

Nagarkurnool Farmers Block Road Over Power Supply Disruptions

Nagarkurnool: Farmers from Mahadevanipeta village in Bijjinapally mandal staged a protest on Tuesday, demanding an uninterrupted power supply at adequate voltage for agricultural activities. Raising slogans against the Congress government, they blocked the village's main road.

The farmers complained that power supply to their fields had been severely disrupted over the past three days. They said they had invested heavily in cultivating maize, cotton, paddy and black gram during the current season and expressed concern over frequent power outages at a crucial stage of crop growth, with their crops nearing harvest.

Youth electrocuted in Mahabubabad's Dornakal

Mahabubabad: Tension prevailed briefly at Bodrai Thanda in Dornakal mandal of Mahabubabad district on Tuesday after a 26-year-old youth died of electrocution.

The deceased, Daramsoth Akhil, a resident of Mallaiahkunta Thanda, reportedly fell from a neem tree after suffering an electric shock when he came into contact with live wires while trimming its branches.

Demanding justice for the bereaved family, residents of Mallaiahkunta Thanda staged a road protest with the body. They placed thorny bushes across the road, disrupting traffic and creating tension in the area. Police rushed to the spot after receiving information and brought the situation under control.

Osmania General Hospital junior doctors call off strike temporarily after assurances

Hyderabad: The Telangana Junior Doctors Association (TJUDA) unit of Osmania General Hospital on Tuesday has temporarily suspended its strike following assurances from health authorities.

The Junior doctors had launched the protest to highlight critical infrastructure challenges, acute shortages of essential medical supplies, diagnostic constraints, and inadequate equipment that affected patient care and the academic training of undergraduate students and postgraduate residents at Osmania Medical College and Osmania General Hospital.



Telangana Congress names observers for voter enrolment in two Graduate MLC constituencies

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (IANS) Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) on Tuesday appointed observers for the enrolment of graduate voters in connection with the ensuing elections to the Telangana Legislative Council from two Graduates' Constituencies.

TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud named 43 observers for Hyderabad- Rangareddy- Mahabubnagar Constituency and 34 observers for Warangal- Khammam- Nalgonda Constituency.

The TPCC chief asked appointed observers to coordinate and consult with all concerned leaders and stakeholders across the respective districts and ensure that the enrolment of graduate voters is carried out effectively, in the true letter and spirit of the party's objectives.

The observers for Hyderabad- Rangareddy- Mahabubnagar Constituency include Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's brother Anumula Thirupathi Reddy, ministers Vakiti Srihari, Jupally Krishna Rao, senior leader and government advisor V. Hanumantha Rao, MPs Anil Kumar

Yadav and Mallu Ravi.

The observers for Warangal- Khammam- Nalgonda Constituency include Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, P. Srinivasa Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy.

Voter enrolment in the two constituencies began last month with the issue of public notice under Rule 31(3) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

The electoral rolls will be prepared afresh with November 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. Those who previously registered as voters must also register afresh.

The Election Commission of India has announced that two vacancies are due in March 2027 and must be filled by conducting biennial elections.

Telangana to pay Rs 596 crore as Dasara bonus for Singareni employees

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (IANS) The Telangana government on Tuesday announced that the employees of state-owned Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) will be paid Rs 596 crore as a bonus for Dasara.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka declared a 34% profit share for permanent employees as a Dasara gift.

Permanent employees of the company will be paid an average profit share of Rs 1,53,912 each, while contract employees will get Rs 5,500 each.

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who also holds the Energy and Finance portfolios, announced that a total of 38,737 permanent employees and 29,717 contract workers would benefit from this decision.

Like in the past, the government decided to allocate 34% of Singareni's profits as a share for the workers. The deputy CM explained that out of the Rs 1,754 crore net profit earned by Singareni this year, 34%—amounting to Rs 596 crore—would be distributed to the workers as their profit share.



Last year, the government had paid Rs 819 crore as a bonus. Each permanent employee was paid Rs 1,95,610.

The company had earned a profit of Rs 6,394 crore in 2024-25.

The Deputy CM explained various reasons behind the decline in Singareni's profits this year. He criticised the previous BRS government for failing to secure additional coal blocks over the past decade.

Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that the organisation suffered significant losses because it was prevented from participating in the coal block auctions conducted by the Central Government.

He noted that the failure to utilise the opportunity to participate in the auction of approximately 141 coal blocks hindered the company's business expansion. The Deputy CM mentioned that the closure of some existing coal blocks was impacting both production and revenue. With nearly 14 blocks having shut down, there is an urgent need to acquire new blocks, he said.



Political resistance will continue & triumph: Rahul after hosting INDIA bloc for high tea

After hosting a high tea for INDIA bloc leaders, Opposition MPs, student organisations and civil society representatives at his Sunehri Bagh Road residence on Tuesday, Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi vowed to sustain the agitation against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, declaring that "no matter what happened, political resistance would continue and it would triumph".

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the CEC of undermining democratic institutions, Rahul said the Opposition would fight until democracy was restored and those responsible were brought to justice. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Rahul asserted that the Opposition was united and there were no parallel protests, but one movement with a common vision of democracy in India. "Jantar Mantar had been one of the spaces where citizens could express democratic dissent, but the government has decided it could no longer be used for that purpose. We are going to challenge that idea. The people who have done this--PM Modi, who is the main architect, Amit Shah, who is the implementer, Gyanesh Kumar and others--need to understand that the net is closing around them," Rahul said, thanking the people of Delhi and others across the country who had stood with the Opposition. Expressing respect for the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India and the judicial system, Rahul said the judiciary had a role to play and the Opposition hoped it would discharge that responsibility. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Opposition was preparing to expose the Modi government's "plan to facilitate vote chori". RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav accused Gyanesh Kumar of acting at the behest of Modi and Shah and crushing democracy. Describing the CEC as a "puppet", he said the Opposition would respond to the alleged actions and those responsible would face consequences. "The decision to denotify Jantar Mantar as protest site reflects their fear," he said.

Prepare to lose big in 2029: Shah attacks Rahul amid stir

New Delhi, Oct 13

As the Congress-led INDIA bloc vowed on Tuesday to continue its campaign against "vote theft", the ruling BJP mounted a counteroffensive with Home Minister Amit Shah predicting another Congress defeat in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking for the first time since the Congress and Cockroach Janta Party-led street agitations against the special intensive revision (SIR) of voter rolls began, Shah said the Congress has been losing elections under Rahul Gandhi much before the commencement of the SIR exercise.

Shah's remarks came hours after the BJP swept local body elections in Gujarat and days after the NDA won four of the six byelections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

"Rahul ji, let me make it abundantly clear to you and your allies: start preparing yourselves for yet another crushing defeat in 2029. In the 2029 General Elec-

tion also, the NDA will return to power with a resounding majority, and the Congress will suffer its fourth consecutive defeat," Shah said.

Accusing Rahul of shielding illegal infiltrators under the pretext of the SIR, Shah said, "The nation has seen through Rahul's agenda. Fabricated media events will not help. Rahul cannot win the trust of people on a foundation of lies."

He noted that the Congress has failed to win a single election in Gujarat for 41 years; Tripura hasn't seen a Congress CM in 33 years and West Bengal hasn't witnessed a Congress victory in 54 years.

"Does Rahul call this the result of the SIR? The SIR began only after 2024. Ever since he took charge of the Congress, the party has faced nothing but serial electoral defeats," said Shah.



Eight children among 11 dead as boat capsizes in Ganga River in Bihar's Vaishali

Patna, Oct 13 (IANS) At least 11 people, including eight children, died after a boat carrying passengers capsized in the Ganga River in Bihar's Vaishali district on Tuesday.

The accident occurred near Rampur Shyamchand village under the Raghapur police station area while the passengers were reportedly travelling to attend a feast.

Around half a dozen people were also reported injured, while rescue teams continued searching the river for anyone who might still be missing.

The exact number of people on board and the final casualty count are subject to official confirmation.

According to preliminary information, between 15 and 20 people were aboard the boat when it overturned in the river.

The accident triggered panic, prompting local residents and the administration to launch rescue efforts.



Hyderabad, Oct 13 (IANS) Comprehensive measures have been taken to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply in the Hyderabad Core Area in view of the anticipated El Nino impact, Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said on Tuesday.

He appealed to people to conserve water and extend their cooperation to the measures being undertaken by the government.

Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) and Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) areas within the Hyderabad Core Area.

The Chief Secretary directed the officials to effectively utilise the available water resources and take all necessary measures to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience in drinking water supply, despite reduced water availability in reservoirs due to the

The Chief Secretary on Tuesday chaired a review meeting to assess drinking water supply preparedness in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC),

Telangana gears up to ensure uninterrupted water supply in Hyderabad

El Nino phenomenon.

The Chief Secretary explained that drinking water is supplied to the Hyderabad Core Area primarily from Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar, Manjeera, Krishna and Godavari water sources. The available water in these sources is around 560 MGD. To meet the city's drinking water requirements, a plan has been drawn to utilise an additional 60 MGD of water, comprising 15 MGD from the Krishna River, 20 MGD through Mission Bhagiratha, another 20 MGD from Mission Bhagiratha and 5 MGD from Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar, he said.

Officials informed the meeting that 5 TMC of water is available at Mallannasagar. With the pipeline project to

transport water from Mallannasagar to the city expected to be completed in November, an additional 20 MGD of water is expected to become available for utilisation.

The Chief Secretary observed that groundwater levels in the city had declined significantly over the past two to three months compared to last year, resulting in increased demand for water tankers. Sanjay Jaju directed officials to ensure that sewage treatment plants (STPs) in gated communities and apartment complexes function at full capacity. He emphasised the need to create awareness among residents about using treated wastewater for gardening, vehicle washing and other non-domestic purposes.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

New hope in battle against cancer

A new beacon of hope has now emerged in humanity's war against cancer. An announcement from Russia about successful clinical trials of a cancer vaccine — using mRNA technology — has created excitement and hope among the scientific community. While it may be premature to celebrate the development as a breakthrough, it certainly marks a significant milestone in the global efforts to tame the deadly disease. mRNA (messenger RNA) technology involves “teaching” the immune system to recognise and destroy cancer cells by instructing cells to produce tumour-specific antigens. The technology is similar to the one used by Pfizer and Moderna in the development of Covid-19 vaccines. These personalised vaccines can be tailored to an individual's tumour, potentially activating cellular immunity to target cancer cells effectively. Russian scientists have developed a personalised mRNA-based cancer vaccine called Enteromix. It has shown 100 per cent efficacy and safety in early-stage clinical trials involving 48 patients with colorectal cancer. And, there were no severe side effects reported. If this can be replicated in larger samples across countries, then the jab could mark a turning point in the global fight against the disease. Enteromix shots have shown significant results in shrinking tumours and slowing their growth, and have reportedly been found safe for repeated use. The vaccines will be first deployed against colorectal cancer, one of the most common malignancies. Vaccines against aggressive skin and brain cancers are reportedly in the pipeline. The vaccine has been developed by the National Medical Research Radiology Centre and the Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology in Russia. However, Enteromix is not a one-size-fits-all jab. It uses RNA extracted from the patient's own tumour cells to teach their immune system how to attack the cancer. Unlike traditional treatments for cancer, including chemotherapy or radiation, which attack healthy cells along with cancerous ones, the Russian vaccine is designed to be targeted and minimally invasive. The global oncology community is keenly watching further developments. If these results are validated through larger, rigorous trials, Enteromix could herald a new era: personalised, effective, and side-effect-free cancer treatment.

AN EMPIRE OF CORRUPTION IN THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Bribes Allegedly Demanded for Every Service
ACB Raids Fail to Deter Some Officials
Public Service Takes a Back Seat—Indian cronicle 13 October Manuguru

“The Revenue Department in Telangana has come under scrutiny over allegations of corruption and bribery. Concerns have been raised that some officials are allegedly demanding bribes for routine public services, including the issuance of certificates, changes to land records, and transfer of pattas. There are allegations that unofficial rates are being fixed for processing applications, forcing citizens to face unnecessary difficulties while accessing government services. Despite Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) raids, arrests, and legal action against officials accused of corruption, concerns persist about the continuation of such practices in certain areas. Government employees are expected to uphold their official oath, maintain ethical standards, and serve the public with integrity. However, allegations that some officials prioritise illegal financial gains over public service raise serious questions about administrative accountability. Higher authorities should conduct regular inspections, ensure transparency in government offices, display officially prescribed service fees, and establish clear timelines for delivering public services. Citizens should also be provided with accessible channels to report demands for bribes. Complaints must be investigated fairly and promptly, and strict legal action should be taken wherever corruption is established through credible evidence. At the same time, honest officials must be protected from baseless allegations. A



transparent and accountable Revenue Department is essential to protect citizens' rights, restore public confidence, and ensure that government services are delivered without illegal demands.

Rs.20 Lakh CC Road Inaugurated at Hanuman Tekdi Palabhishekam Performed to Mynampally Hanumanth Rao in Recognition of His Support

“ALWAL October 13(INDIAN CHRONICLE)“ A new cement concrete (CC) road constructed at a cost of Rs.20 lakh was inaugurated at Hanuman Tekdi, near Bhulaxamma Temple, in the Machabollaram area, marking another step towards improving local infrastructure and road connectivity. Residents of the colony have been facing difficulties due to waterlogging and drainage-related issues in several areas. The newly inaugurated CC



road is expected to improve road conditions, facilitate smoother movement and provide greater convenience to residents. On the occasion, local representatives and residents performed Palabhishekam to Mynampally Hanumanth Rao as a gesture of gratitude for his support and contribution towards the development of the locality. The participants expressed their appreciation for the assistance extended towards Former Ex-Corporator Raj Jitender naath emphasized the importance of strengthening basic infrastructure to improve the quality of life in residential colonies. The initiative reflects the continued efforts to address local infrastructure needs and provide better roads, improved connectivity and enhanced civic amenities for the residents of Hanuman Tekdi.

Ex-Corporator Shanti Srinivas Reddy Seeks Maa Durga's Blessings During Navratri Celebrations

“Participates in Annadanam organised by Sri Durga Bhavani Yuvatha Association“ALWAL October 13(INDIAN CHRONICLE)“ As part of the ongoing Navratri celebrations, former Corporator Shanti Srinivas Reddy visited the celebrations and sought the blessings of Maa Durga. Accompanied by Arun, Yadagiri and Saajid, she



participated in the religious festivities and offered prayers to the Goddess, reflecting devotion and spiritual fervour. On the occasion, Shanti Srinivas Reddy also participated in the Annadanam programme organised by the Sri Durga Bhavani Yuvatha Association. The initiative served as a gesture of service and devotion, highlighting the importance of sharing food and extending support to devotees during the auspicious festival. The Navratri celebrations brought devotees together in an atmosphere of faith, unity and devotion. Such religious and service-oriented activities play an important role in strengthening community bonds and preserving cultural traditions. Association members and other participants, including Srinivas, Shiva, Ram Reddy, Devender Reddy, Sravan Goud, Rajender, Sridher Reddy, Eshwar, Ajay and Ajay Goud, took part in the programme and contributed to the celebrations.

Rs.18 Lakh Park Development Inaugurated at Samala Lakshmi Nagar Colony

“A park developed at a cost of Rs.18 lakh in Samala Lakshmi Nagar Colony, located in Kowkoor under Yaprli Division—189, was formally inaugurated by the colony elders. The inauguration was celebrated with enthusiasm, with residents expressing happiness over the development of the new recreational facility. Speaking on the occasion, the participants highlighted the importance given to the development of essential infrastructure in the colony during the tenure of Mynampally Hanumanth Rao. Along with the park, several civic amenities, including the sewerage system, CC roads, electricity poles and drinking water pipelines, have received attention with his support. They stated that his continued cooperation has been helpful in taking up development works required by the residents. The newly developed park is expected to provide a convenient recreational space for children, a pleasant walking area for senior citizens and other residents during the morning and evening hours,



and a refreshing environment for women and families. Colony residents welcomed the facility and expressed their satisfaction with the improvement in local amenities. Speaking at the programme, Mallikarjun, senior Congress leader from the Malkajgiri Assembly constituency and social activist, said that he would always remain accessible to the people and work towards the overall development of Samala Lakshmi Nagar Colony with the blessings and cooperation of its residents. He assured the residents that he would continue to strive for the resolution of public grievances and the provision of essential infrastructure. On the occasion, the colony elders and residents expressed their special gratitude to Mynampally Hanumanth Rao and former corporator Jithender Nath for their support towards the development of the park and the welfare of the colony. The programme was attended by Gaurinath, G.K. Rao, Jha, Dharmarao, Ramayan Singh, Srinivas Reddy, Rajashekar, R.O. Goud, Khalil, Prasad, Srinivas Yadav, Ravi, Yadagiri, Rakesh Tiwari, Tushar, Kavitha, Ramalakshmi and Jyothi, along with several women, colony elders and local residents. The inauguration marked an important step towards improving recreational facilities and enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Samala Lakshmi Nagar Colony.

Bathukamma Celebrations Should Be Organised on a Grand Scale: FORMER MLA NVSS PRABHAKER

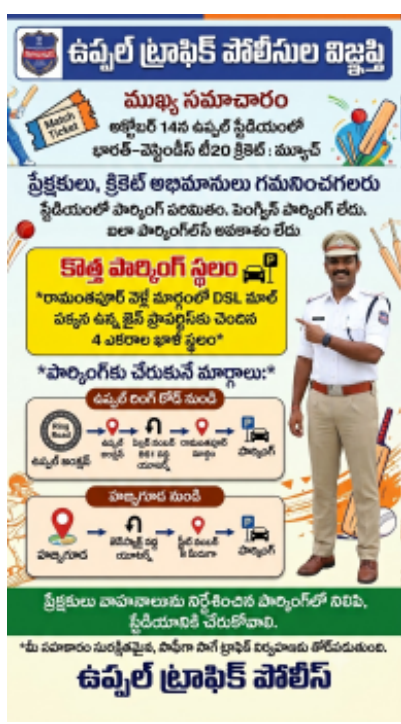
RAMANTHAPUR , OCTOBER 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):A special meeting of BJP women leaders was held to discuss arrangements for the Bathukamma celebrations scheduled for October 15. The meeting was organised under the leadership of senior BJP leaders Ambati Bhagyalakshmi and Thalla Manga Goud. “Former Uppal MLA NVSS Prabhakar and Medchal—Malkajgiri Urban OBC District General Secretary Vallapu Jagannad Yadav attended the meeting as chief guests. “Speaking on the occasion, former MLA NVSS Prabhakar said that Bathukamma is a symbol of Telangana's rich culture and traditions. He stated that the festival, celebrated by women with colourful floral arrangements while worshipping nature, represents the unity, pride and self-respect of Telangana women. “He emphasised that preserving and passing on the state's cultural heritage and traditions to future generations is everyone's responsibility. He called upon women to participate in large numbers and celebrate Bathukamma with joy and enthusiasm. He also urged everyone to work collectively to ensure that the celebrations are organised on a grand scale and made a success. “Bhogala Aruna, Suvarna Shinde, Veena,



Keerthi, Sheelam Sudha, Konderu Sravanthi, Vijetha, Parijatham, Neeraja and others participated in the meeting.

India—West Indies T20 Match: Traffic Restrictions in Uppal Heavy Vehicles to Be Diverted; Parking Arrangements at Five Locations

““UPPAL, OCTOBER 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“The Malkajgiri Traffic Police have announced traffic restrictions and vehicle diversions in view of the fourth international T20 cricket match between India and the West Indies scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 14, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal. With a large number of spectators expected to attend the match, traffic congestion is likely on several major roads between 12 noon and 11.50 pm. “The police said heavy traffic is expected on the Nagole—Uppal



Junction—Habsiguda stretch and on the Boduppal—Uppal Junction—Ramanthapur—Amberpet route. Commuters travelling along these stretches have been advised to use alternative routes wherever possible. “Heavy Vehicle Diversion Routes“Heavy vehicles coming from Ghatkesar towards Uppal will be diverted towards Nagole and LB Nagar from the HMDA Uppal Bhagayat entrance near Mehfil Hotel. “Heavy vehicles coming from LB Nagar towards Uppal will be diverted from the U-turn near Nagole Metro Station via HMDA Bhagayat, Toyota U-turn, Boduppal and Chengicherla towards IOCL Cherlapally or Ghatkesar. “Vehicles approaching Uppal from Tarnaka will be diverted from Habsiguda X Roads via Nacharam, NFC Rotary and IOCL Cherlapally towards Ghatkesar. Heavy vehicles coming from Ramanthapur will be diverted from Street No. 8 via Habsiguda X Roads, Nacharam and NFC Rotary. “Heavy vehicles travelling from Warangal towards Hyderabad via Uppal have been advised to enter the Outer Ring Road (ORR) at Ghatkesar and proceed via Abdullapurmet, LB Nagar and Dilsukhnagar. Vehicles travelling from Hyderabad towards Warangal should take the LB Nagar—Hayathnagar route and enter the ORR at Abdullapurmet. “Parking Arrangements at Five Locations“The police have identified five major parking areas for spectators attending the match. Four parking locations outside the stadium will be available to general spectators, while the A Ground parking area inside the

stadium will be reserved exclusively for VIPs, VVIPs and authorised pass holders. “Spectators travelling from Uppal X Roads towards Habsiguda can use the TG IALA parking area near EK Minar. For those travelling towards Ramanthapur, parking facilities will be available at the vacant site belonging to Jain Properties beside DSL Mall, near Modern Bakers and at the vacant DSL site opposite the NSL building. “Vehicles heading to the A Ground parking area inside the stadium must enter only through Gate No. 1A. The police clarified that vehicles without valid parking passes will not be permitted beyond the EK Minar and LG Godown check-posts. “Police Advisory for Spectators“Spectators arriving from LB Nagar have been advised to park their vehicles at the vacant sites belonging to Jain Properties, Modern Bakers and Agarwal Properties along the road towards Ramanthapur. “Those arriving from Habsiguda should take a U-turn near the Survey of India and use the TG IALA parking area beside EK Minar. Spectators coming from Ramanthapur should take a U-turn near DSL Mall and park their vehicles at the designated parking locations. “The Malkajgiri Traffic Police have appealed to cricket fans to minimise the use of private vehicles and make use of public transport facilities, including TSRTC buses and Metro Rail services. The police have also urged commuters to plan their journeys in advance, take note of the traffic restrictions and cooperate with personnel deployed to regulate traffic during the match.”

NIMS walkathon highlights early detection of life-threatening blood clots

“Hyderabad Correspondent, October 13 (Indian Chronicle): Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) organised a walkathon and awareness programme on Tuesday to highlight the importance of preventing thrombosis, a condition that can lead to life-threatening complications if left untreated. NIMS Director Rahul Devaraj flagged off the walkathon, held from 8 am to 9 am, from the Buddha statue to the institute's main gate at Punjagutta via the emergency gate. The programme was led by Professor Sandeep Mahapatra, Head of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. Under the theme “Stop the Clot”, doctors highlighted risk factors, warning signs and preventive measures associated with thrombosis, which can cause deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, stroke and heart attack. Devaraj stressed the importance of recognising symptoms early and seeking timely medical care. Persistent immobility, surgery, obesity and smoking were identified as key risk factors. NIMS Dean Professor Chandrasekar, Additional Medical Superintendent Dr Krishna Reddy, faculty members, resident doctors, nursing and paramedical students and other staff participated in the programme.



