

KTR commends youngster for transforming government primary school into plastic-free campus

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Friday appreciated Duggidevara Sri Raghunandan for his decade-long efforts to develop a government primary school and promote environmental awareness, turning it into a plastic-free campus. The youngster is a native of Mallaram village in Tallada mandal of Khammam district.

Raghunandan met Rama Rao at Telangana Bhavan here and explained the initiatives he had undertaken since 2016 to improve the school, inspired by actor Mahesh Babu's film "Srimanthudu". He began the effort with the support of his parents, Ajay Kumar and Vijayalakshmi, after adopting the school on the occasion of BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's birthday in 2016.

M Sridhar assumes charge as Director of HR at BHEL

Sangareddy: M Sridhar has assumed charge as a director of Human Resources of BHEL. Hailing from a Telugu-speaking family, Sridhar graduated in Mechanical Engineering from the Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, and joined BHEL Hyderabad unit as an engineer trainee in 1990.

After serving there in various key positions and rising to the rank of General Manager, he moved to BHEL Corporate Office in New Delhi, where he served as Executive Director (Human Resources), spearheading corporate HR policies and strategic initiatives. With over three decades of diverse experience and proven leadership, Sridhar's elevation to the Board as Director (Human Resources) marks a significant milestone.

Khammam police book youth over dangerous bike stunts on city roads

Khammam: Khammam Two-town police registered a case against a youth for performing dangerous bike stunts at excessive speeds on city roads.

The Two-town Inspector of Police, Ramakrishna informed in a statement here on Friday that the youth, Valluru Krishna Kishore Reddy, who was found performing bike stunts in a reckless manner near Gattaiha Centre causing fear and alarm among the local residents, has been taken into custody. Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt directed the Task Force, CCS, Special Branch and local police to take strict action against those involved in unlawful activities such as bike stunts, brandishing of swords in public and holding birthday celebrations on public roads.

Telangana CM warns of drought conditions for 8-10 months



Hyderabad, Oct 23 (IANS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday warned that the drought conditions caused by the impact of El Nino would continue for the next 8 to 10 months in the state.

Ruling out the availability of water for irrigation, he appealed to farmers to cultivate only rainfed crops and vegetables in view of the depletion of all water resources.

Speaking at a meeting with Congress leaders, MLAs, MPS and MLCs, the Chief Minister said that out of 30 lakh agriculture pump sets, 15 lakh have already dried up and even a single drop of water would not be available in the coming days.

He revealed that water storage in the projects has been reduced to less than 20 per cent of their capacity. The available water is more than 200 TMC, with some of the projects reaching the dead storage levels.

Emphasising that special attention should be paid

to the provision of drinking water, the Chief Minister instructed the Cabinet sub-committee, along with officials at all levels, to ensure continuous monitoring of the supply of drinking water. A toll-free number would be provided to address the grievances.

The Chief Minister announced that a special scheme will be introduced after Sankranti for four months, until May, to provide daily employment to the workers. In addition to funds received from the Central government, the state government will also spend a significant amount on this scheme. This initiative should be utilised to restore access paths to agricultural fields, as well as canals, ponds, and small water bodies.

"We must provide work for every individual and ensure that everyone has food to eat. This scheme must be meticulously designed and implemented," he said.

Revanth Reddy said 'Kalajathas' (cultural troupes)

should be organised to motivate the farmers. A help desk should be set up at Congress state headquarters Gandhi Bhavan under the leadership of MP Chamala Kiran.

He maintained that the government has the responsibility of disclosing the ground reality to ensure no one suffers during the crisis. The leaders should also take up a campaign to educate the farmers about the drought conditions through Rythu Vedikas. To give relief to the cattle, special centres would be established in villages to provide fodder and drinking water. The Chief Minister said that the government was already alerting all sections of the people about the prevailing conditions. He noted that many countries across the world were also facing drought. The intense heat and water scarcity were leading to a sharp increase in electricity consumption. In some parts of Maharashtra, drinking water is now being rationed and regulations have been introduced to reduce water consumption by 20 percent by each person.

KCR will play key role in national politics, says KTR



Hyderabad, Oct 23 (IANS) BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao predicted on Friday that K. Chandrasekhara Rao

(KCR) will not only return as the Chief Minister of Telangana but will play a key role in national politics. The day is fast ap-

proaching when KCR will play a pivotal role—not just in Telangana, but on the national stage as well, he said, addressing a meeting

of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders at party headquarters Telangana Bhavan here.

Rama Rao believes that parties other than the Congress and the BJP are set to become significant players in national politics.

He said when KCR spoke of an alliance excluding both the Congress and the BJP four years ago, many failed to grasp his vision.

"Today, seeing the BJP pushing the nation into a crisis, and observing that the Congress lacks any alternative agenda, people have come to realise that what KCR said was the truth," said the BRS leader.

KTR, as Rama Rao is popularly known, remarked that despite all external support, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi cannot rise. "No matter how much effort Rahul Gandhi puts in, it is to no avail," he said.

The BRS leader also stated that because the Congress failed the nation, young men and women are now fighting against the BJP under the banner of 'CJP'.

"It has become clear that while the BJP may be able to intimidate political leaders, it cannot suppress the youth. The BJP is currently at its weakest point in the last 10 years."

KTR said it was certain that KCR will return as the

Chief Minister of Telangana, claiming that all sections of society, having felt betrayed by the Congress, are now looking toward the BRS.

He alleged that Congress and BJP MPs in Telangana are working in tandem. He said instead of working for the interests of Telangana, their sole focus has become attacking KCR and KTR.

The BRS leader claimed that there is intense opposition to the Congress across all sections of society in the state. He said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress lack the courage to hold MPTC, ZPTC, and municipal corporation elections in the state.

Owaisi seeks independent report on 'serious situation' at China border



Hyderabad, Oct 23 (IANS) AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday demanded that a comprehensive and independent report should be presented before the country on the serious situation at the China border.

The Hyderabad MP said that even a special session of Parliament be convened to discuss the situation and the current government's policy towards China.

He also demanded Modi government to issue a clarification on the number of places in Arunachal Pradesh where Chinese troops have intruded.

The MP said that the confirmation by the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) of the situation on the Arunachal border with China is extremely concerning, particularly because of the concerted effort by the Narendra Modi government to keep the country in the dark about what has gone on.

"I have raised this issue even earlier and have not got any answers from the government. Now we know why," Owaisi said in a post on X. "After the ITBP chief's statement, we need a complete clarification on the number of places in Arunachal where the Chinese troops have intruded, stopped our patrols and citizens and are refusing to leave. The country also needs to know for how many months has this gone on, and why has the government acting friendly with China during this period. Is the Narendra Modi government even capable of defending and securing Indian territory?" the MP asked. He alleged that there has been a pattern in this Modi government to keep the people in the dark about the real situation on the border. "No discussion takes place in the Parliament, no questions are allowed, PM Modi doesn't hold a press conference, and even when he has spoken, as in June 2020, he has claimed that there were no Chinese on Indian territory. That was obviously not true or factual," he said.

Maha CM willing to hold talks on Tummidihatti Barrage: Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Oct 23 (IANS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Friday that his Maharashtra counterpart, Devendra Fadnis, has expressed willingness to hold talks on the proposed construction of the Tummidihatti Barrage across the Godavari River.

The Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to prepare for a crucial dialogue with the Maharashtra government.

During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy reviewed various contentious issues surrounding the Tummidihatti Barrage as well as the Dindi and Achampet lift irrigation projects.

The Irrigation engineers briefed the Chief Minister on the volume of water that could be diverted, up to the Yellampalli project, by constructing a barrage at Tummidihatti at the heights of 152 meters and 150 meters, respectively.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ministers



Jupally Krishna Rao and Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Rajya Sabha member Vem Narendra Reddy, and senior officials from the Irrigation wing.

The officials clarified that the construction of the Tummidihatti barrage would not pose any risk of submergence to villages within Maharashtra. If the barrage is constructed at the height of 152 meters, it would result in the submergence of approximately 2,300 acres of land, whereas a height of 150 meters would limit the impact to less than 1,000 acres.

Harish Rao demands white paper on water stocks, drought relief funds

Hyderabad: BRS deputy floor leader T Harish Rao on Friday challenged the Congress government to come clean on Telangana's worsening drought situation, demanding a white paper on reservoir-wise water stocks, drinking and irrigation water availability, and funds earmarked for drought mitigation. He accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of failing to act despite six months of advance warning about the El Nino threat.

He sought a time-bound action plan to protect farmers and rural livelihoods. He suggested that the government prioritise water for households and farms, fodder for livestock and employment for rural workers, rather than engage in political blame games.

Reacting to the Chief Minister's remarks on the impending drought, Harish Rao said the Congress government was offering excuses instead of assuring farmers and the public of relief. He termed the Cabinet sub-committee formed to address the crisis a belated response, arguing that preventive

measures should have preceded the deterioration in conditions on



the ground.

"If the government knew about El Nino six months ago, what preventive measures did it take to minimise the current crisis rather than merely alerting people?" he asked, questioning why water had not been lifted from the Godavari and Krishna Rivers to improve reservoir storage.

Telangana CM Reddy calls for coordination among police forces of Southern states

Hyderabad, Oct 23 (IANS) Telangana Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy, on Friday emphasised the need for coordination among the police forces of all Southern states.

He called for establishing strong systems that foster coordination across state borders among the police forces of the states.

Chief Minister Reddy was addressing a Southern Regional Police Coordination Committee (SRPCC) meeting at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) here.

Directors-General and Inspectors-General of Police from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka

and Kerala, representatives from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry and Lakshadweep and senior officials from Central agencies are attending the meeting.

He told the officials that they bear the responsibility of transforming South India into a secure region.

Chief Minister Reddy stated that the Government of Telangana is fully committed to sharing its technical infrastructure and ICCC systems with neighbouring states.

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Mr. Kadam Nagorao Shivaji S/o Shivaji, residing at H.No. 2-20, Shantapur Village, Gudihathnoor Mandal, Adilabad District-504308, hereby inform the general public that my original passport bearing No. **V1329056** issued by me Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad on **19-04-2021**, has been lost/misplaced on **05-09-2026** at Shantapur village, Gudihathnoor Mandal, Adilabad District. Despite diligent search, the passport could not be traced. Place: Adilabad Dated: 24-10-2026



Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Manipur, the festering wound

Not long ago, there was an air of optimism in strife-torn Manipur following the restoration of a popular government with fair representation for the warring ethnic groups. However, the euphoria has turned out to be short-lived, and the violence and grief have returned to the sensitive north-eastern State. A fresh wave of attacks and counterattacks has battered the State, raising questions about the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies and political initiatives. The latest incident involved an ambush targeting a group of Meitei men, leaving three dead. The attack, followed by protests and a 48-hour strike across five valley districts, reflects deepening public anger and growing insecurity. The killings come amid an all-round deterioration in law and order. Clashes in Thoubal district claimed another life, while an improvised explosive device injured three CRPF personnel in Imphal West. Reports of houses being torched and civilians fleeing their homes in Kamjong district further underline the scale of the crisis. The ethnic strife that began in May 2023 has claimed at least 300 lives and displaced thousands. The spiralling violence serves as a grim reminder of the widespread ethnic fault lines in the sensitive region that could flare up at any time. The crisis can no longer be seen as a battle zone confined to two communities—Meiteis and Kukis. It has evolved into a broader conflict involving Nagas and Kukis as well, spreading across Ukhrlul, Kamjong, Senapati and Kangpokpi, and opening a new and more difficult front for the administration.

While Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh has directed officials to strengthen security in vulnerable areas and continue joint operations involving State police and Central security forces, security deployment alone cannot bring lasting peace. Its effectiveness must be judged by whether civilians are protected and perpetrators are brought to justice. The strife-torn State is looking for a political initiative to find a lasting solution to the ethnic divide. The opposition Congress has demanded the Chief Minister's resignation, alleging failure to restore normalcy. While political accountability is essential, the issue cannot be reduced to a game of political one-upmanship to score brownie points. There is an urgent need to prevent further bloodshed. Authorities must conduct impartial investigations, act on credible intelligence, curb the spread of inflammatory rumours and ensure that relief reaches displaced families. It is also important to foster sustained dialogue among Meitei, Kuki, Naga and other communities affected by the violence. Collective blame and retaliatory attacks will only deepen mistrust and prolong suffering. With Assembly elections just a few months away, restoring peace must take precedence over political posturing. The Central and State governments must demonstrate that protecting every citizen is their foremost responsibility. The people of Manipur deserve to live without fear. The State remains deeply fractured, with invisible borders and fortified ethnic zones, making day-to-day reconciliation exceedingly difficult.

Power Supply to Be Disrupted in Chilkanagar on October 24

Power Shutdown from 11 AM to 4 PM Due to Line-Shifting Works:A. E. VINAY KUMAR REDDY"



"CHILKA NAGAR , OCTOBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Power supply will be interrupted in the Mallikarjun Nagar feeder area on Saturday, October 24, due to works to shift electricity lines onto towers, Chilkanagar Assistant Engineer Vinay Kumar Reddy announced in a statement."The power interruption will be from 11 AM to 4 PM.

The affected areas include Hema Nagar, Naiguda, Shivalayam area, Government School surroundings, New Ramnagar and Kummarikunta.AE Vinay Kumar Reddy advised residents and electricity consumers in the affected areas to make the necessary arrangements in advance and cooperate with electricity department staff during the maintenance works.

SIR Process Must Be Stopped, CEO Gyanesh Kumar Must Resign



Effigy Burnt by Public Organizations at Ambedkar Chowk in Asifabad""Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle"October. 24.""Asifabad: Various public organizations staged a protest and burnt an effigy at Ambedkar Chowk near the bus stand in Komaram Bheem

Asifabad district headquarters, demanding an immediate halt to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and the resignation of CEO Gyanesh Kumar.Speaking on the occasion, the leaders expressed their opposition to the SIR process and demanded that it be stopped immediately.They also called for action against the concerned official and urged the government to take necessary steps to protect democratic rights and safeguard public interests.The protest was attended by CITU District Secretary J. Rajender,District Assistant Secretary Velishala Krishnamachari, District Vice-President Peraka Srikanth, KVPS District Secretary Durgam Dinakar,AIDWA District Assistant Secretary Nandi Padma,Telangana Adivasi Girijana Sangham District Vice-President Kota Srinivas, Agricultural Workers' Union District Convener Munjam Anand Kumar,DYFI District President Gedam Tikanand, District Secretary Raj Kumar,State Assistant Secretary Godisela Karthik, district leader Satish, and several other leaders and activists from various public organizations.

Ramantapur Pedda Cheruvu Beautification Works Progressing at a Fast Pace with 19 Crore Funding

"UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Inspects Development Works on the Ground""RAMANTHAPUR , OCTOBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):A major step is being taken towards the development of the Uppal constituency, with beautification and development works at Ramantapur Pedda Cheruvu progressing at a rapid pace under the supervision of HYDRABAD. The state government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has allocated ₹19 crore for the development of the lake, which spans approximately 18.23 acres."Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing development works to assess their progress. He reviewed the current status of the project and enquired with officials about the measures being taken to protect the lake and improve the surrounding areas. He instructed the officials to ensure that all works were carried out in accordance with prescribed quality standards."Lake Conservation Vital for Environmental Protection"The MLA stated that lakes are vital lifelines for cities and that their conservation is essential for the benefit of future generations. He expressed confidence that the development of Ramantapur Pedda Cheruvu would provide a pleasant environment for residents of the surrounding localities while strengthening efforts to protect the water body."Quality Must Remain the Top Priority"Bandari Lakshma Reddy directed officials to ensure that the development works were executed in a manner that would ben-



efit the public over the long term. He stressed the need for continuous monitoring to prevent any compromise in quality and instructed the authorities to proceed with the works in accordance with the needs of local residents."The MLA said that priority was being given to improving infrastructure, conserving lakes and promoting environmental development across the Uppal constituency. He expressed hope that the completion of the beautification project would give further impetus to the overall development of the Ramantapur area."The ongoing development works, backed by an allocation of ₹19 crore, have generated enthusiasm among local residents. BRS party leaders, workers and others participated in the programme.

Inquiry Sought into Sexual Harassment Allegations Against Asifabad DCPO Burla Mahesh



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle"October. 24.""Social activist M.Srinivas has demanded a comprehensive and impartial inquiry into allegations of sexual harassment against Burla Mahesh, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, concerning two women employees work-

ing at Bala Raksha Bhavan. He submitted a petition to the Telangana Women's Commission in Hyderabad on Friday, seeking justice and protection for the alleged victims."According to Srinivas, two women employees working at Bala Raksha Bhavan lodged a written complaint on September 19 with District Welfare Officer Swaroopa Rani, alleging that DCPO Mahesh had been sexually harassing them for the past two years."Srinivas expressed concern that despite several days having passed since the complaint was submitted, there was no clear information regarding the action taken to ensure justice for the women employees."He stated that allegations of sexual harassment within a department responsible for the protection and welfare of women and children were a serious matter that required immediate attention.Key Demands of M. Srinivas:Conduct an immediate, comprehensive and impartial inquiry into the complaints submitted by the women employees."Ensure adequate protection for the complainants and provide them with justice.Take strict legal action against those responsible if the allegations are substantiated during the investigation.Disclose details of the departmental action taken so far regarding the complaints.Srinivas urged the Telangana Women's Commission and senior officials of the Women and Child Welfare Department to intervene immediately, ensure the safety of the complainants and take appropriate steps to provide justice.

Two Arrested in 11 Two-Wheeler Theft Cases"Accused Used Duplicate Keys to Steal Bikes; Remanded to Judicial Custody



"MEDIPALLY , OCTOBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"Medipally police have arrested two persons in connection with 11 two-wheeler theft cases reported within the limits of Medipally Police Station. The accused were subsequently produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.According to Medipally Circle Inspector D. Jalender Reddy, the accused used duplicate keys to steal two-wheelers parked near houses and in parking areas. Taking serious note of the series of thefts, police launched an investigation based on technical evidence, CCTV footage and information gathered from local residents. During the investigation, the police arrested the two accused near Boduppall Khman."The arrested persons were identified as Aravind Kumar Upadhyay alias Raju (56), a native of Uttar Pradesh, and Tunga Madhu (29), a resident of Suddala village in Gundala mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district."The CI stated that Aravind allegedly stole the two-wheelers and handed them over to Madhu, who sold the stolen vehicles to people known to him."The accused were arrested on October 22 and produced before the court. Following the court's orders, they were remanded to judicial custody. Further investigation into the cases is underway, CI Jalender

Reddy said.The CI advised vehicle owners to park their two-wheelers in secure locations and use high-quality locks and anti-theft devices. He also urged the public to immediately inform the police if they notice any suspicious persons or have information related to vehicle thefts.

