Kalavarangal'. Young and middle-aged taxi drivers hailing from southern districts but making a living in Chennai, Bengaluru or Mumbai could tell you how the smallest of provocations, say, in restrooms, in cinema halls, in public buses (as in Bison: Kaalamaadan), or in tea shops could snowball into a major incident of violence. Irrespective of which community they hail from, most of them find the prevailing environment toxic and are realising that it is not worth contributing to violence and spending one's life entangled in court cases. This is perhaps why Mr. Selvaraj's point of view appears to look like he is striving for a negotiation, often resorting to dialogue even with his worst enemy, despite the fact that Dalit communities in the south of Tamil Nadu often fight back and resist oppression violently. During a visit to Tirunelveli before the 2021 State Assembly elections, this author asked political activists within the Devendrakula Vellalar community about Mr. Selvaraj's first film Pariyerum Perumal. They were quite critical of the film. "It is not our film. It is a film made for you people," a political party office

As campaign peaks, Bihar narrative revolves around old and new strands

The verdict in the two-phase Bihar Assembly election will be pronounced in a little over a fortnight, on November 14, but the campaign's momentum on the ground has given way to Chhath festivities, which fell this year on October 27-28. Moreover, a paradigm shift in the format of the election campaign has seen it move from the ground to social media. And from the heat and dust of intense campaigning have risen a handful of dominant themes in voter conversations.

Firstly, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar still appears more popular than other political leaders in the arena but his failing health is a talking point, especially among male voters. The ruling National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) 'Dus Hazaria' scheme, a reference to the ₹10,000 transferred to 'Jeevika Didis' (community mobilisers for self-help groups in a World Bank-supported initiative) under the 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana' (CM women's employment scheme) through Direct Benefit Transfer to the beneficiaries' bank accounts, has gained huge traction and accolades. Mr. Kumar has been, for a long time, assiduously carving a caste-neutral women's vote bank, with several welfare schemes crafted especially for women under his baton. Women voters (at 48%) are almost equal in number to male voters in Bihar. They can be heard speaking of the 'Dus Hazaria' scheme everywhere, proclaiming their support for Mr. Kumar. "We will all vote for Nitish Kumar," a group of women voters from an Extremely Backward Class (EBC) told this reporter, sitting by the roadside under the shadow of a neem (margosa) tree at noon on October 22 in Samastipur. They were busy weaving supdura (handcrafted bamboo baskets) used in the Chhath festival to carry fruits and other offerings to the rising and setting Sun. Men of the same group, sitting nearby and also weaving baskets, beads of sweat crowding their brow, sounded more cautious. "We have heard he (Nitish Kumar) is not well these days. He should give up his position before things turn fatal," they said. The ruling NDA has fielded 34 women candidates, while the Opposition Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) has 31 women candidates in the fray this year. Tejashwi's burden

Secondly, voter conversations centre around Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav burdened by the inherited tag of "lawlessness in Bihar" of his parents' regimes from 1990 to November 2005. The younger son of RJD supreme Lalu Prasad is a former Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Assembly, and was Deputy Chief Minister twice in Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) governments. NDA leaders have targeted him over the years of "misrule and misgovernance" under the RJD, a focus Mr. Yadav has struggled to shrug off. Mr. Lalu Prasad has declared his younger son to be his political heir, and Mr. Yadav has announced several welfare schemes for women but voters frequently recall the "jungle raj" that became a byword for the RJD era in Bihar's governance. "It's okay that he (Mr. Yadav) too has announced something for us, but who can forget the total absence of law in the RJD regime," voters in urban Darbhanga told this reporter. At 36, Mr. Yadav is popular among younger voters. "He is young, and has proved he means what he says in the 17 months during which he was a Mahagathbandhan Deputy CM," students returning from a coaching institute in Darbhanga town as the prepared to write examinations for 'government jobs', said. Mr. Yadav has promised one 'government job' per family if he comes to power. "Did Modi ji provide ₹15 lakh to everyone in the country as he had promised?" they said, when asked about Mr. Yadav's campaign promise. PM's popularity

Thirdly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is still the most

bearer said jokingly. He meant that the film was meant to tug at your heart, and not aimed at his throat.

However, Mr. Selvaraj quickly changed his tone in Karnan, featuring Dhanush, in which he wove a story around a painful historical incident of police brutality to etch a rather spirited story about how a regular, everyday youth uses revolutionary violence in pursuit of justice. "This is more our film. We fought back...and now everybody knows that," the same activist, told me over the phone after the release. In four of the five films that Mr. Selvaraj has made so far, it is clear that he has been struggling to make sense of his personal experience with caste and the social machinations around him. Questions have been asked, not just by those who don't like the politics in his films, but also by those who take him seriously as a filmmaker. Questions of conscience

Many have spoken about how Mr. Selvaraj has mastered the art of representation — the way women tie their sarees in his films, how dominant castes strut around and throw their weight in villages and towns, and how the smallest of scuffles could snowball into a conflict involving whole communities. After an uncomfortable outing in Maamannan, which had some decent ideas, Mr. Selvaraj returned to his familiar surroundings with Vaazhai, telling us a story of characters hailing from his world, with episodes from his life. Its message was that caste-based labour exploitation has a role to play in accidents, too.

With Bison: Kaalamaadan, Mr. Selvaraj plonks his protagonist, Kittan, an aspiring Kabaddi player, who is asked to stay out of trouble by his father, in the midst of a raging, violent war between two community leaders — one fighting to ensure that the social balance remains tilted in his community's favour and the other, fighting to create equilibrium. In Bison, Mr. Selvaraj continues to open himself up to the criticism that his films often tries to appeal to the good conscience of the oppressor castes. A writer who is well-informed about the politics in the south said, "Except for Karnan, protagonists in Mari's films have sought equality with the oppressor castes by showcasing the struggles of the protagonist and appealing to their good side. However, nobody in Tamil cinema today has been able to capture how the dominant castes try to maintain their dominance in the caste society. He is exceptional in that case." While one need not speculate about his motivations, it is true that the idea of seeking parity by appealing to the good conscience of dominant castes sits uncomfortably with the larger Dalit community who remember their struggles in the south differently. It is perhaps understandable that cinema, being an expensive mainstream art, necessitating the need to recoup money in the market, imposes certain restrictions such as creating a sense of balance in representation and so on. The movement that began with Pa. Ranjith and Mari Selvaraj, finds itself at an inflection point: can mainstream cinema be used to build bridges and force a change of mindsets in other communities while telling stories of oppression the way it must be told? Bison could be seen as a move towards that. By bringing the life and struggles of Manathi Ganesan, a Kabaddi player, on the silver screen, Mr. Selvaraj has shown his intent to celebrate not just those who fight for the rights of people, organise protests and so on, but also heroes from the community who quietly break glass ceilings and set benchmarks, not just for young people within the community but for Tamil society as a whole.



popular leader across age groups in both urban and rural constituencies of the State, irrespective of their caste affiliations. Voters speak of Mr. Modi as a "strong leader who is tough, and at the same time takes care of every section of society". "We need a leader like him," Ramesh Kushwaha of Vaishali district said, looking to others sitting with him for confirmation as they nodded. Mr. Modi has campaigned extensively in Bihar. On October 30, he is scheduled to address two public meetings at Muzaffarpur and Chhapra, and will hold a roadshow in Patna on November 2. "He is more appealing for us than any other leader either in Bihar or the country," Sanjay Bind, pedalling his cycle swiftly on the Mahua-Samastipur road in Vaishali district, said.