Karimnagar civic body chief stresses asset protection, prompt grievance redressal

Officials told to clear pending petitions, enforce biometric attendance and digitise file movement.



Karimnagar October 13, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): Karimnagar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Praful Desai has directed officials to safeguard municipal assets, expedite the disposal of public grievances and improve administrative efficiency.

At a review meeting with officials and staff of the Engineering, Town Planning, Revenue and other sections at the corporation office on Tuesday, Mr. Desai reviewed pending works, the maintenance of civic assets, the implementation of biometric attendance and the use of the e-Office system.

He directed officials to prepare comprehensive records of all municipal properties, including vacant lands, buildings, parks, reservoirs, sports grounds, treatment plants, markets, slaughterhouses, nurseries, dumping yards, ward offices, Basthi Dawakhanas, community halls, Rythu bazaars, libraries and sanitation vehicles. The records should include photographs and the current status of each property, he said.

Emphasising the need to protect public assets, Mr. Desai asked officials to draw up plans for constructing compound walls around properties that lacked them and

take appropriate measures to ensure their security.

He instructed the departments concerned to dispose of all pending applications received through CM Prajavani and Prajavani without delay. Officials should ensure that every petition was addressed and that applicants received appropriate relief, he said.

The Commissioner also directed government employees, outsourcing personnel and sanitation workers to comply strictly with the biometric attendance system and maintain punctuality.

Calling for greater transparency and efficiency in municipal administration, he instructed officials to make full use of the e-Office system and ensure that file movement and official transactions were handled digitally.

Additional Commissioner Ayaz, Deputy Commissioners Qadar Mohiuddin and Venu Madhav, Assistant Commissioner Rajamanohar, Executive Engineer Lachireddy, Deputy Executive Engineers Devender, Om Prakash and Venkateshwarlu, DCP Bashiroddin, ACPs Venu and Sridhar, assistant engineers, town planning supervisors, superintendents and other officials attended the meeting.

Cyber fraudsters dupe three victims of Rs 5.35 crore in a day

Hyderabad Correspondent, October 13 (Indian Chronicle): Three cyber fraud cases involving losses of nearly Rs 5.35 crore in a single day have prompted Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar to warn



citizens against digital arrest scams, fraudulent investment offers and online impersonation. In one case, an accountant at a company allegedly transferred Rs 2.70 crore after opening an unidentified ZIP file and

acting on fraudulent WhatsApp messages bearing the CEO's display picture. The transfers reportedly continued for eight days without the CEO adequately monitoring bank transaction alerts. In another incident, a 72-year-old woman was allegedly threatened with money laundering charges and fabricated investigations in the names of the CBI and Enforcement Directorate. The fraudsters kept her under a so-called digital arrest for 20 days and cheated her of Rs 2.12 crore, including proceeds from the sale of her gold. A doctor who had returned from abroad lost Rs 52.51 lakh after trusting Instagram promotions promising daily returns of 5% to 20% through a fake trading application. Sajjanar clarified that digital arrest is not a legally recognised procedure in India and that investigative agencies do not demand money. He urged citizens to verify suspicious calls and payment requests independently and monitor bank alerts. Under the 'Jagruth Hyderabad-Surakshith Hyderabad' campaign, police conducted 11,417 awareness programmes, reaching around 5.06 lakh people in a year. He advised cyber fraud victims to call the national helpline 1930 immediately or lodge a complaint at cybercrime.gov.in.

Continental Hospitals Launches ROSA ONE BRAIN Neuro Robotic System, Celebrates 500 Robotic Surgeries

Hyderabad: Continental Hospitals, Hyderabad, has taken another significant step in advanced neurological care with the launch of the state-of-the-art ROSA ONE BRAIN neuro robotic system and the unveiling of the GE-designed SI-GNA HERO 3.0T ultra-premium, head-only MRI system. The hospital also celebrated the successful completion of 500 robotic surgeries across multiple medical specialties, marking a milestone in its adoption of advanced surgical technologies. Speaking at the launch and the celebration of 500 robotic surgeries, Dr. Guru N. Reddy, Founder and Chairman of Continental Hospitals, said the hospital is among the few in the country deploying robotic surgical technology across a wide range of specialties, including Surgical Gastroenterology, Surgical Oncology, Urology, Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Cardiology and Neurosurgery. He highlighted the hospital's commitment to advancing surgical precision and patient care through technology. "Robotic surgery is transforming the field through greater precision, miniaturisation of the surgical field, and the potential to reduce complications and improve outcomes. Continental Hospitals has installed multiple robotic systems across various specialties to bring the best possible care to patients in Telangana and across India. The ROSA ONE BRAIN neuro robotic system is our latest advancement in this journey," said Dr. Guru N. Reddy. "Highlighting the capabilities of the newly unveiled



MRI system, Dr. Reddy said the AI-driven, quiet-scanning technology is designed to provide high-resolution images of the brain, enabling detailed visualisation of fine blood vessels and individual cortical layers. The system can support the evaluation of neurological conditions such as epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, depression, brain tumours, dementia, migraine and persistent headaches, among others. "The advanced MRI system provides detailed information that can help clinicians better understand neurological conditions and plan treatment with greater precision. Combined with advanced robotic assistance, these technologies strengthen our ability to offer sophisticated diagnostic and surgical care under one roof," he added.

Jana Sena's Khairatabad Bypoll Strategy Sparks Political Interest -Industrialist close to Pawan Kalyan may get an opportunity

-Party reportedly considering contesting independently, without relying on alliance arrangements

Hyderabad, October 13 (Indian Chronicle) : Interesting discussions are underway in Telangana's political circles over the future course of the Jana Sena Party, particularly in the context of the Khairatabad Assembly by-election. The question of who will represent the party



in the electoral fray has become a topic of political speculation. According to political circles, there is speculation that a prominent industrialist who is close to Jana Sena chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and holds key responsibilities within the party, may be considered for the candidature. The industrialist is said to have considerable experience in the software and business sectors, along with an interest in public

service and social responsibility. Discussions suggest that the party may be exploring the possibility of fielding a candidate with professional expertise, a clean public image and a commitment to serving society. Some believe that giving an opportunity to a person who can utilise business experience for public welfare could benefit the party. The development assumes significance as Jana Sena looks to strengthen its grassroots presence in Telangana, take its ideology to the people and expand its reach among the youth and various social groups. The Khairatabad by-election is also being viewed as an opportunity for the party to consolidate its presence in Telangana politics. There is growing interest in whether Jana Sena will use the contest to establish a stronger independent political identity in the state. Political observers believe that professionals with experience in business and technology could bring fresh perspectives to issues such as development, employment generation, opportunities for youth and social welfare. Against this backdrop, questions are being raised over whether the industrialist will be given an opportunity to contest on the Jana Sena ticket and what strategy the party leadership will adopt for the Khairatabad by-election. There is also speculation that the party may consider contesting independently, without depending on its alliance arrangements. However, Jana Sena has not yet made any official announcement regarding its candidature for the Khairatabad by-election. The speculation is likely to continue until the party leadership clarifies its position. The party's eventual strategy and candidate selection are expected to draw considerable attention in Telangana's political circles.

Smoking Nearly Halved in Japan in a Decade: Experts at Technovation Tashkent 2026 Call for Science-Led Tobacco Policy

Hyderabad Japan, Sweden and the United States show that giving adult smokers access to scientifically assessed smoke-free alternatives, under clear regulation, can help bring smoking down, experts told Technovation Tashkent 2026. The international innovation forum, convened by Philip Morris International (PMI), held its first Central Asian edition in Tashkent on 30 September. It brought together senior officials of the Government of Uzbekistan, scientists, business leaders, consumer advocates and doctors from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Russia. "Opening the forum, Akram Aliyev, Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan, said the success of innovation "should be measured not only by economic indicators, but also by its contribution to preserving and improving the health of the nation". "There are more than one billion smokers in the world, and the number is not declining. If they don't want to quit, you have to propose something better for them," shared Marco Mariotti, President, South & Southeast Asia and CIS, Philip Morris International. In her keynote, Dr. Tomoko Iida, Senior Director, Scientific Engagement at PMI, explained why a better option is possible. Most smoking-related disease is caused by burning tobacco, which produces more than 6,000 chemicals, around 100 of them harmful. Nicotine is addictive and not risk-free, but it is not the primary cause of these diseases. She said products that deliver nicotine without burning can therefore reduce exposure to harmful chemicals, provided smokers find them acceptable enough to switch. "Japan shows



what can happen when such products become available. Heated tobacco went on sale there, and in Italy, in 2014. Dr. Iida said earlier tax rises, advertising limits and smoking bans had produced only marginal declines. A study in the BMJ journal Tobacco Control found that cigarette sales in Japan fell by more than half between 2011 and 2023, and identified the rise of heated tobacco as a factor. "In Japan, smoking prevalence has nearly halved in 10 years. In 2014 it was around 20%, and now it is around 10%. The reason is that less harmful alternatives were available, accessible and affordable for legal-age smokers to switch to," shared Dr. Tomoko Iida, Senior Director, Scientific Engagement, Philip Morris International.

Vajrateja's Beejam Invites Students to Participate in 'The Journey of a Grain' Art Campaign

Hyderabad: Vajrateja Rice Clusters Pvt. Ltd., Telangana's largest rice milling and distribution enterprise, announced the final fortnight of its state-wide student art campaign, "The Journey of a Grain," at a press meet held at Hotel AVASA, Hitech City, Hyderabad, on 13 October 2026. The initiative, conducted ahead of the launch of its forthcoming consumer rice brand, Beejam, has reached approximately 10 lakh students across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. "The campaign encourages students from Classes 6 to 12 in government and private schools to explore the seven stages of paddy cultivation through art and conversations with farmers, grandparents and elders who have worked on the land. The

effort, skill and decisions involved in producing the rice they eat every day, while building awareness of farmers' contributions and encouraging responsible food consumption. "Addressing the press meet, Mr. Hanuman Prasad, Executive Director & CEO, Vajrateja Rice Clusters Pvt. Ltd., said, "Most of us eat rice three times a day and have never once thought about who grew it. We did not want to run an advertisement saying we respect the farmer—anyone can say that, and it costs nothing. We wanted to do something that was difficult to fake. The poster is the excuse; the conversation is the campaign. When a child speaks to a farmer or an elder and understands what goes into growing rice, that experience can stay with them for a lifetime. "The company expects approximately



seven stages include sowing and nursery preparation, transplanting, weeding, irrigation, harvesting, threshing, and drying and storage. "Students are required to hand-paint any one of these stages on a plain white A3 sheet after speaking to someone with firsthand knowledge of farming. The initiative aims to help children understand

10,000 artworks by the closing date of October 31, 2026. Participation is free, and every student who submits an eligible entry will receive a Certificate of Participation. The artworks will be evaluated by an independent jury comprising a working farmer, a practising artist and an educator, reflecting the campaign's emphasis on authentic understanding of farming alongside artistic expression.

Bharat Forge, Mahindra among private defence suppliers instructed to step up production of munition, carriers



The government is learnt to have reached out to multiple private companies that are into defence equipment production, including Bharat Forge and Mahindra & Mahindra's defence division. This is linked to specific instructions being issued to private vendors for upscaling supplies of certain ammunition, including for anti-drone and smart ammunition, alongside equipment such as armoured vehicles that can be integrated with different weaponry — loitering munitions and guided missiles. Instructions have been issued to these private players to step up output of some items, including designated ammunition, over and above what is already being produced by the Ordnance Factories. Sources in the industry said these suppliers are likely to be summoned for a follow-up meeting shortly.

Bharat Forge has a large defence manufacturing facility in Jejuri, near Pune, dedicated to the assembly and integration of guns, vehicles, small and medium arms, and systems. The company had, earlier this year, signed a landmark contract with the Ministry of Defence for supplying 184 indigenously developed Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS). The 155/52 mm calibre ATAGS was jointly developed with the Defence Research

and Development Organisation.

The indigenously developed ATAGS can fire projectiles up to 48 km and operates on an all-electric drives that makes it maintenance-free in comparison to regular hydraulic drives. It can move at a speed of 18 kmph, unlike towed guns, which typically move at around 8 kmph. Additionally, the ATAGS has a firing rate of six shells, compared to three for towed guns. Existing ammunition can be successfully fired from the ATAGS without requiring special modifications. Mahindra, too, had obtained a licence from the government to produce small arms and associated ammunition, along with its specialisation in making armoured carriers and non-armoured mobility solutions for the Indian Army. The company also produces the Marksman, a military vehicle designed for urban warfare, and the Rakshak, an armoured military utility vehicle. The Indian Army had earlier issued a request for information seeking vendors to manufacture 23mm anti-drone ammunition under the "Make in India" initiative, which is being overseen by the Directorate General of Army Air Defence. The country's defence production has grown sharply since the launch of the "Make in India" initiative, reaching a record Rs 1.27 lakh crore in FY24. Currently, about 65 per cent of defence equipment is now manufactured domestically, as compared to a 65-70 per cent import dependency around a decade ago. The private sector including companies such as Bharat Forge, Mahindra and the Tata Group are playing an increasingly important role, contributing 21 per cent to total defence production in FY24, alongside fostering innovation and efficiency. India's defence industrial base, apart from the 16 PSUs, now includes over 430 licensed companies, and approximately 16,000 MSMEs.

Pakistan gets IMF tranche but economy too stretched to sustain long standoff

The Board of the International Monetary Fund Friday cleared \$2.3 billion in funding for cash-strapped Pakistan, even as New Delhi abstained from the vote after having firmly opposed the move stating providing funds to a country that supports cross border terrorism carries reputational risks and undermines international norms. The lifeline notwithstanding, high debt and perilously low foreign exchange reserves significantly add to the fragility of the Pakistan economy, which is grappling with an almost perennial balance of payment crisis and high inflation in recent years.

Its external debt jumped to over \$130 billion in 2024, with more than a fifth of this estimated to be owned by its key ally China. Its forex reserves are pegged at a little over \$15 billion, capable of paying for just about three months of imports. The forex reserves remain low relative to funding needs, with over \$22 billion of public external debt, including nearly \$13 billion in bilateral deposits, maturing in FY25, as per a Fitch report in February.

The Ministry of External Affairs said it would ask the IMF board members to look "deep within" and take facts into account before generously bailing out Pakistan. In such a dire situation, a money-guzzling conflict with India should be the last thing on a beleaguered Islamabad's mind, as it would have to essentially fund any long-drawn-out conflict with borrowed money. And while a prolonged military conflict with Pakistan is bound to impact India to some extent, the world's New Delhi is far more equipped to handle the economic impact. These crucial points have been underscored by experts and analysts more than once.

In fact, just two days before Operation Sindoor, Moody's Ratings cautioned that "sustained escalation in tensions with India would likely weigh on Pakistan's growth and hamper the government's ongoing fiscal consolidation, setting back Pakistan's progress in achieving macroeconomic stability". The global ratings agency said that a persistent increase in tensions with India could also impair Pakistan's access to external financing and pressure the country's forex reserves, which remain "well below what is required to meet its external debt payment needs for the next few years".

With elevated debt levels and low reserve buffers, Islamabad had earlier managed to get a bailout package from the IMF in September 2024 with the approval of a \$7-billion loan, following which its economy has shown some early signs of a recovery from the brink of a collapse. As per the latest South Asia Development Update released in April by the IMF, Pakistan's economy has been recovering from a combination of natural disasters, external pressures, and inflation. While inflation has slowed more quickly than expected along with strong imports of capital goods and high consumer confidence suggesting a pickup in private sector growth, the incoming data on economic activity have been weaker than expected, the IMF said. Economic growth of Pakistan is projected to rise to 3.1 per cent in the financial year 2025-26 from 2.7 per cent in the financial year 2024-25, 2.5 per cent in 2023-24 and a contraction of 0.2 per cent in 2022-23. The ongoing 37-month long Extended Fund Facility programme of the IMF consists of six reviews over the span of the bailout. The other multilateral bank, the World Bank, also expects Pakistan's economic activity to grow 3.2 per cent in FY26 and 3.5 per cent in FY27. It also flagged that Pakistan's growth will likely remain constrained by tight macroeconomic policies focused on re-



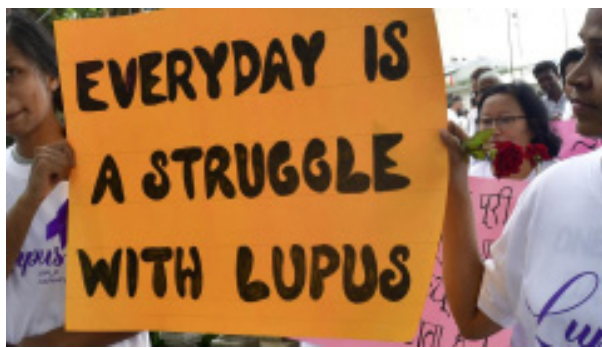
building fiscal and external buffers and mitigating risks to economic imbalances. Potential macroeconomic policy slippages — driven by pressures to ease policies — along with geopolitical shocks to commodity prices, tightening global financial conditions, or rising protectionism could undermine the "hard-won macroeconomic stability", the IMF had pointed out in its statement in March this year after the first staff-level review of the loan facility extended to Pakistan. Funding from other multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank is also crucial for Pakistan's economic revival and securing it would be a challenge as India steps up its ante by seeking support from all MDBs. When the bailout package was secured by Pakistan last year, the IMF in its report in October had assessed the overall risk of sovereign stress for the country as "high", saying that it reflected "a high level of vulnerability from elevated debt and gross financing needs and low reserve buffers".

"Notwithstanding the new government's intent to deepen reforms under a new Fund-supported program, political uncertainty remains significant, and pressures for easing policies and providing tax concessions and subsidies are strong. A resurgence in political or social tensions could weigh on policy and reform implementation. Policy slippages, including particularly on needed revenue measures, together with lower external financing, could undermine the narrow path to debt sustainability, given the high level of gross financing needs, and place pressure on the exchange rate and on banks to finance the government," the IMF report had said. As for the impact on India, Moody's said: "Comparatively, the macroeconomic conditions in India would be stable, bolstered by moderating but still high levels of growth amid strong public investment and healthy private consumption. In a scenario of sustained escalation in localized tensions, we do not expect major disruptions to India's economic activity because it has minimal economic relations with Pakistan". The ratings agency, however, added that higher defence spending in such an eventuality would potentially weigh on New Delhi's fiscal strength and slow its fiscal consolidation. Experts and multilateral institutions have repeatedly flagged major structural problems and other risks plaguing the country's economy that have largely remained unaddressed. These include high fiscal and current account deficits, political instability, low agriculture and industrial productivity, protectionist trade policies, heavy government interference in business, a large and inefficient public sector, a financially unsustainable and import-dependent energy sector, weak exports, and a small taxpayer base, among others. Natural calamities like widespread floods have also exacerbated Pakistan's economic woes in recent years.

ter-on-quarter and over five times year-on-year to Rs 212 crore, and strong efficiency and execution drove a margin expansion to 2.9 per cent of GOV, up from 0.5 per cent a year ago.

Swiggy Instamart average order value increased 13.3 per cent to Rs 527 during the quarter. Instamart added 316 new dark stores — an increase of 45 per cent sequentially — its highest-ever during a quarter. Investments into customer acquisition amidst high competitive intensity saw monthly transacting users (MTUs) surge 40 per cent quarter-on-quarter to 9.8 million, the company said. Swiggy MD & Group CEO Sriharsha Majety said, "Quick-commerce is in a phase of rapid expansion and heightened competitive intensity, for which we have ramped up investments aimed at market expansion (Megapods), reach (1,000+ stores across 124 cities) and differentiation (Maxxaver).

All you need to know about: Lupus



While the general prevalence of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in India is reported as 3.2 per 100,000 population, specific data on various types of lupus within India are limited. Studies on SLE in India have primarily focused on the overall disease prevalence and its clinical features. According to studies, lupus care in India faces challenges related to access, cost and awareness. Specifically, limited access to specialised rheumatologists, financial burdens, and inadequate insurance coverage contribute to difficulties in diagnosis and management. Furthermore, stigmas associated with chronic illnesses and lack of awareness among healthcare providers and the public can lead to delays in seeking medical help.

What is lupus?

Lupus is a long-term, progressive autoimmune disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks healthy tissue throughout the body. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, joints, kidneys, lungs, heart, and brain. The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that lupus involves chronic stimulation of the immune system, and its exact cause remains unknown. The Lancet describes lupus as a multisystemic autoimmune disease marked by the presence of autoantibodies against nuclear antigens, immune complex deposition, and chronic inflammation -- primarily affecting classic target organs like the skin, joints, and kidneys. Lupus, has several forms, with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) being the most common and serious type. Other forms include Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (CLE), which primarily affects the skin. Within CLE, there are further subtypes like Discoid Lupus Erythematosus (DLE), which is characterised by circular lesions, and Subacute Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (SCLE), which often presents with rashes and joint pain. Drug-induced lupus can occur as a side effect of certain medications, while neonatal lupus affects newborns.

What are the signs and symptoms ?

It is a highly variable disease. This means that the symptoms, their severity, and the way the disease progresses can differ significantly from person to person -- with some experiencing mild symptoms and others facing life-threatening complications. The most common symptom, as reported by the CDC, is extreme fatigue, which can significantly impact both physical and mental

well-being. Other frequent symptoms include pain or swelling in the joints and muscles, fevers, hair loss, frequent mouth sores, and a characteristic butterfly-shaped rash across the cheeks and nose. Less common but important symptoms may involve chest pain during deep breathing, heightened sensitivity to sunlight, cognitive and mental health changes, damage to the eyes, and complications in vital organs such as the heart, lungs, and kidneys. The WHO emphasises that the variation in affected organs may reflect different underlying immune pathways, supported by distinct autoantibody profiles. These symptoms tend to occur in episodes, known as flares, which can be followed by periods of remission where symptoms temporarily subside.

Who is at risk?

Anyone can be at risk of being affected by lupus. However, certain populations are more vulnerable. The CDC and a report in Nature highlight that it primarily occurs among women between puberty and menopause and is more common among individuals of African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Indigenous descent. While it can occur at any age, it's most often diagnosed between 15 and 45 years old. It affects approximately 3.4 million people worldwide, with 400,000 individuals being newly diagnosed each year. Though the exact cause remains unknown, WHO suggests that genetic predisposition combined with hormonal and environmental triggers likely contributes to disease development. Studies also indicate that the chance of developing SLE is believed to be associated with genetic factors, epigenetic factors, environmental triggers, and hormonal factors. Differences in clinical patterns among patients suggest that multiple disease mechanisms may be involved, making the condition highly individualised.

What are the treatment options?