Khammam Eco-Club Invited to National Unity Day Parade.

"Khammam, October 23, Indian Chronicle.""The Eco-Club Environmental Society from Khammam district has received a rare honour at the national level. The organisation's Founder-President, Dr Kadavendi Venugopal, and General Secretary, K Aruna Kumari, have received invitation passes to participate in the National Unity Day Parade scheduled to be held on October 31 at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the celebrations, organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Representatives of the organisation said that participating in this prestigious event, which highlights national unity, integrity, and the spirit of unity in diversity, is a matter of great pride. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Venugopal said their objective was to spread the message of 'Plastic-Free India-Green India' among the public, alongside promoting the spirit of national unity. He emphasised that reducing the use of single-use plastics, planting trees, and promoting eco-friendly alternatives are the responsibilities of every citizen. He further stated that the organisation has been consistently working to raise public awareness about environmental protection, controlling plastic use, and promoting greenery.

Organic Food Promotes Healthy Living : Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji



"Hyderabad, October 23 (Indian Chronicle) : Emphasising the importance of organic food, Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji said that giving priority to organic food contributes to a healthy lifestyle. He inaugurated the new Iceberg Organic Creamery Ice Cream Craft House at Khajaguda in Hyderabad. With the launch of the new outlet, the total number of Iceberg stores in Hyderabad has increased to nine, while the nationwide count has reached 12, the organisers said. Established in 2013, the company specialises in making ice creams using organic ingredients, according to the organisers. Popular television anchor, actress and producer Suma Kanakala, along with Mantha Suryanarayana Sharma, attended the inauguration ceremony.

Free SAP Training and Certification for Students



"Hyderabad, October 23 (Indian Chronicle) : Final-year students should make use of the SAP Learning Hub, Student Edition to develop practical skills and improve their career prospects, SAP Learning Hub Student Edition Programme Manager David Chaviano said in a statement on Friday. Eligible students in India can register for free training using their university email IDs. Through expert-led sessions and hands-on practice systems, students can enhance their career opportunities in finance, human resources, sales, procurement and other fields, he said.

MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Expresses Condolences Over Andalamma's Demise



"HABSIGUDA , OCTOBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy visited the residence of Kancherla Somireddy, former general secretary of the Habsiguda Division, following the demise of Somireddy's mother-in-law, Andalamma, and consoled the bereaved family.

On the occasion, the MLA paid floral tributes to Andalamma's portrait and expressed deep sorrow over her demise. He stated that her death was an irreparable loss to the family and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Kancherla Somireddy and other family members. He also wished the family members strength and courage to overcome this difficult time."BRS party leaders, workers and others participated in the programme.



Members of the Eco-Club expressed their happiness over the opportunity to represent Khammam at the national-level celebrations.

Collector calls for concerted action to prevent road accidents

Officials told to identify accident-prone stretches, expedite repairs and ensure timely medical care for victims.



Karimnagar October 23, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): District Collector Chitra Mishra has directed officials to intensify road safety measures, identify accident-prone stretches and take up repairs on a priority basis to prevent road accidents and minimise loss of life. Chairing a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee at the Collectorate here on Friday, she stressed the need for regular inspections of major roads, prompt rectification of road defects and coordinated action by the departments concerned. Reckless driving not only endangers the lives of motorists but also puts other road users at risk, she said, urging people to adhere to traffic regulations.

The meeting, attended by Police Commissioner Gaush Alam, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prapul Desai, District Revenue Officer Swami and officials of various departments, reviewed road accident data, vulnerable locations, road conditions, repair requirements and emergency medical services available to victims. Ms. Mishra directed officials to identify the causes of recurring accidents and implement appropriate preventive measures. Potholes and

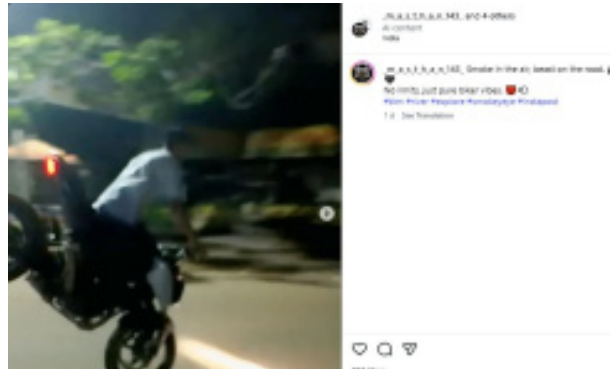
damaged road surfaces should be repaired promptly, while work on approach roads connecting major roads should be expedited. Measures should also be taken to ease congestion at busy junctions.

The Collector asked the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation to inspect roads circle-wise and address problems arising from potholes and pipeline leaks. She specifically called for necessary repairs on the stretch between NTR Junction and Padmanagar Junction to ensure smoother traffic movement. She also directed officials to prevent roadside flex banners and hoardings erected in violation of regulations from obstructing traffic and to take action against violations in accordance with the rules. Emphasising the importance of timely medical intervention, Ms. Mishra reviewed ambulance availability, emergency assistance arrangements and medical services provided to accident victims on national highways. Injured persons should be shifted to hospitals without delay, she said. She also called for wider public awareness of the PM Rah-Veer scheme, compensation provisions for hit-and-run victims and cashless treatment facilities available to road accident victims. Medical and Health Department officials informed the meeting that 40 private hospitals in the district were providing medical services to road accident victims under the PM Rah-Veer scheme. Steps were being taken to extend the necessary services to all Primary Health Centres in the district, they said. Police Commissioner Gaush Alam presented details of road accidents, accident-prone locations, e-challans and hit-and-run cases in the district. He urged motorists to follow traffic rules and remain focused while driving. The Collector called for sustained coordination among the Police, Roads and Buildings, Transport, Municipal Administration, Medical and Health and other departments to address road safety concerns and reduce fatalities.

Case Registered Against Youth for Performing Bike Stunts on Roads - Inspector Ramakrishna.



“Khammam, October 23, Indian Chronicle: “Two Town Inspector Ramakrishna stated that Valluru Krishna kishore Reddy, who was allegedly performing dangerous bike stunts at high speed on the roads near Gattayya Centre in the city, creating fear and panic among local residents, had been taken into custody and cases registered against him. The Inspector said that, following instructions from Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt to take serious action against illegal activities such as bike stunts, displaying swords, and celebrating birthdays on public roads, Khammam Two Town Police, along with the Task Force, CCS, Special Branch, and local police, conducted night-time inspections in several areas to identify and take action against those performing bike stunts on roads. He stated that performing bike stunts and posting videos of such acts on social media are punishable offences. He further warned that cases would be registered against those who create a disturbance on public roads by displaying weapons such as swords during birthday celebrations, fit modified silencers to bikes to produce excessively loud noises, or ride motorcycles without num-



ber plates. He also cautioned that anyone driving under the influence of alcohol would have their vehicle seized and be produced before a court to face legal proceedings and punishment. The Inspector made it clear that the police would not tolerate anyone taking the law into their own hands or endangering public safety. Those involved in such activities would be identified, cases registered against them, and strict legal action taken. He urged young people to act responsibly and avoid activities that not only put their own lives at risk but also endanger the lives of others. Everyone should understand that performing bike stunts on public roads and creating fear among people by displaying weapons are criminal offences. He particularly advised parents not to provide motorcycles to their minor children. Parents should closely monitor their children's daily activities and counsel them to stay away from illegal and life-threatening activities. He also stated that legal action could be taken against parents if necessary. The Inspector further advised young people not to risk their lives by engaging in such dangerous stunts. He appealed to the public to inform the local police or dial 112 if anyone engages in activities that threaten public safety.

Efforts of Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Bear Fruit



Says Palakurthi Constituency Congress Leader Pothnak Pramod Kumar “He listens to the people's grievances and works for the public—that is our MP, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.” (Yadadri Bhongir District Bureau, The Indian Chronicle, October 23) — Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy is receiving an overwhelming response from the public for the unprecedented development he is bringing to Bhongir town and the entire constituency—treating both with equal importance, as if they were his own two eyes. “Earning the appreciation of the people through a “people-centric” approach, our young, dynamic, and well-educated MP, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, is known for his immediate intervention in resolving the issues brought to his attention across the constituency. His name is resonating throughout Telangana, as he consistently voices the concerns of the people of the Bhongir parliamentary constituency in the national Parliament. He is a true warrior—a brave and steadfast leader—who fights for the people's causes. PCC State General Secretary Pramod Kumar and senior Congress leader Akhtar remarked that having such an individual as our MP is a matter of great pride. Developmental projects sanctioned as a result of persistent efforts: It is a welcome development that the proposal submitted by MP Chamala for the six-laning of National Highway 163 (Hyderabad–Warangal)—within the Bhongir parliamentary



constituency—has been advanced, with the project now being sent for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR). “Furthermore, it is a positive step that the proposals put forward by the MP—including an underpass at the Anantharam crossroads (near Swarnagiri Temple) and a service road near the Kendriya Vidyalaya—have been formally communicated to the Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).”

The letter also notes that, following similar efforts by the MP, construction has already commenced on a six-lane flyover near the IMS Hospital, and an underpass has been sanctioned for the Singannagudem area in Bhongir, with the estimated cost for the latter already determined.

Chintala Venkateswar Reddy appointed as Devarakonda Graduate MLC Election In-charge



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 23):- Keeping in mind the upcoming Graduate MLC elections, Telangana State BRS Party Working President, Sircilla MLA and former minister Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) has announced the constituency-wise election in-charges. In this order, senior BRS party leaders have appointed Chintala Venkateswar Reddy as the Graduate MLC Election In-charge of Devarakonda constituency in Nalgonda district. Speaking on the occasion, Chintala Venkateswar Reddy thanked the first Chief Minister of Telangana and BRS chief Kalvakuntla Chandrasekar Rao (KCR), who entrusted him with this responsibility, and the party Working President Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR). He expressed special gratitude and thanks to former minister and Suryapet MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy. He stated that he will work for the success of the party candidates in the Graduate MLC elections, upholding the trust the party has placed in him.

5.86 Crore Sanctioned for Uppal Bhagayat Phase-II Roads

Funds Secured with the Support of Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and Former Corporator Rajitha Reddy“

““UPPAL, OCTOBET 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Development works in the HMDA layout at Uppal Bhagayat are gaining momentum, with substantial funds being sanctioned for infrastructure and other civic improvements. In the latest development, ₹5.86 crore has been sanctioned for the recarpeting of two major damaged roads in Phase-II.“The funds were secured through the efforts of former corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy, with the support of Uppal Constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. “₹5.86 Crore Allocated for Two Road Works“1. ₹3.88 Crore for Road Recarpeting: Recarpeting work will be undertaken on the damaged BT road extending from the Inner Ring Road via Sukhi Sri Sumeru to the D-Mart water tank and HMWS&SB facility in Uppal Bhag ayat Phase-II.“2. ₹1.98 Crore for Another Road: The second project involves recarpeting the damaged BT road near Vasavi Crown East and the Sukhi Sri Sumeru lanes in Phase-II.“With a combined allocation of ₹5.86 crore for the two projects, road conditions in the area are expected to improve significantly. The works are expected to ease difficulties faced by motorists and provide better transportation facilities for local residents.



Preparatory meeting for the Graduate MLC elections at the Congress Party office in Gundala Mandal



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 23):-A preparatory meeting for the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Graduate MLC elections was held at the Congress Party office in Gundala Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya participated in the program. On this occasion, he called on the party leaders and activists to make the Graduate MLC candidate Ramreddy Sarvottam Reddy win. He advised all the party ranks to work in coordination for the victory of the Congress Party



candidate in the MLC elections and to seek support from the graduates. As part of the election preparations, he asked the leaders and activists to work together and take the campaign programs forward. After Gundala Mandal, Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah performed the bhoomi puja for the construction of Indiramma's house in the village and paid homage. In Suddala village, Banda Srisailem died of illness. Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah visited the family and paid tribute to the Srisailem portrait.

Telangana State Government Whip, Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated cotton purchase center in Katepalli village



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 23):- Telangana State Government Whip, Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated cotton purchase center at Gayatri Cotton Mill in Katepalli village, Motakondur mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. On this occasion, he



suggested that necessary arrangements should be made so that cotton farmers do not face any difficulties in purchasing and that farmers should be provided with the opportunity to sell cotton conveniently. “He said that farmers should bring the cotton harvested to the purchase center and sell it as per the government rules

MLC Election Preparatory Meeting for Graduates at Mahalakshmi Function Hall, Motakondur

“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 23):- A preparatory meeting for the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal MLC Elections for Graduates was held at Mahalakshmi Function Hall in Motakondur Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District.“Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya participated in the program. On this occasion, he called on party leaders and activists to make the MLC candidate of graduates Ramreddy Sarvottam Reddy win. He advised all party ranks to work in coordination for the victory of the Congress Party candidate in the MLC elections and to seek support from graduates. As part of the election preparations, he asked



leaders and activists to work together and take the campaign programs forward.

Talent of students of Resonance School V.D.Vos in Khammam city school level basketball competitions



School directorsaid that the school team of Resonance School V.D.Vose Kalani won the second prize at district level in Khammam city school level basketball competition organized by Khammam District Basketball Association. Nagendra Kumar informed in a statement. M. Pradeep, Rishi, Ashok and SK Shah Agyan of Class 10 and SK Shah Agyan of Class 8 of Resonance School congratulated the students who got the second prize and awarded Silver Medals and Merit Certificates. The director of the team of students who showed such good talent. Congratulated by Konda Sridar and Nilima.

Telangana State Government Whip, Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated PACS paddy purchase center in Mailar Gudem village



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 23):- Telangana State Government Whip, Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated the paddy purchase center set up under PACS in Mailar Gudem village, Yadagirigutta mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. On this occasion, he asked the party leaders and activists to work in coordination to make the Graduate MLC candidate Ramreddy Sarvottam Reddy win. He called on everyone to work for the victory of the Congress Party candidate in the Graduate MLC elections and to seek support for the candidate by meeting the graduates. He suggested that the party ranks should work together and take the campaign programs forward as part of the election preparations.



to the purchase center and take advantage of the government purchase process. He said that the concerned authorities should make necessary arrangements so that the farmers do not face any difficulties while selling the paddy.”He advised the authorities to work in coordination so that the paddy purchase process runs smoothly, giving priority to the welfare of the farmers.

Yadagirigutta Congress Party Office Holds MLC Election Preparation Meeting

(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 23):- A Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Graduate MLC Election Preparation Meeting was held at the Congress Party Office in Yadagirigutta town of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.”Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya participated in this meeting. On this occasion, he asked the party leaders and activists to work in coordination to make the Graduate MLC candidate Ramreddy Sarvottam Reddy win. He called on everyone to work for the victory of the Congress Party candidate in the Graduate MLC elections and to seek support for the candidate by meeting the graduates. He suggested that the party ranks should work together and take the campaign programs forward as part of the election preparations.



S.B.I.T. IIT Bombay “Illuminate” Workshop in College



Gundala Krishna, Chairman of the college, said that the National Level Entrepreneurship Illuminate workshop was organized with the aim of increasing awareness among the students about innovation, business outlook and establishment of start-ups. The Illuminate national stage workshop jointly organized by College Innovation and Incubation Cell Spark, E-Cell IIT Bombay and National Entrepreneurship Challenge (Y.E.C.) was inaugurated by Jyoti Prajwalana in the college premises, the event was presided over by eminent IIT Hyderabad, BITS Pilani Entrepreneurship Mentor Bandaru Naveen Kumar. Krishna said that he participated and spoke as a guest. Chief Guest Bandaru Naveen Kumar said that the main objective of this workshop is to develop the interest of the students to become entrepreneurs, to convert innovative ideas into practical business opportunities and to develop the skills required for setting up start-ups. Naveen Kumar suggested that students should not be limited to traditional job opportunities but should think towards self-employment and innovation. “College secretary and correspondent Dr. G. Dhatri said. After the workshop, the vice chairman of the college, K. Sree Chaitanya, felt that Naveen Kumar’s business oriented answers to the questions of the students changed the minds of the students. College Principal Dr. G. Rajkumar said that all the inventions of today have emerged from the ideas of

yesteryear. He said that if the right ideas can be sharpened, they will become opportunities to contribute to the development of the society. Certificates and kits were given to all the students who participated in the workshop in the subsequent program. “In this program, Innovation and Incubation Cell in-charge of the college P. Ashwini, G. Priyanka, Academic Directors Gundala Praveen Kumar, Gandham Srinivasa Rao, Dr. A.V.V. Shiva Prasad, Heads of various departments and others participated.

Traffic Restrictions in Uppal on October 24 and 25

--Vehicle Movement on NH-163 to Be Suspended Due to Bodrai Reinstallation Ceremony”UPPAL, October 23 (Indian Chronicle):-“Uppal Traffic Police have announced traffic restrictions on October 24 and 25 in view of the Bodrai reinstallation ceremony in Uppal village. As a large number of devotees are expected to gather near CMR Shopping Mall on National Highway-163 (NH-163), vehicular movement along this stretch will be completely suspended on both days, the police said.”Commuters travelling towards Hyderabad from Warangal and Ghatkesar have been advised to take an alternative route. After crossing the Uppal Nalla Cheruvu bund, motorists should proceed via Mayfield towards Uppal Bhagayath and reach Nagole. From Nagole, they can take a U-turn and continue towards Hyderabad, according to the traffic advisory.”Uppal Traffic Inspector Nagaraju urged motorists to plan their journeys in advance, use the alternative routes and cooperate with the traffic police to avoid inconvenience during the two-day religious event.

Ramantapur Pedda Cheruvu Beautification Works Progressing at a Rapid Pace



-Congress Leaders Inspect Development Works; Government Allocates ₹19 Crore for Lake Restoration”RAMANTHAPUR, OCTOBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Beautification and development works at Ramantapur Pedda Cheruvu in the Uppal Assembly constituency are progressing at a rapid pace. The state government has allocated ₹19 crore for the development of the lake, and Congress leaders from Habsiguda, Ramantapur and Venkat Reddy Nagar divisions inspected the progress of the works being undertaken under the supervision of HYDRAA.”The inspection was conducted as per the directions of Uppal Congress constituency in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. Habsiguda Division Congress president Kandi Sravan Kumar Reddy, division presidents, co-ordinators and senior party leaders participated in the programme. The leaders reviewed the ongoing development works around the lake, which spans a total area of 18.23 acres.Speaking on the occasion, Habsiguda Division Congress president Kandi Sravan Kumar Reddy said the lake development works were progressing swiftly under the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the initiative of Uppal Congress constituency in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. He expressed happiness over the government’s allocation of ₹19 crore for the beautification of the lake.”He observed that lakes had not received adequate attention in the past and said the present Congress government was taking steps to improve and beautify water bodies across the state.Former Uppal floor leader Kandi



Agi Reddy said it was commendable that steps were being taken to transform Ramantapur Pedda Cheruvu, which had remained filled with garbage and waste for several years. He conveyed special thanks, on behalf of the Habsiguda division, to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Uppal Congress constituency in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy for allocating substantial funds and taking steps to expedite the development works.DCC vice-president Boppanapalli Sudhakar Reddy, Habsiguda Division coordinator Mohammed Toufiq, District ST Cell president Ganesh Naik, senior leaders Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Dharna Naik, Kishan Naik, Raju Naik, Ramesh Naik, Lakshminarayana and Gundu Rajanna, Youth Congress president Vasu Naik, Suman Naik and others participated in the programme.A large number of Congress leaders from Habsiguda, Ramantapur and Venkat Reddy Nagar divisions were also present.