Congress is back Fourthly, the Congress party, which was pushed into something approaching a political coma in the State when Mr. Prasad led the RJD to power in 1990, has finally found its stride with the success of Rahul Gandhi's 14-day, 1,300-km-long Voter Adhikar Yatra across 24 districts. Congress leaders and supporters have received a fresh lease of life, and the party Bihar headquarters Sadaqat Ashram is seen buzzing with activity after a long time. Enthusied party leaders have even pressured the RJD to let the Congress contest more seats. Several party leaders suggested that had Mr. Gandhi stayed for more days in Bihar, or camped here, the contest in Bihar this time would have been between "the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led Mahagathbandhan", with the party reclaiming lost ground.

'Over-hyped' JSPFifthly, the lack of traction for the newly launched Jan Suraj Party, founded by former poll strategist Prashant Kishor on October 2, 2024 in Patna, has become evident. The JSP is contesting all 243 seats, with three candidates withdrawing their nominations. But despite the hype on social media, and in some sections of conventional media, there is little evidence of interest in the party on the ground. "It (the JSP) is doing well only on social media. It is over-hyped publicity of the kind Mr. Kishor was doing for other political parties as an expert on elections, nothing else," Rajesh Kumar, 55, an engineer-turned-stock broker from the Kumhrar constituency in central Patna, said. "Candidates with a good personality and career are not guaranteed to win elections in Bihar. Do you think the Congress party candidate from Patna Sahib, Shashant Shekhar, is in anyway less educated than any of the JSP's candidates, but will he win the poll? It's a million dollar question," Mr. Kumar added. Several smaller parties have had a little impact in some constituencies on the ground. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has caught the attention of voters in some constituencies of the Seemanchal (border) districts of northeast Bihar, where its presence may be impactful in the results.

Why gold prices are fluctuating sharply this year



Hyderabad: Gold prices have witnessed sharp fluctuations since the beginning of the year. At one point, the price rose to as high as \$5,450 an ounce before falling to around \$3,942 as market conditions changed. The fluctuations have been driven by several factors, including tensions involving

Iran, rising crude oil prices, a strengthening US dollar and higher bond yields. Expectations that the US Federal Reserve could raise interest rates further have also prompted investors to shift from gold to other assets. At present, the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy decisions remain a key factor influencing gold prices. A rise in interest rates makes interest-bearing assets more attractive than gold, which does not generate interest income. This has contributed to the recent weakness in gold prices. However, HSBC expects the Federal Reserve may not raise interest rates as anticipated. If the Fed keeps rates unchanged, investors could return to gold, potentially supporting prices. Central bank purchases are another factor supporting gold prices. Central banks in several countries have been increasing their gold reserves amid heightened geopolitical tensions and uncertainty in the global economy, strengthening the metal's appeal as a safe-haven asset. Demand for gold also remains strong in India and China. The metal tends to attract investors as an alternative asset when stock markets come under pressure.

RBI liquidity tightening likely to push five-year bond yield towards 7 per-cent

New Delhi: India's government bond yield curve is expected to flatten further as the Reserve Bank of India steps up liquidity withdrawals, prompting some investors to favour 10-year paper over five-year paper, a report has said. The report from NDTV Profit, citing analysts, said the gap between five- and 10-year yields is expected to shrink as the RBI drains surplus cash from the banking system, putting upward pressure on shorter-dated yields.

The five-year benchmark yield, trading around 6.94 per cent, could rise to 7 per cent if the central bank maintains an aggressive policy-tightening stance, the report cited ICICI Securities Primary Dealership as saying. Analysts said the short end should see further flattening as the RBI steers overnight rates near or above the repo rate to ensure effective transmission. They expect the five- to 10-year gap could narrow to as little as 10 bps, and the curve could turn flat or mildly inverted if overnight rates move meaningfully above the repo rate.

Excess banking system liquidity has kept overnight borrowing costs below the policy repo rate, prompting the RBI to absorb cash through market operations. The operations are putting upward pressure on shorter-dated yields. The central bank has already withdrawn over Rs 1 lakh crore, and the pace of further cash absorption, alongside any additional rate hikes, will determine the extent of yield curve flattening.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) began its three-day Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on Monday, with a policy decision due on Wednesday. Markets are closely watching whether the RBI will raise the repo rate for the first time since February 2023. However, the central bank has kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent. The balance of risks has tilted decisively towards a 25-bps rate hike by the RBI at this juncture, as a combination of broadening inflationary pressures, worsening global macros, evolving liquidity conditions and a renewed global repricing of risks is making the case for pre-emptive action stronger, SBI Research said in a report.

IndiGo raises fuel charges on domestic, international flights from October



New Delhi: IndiGo, the country's largest airline, on Monday announced an increase in fuel charges on both domestic and international flights, citing a sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices that has pushed operating costs to some of the highest levels seen in the past decade. The revised fuel charges will be applicable on all new bookings made from October 6, 2026, the airline said in a statement. The move comes amid persistent volatility in global crude oil prices, with uncertainty over geopolitical tensions continuing to keep fuel costs elevated.

According to IndiGo, ATF prices have risen steadily in recent months, with the latest month-on-month increase

exceeding 14 per cent. The airline said fuel accounts for a significant portion of an airline's operating expenses and the surge in prices is expected to affect cost structures and network economics across the sector. "The continuous rise in the fuel prices, with the latest month-on-month increase exceeding 14 per cent, has taken ATF costs to levels that are amongst the highest in the last decade. Given that Aviation Turbine Fuel makes up a significant share of airline's operating costs, this rise is expected to impact airlines' cost structures and network economics, including those of IndiGo," the airline said.

On domestic routes, passengers travelling up to 500 km will be charged a fuel surcharge of Rs 375, while those flying between 501 km and 1,000 km will pay Rs 600. Flights covering distances between 1,001 km and 1,500 km will attract a charge of Rs 900. The surcharge will be Rs 1,150 for flights between 1,501 km and 2,000 km, and Rs 1,300 for routes exceeding 2,000 km. For international travel, flights within the SAARC region will carry a fuel charge of Rs 1,000 for distances up to 500 km and Rs 3,000 for flights beyond that range. Passengers travelling to destinations in South-east Asia, the GCC, the Middle East, and North and East Asia will pay a fuel charge of Rs 5,500, while those flying to Africa and Europe will be levied Rs 6,000. "While offsetting the increase in fuel costs would have required a significantly larger increase in the fuel charges, IndiGo has implemented a measured and relatively modest adjustment to minimise the impact on customers," it said.