Treatment for lupus aims to manage symptoms, prevent organ damage, and maintain low disease activity or achieve remission. The Lancet outlines current therapeutic approaches -- under personalised guidance from healthcare professionals --- starting with hydroxychloroquine as a baseline medication, often supplemented with corticosteroids and immunosuppressants depending on severity. In recent years, newer therapies like belimumab, anifrolumab, and voclosporin have been approved, particularly improving outcomes for patients with lupus nephritis -- a kidney disease caused by SLE. Alongside medications, non-pharmacological strategies are essential, including lifestyle interventions, sun protection, mental health support, and patient education to improve quality of life and treatment adherence. The WHO points out that despite medical advances, there is still no universally reliable marker for diagnosis or disease activity, and access to newer treatments remains unequal globally. The primary goals of treatment are to suppress immune overactivity, manage flares, and reduce long-term complications such as infections, osteoporosis, and cardiovascular disease caused both by the illness and its treatments.

How did India's national health programmes contribute to increased longevity?

India has registered a rise on the Human Development Index (HDI), ranking 130 out of 193 countries as per the 2025 Human Development Report (HDR) released earlier this week by the United Nations Development Programme. The country ranked 133 in 2022. India's HDI value increases from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023, placing the country in the medium human development category. The recent report added that India's life expectancy is the highest since the inception of the index, signalling a strong recovery from the pandemic and its impact on life expectancy. Life expectancy rose from 58.6 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2023, the highest recorded since the index began.

Why has life expectancy improved?

According to the report this can be attributed to a number of factors including the country's overall push for investment and inclusive development. Angela Lusigi, resident representative, UNDP India said that rising life expectancy could be attributed to India's robust recovery from the pandemic and its investments and commitment to long-term human well-being. Credit is also being given to renewed focus on women-led development and quality education and healthcare for all. The report notes that national health programmes by successive governments such as the National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana, and Poshan Abhiyaan have also contributed significantly to this achievement. Besides this, children today are expected to stay in school for 13 years on average, up from 8.2 years in 1990. Initiatives like the Right to Education Act, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and the National Education Policy 2020 have enhanced outcomes. Giving insight on the economic front, the report notes that India's Gross National Income per capita rose over four times, from \$2167.22 in 1990 to \$9046.76 in 2023 and this can be attributed to investments in programmes like MGNREGA, Jan Dhan Yojana, and digital inclusion that have contributed to poverty reduction. Importantly, 135 million Indians escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

How has India's maternal/infant mortality rate improved?

As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2021 released by the Registrar General of India (RGI), on May 7, 2025, India has continued to witness a significant improvement in key maternal and child health indicators. The latest data indicates that India has witnessed a steady downward trend in maternal and child mortality towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 targets with its progress outpacing global average. Data notes that maternal mortality ratio dropped significantly from 130 to 93 per lakh live births, infant mortality rate declined from 39 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1000 live births in 2021; neonatal mortality rate has fallen from 26 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 19 per 1000 live births in 2021 and under-five mortality rate has dropped from 45 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 31 per 1000 live births in 2021. "These sustained improvements are a result of strategic interventions and sustained efforts where the government's flagship health schemes are seamlessly integrated to guarantee quality healthcare services — completely free of cost, with zero tolerance for denial of care. Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest health assurance initiative, provides an annual health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family, ensuring financial protection and access to essential services. Also, focused interventions ensure that every pregnant woman is entitled to free institutional delivery, including Caesarean sections, along with complimentary transport, medication, diagnostics, and nutrition support in public health facilities are contributing factors," said a senior Health Ministry official.



What are the challenges ahead?

The report notes that despite the progress made toward ensuring a longer life span for Indians, challenges persist. Inequality reduces India's HDI by 30.7%, one of the highest losses in the region. While health and education inequality have improved, income and gender disparities remain significant. The report also underscores a broader global slowdown in human development. The 2025 HDR reveals that the current pace of progress is the slowest since 1990 -- and India is no exception. "Had pre-2020 trends continued, the world would be on track to reach very high human development by 2030, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal timelines. Now, that milestone risks being delayed by decades," notes the report.

Apple to scale iPhone production in India to \$40 billion by FY26 amid shift from China

New Delhi: Apple is expected to ramp up its iPhone production in India to nearly \$40 billion (about Rs 3,36,000 crore) by the end of FY26, as the tech giant continues to shift its global supply chain away from China amid growing geopolitical tensions and trade tariffs.

According to industry estimates, this move will enable Apple to meet 80 per cent of its iPhone demand in the US and cater fully to India's growing domestic market. The development comes close on the heels of Apple CEO Tim Cook's statement during the company's Q2 2025 earnings call, where he revealed that the majority of iPhones sold in the US in the current April-June quarter would be made in India. "For June, we do expect the majority of iPhones sold in the US will have India as their country of origin," Cook said, citing reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US government that are reshaping production strategies. This pivot is a strategic response to the tariffs that are tied to the country of origin of products. While China will continue to be the origin for most Apple products sold outside the US, India and Vietnam are emerging as key manufacturing hubs. For instance, almost all iPads, Macs

Swiggy's March quarter net loss nearly doubles to Rs 1,081 cr

New Delhi: Food delivery and quick commerce platform Swiggy on Friday reported widening of consolidated net loss during the March quarter to Rs 1,081.18 crore due to significant investments in quick commerce. The company reported a net loss of Rs 554.77 crore on a consolidated basis in the year-ago period. Swiggy's revenue from operations rose to Rs 4,410 crore during the January-March period, as against Rs 3,045.5 crore a year earlier, a regulatory filing showed. However, its total expenses shot up to Rs 5,609.6 crore during the quarter under review, as against Rs 3,668 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. In a statement, Swiggy said the gross order value (GOV) of its food delivery business continues to grow in line with guidance at a healthy 17.6 per cent year-on-year, to Rs 7,347 crore. Adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) grew 15.4 per cent quar-

Amid Rahul & Priyanka's 'Sting' moment, PepsiCo gets court relief



GNS News Agency, Oct 13 During Tuesday's INDIA bloc protest, Rahul Gandhi offered his sister Priyanka a red drink. She looked at it with suspicion, sniffed it, and took a small sip. The video of the exchange went viral, prompting speculation that the drink was PepsiCo's Sting. The viral moment came on the same day the Delhi High Court gave the beverage firm temporary relief in a case concerning Sting. On Tuesday, PepsiCo India Holdings Private Ltd and Monster Energy India Private Limited were before the court to seek an interim stay on the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's order to the two companies to discon-

tinue using the "energy drink" description for its products.

The products included PepsiCo's 'Adrenaline Rush Energy Drink-Ultimate Performance' and 'Sting Energy', and Monster India's 'Monster Energy' and 'Predator Energy'. The food regulator had issued the order on the ground that using 'energy drink' as a label for the product constitutes misbranding and misleading. Justice Amit Mahajan, on October 6, stayed the FSSAI's June 30 order against the two companies covering the four products, along with any consequential action taken by the regulator. The court noted that the order had been passed without issuing a show-cause notice to the beverage makers or giving them an opportunity to be heard. It also sought responses from the Health Ministry and the regulator and listed the matter for November 5. Last month, Red Bull India Pvt Ltd had approached the court with a similar grievance. It, too, was directed by the FSSAI to discontinue using the "energy drink" description for its caffeinated products. The HC had stayed the FSSAI action on similar grounds. The three companies argued that their products fall under the relevant food category and that the regulator had previously clarified that they could use the term "Energy Drink". They contended that the regulator could not "take a somersault" and subsequently state that use of the term could amount to misbranding.

Blood on his face, legs tied: Man found dead in Kolkata cab

GNS News Agency, Oct 13

Kolkata cab driver death, Kolkata cab driver murder, Entally cab driver death, Kolkata cab driver found dead, Entally murder case, Kolkata crime news, Entally crime news, Kolkata cab murder probe, Indian Express news, Kolkata news, Kolkata police news The Kolkata police are investigating when and how the man died and whether he was killed inside the cab or elsewhere before his body was brought to Entally. A cab parked by the roadside in central Kolkata's Entally area drew residents' attention Wednesday morning when repeated calls to the occupant went unanswered. When the police arrived and found the vehicle locked from the inside, they called a mechanic to break open the door. Inside was the body of a man with blood marks on his face and both legs tied with a rope.

According to police sources, officers traced the vehicle's registration number and contacted the app company to identify the man. "The driver was subsequently identified as Bhagwan Prasad Gupta, 45, the vehicle's driver," said a source. The discovery has raised suspicion that Gupta may have been murdered, although the police are yet to officially confirm the cause of death. Officers from Entally Police Station recovered the body and sent it for an autopsy. Officers from the Homicide Section and the Intelligence Branch at Lalbazar, Kolkata Police headquarters, also visited the spot and collected evidence. The police said they are examining how and when Gupta died and whether he



was killed inside the cab or elsewhere before his body was brought to Entally. Investigators are checking CCTV footage from the area to establish a timeline and identify people who may have entered or travelled in the cab. They are also examining the vehicle's booking history and contacting the app company to determine Gupta's last passenger, where the cab travelled after the last ride, and its last known location. The police suspect, as one possibility, that Gupta may have been killed elsewhere and that his body and the cab were later abandoned at the Entally location. Investigators are probing this and other possible explanations. According to police sources, investigators are also contacting Gupta's family, relatives, and friends to establish his movements Tuesday night, including who he was last seen with and whether he had any known personal disputes or enmity.

Mumbai civic body cracks down on tax defaulters, puts Imperial Grand Palace Hotel up for auction



GNS News Agency, Oct 13

In a major move to recover tax dues and boost revenue, the Mumbai civic body has put three commercial Mumbai properties, including the famous Imperial Grand Palace Hotel at the Royal Palms in Aarey Forest, up for auction. This will be the first time since 1984 that the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has auctioned attached properties to recover pending tax dues. This is also the first time the BMC has attached a property linked to the contentious Royal Palms project to recover property tax. In total, the BMC will be auctioning three properties to recover Rs 74.98 crore.

According to civic records, the Imperial Grand Palace Hotel auction shall recover pending dues of Rs 41.52 crore. The Royal Palms project, a contentious project that took off in the 1990s, aimed to transform a portion of the Aarey Forest into a luxury venue for leisure activities by constructing a chain of hotels, restaurants and a golf course. The project, however, nosedived after the properties got entangled in several financial cases. "The current outstanding tax from this property stands at Rs 41.52 crore. The proprietors have been sent multiple notices, and we have had meetings with them. However, despite multiple deliberations, they have failed to pay the pending dues.

Satyagraha for SIR injustice draws FIR: Congress on case against Rahul, Priyanka

New Delhi: Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday said that Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had been "relentlessly exposing" what he described as a "vote chori conspiracy", and criticised the registration of an FIR following the Opposition's protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In a post on X, Ramesh said, "For almost two years now, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has been relentlessly exposing, through factual evidence, the Vote Chori conspiracy hatched between the PM & the HM on one side and the CEC on the other."

He alleged that "crores of genuine voters" had lost their constitutional right to vote through what he called the "atrocious process of SIR – Shahenshah Instigated Removal". Ramesh further said that when Rahul Gandhi adopted the method of "Satyagraha" to highlight what the Congress described as injustices arising from SIR, the Delhi Police registered an FIR against him and other leaders. "And when the LOP-LS adopts the method of satyagraha to highlight the injustices of SIR, the Delhi Police registers an FIR

against him and other leaders." "The diabolical duo is nervous, rattled and desperate. The writing on the wall is clear," Ramesh said in his post. His remarks came after Rahul Gandhi and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were booked along with others in connection with their entry into the Akashwani Bhawan premises during Tuesday's Opposition protest. The police case followed the INDIA bloc's march from Parliament towards the Election Commission headquarters, during which the protesters were stopped near Akashwani Bhawan. The Gandhi siblings and other INDIA bloc leaders were subsequently detained by the Delhi Police after they remained at the premises for several hours. They were later released. The leaders had forcibly entered and gathered on the Akashwani Bhawan campus after being prevented from proceeding towards the Election Commission office. Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Opposition leaders staged a sit-in on the premises, demanding action on the electoral-roll revision exercise and seeking the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Delhi HC seeks decision on body cameras for police, RAF during protests



GNS News Agency, Oct 13

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the government to treat a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking mandatory use of body-worn cameras by Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel deployed for crowd control and protest management duties as a representation. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Arun Bhargava directed the government to take a decision within six months on the framing of a standard operating procedure (SOP) concerning the use of body-worn cameras by police and RAF personnel during protests and crowd-control operations.

The High Court passed the order while disposing of a PIL filed by advocate Chahat Raghav in the aftermath of the July 2026 demonstrations at Jantar Mantar involving the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk. Senior advocate Akhil Sibal, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the Delhi Police's existing framework relies on third-person videographers positioned along the periphery and does not provide an adequate mechanism for contemporaneous recording of actions by personnel deployed for crowd control. He argued that the availability of technology for body-worn cameras could go a long way in ensuring transparency and fixing accountability during crowd-control operations. "If technology is available, it can go a long way in fixing accountability whenever required. It is different from facial recognition, where there are concerns of surveillance," the senior counsel argued. Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Centre, submitted that the petition could be treated as a representation and that a decision would be communicated within six months. Referring to a Supreme

Court judgment and the Delhi High Court rules, ASG Sharma said that a representation was required to be made to the authorities concerned before invoking the PIL jurisdiction. The Centre also submitted that guidelines were already in place for organising protests and that videography was covered under the existing framework. It said the petitioner could make a representation seeking the framing of an SOP for the use of body-worn cameras, which could be considered in accordance with law. With the government agreeing to consider the issue as a representation and communicate its decision within six months, the High Court disposed of the PIL. The plea was filed against the backdrop of clashes during the July protests at Jantar Mantar, which resulted in injuries to student protesters as well as more than 50 police and paramilitary personnel.

According to the petition, the events exposed a "systemic vacuum" as there was no rule, regulation, standing order or SOP mandating police or RAF personnel to wear body-worn cameras while deployed on crowd-control duties, or governing the storage, integrity, retention and evidentiary use of such footage. The petitioner said the July 2026 protests had seen allegations of disproportionate use of force by police, while there were also allegations of attacks on police personnel and vandalism by some protesters. It submitted that a contemporaneous and tamper-proof officer's-eye recording could help fix accountability for alleged excesses by the police and also provide authenticated evidence to identify and prosecute persons in the crowd who resorted to violence. The plea further claimed that Delhi Police had itself recognised the need for body-worn cameras during protests as far back as January 2020, but had not translated that recognition into a binding and effective regime. It referred to Delhi Police Standing Order No. L&O/10/2022 concerning regulation of rallies and processions, submitting that the existing framework provides for third-person videography but does not mandate body-worn cameras for personnel engaged in crowd control. The petition also claimed that Delhi Police had floated a tender for procurement of 1,500 body-worn cameras at a total value of around Rs 7.4 crore, while the CRPF had initiated procurement of 480 such cameras for the RAF. The petitioner sought directions for framing and enforcement of a binding SOP mandating compulsory, always-on body-worn cameras for police and RAF personnel deployed on crowd-control and protest-management duties, along with a data-storage, integrity and evidentiary regime governing the footage.

Assam sets up expert panels for environmental clearance

Guwahati: The Assam government has constituted the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), strengthening the institutional framework for evaluating projects requiring environmental clearance in the state. The constitution of the two statutory bodies follows a notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on October 6.

Both bodies will have a tenure of four years from the date of publication of the Central government notification in the Official Gazette. The SEIAA will be responsible for making decisions on environmental clearance applications based on the recommendations of the SEAC. It will exercise its powers and follow procedures prescribed under the relevant government notification. Shyamanta Bezbarua, retired former Secretary of the Assam Public Works Department (Building and National Highway), has been appointed Chairman of the SEIAA. Dr Socindra Kumar Borthakur, retired professor of the Department of Botany at Gauhati University, will serve as a member. The Secretary of the Assam government's Environment, Forests and Climate Change Department will function as the Member Secretary of the authority. The SEAC will be headed by Jatindra Sarma, IFS (Retd.), former Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. Its members include Prof. Parthankar Choudhury of Assam University, Silchar; Dr Rahul Mahanta of Cotton University; environmentalist Dr Arup Barpujary; Dr Arup Kumar Sarma of IIT Guwahati; Dr Bhagwat Pran Duwarah of Gauhati University; and Dr Narayan Sharma of Cotton University. The



Member Secretary of the Assam Pollution Control Board will serve as Member Secretary of the SEAC. The expert panel will function on the principle of collective responsibility. Its chairman will seek consensus while considering individual cases, with the majority view prevailing if consensus cannot be reached. The offices of both bodies have been established on the third floor of the Assam Pollution Control Board building at Bamunimaidam in Guwahati. The Pollution Control Board will act as the secretariat for both institutions and provide financial, logistical and manpower support. The state government will extend accommodation, transportation and other facilities required for their functioning. Remuneration and allowances for the chairmen and members will be governed by existing Assam government rules.

'80% NDA, 20% PDA': Yogi Adityanath back with claim ahead of Assembly polls



GNS News Agency, Oct 13

After the Samajwadi Party (SP) decided not to field a third Rajya Sabha poll candidate from Uttar Pradesh, paving the way for the unopposed election of its two and the ruling BJP's eight candidates to the Upper House, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday that the state would again see an "80-20" fight in upcoming Assembly polls.

Adityanath said in Lucknow that the Rajya Sabha elections would predict the Assembly election results. "Yeh ladaai 80/20 ki fir aa gai hai. 80 per cent NDA me, aur 20 per cent PDA me. Aur PDA ka kya haal hone wala hai, yeh aapke saamne fir aane wala hai (The fight has again become 80 and 20. Eighty per cent in NDA and 20 per cent in PDA. PDA's fate will be before everyone)," he said at the Seva Jyoti Yatra-Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha, which marks Prime Minister Narendra Modi's completion of 25 years in elected office. Since the SP has not fielded a third candidate, there will be no contest between it and the BJP in the Rajya Sabha polls.

The SP has renominated veteran leader Ram Gopal Yadav, uncle of party president Akhilesh Yadav, and fielded

Reliance executive Dhanraj Nathwani as its second Rajya Sabha candidate. The party has enough strength in the Assembly to get its two candidates elected to Rajya Sabha. The SP chief first floated the abbreviation PDA—Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak (backward classes, Dalits, and minorities)—in June 2023. The formulation was projected as the SP's social coalition against the BJP-led NDA, with Akhilesh repeatedly claiming, "PDA hi NDA ko harayega (it is the PDA that will defeat the NDA)". Ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections, Adityanath had remarked that the Assembly election contest would be an "80 per cent vs 20 per cent" fight, with the 20 per cent interpreted as a reference to the population of the minorities in the state. Adityanath later defended his 80 vs 20 remark. In an interview with ANI, he said, "It's a reaction to an action. I spoke about 80 vs 20. Eighty per cent support the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), while 20 per cent always oppose. We haven't spoken about caste or religion."

Telangana to recruit university assistant professors without screening test

Hyderabad: Even as the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHHE) proposed a screening test, the State government has decided to recruit assistant professors for universities without a test.

The recruitment will have three stages, with Part-A involving initial screening, Part-B assessing domain knowledge through a demonstration lecture, and Part-C being an interview. The three stages will carry 100 marks in total.

Part-A will assess academic record and research performance based on Table-3 of the UGC Regulations, 2018. Though the assessment carries 100 marks under the UGC rules, the scores will later be scaled down to 50 marks.

Rules for body-worn cameras by cops: Court asks Centre to decide in 6 months



GNS News Agency, Oct 13

The Delhi High Court Wednesday refused to issue directions on a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a standard operating procedure (SOP) for use of body-worn cameras by police personnel. It, instead, directed the government to consider the plea as a representation and take a decision on it within six months. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Arun Bhardwaj was hearing the PIL by advocate Chahat Raghav. The lawyer sought an SOP on use of body-worn cameras by the Delhi Police, its operation, and the memory and storage of data collected through such cameras.

Senior advocate Akhil Sibal, representing the petitioner, argued, "There has to be an SOP, until there is some sort of law... it is different from facial recognition technology which has concerns about surveillance, profiling, privacy... if we have a mechanism or defined way of using it, then it will go

a long way in addressing some of these concerns." "Time and again, we are left with allegations and counter allegations... The question is ultimately of accountability... body-worn cameras are used, but it is all sporadic, no SOP, no chain of custody, preservation or access... Purpose is to rather than having this chaos... there has to be some way for accountability... There has to be some procedure that needs to be laid down, it will benefit the whole process," Sibal added.

He also referred to media reports stating that amid allegations of police excesses during the SIR protests, Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) deployed at the protest site have been issued directions to wear body cameras. Meanwhile, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Chetan Sharma, representing the Centre, suggested to the court that the PIL can be treated as a representation. Sibal resisted the proposition, urging that it is not the government's case that they are unaware of the use of body-worn cameras. He urged, "Let them place some reply (before the court)... representation will serve no purpose, it's not something that they are not aware of." The court recorded in its order, "The use of body-worn cameras by police can be inferred from not only tender issued but also use of the same by the traffic police. The SOP is informed to not be in existence. In such an event, there might not be any provision in the police manual. However, since the statement is made from ASG, we deem it appropriate to take the same on record. We direct the respondents to communicate the decision on framing of SOP regarding use of body-worn cameras within six months."

Thai woman accuses Kanpur 'husband' of Rs 60 lakh fraud, hiding another marriage

GNS News Agency, Oct 13

Travelling 3,000 km from Thailand to Kanpur, a 35-year-old woman went looking for the man she said she married — and the Rs 60 lakh she had lent him. The man, a tannery businessman named Mohammad Irfan, had stopped answering her calls and cut off contact. When she went to his Kanpur home, she allegedly discovered that he was already married and had children. The woman approached Kanpur Police on Tuesday, alleging that Irfan and his family members assaulted and threatened her when she confronted him and pressured her to convert to Islam. Based on her complaint, Kanpur Police arrested Irfan and registered an FIR against him at Anwarganj police station under charges including assault. Police also invoked provisions of the anti-conversion law against him.

"We have arrested Irfan in connection with the case. The woman's allegations are being examined, and necessary verification is being carried out," said Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kanpur, Manjay Singh. He added that Irfan has admitted to marrying the woman and is being produced before the court. The woman has been sent for medical examination and the report is awaited. "Married two years ago" According to police, the woman, who runs a restaurant and a canteen in Thailand, met Irfan through social media around four years ago. She told police he introduced himself as a prominent Kanpur businessman involved in the tannery business who frequently travelled abroad for work. The woman said Irfan would stay at her house whenever he travelled to Thailand and that they subsequently entered into a relationship. Around two years ago, he proposed to her and the two later married in Thailand, she claimed. She said Irfan continued visiting her every two months. During this period, he allegedly took around Rs 60 lakh from her in several installments, saying he needed the money to expand his



business. She told police that she arranged the money by borrowing from relatives and friends. When she later asked Irfan to return the money, he allegedly gave her different excuses. She also said she asked him to stay with her in Thailand, but he refused. She alleged that Irfan returned to India this year and stopped responding to her calls and messages. With her businesses in Thailand facing financial difficulties and her struggling to repay the loans she had taken to provide money to Irfan, she decided to travel to India to recover the money. She came to Kanpur with an acquaintance on a tourist visa on October 5 and visited Irfan's house as she knew his address. It was there that she allegedly learned for the first time that he was already married and had children. She alleged that when she confronted Irfan, he and his family members abused and insulted her, and Irfan told her that she would first have to convert to Islam if she wanted to stay with him.