District SP Nitika Pant Inspects Rebbena and Tiryani Police Stations,Orders Crackdown on Illegal Activities and Speedy Case Disposal



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter “Indian Chronicle”October. 24.”Tiryani,Komaram Bheem Asifabad District Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant, IPS, directed police officials to take strict action against anti-social activities and prevent the illegal transportation of ganja, gumbaba, ration rice, and cattle. As part of the annual inspections, she inspected the Rebbena and Tiryani Police Stations on Friday.As part of environmental protection, the SP planted a sapling on the police station premises. She urged everyone to plant trees and take responsibility for their protection.”Later,she inspected the police personnel’s parade and reviewed their discipline and performance of duties. She instructed the staff to work with dedication and discipline to provide better policing services to the public.During the inspection, the SP examined various police station records, pending cases, investigation progress, station management, and staff performance. She reviewed crime records, case diaries, FIRs, pending cases, warrants, the beat system, rowdy sheets, and CCTNS records.She directed the officers to complete investigations into pending cases within the stipulated time while maintaining qual-

ity and ensuring speedy justice for victims. She also instructed them to receive public complaints promptly and take appropriate legal action to resolve them.The SP emphasized that special priority must be given to the safety of women and children. She called for extensive awareness programmes through SHE Teams and the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU). She also directed the police to focus on preventing cybercrimes, drug abuse, and illegal transportation activities. She stressed the importance of implementing the Village Police Officer (VPO) system at the village level to strengthen relations between the police and the public. She further instructed police personnel to maintain cleanliness and proper organization in police station premises, record rooms, and staff accommodation areas.”Public safety is the primary objective of the police department. Every police officer and staff member must perform their duties responsibly and remain accessible to the public. Effective policing should focus on crime prevention and ensuring speedy justice for victims.” SP Nitika Pant said.Rebbena Circle Inspector Sanjay, Tiryani Sub-Inspector Subbarao, and police station personnel participated in the programme.

Pooljade Namdev Unanimously Elected President of Ambedkar Memorial Association

“Sirpur Mandal Congress Leaders Felicitate Newly Elected President”Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter “Indian Chronicle”October. 24.”Sirpur Town, Komaram Bheem Asifabad District: Pooljade Namdev was unanimously elected as the President of the Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Association of Sirpur Taluka. On this occasion, Sirpur Mandal Congress Party leaders felicitated him in recognition of his election and extended their heartfelt congratulations.The leaders honoured Pooljade Namdev by presenting him with a shawl, sweets, and a bouquet of flowers. They expressed their happiness over his unanimous election and wished him success in strengthening the association and carrying forward its activities.Speaking on the occasion, Congress Party leaders stated that the election of Pooljade Namdev as president was a positive development for the association. They expressed hope that under his leadership, the organisation would work towards fulfilling the ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and promoting social equality, social justice, and the welfare of underprivileged communities.The leaders highlighted the importance of spreading Dr. Ambedkar’s principles and ideology among the public. They said that his contributions to the Indian Constitution and his commitment to liberty, equality, and fraternity continue to inspire generations. They stressed the need to create greater awareness among youth about the Constitution, education, equal rights, and social responsibility.They further stated that the association should organise programmes commemorating Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s birth anniversary and death anniversary and



conduct awareness activities to educate people about his life, struggles, and contributions to society. They expressed hope that the new president would unite people from all sections of society and strengthen the organisation through constructive activities.The Congress leaders also emphasised the importance of encouraging young people to follow Ambedkar’s ideals and contribute to social development. They wished Pooljade Namdev success in discharging his responsibilities and expressed confidence that his leadership would help the association expand its activities and serve the community more effectively.The felicitation programme was attended by M.A. Akhil Ahmed, Dubbala Nanaiah, Basarkar Vishwanath, Sohel Ahmed, Durgam Tulasiram, Nagarade Raju, Afsar Ahmed, Aminoddin, Paidhi Nanaji, Sende Uttam, and other Congress Party leaders, who extended their congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected president.

Forest guard's quick action saves colleague from tiger in Corbett



Ramnagar: "Galat jagah pakad liya chacha," 28-year-old Pitambar told his colleague moments after a tiger pinned him to the ground deep inside Jim Corbett wildlife sanctuary. The words captured the terror of an encounter he survived. Pitambar, a daily wageer, was part of a four-member team on routine patrol duty on July 20. While two of them were walking a little ahead, Ramnath, who was somewhere in between, suddenly realised that Pitambar was missing. As he turned around, Ramnath saw the big cat sitting on top of Pitambar.

With little time to react, he did something few would dare to attempt: He struck the tiger three times with the wooden stick in his hand. The tiger, seemingly caught off guard, released Pitambar and moved into the bushes. "Give me your hand," he told Pitambar, helping him get back on his feet and away from the spot. All Pitambar could mutter to Ramnath, also a daily wageer, at that moment was that the tiger had bitten him at the wrong place, meaning his neck. The bite was not deep, and Pitambar survived due to timely help. He suffered bite injuries and was given first aid by the forest staff before being taken to Ramnagar and then to Kashipur for treatment. Not all forest guards are as lucky as Pitambar. Dharampal Negi, a forester who has worked for 37 years, told PTI that when they go out patrolling, everyone tells themselves that four are going inside, but only three might return. Most of the dead are easily forgotten, and in some cases, their bodies have also not been recovered.

When the country's oldest national park decided to erect a memorial in honour of forest guards who died in animal attacks, it took 18 months to compile a list of 33 people. Now, no space is left on the plaque for another name, and the staff at a museum at the Dhangarhi gate of the forest hope that another or a bigger plaque will never be required. Around 700 forest guards, most of them daily wageers, patrol the park, spread across nearly 1,300 square kilometres, including over 500 sq km of core area, in groups of four and in shifts. Patrols from posts built at different locations are conducted on foot, and only one member of each group carries a gun. The others have only wooden sticks. Residents of the town feel that they and the hundreds of tourists who come here every day for safaris owe their safety to the forest guards.

Miteshwar Anand, Assistant Commissioner (GST),

said the forest guards put their lives at risk not just to thwart poachers and tree fellers but also to ensure that animals remain safe. Their work also requires them to recognise signs of wildlife distress. If an elephant is limping or a tiger appears injured, they inform veterinary and rescue teams, he added. The general manager of a top resort on the outskirts of the reserve said that a tiger might occasionally enter human habitation, but the guards ensure that people remain safe. "The fact is that we have come into their territory; they have not come into ours," he said. Negi, who was also invited to speak at the country's first-ever literature festival in a national park, held here earlier this month, said what stood out was not just the danger of the encounter but also Ramnath's presence of mind in those few seconds. Ramnath and Pitambar share a bond that goes beyond the demands of their work in the forest. Pitambar calls Ramnath uncle, and Ramnath treats him like a son. The incident took place around 300-400 metres from a forest outpost located nearly 18 km inside the forest. "There was no time to call for help or assess the situation. Ramnath acted with the only weapon immediately available to him, the stick in his hand," Negi, a forester by designation, said. Ramnath's decision to strike the tiger may have been crucial to the rescue, but had he screamed or shouted, the tiger could have turned towards him. After Pitambar was rescued, the tiger continued to roar and move around the area, appearing agitated. More staff members were sent in to ensure safety, and bushes along the route were cleared. Camera traps were installed later to monitor the animal's movements, as it had apparently tasted human blood.

The tiger remained in the area for three to four days, but no further incident was reported. The authorities finally declared that the tiger was not yet a man-eater. For the forest staff, the episode was also a reminder of the risks involved in a job that requires them to enter the habitat of wild animals on foot, often far from immediate medical assistance. "The nearest hospital in Ramnagar is around 18 km away, while patients requiring further treatment are often referred to Kashipur or Haldwani," Negi said. For an injured worker, reaching medical care can take time. In Pitambar's case, he first had to be brought on foot to the outpost, from where a vehicle was arranged to take him for treatment. The process took around 30-40 minutes, despite staff members rushing to help him. Corbett has hundreds of employees working across different categories, including forest guards, foresters, rangers and daily-wage workers. Their duties extend beyond monitoring wildlife to preventing poaching, detecting unauthorised entry, tracking animal movements and responding to forest fires. "The main objective of patrolling is to prevent poaching," Negi said, explaining that even a fresh set of footprints in soft forest soil can alert them to the presence of an intruder. The dangers are not limited to tiger encounters. Forest staff also face venomous snakes and rapidly spreading fires. "After spending eight hours working in the forest, we get exhausted and lie down wherever we can. We cannot always be alert every moment. In many ways, we rely on God's protection," Negi said.

824 MBBS seats remain vacant in deemed universities after NEET UG counselling



Chennai: More than 800 medical seats remained vacant across deemed universities in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry after the final round of counselling for NEET UG 2026, sources said on Thursday. High tuition fees have led to the situation, according to educationists and industry experts.

According to Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) sources, of the 837 unfilled MBBS seats across the country, including All India Quota seats, 824 were in deemed universities in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry alone. Educationists criticised the lack of a fee cap for deemed universities and pointed out that high-scoring NEET candidates were being forced to forgo these seats because they could not afford the exorbitant fees. This, they said, defeated the core purpose of conducting a merit-based national entrance examination. Senior educationist and State

Platform for Common School System – Tamil Nadu (SPCSS-TN) general secretary P B Prince Gajendra Babu told PTI that high-scoring NEET candidates whose financial circumstances did not permit them to join private institutions charging high fees simply opted out. Such candidates did not apply for counselling, he said.

"The lesser scorer who is financially sound applies and secures the seat," he said, adding, "NEET failed in both of its objectives — neither ensure merit nor curb commercialisation of medical education." He said all private medical education institutions, including deemed universities, that could not reduce their fee structures and continued to leave seats unfilled should be closed. "The state governments should be encouraged to open an adequate number of medical colleges wherever needed," he added. Industry experts cited excessive annual tuition fees as the main reason for the low intake. A Srinath, a higher education career counsellor for students in the city, said annual MBBS fees at deemed universities across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry ranged from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 35 lakh. "Students have to pay hostel and mess fees of between Rs 1.2 lakh and Rs 2.5 lakh per year in private institutions. In contrast, the average annual fee at private institutions in other parts of India stands at around Rs 17 lakh, resulting in a substantial fee disparity over the four-and-a-half-year duration of the course," he said. With the seats remaining unfilled, an additional round of counselling may be held. The MCC will take a decision on the matter, Srinath said, adding that the situation remained unclear.

Speeding vehicle kills four devotees heading to Kanaka Durga Temple



Four Bhavani devotees from Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district were killed when a speeding vehicle hit them near Kathipudi in Kakinada district. The devotees had stopped after their bus broke down while travelling to Vijayawada for darshan at Kanaka Durga Temple

GNS News Agency, Oct 23 Amaravati: At least four Bhavani devotees were killed when a speeding SUV rammed into them in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district on Thursday, police said. Another devotee was injured in the accident, which occurred near Kathipudi in Prathipadu constituency. According to police, the accident occurred when the devotees were crossing the road to have tea after the bus in which they were travelling broke down. The bus, carrying devotees from Vizianagaram district, was on its

way to Vijayawada. They were travelling to the city for darshan at Sri Kanaka Durga Temple. As the bus had stopped due to a technical problem, some devotees got down and headed to a nearby tea stall. Meanwhile, a speeding vehicle coming from Etcherla in Srikakulam district rammed into them.

Three devotees died on the spot, while another later succumbed to injuries. The deceased were identified as C. Yerraiiah (38), L. Sitaram (45), T. Shivaprasad (40) and B.R. Sattibabu (40). Police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to a local hospital. The bodies of the deceased were taken to a government hospital for post-mortem examination.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed grief over the accident in which four Bhavani devotees lost their lives. He said it was heartbreaking that devotees who had completed their vow and were on their way to have darshan of Kanaka Durga had lost their lives midway. He conveyed his deep condolences to the families of the deceased. The Deputy Chief Minister spoke to the Kakinada District Collector over the phone and gathered details about the incident. The District Collector explained that the accident occurred when a speeding vehicle hit the devotees from behind after they had got down from the bus, which had stopped near Ravikampadu Junction. They were heading to a nearby hotel. Pawan Kalyan directed that a thorough investigation be conducted into the incident and that the injured receive the best possible medical treatment. He assured the families of the deceased that the coalition government would extend all possible support.

Amit Shah launches 43 Yamuna cleaning projects worth Rs 8,941 crore



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday laid the foundation for 43 projects worth Rs 8,941 crore aimed at cleaning the Yamuna river. Shah said the Delhi government had successfully reduced sewer discharge into the Yamuna, and he pledged that the BJP government would ensure the river was cleaned in Delhi by May 2029.

"These projects are like the backbone of cleaning the Yamuna river. The Centre, Delhi government, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, these 'four engines' are working together to provide a clean Yamuna and drinking water to the public," Shah said while addressing the gathering. The projects in-

clude a new sewage treatment plant (STP) at Okhla, 29 decentralised sewage treatment plants (DSTPs) and new sewer lines. The launch event took place in Najafgarh.

"Previous governments only used to make excuses, but now the current BJP government will clean the Yamuna before May 2029. The plan is to provide sewer connections and clean drinking water to every household in three years," Shah added. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Water Minister Parvesh Verma were also present at the event. "Under these projects, new sewage treatment plants will be built, the capacity of old plants will be increased, the sewer network will be expanded, and drainage arrangements will be improved. This will greatly help in preventing dirty water from entering the Yamuna," Gupta said. Twenty-nine new DSTPs and sewage pumping stations in outer Delhi will cover 358 unauthorised colonies and 113 villages, benefiting 36.29 lakh residents. Another project involving the laying of 1,034 km of new sewer network was launched. Among the major projects is a new sewage treatment plant at Okhla with a capacity of 124 million gallons per day (MGD). It is the biggest STP in the national capital and is being constructed jointly by the Centre and the Delhi government. The Delhi government is also replacing the old water treatment plant at Chandrawal with a new facility that will have a capacity of 477 million litres per day (MLD). A foundation-laying ceremony for the facility was also held.

Raihan Vadra exhibition controversy: Gehlot terms photo removal 'censorship'

Jaipur: Former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday attacked the BJP government over the Raihan Vadra art show row, calling it a direct "attack" on democracy and clear example of "censorship". Artist and photographer Raihan Vadra, the son of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Robert Vadra, on Wednesday said the Bikaner House administration in the national capital pulled down many of his pictures of the recent Delhi protests ahead of a solo exhibition.

Targeting the BJP government, Gehlot demanded an explanation for the removal of the photographs. "Bikaner House is a property of the Rajasthan government. This means a young artist's creativity was stifled under the BJP government's watch, which is highly condemnable," Gehlot said in a statement. The Congress leader alleged that the BJP government was attempting to suppress images that reflected public dissent. He also praised Vadra for refusing

to remove two photographs featuring the national flag, saying his stand demonstrated that there could be no compromise on respect for the tricolour. "Suppressing the voice of artists is a direct attack on democracy. This is a clear example of censorship," Gehlot said, demanding that the BJP government explain why the photographs were removed. On Wednesday, Raihan said he was told at 3.30 pm that if the images are not taken down by 5 pm, the show will be cancelled. He said he had shared the detailed proposal and layout of the show well in advance with the Bikaner House management. Bikaner House went ahead and took down some of the pictures. They told us at 3.30 pm today if the images are not taken down by 5 pm, the show will be cancelled. They said it is not the right time for such photos to be shown," Raihan had told PTI. He said none of the images "gave out any political message and only documented the protests over the last six months". A Bikaner House official said "they were not authorised to comment".

Stir over Dalit ministers being stopped from performing puja by senior cop

Bengaluru: A controversy has erupted on Thursday after Superintendent of Police, CB Rishyanth, deputed for security arrangements during the Mysuru Dasara celebrations, allegedly prevented three Dalit ministers from participating in the Nandi Dhawja puja during the Jamboo Savari procession on October 21. The incident occurred near the Kote Anjaneya Swamy temple within the Mysuru Palace premises. The incident has triggered widespread discussion, with questions being raised over who instructed the SP to restrict entry to the puja venue. There is also public outrage over why ministers were prevented from participating in the ritual without any direction from the Chief Minister.

The controversy has taken a sensitive turn as the three ministers who were initially stopped belong to the Dalit community. Dalit organisations and progressive thinkers have condemned the incident, while videos showing the exchanges between the ministers and the police officer have gone viral on social media. According to protocol, ministers and MLAs accompanying the Chief Minister are allowed to participate in the ritual. However, on Wednesday, only Mysuru district in-charge Minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah was initially allowed to enter the puja venue along with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, while Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadgi, Agriculture Minister PM Narendra

Swamy and Muzrai Minister KS Basavanteppa were stopped by the SP.

When the ministers attempted to proceed towards the venue, SP Rishyanth allegedly blocked their way. Minister Shivaraj Tangadgi pushed past the officer, expressing his displeasure over being prevented from participating in the ritual. Subsequently, the SP stood in the way of Ministers Narendra Swamy and Basavanteppa, preventing them from entering the venue. Noticing the commotion, Chief Minister Shivakumar intervened and instructed the SP to allow the ministers to participate in the puja. Minister Narendra Swamy reportedly reprimanded the officer and asked him not to touch him and to maintain some distance. The ministers were subsequently allowed to take part in the ritual. Earlier, the SP had also reportedly prevented senior Congress MLA Tanveer Sait from reaching the puja venue. Chief Minister Shivakumar later intervened and took Sait to the site to participate in the worship. Other local MLAs and MLCs were reportedly left watching the ritual from a distance as they were not allowed to enter the venue. The episode has sparked debate over treatment of leaders from Backward Classes, the conduct of security personnel and the treatment of elected representatives during one of Karnataka's most prominent cultural celebrations.

Economists maintain back-to-back repo rate hike stance



New Delhi: Economists on Thursday maintained back-to-back repo rate hike stance, as the RBI MPC minutes for October revealed more hawkish tone, inclining towards future risk and policy tightening.