India, Canada open crucial trade talks

Ottawa: India and Canada will begin a crucial fifth round of negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement here Monday, accelerating efforts to conclude a deal before the end of the year as the two countries rapidly expand an economic relationship that only recently emerged from a prolonged diplomatic chill. The negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, or CEPA, will run from October 5 to 9, according to Global Affairs Canada. The new round follows talks between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Canadian International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu on the sidelines of the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee last week.

The two ministers reviewed progress in the negotiations and discussed the upcoming Ottawa round. Sidhu emphasised the importance of working towards a mutually beneficial agreement by the end of 2026. Global Affairs Canada said in a readout of their meeting. The talks come at a significant moment in the economic reset between India and Canada. The two governments are seeking to substantially expand trade while identifying energy, critical minerals, aerospace and artificial intelligence among areas offering potential for deeper cooperation.

Canada says two-way goods and services trade with India reached \$30.4 billion in 2025 and has set a goal of doubling two-way trade to \$70 billion annually by 2030. Four rounds of CEPA negotiations have already been completed, with the previous round concluding in New Delhi on Sept. 18. Canadian officials have said negotiators are working to maintain momentum and narrow outstanding gaps with the shared objective of concluding negotiations before the end of this year. The fifth round will be followed almost immediately by another major Canadian commercial push into India. Sidhu is scheduled to lead a Team Canada Trade Mis-

sion to India from October 12 to 17.

The mission is expected to bring close to 300 Canadian delegates from businesses across key sectors. Sidhu and Goyal discussed the mission during their Milwaukee meeting, with Canada saying it was intended to create new opportunities and expand commercial ties between businesses in the two countries. The Canadian minister has also presented his country as a potential long-term supplier to meet India's expanding requirements for energy, critical minerals and other commodities. "My discussions with Minister Goyal this week are driving real progress toward an agreement that will double our two-way trade to \$70 billion by 2030," Sidhu said after meeting Goyal in Mumbai last month. "India's rapid growth and Canada's advantage in energy, critical minerals, aerospace, AI and more mean enormous potential for our businesses and workers," he said.

Canada is simultaneously trying to diversify its international commerce and reduce its overwhelming dependence on the United States. Ottawa says it wants to double exports to markets outside the United States over the next decade, making the rapidly growing Indian economy an increasingly important part of its trade diversification strategy. The economic numbers underscore the scope of the relationship. Two-way merchandise trade reached \$13.6 billion in 2025, according to Canadian government figures. Canadian exports to India were \$3.9 billion, led by vegetables, mineral fuels and oils and wood pulp. Merchandise imports from India reached \$9.7 billion, with precious stones and metals, machinery and pharmaceuticals among the principal categories. Services form an even larger component of the relationship. Canadian service exports were valued at \$15.2 billion in 2025, with education-related travel accounting for the largest share.

Temple wearable to launch in six colours, says Deepinder Goyal



Hyderabad: Deepinder Goyal, founder of Zomato and Eternal, has said his Temple wearable will be launched in six colours, with pre-orders potentially opening as early as next week. In a recent post on X, formerly Twitter, Goyal said the launch edition of Temple would be available in True Gold, Rose Gold, Black Mirror, Real Jade, Deep Blue and Purple Funk. He added that people who have joined the early-access waitlist would get priority when bookings open. "Six colors for the launch edition of temple. Pre-orders open soon – hopefully next week; just need certainty on a couple more items. Folks on early access waitlist get priority access," Goyal wrote.

Temple has attracted attention for its unusual form factor. Unlike conventional smartwatches and fitness bands,

the wearable is designed to be worn on the side of the head, near the temple. Goyal, 43, has described the latest version as the smallest wearable on the market by volume. In an earlier post, he claimed that Temple was "the smallest wearable on the market" by volume and described it as a highly powerful device. The wearable is designed to collect information related to brain blood flow and a metric called Entropy, which Goyal says reflects the body's metabolic and sympathetic demand. Temple's reported functions include monitoring changes associated with brain blood flow, cognitive load, stress and fatigue. Its BrainFlow technology is designed to continuously monitor changes through sensors positioned near the temple. Goyal has also described Entropy as a real-time measure of the body's metabolic demand. He said the metric can change with factors including sleep, stress, exercise, caffeine and meditation. Temple uses light-based sensing technology to collect signals from tissues and blood vessels. However, questions remain over how accurately measurements taken near the temple can represent blood flow in deeper brain structures. Dr Arun L Naik, an AIIMS-trained neurosurgeon, has raised concerns over the technology's ability to accurately measure blood flow in deeper brain arteries and stressed that such a wearable should not replace established neurological investigations. Medical readings from a wearable should also not be treated as a clinical diagnosis. Any concerning symptoms require assessment by a qualified healthcare professional.

Taylor Swift calls working with Dakota Johnson on 'Patient Zero' a 'dream sequence'

Mumbai: Grammy winner Taylor Swift described working with Dakota Johnson on the "Patient Zero" music video as a "dream sequence" and praised the actress's talent. Swift unveiled the music video of "Patient Zero" starring the her along with Johnson, Collin Farrell and a cameo from Cara Delevingne, during the 2026 VMAs. She took to Instagram to talk about her latest project. "The Patient Zero video is finally out in the world! Getting to work with @chivexp was something out of a dream sequence, and I learned so much from getting to watch his genius in action," Swift wrote in the caption. She went on to thank the Johnson and Farrell for trusting the "Blank Space" hitmaker. "I want to thank @dakotajohnson and Colin for trusting me with their time, taste, and talent (Giggling with your friend because you're twinning for an entire shoot was a new and truly delightful experience)."

She added: "And Colin's turn as a villain is even more impressive when you get to be around him. He's an absolute light and as kind as they come. @caradelevingne, thank you for agreeing to play the lusty other woman. That's what friends are for?" The video brings to life Swift's vision of two women with a shared romantic flame, with one ultimately passing on wisdom after dealing with her now-former beau.



Farrell plays the man in question while Johnson and Swift essay his lovers. Swift is the highest-grossing live music artist, the wealthiest female musician, and one of the best-selling music artists of all time. Her singles "Teardrops on My Guitar", "Love Story", and "You Belong with Me" found crossover success on country and pop radio formats. She gained the Billboard Hot 100 in 2010s with number-one singles "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together", "Shake It Off", "Blank Space", "Bad Blood", and "Look What You Made Me Do".

Deepak Tijori says 'Yoga is in our blood', can cure a lot of diseases'

Mumbai: Actor Deepak Tijori has spoken about the importance of yoga, breathing and making it a part of everyday life. The actor stated that the ancient practice is deeply connected to Indian culture and can bring about a change in a person's health and personality. Speaking about the importance of yoga, Deepak, in an exclusive conversation with IANS, said, "Yoga is very important for us Indians. It is in our blood. Wherever we go, we have to be number one. I would say that yoga is a very important aspect. Make it a routine in your life. It is not like we do it three times a week. It is related to breathing. Yoga means breathing. We breathe every moment in our life. If we keep our breathing right, the internal structure of our body will be fine."