In own state, 'upset' Fadnavis cites 'pathetic' school, hostel infra for protests



GNS News Agency, Oct 13

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has expressed displeasure over the 'pathetic' infrastructure of schools and hostels, pointing to it as the reason for protests across the state. Visibly angry during the meeting, Fadnavis directed the concerned department to take immediate steps and make necessary changes to improve infrastructure. "If the school/hostel condition is so pathetic, why will there be no agitation?" How can the department overlook the basic amenities," Fadnavis, it is learnt, asked at the infrastructure review meeting held this week.

Directing questions at the officials, Fadnavis made his

displeasure known at the meeting and said, "If schools and hostels are in such poor condition, agitation will happen." Following the chief minister's remarks on 'pathetic' infrastructure, the ministries of social justice, tribal department and OBC department decided to work out a plan to make necessary corrections. The three ministries have decided to conduct an audit and address the problems. Generally, a sub-committee for infrastructure would focus on mega projects. However, this week's review meeting saw the government focusing on school and hostel infrastructure. The government's decision to review school/ hostel infrastructure also comes in the wake of the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest in Maharashtra against poor school and hostel conditions in several districts of the state. Sources said, "The social justice, school and tribal department was trying to push positive images during the meetings. But the skill department, during the presentation, showed images of dilapidated hostel structures and inadequate facilities." "We cannot continue like this. Things will have to change," sources quoted Fadnavis as saying during the meeting. He directed the Departments to allocate funds for infrastructure upgradation from the District Planning Development Committee (DPDC) immediately. Earlier, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke had launched a 'school thik karo' agitation in Maharashtra. He visited several government-aided schools in the Marathwada region.



among other students waiting outside. Staff members and local residents then pulled all five students out of the tank, the SSP said. A police team had rushed to the gurukul by then. Policemen tried performing CPR and gave first aid to the students, but it did not help; they were all rushed to the hospital.

Rajpal Yadav offers Rs 2 crore payment; SC expresses displeasure over conduct



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed actor and comedian Rajpal Yadav to deposit Rs 1.15 crore with the apex court registry after his counsel submitted that the amount was ready to be deposited immediately, while another Rs 85 lakh would be arranged through a prospective buyer of his ancestral property, as part of arrangements to pay Rs 2 crore in connection with multiple cheque dishonour cases.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing Yadav and his wife Radha Yadav's pleas challenging the Delhi High Court judgment upholding their conviction in seven cheque dishonour cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act. During the hearing, the CJI Kant-led Bench was informed that Yadav had arranged Rs 1.15 crore through demand drafts, while a prospective buyer of his ancestral property, who was present in court, was willing to pay another Rs 85 lakh as an advance.

Yadav's counsel told the top court that the buyer was not presently willing to register the sale documents due to Pitru Paksha and wanted to proceed with the registration after the commencement of Navratri. The counsel further submitted that the buyer was willing to deposit the Rs 85 lakh by way of a demand draft on Monday. However, the Supreme Court questioned the overall value of the transaction, remarking that the liability was substantially higher than Rs

2 crore. "What will be the total sale consideration? Because the liability is much more than Rs 2 crore," the CJI Kant-led Bench asked. The counsel said the property was valued at more than Rs 30 crore and confirmed that the prospective buyer had the capacity to make the proposed payment.

The complainant's counsel agreed to the proposal and submitted that if Rs 2 crore was paid immediately, Yadav could be granted additional time to pay the remaining amount. The CJI Kant-led Bench suggested that Rs 1.15 crore be deposited immediately, with the remaining Rs 85 lakh to be transferred on Monday, after which the top court would lay down a schedule for payment of the balance amount. During the hearing, the Supreme Court expressed displeasure over Yadav's conduct in complying with its earlier directions and indicated that it was inclined to enhance his three-month imprisonment sentence to two years. Justice Bagchi observed that the apex court was not satisfied with Yadav's conduct and said the accommodation being extended to him was aimed at ensuring that the complainant recovered the money. The top court's latest order came after it had, on October 5, found that its September 15 direction had not been complied with. On that occasion, the CJI Kant-led Bench had observed that a photocopy of a purported Rs 50 lakh demand draft was produced with a claim that the draft would reach Delhi the following day. The Supreme Court had then granted a final opportunity to Yadav to pay a total of Rs 2 crore and posted the matter for October 7. On September 15, the apex court had granted Yadav two weeks as a last opportunity to deposit at least Rs 2 crore, after recording that its earlier direction to deposit Rs 5 crore had not been complied with. The Supreme Court is hearing Yadav and his wife Radha Rajpal Yadav's petitions challenging the Delhi High Court judgment upholding their conviction in seven cheque dishonour cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act. The Delhi High Court had on July 10 upheld Yadav's conviction while reducing his sentence from six months to three months' simple imprisonment in each of the seven cases. It had also reduced the fine from Rs 1.60 crore to Rs 1.05 crore in each case, with the substantive sentences directed to run concurrently. The High Court had taken into account payments already made by Yadav to the complainant, M/s Murli Projects Pvt Ltd., during the pendency of the proceedings. Yadav and his wife have challenged the judgment before the Supreme Court, contending that a subsequent consent agreement between the parties was not properly considered by the courts below. The petitioners have relied on the Supreme Court's judgment in M/s Gimpex Private Limited vs Manoj Goel, arguing that the subsequent agreement between the parties ought to have brought an end to the original complaint proceedings.

Airtel to hike postpaid plan prices by up to 10 pc with new plans



GNS News Agency, Oct 13 New Delhi: Leading telecom firm Bharti Airtel on Wednesday launched new postpaid plans for customers with increasing tariffs by around 3-10 per cent, effective from Thursday. Moreover, it added a free international roaming benefit to the plans. However, the complimentary International Roaming pack offers 5GB of data, 60 minutes of calls, 25 outgoing SMS and free incoming SMS, all valid for 5 days, the telecom said in an exchange filing. The revised plans range from Rs 499 a month for an individual connection to Rs 1,799 for a family plan covering up to five SIMs.

Moreover, customers will get one free international

roaming trip per SIM each year under the new plans along with unlimited data and calling. Amit Tripathi, Director – Market Operations, Bharti Airtel, said that postpaid for us is about delivering the best-in-class experience in the Indian market. "We have the best network experience in the country, on which we offer our postpaid customers Fast Lane technology on 5G, and constant Spam and frauds protection. What is more, we offer the customers the best value – through access to entertainment and services that enrich their everyday lives; and now Free International Roaming for them. We are determined to constantly raising the game for customers and give them more and more reasons to choose Airtel Postpaid," according to Tripathi.

The company has increased the price of Rs 449 to Rs 499 for the individual plan. Rs 749 family plan — which was Rs 699 earlier — will offer two SIMs. Apart from that, the Rs 999 plan will be available at a cost of Rs 1,049 for three SIMs. Similarly, for 4 SIMs the prices are Rs 1,249 and Rs 1,449. For five SIMs, the company will charge Rs 1,799 for a plan subscription that includes Netflix Standard. Additionally, these plans also include Airtel's spam and fraud prevention features. Apart from that, the company said that effective Thursday, these postpaid plans are available for all customers opting for Airtel Postpaid. Meanwhile, existing Airtel customers, including old postpaid plans or on prepaid can easily upgrade to these plans.

Delhi students tell cops what's wrong with their PGs

Tushar wants to leave his paying guest accommodation in East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar after seven months of living there and move in with a friend. But the second-year Delhi University student is worried he will have to forgo the Rs 20,000 security deposit he paid when he moved in. "My warden says that if I leave the PG before the lapse of 11 months, my Rs 20,000 security deposit will not be returned. I'm not sure how to deal with this," said Tushar, a B.Com student from Uttar Pradesh. His concern was among several issues raised during a Delhi Police drive to meet students living in PGs and rented accommodation in the Capital's major student hubs — Mukherjee Nagar in North Delhi, Laxmi Nagar in East Delhi, Rajinder Nagar, Karol Bagh and Patel Nagar in Central Delhi. The drive, undertaken by police teams from every police station, followed the September 6 collapse of a building housing a private hostel in Satya Niketan, which claimed seven lives, including those of five students. Waterlogging, wires and poor maintenance

Thousands of students who flock to Delhi to study in colleges and coaching institutes live in PGs because of the acute shortage of on-campus accommodation. Kuldeep, who studies at a coaching institute in Karol Bagh and stays in a nearby PG, said, "For most students, security deposit is the most common problem because people sometimes have to leave or change their PGs," he said. Cramped spaces in many private hostels have also been worrying, Kuldeep said. But the Satya Niketan incident has made students more worried about safety and accountability. "It's cramped inside the PGs. But what is bothering us most after this incident is the question of who is accountable to us," he said. Muskan, who has been living at a PG in Old Rajinder Nagar for over a year, said her concerns revolved around basic standards of living: poor hygiene, inadequate water supply and electricity maintenance, sagging electrical wires and waterlogging her PG. After meeting students at PGs, reading rooms and libraries in these student hubs, police compiled the issues raised by students and prepared an Action Taken Report (ATR), which was submitted to the Delhi Police Headquarters, according to the officials sources.



Officers said the most frequent grievance aired by students in these interactions was over security deposits. Apart from these, students also flagged waterlogging, seepage, cleanliness in kitchens, maintenance of the buildings, and dark or poorly lit stretches around PGs. Rohit Rajbir Singh, DCP Central, said police were briefing PG owners and property dealers about the issue of security deposits, which he said was a major concern for students who spend considerable amounts on accommodation. "Letters were sent to civic agencies seeking structural audits of properties for the safety and security of students. The Delhi Fire Services was approached for fire-safety surveys. Libraries were directed to follow safety norms, obtain fire no-objection certificates and install CCTV cameras," Singh added. Police also began regular engagement with Residents' Welfare Associations to improve CCTV coverage and ensure that PGs and rented accommodation followed safety guidelines, he said. Steve, a B.Com student living in Mukherjee Nagar, said that police had also shared contact numbers with them during their interaction at his PG. "The police officers had come to my PG a few days ago and told us about precautionary measures in case an emergency situation arises. They also gave us the contact number of the station house officer," he said. "The officer also told us to take precautions to prevent incidents of mobile phone snatching. He also told us to not befriend strangers," Rudra said.

Mathura gurukul students went inside water tank after foul smell, 4 dead

Four students died after inhaling suspected poisonous gas inside an unused underground water tank at a gurukul in Mathura's Vrindavan late Tuesday night, when a group of students went into the tank to investigate a foul smell, police said. Two owners of Maharishi Panini Sanskrit Gurukulam have been taken into custody. The incident came to light after 11.30 pm. Mathura Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Shlok Kumar, told The Indian Express that preliminary investigation so far has revealed that a group of students were cooking food on the ground floor of the ashram when a foul smell wafted out of the water tank nearby. The water tank, about 15 ft deep, was unused and was covered with a concrete lid. The SSP said the students initially tried to get rid of the smell by removing the small amount of water inside the tank with a bucket. One of the students then volunteered to go inside. He climbed down the stairs built into the tank but did not return or respond when the other students called out to him. Four others went down one after another in an attempt to bring him out. All of them fell unconscious, causing panic

Jaishankar, Ghana foreign minister discuss strengthening bilateral partnership



GNS News Agency, Oct 13

Accra: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar met with Ghana's Foreign Minister, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, to discuss key strategies for advancing the comprehensive partnership between the two nations. Highlighting their historic solidarity and shared development aspirations as Global South partners, the two leaders focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation across trade, investments, development assistance, pharmaceuticals, capacity building, defence, and technology.

"Held wide ranging discussions with Foreign Minister @S_OkudzetoAblak of Ghana. As Global South partners, both India and Ghana share common development aspirations and historic solidarity. Discussed advancing our Comprehensive Partnership in trade, investments, development, pharmaceuticals, capacity building, defence, technology and people to people domains. Also spoke about advancing our

multilateral cooperation and deepening India's engagement with the African Union and ECOWAS," EAM Jaishankar posted on X. EAM Jaishankar arrived in Ghana earlier on Tuesday as India looks forward to productive engagements to advance partnership between New Delhi and Accra. "Delighted to arrive in Accra, Ghana today. Appreciate the warm welcome by FM Sam Okudzeto Ablakwa. Look forward to productive engagements to advance our Comprehensive Partnership," EAM Jaishankar stated on X.

Earlier on Monday, the Foreign Ministry of Ghana stated that EAM Jaishankar's visit will provide an opportunity for the two countries to renew their bond of solidarity and shared values. "The Minister of External Affairs of India, His Excellency Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, will pay an Official visit to Ghana from 6th to 7th October 2026 at the invitation of Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa. Ghana looks forward to hosting His Excellency Dr. S. Jaishankar on this historic visit, which will afford the two countries the opportunity to renew their inseparable bond of solidarity and shared values," the ministry stated. "During the visit, Ghana and India will hold discussions that will advance their relations in pharmaceutical development within the framework of President (John Dramani) Mahama's Accra Reset philosophy; deepening agricultural cooperation in mechanisation and value addition; support for President Mahama's industrialisation and job creation agenda; and expanding scholarships and IT partnerships," it added. After Ghana, EAM Jaishankar will travel to Cote d'Ivoire and Ethiopia during his five-day official visit aimed at deepening India's bilateral partnership with the three African nations.

As reservoirs shrink, this Maharashtra district moves to guard remaining water



GNS News Agency, Oct 13

As water levels in reservoirs in Maharashtra's Beed have sunk to 16.38 per cent and groundwater levels are falling sharply, the district administration has ordered inspections of waterbodies and stepped up action to protect drinking water sources. Speaking to The Indian Express, District Collector Vivek Johnson said dedicated teams comprising officials from the revenue department, Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), and the police have been formed to check water theft from reservoir backwaters and monitor the situation. The inspections will be conducted three times a day.

"There are 164 reservoirs across the district, including small, medium, and large projects. We have been facing water theft from certain locations in the backwaters of reservoirs. To check these thefts, we have ordered joint inspections," Johnson said. According to Johnson, the officials have been checking illegal water theft for the last three months. However, it was found that some farmers were reconnecting pump connections even after action was taken against them. As part of the intensified action, the administration has started dismantling electricity distribution points at select locations from where water is being stolen. These transformers are being removed and stored in the MSEB godown, while transformers supplying power to regular connections will remain operational, the collector said. Johnson also directed talathis and gram sevaks to maintain a strict vigil over water theft from small and medium water supply projects. "At larger reservoirs, including Majalgaon and Manjara, dedicated teams have been deployed to monitor illegal water lifting," he said. The intensified monitoring comes at a time when Beed is facing a significant rain shortfall and declining water availability.

Data from the district information office shows that against the expected average rainfall of 566.1 mm till September 30, the district received only 356.6 mm, or about 63 per cent. The rainfall deficit has also translated into a sharp decline in groundwater levels. The average water level recorded in observation wells has fallen to 7.36 metres, which

is 4.55 metres deeper than the average level recorded in September over the past five years. A decline in groundwater levels was recorded in all 126 wells surveyed, with Georai tehsil recording the steepest fall of 6.64 metres. Reservoir storage also remains low. Of the 164 projects in the district, usable water storage is at 16.38 per cent. The Majalgaon project has 28.53 per cent storage, while medium projects have 12.49 per cent and minor projects only 5.49 per cent. As many as 32 projects have completely dried up. "Currently, the average capacity of all 164 large, medium, and small reservoirs is roughly 16 per cent. Apart from these, there are several minor sources such as open wells, borewells, jackwells and small lakes. Their water availability in the coming months depends on the groundwater table," Johnson said. The administration is therefore already relying on tankers to meet drinking water requirements. "As many as 150 tankers are currently supplying water twice a day across the district," Johnson said. As of September 29, wells or borewells had been requisitioned in 28 villages and at 32 other locations. "We have acquired 40 per cent of water sources," he said. The pressure on drinking water supplies is particularly evident in Parli Vaijnath, where the municipal council has begun planning for the coming months. "We have a population of roughly 1.2 lakh. Considering the current reservoir capacity and evaporation rate, we have planned to supply water once every eight to 10 days to ensure water availability till June 2027. The implementation will start on October 8," Trimbak Kamble, Chief Officer of the Parli Vaijnath Municipal Council, told The water shortage is also affecting livestock. Available fodder stocks are expected to last for an average of only 37 days. The situation is particularly critical in Patoda, where stocks are estimated to last 21 days, and Ashti, where they are expected to last 27 days. Parli has the highest availability, with fodder stocks estimated to last around 70 days. The impact of the rainfall deficit has also been felt during the Kharif season. Sowing was completed on 7,87,218 hectares, or 97.31 per cent of the expected 8,08,946 hectares. Soybean sowing exceeded the target at 137.90 per cent, while cotton sowing stood at 78.36 per cent. Preliminary assessments have indicated crop damage of more than 75 per cent across all 11 talukas, with the affected area estimated at around 5.14 lakh hectares. Amid the water and agricultural stress, the district has also received funds for irrigation-related works. A total of Rs 2,341.33 lakh has been sanctioned for three projects in Ashti, Beed, and Georai under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0. The projects are expected to cover 10,642 hectares. For the administration, however, the immediate challenge remains protecting the limited water available in reservoirs and groundwater sources. "We are now making a drought management plan for all villages in

Indian Embassy provides assistance to rescued seafarers in Romania

GNS News Agency, Oct 13 Bucharest: A representative of the Indian Embassy in Romania has met three Indian nationals rescued from the commercial vessel MV Royad Mammadov, which was attacked in the Black Sea on Monday. The official assured the Indian nationals of all necessary assistance and support for their safe and early departure from Romania. Essential items, including mobile phones, were also facilitated through the shipping company's local agent.

"The Embassy representative today visited the three Indian nationals rescued yesterday from MV Royad Mammadov in the Black Sea. Two are presently accommodated at a hotel, while the third person is undergoing treatment at the County Hospital in Constanța. All three are in stable condition," the Indian Embassy in Romania posted on X in the early hours of Wednesday, India time. "The Embassy assured them of all necessary assistance and support for their safe and early departure from Romania. Essential items, including mobile phones, were facilitated through the shipping company's local agent, while Indian food was arranged through a local Indian restaurant," it added.

The Embassy representative also met local police authorities, the shipping company's agent and treating medical doctors to coordinate further assistance for the Indian nationals. The Embassy said that it remains in close contact with the concerned authorities and continues to extend all necessary support. On Tuesday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) condemned the attack on MV Royad Mammadov in the Black Sea, in which two foreign seafarers were killed and three Indian nationals were injured. "We condemn the attack on MV Royad Mammadov in the Black



Sea, in which two foreign seafarers were killed and some members of the crew, including Indian nationals, injured. The injured have been rescued by Romanian authorities and are receiving medical attention. The three Indian nationals, who were part of the crew of the ship, are safe. We thank Romanian authorities for their swift action in this incident," read a statement released by the MEA. "India views these attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers with grave concern. The targeting of traffic in international waterways is severely undermining global commerce and the welfare of people across the world. We continue to call for dialogue and diplomacy to bring an end to the ongoing conflicts," it added.

Tesla is browbeating the EU to approve its 'Full Self-Driving' tech. The pressure is working.



As Tesla chases an elusive prize – government approval of its "Full Self-Driving" technology across Europe – the US automaker is waging a pressure campaign casting safety regulators as feckless bureaucrats blocking its life-saving technology. Elon Musk's company has pushed regulators directly to reduce the rigor of safety reviews, submitted its own research making bold crash-reduction claims, and used social media to mobilize Tesla enthusiasts to demand speedy approvals. The strategy has worked so far, winning a critical first approval in the Netherlands that cleared the way for a Europe-wide vote expected soon by regulators from 27 European Union countries. Seven other EU countries, including the Czech Republic, Belgium and Denmark, have granted Tesla national approvals for the driver-assistance technology, which is not fully autonomous. But Tesla's campaign is built on faulty company safety research that can't support the company's claims to officials or the public, according to seven traffic-safety researchers who examined its methodology for Reuters.

The automaker sent the flawed studies broadly to European regulators seeking their support after it secured approval in the Netherlands. The Dutch evaluation had outsized importance because the EU's process required first getting signoff from one member country that agrees to endorse the technology for EU-wide approval. Other countries' regulators are now relying heavily on the Dutch research to decide their own votes. During that Netherlands review, Tesla repeatedly sought to scale back the intensity of the regulator's examination, and it pushed – with some success – to set the terms and methods of its evaluation and testing, according to a Reuters review of correspondence between the automaker and the regulator, which has not been previously reported. Dutch staffers often responded with conciliatory notes emphasizing the regulator's desire to collaborate with Tesla on "shared" or "mutual" objectives, raising concerns about its impartiality among five autonomous-vehicle regulation experts who reviewed the exchanges for Reuters. Tesla did not respond to detailed questions from Reuters on its safety research and interactions with European regulators. RDW, the regulator responsible for vehicle safety in the Netherlands, didn't comment on its correspondence with Tesla or the company's European data. In a statement, RDW said it "assesses driver assistance systems from all manufacturers objectively and independently." It added that engagement with a manufacturer "is a routine part of the assessment process and does not compromise the independence or thoroughness of our assessment."

For this report on Tesla's European pressure campaign, Reuters obtained hundreds of pages of email correspondence between Tesla and regulators in the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Italy and Switzerland; reviewed safety studies Tesla distributed to regulators across Europe; and interviewed seven traffic-safety researchers who examined Tesla's crash-reduction claims. Together, the documents and interviews provide the first detailed account of how Tesla sought to influence the Dutch review of FSD and used flawed claims about the technology's life-saving potential to press regulators across Europe. Tesla produced an "evidence dashboard" on Full Self-Driving (FSD) safety that it said it shared with EU member-state regulators in April. The company's Europe-specific research compares FSD-equipped Tesla cars driven by its own professional engineering drivers to all Tesla cars driven by ordinary owners across Europe. But it couldn't determine relative crash rates because its sample of miles driven in FSD-piloted vehicles was too small – in the tens or hundreds of thousands – to meaningfully compare to the hundreds of millions of miles covered by manually driven Teslas in Europe, according to the seven traffic-safety researchers' review of company research.

Instead, Tesla used a set of driving behaviors as "surrogates" for measuring crashes – horn honking, low blinker-use frequency, rapid acceleration or deceleration, automatic emergency braking and hard cornering. The company says it can track such maneuvers through its in-car technology, but it hasn't sought outside peer review of its data or its methodology for analyzing it. The traffic safety researchers told Reuters that some of these driving behaviors, such as honking and blinker usage, are poor indicators of crash danger. Others, like hard braking, can be better proxies. But they have their own limitations, the researchers said, and their relation to crash rates isn't well-established. All of the researchers said Tesla's study provides no evidence of the central claim in the company's European lobbying campaign – that FSD prevents fatal crashes.