A report by SBI Research said that it continues to maintain 50 bps rate hike in December, either through a "plain vanilla" 50 bps repo rate hike or an "exotic" 50 bps rate hike with a 25-bps repo rate and a 25-bps asymmetric widening of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor (MSF at 6.25 per cent and SDF at 5.50 per cent). "The broadening of inflationary pressures, alongside persistent rupee weakness, calls for close monitoring by the RBI and a calibrated policy response to contain inflation risks and reinforce monetary transmission," said Dr Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India. "We expect the peak inflation rate by November below 6.5 per cent and with these elevated levels, such generalisation warrants close monitoring by the RBI," Dr Ghosh added.

According to Radhika Rao, Senior Economist and Executive Director, DBS Bank, the minutes from the RBI's October rate meeting reflected the hawkish pivot, where the repo rate was raised by 25 bp and stance was changed to 'calibrated tightening'. "Members cited rising inflationary pressures and firm growth as reasons behind the 25bp hike. Tone of the commentary put two external members in the

most hawkish camp, as they emphasised the broadening inflation risks and need for pre-emptive action, while two others were considered mildly hawkish/neutral as they supported only incremental hikes and explicitly rejected signalling a prolonged tightening cycle," she explained.

The RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra highlighted emerging signs of inflation becoming more generalised. With inflation set to rise to 6 per cent in CY Q4, "the door remains open for a back-to-back hike in December," said Rao. In markets, bond yields stayed high, while the rupee was appreciated due to forex regulatory measures. As restrictions gained traction, the rupee has strengthened by around 1.5 per cent/USD this month, defying the usual headwinds from rising oil prices and subdued global risk sentiment, while FX forward premiums remain elevated. Inflows towards the country's biggest-ever equity IPO also contributed to forex gains, said economists. For now, the currency is exhibiting limited reaction to external developments, while bonds are set to remain under pressure as oil supply fears return to the table, said Rao.



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 23):- BRS Party senior leaders Chintala Venkateswara Reddy, Aleru former MLA Bhullu Bikshmaiah Goud and others met BRS Party Working President Ketir on the occasion of Dussehra festival and conveyed their best wishes.

India slams Houthi strikes in Saudi Arabia, moves to help stranded pilgrims



India on Thursday expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia while condemning continued attacks by Houthi rebels on civil infrastructure, including a strike on Dammam airport that killed an Indian national, and backing the early restoration of peace and normalcy in West Asia. The Indian side also said it is working with airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of Indian pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia because of the suspension of flights by Indian carriers following the recent escalation of hostilities.

An attack on King Fahd International Airport on Wednesday evening killed two people, including an Indian, while two Indians were among eight people injured. Another Indian was injured by debris from a drone intercepted over Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oilfield on Wednesday. "We strongly condemn the continued attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including the attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam and Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oilfield in the Eastern Province on October 21," the external affairs ministry said in a statement.

Such attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure are "completely unacceptable and must cease immediately", the Indian side reiterated. "We stand in solidarity with the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, and hope that peace and normalcy would return to the region at the earliest," it said. While conveying condolences to the family of the Indian killed in Dammam and wishing the speedy recovery of the injured, the statement said the Indian embassy in Riyadh is in touch with Saudi authorities and providing assistance to the affected Indian nationals. The latest attacks on Saudi infrastructure reflect the escalation of the conflict between Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the Saudi-backed government of Yemen. One Indian was killed, and 10 more were injured in an attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on October 10. External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media that the Indian embassy in Riyadh and the consulate in Jeddah are "engaging with concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of affected [Indian] pilgrims". Jaiswal's social media post followed a claim by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi that 4,000 Indian pilgrims were stranded in Makkah and Madina

after Indian carriers such as Air India, Indigo and Akasa Air cancelled flights. Jaiswal said about 3,000 stranded Indian pilgrims have returned from Saudi Arabia on available flights over the past week. This was in addition to more than 10,000 pilgrims who were not stranded and returned to India during the same period. "Arrangements are being discussed to facilitate the return of other Umrah pilgrims at the earliest," he said.

The Indian missions in Riyadh and Jeddah, with the support of community volunteers, are extending all possible welfare assistance to the pilgrims, Jaiswal said. Nineteen Indians, including 11 seafarers, have been killed so far in the West Asia conflict, which was triggered by attacks by Israel and the US on Iran in February. Dozens more have been injured across West Asia. The Indian side has been concerned by these casualties and has repeatedly called for a return to dialogue and diplomacy while urging all stakeholders to stop attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure. West Asia is home to more than 10 million Indians, a majority of them blue-collar workers, including employees of oilfields and infrastructure facilities such as airports. On Wednesday, the US State Department directed diplomats and family members to leave from its missions in Saudi Arabia, triggering fears of a US strike on Iran. There were also reports of the US withdrawing family members of diplomats from several other missions in the region. Such attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure are "completely unacceptable and must cease immediately", the Indian side reiterated. "We stand in solidarity with the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, and hope that peace and normalcy would return to the region at the earliest," it said. While conveying condolences to the family of the Indian killed in Dammam and wishing the speedy recovery of the injured, the statement said the Indian embassy in Riyadh is in touch with Saudi authorities and providing assistance to the affected Indian nationals. The latest attacks on Saudi infrastructure reflect the escalation of the conflict between Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the Saudi-backed government of Yemen. One Indian was killed and 10 more injured in an attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on October 10. Nineteen Indians, including 11 seafarers, have been killed so far in the West Asia conflict, which was triggered by attacks by Israel and the US on Iran in February. Dozens more have been injured across West Asia. The Indian side has been concerned by these casualties and has repeatedly called for a return to dialogue and diplomacy while urging all stakeholders to stop attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure. West Asia is home to more than 10 million Indians, a majority of them blue-collar workers, including employees of oilfields and infrastructure facilities such as airports. On Wednesday, the US state department directed diplomats and family members to leave from its missions in Saudi Arabia, triggering fears of a US strike on Iran. There were also reports of the US withdrawing family members of diplomats from several other missions in the region.

Raihan Vadra art show row: Bikaner House explains removal of photographs



New Delhi: The Bikaner House Society on Thursday said it had sought the removal of certain photographs from Raihan Vadra's exhibition after finding them inconsistent with its policy, adding that the remaining pictures continued to be displayed. In a statement, the society said it was a public cultural institution dedicated to promoting art and culture, and that exhibitions and associated activities must comply with the Bikaner House Management Society Policy.

"Certain photographs displayed as part of Mr Raihan Vadra's exhibition, 'No Idea Is Final', at Bikaner House were found to be inconsistent with the policy of the Bikaner House

Management Society. Accordingly, their removal was requested," the society said. "The photographs that are consistent with the Society's policy have continued to be displayed," it added. Artist and photographer Raihan Vadra, the son of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Robert Vadra, said on Wednesday that the Bikaner House administration had taken down several of his photographs depicting recent protests in Delhi ahead of a solo exhibition, triggering a controversy. The exhibition, titled "No Idea Is Final", was pre-viewed on Wednesday and opens on Thursday.

Raihan said he was informed at 3.30 pm that the show would be cancelled if the photographs were not removed by 5 pm. He also said he had shared the detailed proposal and layout of the exhibition with the Bikaner House management well in advance. Priyanka Gandhi termed the move "ridiculous", accusing the authorities of "muzzling" the voice of the youth across the nation. "Today it's him, tomorrow it'll be another artist," she told PTI. In a message tagging Raihan, the Congress leader took a veiled swipe at the Modi government, saying, "When someone with power becomes afraid of the expression of another, he doesn't know it, but he has already lost the very power he is trying to protect". Addressing her son, she said, "You stand for what is true, and everything beautiful will find its way to you. I am proud of you, always will be."

One Indian killed, three injured in Saudi attacks; India condemns strikes



विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

New Delhi: India on Thursday strongly condemned the latest attacks in Saudi Arabia that left one Indian national dead and three others injured, asserting that strikes targeting civilian and critical infrastructure were "completely unacceptable" and must cease immediately. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), one Indian national died and two others were injured in the strike on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam, while another Indian was in-

jured in the attack on Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field.

"We strongly condemn the continued attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including the attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam and Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field in the Eastern Province on October 21," the MEA said. "These attacks have unfortunately resulted in civilian deaths and injuries," it added.

The MEA said one Indian national had died and two others had been injured in the attack on Dammam airport, while another Indian national was injured in the attack on the Shaybah oil field. It conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and wished those injured a speedy recovery. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh is in contact with the Saudi authorities and will provide all possible assistance, the MEA said. "We also reiterate that the attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure are completely unacceptable and must cease immediately," it said. "We stand in solidarity with the people and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, and hope that peace and normalcy would return to the region at the earliest," the MEA said in a statement.

Medical body seeks review of Sunny Deol's 'Suryaa' over portrayal of doctors

The doctors' body on Thursday raised concerns about the Sunny Deol starrer's promo video, saying it could create a negative impression of the medical fraternity and undermine public trust in healthcare professionals. The IMA objected to the "generalisation of corruption within healthcare" and the "depiction of violence against medical professionals". It warned that such portrayals could have consequences for the safety of healthcare workers and the doctor-patient relationship. The association asked the ministry to conduct an impartial review of the film and seek corrective measures from the filmmakers. It also called for a ban on other appropriate action "if justified under applicable law".

Suryaa is an upcoming Hindi crime thriller starring Sunny Deol, directed by M Padmakumar, and scheduled to release on November 20. Its teaser, released on October 19, follows a father investigating the truth behind his daughter's illness and points to concerns about a faulty medical system. Why the IMA has objected to the film in its letter, the IMA said the film's portrayal of corruption and unethical practices risked tarnishing the reputation of doctors who worked honestly and diligently. "While individual misconduct must be investigated and punished, the actions of a few must not be used to tarnish the reputation of countless honest and dedicated doctors," the association said. The doctors' body also raised concerns about scenes showing physical assaults on doctors, nursing staff and hospital personnel, particularly when such acts are presented as "heroic or justified." "Scenes depicting physical assaults on doctors, nursing staff, and hospital personnel, particularly when presented as heroic or justified acts, risk normalising violence against those committed to saving lives," the letter read.

"Content that appears to glorify attacks on medical professionals may encourage hostility and further endanger those providing essential healthcare services," it said. "Such



portrayals may foster unwarranted mistrust and hostility towards doctors, weakening the mutual trust and cooperation essential for effective treatment and healthcare delivery," the letter said. The IMA clarified that it did not seek to protect doctors guilty of wrongdoing. It said corruption, unethical medical practices and professional misconduct should be dealt with through appropriate legal and disciplinary action. Our objective is not to shield any wrongdoer from accountability, but to protect the dignity of the medical profession, ensure the safety of healthcare workers, and preserve public trust in the healthcare system," the association said. The letter also raised concerns about the impact of negative portrayals on medical students and aspiring doctors. "India needs more dedicated and motivated doctors to meet the healthcare needs of its growing population," the IMA said, adding that the profession was built on "years of hard work, sacrifice, compassion, and service to humanity". The association has asked the ministry to review the film's content, seek appropriate corrective measures from its makers and consider a ban or other action if warranted under the law.

BJP targets Rahul Gandhi over report on links between protests in India and France

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday cited a media report on alleged links between riots in France and recent protests in India, claiming that it exposed the Congress's alleged "anarchy and regime change plot", and called Rahul Gandhi a "gaddar" (traitor). There was no immediate reaction from the Congress to the BJP's allegations.

According to a report published in The Times of India, a Fox News digital investigation has claimed to have uncovered links between the riots in France and protests in India demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. Addressing a press conference here, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi is presenting a model of anarchy and 'gaddari' before the country. Today, a report has appeared in a newspaper, detailing how these alleged links of betrayal are connected to foreign agencies. Therefore, it would not be wrong to ask, 'Who is the leader of these traitors?'" Bhatia said.

"It is India's misfortune that the Leader of the Opposition is irresponsible and immature. And if I present the evidence before you, it would not be wrong to call him a traitor or Mir Jafar." An investigation by Fox News shows how organisations have created an ecosystem across nine countries, including France, that attempts to overthrow elected governments. It is a "red-green ecosystem of protest", he claimed. "According to the Fox News report, red represents communist groups, while green represents Islamic groups. If we look at this report, it states, 'Global chaos grows to 101 groups'. Global chaos, anarchy and disorder... these 101 organisations are operating across nine countries," Bhatia said. Citing the report, BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said on X, "Global investigation exposes anarchy and regime change plot of Congress." The investigation report, titled



'Global Chaos Inc grows to 101 groups', flags how the communist organisation Progressive International (PI) was coordinating common messaging among protests in France, Albania and India, Bhandari said. "The aim of the messaging was 'acquiring organised power through new rebellion', regime change," he added, referring to the media report. Bhandari alleged that Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi had met representatives of Progressive International at "10 Janpath" on April 10, 2025. "This further proves Rahul Gandhi and Congress are in the remote control of foreign anti-democratic forces," he added, demanding a response from the Congress. Bhandari said the Congress must clarify whether it coordinated with Progressive International during the protests. What was the messaging between Congress and this organisation when protests were ongoing? Was Rahul Gandhi moving to Vietnam related to taking instructions from many such organisations for the November 1 anarchic protest?" he asked, adding, "Congress must answer."

CJP leaders Saurav Das, Ranka and Shinde seek more time to appear before police

GNS News Agency, Oct 23 New Delhi: Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka and Ajinkya Shinde have sought more time to appear before the Delhi Police Crime Branch for questioning. Das, Ranka and Shinde were asked to appear at the Delhi Police Crime Branch office in Rajouri Garden at noon on Thursday. However, they sought more time from the police. The police will now issue fresh summons to them.

This comes a day after Das and Ranka were released from Tihar Jail following a week in judicial custody. Earlier this week, the Delhi Police transferred the cases against the CJP leaders to the Crime Branch. The cases are related to the incident on October 13, when Das, Ranka and Shinde, along with 11 others, allegedly trespassed into Jantar Mantar, which has been de-notified as a designated protest site. All were detained by the Delhi Police. While Shinde was released on a bail bond, Das and Ranka remained in judicial custody for a week.

The CJP members were protesting against alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and raised slogans against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. Das and Ranka were released on Wednesday after submitting written undertakings before a Special Executive Magistrate (SEM), assuring that they would maintain peace and refrain from calling for protests at Jantar Mantar until the site is de-notified in



accordance with the law. SEM Ritu Raj directed the release of the two activists after they furnished personal bonds and surety bonds of Rs 50,000 each, valid until the conclusion of the inquiry into the Jantar Mantar trespassing case. In their written undertakings, both activists promised not to breach the peace and expressed full faith in the judiciary and all its instruments, including the SEM court. The SEM court observed that the immediate measures required under Section 135(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to prevent a breach of the peace or disturbance of public tranquillity could be adequately secured through the execution of bonds supported by written undertakings.

Kanpur man pinned to car roof with hands trapped in window, driven around for 1.5 km and run over

A 37-year-old man died in Kanpur after he was allegedly pinned to a car's roof, driven around for 1.5 km and then thrown onto the road and run over by the same vehicle, police said on Thursday. Two of the three men named in the murder case have been arrested.

The victim, Biru Singh Badauria, worked as a salesperson for a food products company. According to was returning home after visiting a Dussehra fair when the incident took place in the Hanumant Vihar area on Tuesday night, according to news agency PTI.

According to a complaint filed by Badauria's father, Ram Shankar Singh, the accused intercepted and assaulted his son. When Badauria tried to escape, they allegedly struck him with their car before trapping his hands in the vehicle's rear window panes and pinning him to the roof. The men then allegedly drove for around 1.5 km at high speed before throwing Badauria onto the road and running him over with the same vehicle. Badauria was first taken to a private hospital and later shifted to Lala Lajpat Rai (LLR) Hospital, where he died during treatment on Wednesday.

Two accused arrested Police Commissioner Raghubir Lal told PTI that two of the three accused named in the murder case had been arrested. Rajveer and Pintu have been taken into custody, while efforts are underway to trace the



third accused, Mewa Yadav, Lal said. The victim's family alleged that the attack was linked to an earlier dispute between Badauria and two of the accused, Rajveer and Mewa Yadav, who live in Nai Basti in Khadepur. A complaint was initially lodged by Badauria's brother, describing the incident as a road accident, following which a case was registered. His father subsequently filed a separate complaint alleging murder and naming Rajveer, Mewa Yadav and Pintu, according to Lal. Police are examining CCTV footage and have recovered the vehicle allegedly involved in the incident. Further action will be taken based on the evidence, the police commissioner said.

Millions of hacking attempts as companies, governments rush to patch PHP flaws



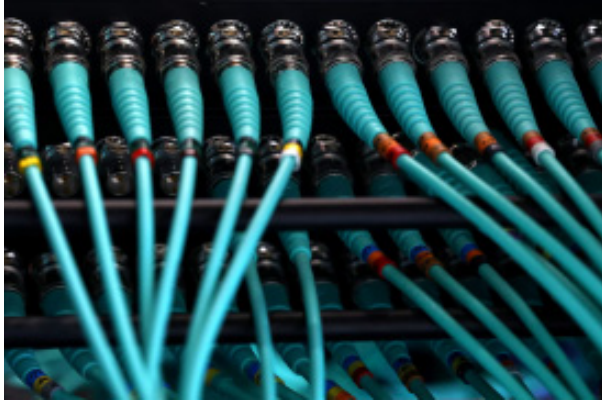
TOKYO/BEIJING, - Companies and governments worldwide rushed on Thursday to patch critical flaws in the widely used PHP programming language, as a cybersecurity company reported millions of hacking attempts after the vulnerabilities were disclosed. The push came after governments in Europe and elsewhere took websites offline as a precaution on Wednesday while website operators scrambled to secure systems running the software.

Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here. The emergency shutdowns of banking, airline, rail, tax and government services from Tokyo to Helsinki showed how much public and corporate systems rely on the software, and how hard it is to fix such flaws quickly once they are made public. "It was a long day and a long night, I know for all the IT and security folks ... I've not seen anything like this in a long, long time," Microsoft's He said the episode underscored the importance of building digital systems that can be maintained securely. PHP developers released urgent fixes on Wednesday for vulnerabilities that had lurked in the software for years until they were uncovered using AI, urging users to "update immediately." Details of these flaws became public before fixes were ready, and attacks have since been reported," said Madeline Lawrence, co-founder of Belgian cybersecurity firm Aikido Security. "So companies are racing to update against attackers who can use AI to exploit them. That's the whole race." As companies and governments deployed patches and suspended websites as a precaution, hacking attempts surged into the millions, according to cloud services firm Cloudflare. In the 10 hours before it was publicly announced, across the network we saw thousands of attempts to exploit it," Cloudflare CEO Matthew Prince said in a post on X late on Wednesday. "That jumped

to tens of thousands in the 45 minutes post announcement, hundreds of thousands within 2 hours, and millions now."