He added, "It is said that we should see that within one minute we should breathe 10 times and leave. If we keep this routine, I think that will be a perfect health for us. That is what they say and that is what we need to maintain with yoga. There are a lot of diseases that can be cured. There is hot yoga which is famous all over the world." He elaborated, "The concept of hot yoga and other yoga like ashtanga yoga and hatha yoga are not a joke. They are very serious. They should be taken very seriously and should be practiced in everyday life. I think the health and personality of the person will completely change." Also speaking at the event, actress and doctor Aditi Govitrikar highlighted how yoga works on



multiple aspects of an individual's well-being. Aditi said, "Yoga works on the body, breath and mind – three levels. When young people take yogasana seriously as a sport, it is very encouraging." Deepak and Aditi's comments came at the 5th National Yogasana Sports Championship 2026, held in Mumbai, which brought together the worlds of sports, wellness and entertainment. The championship aimed to promote yogasana as a competitive sport while highlighting the importance of fitness, discipline, balance and a healthy lifestyle.

Orry shares 'harsh reality' he learned on 'KKK 15': 'Sometimes, the trust we build is an illusion'



Orry reflected on his 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 15' experience, saying intense challenges created strong bonds and trust among contestants. However, he noted relationships formed under pressure can change after returning to normal life. Orry was eliminated following a stunt injury

Mumbai: Social media personality Orry has opened up about the bonds he formed during his stint on the reality show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 15', describing the experience as a lesson in trust, friendship and survival. Taking to Instagram, he addressed filmmaker Rohit Shetty and reflected on the intense environment of the show, where contestants spent weeks together while navigating physically and emotionally challenging tasks.

Sharing his video with Ruhaanika Dhawan, Orry wrote, "Dear Rohit Ji, a harsh reality check... We all formed this intense, unbreakable bond in a claustrophobic envelope of shared psychological distress and emotional turmoil." He said the shared experiences made the contestants feel like a family and turned them into each other's "ultimate safe space". "We started to feel like a family. We became each other's ultimate safe space," he added. However, Orry said returning to everyday life after the show made him realise that relationships formed under extreme circumstances can sometimes change once the environment changes. "It's so easy to walk away from this journey of surreal suffering and never ending climaxes, thinking that the people you trusted out there in the wild will have your back forever. But stepping back into the real world brings a sobering and haunting realization: 40 days of intense communal trauma and triumph is just a tiny fraction of a lifetime." He added, "Sometimes, the trust we build in high-pressure environments isn't quite what it seems. It can be an illusion, a temporary oasis that dries up the second you re-enter reality. You think you know someone inside and out, but outside the show, they aren't you the person you knew them to be. A little lesson in survival that I learnt the hard way: Not everyone who shares a tent with you in the wilderness is meant to sit at your table back home #KhatronKeKhiladi."

‘Ending up number one shows we are on the right track,’ says Santiago Nieva



With two gold and a silver at the Asian Games, after five gold and a silver at the Commonwealth Games, women's boxing is on an upswing. The Asian Games haul was their best in the continental tournament, where India topped the medal table in women's boxing as well as the overall boxing pile (three gold and as many bronze medals), edging out powerhouses like Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China. Indian women's boxing Head coach Santiago Nieva talks to The Indian Express about the lessons from Japan, the gains and the challenges ahead.

Excerpts :

How do you rate this Asian Games campaign?

Obviously, we are super happy. We always want more, and we won two gold medals. Beforehand, there were very, very tough fights. We would end the year as the Asian Championship winner, and the number one in the CWG and Asian Games. Yes, we lost some of our top performers early, but overall we have never achieved results like this before. We have scored wins over stronger countries in Asia, like China, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

What was the biggest lesson from Japan?

For me, the main thing is to control the bout for nine minutes, not only two good rounds and then lose our shape. We need to look at how we can achieve this as efficiently as possible. We have seen clear improvements. A boxer has to try, and have different variations and become a universal boxer. You should be able to handle different styles and types of opponents. If you are winning, you have more options and, if you are down in the score, you have fewer options. You need to increase the pace, box at a higher pace and need to slow it down when necessary as well. All these things sound easy in theory, but as you can see, sometimes emotions take over, and you don't make the best decisions. That's what we aim to teach them. The biggest lesson is that we see that anything is possible. India ending up number one shows we are on the right track.

On Parveen and Lovlina...

Parveen was not part of the Asian Championships and then lost in the first bout in CWG. She had some doubts,

and we had a relook at the way she boxed. She had a very tough draw with three very difficult bouts. But she stepped up every time. The main focus was to manage the distance and not to rush in attacks. Basically, her footwork improved, and she managed the bouts much better. For Lovlina, this gold is a confidence booster. She has achieved a lot in her career, but after the Paris Olympics and World Championships, there was some pressure. In Glasgow, she had been close to winning before she lost 2-3 in the final. We knew Lovlina had it in her to win the title, and she had to beat two world-class opponents, Natalya Bogdanova and Ziyi Bao.

Preeti and Sakshi exited early, and Priya lost in the semis. How do you assess that?

I am not worried about them. They had been consistent the whole year. They lost close bouts against world-class opponents. But they will definitely be back. In Sakshi's case, her offensive boxing and medium-distance boxing need a bit of upgrading, so that she doesn't rely too much on her long-distance boxing. It's difficult to say about Preeti. She is an all-round boxer, and she is at a very good level. But usually, she can start a little faster, and that's something we need to work on. Priya is very young, and this is her first major competition year. So she has gained a lot of experience. She had been in many tough bouts, which she has come through. The only bout she has lost this year was in the semi-finals against Yang Chengyu, who she had beaten in Chengyu Asian Championships. Sometimes, she loses her balance, and a little bit of concentration. With more experience, she will improve.

What was the best bout, according to you?

It has to be Parveen's semi-final win against Navbakhor Khamidova. If we look at the Uzbek's record, she has beaten all other boxers, including Parveen. So you have some doubts. But when we trained, we had the belief that we could win. Then Parveen went into the bout and outclassed her. She managed the distance, she prepared her attacks and did not rush in. She kept a long distance when she attacked and did not fall in. The Uzbek ran out of ideas about how to attack Parveen. That's the way we want to box.

The World Championships next year will be the first competition offering LA Olympics quotas. How do you see the challenge?

It will be a super tough competition, obviously. But I am confident we have the level to get qualifications at the World Championships. It will be a rehearsal for the Olympics too. Obviously, we have done well at the Asian level and the last Worlds too. We need to be able to control the different situations in our offensive and defensive boxing, when we are winning and when we are down. But the most important thing is understanding how to box in different distances, how to slow down and how to increase the pace, how to be effective in offensive boxing as well as defensive counterpunching boxing.