The researchers also questioned Tesla's use of professional engineering drivers as a comparison. Trained drivers are more familiar with how FSD works and when and how they might need to intervene to prevent crashes or avoid the specific driving behaviors Tesla tracked. Tesla calls the system "Full Self-Driving" but adds "(Supervised)" because it requires a human driver's full attention. The automaker warns drivers to pay strict attention and stay ready to take over if FSD fails – transitions that autonomous-driving experts say can be difficult and dangerous. In its Europe study, Tesla says the professional drivers' intimate familiarity with FSD makes its data collection more accurate because they rarely turn the system off. In the Europe study's fine print, Tesla warns that its comparisons of FSD driving and human driving behaviors can't be interpreted as "causal estimates," an acknowledgment that FSD's performance on those measures won't necessarily translate to lower crash rates. But Tesla and Musk don't disclose the research's limitations in their social-media posts blaming European regulators for traffic deaths. When French transportation minister Philippe Tabarot said in July that his country couldn't support EU-wide expansion of FSD due to safety concerns, Musk posted on his social media platform X that "delaying the approval of FSD in France will cost lives." Musk responded to a video featuring French Transportation Minister Philippe Tabarot by claiming Paris' stance would endanger public safety. Such claims go far beyond what Tesla's research can support, said Marco Benedetti, an assistant research scientist at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute and a former

statistician at the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Tesla's inflated safety claims to European regulators are the latest in a long history of company exaggerations involving FSD's safety and readiness for fully autonomous driving. The automaker has for years faced US federal investigations and lawsuits over crashes and deaths blamed on its FSD or Autopilot driver-assistance systems. Every year for a decade, chief executive Musk has asserted Tesla would deliver fully autonomous vehicles no later than the following year. After launching a small robotaxi service in Austin, Texas, in June 2025, Musk promised "hyperexponential" growth of a technology Tesla says can work anywhere on earth. Instead, Tesla has expanded robotaxis slowly in Austin and a handful of areas in Texas and Florida. The bulk of Tesla's \$1.5 trillion stock-market value is tied to investors' belief that it will dominate self-driving technology globally. A Reuters investigation found the automaker is nowhere close to deploying self-driving cars safely at scale and that it used unsound statistical methodology to claim FSD is already up to 10 times safer than a human driver. The automaker, for instance, relied on an apples-and-oranges comparison of crashes in FSD-piloted Teslas with all crashes nationally. For Teslas using FSD, the company counted only crashes with airbag deployments; it then compared that rate with all crashes in federal data where a tow truck removed a vehicle – a criterion that includes a far higher number of less serious crashes. Tesla submitted the same misleading US research to European regulators, along with its more recent Europe-specific study. "When you start getting into 'lives saved,' that's where it gets nonsensical. Marco Benedetti, an assistant research scientist at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute. Some of the traffic-safety researchers interviewed by Reuters said Tesla's European study marked an improvement over its US research and included more disclosures acknowledging shortcomings of its methodology. Further, they said, making safety comparisons of a system like FSD to a human driver are inherently difficult. That's in part because human drivers still play a critical role in operating FSD safely, making it difficult to attribute any perceived benefit solely to FSD. Human drivers can also turn the system on and off, and tend to avoid using it in complex driving situations they perceive to be dangerous, the researchers said.

The main problem, all of the researchers said, is that Tesla makes exaggerated public safety claims that go far beyond what its research proves in both the US and Europe. Daniel McGehee, an engineering professor and director of the University of Iowa's Driving Safety Research Institute, said Tesla's European study presents "potentially useful evidence of system performance" but stops well short of showing FSD saves lives. Tesla enthusiast Kees Roelandschap drove around Amsterdam hands-free with his electric car in April, several days after Dutch regulators approved the use of Tesla's driver-assistance software. REUTERS/Bart Biesemans

FSD approval is critical to Tesla's ambitions in Europe, where the company is only now regaining market share after steep sales declines stemming from rising electric-vehicle competition and consumer backlash over Musk's backing of US President Donald Trump and far-right European politicians. Tesla now competes with dozens of new EVs from European brands and from surging Chinese EV makers, many of which offer FSD-like driver-assistance technology in their home market. FSD is currently available in the United States, where it didn't need regulatory approval, along with the European countries that recently approved it and a handful of others, including Canada, Mexico, Australia and South Korea. The automaker has struggled for years to secure approval in China, its second-biggest market behind the US. Tesla would be the first automaker to win EU approval for an advanced driver-assistance system allowing hands-free operation on any road. Currently, regulations only allow hands-free systems on highways. In the EU-wide vote, Tesla needs support from regulators in 55% of EU-member countries constituting 65% of the region's population.

REGULATOR'S 'SHARED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES' WITH TESLA Staffers of the Dutch regulator, RDW, eased aspects of its FSD safety evaluation in response to repeated complaints from Tesla as it reviewed the system starting in 2024, correspondence between the company and the regulator shows. RDW ultimately found FSD could improve safety if used correctly and recommended EU-wide approval. The exchanges, which have not been previously reported, raise concerns over whether Tesla exerted undue influence over the safety review of its own technology, according to autonomous-vehicle regulation experts who reviewed the correspondence for Reuters. Throughout the process, Tesla representatives asserted the company should have shared decision-making power in how the review would be conducted. Staffers for the regulator, in turn, often assured Tesla of their desire to work collaboratively toward mutual goals. In this email to Tesla, obtained by Reuters, Dutch regulator RDW said it was willing to 'adjust or reduce' the intensity of a regulatory review. In November 2024, early in Tesla's discussions with RDW, the company pushed the regulator to start testing vehicles by month's end. When a regulator responded with a commitment to deliver Tesla a project plan by then, a responding Tesla staffer reiterated the demand for immediate testing. "Keep in mind that this is mission critical for our leadership," the Tesla representative wrote. "Our leadership will measure the goodwill to do this project with RDW by this 'test start' milestone." The start of testing took longer. But Tesla won concessions from Dutch regulators after complaining about the costs, methods and time needed for other aspects of the review, according to the exchanges between the company and RDW. Unlike in the US, automakers in Europe must pay regulators' expenses for evaluation of new-vehicle models, systems or parts. The costs disputed by Tesla ranged from tens to hundreds of thousands of euros, small sums relative to the \$95 billion in revenue posted last year by the world's most valuable automaker. Tesla objected, for instance, to paying for five RDW staffers to travel to a May 2025 meeting at Tesla's Gigafactory in Berlin. The company said it expected only two to three staffers and argued most conversations should be held remotely. RDW responded that only two staff members' expenses would be billed to Tesla and others might not attend. In an April 2025 email to RDW, a Tesla employee balked at RDW's breakdown of \$365,000 in costs for testing permits, technical work and other services RDW conducted over a five-month period ending in March 2025. The automaker complained of the "extremely high cost" and said it would withhold payment until it received a "granular" accounting of RDW's operations, including credentials, hours worked and hourly cost of every RDW employee assigned to the project. An RDW staffer offered to dial back the review's intensity a week later, inviting Tesla to "share any suggestions on how we might adjust or reduce the required effort moving forward." RDW redacted all the names of Tesla and RDW staffers, along with large portions of their correspondence, before providing the documents to Reuters.

Where is ISRO heading?



Only three decades ago, the Indian space programme was a diminutive affair, dominated by the newfound successes of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and a then-fledgling clump of communications satellites. Today, the programme is a large tree with a flourishing canopy. There is a slew of ongoing projects accompanied by projects being ideated, developed, tested as well as retired.The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) — employer of several thousand engineers, scientists, and administrators — is now accompanied by IN-SPACe, a new nodal agency to oversee and enable private space enterprises’ activities, and NewSpace India, Ltd., to manage commercial launch commissions and commercialise Indian space technologies. ISRO’s spaceport in Andhra Pradesh has expanded to two launch pads while a second port is under construction in Tamil Nadu. Its PSLV rocket is likewise joined by five others — three operational and two in the works — with bespoke features to meet specific civil and national needs while serving commercial markets when opportunities arise.

ISRO operates more than 50 satellites in earth orbit and has launched more than 400 in commercial missions paid for by foreign governments and companies. It has also hoisted four missions to the moon, one to Mars, two space telescopes, and a solar physics probe. Missions in the near future include a synthetic aperture radar satellite co-built with NASA, more interplanetary missions, an orbital space station, and of course human spaceflight.Its experts are designing next-generation engines (especially the SCE-200), green(er) fuels, and high-performance materials. The organisation is currently transferring SSLV and PSLV manufacturing to industry while government reforms from 2019 invited private enterprises to build and operate virtually any technology.

Against the backdrop of India’s history, a national space programme of this magnitude is by all means very successful. ‘Success’ here refers to the programme’s ability to plan and execute longer-term projects with crore-rupee budgets, coordinate activities across multiple centres, manage procurement, logistics, and accounts with industry contractors, and balance political ambitions and public expectations. Unfortunately, neither ISRO nor the programme has the luxury of having their efforts vis-à-vis spaceflight, space exploration, and commercialisation judged only by the yardstick of how far India alone has come.

The fact is the Indian space programme can take great strides and still remain uncompetitive with the other countries belonging to the same elite club to which it has repeatedly claimed to belong. While the U.S. and Russia (including the erstwhile USSR) had a head start of many decades, China, Japan, and Europe for a long time enjoyed more funding, technological sophistication or both.

But it’s also possible to flip this tension the other way. The dramatic rise of commercial opportunities in space technologies and spaceflight — led by the successes of and radical innovation by companies like SpaceX and aided by the struggles of regulatory agencies to catch up — has placed the carts of profit and/or primacy before the horse of national needs.For example, India is committed to an increasingly complex series of scientific missions to the moon, to be complemented in due course by the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and crewed moon missions. The cumulative cost will be in the tens of thousands of crore rupees and lakhs of work-hours — yet neither ISRO nor the Department of Space have explicitly articulated what the ultimate purpose is here. Simply put, what’s in it for Indians?

In 2019-2020, the Department of Space reorganised the space programme to allow ISRO to focus on research. It hived off the responsibility of organising and executing commercial launches to NewSpace India, Ltd. (a public-sector undertaking), in 2019 and that of overseeing the activities of the country’s young and ambitious space startups to IN-SPACe (an autonomous body) in 2020. This division of labour was intended to improve each arm’s ability to better define its goals and work towards them in an era in which space technologies are both diversifying and becoming more sophisticated.

At the same time, the division is still open-ended to the extent that there isn’t a policy or law that specifies what long-term goals they are collectively working towards and why. This is in and of itself not a bad thing if the space programme is also finding its footing, but it can’t afford to take its time. Some important inefficiencies linger in the reorganisation that could lead to the uneconomical use of valuable resources. For example, IN-SPACe is both promoter and regulator of private space enterprises; there is no independent tribunal to settle disputes between private companies and IN-SPACe; and there is no space law attuned to the needs of this new, wider ecosystem of participants.

Nonetheless, the more vehement supporters of India’s plans have advanced three typical arguments: (i) partaking of the comity of nations, (ii) not losing out on future opportunities, and (iii) the value of spin-off technologies. Speculative though the value of all three are, they can’t be dismissed out of hand. Argument (i) in particular is quite valuable: countries working together on space missions can reduce the per-country costs as well as open new channels for soft diplomacy. The value of (ii) and (iii) is more obvious: to keep opportunity costs in future from surging while amortising them in the interim by taking advantage of the new technologies that become available in the course of achieving those overarching goals.But a direct counterargument here is that the cost of attaining these new technologies can be much lower if we pursued them in a more direct manner rather than anticipating them as spin-offs. More broadly, if there is one correct answer to how ISRO and India should orient themselves — joining the pursuit of greater goals versus being led by Indians’ needs — it has yet to present itself. The leaders of the Indian space programme also haven’t explicitly articulated what their long-term priorities are nor how they are to be determined.

The launch vehiclesAs things stand today, at least a significant part of the answer lies with India’s launch vehicles. The reason is simple: both national and commercial missions are affected by their capabilities and availability.

ISRO can currently access four launch vehicles: the PSLV, the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark 2 (GSLV Mk-2), the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM-3), and the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). It has also just started work on the Next-Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) and is conducting what appear to be mid-stage tests of the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV). It is also making good progress on a human-rated version of the LVM-3,

called HLV-M-3, for its Gaganyaan human spaceflight missions.In addition, the Department of Space pays launch service providers abroad to buy payload capacity on their rockets when India’s own don’t fit the bill.

For many years, ISRO followed a supply-driven model of launch services: it would build and launch satellites onboard rockets, then promote the availability of these services in order to induce demand. But as it acquired newer, better rockets as well as access to more launch options, and together with reforms in the space sector, ISRO switched to a demand-driven model: until a customer — within India or international — requested a particular service, ISRO wouldn’t build the corresponding satellite and/or launch vehicle.The problem now is that people and/or industries have to want a service before it can exist, and they may not think to want it unless the want is acute or, more likely, they may not even be aware of the possibility that a satellite-based service could fulfill their requirements. Because the provision of these launch services is an important revenue source for ISRO as well as the industry member that will operate the satellite, the question is who will be responsible for seeding demand: ISRO or industry. The answer isn’t yet self-evident.

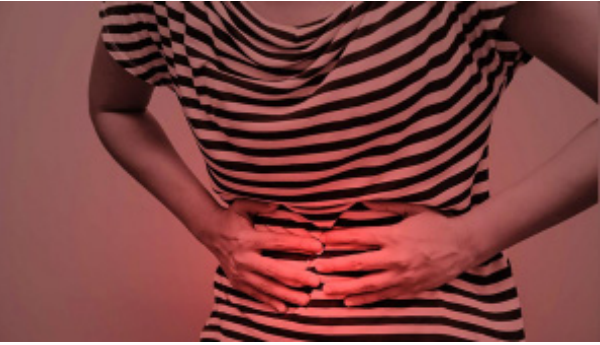
This said, India’s budding space startups could help bridge this gap to a meaningful degree. Soon after the Government of India opened the door to private sector participation, it has also been trying to give the first people through the door a push, or at least is giving an impression to that effect. The government has sweetened startups’ involvement by opening up and/or expanding foreign direct investment (FDI) in rockets and launch facilities and in satellite manufacturing, operations, and data products; floating an interest-free loan pool of Rs 1 lakh crore for all tech startups; an investment pool of Rs 1,000 crore for space tech startups; a 24% hike in the allocation for IN-SPACe; and proposed removing the angel tax — all in 2024 alone.

When she announced the 2024-2025 (post-poll) budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also said the government hopes the national space economy will expand fivefold in the next 10 years. While the size of the venture capital fund read together with this comment elicited mixed reactions from startup operators, the government’s aim is clear: for private enterprises to take advantage of opportunities in the global space economy — and make use of the available launch options.Many startups are doing good work. Some notable ones include Bellatrix Aerospace (small-satellite manufacturing and in-space mobility), Digantara (space surveillance and satellite traffic management), GalaxEye Space (multi-sensor earth observation), PierSight (persistent maritime monitoring with synthetic aperture radar satellites), Pixxel (hyperspectral imaging), SatSure (infrastructure and agriculture intelligence based on satellite data), and Skyroot Aerospace (launch vehicle design and construction). I haven’t included many others here strictly due to space constraints.There’s a chicken-and-egg problem here as well, however. The growth stories of North American and European startups teach us that for them to really break into a traditionally state-held bastion, the government needs to be an anchor customer in their early days: i.e. provide repeating and high-value business. Thus far, the Indian government has failed to do this, instead choosing to provide financial incentives and investment capital. Startup leaders sincerely hope it will resolve this lacuna soon.The Gaganyaan supremacy

This said, the availability of four launchers with two more in the works doesn’t mean demand is the only problem. There is a significant confounding factor that influences which launcher is picked for which mission, and which becomes clearer when the options are considered one at a time.The SSLV has been designed such that a new rocket can be built and launched in one week, with a payload capacity of 500 km to low-earth orbit (100 km and above from the surface) and 300 kg to a sun-synchronous orbit. In transferring the manufacturing specs to industry, ISRO’s plan seems to be for companies to sign on launch contracts by satellite providers in such volumes as to keep the SSLV launch manifest busy, and free up the PSLVs and GSLVs for higher-value missions. But it’s not clear whether there is enough demand for small-satellite launches to sustain the SSLV programme.

The GSLV Mk-II is unavailable for commercial launches. In the early days of ISRO’s cryogenic engine programme, it received a few units from the Soviet Union based on which it developed its own variant. ISRO called the three-stage medium-lift rockets that flew with the Soviet KVD-1 cryogenic engines the GSLV Mk-I and those with the Indian variant, called CE 7.5, became the GSLV Mk-II. The GSLV Mk-III is powered by ISRO’s even-better CE 20 engine and a more powerful booster stage. The vehicle was later rechristened the LVM-3 for its distinct design.The RLV and the LVM-3 need to be understood together. A preamble: ISRO has had a tough time manufacturing launch vehicles for successive missions fast enough. This is why, for example, it had to postpone the launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission in 2022 to secure a commercial launch contract from the London-based satellite internet services provider OneWeb. The company had originally been scheduled to launch its satellites onboard a Russian Soyuz rocket, but then Russia invaded Ukraine, the UK imposed sanctions on the Asian country, and OneWeb was forced to terminate its contract and look for another provider. This was ISRO, which at the time could build one LVM-3 unit only every eight months and thus had to postpone the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the next year.Even now, given the investments already made as well as the political mileage its successful execution is expected to yield for the national government, Gaganyaan’s HLV-M-3 remains ISRO’s primary focus (as launch vehicles go), leaving other missions to become subordinate to its deadlines. The RLV is one such casualty.The RLV’s final payload capacity to low-earth orbit is unclear. Even assuming it’s (a high) 20 tonnes, it probably won’t be useful for commercial missions. The SpaceX Starship already offers a higher payload capacity at a lower per-kilogram price. Instead, its features indicate the RLV will be a runway-capable ‘space plane’ that can carry experiments to low-earth orbit, stay there for some time, and bring its payload back. Thus, it’s more like Boeing’s X-37B, somewhat like the Soviet Union’s Buran project, and little like the NASA Space Shuttle. The RLV’s launch profile also means its payload will have particular volume constraints.This said, thanks to HLV-M-3, ISRO has been making slow progress. Even now, it’s not clear when the organisation plans to have the RLV ready for operational missions. And because ISRO currently doesn’t have access to a homegrown launch vehicle for satellites heavier than six tonnes, it has to pay Arianespace or, as it did recently, SpaceX to get super-heavy payloads to orbit. While these foreign options are available, they are expensive, don’t have leeway for the launch vehicle to be adjusted to the payload’s needs, and don’t allow defence technologies to be present onboard.Finally, and fortunately, there’s little uncertainty about the NGLV’s purpose: it will be a bulkier version of the LVM-3 capable of lifting even heavier payloads to the geostationary transfer orbit, up to around six tonnes. It will also be partially reusable and thus potentially offer a per-kilogram cost for payloads considered reasonable for commercial missions.

All you need to know about: Polycystic Ovary Syndrome



Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a complex hormonal disorder that affects millions of women worldwide. Characterised by menstrual irregularities, metabolic disturbances, and dermatological concerns, the condition presents significant health challenges.However, timely intervention, lifestyle modifications, and medical support enable women to manage PCOS effectively and lead fulfilling lives. Understanding symptomsThe symptoms of PCOS vary among individuals, making early diagnosis essential. The most common manifestations include menstrual irregularities, such as unpredictable, heavy, or absent periods. Metabolic disturbances, often linked to insulin resistance, contribute to unexplained weight gain and difficulty in managing weight. Dermatological concerns, including excessive facial hair, persistent acne, and hair thinning, are also commonly reported. Symptoms usually emerge during adolescence or early adulthood, and diagnosis is typically confirmed when at least two of three criteria are met: irregular menstrual cycles, elevated androgen levels detected through blood tests or physical symptoms, or the presence of ovarian cysts

How pragmatism is inadequate to understand Ambedkar’s scholarship

After several decades, the scholarship of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is getting global attention. In the last four years, four biographies by different scholars and four scholarly books, excluding a set of five volumes on Dr. Ambedkar’s life and philosophy, have been written.Still, scholars from different disciplines or through interdisciplinary approaches are reluctant to teach or research Ambedkar’s thoughts.In this context, it is interesting to see the scholarship of Scott R. Stroud explore the intellectual relationship between John Dewey and B. R. Ambedkar. His last book, The Evolution of Pragmatism in India: Ambedkar, Dewey and the Rhetoric of Reconstruction, demonstrated the scholarship of Ambedkar and Dewey within pragmatist thought. Initially, Stroud, as a Deweyan scholar, explored the Deweyan influence on Ambedkar’s political philosophy to develop the theory of Ambedkar’s navayana pragmatism.

His latest article which appeared in the Economic and Political Weekly titled “B. R Ambedkar and the Evolution of Pragmatism in India”, responded to some of his critiques, and defended his Deweyan argument. This essay critically engages with Stroud’s article in EPW.

Cannot be reduced to pragmatismStroud’s scholarship attempts to interpret Ambedkar’s political philosophy in the global pragmatist tradition. Pragmatism is a progressive philosophy; and therefore, thinkers like Ambedkar become important figures in the global pluralist pragmatist philosophical tradition, Stroud argues. However, the range of scholarship on Ambedkar over the years demonstrates that he goes beyond pragmatism — the pragmatist–Deweyan interpretation articulates only one aspect of Ambedkar’s thought. Stroud provides only a Deweyan reading of Ambedkar. Making a Deweyan interpretation of Ambedkar’s multifaceted activities and intellectual engagement only gives us a partial understanding of him and reduces Ambedkar’s versatile radical philosophy.In his recent book, Ambedkar’s Political Philosophy: A Grammar of Public Life from the Social Margin, Valerian Rodrigues explicates the wide-ranging nature of Ambedkar’s scholarship of political philosophy. Rodrigues argues that John Dewey is only one of his teachers. Therefore, merely interpreting Ambedkar’s thought through Dewey and pragmatism will give only one philosophical underpinning.