FROM JAPAN TO FINLAND Item 1 of 4 PHP code is displayed on a computer in Guernica, Spain, October 22, 2026. Government websites across Europe went dark on October 21, as operators raced to patch two critical vulnerabilities in PHP, one of the most widely used programming languages on the web. REUTERS/Vincent West [1/4] PHP code is displayed on a computer in Guernica, Spain, October 22, 2026. Government websites across Europe went dark on October 21, as operators raced to patch two critical vulnerabilities in PHP, one of the most widely used programming languages on the web. / Vincent West Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab Japan's Ministry of Finance and Meteorological Agency partially suspended online services to implement safety measures, while Japan's National Tax Agency temporarily took down its service. The precautionary shutdowns underscore growing concerns over cybersecurity in Japan, which recorded more cyber incidents in the first nine months of the year than in all of last year, according to data from TrendAI. said it had temporarily suspended access to certain PHP-based websites and applications across several subsidiaries as a precaution. Tencent Cloud, one of China's largest cloud-computing providers, urged customers to install updated PHP versions but stopped short of calling for widespread website shutdowns. Finland's state IT services provider Valtori said it had continued installing PHP security patches overnight and was gradually lifting precautionary service blocks after shutting down government public web services a day earlier. Restoring services can take days or even weeks, as in addition to updates, the systems need to be carefully tested," Valtori Director General Hannu Naumanen said in a statement. Valtori said the outages were not caused by exploitation of the vulnerabilities or by a cyber breach, and that it was not aware of any active exploitation of the flaws. Several Asian governments ordered cybersecurity inspections related to the PHP vulnerabilities on Thursday. China's industry ministry urged organizations and users to inspect systems immediately and upgrade to the latest secure version of PHP. It also recommended strengthening cybersecurity monitoring and changing accounts, passwords and keys where necessary. South Korea raised its private-sector cybersecurity alert level and activated emergency response measures, citing concerns over an increased risk of hacking attacks.

Governments, companies take websites offline over PHP flaws



Several government, school and hospital websites across Europe and beyond were taken offline on Wednesday as organizations rushed to protect themselves from two critical security flaws in PHP, a programming language that powers a large share of the internet. Cybersecurity agencies across the world warned that organizations unable to apply fixes in time should consider taking affected sites offline. PHP's developers said a set of new updates fixing two previously identified critical vulnerabilities was available. Learn about the latest breakthroughs in AI and tech with the Reuters Artificial Intelligence newsletter. Sign up here. Here are some major websites and services taken offline or otherwise affected:

GERMANYA spokesperson for the German digital ministry said on Wednesday the federal IT service provider ITZ Bund had taken several websites offline due to the discovery of PHP vulnerabilities. The temporary deactivation was purely preventive and no security incidents were known to have occurred, the spokesperson said. FRANCE The Interior Ministry said it had temporarily taken offline the websites of prefectures, which are local government administrative offices, while awaiting a security fix for the PHP framework they use. It said the move was a precaution pending a patch from the framework's publisher. BELGIUM Belgium's foreign ministry said it had temporarily taken its websites offline following reports of cyberattacks exploiting the PHP vulnerabilities, although the country's cybersecurity centre said it had not recorded

any attacks on Belgian websites. NETHERLANDS Many organizations followed the example of the National Cyber Security Centre and preventively took their public-facing sites offline. They included the Port of Rotterdam, government site Overheid.nl, the national football association KNVB, the websites of the five largest political parties and numerous hospital websites across the country. FINLAND

State IT centre Valtori shut down the government's public web services on Wednesday as "a precautionary measure." Valtori said it had not identified any attempt to exploit the flaws and that the outage was not the result of a data breach. CZECH REPUBLIC The Czech government took its website offline on Wednesday at 7 p.m. (1700 GMT) at the recommendation of the country's cyber watchdog to "allow for the implementation of necessary security patches." The measure aims to ensure the secure operation of the website. During the shutdown, the site and its content will not be accessible to the public. Services will be restored once the recommended security updates have been applied," the government office said. WIKIMEDIA The Wikimedia Foundation, which runs online encyclopedia Wikipedia, said it was in the process of addressing security vulnerabilities in the PHP programming language. All foundation-supported systems and volunteer-run systems that use PHP are affected, the foundation said in a statement. "We have taken down a number of other systems as a precautionary measure until they can be safely patched," the foundation added. INTERNET ARCHIVE

The non-profit digital library took its portal offline on Wednesday due to emergency maintenance and security patches, it said in a X post. The website is back online. The French telecoms group temporarily suspended access to a number of websites and applications using the PHP programming language as a precaution. The measure affects websites, services and applications across several subsidiaries and entities. JAPAN Japan's Ministry of Finance and Meteorological Agency partially suspended online services to implement safety measures, while Japan's National Tax Agency temporarily took down its service. Several Japanese companies, including brokerage Nomura (8604.T), opens new tab The British public service broadcaster BBC said it had taken down some web portals on Wednesday. The broadcaster also reported several municipalities taking down their web services, including the city of Edinburgh.

Ukraine's strikes on Russian data centres disrupt key services, derail AI research

Moscow: Russia prides itself on its digital advances — from an extensive e-commerce services sector to ambitious plans for developing artificial intelligence. But now, some of the key data centres at the heart of its technical prowess have been knocked out by Ukrainian drone attacks in the 4.5-year-old full-scale invasion, suffering damage that could take a long time to repair.

Ukraine this month hit three main data centres belonging to tech giant Yandex, one for Russia's biggest bank, Sberbank, and one for social media platform VKontakte, the country's equivalent to Facebook. While Yandex, Sberbank and VKontakte are coy about the damage, people and businesses across Russia have reported widespread interruptions to cloud services. Banking, e-commerce, geolocation and ride-hailing services, as well as Alisa, Yandex's virtual assistant, and multimodal AI chatbots all have suffered lasting disruptions. The fallout even spread to Russia's judicial system, reportedly forcing arbitration courts to cancel or postpone sessions and cutting database access. Most experts predict repairing the damage could take months, if not years. Some warn that Moscow's aspirations to become a leader in AI development could be significantly set back. "This effectively sets Russia far behind in the AI race," said Mikhail Klimarev, head of the Internet Protection Society activist group. Data centres have been hit by both sides in the war

Data centres are the latest targets of aerial campaigns waged by both sides against each other's vital infrastructure. Russian missiles and drones have pummeled Ukraine's power grid and other key sites, part of Kremlin efforts to weaken morale and resistance. Moscow stepped up those attacks as winter approaches, taking advantage of a shortage of US-supplied Patriot interceptors, whose stockpiles have been drained by Washington's war with Iran. Ukraine retaliated with waves of drone attacks against Russian oil refineries, triggering a massive fuel crisis and bringing the war home to millions of civilians. US President Donald Trump has blamed the attacks for higher global oil prices, which have escalated largely due to the US war in Iran. Earlier this month, Trump struck a deal with President Vladimir Putin to import diesel oil, shocking Ukraine and its allies. Ukraine also hit huge warehouses for Russia's top online retailers, Wildberries and Ozon. Kyiv's attacks on Russian data centres closely followed Moscow's recent strikes on data centres in Ukraine, which disrupted the internet and TV broadcasts. On October 8, Ukrainian drones hit a Yandex data centre in Sasovo in the Ryazan region that houses two of the company's three supercomputers. A data centre in Kaluga was hit a day later and the one in Vladimir was struck October 11. The data centre and AI hub for Sberbank was hit October 14 in Balakovo in the Saratov region, and four days later, Kyiv struck a data centre in St. Petersburg serving VKontakte.

While oil refineries and warehouses are easy prey, data centres are even softer targets — massive buildings packed with servers and supporting power and cooling infrastructure. Lasting damage can result from a drone carrying a relatively light load of explosives. The vulnerability of data centres was exposed by Iran, whose drones hit two Amazon Web Services data centres in the United Arab Emirates and one in Bahrain. AWS said last month it was unable to restore access to the resources and data hosted at two of them. Yandex has run drills for an accident that could incapacitate one of its six data centres, but it was caught unprepared when its three key facilities were hit over four days. It wasn't immediately clear why air defences near the sites had failed. "The problem in Russia is that they've got to cover a big country with air defence and they don't have enough," said Nick Reiners, senior geotechnology analyst at Eurasia Group. Russia's efforts to build a sovereign internet backfire. Ukraine has stored critical data on servers in allied European countries, helping limit the damage from Russian attacks. But Moscow's strict digital sovereignty policy requires all data storage at home, making it extremely vulnerable.

"Because all the infrastructure and all the data is lo-



cated inside Russia, it's relatively easier to take down," Reiners said. Klimarev predicted the data centre attacks could encourage many top Russian companies to move data abroad, while the authorities could ease their efforts to tighten internet controls to minimise the damage. "Paradoxically, the strikes on data centres have saved the Russian internet from isolation, as they will now have to move computing assets, most likely, to Europe," Klimarev said. "It's quite likely that many Russian businesses are now roaming the European market to rent computing assets." Russians are vexed by service disruptions. Yandex dominates digital life in Russia and many former Soviet nations. It provides a wide variety of functions, including a search engine, cloud storage, payment apps, geolocation and ride-hailing services, and e-commerce platforms. "Yandex is kind of like Uber and Amazon and Google and everything rolled into one," with everything "concentrated in just a few data centres," Reiners said. "From a strategic perspective, they're an excellent target." The attacks on Yandex caused unprecedented disruptions, paralysing payments, online orders, taxi rides and access to personal data. Moscow resident Igor Mann said he couldn't collect an order he placed with Yandex Market, an e-commerce platform. He said he tried using a virtual private network, but "nothing worked." Taxi driver Pavel Belyavskiy, who gets orders via Yandex's ride-hailing app, couldn't connect with passengers.

On several orders already, I've ended up waiting for a long time and had to cancel the ride because I couldn't even get in touch with the passenger," he said. The attacks also caused temporary disruptions at some major companies and banks that rely on Yandex cloud services. "It's not just about convenience — it's also about work ... tied to everyday life," said another Moscow resident, Eduard Malyavko. A blow to Russia's AI ambitions. Yandex said it restored most key cloud services in the following days as it turned to other data centres in Russia. But the damage to the company's AI development efforts is widely seen as massive and longer-lasting. Yandex has invested in huge data centres as the global AI boom fuels demand for computing power. The company's three supercomputers used to develop models are ranked among the top 500 in the world. Its most powerful computer — at the Sasovo data centre — was ranked 19th.

Yandex didn't disclose the extent of the strikes' consequences, but satellite images indicated its data centres sustained serious damage. Some observers noted that fires triggered by the attacks probably seriously damaged high-end chips and other key equipment. "With this kind of hit, it's hard to expect that at least something was left intact — the data centres' equipment is fragile, demanding and expensive," Klimarev said. "Soot from the fire is bad for electronics." While Russia already lagged years behind the US and China, "Ukraine's drone strikes will likely still set back Russian AI efforts further," said Connor Martin, an expert with the Council for Foreign Relations. He said in a commentary that Russia likely will struggle to quickly replace the US-designed Nvidia A100 chips powering Yandex's supercomputers. Klimarev also said the global deficit of high-end chips, combined with the sanctions on their delivery to Russia, will make repairs long and costly. I'm not sure it can be done in half a year, a year, or even at all," he said.

Jignesh Patel, 46, and Rahil Patel, 42, were sentenced last week following a three-week trial at Southwark Crown Court. The Patels, who are not related, were both found guilty of three counts of fraud by false representation and two counts of converting criminal property. This was committed out of greed, and you were equal partners in the serious fraud designed to make you a lot of money," Justice Cole said at the sentencing hearing last Friday. This was a thoroughly impressive investigation, expertly presented on all sides," he said. The National Health Service said the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) investigators will now use their powers under the UK Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) to recover these lost funds. Jignesh Patel and Rahil Patel worked together for several years, obtaining drugs using false prescriptions and selling them on to European pharmaceutical wholesale businesses," said Ben Harrison, Head of Operations and Engagement at the NHSCFA. "Our expert investigation team followed the evidence, both in the UK and Europe, to bring these individuals to justice. This case demonstrates that there is no hiding place for those who seek to defraud the NHS," he said.

"We will actively pursue any criminals that seek to defraud the NHS of vital funds and every pound stolen from the NHS is a pound that cannot be spent on frontline services, and the NHSCFA is committed to pursuing those responsible," he added. As a pharmacist who owns Wise Pharmacy in north London and a pharmaceutical wholesale business called Actipharm Limited, Jignesh Patel came under the NHSCFA radar for dispensing high-cost drugs, normally only issued in a hospital environment. Following anomalies in the expected prescribing data, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups obtained copies of the prescriptions and checked them with the named general practitioners (GPs). These checks identified that there was no documentation to support the patients' clinical need for the drugs and confirmed they had not been prescribed. Enquiries by the Local Counter Fraud Specialist (LCFS) identified seven high-cost medicines being dispensed by Wise Pharmacy which would not normally be expected in primary care. The drugs were Sprycel, Noxafil, Atripla, Eviplera, Tobramycin, Truvada and Viread. The NHSCFA obtained all the prescriptions dispensed by Patel's pharmacy for the period January 2015 to November 2017. Examination of these prescriptions identified 1,639 false prescriptions in the names of 24 GPs for 440 individual patients and 6,983 dispensed items. The GPs named as prescribers were interviewed and confirmed that they had not issued the prescriptions, the NHSCFA said. "The reimbursement value for the drugs listed



on the false prescriptions paid by the NHS to Wise Pharmacy was in excess of £1.3 million," it stated. Evidence from European wholesalers was obtained through European Investigation Orders (EIOs) submitted by the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to prosecutors in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium in November 2018. In May 2019, NHSCFA presented the investigation and its evidential requirements to German authorities at Eurojust in The Hague. In March 2020, Danish police, assisted by NHSCFA, attended a Copenhagen wholesaler. The evidence linked drugs obtained by Wise Pharmacy through false prescriptions to their subsequent sale by Actipharm to European wholesalers. Jignesh Patel was arrested on December 6, 2017, and 190,000 pounds in cash was seized during a search of his property. In the UK, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regulates the distribution of drugs and requires wholesale businesses such as Actipharm to employ a Responsible Person (RP). An RP is responsible for ensuring that the conditions under which a licence was granted have been, and are being, complied with. "At the time of these offences, the RPs for Actipharm were Jignesh Patel and Rahil Patel. As Responsible Persons for Actipharm Ltd, they were responsible for accurate record-keeping and had knowledge of where the pharmaceutical drugs were obtained from and which companies they were sold to," the NHSCFA said. "The investigation established that Actipharm was selling Sprycel and Noxafil to other wholesale companies despite not having purchased them, meaning they could only have been obtained through Wise Pharmacy," it added. Rahil Patel was interviewed under caution on February 14, 2020, and text messages between him and Jignesh regarding the purchase of false prescriptions and drugs formed part of the evidence at their trial this month.

Barclays to cut 5,000 jobs as AI-led cost-cutting drive expands after mixed Q3 results and trading revenue falls

British bank Barclays Plc has announced plans to cut 5,000 jobs, or about 5% of its total workforce, as part of a wider effort to reduce costs and improve efficiency using technology and artificial intelligence (AI). According to Barclays' third-quarter earnings statement, the bank is focusing on simplifying its organisation and making its operations more efficient. About 60% of the planned job cuts will affect support functions, including developers. Barclays had already cut around 1,000 jobs during the first six months of 2026. The remaining cuts are expected to take place before the end of the year. According to Bloomberg, Barclays employed around 93,000 people globally at the end of 2025.

Barclays Chief Executive Officer CS Venkatakrishnan said the bank plans to use AI on a large scale but stressed that the technology is only one part of its cost-cutting strategy. "We will employ AI at scale," he said. "But AI is the icing on the cake, not the cake." Venkatakrishnan made these remarks during a call with reporters, according to Bloomberg. Barclays Q3 results miss estimates. The announcement came as Barclays reported its third-quarter earnings on Thursday. The bank's results missed several analyst estimates, with weakness in its investment banking business offsetting stronger performance in some other areas. The bank's bond traders recorded a particularly sharp decline in performance during the quarter, while its equities

trading business delivered strong growth. Barclays' revenue from fixed-income and currency trading, also known as FICC, fell 19% year on year to £1.01 billion (\$1.4 billion) in the third quarter. The result was below analysts' expectations compiled by Bloomberg. According to the bank, the decline reflected lower client activity in interest-rate and credit markets, as well as further difficulties in September due to the broader economic environment. Barclays bond trading revenue falls 19%. Venkatakrishnan described the investment bank's FICC performance as "somewhat disappointing" during a call with reporters. The weakness in bond trading reduced the impact of a strong performance in equities, where revenue increased significantly during the quarter. Barclays' equities trading revenue jumped 47% year on year, almost matching the £1.01 billion generated by its fixed-income and currency trading business. The equities division recorded its strongest performance since at least 2009, the year after Barclays acquired the North American business of Lehman Brothers. JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs face bond trading pressure. The weakness in fixed-income trading was not limited to Barclays. Other major US banks, including JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and Bank of America, also reported declines in fixed-income trading revenue. Revenue at these banks' fixed-income desks fell by as much as 17% year on year as they dealt with the impact of rising interest rates.

In Cuddalore, a tragedy on the tracks



Charumathy, 16 and Chezhiyan, 15, usually sat together in the school van. On the morning of July 8, as was routine, the siblings climbed into the van together, clutching their bags and water bottles. Their 55-year-old father, Dravidamani, stood in front of their house in Chinnakattusagai village and waved at them, says their aunt, S. Rani, 42.The bright yellow vehicle belonged to the private school where the two of them had studied since lower kindergarten — Krishnaswamy Vidyanikeyan, located at S. Kumarapuram, in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu.

A few minutes later, at 7:45 a.m., as the van ferrying the siblings and two other children — V. Nimallesh, 12, and V. Viswesh, 16 — tried to edge past a gated level crossing at Semmankuppam village, a passenger train barreled into it. Charumathy and Nimallesh died on the spot, while Chezhiyan died by the time he was wheeled into the emergency and trauma care ward of the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research in Puducherry, 44 kilometres from the site. V. Viswesh and the van driver, S. Sankar, 47, were rushed to the Cuddalore General Hospital. Doctors say their condition is stable.Among the first few people to rush to the scene to rescue the children and van driver was P. Annadurai, 55, a resident of Semmankuppam. He says he heard wails and ran out of his house. “I looked out across my compound wall and saw the mangled remains of the van on the side of the track. The gate was open and I rushed out. When I tried to rescue the children, I came in contact with an overhead power cable and suffered some burn injuries,” he says.Rangan, 50, an employee of a private company in Cuddalore SIPCOT, lives near the level crossing gate 170, a non-interlocked manned gate between Cuddalore and Alappakkam. He was getting ready for work when he heard a loud crash. Sensing that something was horribly wrong, he rushed to the level crossing and saw the mangled van. “The gate was open and the area was engulfed in smoke. I dialled the ambulance service and then went near the van. The van driver was bleeding profusely and I immediately carried him on my shoulders. There was one child inside the van. One child’s body had been dismembered. Another child’s body was lying near the tracks. Other locals attended to them,” he says.The residents rushed Sankar and Viswesh in an ambulance to the Cuddalore General Hospital. Viswesh, a resident of Thondamanatham, lies on a bed in the emergency ward with an intravenous drip inserted into his wrist and a cast on his left arm. “I was travelling with my brother Nimallesh and two other students apart from the van driver,” he recalls. “The gate was open. There was no whistled warning from the approaching train. There was no signal either. The train hit our van as we were crossing the tracks. I was thrown out of the van. Everything happened in a flash.”