Diego Forlan on Indian football: ‘Talented young players, need stronger academies & league’

After Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti caused quite a stir last month when he said India did not have a footballing culture, Uruguay coach Diego Forlan said that while the main sport in the country was cricket, India still had a lot of young talented football players. “Your main sport is cricket, so it's different. Football has been here for many years, of course, but it's not the main sport. But you have a lot of young talented players,” Forlan said, speaking on the eve of the India vs Uruguay match.

The 2010 FIFA World Cup Golden Ball winner said that playing international friendlies against stronger opposition like Brazil and Uruguay would benefit the Blue Tigers in the long run. “I think this kind of game, playing against Brazil, Uruguay, and also having a strong league, would improve the development of young players. In the near future, India could be playing important and crucial games,” he said. You need to build from the roots — academies, young players, kids to start playing a lot. If you build more academies, the league gets stronger and stronger, you will achieve getting more players and getting better players, that's for sure,” added Forlan. Before the Uruguay fixture, India have played Panama against whom they drew 1-1 and then taken on Brazil, where they showed some spark in the beginning before getting



trounced 4-0. Uruguay, meanwhile, landed in Kolkata on September 30 and have been taking time to acclimatise to the Indian conditions. We know it's not going to be easy. Playing here, the weather is humid. You also need to adapt. That's why all these days that we came here were good for us to adapt. The weather is different from Japan and Korea, so we know it's going to be a difficult game,” Forlan said. Before talking on India, Uruguay had toured Japan and Korea, losing to the former 1-3 and defeating the latter 4-1.

India vs Uruguay: Can the Blue Tigers build on Brazil lessons?

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

A few fans were loitering around the Salt Lake Stadium ticket counters on Monday, a day ahead of India's match against Uruguay. The scene was markedly different from before the Brazil match, when the same counters had been largely empty. The much-anticipated Brazil game also failed to sell out, with swathes of empty seats visible during the match. With ticket sales for the Uruguay match also struggling, the All India Football Federation appeared to have taken note. A couple of days before the match, the federation announced that tickets for some blocks had been slashed by 90%, with seats that once cost Rs 1,999 coming down to Rs 199.

In addition, West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced that people who had bought tickets for the Lionel Messi GOAT Tour last December but were deprived of seeing their star because of the event's organisational chaos would receive free tickets for the India-Uruguay international. Kolkata giants Mohun Bagan also announced complimentary tickets for their members and supporters. Since these measures were taken, a lot of stands showed as sold out in the match's official ticketing app. The Uruguay match was always going to be a harder sell than Brazil. The South American team does not have a so-called superstar in its squad who commands the same recognition among casual Indian football fans. One big name who could perhaps have helped ticket sales was Real Madrid captain Federico Valverde, but he was ruled out ahead of the tour due to injury. That left Uruguay with names such as Darwin Nunez and Ronald Araújo, world-class players in their own right, but not quite as familiar to Indian fans.

Their coach, Diego Forlán, though, is a much more familiar name to Indians, having played for Mumbai City in the Indian Super League. The 2010 FIFA World Cup Golden Ball winner took over this Uruguay side after their disappointing 2026 World Cup campaign, where they failed to win a single match and were eliminated in the group stage under Marcelo



Bielsa. Since then, they have lost to Japan but thrashed South Korea 4-1, with Nunez bagging a brace. Next up is 138th-ranked India, a relatively straightforward match on paper. Forlan, however, did not agree. “There's never an easy game in football. We will try to do our best and enjoy our game tomorrow,” he said at the pre-match press conference on Monday. He also had praise for the Blue Tigers, lauding them for their performance against Brazil.

“You could see some combinations, some long balls, some good players. If you give them time and space, they can damage you, and they can play well. So, you have to respect everybody,” he said. While Uruguay are not as unfamiliar an opponent as Brazil, with the two sides having met twice, their last meeting came way back in 2001 and was not an official FIFA friendly. Uruguay remain two-time World Cup winners and the 20th-ranked team in the world. The heady days of Luis Suarez, Forlan and Edinson Cavani may be behind them, but this side in transition still has enough quality to hurt any opposition. Former Liverpool striker Nunez is in good form, while former Barcelona defender Araújo and former Arsenal midfielder Lucas Torreira remain more than capable of holding their own in defence and midfield, respectively. India,

How a sports psychologist helped Pranavi Urs win an Asian Games gold



If sports psychology looks like a luxury at the elite level, Pranavi Urs has an answer. It could be the difference between an Asian Games gold medal and nothing. The 23-year-old had little sleep the night before the final round at the Kasugai Country Club East Course, and her anxiety wasn't helped by a triple-bogey 7 on the third hole, which wiped out her three-shot lead going into the last day and handed the edge to World No. 6 Yin Ruoning of China. That is where her work with her sports psychologist paid off. “Going into the final round of any big event, you are bound to be nervous because you care so much,” Pranavi told The Indian Express on Monday. “I had a session with my psychologist before the final round, where we trained my brain for all the possible scenarios and focused on having fun out on the golf course.”

Preparing for Murphy's Law (anything that can go wrong will go wrong) worked to her benefit. “It (triple bogey) was the worst thing that could have happened. I told myself that I had hit rock bottom and the only way from there was upwards. I just had to stick to the gameplan.” The preparation did its job. Pranavi caught Yin with a birdie on the 10th, went ahead with another on the 13th, and did not give up the lead after that. Not that Pranavi suffered from a lack of confidence going into the competition. “Whenever you enter a tournament, you want to win, not just participate,” she said. “But to go ahead and actually do it was surreal.”

The psychologist's contribution was vital to the biggest title of her career so far. She is in her third season on the Ladies European Tour (LET) and, despite contending several times, has not quite taken the final step. What's more, her teammate Aditi Ashok had an unenviable history at big events. At the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games, she held a seven-shot lead going into the final round before a 5-over 77 relegated her to the silver medal. At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, she was second going into the final 18 holes, but fin-

ished just outside the medal positions.

No negative vibes Pranavi said the topic remained off-limits during team discussions. “I've known both Aditi and Diksha (Dagar) for a long time. I've always looked up to Aditi. I've played together with Diksha. All three of us are good friends and in good form. When we came together at the start of the week, we were confident that we will definitely win a medal,” she said, preparing to board a flight out of Japan. India's Pranavi Urs celebrates after winning the women's individual stroke play gold medal and women's team silver medal with Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar. (Reuters) India's Pranavi Urs celebrates after winning the women's individual stroke play gold medal and women's team silver medal with Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar.

“I didn't ask for any advice from Aditi, and certainly didn't bring up those two final rounds in our chats. We're friends, why would I do that? We talked about everything other than that during our dinners together.”

Though Aditi (14th at two-over) and Diksha (tied 23rd at 12-over) didn't do as well individually as they would have liked, the Indian women's team did clinch a silver medal behind China. India's first women's individual golf gold at the Asian Games is likely to give the game a shot in the arm, and could help the golfer from Mysuru in her own development. “I'm in a better headspace now and feel more confident now. This gold medal is definitely a boost for me. The next step is to win on the LET,” she said. That she beat some of the top players in the women's game augurs well for her growth. Apart from Yin (World No. 6), bronze medalist Shannon Xuan Yin Tan of Singapore is the 2025 LET Order of Merit winner. “It's great to win an event beating such players and a good sign that my career is going in the right direction. Now I have complete clarity that my game is in great shape and good enough to win big events,” said Pranavi, who will play the Women's India Open at the DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurgaon later this month.