For example, one of the claims Stroud developed is that Ambedkar passionately learned from Dewey’s teachings, which remained with Ambedkar for a long time, whether it was the French Revolution or a lecture on psychology. Further, Stroud created a speculative story through a book written by Nima Adlerblum, assuming it was Ambedkar who would attend each lecture of Dewey and reproduce Dewey’s words and language. Further, Stroud focuses on Ambedkar’s western education, in which Dewey’s influence was central.By doing so, Stroud wishes to portray Dewey as a permanent thinker who shapes Ambedkar’s philosophy. This however seems to omit the fact that Ambedkar was a versatile reader who explored different philosophies and utilised social experiences and scholarship in his activism.Stroud rather forcefully argues that most of the concepts and terminologies Ambedkar used in his activism and intellectual formulation accorded with Dewey. But this obsession with Dewey’s impact and pragmatism on Ambedkar creates a limited kind of scholarship.Stroud defines pragmatism as “flexible, adaptive and diverse”. Arguably, Ambedkar did adopt a kind of pragmatic approach engaging with the modern state in articulating democracy. Unfortunately, Stroud is not interested to interpret this through Dewey’s The Public and Its Problem — probably because he could not connect the arguments in the book with Ambedkar’s experience; the way he engages with the state with a pragmatic approach such as negotiating with

Samsung unveils One UI 8 Beta, bringing personalized AI and enhanced productivity to Galaxy devices

Hyderabad: Samsung has officially announced the beta rollout of One UI 8, its latest software update built on Android 16. Redefining the Galaxy user experience, One UI 8 introduces an advanced multimodal AI agent, productivity improvements, and deeper personalization. Early-bird access is granted for Galaxy S25, S25+, and S25 Ultra users in Germany, Korea, the UK, and the US.Close-quartered collaborative efforts with Google saw the integration of real-time design feedback into One UI 8 as the UI launches alongside Android 16 for the very first time. It opens AI-powered multimodal capability, contextual UX, and suggestions for foldables.Highlights include Now Bar and Now Brief that deliver curated insights to assist with task management. Privacy, from the Sa release of Knox Vault, is treated as paramount, giving the user complete control over processing both on-device and in the cloud AI.

identified via ultrasound. In certain cases, additional effects such as infertility or dark patches on the skin, known as acanthosis nigricans, indicate metabolic concerns that warrant medical attention.

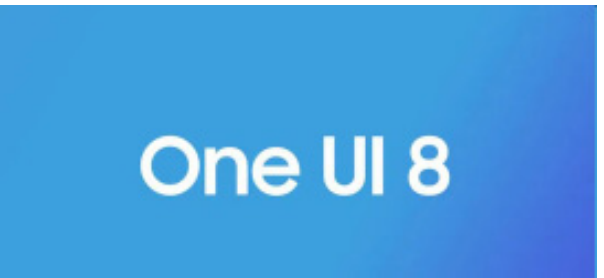
Addressing PCOS at an early stage can significantly improve long-term health outcomes. Managing insulin resistance through dietary modifications and physical activity is crucial in reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes. Cardiovascular health also benefits from a nutrient-rich diet and regular exercise, which aid in managing hypertension and cholesterol levels. For those seeking to conceive, lifestyle modifications alone often improve fertility, though medical assistance may be required in some instances. While lifestyle adjustments remain the foundation of PCOS management, medical interventions offer additional support. A modest weight reduction, even as little as five to 10 % of body weight, has been shown to restore ovulatory function and alleviate symptoms.Pharmacological treatments, including ovulation-inducing medications assist in stimulating egg release, while insulin-sensitising drugs help regulate blood sugar levels and restore menstrual regularity.In more complex cases, advanced therapeutic options such as ovarian drilling, a minimally invasive laparoscopic procedure, can enhance ovulation. Assisted reproductive techniques, including intrauterine insemination (IUI) and in vitro fertilisation (IVF), offer viable solutions for those facing fertility challenges. Meanwhile, emerging treatments, including targeted hormonal therapies and specialised nutritional supplements, continue to show promise in improving ovarian function and overall symptom management. With increasing awareness and advancements in treatment, individuals with PCOS can take charge of their health, make informed choices, and improve overall well-being.



Gandhi, other Indian leaders, and the later Constituent Assembly debates. Although, Stroud equates pragmatism and social democracy, it is important to see Ambedkar’s original emphasis of social democracy, and not within the pragmatist tradition.

Pragmatism is important, but inadequate to annihilate caste in a Brahmanical society. Ambedkar cited Dewey in Annihilation of Caste, but it is not a pragmatic text.Stroud claims that Ambedkar learned the “psychology of habit and custom” from Dewey in thinking about the psychology of caste. But how could Stroud overlook the untouchability encountered by Ambedkar throughout his life — whether it is physical or psychological?Stroud’s articulations are lofty; it also implicitly indicates that Ambedkar’s originality lies in Dewey, that Ambedkar’s scholarship and experience of caste count for little, and that his reading of several texts on caste seem secondary.

Stroud argues that Ambedkar’s conversion to Buddhism was a pragmatic approach. But Buddhism was a life-long philosophy that Ambedkar cultivated from his childhood; giving credit or echo to Dewey is a misinterpretation. For example, Ambedkar’s family were part of the Kabir Panth, which teaches the importance of ethics and morality. Further, Ambedkar read the Buddha Charitra in his early age which remained his sole inspiration. Ambedkar also wrote a letter to Sharada stating, that “the only person to whom I owe all my being is Gautama Buddha.”Very importantly, Rodrigues shows in his recent book, a wide-ranging scholarship on the “epistemic location of Ambedkar” that includes Kabir’s legacy, Dewey’s influence, Phule’s presence in Ambedkar, the social and political discourse of Bombay and India, Fabian socialism, social democracy and so on. In the Columbia alumni newspaper, where Ambedkar expresses admiration for his “great professors, John Dewey, James Shotwell, Edwin Seligman, and James Hervey Robinson”, Stroud only picks John Dewey for his project of pragmatism. Similarly, one should also explore Ambedkar’s time in London (LSE). How can Ambedkar’s western education only focus on Dewey?The Annihilation of Caste was a lifelong project for Ambedkar’s emancipatory politics and philosophy. The annihilation of caste, the declaration of renouncing Hinduism and the conversion to Buddhism were revolutionary acts, not merely accorded to pragmatism. They were part of his praxis because Ambedkar could see the limitations of the modern state and constitutional democracy.He found Buddhism to be an ultimate path. His 22 vows discard the authority of Hindu gods and goddess — it is not a reformist act either, nor even restructuring Hindu society. Too much reading of pragmatism into Ambedkar suggests an American project — the same American project yet to adequately address the structural and perpetual racial discrimination faced by people of colour. Ambedkar was equally aware of the limitations of pragmatism and the modern state and hence caste annihilation was his project of emancipation.



One UI 8 simplifies everyday workflows. Auracast audio streaming allows device connectivity across the range, from Galaxy Buds3 to hearing aids, by way of QR codes, and repair center visits become easy via NFC-enabled support tools. The updated reminder app organizes your trips and works, still, with voice instructions.

India’s burden of malnutrition and obesity: where diet makes or breaks



unhealthy diets.

The report recommended that no more than 45% of calories in the daily diet should come from cereals and millets; 15% from pulses, and beans (protein sources), and the rest should come from nuts, vegetables, fruits, and milk. But the reality of the Indian diet is that it is highly deficient in protein, with nearly 70% of the caloric requirement met through carbohydrates and the intake of micronutrient-rich vegetables, and fruits much below recommended levels. In 2019, the EAT-Lancet Commission published recommendations about healthy diet patterns that can sustain 10 billion people in an environmentally friendly manner by 2050. In 2020, the International Food Policy Research Institute published a paper on how well the Indian dietary pattern fitted in with the EAT-Lancet reference diet. The study found that Indian households who spend the least on food show the greatest reliance on whole grains, starches, and processed foods, with little else. This pattern is maintained across the rural-urban divide. Protein makes up only 6-8% of the caloric intake, against the 30% in the reference diet. Fruits and vegetables make up about 8% of daily calories in the reference diet. The wealthiest city dwellers get almost a third of their calories from processed foods. Even among the poorest, 8% of calories come from these foods for urban and rural residents. In South India, processed foods make up 13% of diets, vs. 8% in North-east and North India. The study pointed towards “a lack of availability, accessibility, awareness, and acceptability” as other major causes for the poor quality of Indian diets and recommended that subsidies on healthy foods should be the norm. Large-scale awareness campaigns were needed to help people understand why their dietary diversity needed to improve.

Sreejith N. Kumar, a Thiruvananthapuram-based physician who has been at the forefront of Eat Right campaigns in Kerala, says that dietary diversity or the quality of one's diet need not be a complicated affair. “One just needs to follow the “MyPlate” dietary guideline (from the U.S. Department of Agriculture) which says that half of your plate be filled with fruits and vegetables, a quarter each is filled with grains and protein. This roughly falls in line with the ICMR-NIN guidelines that no more than 45% of calories come from cereals,” he says. The heavy reliance on carbs in every meal and sedentary work has led to spiralling levels of abdominal obesity in both rural and urban India. This excessive carb and fructose (from sugary, processed foods) intake is the starting point of fatty liver disease, a phenomenon that has engulfed Kerala, Dr. Sreejith says.

Ensuring dietary diversity or the consumption from a wide range of food groups is key to achieving optimal nutrition and staving off micronutrient deficiencies and thus malnutrition. NFHS-5 data shows that only 28% of adults consume all five recommended food groups. Dr. Sreejith says that the first imperative to healthy eating should be awareness of the importance of dietary diversity and a change in mindset on what needs to be on one's plate.

“For healthy eating to be affordable, the accent should be on encouraging people to eat vegetables and fruits which are locally and seasonally available. You do not need broccoli, spinach, and Greek yoghurt, but can opt for the innumerable varieties of leafy vegetables (amaranthus), moringa leaves, and other local vegetables (eg: banana stem and flower). Eggs are an affordable source of protein,” he says. The idea is to prioritise vegetables, include moderate amounts of protein and fat, and lower the amount of carbs.

In Kerala, local self-governments and Kudumbasree units have taken up several initiatives at the ward level to encourage household vegetable farming in grow bags so that fresh produce is available at least in a small way in every household. However, larger policy initiatives are needed to support the nutritional requirements of a huge section of the nation's population, including the subsidised supply of healthy and diverse food options as well as the imposition of a fat tax or health tax on the sale of ultra-processed and high fatty foods to limit the consumption of these items. In this context, Arun Gupta, paediatrician, public health expert, and convenor of the Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest, points out that weak and subjective labelling and advertising laws are letting junk food giants enjoy the freedom to make profits at the expense of public health. In an article in The Hindu, “Flawed food regulations fuel the obesity crisis”, Dr. Gupta says that the Economic Survey 2025 recommendation that a health tax be imposed on ultra-processed foods to curb their consumption is being derailed by the same “industry-friendly, subjective food marketing regulations”. “India should adopt a stringent front-of-pack marketing labelling system (to curb unrestricted advertisements of unhealthy processed foods); fix clear salt/sugar/fat limits for foods high in fat/salt and sugar and frame stringent advertising laws. Lastly, the government should consider launching a campaign on the risks of consuming ultra-processed food in all languages,” Dr. Gupta adds. At the State-level too, farming policies should be able to leverage local food systems which include a diverse variety of local vegetables, pulses, and millets, so that the nutritional content of diets can be improved.

Why does Delhi’s local train system lie in ruins? | Explained

The story so far: While the Delhi metro has recently announced a facility to buy QR tickets on 11 different apps, the Delhi suburban Railway, often referred to as the Delhi local, lies derelict.

When did the system start?

Delhi got its local train service in the first decade after Independence. On January 2, 1955, Delhi's first local train ran from New Delhi station to Sarojini Nagar, then known as Vinay Nagar. The network then gradually expanded to connect Delhi with its neighbouring cities. Today, the suburban system links seven key hubs across the National Capital Region (NCR) — from Sonipat, Bhiwani, Rewari and Palwal in Haryana to Meerut, Ghaziabad, and Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh — with Delhi at its centre.

What is its current state?

Built to serve suburban commuters, this network was meant to ease traffic and support daily travel. But in reality, it's overcrowded, unreliable, and neglected. According to Dr. Velmurugan Senathipati of the Central Road Research Institute, despite its wide reach — especially in NCR's rural areas — the Delhi local carries just 0.5% to 3% of commuter traffic, far below the ideal 6-7%. Passengers report waiting over an hour, 15 times longer than the metro, only to board jam-packed coaches. Sarita Sethi, a government employee commuting from New Town, Faridabad to Okhla, states, “My commute should ideally be 25 minutes but it's always nearly an hour long due to unscheduled halts as express trains are prioritised.” Nikhil, a railway employee, says, “There are too many passengers and too few trains.

Forget about sitting, during evenings, you can't even stand in the train.” Unlike the Metro, enforcement of women-only coaches is lax in the local. Mrs. Sethi says, “Men often enter the ladies coach brazenly. Safety and theft are constant concerns. When the train's late in the evenings, the journey from the station to home can easily become a nightmare.” Dr. Velmurugan's study confirms this insecurity, as women make up just 14.6% of local train passengers. Is the metro a better alternative? The local train service in Delhi is much more affordable than the metro. Dr. Velmurugan's research shows that nearly 40% of suburban rail passengers earn less than ₹5,000 a month. For them, the local train is not just a choice, it's the only option they can afford. A local train ride from Greater Noida to Delhi costs just ₹15, compared to ₹90 by metro or ₹69 through a bus-metro combo, excluding last mile connection fares. Over a month, that's ₹750 by the local versus a staggering ₹4,500 by metro. Moreover, a Monthly Season Ticket (MST) brings costs down to just ₹270 a month or ₹9 a day. Additionally, local trains have a dedicated vendors' bogey, widely used by dairy farmers to transport produce to markets like Sadar Bazaar and Chandni Chowk. But even this advantage is fading. Amit, a dairy farmer from Ajayabpur village in Greater Noida, says, “We had to stop using the local because delays were spoiling the produce. My friends now either rely on road transport or have quit the trade altogether, it just isn't profitable anymore.” These concerns have driven passengers to explore more reliable — though far costlier — alternatives, such as private buses or personal vehicles. What should be done?

Dementia — the urgent need for India to invest in elder care



India's population is rapidly ageing. The share of individuals aged 60 or older is expected to touch 20 crore by 2031. Estimates indicate it is then projected to increase to nearly 20% of the total Indian population by 2050. With age being a major risk factor for dementia - an umbrella term for several diseases affecting memory, other cognitive abilities and behaviour that interfere significantly with a person's ability to maintain their activities of daily living - India faces an alarming potential increase in the number of people with age-related cognitive decline. In 2023, the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI) and LASI-Diagnostic Assessment for Dementia reported that the prevalence of dementia in India among individuals aged 60 and older was 7.4%, with higher rates in women and rural regions. The study estimated that by 2036, the number of cases would quadruple, touching 1.7 crore.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared dementia a public health priority in 2012 and launched a Global Action Plan on the public health response to dementia (2017 – 2025) which emphasises critical areas such as dementia awareness, risk reduction, diagnosis, treatment, caregiver support, and research. As India grapples with the challenges of a rapidly growing elderly demographic, the need for specialised elder care has never been more urgent, experts say. Currently, India has a severe shortage of resources, trained caregivers, and comprehensive healthcare systems to adequately address the needs of those suffering from dementia. Despite advances in drug development, risk reduction remains the only proven prevention tool, Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), the global federation of over 100 Alzheimer's and dementia associations, has warned. Calling on governments around the world to urgently fund dementia risk-reduction research, education, and support services, ADI has said that nearly 40% of projected dementia cases can be delayed or potentially even avoided by addressing risk factors. While 40 governments worldwide have so far developed national dementia plans, the proposal is yet to gain momentum in India.

Asserting the importance of early detection, awareness and effective care systems, Thomas Gregor Issac, associate professor at the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru, said there is a need for expanded healthcare infrastructure, professional training, and a national dementia policy. This will help address India's growing dementia challenge, which includes early diagnosis and treatment gaps, he said. Pointing out that dementia is often misunderstood in India, he said this was due to a lack of awareness and cultural misconceptions, which led to delayed evaluations and diagnosis. This in turn considerably impairs the quality of care. “A large chunk of pre-dementia syndromes like mild cognitive impairment and subjective cognitive decline is often misdiagnosed, underdiagnosed and undiagnosed. While the thrust should be on better screening strategies at the community level, a national portal or dementia registry that is fully functional, ensuring patient and caregiver anonymity, but with proper medical data, blood test reports and neuroimaging data can be a wonderful resource for all researchers in the country working on different angles of this problem,” he said.

A previous global survey by ADI revealed that a shocking 80% of the public still incorrectly believes that dementia is a normal part of ageing rather than a medical condition. “In a value-driven society such as India, where intergenerational support and family ties are strongly embedded in cultural norms, help-seeking behaviour for dementia remains low. The idea of using care facilities or depending on care homes is often perceived as a failure to fulfil familial responsibilities and is associated with stigma. The absence of proper support networks for caregivers greatly

increases the financial, emotional, and physical strain, which frequently results in stress, burnout, and weakened health, all of which influence the standard of care given to people with disabilities or chronic illnesses,” Dr. Issac explained. P. T. Sivakumar, professor of psychiatry, and head of the Geriatric Psychiatry Unit at the Department of Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, said dementia care requires a holistic, public health approach with a focus on prevention, early diagnosis, comprehensive post-diagnostic support, daycare, long-term care and caregiver support. Promoting public awareness to facilitate timely diagnosis, and a dementia-friendly community with adequate resources to support care were essential, he said. Dementia care should be community-based through the development of a cadre of community-based health workers, with a primary focus on integrated health and social care for the elderly population, he said. “Increasing the investment to promote community-based healthcare of the elderly and long-term care systems is essential to prepare for the rapid growth of the elderly population in the next two decades. The development of the cadre of ASHA workers at the community level two decades ago was one of the biggest healthcare reforms for maternal and child healthcare. It is time to develop a similar cadre of health workers with a dedicated focus on the elderly population, including for dementia care,” he said. Ascerting that training and capacity-building of health workers at all levels of the health system to promote dementia care was also essential, Dr. Sivakumar said there was an urgent need to develop programmes and services for dementia care under the existing policies and schemes relevant to the elderly. “The National Mental Health Programme and the National Programme for Health Care of Elderly should be strengthened adequately to support dementia care. States with high proportions of elderly population like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, etc. need to focus on this area,” he said. NIMHANS has launched a pilot study for Amyloid PET imaging to diagnose Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia which can impair memory and significantly lower quality of life.

Ramani Sundaram, executive director of Dementia India Alliance (DIA), said despite its impact, a majority of dementia cases are identified only in the advanced stages when intervention options are limited, care costs are high, and the quality of life for individuals and their families is severely compromised.

Pointing out that dementia is a public health and economic emergency, she said without early detection and intervention, India's already stretched healthcare infrastructure will bear the brunt of rising hospitalisations, emergency admissions, and long-term institutional care. Late-stage dementia care is significantly more expensive than early interventions. DIA president Radha S. Murthy said public health systems would soon be overburdened due to a lack of community-based support. “Families suffer financially and emotionally with unplanned expenses and the demands of full-time care,” she added.

According to a study published in the Indian Journal of Public Health in 2013, the cost of dementia care in India in 2010 for 37 lakh people was ₹23,300 crore annually. It was estimated that at present, families of 88 lakh people with dementia would be spending about ₹1,18,902 crore annually to take care of their kin. Based on current projections, the economic burden on households to take care of 1.7 crore people with dementia by 2036, would be a staggering ₹3,08,395 crore annually, experts pointed out. Despite this growing crisis, India continues to lack adequate infrastructure, resources, and policies to support dementia patients and their families. A recent paper by researchers from CBR highlighted the need for a comprehensive dementia policy in India to address the needs of the older population and their caregivers on a national scale. This policy should prioritise effective dementia prevention strategies and equitable allocation of resources, incorporating evidence-based approaches. The policy should also integrate dementia care into both geriatric and mental health plans, stated the paper published in The Lancet Psychiatry in January this year. Establishing such a policy, the paper noted, required extensive consultations among various stakeholders and organisations, including government bodies, healthcare professionals, researchers, and individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

The wait for judicial finality

In 2019, the Waqf Board in Kerala staked claim over more than 400 acres of land in Munambam, a coastal village in Ernakulam district. The inhabitants of Munambam are mostly Christian families numbering around 600. When several residents of the village began demanding restoration of the revenue rights of their holdings, the State BJP saw an opportunity. The party unleashed a campaign arguing that enactment of the new law would resolve the issue. It also hoped that this pitch would help it make some inroads into the Christian votes of the State. However, its hopes were dashed when it later emerged that the law would be of little help in solving the issue as there are no specific provisions in the 2025 amendment that will directly address the issue. BJP leaders have themselves clarified that they will have to wage a legal battle to get the issue solved.

The ruling LDF and the Opposition UDF are united in their opposition to the Waqf (Amendment) Act and wasted no time in campaigning against what they termed as “deceitful acts” of the BJP to communally polarise Kerala. Immediately, BJP leaders, including Union Ministers, went on a damage-control exercise. They tried to save the party from political embarrassment and from the possibility of losing the trust of the residents of Munambam residents and Christian voters by requesting them to wait for just three weeks. They contended that the Rules of the amended Act would be notified in this period. However, the Union government is yet to publish the Rules, even as the constitutional validity of the Act is being challenged in the Supreme Court. The intense legal battle may take time to conclude and could further delay the notification of the Rules.

To add to the BJP's woes, legal experts have been cautioning the residents of Munambam against being too optimistic about the changes that the Rules could bring in to support their cause. They say no Rule can prescribe anything which has not already been mentioned in the parent law. Rules, they argue, are the enabling provisions of the parent law; they are nothing but specific instructions for the implementation of a law. Meanwhile, the new chairperson of the Waqf Tribunal, T.K. Minimol, who was a district and sessions judge serving in Thrissur, will have to consider afresh the litigation regarding Munambam, initiated two years ago. The constitutional challenges raised regarding the 2025 Act have left the Kerala Waqf Board, which is on an extended term, in a confused position. The term of the present Board, which is headed by a nominee of the CPI (M), ended on December 19, 2024. The Kerala High Court



To add to the BJP's woes, legal experts have been cautioning the residents of Munambam against being too optimistic about the changes that the Rules could bring in to support their cause.

had asked the Board to continue in office for two more months or until the election for picking up members, whichever is earlier, was completed. Its order came before the legislation was enacted. The 2025 legislation, which has done away with the election process, has proposed that members be nominated to the Board. Also, it has made provisions for nominating non-Muslims to the Board, which has come under legal challenge before the Supreme Court. The Board has to put on hold the process of reconstitution even after the expiry of its term. The State government, which had earlier thought of reconstituting the Board as prescribed in the Waqf (Amendment) Act, appears to have decided not to act in haste and wait for the Court's verdict as it had raised objections to several provisions of the Act. After hesitating for some time, the Kerala government decided to implead in the litigation before the top court challenging the constitutional validity of the 2025 legislation. The Board had acted in this direction much before the government took a call on challenging the new legislation. The post of the Chief Executive Officer for the Kerala Board will also have to be filled up shortly.

Much like the residents of Munambam, the Kerala government too is waiting for the legal battle to be over to decide its next steps, both legal and political. With the local body elections, considered the semi-finals to the Assembly polls to be held next year, around the corner, the State government is treading a careful path. It does not want to antagonise any sections of society.

UPI, government salaries may be used to measure growth in health, education services



The statistics ministry is considering using UPI payments data and salaries paid by the government to help measure the growth of education, health, and public administration and defence services. This would increase the services covered by the new Index of Services Production (ISP), the ministry said on Tuesday. The proposed use of UPI data for the ISP comes despite a sub-committee of the ministry's Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics deciding against it as an input in the calculation of India's GDP, noting that payments transaction data is not yet stable, with many people yet to move to UPI from cash. "Once the UPI transaction data get stabilised, it may be explored for possible inclusion as an indicator in the estimation of PFCE," the report of the sub-committee, released in February, had said. PFCE is Private Final Consumption Expenditure and the biggest component of GDP when it's measured as the sum of various types of spending.