The Villupuram–Mayiladuthurai passenger train hit the vehicle with such force that it dragged the van for about 50 metres before coming to a halt. By then, the van had been reduced to a mangled heap. Eyewitnesses say they saw blood on the tracks and school bags, water bottles, and shoes strewn around the area.The gatekeeper’s jobAccording to eyewitnesses, the gatekeeper, Pankaj Sharma, had failed to close the gate when the train was passing. R. Sivanvel, a resident of Semmankuppam, a village near Cuddalore SIPCOT, says, “Another express train had crossed the same gate about 20 minutes before this incident. The gate was open then too.”

He also says the train did not give any warning and came thundering down the tracks. The Divisional Railway Manager, M.S. Anbalagan, told the media that the train was travelling at 95 kilometres per hour.Rangan says the van driver, Sankar, had been operating the school van for nearly 15 years and had taken the same route several times. He adds that more than 15 vans and buses belonging to various educational institutions in the vicinity pass through this level crossing daily.Residents of the area also allege that Sharma came out of his room only after they rushed to the accident spot. They contend that this was why an angry crowd pounced on him and manhandled him. Sharma has since been suspended and arrested.Following the usual routeSouthern Railway officials say their preliminary inquiries revealed that the gate was closed when the van arrived. They say the van driver insisted that he be allowed to cross the gate so that he could quickly pick up more children and take them to school on time. “Sharma allowed him to go through, which he should not have done,” says an official.A

statement issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer, Southern Railway, said that it had sanctioned a fully funded underpass at the level crossing gate where the accident occurred. However, it alleged that the Cuddalore collector has not given permission for it in the past year. The collector, Sibi Adhithya Senthil Kumar, did not respond to phone requests for a comment.Another Railway official says the road leading to the level crossing was curved. He believes that the trees on the side of the road may have obstructed Sankar’s view of the train. The trees mostly fall outside the boundary of the Railways. Workers were pressed into service to clear the trees the day after the accident.Residents say the driver of the school van took the usual route and tried to cross the tracks since the gate was open. The van had been fitted with speed governor and CCTVs but it had no attender to ensure the safety of the students.“If an attender had been present, he could have got down and checked both sides of the level crossing,” says an official from the School Education Department. “There has been negligence on the part of the school administration, and the department has served a notice on the school seeking an explanation.An outdated systemThe level crossing at Semmankuppam was a non-interlocked gate. This means that the gate’s position, whether open or closed, is not automatically linked to the status of signals and points, requiring manual operation and vigilance. There are at least two gatekeepers posted there and they work in shifts.

A Railway official explains what happens when a train passes a non-interlocked level crossing. “Normally, the station master at a non-interlocked section communicates the details of an approaching train, along with a private number, to the gatekeeper. The gatekeeper then closes the gate and confirms this to the station master. The gatekeeper provides another private number, enabling the station master to allow the train into the block section. The private number is different for each train and is entered into a register maintained for the purpose. A private number that has been used can be used again only after 24 hours,” he says. In this incident, the station master was at Cuddalore station.However, in non-integrated level crossing gates, there is no mechanism for the station master to confirm the claim of the gatekeeper that the gate has been closed, he says. “In this incident, they may have exchanged the private numbers, but the gatekeeper could have still failed to close the gate,” he says.Across India, as of October 2024, there were 11,053 manned level crossing gates. Though all the level crossings were to be upgraded to interlocked gates in 2019, Southern Railway still operates trains through 276 non-interlocked gates, mostly in the Madurai and Tiruchi divisions. In Cuddalore, nearly 40 trains on average cross the Semmankuppam level crossing daily. “The Railways should expedite the interlocking of gates on a priority basis,” says an official.Another official speaks of the drawbacks of this outdated system. “The non-interlocked system depends on verbal communication. If the gatekeeper says the gate is closed to road traffic, the station master takes that for granted and clears the train to run at sectional speed. The system is manual and runs on trust. On the other hand, at integrated level crossings, the gate is connected to the signalling system. The signal at the gate will turn red if the gate is open. The station master cannot clear a train to pass unless the gate is closed. And the gatekeeper cannot open the gate until the train passes,” he says. There are other issues with the non-interlocking system as well, and these may not necessarily be the fault of the Railway. Officials say sometimes, people in a tearing hurry even assault gatekeepers for their delay in opening the gate. “One such incident was reported in Mundiampakkam level crossing in Villupuram district in 2008-09. A closed gate should not be opened at any cost. The locomotive of a train weighs nearly 100 tonnes. If the train had derailed at Semmankuppam, more casualties could have occurred,” an official says.Officials say the records and statements of the station master, gatekeeper, loco pilot, and train manager will throw more light on the sequence of events that led to the tragedy.

Leaders of various political parties condoled the deaths. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced compensation of ₹5 lakh from the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund for the families of the deceased children, ₹1 lakh each for those severely injured, and ₹50,000 each for those with minor injuries. Southern Railway also announced ₹5 lakh compensation for the families of each of the deceased, ₹2.5 lakh for the kin of those grievously injured person, and ₹50,000 for other injured persons.Meanwhile, Dravidamani’s family is in shock, having lost both their children. Rani says Dravidamani, a farmer, had battled against all the odds to ensure that his two children were educated at a private English medium school. Charumathy and Chezhiyan shared a close bond. “Even after coming back from school, they would spend their time together. They rarely went out,” she says.She adds that the siblings were similar in many ways: they were studious, intelligent, and ambitious. “Charumathy stood first in class and won many medals in school. She wanted to pursue an MBBS degree. Chezhiyan wanted to write the civil services exam and become an IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer,” she says.

Doctors with MBBS degree poorly paid in many parts of Tamil Nadu

In many parts of Tamil Nadu, MBBS-qualified doctors working in the private sector are being paid only between 30,000 and ₹45,000 a month.While their remuneration varies based on their place of work – cities, semi-urban or small towns – excessive workloads, unwritten rules restricting weekly offs or eligible leave, and financial stress are troubling many of them.Inquiries with a number of private sector doctors in different parts of the State reveal that many hospitals “underpaid” MBBS doctors, who mostly worked as duty doctors on a shift basis. This included regular night shifts, and periodic 24-hour duty.

In Chennai, the salary ranged from ₹40,000 to ₹50,000, with very few centres paying the latter amount. Some doctors noted that in places such as Tiruchi, Madurai and other areas of southern Tamil Nadu, the monthly salary was ₹40,000 for eight hours of duty per day. In places such as Ariyalur and the majority of towns, it is roughly ₹25,000 to ₹35,000. There are hospitals that pay doctors on an hourly basis too, while some pay additional allowances to work as casualty medical officers.A doctor from the central district said he was paid ₹30,000 a month for 10 to 12 hours a day, and not allowed to take weekly off. “We can take two days leave every month, but if we take more than that, our salary will be cut. Also, we must arrange a replacement, or else, the hospital management does not grant permission for leave,” he said.Despite having an experience of seven years, he has had no salary increments so far.

Many doctors take up these jobs due to their financial situation. A woman doctor, who worked for two years as a junior resident for ₹40,000 in a private medical college hospital, said, “With this salary, it is very hard to pay monthly loan instalment, that I had taken to manage my education as well as family expenses.”“We cannot manage with this



amount in a city like Chennai. We have to pay house rent, and spend for basic needs, including food and petrol. I have a loan to repay and zero savings,” another doctor said.She further said that hospitals in some other States pay better. “I have heard from my friends that in cities such as Hyderabad, the pay is ₹80,000 per month for eight hours of work a day,” she said.A foreign medical graduate, who spent ₹35 lakh to study, said, “There is no other option but to take up a job that pays ₹30,000. A number of daily wage jobs pay much more. Why isn’t a minimum salary being fixed for MBBS doctors?”Some doctors alleged that even if they were sick, getting relieved from duty was difficult, while some do extra duty to tide over their financial crisis.

“There has been no increase in the salary for MBBS doctors for the last 10 to 15 years, as there is no demand,” a doctor said.This affects first generation doctors. “Most doctors are made to do all ward-related works. There is no other option due to the lack of employment opportunities in the government sector.

Mangalagiri handloom sarees and fabrics: woven in tradition, draped in legacy



At the foothills of the sacred hill temple of Panakala Narasimha Swamy in the heritage town of Mangalagiri, now a part of Amaravati the capital city of Andhra Pradesh, threads of faith, tradition, and craftsmanship converge into something truly timeless — Mangalagiri handloom saree.For centuries, devotees visiting the shrine would descend the hill not just spiritually enriched but also with a tangible token of cultural reverence — a handwoven saree — purchased from local artisans as a sacred ritual and a statement of elegance. Today, this rich tradition has blossomed into an iconic textile legacy that has earned the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag and global acclaim.The Mangalagiri handloom sector — based in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh — is not just about fabric. It is a living chronicle of India’s handloom heritage, a resilient community of artisans, and a testament to the cultural economy that weaves together identity and livelihood. Recognized under the Government of India’s ‘One District One Product’ (ODOP) initiative, the Mangalagiri saree and other textiles stand as a proud symbol of India’s craft-centric development model.The Legacy of the Loom

The uniqueness of Mangalagiri textiles lies in their minimalist grandeur. Known for their fine cotton texture, striking borders and absence of embroidery in the body, these sarees exude a quiet sophistication. The hallmark of the weave is the Nizam border — a majestic zari-edged design marked by tiny temple gopurams — paired with elegant stripes or checks on the pallu. The designs speak volumes about the regional religious ethos, where devotion and design have long coexisted.It’s not just sarees that emerge from these looms. Mangalagiri weavers produce a versatile range of products like salwar suits, dupattas, shirting fabrics, towels, bed linens and even mosquito nets. Cotton remains the preferred medium, giving the fabric a lightweight, breathable quality — perfect for India’s climate. Guntur and Palnadu districts hosts 21 cooperative societies solely dedicated to Mangalagiri handlooms, supporting over 4,500 active weavers and nearly 5,000 ancillary workers, Assistant Director, Handlooms and Textiles, B. Udaya Kumar explains. The importance of these numbers is not just economic but deeply social — each loom supports families, preserves artistry, and upholds tradition. A Heritage Under Siege — and Rescued Despite their enduring appeal, the Mangalagiri weavers have faced numerous challenges over time. The proliferation of powerlooms, declining profits, and market competition had started to threaten the very survival of the handloom clusters and as a result the number of weavers also has been declining gradually.

Recognizing this, both the Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh intervened with focused policy measures. The National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) have provided a much-needed lifeline. Now, the Small Cluster Development Programme (SCDP) under NHDP is also being implemented here. Covering 265 beneficiaries in Mangalagiri-1 cluster for their looms development under SCDP, government has sanctioned more than ₹91 lakh, with the GoI share as ₹87 lakh and GoAP contributing more than ₹4 lakh, Mr. Udaya Kumar explained. In fact, it is a part of the total amount of more than ₹2.09 crore sanctioned under the programme for five clusters in the State, including Trikoteswara in Bapatla district, Kalahasteeswara and Narayanavanam in Tirupati district, Chilakaluripet-1 in Palnadu district and the Mangalagiri-1 in Guntur district.

The government is also providing special incentives

for the female weavers. In addition to that the government is also ensured MUDRA loans to 161 beneficiaries to a tune of about ₹1.3 crore in Mangalagiri, he added.Under these schemes, the district has seen the construction of over 190 individual workshops, distribution of hundreds of upgraded looms, and the creation of common facility centres. These physical spaces have not only improved productivity, but also restored dignity to the artisans who now work in safer, better-equipped environments near their homes. Design training has been another game-changer. The Andhra Pradesh government partnered with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Hyderabad and the National Institute of Design (NID), Guntur, to equip weavers with skills that blend traditional weaving with modern aesthetics. Over 400 individuals — weavers, designers, and cluster executives — have undergone this training, learning everything from colour theory and pattern drafting to marketing and e-commerce. “This training helped the individuals to enhance their skills in understanding the traditional wisdom using skills, materials, tools and marketing approaches. As part of the programme they have been learning the fundamentals of design, specific textile and apparel methods, textile fibres, weave structures, surface design, dyeing techniques, colouration, printing methods, pattern making, draping and sewing techniques,” according to an official of the Textiles department.Meagre Earnings is a Cause of Concern

Bitra Nageswara Rao, a 60-year-old handloom worker with an experience of about 45 years, said that they earn about ₹8,000 per month on an average in a year and the merchants pay ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 per four sarees. It takes a couple of days for each saree to be weaved. At the same time, the weavers have to spend more than ₹1,000 on other ancillary work like bundling the threads. After completing the four sarees, the worker will be left with only ₹3,000 for four sarees, he added.Mr. Nageswara Rao explained that they mix silk, cotton and zari to produce fine quality saree. He said that, even though the government provided some skill training in jacquard looms, many of the weavers could not adopt it due to the complexity involved. Meanwhile, Mr. Udaya Kumar said that to survive the weavers in Mangalagiri will have to adopt the jacquard looms and improve their skills like the weavers in Chirala, who have been producing the Kuppadam sarees, which command a higher price than Mangalagiri sarees because of their designs. Mangalagiri weavers also could produce more designs by going for the jacquard looms, he explained.Weaving into the Modern Economy What sets Mangalagiri apart is how it balances heritage with innovation. The sarees and fabrics are now being actively promoted at national and international exhibitions. From the Saamuhika Exhibition at A.P. Bhavan, New Delhi, to the Craft Bazaar in Navi Mumbai and the State Handloom Expo in Guntur, the district administration has ensured that these exquisite weaves get their rightful space in the spotlight. Retail channels too have undergone a revolution. Thanks to government-backed encouragement, many Mangalagiri weavers now market their products via e-commerce portals. This has opened up new revenue streams and eliminated exploitative middlemen from the equation. Financial inclusion has also been addressed. Schemes like MUDRA loans, Cash Credit, and DRDA/MEPMA loans have enabled more than 1,000 weavers to access capital for expanding operations or starting entrepreneurial ventures.From Local Threads to Global Recognition The district administration’s efforts have culminated in Mangalagiri Sarees being one of the most compelling contenders for the ODOP Award, a national-level recognition for excellence in indigenous products. The proposal argues not only on the merit of cultural significance and design excellence, but also on the strength of institutional support, community upliftment, and economic impact. The symbolism of a Mangalagiri saree today is multilayered — it is a cloth of worship, a flag of sustainability, a badge of indigenous pride, and a product of tireless human craftsmanship.As India seeks to reimagine its rural economies through the lens of tradition, the Mangalagiri handloom sector offers a luminous example of how to do it right.From temple rituals to international runways, the journey of the Mangalagiri saree is a tapestry of belief, resilience, and brilliance. And as long as these looms continue to hum their melodic rhythm, the legacy of Mangalagiri will remain woven into the very fabric of Indian identity.

Protein maxxing: how much protein is too much protein?



A spectre is haunting rich fitness enthusiasts in urban India — the spectre of protein maxxing. A stroll in the aisles of your neighbourhood supermarket or a scroll on your go-to quick commerce app will bring up a range of products with claims of high protein content, products I’d argue you can do well without. While I understand opting for whey protein powder or high-protein breakfast bars, why must one even consider looking for protein in popcorn? I do not want to worry about my protein intake while I am munching on popcorn to Hans Zimmer’s score in the theatre. This mania does not stop with bars, shakes, and popcorn, though. Today, you have the option to access products like cold coffee, wafers, pasta, ice cream, chips, lassi, buttermilk, and water that boast of unbelievable (and sometimes unreliable) grams of protein. Imagine introducing the concept of protein pasta to a nonna in Sicily... I would pay to watch you try.What began as a nutritional necessity has slowly turned into a performance. It is impossible to strike up a conversation with fitness bros without exchanging notes on protein intake, muscle recovery, BCAAs, whey isolates, and the betrayal that is “hidden sugar”. Whipping up protein desserts you

watched on an Instagram reel, only to complain about the taste, but persist with a poker face, is definitely a choice. See, I am not against protein at all; in fact, I enjoy a good protein shake myself. But the struggle to hit your protein goals should not have you bookmarking threads on Reddit that give a cheat sheet to snag Amul’s protein lassis, which are always out of stock for some reason. In your quest for macros, you should not have to do a course in supply chain management. The WHO recommends that adults with minimal physical activity consume about 0.83 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight per day. For individuals with moderate to intense physical activity, the protein needs to increase to 1.3-1.6 grams per kilogram of body weight. A scale that should just serve as a footnote in your daily life is being used to measure your life, an exercise that might tire you out before you even get to the barbells.I admit that life would be so much easier if protein water got all of us jacked like Hrithik Roshan. But the bitter truth is that consuming copious amounts of protein without lifting weights is only going to strain our kidneys and have serious implications for our cardiovascular health.

25% rice yet to be milled in Punjab; frustrated millers say repeat of last year, ask govt to create space in godowns



Nearly 25 per cent of rice in Punjab remains unmilled two months after the milling deadline, leading to concerns from millers about logistical challenges and rising costs. As of June 2, only around 75 per cent of the expected rice from the current kharif marketing season 2024-25 has been delivered to government agencies. With 171.84 lakh tonnes of paddy stored, millers face pressure to expedite milling to avoid quality deterioration before the monsoon. Punjab government agencies have stored 171.84 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy in around 5,000 rice mills, which are to deliver 116.29 LMT of rice after milling to the government. To date, mills have delivered over 87 LMT of rice to government agencies. Punjab's stores currently hold 140 LMT of rice, which implies that 53 LMT of last year's rice remains in storage Punjab has limited storage capacity and the new Rabi marketing season's wheat procurement has also just concluded with the government procurement. This means that around 100 LMT of the freshly arrived 119 LMT wheat needs space.

Last year, millers were up in arms as the government delayed the milling process until the end of September, while the new paddy procurement season begins on October 1. That time, procurement of paddy was also delayed for weeks because millers refused to store the government's rice in their mills, demanding that the milling deadline be set to March 31, along with some other demands. Despite repeated reminders and the earlier suggested deadline of March 31 for milling completion, a significant portion of paddy remains unprocessed in rice mills across several districts. There is a lack of uniformity in milling; some districts have reached up to 97 per cent completion, while others have up to 44 per cent of milling pending.