Tushar Bhaduri Tushar Bhaduri is a highly experienced sports journalist with The Indian Express, based in Delhi. He has been a journalist for 25 years, with 20 of those dedicated to sports reporting. Professional Background Expertise: Tushar writes on a wide variety of sports, focusing on the “bigger picture” and identifying underlying trends that impact the sporting world. Experience: He has covered numerous major global sporting events over his long career. Writing Style: He is known for providing analytical depth, often exploring governance, sportsmanship, and tactical evolutions in games like cricket, golf, and hockey. Recent Notable Articles (2025) His recent work highlights his diverse interests, ranging from the business of

Himachal Kabaddi players to get Rs 1 crore each after Asian Games gold

New Delhi: The Himachal Pradesh government on Monday increased the cash reward for its women's Kabaddi players who won gold at the recently concluded Asian Games, with three players set to receive Rs 1 crore each along with government jobs. The three Himachali players of the Indian women's Kabaddi team — Pushpa Rana, Jyoti Thakur and Bhawna Thakur — will be awarded prize money of Rs 1 crore each by the Himachal Pradesh government for their performance at the Aichi-Nagoya Games, where both the women's and men's Kabaddi teams won gold medals.

Pushpa, Jyoti and Bhawna met Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and were presented with Himachali caps and shawls in their honour. The three players will also be awarded government jobs, the Himachal Pradesh government said in a release. “The Chief Minister said that the three players would also be provided employment in government service. Those who do not wish to join the Police Department would be offered appointments in the Youth Services and Sports Department, enabling them to continue pursuing their sporting careers while contributing to the promotion and development of sports in the state,” the release said. Meanwhile, India fast bowler Renuka Thakur will also be awarded Rs 1 crore “in recognition of her achievements”, the release said. The women's Kabaddi players spoke about their meeting with the state Chief Minister after they were left disappointed when Kabaddi players were offered Rs 33 lakh each for their gold-medal win. “Look, we were very disappointed because according to the sports policy, we were not being given the amount that was due to us. So literally, anyone would be disappointed,” India captain Pushpa Rana, who is from Himachal Pradesh, told IANS. “Now, after meeting him, we received a very positive response from the Chief Minister. Considering how politely he handled us and listened to us attentively, I am hopeful that the Rs 1 crore an-



nounced or promised to us will definitely be given,” she added. “First of all, I want to share that in the recent Asian Games in Japan, Team India won the gold medal, which is a proud moment for the whole nation and state. Today, we had a meeting with the Chief Minister. Our main points of discussion were regarding the cash awards and jobs. “Initially, an award of Rs 33 lakh was announced, which was seen on social media. This had left us disappointed. So, we met the Chief Minister to present our side. He assured us that an incentive reward of Rs 1 crore will be presented to us at an official function,” she said. Meanwhile, Himachal Pradesh Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan also praised the state players for their performances at the Asiad. “Today, three of our girls from Himachal Pradesh who represented Team India — including Pushpa Rana from Sirmour, who served as captain of the Indian team, along with Bhawna Thakur and Jyoti Thakur — met the Chief Minister and me. It is a matter of great pride and happiness that the Indian team was represented by three players from Himachal, including Ritu Negi from the Shillai constituency. It is a proud moment for us that they led India to the gold medal,” he said.

Top Indian amateurs set for IGU Southern India Golf Championships in Bengaluru

Hyderabad: Most of the country's top amateurs, including a few promising juniors, have arrived in the Garden City for the IGU Rotary Southern India Bio-Gen Sansera Amateur Golf Championships, which tees off at the picturesque KGA course in Bengaluru on Tuesday. In all, 77 golfers will vie for the winner's purse of Rs 75,000 in the eighth leg of the IGU circuit. Ribhav Verma, third in the Order of Merit, and Ranveer Mitroo, who have both won once this season, will be the cynosure of attention in probably the only amateur event that offers prize money.

Junior boys' Order of Merit leader Harjai Milkha Singh, Arin Ahuja, Chaitanya Pandey, Krish Chawla and a host of local golfers will look to write their own scripts at the course, where players must be solid from tee to green. Although the

greens are not as lightning-fast as they were during the PGTI event two weeks ago, the player who putts well could be the last one standing. Like in the amateur event, many promising KGA golfers are in the fray in the three-day Ladies and Junior Girls event, which begins on Wednesday. While the Ladies winner will also get a cheque for Rs 75,000, the organisers have decided to offer nominal prize money in the other three categories — ‘A’ (15-17 years), ‘B’ (13-14) and ‘C’ (11-12) — as well. Winless so far this season, Shashank Sachin Gadre will look to end his drought and retain his title at the IGU Western India Junior Boys Golf Championship, which gets underway at the Oxford Golf Resort in Pune on Tuesday. Besides Gadre, in-form Vihaan Jain, who has won twice this year, and Jaibir Singh Kang will be watched with interest. Competition will be held in three categories.

Messi set for final Argentina appearance after decorated international career

Buenos Aires: Lionel Messi is set to take the field for Argentina for what is expected to be the final time against Benin on Wednesday (IST), bringing the curtain down on one of the most illustrious international careers in football. Argentina will host 93rd-ranked Benin at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires, where thousands of spectators and millions watching from home are expected to bid farewell to the legendary forward. Messi made his Argentina debut in August 2005 in a friendly against Hungary and went on to become one of the greatest players in the history of

the game. With La Albiceleste, he has won the 2022 FIFA World Cup, two Copa America titles and the Finalissima. He has also finished as a World Cup runner-up twice, in 2014 and 2026. Messi had initially retired from international football in 2016 after Argentina's defeat to Chile on penalties in the Copa America final, but later reversed his decision. He subsequently led Argentina to Copa America titles in 2021 and 2024, the Finalissima in 2022 and the 2022 FIFA World Cup, completing a remarkable run of success with the national team.

‘Must run to the bed’: Amitabh Bachchan opens up on sleep struggles ahead of 84th birthday



Just a week before turning 84, Amitabh Bachchan has revealed that he struggles to find time to sleep. With a packed work schedule and an extremely active mind, the veteran actor said it can be difficult for him to get enough rest. Taking to his blog, the actor wrote, “They said the night sleep is the best repair mechanism of the human body... and I struggle to find the time to follow that...” Acknowledging the importance of sleep, Amitabh Bachchan said he now wants to make an effort to go to bed early so that he can rest and be

ready to wake up early for work. Sharing what keeps him from sleeping, the actor wrote, “It is a different feel... a state of many thoughts and ideas... all filled with drive and a sense of conquering all that was once considered as a goal.” He added that this excitement to achieve more gives him the power to keep moving towards his goals and reach his destination in time.