However, the statistics ministry said on Tuesday the UPI is "entering a new phase of market maturity" and growth in transaction values and volumes is showing a "clear stabilising trend" after several years of "hyper-growth". "Looking forward, the trend strongly suggests that UPI is transitioning into a highly mature and resilient utility. Future growth is likely to flatten into a stable band," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said. In an 'approach paper' to widen the ISP's coverage – released on an experimental basis starting July – MoSPI said payments made by UPI for various types of schools, universities, other educational and health and medical services can be used to gauge the private sector aspect of these two categories. Meanwhile, these services provided by the public sector are proposed to be measured by the salaries paid by

the government for various staff. Comments on the approach paper are invited by October 16. Identification of UPI payments for these categories will be done by the Merchant Category Codes. For instance, the merchant code for 'taxi cabs and limousines' is 4121. Meanwhile, salaries for relevant government staff are to be taken from the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), which captures budget provisions and expenditures incurred by the government under different heads. For public administration and defence, which are not market activities and hence can't be measured through their transaction values, MoSPI has proposed adding together the compensation paid to relevant employees and operational expenses incurred in the provision of these services.

According to data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Rs 25,635 crore was spent via UPI on education in August, while the figure for the 'hospitals' segment was Rs 16,976 crore. Meanwhile, Rs 17,487 crore was spent on government services. These three categories constituted 2.9%, 1.9%, and 2%, respectively of the entire month's Person-to-Merchant UPI payments of almost Rs 9 lakh crore. These three sub-sectors made up almost a fifth of the entire services sector's Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2024-25: education around 7%, human health and residential care around 3%, and public administration and defence almost 11%. The ISP is the service counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production and currently comprises 19 sub-sectors covering approximately 60% of the sector's GVA in 2024-25, which is the base year for this new data series. Health, education, and public administration and defence were not initially included in the index as MoSPI hadn't finalised a method to measure their output.

Following their inclusion, the ISP will cover around 78% of the services sector's GVA. The remaining 22% or so comes from ownership of dwellings, the Reserve Bank of India, and gambling and betting, among other activities. These will continue to be excluded from the index. The ISP aims to fill a key gap in India's official statistics; until now, there has been no official monthly measure of the services sector's performance, with private sector firm S&P Global's services Purchasing Managers' Index being the only one. This is despite services being the largest contributor to India's economy, making up more than half of it for the last decade and a half or so. Industry, meanwhile, makes up less than a third of the GVA.

Repo rate hiked by 25 bps to 5.50 pc: Why RBI has hiked interest rates; EMIs set to rise

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased its policy repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.50 per cent, marking the first rate hike since February 2023 and signalling a shift towards tighter monetary policy amid rising inflationary pressures, elevated crude oil prices and a challenging global interest-rate environment. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has changed the policy stance to 'calibrated tightening' from 'neutral' indicating further hike in the interest rates is a likelihood. The MPC has also hiked the growth projection from 6.7 per cent to 7.1 per cent in FY27 in the wake of the higher economic activity in the country. The panel also raised the inflation forecast to 5.2 per cent for FY27 from 5 per cent previously.

The decision by the policy panel to hike rates comes after nearly two years of monetary accommodation. The increase is expected to push up borrowing costs across the economy, affecting interest rates on home, personal and vehicle loans, while also providing some support to deposit rates. Announcing the monetary policy, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said high frequency indicators show economic activity holding momentum in the second quarter albeit with some moderation when compared to first quarter. "The policy action ahead can only be a rate hike or pause, depending on the evolving conditions," Malhotra said.

The RBI's move follows growing concerns that inflationary pressures are becoming more broad-based. Retail inflation rose to 4.82 per cent in August, remaining above the central bank's medium-term target of 4 per cent for the third consecutive month, although it continues to remain within the RBI's tolerance band of 2-6 per cent. The last rate hike – when it was hiked from 6.25 per cent to 6.50 per cent – occurred in February 2023, making any potential increase the first in over three-and-a-half years. Governor Sanjay Malhotra hinted at policy recalibration due to signs of inflation normalizing, while Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta acknowledged that conditions for a rate hike may arise during the year. Recent CPI data shows headline inflation at 4.82% in August, marking the third consecutive month above the 4% medium-term target, though still within the RBI's 2-6% range. Forecasts project inflation to rise to an average of 5.9% in Q4 2026 before moderating in the following quarters. As inflation risks persist, a more extended rate hike cycle may be on the horizon.

Why has the RBI raised rates?

The decision comes against a backdrop of rising food and energy prices, weather-related disruptions and higher crude oil prices. Maharashtra has declared drought in about 265 of its 358 talukas, while the possibility of drought has also been flagged in Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Reservoir levels across India are around 20 per cent below last year's levels, raising concerns about agricultural output and the rabi crop. The possibility of El Niño conditions extending into 2027 remains another key risk to the inflation outlook. Global developments have added to the pressure. Crude oil prices have risen above \$100 a barrel amid geopolitical tensions, raising concerns about imported inflation and India's external balance. The West Asia conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war have also added uncertainty to the global economic outlook. At the same time, global interest rates remain elevated. The US Federal Reserve recently raised its policy rate by 25 bps to 3.75-4 per cent, while US benchmark yields have also risen sharply by 53 bps to 5.31 per cent in a month. The benchmark 10-year bond yield in India has gone up by 25 bps to 7.21 per cent in a month. A narrowing interest-rate differential with the US could increase pressure on India's financial markets and currency, making the RBI's policy response more important. Foreign investors have been pulling out funds from India in the wake of the rise in yields in the US.

What does the rate hike mean for borrowers?

The increase in the repo rate is expected to feed into lending rates, particularly for loans linked to external benchmarks. Home, personal and vehicle loan borrowers could see their equated monthly instalments (EMIs) rise as banks pass on the higher cost of funds. Loans linked to the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) may also become more expensive. Banks, however, have flexibility in revising MCLR-based rates depending on their funding



costs, liquidity conditions and deposit mobilisation. Deposit rates could also rise marginally as banks reassess their funding requirements. The extent of any increase will depend on liquidity and broader funding conditions. Savers and depositors would like to see the deposit rates going up as high retail inflation has cut into their savings.

Inflation risks remain broad-based. The RBI's decision to hike retail inflation to 5.2 per cent comes as price pressures extend beyond food and perishable commodities. Higher energy prices, food inflation and weather disruptions are adding to the risks. Analysts expect retail inflation to peak at around 6 per cent in the third quarter and average about 5 per cent in FY27. The possibility of sustained inflation above the RBI's target has strengthened expectations that monetary policy may remain tighter for longer. Economists have pointed to the widening gap between consumer and wholesale price inflation, with rising input costs gradually spreading across farming and non-farming sectors. The rate increase comes amid strong economic growth. India's GDP grew 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of FY27, beating expectations, with consumption, investment and exports supporting momentum. GST collections, automobile sales and bank credit have also remained healthy. While analysts expect FY27 growth at 7.3 per cent, RBI was conservative in its assessment and raised its growth projection to 7.1 per cent from the earlier estimate of 6.7 per cent. However, higher crude prices, elevated global interest rates, geopolitical tensions, trade-policy uncertainty and weather disruptions pose risks to growth in the coming quarters. The 25-bps increase to 5.50 per cent therefore marks an important change in the RBI's policy direction. With inflation becoming broader and global financial conditions remaining tight, the central bank faces the challenge of containing price pressures without significantly weakening domestic growth.

Triumph introduces three new Bonneville motorcycles in India

Pune: Triumph Motorcycles has introduced three new motorcycles in India, the Bonneville T40, T40 Black and T4, expanding its Bonneville range with 350cc models featuring a mix of retro styling and modern rider technology. The three motorcycles are powered by a new iteration of Triumph's 350cc TR Series engine. The engine has been tuned to deliver a relaxed, torque-focused power delivery and is paired with a distinctive exhaust note. The motorcycles retain several traditional Bonneville design elements, including a sculpted teardrop-shaped fuel tank, round headlamp, spoked wheels and twin-shock rear suspension. The models also feature heritage-inspired two-tone paint schemes, hand-painted coach lining, brushed peashooter-style silencers and aluminium engine covers. The Bonneville T40 and T40 Black get a 4-inch circular TFT display with smartphone connectivity, including navigation, phone and music controls. They also feature five riding modes, cruise control, lean-sensitive cornering ABS and cornering traction control. The Bonneville T4 comes with a colour LCD display offering turn-by-turn navigation, ride modes and dual-channel ABS. Triumph said the three motorcycles have been designed with relaxed ergonomics and a low seat height.

The artist who turned Telangana's cultural memory into cinema

Hyderabad: When art reflects the life of the people, it ceases to be mere art. It becomes a testimony of an era. And when that testimony is preserved through painting, cinema, literature and photography, it becomes a guiding light for future generations. B. Narsing Rao is one of those rare creative geniuses who walked that path. His deep bond with the soil of Telangana and its living culture echoes in every frame of his creation. To measure the talent of such an artist through a single art form is impossible, and to confine his creative journey to a single definition is even more difficult. Film director, producer, writer, poet, actor, painter, photographer, music lover, theatre activist – he is a cultural document who appears in many forms.

It is a moment of great honour for Telangana that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University has conferred an Honorary Doctorate on this multifaceted genius, in recognition of his extraordinary service to Telangana's art and cultural heritage. What B. Narsing Rao created as a film director are not just films, but memories of a bygone era. What he portrayed are not just people, but the life of a society. What he did was not just art, but a vast and vivid canvas that brings Telangana's cultural history to life. The soil of Telangana, its language and dialect, rural life, folk culture and social reality are recurring themes in his work. Therefore, to see him merely as a film director is to diminish the scope of his creativity. Narsing Rao was born on 6th December 1946 in Pragnapur in the erstwhile Hyderabad State, into a wealthy feudal family that owned hundreds of acres and employed sixty to seventy workers. He lived a life of privilege – a golden spoon childhood. But because his father was a progressive thinker, his life took a different turn. He came in contact with a fine arts teacher named Vithal, who was also an actor. With his encouragement, he began staging plays at Ravindra Bharathi. With Vithal's support, he joined Fine Arts and completed his degree. During this time, he studied theatre, arts, literature and folk performance forms with great depth.

In the late 1960s, at a time of revolutionary upsurge, B. Narsing Rao founded the 'Art Lovers Association'. He transformed song, poetry, street performance, folk art forms and theatre into a medium for direct dialogue with the people. The group would travel to rural areas, observe people's lives and reflect them in their art. In this cultural movement, Gummadi Vithal Rao, who had not yet become Gaddar, joined him as a companion. They became the cultural torchbearers of people's art and began giving inspiring performances. They collected thousands of folk and revolutionary songs and performed them in villages around Hyderabad. In 1972, Narsing Rao renamed the Art Lovers Association as 'Jana Natya Mandal'. The duo's later role in building a cultural movement is itself history. They wrote and staged plays like Pothula Vyavasayam, Samadhi, Beedala Patlu and Kotta Manishi. Though born into a landlord family, he yearned for the poor and the oppressed. Between 1972 and 1975, unexpectedly drawn to the revolutionary path, he spent some time underground. This early experience profoundly influenced his later artistic journey. His cinema reflects the perspective of going amidst the people to see their lives, rather than observing them from a distance.

He did not use cinema merely as a tool for storytelling, but as a medium to reveal society with a realistic vision. The film Maa Bhoomi (1979) was a milestone in his journey as a producer and writer. While Gautam Ghosh directed the film, Narsing Rao was its producer and co-writer. The film stands as a testimony to the Telangana peasant struggle and the miserable lives of common people under the feudal system. His passion is evident in bringing the reality of that time to the screen. Maa Bhoomi earned a unique place in Telugu cinema as a mirror of Telangana's social reality. It proclaimed that cinema is not just for entertainment, but a powerful medium to document the history of a region, the experiences of its people and its social consciousness. By bringing issues like the Telangana peasant revolt, the zamindari system and the life of poor farmers to the public through cinema, he brought the history of a region into the discourse of Indian cinema. Gaddar's song 'Bandenaka Bandi Katti



Padahaaru Bandlu Katti' from the film became a massive hit. Therefore, Maa Bhoomi should be seen not just as a film, but as a visual form of Telangana's people's history. From there, Narsing Rao's cinematic journey took a more distinctive direction. His directorial debut Rangula Kala explored the inner world of an artist. It is the story of painters searching for direction in art. Rangula Kala created another important chapter in his creative journey. The indigenous music gave life to the film. With Gaddar acting and singing songs like 'Jum Jummal Marri' and 'Bhadram Koduko', the film was taken to the next level. The songs make the heart melt. Rangula Kala is an experimental film. If you want to see the life of Hyderabad city of that era, you can watch this film. It stands as the highest form of art and displays a rebellion against slavery. The film won the National Award for Best Telugu Feature Film. Here, he appears not just as a director, but as a creator who sees cinema as a comprehensive art form, where music, painting, literature, acting and photography naturally flow from one form to another.

His next film Daasi (1988) gave a voice to silence. It is one of the most important Indian films in his career. The film realistically reflected the life of a socially oppressed woman, the exploitation in the feudal system and the inner struggle for human dignity. Winning five National Film Awards including Best Telugu Film, and receiving a Diploma of Merit at the Moscow International Film Festival, was a rare honour for his creativity. More important than the awards, he proved that even the life of a person on the margins of society can be portrayed with artistic dignity and a humane perspective. It is said that after watching Rangula Kala, Harindranath Chattopadhyay, brother of Sarojini Naidu, shed tears. Arudra wrote a 16-page review in a daily newspaper. After watching Daasi, the Bengali director Tapan Sinha, Jnanpith awardee U. R. Ananthamurthy from Karnataka, and Raj Kapoor's eldest son Randhir Kapoor said the same thing on different occasions: "My country is proud of you." What a great compliment indeed.

Along with films like Matti Manushulu and Harivillu, he also made documentaries like Maa Ooru, The City and Aakriti. Through his films, he sublimely showed on screen the great bond between this land and man. Matti Manushulu reflects the relationship between man and land and many harsh realities of rural life. The film also received international recognition. Similarly, Maa Ooru stands as a film that documented the lifestyle, customs, memories and social structure of a village community. It won the award for Best Film at the 36th National Film Awards. His films stay in your memory for a long time after you watch them.

Among those introduced to Telugu cinema by B. Narsing Rao are director Gautam Ghosh, Archana, Roopa, Neena Gupta, actors Bhupal, Sai Chand, Gaddar, Khader Ali Baig, famous painter Thota Vaikuntam, poet Devipriya, Chandra and many others. But Narsing Rao's creative horizon does not end with cinema. His creative nature is to not stop after achieving success in one field, but to explore another art form. This Honorary Doctorate being conferred on B. Narsing Rao in his creative journey is not just a felicitation. It is a great honour bestowed upon a multifaceted artistic creation born from the soil of Telangana, and upon a representative of a generation who preserved cultural memories through art.

Kiara Advani, Sidharth Malhotra embrace parenthood for the second time



Mumbai: Bollywood star couple Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra are set to embrace parenthood for the second time. They announced that they blessed once again with the greatest gift of all. Sharing the joyous news on Instagram, the couple in a joint post shared the news about

welcoming another precious addition to their family. They also shared an adorable picture of their first born Saraayah handing over a pair of ivory knitted booties to her parents.

"Blessed once again with the greatest gift of all... Our hearts are so full of love and gratitude," the couple wrote as the caption. Sidharth and Kiara fell in love with each other on the sets of their movie Shershaah in 2021. They tied the knot in February 2023 in a grand yet intimate ceremony in Rajasthan after dating for a few years. They welcomed their firstborn, a baby girl in June 2025.

The couple had announced their first pregnancy earlier in 2025 with a joint social media post showing their hands holding baby socks. On the work front, Kiara was recently seen in Toxic starring Yash. The gangster film also stars Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria and Rukmini Vasanth. Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups explores the life of Raya, a violent gangster and playboy who rose to power in the underworld crime before his eventual downfall. Years later, he has to face his biological son Rumi/Ticket, who prepared his revenge on Raya, after the latter abandoned him and his wife. Sidharth's latest release is Vvan – Force of the Forrest with actress Tamannaah Bhatia. The film explores the cultural folklore genre. 'Vvan' is written by Arunabh Kumar, directed by Deepak Mishra and Arunabh Kumar, with DOP and Visual Director Manu Anand; and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ektaa R Kapoor, Arunabh Kumar and Niraj Kothari.

Up to 60 pc talent shortage in GenAI, Cloud spurs huge market opportunities

New Delhi: India's tech industry is growing fast but holds a 53–60 per cent talent gap in GenAI and Cloud with only about 16 per cent of IT professionals holding AI skills, a report said on Tuesday. The report from talent solutions firm TeamLease Digital said that Cloud has the widest supply gap of the four skill families at 55–60 per cent, followed by GenAI at about 53 per cent. It also noted that demand for GenAI talent will cross 10 lakh roles by 2026, while the gap in Cybersecurity is narrowing but stands at 25–30 per cent. It analysed 37,000 technology and digital roles, and found that the talent gap is shaping delivery models, hiring and salaries in Indian technology firms across AI-Core, AI-Adjacent and AI-Support roles.

Only about 16 per cent of IT professionals hold AI skills

while 20 lakh professionals have been upskilled, only about 3 lakh have advanced AI skills. The report divided AI roles into three tiers — AI-Core, AI-Adjacent and AI-Support — and showed that of 16 premium roles identified across AI, data, cloud and cybersecurity, four are AI-Core and 12 are AI-Adjacent, while none are AI-Support. The mix indicated that the entry layer in tech firms is compressing rather than being repriced. With skills in short supply, salary premiums are moving toward AI-Core and product-critical engineering roles from the early stages of a career. A GenAI Developer (AI-Core) earns Rs 11.2 LPA at 0–2 years, rising to Rs 34.5 LPA at 6–8 years; a Data Engineer (AI-Adjacent) moves from Rs 9.1 LPA to Rs 29.6 LPA; and a Technical Support Engineer (AI-Support) moves from Rs 5.2 LPA to Rs 14.6 LPA.

Messi shines in Argentina farewell, ends 21-year career with goal, two assists



After donning Albiceleste colours for one final time, Lionel Messi finally hung up his boots with typical flair and finesse. The 39-year-old brought the curtains down on a glittering international football career as Argentina overcame Benin 3-0 in a friendly at the Estadio Mas Monumental in Buenos Aires on Wednesday. The match, dubbed the Last Tango, saw Messi lead out Argentina one last time in front of a packed house, with members of Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2022-winning squad and their families on hand to mark

the occasion. The game paused for a moment in minute 10, the digits that magically sparked on his shirt over the years. Providing assists for teammates Nicolas Otamendi and Nico Paz in the second half and converting a 71st-minute penalty with a thunderous shot to the top-right corner, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner ensured that his final 90 minutes in the national shirt had some memorable moments. Messi had announced his retirement from international football on August 31, a little over two months after Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2026 final defeat to Spain in New Jersey. The Argentine Football Association tempted him to make one last appearance for "the farewell he deserves", and thousands of fans turned up at the Estadio Monumental to show their appreciation. The AFA said the match would "transcend sports" and be "full of emotion". Messi leaves the international stage as the most decorated figure in Argentine football history, having made 207 appearances, scored 126 goals and provided 66 assists, all records for Argentina. His roll of honours includes the Beijing 2008 Olympic gold medal, the FIFA World Cup 2022 title, back-to-back Copa America trophies in 2021 and 2024, and the 2022 Finalissima. He appeared in a record-setting six World Cups alongside his great rival Cristiano Ronaldo.

ICC Anti-Corruption Unit chief admits Legends leagues are a 'grey area'

Andrew Ephgrave, chief of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit, cautioned about leagues in which former legends play. He called them a grey area and said this can cause reputational damage to the game. "It's a real grey area because a lot of the times they are never actually sanctioned and certainly don't receive an ICC NoC (no-objection certificate). Domestic boards don't sanction them or some do. But it is a bit of a grey area because a lot of the players who play in them are not in the current framework of cricket," said the former British Police Officer to PTI. "But quite a lot are still iconic names. I think there's a balance between heritage and (wanting to watch) the guy that you watched as you were growing up, and the risk around it," he explained.

Speaking about the reputational damage it could cause to the game, Ephgrave said: "It could, yeah, but I think there's also a degree of it being sort of exhibition cricket or festival-style cricket." Ephgrave also recalled the Legends League Cricket edition from 2024, which was hosted in Sri Lanka.

"There was a legends' league that took place in Sri Lanka in 2024 where there were allegations of corruption. I'm not going to sit here and say there's no risk. But the key is about delineating between what is the official structures of cricket, and ultimately what is retired players, who are still able to produce memories and demonstrate how they can



play," he said. "It's making sure that people recognise what that is compared to a franchise league, an ICC event, or the Ranji Trophy," he said. Ephgrave also said more and more players are coming forward to report corruption activities in the game than before. "Hundred per cent. And a big piece of work that we've done is about changing the perception. Historically, anti-corruption was seen as an enforcement arm of cricket, and players were like: well, who's the person who's held responsible?" "Players are vulnerable and our responsibility is to educate and help them and build confidence and trust. And that's what our engagement programmes have done," he concluded.

Punjab Kings teammate decodes change in Iyer's hitting technique: 'When Shreyas came at the start...'



GNS News Agency, Oct 13 One standout aspect of Shreyas Iyer's century on Tuesday was his ability to accelerate after reaching his half-century, which he reached in 26 deliveries, and scoring the next 50 runs in just 16 deliveries. His power-hitting and technique seemed quite flawless against the spinners. His Punjab Kings teammate, Yuzvendra Chahal, decoded what has changed in Iyer's approach to his innings.

"Definitely, attacking the mind. When Shreyas came at the start, he used to go back and play the cut. Now he comes across, and if the midwicket fielder is up, he has that option as well. If you bowl outside the off-stump, his reach is

so good that he plays over cover and mid-off. So, the bowler gets slightly stuck there as to what he should do when he is not getting any help from the wicket," the Punjab Kings (PBKS) bowler said on Star Sports. Recalling his own bowling experience against Iyer, Chahal said: "When I bowled to him in the nets, I had to bowl wider, or else he used to easily hit me over cover for a six. One or one-and-a-half years ago, he used to hit hard, but nowadays he times the ball, and that's the specialty because of which his batting has improved so much," he added.

"Batters go back and across toward the off-stump, but he was going outside the off-stump because he knew Shepherd would try to bowl only outside the off-stump. That's why he played the lofted extra cover drive and lofted off-drive. He read the bowler's mind, and that's why he was able to get into those positions. Brilliant batting, sensational batting," former batting legend Sunil Gavaskar elaborated on the same show. Iyer's century helped India beat West Indies by eight wickets, chasing a target of 172 runs in 14.4 overs. "If it's your day, make sure that you win the match for the team. And today it was me. Previous couple of games, it was the batsmen who finished off the game. So yeah, overall I feel it was a comprehensive performance, and I think if we continue with the same mindset, we will be one of the destructive teams in T20s," Iyer said.