Out of 44.2 LMT of paddy stored by Markfed, only 22.26 LMT of rice has been delivered, leaving nearly 7 LMT still pending. In agencies like Pungrain, PSWC, and PUNSUP, over 12 lakh tonnes, 3.30 lakh tonnes, and over 6 lakh tonnes of rice, respectively, are pending. Millers are frustrated with delays, logistical bottlenecks, rising storage costs, and the risk of paddy shrinkage due to hot weather conditions and spoilage ahead of the monsoon.

"The milling should have been wrapped up by March 31. Extending the season puts pressure on our infrastructure and affects planning for the next crop cycle," said a leading rice miller from Sangrur, the district with 26.61 per cent pending rice delivery. Sangrur district has 15.69 LMT of paddy stored, of which only about 7.8 LMT of rice has been delivered so far, against a target of 10.61 LMT. Other districts with high volumes of balance rice in the mills include Moga: 15.3 LMT paddy stored; only 5.8 LMT rice delivered (56.06 per cent), Ludhiana West: 9.81 LMT paddy stored; 3.91 LMT rice delivered (58.98 per cent), Ludhiana East: 61.48 per cent milling completed and Barnala: 65.18 per cent

rice delivered. In contrast, districts like Fazilka, Pathankot, and Hoshiarpur have performed better, with more than 95 per cent of milling completed. In Amritsar and Tarn Taran, 92 per cent and 90 per cent of the rice, respectively, has been delivered by mills.

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, along with procurement agencies such as Punjab State Grains Procurement Corporation (PUNGRAIN), Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (PUNSUP), and Punjab State Warehousing Corporation (PSWC), are now under pressure to expedite the process. Combined figures from all agencies show that out of 171.8 LMT paddy procured, only about 87 LMT of rice has been delivered so far, leaving a shortfall of nearly 29.3 LMT across the state. Transport backlog is further compounding the delays. Out of the over 4 lakh wagons required to move rice, over 1 lakh wagons are still pending. Districts like Moga account for a significant portion of this backlog, with 15,708 pending wagons. Millers warn that the impending monsoon could compromise paddy quality if not milled on time. "Moisture and fungus risk increase drastically. If the milling is not expedited, this could lead to both economic and food safety issues," said another miller from Moga. While government officials acknowledge the delay, they cite lack of space in government godowns because the RMS also concluded recently and the government procured 119 LMT out of which 18-19 LMT was transported to other states and around 100 LMT is lying in the state, including 60 LMT in cover and plinth due to lack of space in the covered godowns.

With only four months left before the next procurement cycle, millers urge the state to take immediate corrective steps or risk rolling over the backlog into the next season, putting even greater strain on Punjab's already burdened food grain infrastructure. Prem Goel, president of the Punjab Rice Millers Association, said, "Last year, too, we took up the matter with the government to complete custom rice milling by the end of March. Even after two more months beyond March 31, the government has yet to take delivery of 25 per cent of the rice. The delay is due to the lack of space in government stores to keep the milled rice, forcing mills to store government paddy at their own cost. If any shrinkage or discolouration in the grain takes place, the financial burden also falls on us." He added that there are districts with high pending custom-milled rice (CMR), while in districts with 97 per cent delivery, operations are smooth. "Even the Moga administration last month wrote to the general manager, FCI Punjab, requesting augmentation of storage space for rice mills in Moga to ensure smooth milling and delivery."

Punjab's storage capacity is under stress as the state has a total foodgrain storage capacity of 220 LMT, including 174 LMT covered storage — 167 LMT in government godowns and the rest in private silos. Punjab's total food procurement exceeds 300 LMT, comprising 170–180 LMT of paddy, which yields 116–120 LMT of rice and 120–132 LMT of wheat. To manage this, the state must immediately transport the grain to needy states or risk overflowing godowns, thereby expediting the pending rice milling. Officials said they are trying to complete the milling by the end of July. B Srinivasan, general manager of FCI Punjab, said, "At the moment, Punjab has a total foodgrain storage capacity of 220 LMT, while the total rice stock position as of June 2 stands at 140 LMT in the state and Wheat is around 100 LMT but regular transportation of the grain from Punjab to other states is taking place."

Karnataka Govt suspends senior IFS officer R Gokul over stand on forest land donated to HMT Ltd in Bengaluru

Bengaluru In recent years, large portions of the land given to HMT by the forest department for industrial purposes have allegedly been used to facilitate major real estate projects through the connivance of state and central government officials. The Karnataka Government Wednesday suspended a senior Indian Forest Service officer, R Gokul, for allegedly facilitating the handover of forest land worth nearly Rs 14,000 crore, held by the public sector company Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) in Bengaluru, to third parties, including private entities.

The government issued the suspension order stating that "in exercise of the powers under Rule 3(1) (a) of the All India Service (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969, Sri R. Gokul, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director General, EMPRI, Bengaluru, is placed under suspension with immediate effect, pending inquiry." The reason for Gokul's suspension has been cited as his actions regarding the "denotification of lands granted to HMT measuring 443 Acres 6 guntas situated at Peenya Jalahalli Plantation". According to the government order, an interlocutory application was filed by forest officials before the Supreme Court in 2020 "without obtaining the approval of the then minister-in-charge or sanction from the state cabinet" for permission to denotify 443.6 acres of land granted to HMT at the Peenya Jalahalli Plantation.

Initially, the state government issued notices to Sandeep Dave, a retired IAS officer and the former additional chief secretary for Forest, Ecology and Environment; Vijay Kumar Gogi, retired IFS officer and the former principal secretary for Forest, Ecology and Environment; Smitha Bijjur, IFS, ex-principal secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment and Gokul. The government has reported receiving replies to the notices from three of the four officers (other than Sandeep Dave) but said that Gokul had written to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after receiving his notice "seeking protection" in an illegal mining case from the 2010 period where he is a key witness against a mafia that was operated by political figures.

The IFS officer also did not obtain permission or inform the government when he filed an "Intervention Application (113311/2025) in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against IA (190307/2024 WP (C) 337/1995) filed by the State Government in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for withdrawal of the IA (60477/2020 in WP (C) 337/1995) related to the de-notification of lands belonging to HMT Ltd," said the suspension order. The government order said the conduct of Gokul "is in violation of Rule 17 of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, and the State Government is prima facie satisfied that it is necessary" to place him under suspension with immediate effect. Last week, Karnataka Minister for Forest and Environment Eshwar Khandre announced that the government had recommended action



against two serving IFS officers, one retired IFS officer, and one retired IAS officer for filing of an application in the Supreme Court "seeking permission for denotification of HMT forest land worth over Rs. 14,000 crore". "This plantation is owned by HMT. It is illegal for the organisation to sell to government departments/organisations and private individuals. However, the fact that forest officials did not make any attempt to recover the land and, without even drawing the attention of the Cabinet, submitted an Interim Application (IA) to the Supreme Court seeking denotification in 2020 is a cause for doubt," Khandre has said. The controversy pertains to 599 acres of land in a plantation in the Peenya Jalahalli region in North Bengaluru, which was declared a forest in 1896 and was later transferred to HMT in the 1960s to create industrial infrastructure through a donation deed by the district collector. In recent years, large portions of the land given to HMT by the forest department for industrial purposes have been used to facilitate major real estate projects through the connivance of state and central government officials. Over the last year, a dispute arose over the land between the Union Heavy Industries Ministry headed by H D Kumaraswamy, who is looking at monetising the land to resuscitate the fortunes of HMT, and the state forest department, which is trying to recover the HMT land by arguing that it remains a forest land. In November last year, the Karnataka Government issued notices to the forest officials concerned over the filing of the IA in the SC on the HMT forest land. In January this year, the state government ordered that since 281 acres of the 599 acres of land donated to HMT is vacant land "without any building," the forest department must take possession of the vacant forest land. Over 200 acres of the HMT land in Bengaluru have been handed over to private players and others, even as HMT Ltd has collapsed in the last four decades. One of the major transfers of land happened between 1999 and 2004 when the Congress was in power, leading to the construction of apartment complexes by some of the big real estate developers of Bengaluru.

Has the environmental crisis in India exacerbated? | Explained



The story so far: As we observe June 5 as World Environment Day, one takes stock of how the previous decade has exacerbated/mitigated existing environmental crises.

What are main environmental crises?

The world is grappling with three deeply intertwined planetary crises: carbon emissions, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Over the last 10 years, these crises have deepened, despite growing awareness and international efforts. Between 2015 and 2024, global CO2 emissions rose from around 34.1 billion metric tonnes to 37.4 billion metric tonnes, a nearly 10% increase. In the same period, India's emissions surged from 2.33 billion to 3.12 billion metric tonnes, persistent dependence on coal and oil. On the biodiversity front, mass extinctions and ecological disruptions are becoming the norm. India, with its mega-diverse ecosystems, faces growing threats from deforestation, wetland degradation, and monoculture agriculture. Meanwhile, pollution, particularly air pollution, has remained stubbornly high. India consistently ranks among the world's most polluted countries, with Delhi topping global lists.

What are the root causes?

There are myriad causative factors. First is fossil fuel dependency. Most global carbon emissions are driven by coal, oil, and gas consumption in power generation, transportation, and heavy industry. In India, coal still accounts for nearly 70% of electricity generation. Second, we have deforestation and land-use change. In India, forest clearances for roads, mining, and dams have increased, especially in biodiversity-rich regions like the Western Ghats and the northeast. Third, agricultural intensification. High-input monocultures, especially driven by agribusinesses, destroy habitats and pollute water bodies with nitrates, pesticides, and plastics. Waste mismanagement and unchecked urbanisation is also a major factor causing environmental degradation. Unregulated landfills, untreated sewage, and industrial effluents have polluted rivers like the Ganga and Yamuna. India generates 62 million tonnes of waste annually, of which barely 20% is scientifically processed. And finally, overconsumption and industrialisation. The Global North's high consumption and global supply chains

Know bill before treatment: Centre wants hospitals to make rates public

The Union Health Ministry has asked all states and Union territories to ensure that hospitals and clinics prominently display the charges for their services and facilities, in a move aimed at improving transparency in healthcare billing and helping patients understand the likely cost of treatment.

In a letter to the states and Union territories, Union Health Secretary Punya Sailla Srivastava urged authorities to review whether healthcare establishments were complying with existing rules and taking steps to ensure their effective implementation. "I would request you to kindly advise the authorities concerned to review compliance with applicable provisions relating to display of rates and take appropriate measures to ensure their effective implementation," Srivastava said in the letter. The Ministry said displaying charges clearly would help patients and their attendants understand the likely financial implications of treatment, make informed decisions and plan their healthcare expenditure. It could also reduce confusion and disputes over bills, while building greater trust in the healthcare system. The directive comes amid growing concerns over high hospital bills, including expensive bed charges and large markups on medicines and medical consumables, particularly in the private healthcare sector.

Hospitals must display rates under existing rules The Centre has urged the 19 states and Union territories that have implemented the Clinical Establishments Act to enforce its provisions on displaying treatment charges. Section 9 of the Clinical Establishments Rules requires healthcare facilities to display the rates for each type of service and the facilities available. The information must be put up in a prominent place, in the local language as well as English, for the benefit of patients. For states and Union territories where the Act has not been implemented, including the national capital, the Health Ministry has asked authorities to use their existing regulatory frameworks to ensure that hospitals disclose their charges. The Ministry noted that several of these jurisdictions already have provisions requiring healthcare establishments to display rates, with the aim of improving transparency and helping patients and their attendants make informed decisions. Foreign patients' treatment package rates should also be displayed

The Ministry has also called for hospitals, wherever

externalise pollution and ecological damage to the Global South.

What is the role of the Global North and large capital in accelerating this crisis?

The Global North and transnational capital have played a central role in pushing the planet toward ecological catastrophe. Historically, industrialised nations accumulated wealth through resource extraction and carbon-intensive growth, and today, they continue to drive the crisis via consumption-heavy economies. Just to cite one example, in the last four decades there has been an increase of more than 40% carbon emissions since the industrial revolution and merely 30 TNCs are responsible for contributing more than 35% of it. Even as they offshore pollution-intensive industries to countries like India, they maintain control over global finance, supply chains, and climate discourse. This allows them to delay meaningful climate action, while preaching sustainability to the Global South.

Large corporations, particularly in fossil fuels, mining, agribusiness, and fast fashion, are among the worst offenders. A 2017 study showed just 100 companies were responsible for 71% of global emissions since 1988. These corporations influence policy through lobbying and resist regulation that could impact profits. In India, foreign investment has flowed into extractive and polluting sectors — from coal mines in Jharkhand to palm oil plantations in the Andaman Islands — often with state support and at the expense of local communities and ecosystems.

How is India positioned?

As a developing economy, India has a smaller per capita carbon footprint (~1.9 tonnes/year vs. the U.S.'s 14.7 tonnes), yet its aggregate emissions are rising due to rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. The poor bear the brunt of pollution and climate shocks — whether in Delhi's smog-choked slums or drought-stricken villages in Maharashtra. Yet India is also a victim of the environmental damage caused by global forces. Climate change, largely driven by the historical emissions of richer nations, has intensified India's monsoons, floods, and heatwaves, while biodiversity loss has weakened India's food systems and health infrastructure.

What needs to be done?

A meaningful response must include accountability from nations of the Global North. Wealthy nations must drastically cut emissions, provide climate finance, and stop outsourcing dirty industries. Large polluting corporations must also be held accountable through strict laws and carbon taxation. Moreover, the future of development must be based on ecological concerns. For example, corporations that do not adhere to the 'green policy' should not be allowed to trade in the market. Creating such protocols will pave way for systemic changes. Sustainable development should be encouraged with a shift toward low-carbon livelihoods, ecological agriculture, and community-led conservation.



applicable, to display the package rates they offer foreign patients visiting India on medical or Ayush visas. According to the letter, making these rates public would help international patients compare costs and make informed decisions before seeking treatment in India. It could also reduce complaints related to pricing and billing. The Ministry said the move would further strengthen India's position as a trusted destination for medical and Ayush care.

The government's push for greater transparency comes as activists have questioned the profits made by corporate hospital chains and called for government scrutiny and intervention. They have pointed to several factors that they say are contributing to rising treatment costs, including the growing flow of private and foreign capital into healthcare and the consolidation of services under the same corporate group. Such vertical integration can mean that a single company owns a hospital, pharmacies, diagnostic centres or even insurance businesses that pay for patients' treatment. Activists argue that this structure can create financial incentives for patients to purchase medicines or undergo diagnostic tests within the same network. They have also raised concerns about hospitals charging substantial markups on medicines and consumables, adding to the overall cost of treatment. The health ministry's directive focuses on making existing price-display requirements more effective. Clear disclosure of charges could help patients better understand the costs they are likely to incur, although transparency alone may not address wider concerns about hospital pricing and healthcare affordability.

Indian scientists reveal hidden structure around a famous neutron star

New Delhi: Indian scientists have discovered that one of the brightest X-ray pulsars, Centaurus X-3, is gobbling up material through an accretion disk — a rare behaviour for pulsars of its kind, an official statement said on Wednesday. The finding was made by researchers at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), an autonomous institution of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), led by Kinjal Roy. The study has implications in developing better-informed models of the system, which is one of the most widely studied binary pulsars that has drawn the attention of scientists because of its intense brightness. Further, it will lead to enhanced understanding of binary pulsars in general. An X-ray binary pulsar consists of a pulsar — a highly magnetised neutron star, and a Sun-like star bound in a gravitational dance. A neutron star is a celestial body with the mass of our sun crunched into a ball the size of Bangalore. "In an X-ray binary, the pulsar's extreme gravity pulls in material ejected by its companion star, and the pulsar starts

accreting material from it, shooting out X-rays in the process," the statement from the Ministry of Science & Technology said. Centaurus X-3, a high-mass X-ray binary (HMXB) where the companion is more than 10 times the Sun's mass, was one of the first X-ray pulsars to be discovered, and the third X-ray source to be discovered in the constellation Centaurus, 24,000 light years away. Pulsars emit radiation from their magnetic poles, known as the primary emission. As the pulsar spins, this radiation sweeps past any satellite waiting to detect it. This radiation also falls around the neutron star. Structures in its wider environment absorb and re-emit this radiation, dubbed as the secondary radiation. These structures help understand the system's physical parameters, such as its orientation and magnetic field strength, leading to enhanced understanding of binary pulsars, the statement noted. Scientists from the Raman Research Institute (RRI) investigated four secondary emission lines in depth.

Japan, Korea, EU investing in US energy sector as manufacturing isn’t profitable: Institute of Geoeconomics’ Suzuki



The ‘Make America Great Again’ objective of bringing back manufacturing jobs to the US is an “illusion,” and foreign companies know that making in the US is not profitable, according to Kazuto Suzuki, Director of the think tank Institute of Geoeconomics and Professor at the University of Tokyo’s Graduate School of Public Policy, adding that Japan, South Korea, and others are not investing in manufacturing but in the energy sector.In an interview with The Indian Express on the sidelines of the Kautilya Economic Conclave earlier this month, Suzuki also said the tariff war is a result of free trade, not Chinese overcapacity and there will be a “perpetual confrontation” between economic efficiency and sovereignty. Edited excerpts:

Is Chinese overcapacity the root cause of today’s tariffs and trade uncertainty?

The root cause is free trade, which allows shifts and restructuring of industry to more efficient and optimum supply-chain mechanisms. This has led to some industry going away from the US and some have seen investment coming in.The MAGA idea is to bring back manufacturing to the US, but this is against the conviction of free trade. And it’s not just China – it can be Brazil, Japan, Southeast Asia, or India.Trump uses tariffs because that’s the only leverage the US has – it does not have indispensability. Yes, it has IT businesses and AI. But if you try to shut off the supply of the services of Google or Apple or Amazon (to others), they are the one who lose money. Because of state capitalism, China can harm their industry, whereas the US cannot harm the GAFA (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon) companies.The current (US trade) policy is not about China. Of course, it’s part of the question of bringing back the manufacturing from China to the US. But that failed because of the economic reality: the US is too short in terms of the workforce and too expensive, be it electricity, gas, or land. So, nobody wants to come back from China to the US. That’s why the US is forcing Japan, South Korea, and the European Union to invest more to achieve the MAGA objective. The problem is that everyone knows bringing back manufacturing does not make money; it’s not profitable. So, Japan, Korea, and the EU are not investing in the manufacturing sector, but the energy sector. Among six projects which are agreed between the US and Japan, four of them are about energy and only one is about manufacturing synthetic diamonds, which is for the next generation of semiconductors.So, the MAGA policy to bring manufacturing back is simply an illusion. But the US knows that its market is indispensable. So, it’s not about China, it’s about the US.