He concluded, “And I must run to the bed.” Last week, Amitabh Bachchan revealed on the sets of Kaun Banega Crorepati that he had slipped and injured his knee during a shoot. After making his grand entry on the show, Amitabh quickly chose to sit down. Explaining the reason, he said, “Usually, I do my monologue standing at the centre, but today, I have a knee injury. Yesterday, during the shoot, I slipped and fell and injured my knee.” The veteran star pointed towards his left knee while talking about the injury. After noticing the audience’s worried expressions, he was quick to clarify that the injury was not serious. He explained that he chose to sit because he was having a “little bit of difficulty standing up.” Soon after the incident, however, Amitabh was seen attending a book launch event in Mumbai alongside his wife and actor Jaya Bachchan and legendary writer Gulzar. Even at 84, Amitabh Bachchan continues to remain active in the entertainment industry. From hosting the popular quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati on Sony to appearing in films such as Vettaiyan and Uunchai, the actor continues to take on new projects. In 2024, he played the role of Ashwatthama in Nag Ashwin’s Kalki 2898 AD, performing several action sequences in the film. He is set to reprise the role in the second instalment of the franchise.

‘No one is to blame’: Kalaranjini lost her voice after consuming fake blood containing acid

Although Kalaranjini never had a career as illustrious as those of her younger sisters, Kalpana and Urvashi, she has repeatedly demonstrated impressive acting skills, shining brightest in comedic roles, with the most recent examples being director Krishnadas Murali’s Bharathanatyam (2024) and its sequel Mohiniyattam (2026). Apart from Malayalam, she has also acted in Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada languages, as well as in television serials, leaving a lasting impression wherever she set foot. However, while she was slowly soaring high, an unexpected incident turned Kalaranjini’s life upside down, affecting both her career and emotional well-being. Must Read | ‘My father married around 20 people’: Sreelakshmi Arackal reveals traumatic childhood Decades ago, Kalaranjini shockingly lost much of her voice on a movie set after purportedly consuming fake blood that had been mistakenly prepared using acid instead of coconut oil. Despite the incident significantly affecting her film career, she recently said she has no complaints against anyone, as she believes it was an honest mistake on the part of the makeup artist.

The shocking on-set accident that changed everything “At that time, he was terribly upset. Everyone avoided him on all sets. Then, in his final days, I was the one who helped him. Their children also still have a very good relationship with us. It was a small mistake. He must have been very sad that it happened that way. He wouldn’t do such a thing to his profession on purpose. KV Bhaskar (who prepared the fake blood) was one of the biggest makeup artists in Malayalam cinema. He would have never done it on purpose; it was a slip of the hand. He wouldn’t have thought that it would make my life like this either,” she shared during a conversation with Can Channel Media. Kalaranjini continued, “Therefore, I don’t have any major sorrows. I have been acting since that day, thanks to my co-workers and fellow artistes. Whenever I say my lines, people go completely silent because those acting with me need to react to what I am saying. This (her acting career) has moved forward because of everyone’s cooperation.” “Ambili used to dub everything for me. She is no longer with us. Later, Rosshan Andrews (director) asked me to use my own voice. Even then, I didn’t have the confidence. When I saw it, I felt it was not necessary. Then I did it in Chirakodinja Kinavukal. In Bharathanatyam, director Krishnadas insisted that I dub for myself. That’s how he helped bring my voice back,” she added. Don’t Miss | Sanjay Dutt says he ‘can’t feel peace in India anymore’, comments on PM Modi as Munna Bhai



What happened on the fateful day According to Mathrubhumi, the aforementioned tragic incident happened while Kalaranjini was working with Malayalam superstar Prem Nazir. In one scene, she was supposed to die by vomiting blood. Back then, fake blood was made by mixing coconut oil with red colour. Since Kalaranjini was wearing a white saree, it was certain the dress would be stained if the red liquid splattered on her body. Hence, right before the shoot, Prem Nazir told her, “I will feed it to you when the moment arrives.” Kalaranjini agreed. However, she only remembers him pouring the red liquid into her mouth. Suddenly, Kalaranjini felt like her mouth and throat were burning and swelling up. But she couldn’t do anything; her windpipe contracted. Even after extensive treatment, there was no result. She mostly lost her voice and never fully regained it. She was in the hospital for about three months. ICYMI | Fahadh Faasil says ‘won’t get half of Rs 300 cr’ as Bethlehem Kudumba Unit earns Rs 326 cr Kalaranjini only learned what had actually happened to her later. The makeup artist had prepared the liquid by adding acid instead of coconut oil. Disclaimer: This article is a personal narrative detailing a set injury and its long-term impact. It is provided for informational and editorial purposes only and does not constitute medical advice or professional safety guidance.

‘Completely false’: Makers deny ticket price hike in AP for Vijay-Rashmika’s Ranabaali



“There have been reports that we have applied for ticket price hikes in Andhra Pradesh for Ranabaali. We would like to clarify that these reports are completely false. We have not applied for any ticket price hikes in either of the Telugu states,” the statement read.

Production house Mythri Movie Makers has denied reports that it has applied for a ticket price hike in Andhra Pradesh for Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna’s

upcoming period action drama Ranabaali, calling the reports completely false in an official statement posted on X on Sunday. “There have been reports that we have applied for ticket price hikes in Andhra Pradesh for Ranabaali. We would like to clarify that these reports are completely false. We have not applied for any ticket price hikes in either of the Telugu states,” the statement read.

The statement confirmed that Ranabaali will release at standard ticket prices when it arrives in theatres on October 16 during the Dussehra festival window. “Ranabaali will release at standard ticket prices, and we are confident that audiences will have a great cinematic experience this festive season,” the statement added. The clarification comes at a sensitive time for ticket pricing in the Telugu states. Andhra Pradesh has maintained strict controls on theatrical ticket prices, with any increase requiring government approval. The issue has been one of the most contentious subjects in the Telugu film industry over the past two years, with producers and exhibitors arguing that fixed pricing caps limit their ability to recover rising production costs. Telangana operates under a similar but slightly different pricing framework, with the state government retaining authority over ticket price approvals. About Ranabaali Ranabaali is directed by Rahul Sanjiv and stars Vijay Deverakonda as Singanamala Bobbili Ranabaali, a Rayalaseema warrior who rises against British colonial forces during the Madras Famine of 1876-78. The film also stars Rashmika Mandanna as Jayamma and South African actor Arnold Vosloo as the British antagonist Sir Theodore Hector. The film is produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under Mythri Movie Makers banner and presented by T-Series. It releases worldwide on October 16, where it will compete with Rajinikanth’s Jailer 2, which releases a day earlier on October 15, for screens across the Telugu and Tamil markets.