GNS News Agency, Oct 13 At around the 22nd minute, Anirudh Thapa found himself in the Uruguay penalty box. His eyes suddenly lit up. Goalkeeper Thaigo Cardozo had spilled a Ryan Williams shot and the ball was bobbing on the ground. It's almost as if time stood still. And sped up in real time as Thapa pounced, saw the resignation in Cardozo's eyes and put the ball in the Uruguay net. The Salt Lake Stadium exploded. 138th-ranked India had pulled one out of the hat. The goal mattered little in the context of the 1-6 rout at the hands of the South Americans. But when the final whistle blew, 37,000+ spectators seemed content as Thapa's goal had allowed them to dream bigger for a while. Ahead of the clash, India coach Khalid Jamil and defender Akash Mishra had stressed on maintaining focus and not conceding early against the 20th-ranked team. With India managing to restrict Brazil in the initial stages, a Uruguay team which had just one win in their last nine international fixtures didn't seem an insurmountable barrier. Especially when they were playing without their star player Federico Valverde, ruled out due to injury. While the hosts couldn't prevent an early goal after Pramveer Singh's errant challenge resulted in a penalty that Darwin Nunez duly converted in the 10th minute, it prompted them into action as India managed to level matters through Thapa. India Kolkata: Uruguay's Darwin Nunez, 9, celebrates with teammates after scoring a penalty during an International friendly Football match between India and Uruguay, in Kolkata, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026. (PTI Photo/Manvender Vashist Lav) Soon after, inclement weather and lightning forced the match to be stopped for around 35 minutes. That interruption hurt India's cause as Uruguay struck right after when a low cross by Nahitan Nandez was met by Maxi Araujo and stroked into the India net in the 28th

minute. Uruguay had more chances to surge ahead but Araujo shot one over the bar before Nunez, who was through one-on-one with goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, had his attempted chip blocked. That must have felt good for the custodian after his two individual errors led to goals for Brazil on Saturday. India brought on Sahal Abdul Samad and Bijoy Varghese in the second half while Uruguay added some more steel to their midfield and defence with Lucas Torreira and Guillermo Varela. It made a difference straight away as Torreira's ball was nodded into Rodrigo Zalazar's path, who slammed one into the bottom corner to make it 3-1 in the 53rd minute. The proverbial floodgates had opened and Uruguay slotted in another in the 59th minute when Araujo caught Abhishek Singh Tekcham flat-footed. Substitute Juan Manuel Sanabria finished calmly after a superb transitional play to make it 5-1 in the 70th. That was followed by a well-placed goal by Rodrigo Aguirre in the 87th minute as Uruguay showed a more ruthless streak than Brazil managed against the Blue Tigers. India's best chances in the second half came from Mohammed Sanan,

Ronaldo defers Portugal retirement, seeks apology and 'punishment' for walkout



GNS News Agency, Oct 13

On the night Lionel Messi played his final game for Argentina, Cristiano Ronaldo deferred his Portugal retirement after his recent walkout from the national side following a disagreement with coach Jorge Jesus. The 41-year-old Ronaldo left Portugal's Nations League camp last week after being an unused substitute against Norway. He would also find out that he would not start against Denmark. Ronaldo had vowed in a social media post that he would reveal the full picture later, a time which arrived on Instagram on Tuesday night with six slides and an elaborate clarification running nearly 2,000 words.

The Portuguese captain stated that he was seeking a "punishment" for leaving the national side abruptly, while stating that coach Jesus "had broken his word twice." Ronaldo accused Jesus of an "absolute breach of trust," first for benching him against Norway despite promising he would play, and then for reneging on an agreement to share a unified story with the media. "The Portuguese Football Federation must assess the consequences of my actions and punish me for them. I believe the punishment should not be reduced," Ronaldo said. "I have already apologised, but I know that actions have consequences." On Sunday, Jesus claimed that there was no rift between him and Ronaldo, whom he had coached in his previous managerial stint at Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia. Jesus also affirmed that the five-

time Ballon d'Or winner is open to return to the team. Ronaldo said that he was open to continue representing the national side, given that he remained "physically fit, playing with my team, and hopefully scoring goal." "After my suspension period ends, I will be available, as I always have been, to compete and win with our national team," he added. Part relenting, part critical While Ronaldo observed a relenting tone in parts, he remained critical of Jesus' actions. Ronaldo revealed that under an agreement to manage his playing time, Jesus had said that he would be rested for the matches against Norway and Denmark. However, Ronaldo was told that he would be used for 30 minutes during the Norway game. "Everyone knows the rest. I warmed up from half-time onwards, watched the minutes tick by and wasn't called on," Ronaldo said.

"The manager had broken his word to me." Ronaldo further claimed that in a later discussion with Jesus, it was agreed that the coach would reveal clarify the issues in a press conference. An eight-point was agreed upon, including statements that Ronaldo had never demanded playing time and respected Jesus' decisions. The coach also made a mistake for asking "someone of the stature of Pele or Maradona" to warm up without bringing him on. Ronaldo said the points never reflecting in Jesus' press conference, making it "the second time" that the coach "had broken his word to me." Previously, Ronaldo had endorsed his former Al-Nassr manager as the "right choice" to take over the Portugal reins. Ronaldo also revealed he came close to retiring from international duty following Portugal's round-of-16 exit at this summer's World Cup. He had already drafted a farewell letter to the supporters, but Portuguese Football Federation president Pedro Proença persuaded him to reconsider during the flight home from the United States. Ronaldo remained apologetic, but reiterated his stance on his sudden exit from the camp. "I owe an apology to my national team teammates for having left the camp... I apologise to the Portuguese people once again, but a broken word has, for me, a defining impact," he wrote.

Messi's farewell speech: 'I don't want to leave, not being with Argentina hurts'

GNS News Agency, Oct 13

Messi had one final chapter of gilded magic left in his boots Tuesday night. In his farewell appearance in an Argentina shirt in a packed El Monumental stadium in Buenos Aires, the 39-year-old produced a goal and two assists to lead the hosts to a 3-0 win over Benin. Emotions, expectedly, ran high. The tears of not wearing the sky-blue and white shirt again and the ecstasy of blasting the ball into the net one final time, nearly conjuring up another free-kick pearly, the Rosario-born superstar had it all one final time.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner, Argentina received a raucous applause in the 10th minute, the number that glittered on the back of his shirt, as it did in another era with Diego Maradona. His international debut 21 years ago against Hungary lasted 90 seconds after a red card. After 90 minutes of passionate football on Tuesday night, Messi capped his career as the second-highest international goal scorer (126) and the most assists (67), the last of which came in the 48th minute as he provided for Nicolas Otamendi. "I have nothing left to do but thank this shirt. For 20 years, even through the worst moments, I never stopped fighting, pushing forward, giving everything I had and wanting to be here," Messi said in an emotional post-match speech. "Not coming here anymore and no longer being with the Argentina National Team is going to hurt a lot. If it were up to me, I would love to be here for my entire life, because playing for Argentina is the most beautiful thing there is. After the World Cup dream eluded him on four occasions in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018, Messi and Co. produced a month of superlative football en route to the crown in Qatar in 2022. Messi's men nearly secured a dream title defence earlier this year, only to be stopped at the hurdle against a rugged Spanish contingent. Age or the enduring American heat did not deter Messi until then, having recorded eight goals and four assists.

"But I think the time has come for me to retire. The last World Cup took a lot out of us after everything we went through. We arrived in the final with just enough left in us, but we fought until the very end, like we always did. We came very close to winning it again, and despite everything that was said about us, nothing strange happened. The match against England took a lot out of us because we gave absolutely everything." Messi's 'Last Tango' was played with members of Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2022-winning squad and their families on hand to mark the occasion.

"In 2022, we had the dream of fulfilling not only my dream, but the dream of an entire country: becoming world champions again. And we did it. "We won the World Cup, the Copa America, the Finalissima... I'm incredibly grateful for everything I experienced with this National Team," Messi added. The Argentina captain hailed the warrior-mindset of his teammates that powered back to world football dominance this decade and helped him fulfill his childhood World Cup dream. Lionel Messi and his family leave the field at the



end of the friendly match against Benin, marking his farewell appearance for the national team, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP Photo/Gustavo Garello) Lionel Messi and his family leave the field at the end of the friendly match against Benin, marking his farewell appearance for the national team, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP Photo/Gustavo Garello) "But this journey wasn't only about 2022 or this last World Cup. So many teammates fought alongside me for this shirt long before we finally became world champions. Never doubt how much every one of them fought and gave for Argentina. It was a privilege and an honor to share the pitch with all of my teammates and to share so much of our lives together away from football. Every time we stepped onto the pitch, I knew we could compete against anyone because I had warriors beside me who were willing to leave absolutely everything out there. "To achieve the biggest things, you need a strong group. And it's during the most difficult moments that you truly discover what kind of team you have. That's one of the biggest reasons we were able to achieve everything we did.

"And especially to this group: Thank You. They helped me fulfill the dream I had since I was a child. They helped me become a world champion. "I also want to thank the people. I was lucky enough to play in so many cities across Argentina, and everywhere I went, I received an incredible amount of love. "Here, in this stadium, I experienced one of the happiest days of my life: our first match at home after becoming world champions. It was beautiful. And today might be one of the saddest because I'm standing here saying goodbye.

"I'm going to miss all of you so much, but I'll always be on your side. I'll be supporting these boys and everyone who comes after them. Messi also remembered his father, Jorge, who passed away last month. "There are so many emotions today, but the first person I think about is my father." "There are so many emotions going through me right now. I'm surely forgetting many things I would like to say because this is a very difficult moment for me. The first person who comes to my mind is my dad. I'm going to miss playing here so much. I love you all, and I'm proud to be Argentine," Messi added.

Gautam Gambhir lauds Ajit Agarkar: '3 ICC trophies...testimony of your conviction'

GNS News Agency, Oct 13

Ajit Agarkar's tenure as chief selector at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been quite a mixed one. He won silverware but also drew heavy criticism for the tough calls he made. Taking the reins in July 2023, Agarkar's tenure officially ended on Tuesday, with the BCCI calling for applications. Head coach Gautam Gambhir lauded Agarkar and praised his conviction. "Dear Ajit Bhai, an absolute honour to work with you. Those 3 ICC trophies are a testimony of your conviction: Team first & Team ahead, always... I must say, History will be kinder to you. Thank you for everything. My heartfelt wishes for your future endeavours !," Gambhir wrote on X (formerly Twitter). It was not just Gambhir earlier; former Indian cricketer R Ashwin, on his YouTube channel, was empathetic to Agarkar's situation as the selector. "The fact is that Ajit Agarkar had the responsibility to take a lot of big decisions in this stint; he had to phase out the senior players, and it cannot be easy. I was one of the senior players phased out during his tenure, but still by keeping some distance from that, I want to say that he has been a very good chairman of selectors. If we look at what all he has done with the team," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. During Agarkar's tenure, India reached the



final of the ODI World Cup before winning the 2024 T20 World Cup and the 2025 Champions Trophy. India also retained the T20 World Cup earlier this year. "Agarkar didn't ask for an extension. As there was no interest from his side, the BCCI has decided to look for a new chief selector," a source told The Indian Express at the time. This paper had reported in August that BCCI officials would meet Agarkar to discuss a one-year extension to his term after India tours Sri Lanka amid differences over Rohit Sharma's ODI future in the lead-up to the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Kiara Advani, Sidharth Malhotra announce second pregnancy: ‘Blessed once again’



kiara advani pregnantKiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra have announced the arrival of their second child.Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra have officially announced that they are expecting their second child. The an-

nouncement was made on October 7, 2026, through a joint Instagram post.Kiara shared the happy news on Instagram, writing, “Blessed once again with the greatest gift of all??”

Our hearts are so full of love and gratitude ?????The announcement was met with an outpouring of love and congratulatory messages from friends and members of the film industry.See Kiara Advani’s second pregnancy announcement here:Kareena Kapoor Khan reacted to the news by saying, “Mommy and Daddy again yayyy?????” Karan Johar reacted to the post with a series of heart emojis and wrote, “Love love you”, while Athiya Shetty also left a heart in the comments. Rhea Kapoor congratulated the couple, and designer Manish Malhotra and actor Bhumi Pednekar were among others who sent their love and best wishes.Sidharth Malhotra recently opened up about fatherhood during his appearance on Bigg Boss 20, calling it “the best role possible” and speaking fondly about his daughter Saraayah, who was around 15 months old at the time. Salman Khan then jokingly told him, “Hopefully you will have another one soon,” prompting Sidharth to turn the conversation around and ask Salman about his thoughts on marriage and having children. Salman replied that he has “very good” thoughts on marriage and kids but chose not to share more about his personal views.Kiara and Sidharth, who got married in an intimate ceremony in Rajasthan in February 2023, have continued to keep their personal life largely private.

Kiara Advani and her husband, Sidharth Malhotra, welcomed their first child, a baby girl named Saraayah Malhotra, on July 15, 2025.



Ever since director-producer Karan Johar announced that he is all set to return with his widely popular chat show, Koffee With Karan, for the ninth and last time, social media has been abuzz with speculation about who all will show up as guests. Meanwhile, one section of netizens has been strongly demanding that power couple Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma be brought on as guests in one of the episodes.

Unpacking Koffee With Karan Season 9’s latest teaserNow, the producers of the show have unveiled a new teaser, categorically denying the presence of any cricketers this time. The clip features Karan speaking on the phone with various unnamed people, hinting at his plans for Koffee With Karan Season 9. Reiterating that this will be the final time he hosts the chat show, the director insists, “I’m not acting, I’m not pretending; this will be my last.”

Karan then slips into his signature wit with, “What? What do you mean it should have ended 10 years ago? How rude!”

Karan Johar says ‘no cricketers’ amid demand for Virat Kohli on Koffee With Karan Season 9

In conversation with another person, he says, “Thank you for asking, but I haven’t invited you for eight seasons. So, I don’t plan to invite you for the ninth either. Sorry, are you crying?”Karan Johar puts end to Virat Kohli rumoursIndirectly refuting speculations about Virat Kohli’s presence on the show, he notes, “Cricketers are not invited. They’re also not coming. They’re actually refusing.”As the conversation continues, someone on the other side of the phone asks the director for the couch cushions as a gift. He wonders, “Isn’t that creepy?” He then quips to someone else, “I won’t be calling her at all. God knows what else will come alive if she comes.”Next, he is shown speaking to his mother, who worries he is being sacked from Koffee With Karan. “No, Mumma, they’re not cutting my money. It’s my decision to end the show. I will buy you that diamond, I promise,” he tells her.Teaching what to expect from the show this time, he assures someone, “You can manifest a relationship. But no, it doesn’t help with divorce.” Although Karan maintains that this season will be controversy-free, he ends the promotional video with a wink, suggesting he will wrap up his beloved chat show with a bang.ICYMI | Salman Khan hosts BJP youth leader at Mumbai home: ‘Touched by your warmth, simplicity’While Virat Kohli has never been on the show, Anushka Sharma has appeared three times. She made her Koffee With Karan debut in 2011 during Season 3, alongside her Band Baaja Baaraat (2010) and Ladies vs Ricky Bahl (2011) co-star Ranveer Singh.She made her comeback the very next season, sharing the floor with veteran director Anurag Kashyap. Anushka Sharma’s last Koffee With Karan appearance was in December 2016, when she arrived on Season 5 of the show with her Jab Tak Hai Jaan (2012) co-star Katrina Kaif.

In a conversation with Sania Mirza on her podcast last year, Karan had admitted that he’s never actually invited Virat to be on the show. “I have never asked Virat. And now, I am not asking any cricketers after what happened with Hardik (Pandya) and (KL) Rahul. There are many who I just felt wouldn’t come, so I never asked them in the first place,” he said.Karan had previously hosted KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya on the show, and Pandya’s comments during the episode recieved a lot of flak. Both players also faced a suspension by BCCI. Soon after, the episode was pulled down from the streaming platform.

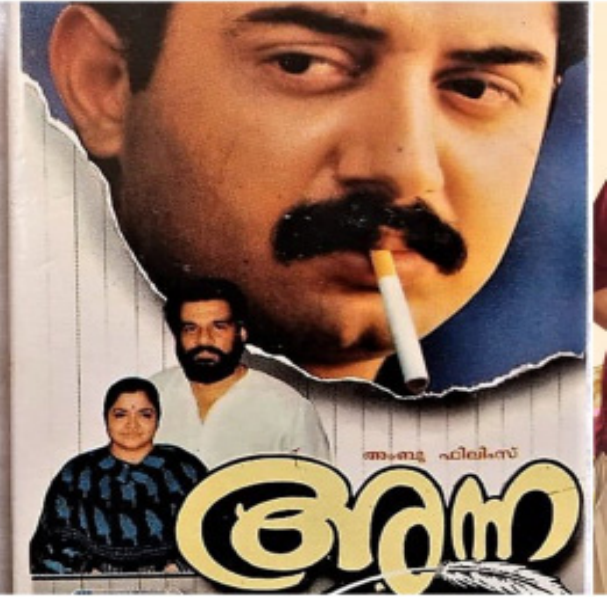
Arvind Swamy-Sridevi’s shelved film to be revived after decades

After ‘Yavanakathayil’ went viral in Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, Joshiy’s shelved film Anna is set for revival.Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju’s Bethlehem Kudumba Unit featured the song “Yavanakathayil” from the shelved Malayalam movie Anna. (Credit: M3DB, Facebook/ @bhavanastudios)Movies getting shelved isn’t a new phenomenon in Malayalam cinema. From Randamoozham, Swarnachamaram, Australia, and Karnan to Dhanushkodi, Kaaliyan, and Antichrist, several films never progressed beyond the initial stages. Recently, director Girish AD’s blockbuster romantic comedy Bethlehem Kudumba Unit brought one such film, Anna, back into the spotlight. Now, the movie is finally set for revival, with a new team taking over.

Veteran producer Tomichan Mulakuppadam — best known for bankrolling blockbusters such as Pulimurugan, Pokkiri Raja, and Ramaleela — recently announced he has acquired the rights to Anna and is gearing up to give it a new lease of life. Taking to social media, he expressed his elation at the endeavour and stated he would announce the cast and crew details later.“I am happy to share that I have acquired the rights to the film Anna, which started in the 1990s but was shelved for various reasons. Years later, when the song ‘Yavanakathayil’ from the film became a sensation again through Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, there were many enquiries and discussions about Anna,” he wrote.Tomichan added, “It is with the desire to bring the story and associated memories of that film to the new generation through new writers that I have taken over the production rights of Anna. A new beginning for a film that stopped midway three decades ago. More details, including the director and cast, will be announced later. Anna is coming back to the silver screen through Mulakuppadam Films.”

What happened to Anna?

For the unversed, master filmmaker Joshiy was set to helm the film in the ‘90s, with Arvind Swamy and superstar Sridevi in the lead roles. According to Onmanorama, veteran writer and novelist N Mohanan originally scripted Anna, and Balram of Ambu Films was supposed to produce it. The movie centred on the love story of Hari (Arvind Swamy), a Brahmin boy, and Anna (Sridevi), a Christian girl.Anna was envisioned with music given the utmost prominence, and legendary composer Ouseppachan and veteran lyricist Shibu Chakravarthy were brought on board for the same. They crafted eight songs for Anna and completed their recordings even before the filming began.ICYMI | Fahadh



Faasil says ‘won’t get half of Rs 300 cr’ as Bethlehem Kudumba Unit earns Rs 326 crHowever, the project soon ran into scheduling problems, as the makers couldn’t match the dates of Arvind Swamy and Sridevi. Team Anna even considered replacing Sridevi with Meena. Yet, Arvind Swamy’s availability remained an issue, further delaying the project. Joshiy also had other movies lined up. Thus, Anna was shelved without any of its scenes being filmed.Nevertheless, the movie’s music found its way to the public in 1995 when Magna Sound released a cassette containing all eight songs recorded for Anna. “Yavanakathayil” was one of those songs, which director Girish AD included in Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, allowing Anna to rise from the ashes like a phoenix.Featuring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju in the lead roles, Bethlehem Kudumba Unit opened to rave reviews and emerged as the highest-grossing Malayalam film of all time, earning Rs 330.89 crore worldwide, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. Also starring Sangeeth Prathap, Suresh Krishna, Vinay Forrt, Roshan Shanavas, and Shyam Mohan, the romantic comedy was bankrolled by Dileesh Pothan, Fahadh Faasil, and Syam Pushkaran under the banner of Bhavana Studios.

Gavaskar, Shastri bring cricket nostalgia to The Great Indian Kapil Show



Mumbai: Cricket legends Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri are set to bring a mix of nostalgia, cricketing anecdotes and plenty of laughter to Kapil Sharma’s The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 5.Ravi Shastri makes his debut on the comedy talk show as he joins Gavaskar for an entertaining conversation with host Kapil Sharma.The conversation turned nostalgic when Kapil showed pictures of the formidable West Indies team and asked Sunil Gavaskar how he managed to play against some of the fastest bowlers of his era without wearing a helmet.Recalling his fearless approach, the legendary cricketer spoke about facing deliveries travelling at nearly 150 kmph and joked, “Andar bheje mein kuch nahi tha.”

The episode also looked back at Sunil Gavaskar’s deep connection with Indian cricket and what it meant for him to represent the country.The veteran cricketer recalled an era when playing for India was considered an honour and players faced some of the most intimidating fast bowlers without the protective equipment that is commonplace today.The conversation then moved to the early days of Navjot Singh Sidhu’s career. Sidhu recalled being selected for India at the age of 18 and sharing a room with then-captain Ravi Shastri. His unexpected encounter with Shastri and his repeated requests to step out led to a hilarious locker-room anecdote on the show.Gavaskar also opened up about his decision to retire from international cricket at the age of 38,

Ishita Dutt shares glimpses from making of ‘Drishyam 3’

Mumbai: Actress Ishita Dutta shared a glimpse of the making of ‘Drishyam 3’, giving a peek into the camaraderie behind the much-awaited film as she posted a picture with the team.Ishita took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures from the making of “Drishyam 3”. It also included pictures of Ishita with Abhishek Pathak, Shriya Saran and Mrunal Jadhav.

She wrote: “One with the team...” Drishyam: The Conclusion is directed by Abhishek Pathak. It is a sequel to Drishyam 2, which released in 2022. Unlike its predecessors, the film features an original story and is not narratively connected to its Malayalam counterpart.The film stars Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Shriya Saran, Jaideep Ahlawat, Rajat Kapoor, Prakash Raj, Ishita Dutta and Mrunal Jadhav.

Drishyam: The Conclusion follows Vijay Salgaonkar using meticulous manipulation and sharp psychological tactics to protect his family as a renewed, high-stakes legal and police investigation closes in. Drishyam tells the gripping tale of a family caught in the shadow of a shocking disappearance. A policewoman’s son goes missing, and she threatens to destroy Vijay’s family.Determined to protect his loved ones,