Inside Sourav Joshi’s luxury bungalow: Multi-crore car collection, private lift, 3 kitchens



Sourav Joshi is considered as one of the biggest vloggers in India, with around 42 million subscribers on YouTube. However, not many are aware that he owns a lavish bungalow in Haldwani, Uttarakhand. In her latest vlog, filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan visited his house, with her cook Dilip. The 27-year-old Youtuber Sourav and his wife Avantika Joshi gave a tour of their luxury bungalow. In the beginning of the vlog, as soon as Farah and Dilip reached Sourav’s house, the filmmaker pointed out at a plot on the other side of the road, revealing the YouTuber is constructing another bungalow there. He also pointed out that the house will be designed in such a way that it has a lot of greenery, so the view from their present house is pleasant.

As soon as they entered his house, Sourav Joshi introduced Farah Khan to his joint family, that lives together there. Sourav Joshi’s bungalow in Haldwani Sourav Joshi’s bungalow in Haldwani The contemporary living area had a posh neutral color palette, with a double-height ceiling. The main highlight was a wooden display cabinet embedded in one side of the wall, which had artifacts and decorative pieces kept on every shelf. The couch had a subtle off-white tone, with indoor plants of various heights placed around. After chatting in the drawing room, the hosts gave a tour of their basement, which included a private gym space and parking

area. Sourav Joshi, who loves collecting cars, owns a Ferrari, Thar, Mercedes Benz G-Class (G-Wagon), and many other cars. The YouTuber also bought a mustard-black coloured limited Trophy edition Defender (roughly priced at Rs 1.6 crore on road) recently. As soon as they stepped upstairs, there was a beautiful temple room. The home temple was decorated with hanging marigold flowers on the walls. The wooden paneling featured a huge Om symbol, with idols placed on an elevated platform. “My mother likes doing bhajan, keertan, so everyone sits here to do it,” Sourav said. Then, the hallway of Sourav Joshi’s luxury bungalow led to a white-finish open kitchen. The huge windows in the modern layout allowed sunlight, making the area brighter. Along with the minimalist cabinets and countertops, there was also space for a breakfast bar setup with casual dining. When they walked inside, there was a second kitchen, where the family actually cooks their food. “You have made such a Sooraj Barjatya coded, Maine Pyaar Kiya type of a house,” Farah Khan complimented.

Open Kitchen inside Sourav’s house Open Kitchen inside Sourav’s house The entire ground floor consisted of around 3-4 rooms, for his parents, grandparents, uncle-aunt, and guest rooms. The newlyweds Sourav and Avantika, who got married last year in November, live on the first floor. The model had a private lift installed, to travel to the upper floor, which is built for all the children in the family (Sourav’s real brothers and cousins). The first floor also has its own kitchen for late-night cravings, a gaming room, and many more exciting bits. Inside Sourav’s bungalow Inside Sourav’s bungalow Inside Sourav’s bungalow Their balcony shows a hilltop view of Nainital and Bhimtal. “Your house is very beautiful. I am also going to turn my house white and neutral after this.” Sourav then flaunted his smart home, to control light, fans, and other electronics. Avantika and Sourav also gave a tour of their walk-in closet, which Farah called inspired by Kardashian sisters. There were many other spaces on the level, including, a studio with a sunroof and a huge terrace.

Yami Gautam-Aditya Dhar not moving to Himachal Pradesh, filmmaker’s team clarifies

Aditya Dhar and Yami Gautam have been in the news ever since the couple won National Awards for their work on Article 370. More recently, reports claiming that the couple is planning to permanently move to Himachal Pradesh have been doing the rounds online. However, the filmmaker’s team has exclusively told SCREEN that there is no truth to the reports. As speculation about the couple’s alleged move gained traction online, SCREEN reached out to Aditya’s team to verify the claims. Dismissing them outright, his team said, “No. Who is sending this story?”

NDTV, citing a source, had reported that the couple was planning to shift their permanent base to Himachal Pradesh, citing Yami’s connection to the state and her hometown. The report further claimed that the actress had purchased a 100-year-old heritage house along with a 25-acre plot in Gohar. However, Aditya Dhar’s team has now categorically denied the reports. ALSO READ | Rs 2.5 cr film Premada Ooralli beats Yash’s Toxic to emerge as most profitable Kannada movie

Aditya Dhar has been in the spotlight following the success of his two recent films, Dhurandhar and Dhurandhar: The Revenge, which were released within a span of three months and have collectively earned over Rs 3,000 crore at the box office. At the 72nd National Film Awards, held on September 22 in Gujarat, the couple also took home National Awards for Article 370. Yami won the Best Actress award, while Aditya received the award for Best Feature Film. Recently, a video of Yami Gautam’s family celebrating her National Award win with flowers, hugs and besan ka halwa went viral after her sister Surilie shared it on her



YouTube channel. Yami Gautam and Aditya Dhar have largely kept their personal life away from the spotlight. The couple met on the sets of Uri: The Surgical Strike in 2019, which marked Aditya’s directorial debut. They tied the knot in 2021 and welcomed their son, Ved, in 2024, around the time of Article 370’s release. On the work front, Yami is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming film Nayii Naveli, which is scheduled to hit theatres on October 16.

Shriya Saran on ‘Drishyam 3’: ‘I was revisiting every scene emotionally’



Mumbai: Actress Shriya Saran has opened up about her nervousness ahead of the release of ‘Drishyam 3’, saying she could not sleep the night before as she kept thinking about how audiences would receive the film. In an exclusive interview with IANS, Shriya said she found herself emotionally and mentally revisiting every scene she had performed in the film. “I couldn’t sleep last night. I was thinking what will happen, what kind of a film it will be. And you know, it’s a sense of nervousness. Every scene that I have done in the film, I was revisiting it emotionally and mentally. I was thinking how it will be,” she said.

Shriya also spoke about the evolution of dubbing and sound technology in filmmaking. She noted that actors earlier spent considerable time watching films during the dubbing process, while sound technology has now become much more sophisticated. “Because earlier when the film was made, we used to watch a lot of films in dubbing. But now dubbing has become so sophisticated. The sound system is so amazing,” she said.

Shriya praised the film’s sound team and revealed that the team did not have to rely extensively on dubbing as the film was shot with sync sound. “And in conclusion, Abhishek has got such an amazing sound system, sound director. It’s amazingly sync sound that we didn’t have to dub it at all. So, we are very lucky,” she added. Describing ‘Drishyam 3’, Shriya said the film carries a sense of responsibility because of its emotional and dramatic nature. She explained that the film is rooted in family drama and mystery rather than being a larger-than-life visual spectacle. “So, I was thinking what it is. But I know for a fact it’s a beautiful film. Yes, I know there is a lot of responsibility. Because it’s not like, it’s a drama. Family drama, mystery. And it plays with your emotions,” she said. The actress added that the film’s strength lies in its emotional connection with the audience. But it’s not like a visual spectacle, spectacularly. It’s not like, it’s a larger than life kind of a film. It’s a film that connects to your heart. So, it’s that. And there is a lot of responsibility. But I know that Abhishek is on a great job,” Shriya said. Shriya Saran has returned as Nandini Salgaonkar, the wife of Vijay Salgaonkar, portrayed by Ajay Devgn, in the concluding chapter, ‘Drishyam 3: The Conclusion’. The film hit theatres on October 2, 2026, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.