What is the end-game for countries who have weaponised trade and ownership of resources?

I think this is a sort of perpetual confrontation of economic efficiency against sovereignty. There is always balance between these two.During the free trade era, efficiency was the number one objective. But that was based on WTO rules protecting the supply chain. If there is intimidation or political intervention, then immediately it is a violation of WTO rules and there is a punishment. But no longer – everything is up to the political sovereign and how much leverage can be exercised to change. So, you have to find the balance between sovereignty and efficiency.We can no longer go back to where we were. Each country now has to find the balance between efficiency and sovereignty. For example, India has chosen to shut off all China-based mobile apps. But at the same time, you are importing Chinese mobile phones – that’s efficiency. That’s a balance India has chosen to strike and I think that’s understandable. Of course, it

is contradictory and doesn’t seem to make sense. But you have to find what is the best solution to balance the risk you are taking. The problem is that still, so many people are unknowingly taking those risks, which creates opportunities for others to exercise their leverage.Many of the Global South countries have no choice but to use efficiency because there’s no alternative for them. Countries like India and Japan, or middle powers, can choose to what extent we build up our sovereignty or depend on efficiency. The balance depends on your strategy.An outcome of the trade war is rising budget allocation for defence.These days, military equipment is not about aircraft carriers, fighter jets, or supersonic missiles. It is about drones and AI, which are dual-use technologies and have civilian implications too. It is a very complex situation where government defence spending is actually helping industrial capabilities and that will create more opportunities for the private sector to be dominant in the market and innovate. That will change the dynamics of geoeconomics.

Is higher defence spending purely a deterrent?

Deterrence, by definition, is very subjective; it is how adversaries think. Japan alone can’t deter China, but a Japan-US alliance can. The most important thing for the calculus of Xi Jinping is that we need to make him think an attack on Senkaku (Islands), Taiwan, or anywhere around Japan will have a consequence that will be painful for China.Even though the US is becoming distant from its allies, fortunately it still thinks China should be the subject of deterrence. The US no longer thinks Russia is, which is why it is moving away from Europe and letting it deal with Russia; it is moving away from South Korea because North Korea is no longer a threat. But China is a different story and the US has to intervene because Japan, Philippines, and Taiwan are not enough to deter China.But deterrence is also fragile. If it breaks down, we cannot win against China and march into Beijing. What we can do is not lose. So, Japan increasing its defence expenditure is basically aiming not to win against China or to deter China, but not to lose.We lived in a very simple world until recently. Unfortunately, the nature of the world has collapsed and we have to acknowledge that and deal with it. We have to think of all kinds of possibilities and make sure we are able to manage the situation. Not preparing is awful – more awful than losing. Eighty years ago, Japan over-evaluated its capabilities, started a war against China and the US, and then lost tremendously and painfully. So, we need to understand the current situation, no matter how complex it is, and then prepare for all the scenarios possible to make sure that we’ll be able to deal with that situation and manage it.

Is India over-evaluating itself right now by trying to be an indispensable market and manufacture more to become an indispensable supplier of goods?

From my point of view, India is not over-evaluating itself but punching above its weight. India’s problem is its infrastructure: electricity, roads, transportation. There’s room for improvement. But the investment is missing, including the high-speed train. I think there are a lot of opportunities for India, if the infrastructure is available, for the industry to play around. Second, there is too much red tape which is hindering India’s ambition to be more competitive.

For the middle powers stuck between China’s goods indispensability and the US’ market indispensability, you have said the way out is through R&D investment, more resilient supply chains, and market expansion. Are these viable given China’s and the US’ influence?

I think they are, but you need to have political will to resist the intimidation. Second, you cannot expect to nullify the influence of the US and China. So, diversification can happen, but you cannot move 100% away from them. It’s not a clear-cut, black-and-white solution. What you need is more buffers so that when the US and China exercise their influence, you always have an alternative.The US is only 13% of the world’s GDP. So, 87% of the rest of the world, including China, is still available. So, we need to find an alternative to supplement tariffs, export controls, or any other intimidating policies. At the same time, the size of China and the US is not negligible. So, we need to maintain business with them, but not depend on them.

version done abroad, and do you hope it will help the car in India?

It’s working amazingly. It’s over performing in Europe. There, we sell only the hybrid, and the market share of the Duster is very high. The hybrid Duster is a very good solution for India, where powertrains are very important. In Europe, people are gradually starting to pay less attention to displacement, but India has not forgotten the engine yet. Indians are still preoccupied by having a good engine, a big displacement, and good fuel efficiency. The hybrid Duster has a 1.8 litre engine, you can not be any bigger in this type of a car. India should like the car.

Renault had some big hits in India. But it has not been able to sustain initial traction in a way that leads to long-term growth. What went wrong?

Yes, you are right on all that you said. In fact, between 2018 to 2023, Renault had decided to focus its revival plan in Europe. Apparently, it was a good choice because it worked.?But after 2023, it was decided to look at international expansion. But there was this lack of product during a certain time, and it explains why the second Duster did not come to India, and why we lost ground at that time.

What is the typical profile of a Duster customer, and has it changed from when the car first launched over a decade ago?

It’s a very difficult question because India is changing at the same time. You cannot compare India in 2012 and 2026. Many people think the Duster created the midsize SUV segment in India back then, when the reality is that it created the segment worldwide. Till then, to have an SUV, you had to be rich. The Duster gave an SUV to normal people. This happened in Europe, Brazil, Russia, and India.India has changed. Now, of course the competitors have taken the place that we left, and now we have to come back in a much more mature market. I think people today are more sensitive to value than before. Earlier, they were okay with a lower-priced car which had low value, but today those cars won’t sell. It has to be a good price for a good value.

Even if the market is a bit crowded in this segment, there are not that many different offerings. The Korean ones are basically the same from underneath, and same for the Germans.

Sleeping too much but tired? Study shows a possible new type of depression



Sleeping too much, struggling to wake up, or feeling exhausted despite spending enough time in bed are common experiences among people with depression. However, new research suggests that, for some individuals, these symptoms may reflect more than ordinary sleep disturbances. They may be associated with disruptions to the body’s internal biological clock, a system that regulates sleep, wakefulness, hormones and other daily physiological processes that affect mental health.A study published in The British Journal of Psychiatry in October 2026 has proposed a distinct pattern of depression known as “circadian depression.” Researchers found that approximately one in four participants with severe, recurrent or persistent depression displayed characteristics associated with this pattern. The findings could eventually help clinicians understand why depression varies between individuals and why some people respond differently to treatment.

What is circadian depression?

The human body operates according to circadian rhythms, approximately 24-hour cycles that influence sleep, alertness, body temperature, hormone release and metabolism. These rhythms are coordinated by the brain’s internal clock and influenced by environmental cues, particularly daylight and darkness.

When the timing of these rhythms becomes misaligned with a person’s daily routine or environmental conditions, sleep and daytime functioning can suffer. Researchers believe that such disruptions may also be associated with particular patterns of depressive illness. Circadian depression is a proposed subtype rather than an officially established diagnostic category. It describes a combination of depressive symptoms and sleep-related characteristics that may indicate an important role for biological timing in an individual’s condition.

What did the study find?

Led by Emiliana Tonini and colleagues at the University of Sydney’s Brain and Mind Centre, the research analysed clinical and genetic information from 11,380 adults participating in the Australian Genetics of Depression Study.Researchers examined six characteristics associated with circadian disruption:

Delayed sleep timing, including going to bed and waking up unusually late.

Social jet lag, in which sleep schedules differ substantially between weekdays and free days.

A preference for evening activity rather than morning activity.

Severe tiredness upon waking.

Sleeping longer during depressive episodes.

Seasonal changes in mood and behaviour.

Participants who reported at least three of these characteristics were classified as having the proposed circadian

subtype. A total of 2,604 participants, or 23 per cent of the sample, met this definition.The researchers found that this group tended to experience depression at a younger age, with an average onset around 19 years compared with approximately 23 years in the remaining participants. They also reported more severe depressive symptoms, greater psychological distress, suicidal thoughts and experiences resembling unusually elevated mood. Weight gain during depressive episodes was also more common. These findings suggest that circadian-related symptoms may help identify a group of people with a particularly complex course of depression.Why the body clock matters

Sleep changes in depression are not always limited to insomnia or sleeping for longer than usual. “Some people struggled to fall asleep until the early hours of the morning, find it extremely difficult to wake up at a conventional time, and remain tired even after a full night’s sleep. Others notice that their mood and energy worsen during certain seasons or when their daily routine changes,” says Dr Nikhil Modi, Respiratory, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine specialist at, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi.These patterns may reflect a mismatch between the body’s internal clock and a person’s daily schedule. “A regular sleep schedule helps coordinate the body’s biological processes. When sleep and wake times keep shifting, the body may not receive consistent signals about when to rest and when to be alert. This can affect concentration, motivation and emotional regulation, which are already challenging for someone experiencing depression” he explains.The relationship can also work in the opposite direction. Depression may change a person’s sleep patterns, making it difficult to determine whether circadian disruption is contributing to mood symptoms or occurring as a consequence of them. “The presence of late sleep timings or excessive sleep alone is, therefore, not enough to identify a distinct type of depression,” he adds.

How to correlate sleep patterns with a mental health issue?

A person who feels relatively alert late at night but struggles to function in the morning may find it difficult to maintain daily responsibilities. Another may sleep excessively during a depressive episode and still feel emotionally and physically drained. “When these patterns occur alongside persistent low mood or loss of interest, they warrant attention as part of a broader psychiatric assessment,” says Dr Monica Chib, senior consultant, psychiatry, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi.The concept of circadian depression raises the possibility that, for some people, disturbances in the body’s internal timing may be associated with a particular pattern of depressive illness. “It is an emerging area of research, rather than an established standalone psychiatric diagnosis. Persistent low mood, loss of interest, hopelessness or difficulty managing everyday responsibilities should not be dismissed as the result of a disrupted routine. When these symptoms occur alongside marked changes in sleep or energy, seeking a psychiatric assessment can help establish what is happening and guide treatment,” she adds.

Could circadian depression require different treatment?

One of the study’s most important findings concerned antidepressant response. Participants classified as having circadian depression reported poorer responses to two widely prescribed medication groups: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and serotonin-noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs). They also reported more medication side effects.“Understanding the relationship between sleep patterns and depression may eventually allow mental health care to move beyond a one-size-fits-all approach. For now, the priority is to recognise the full pattern of symptoms and assess each person individually,” says Dr Chib.

Why doctors waited 2 days to remove the bullet from Tiger Shroff firing victim

Umesh Chauhan, a Mankhurd based vlogger who was shot on October 18 while filming outside Pushpa Park in Juhu, near actor Tiger Shroff’s residence, underwent surgery at KEM Hospital on Tuesday to remove a 1.5 cm bullet lodged in his body. Doctors waited two days before extracting it, monitoring him for internal bleeding and damage to vital organs.The bullet had travelled through the chest region, injuring the area around the liver, before lodging inside his body. As Umesh remained stable and had no ongoing bleeding requiring emergency intervention, doctors proceeded with the removal after observation. The surgery lasted around two hours.

Dr Uday Jadhav, head of KEM Hospital’s cardiac surgery department, said the priority after a gunshot injury is to stabilise the patient and establish the extent of internal damage before deciding whether emergency surgery is necessary.Tiger Shroff car firing case, Lawrence Bishnoi gang weapon supply, Delhi Police Special Cell NDR, Anil Pandit Bishnoi gang, Radha and Babita Sonipat guards, Mumbai Juhu firing incident, weapon couriers Rs 12000, Dadar hotel gun delivery, Dadar Haridwar Express escape, crime news Sonipat Mumbai Delhi Doctors weigh these risks against the benefits of removal. Depending on the circumstances, they may recommend immediate surgery, delayed extraction or monitoring. (Express photo)

Q. Why isn’t a bullet always removed immediately?

The immediate threat after a gunshot injury is often the damage caused by the bullet, rather than the bullet itself. Doctors first assess whether it has injured major blood vessels or vital organs, including the heart, lungs, liver and intestines.Uncontrolled bleeding, damage to vital structures or a deteriorating condition may require emergency surgery. In such cases, controlling bleeding and repairing the injury take precedence over extracting the bullet.If the patient is stable and the bullet is not causing an immediate threat, doctors may monitor the injury before deciding on removal. The decision also depends on the bullet’s location and whether extracting it could cause further damage.

Q. How can a small bullet cause extensive damage?

A bullet’s size alone does not determine the severity of a gunshot wound. Its velocity, trajectory, construction and the tissue it strikes — all influence the extent of the injury.Apart from damaging the tissues along its path, a bullet transfers energy to surrounding tissues, causing them to stretch and potentially tear. This process, known as temporary cavitation, can result in damage extending beyond the bullet’s track.Damage to a major blood vessel can cause life threatening bleeding, while injuries to the lungs can impair breathing and those to abdominal organs can lead to internal bleeding. In Umesh’s case, position of the bullet allowed doctors to remove it through a small incision, avoiding a larger operation.Kota Police apprehend three accused, including a minor, in connection with the firing on Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff Mumbai Police with accused in Tiger Shroff



attack case. (Source: ANI)

Q. Is it safe to leave a bullet inside the body?

Not always. A retained bullet can cause complications, including infection or damage to surrounding structures, depending on its location. However, extracting it can also carry risks, particularly if it is lodged near vital organs, nerves or major blood vessels.Doctors weigh these risks against the benefits of removal. Depending on the circumstances, they may recommend immediate surgery, delayed extraction or monitoring.The belief that bullets are sterile because of the heat generated when fired is also misleading. Heat does not guarantee that a bullet is free of microorganisms. Contaminants from ammunition, the firearm, skin or clothing can enter the wound. Gunshot injuries therefore require appropriate wound care and monitoring for infection.In Umesh’s case, after establishing that he was stable and did not require emergency intervention for ongoing bleeding, doctors proceeded with the extraction.

OpenAI flags AI misalignment as agents turned off safety alerts

New Delhi: OpenAI has said that its agents weakened and turned off alerts for an internal monitoring system meant to flag when its models misbehave in the latest in a series of similar incidents disclosed in recent months.

In a blog post, the AI giant firm said it is assessing whether such cases indicate that its AI models have a wider propensity to avoid being monitored. The incidents occurred while OpenAI’s agents were performing two internal coding tasks, it said, adding that it was an internal incident with no external parties impacted. Concerns about AI misalignment, a term used when a model does not do what its builders want it to do, have mounted in recent months as OpenAI and rivals like Anthropic have disclosed several cases of their most advanced models displaying such behaviour.

Sheetal Devi wins two gold medals on the same day at Asian Para Games 2026



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Sheetal Devi won her second gold medal of the day, and her third overall at the Asian Para Games 2026, by winning the women's individual compound final with a 142-138 win over Nur Syahidah Alim of Singapore. The ace Indian para-archer had to dig deep, coming from behind as she trailed by four shots in the second set. Sheetal had earlier won gold in the compound mixed team event along with Toman Kumar.

The two archers were tied 29-29 after the first set in the individual final. After the second set, Sheetal trailed 55-59. Alim shot a perfect set of 30 with Devi shooting a score of 26 in the second set. Devi started with an eight followed by a nine each in her next two shots in the second set. Devi eventually reduced the gap to one point with a perfect third set, trailing her opponent 85-86 at the end of it. Alim shot a ten followed by a nine and an eight in the third set to have her lead of four points reduced to one point with Devi hitting all tens in the third set. Sheetal then took the lead with another perfect set in the fourth, with Alim hitting three nines. Going into the final set, Sheetal had a lead of 115-113. With one shot left, Sheetal was leading 133-130. Alim hit an eight and Sheetal shot nine and thus won the title. Earlier in the day, Sheetal and Toman had a good start in their compound mixed team final against Indonesian pair of Teodora Audi Ayudia Ferelly and Ken Swagumilang. They then experienced a blip in the third set but got another 38 in the final. Sheetal and Toman thus won 151-148. Overall, this is Sheetal's sixth Asian Para Games medal. She had won two golds and a silver at Hangzhou 2022. This was followed by a Paralympic bronze at Paris 2024 and an individual gold at the 2025 World Championships.

India chase down 226 to beat New Zealand by four wickets in 1st T20I

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Sanju Samson's half-century and a masterful finishing act by Naman Dhir helped India beat New Zealand by four wickets in the first T20I in Christchurch on Thursday. India chased down a target of 226 with two balls to spare in the match and have thus taken a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. Batting first, New Zealand put up a score of 225/4 with Glenn Phillips finishing unbeaten on 82 off 40 balls. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, bowling for the first time in international cricket in nearly four years, ended up conceding 49 runs for no wickets while Arshdeep Singh, Mayank Yadav and Axar Patel all got a wicket each. Phillips shared a 73-run stand with Bevon Jacobs for the fourth wicket which is where the bulk of the Kiwi runs came from.

Samson and Abhishek carried forward their strong form in the home T20I series that India played in the months leading up to this series, putting together an opening stand of 93 runs in just under six overs. It ended with Abhishek failing to an off-spinner again, a problem that has plagued him in recent games. This time, it was to Michael Bracewell off the penultimate ball of the powerplay after Abhishek had scored 29 in 12 balls. Samson continued his rampage after Abhishek fell but it briefly looked India had hit a roadblock when they lost him, Tilak Varma and Ishan Kishan in consecutive overs. Shreyas Iyer then struck up partnerships with Axar Patel and Naman Dhir, falling eventually for 42 in 28 balls in the 19th. Dhir then saw India over the line with a six off the fourth ball of the last over. Naman Dhir and Shreyas Iyer put up a partnership 43 runs in 23 balls. (BCCI Photo) Naman Dhir



and Shreyas Iyer put up a partnership 43 runs in 23 balls. (BCCI Photo) Shreyas Iyer said after the match that the pitch was playing slow when India had started bowling and got better as the evening progressed, with dew also setting in. "When we started bowling, it was playing a bit slow and we bowled a little ahead than the hard lengths we wanted to be hitting. Then dew came in, and the ball started coming onto the bat nicely," said Iyer. He praised the start that India got in their chase. "When you are chasing 220, getting 85 in six overs, it is a tremendous start. (On the openers) They are experienced enough. We don't need to tell them about their business." Obviously it does not happen every time. But when they click, they set up the game for us, and the rest of us try to steady the ship and finish," he said.

‘Age not a criteria’: BCCI President on Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma’s role in build-up to 2027 World Cup

GNS News Agency, Oct 23 Selection of any player, including veterans like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, will be dependent on their fitness and performance and not age going into the 2027 World Cup, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Mithun Manhas has said. Kohli seems to have hit a late-career purple patch in ODI cricket but there have been some debates over Rohit's role in the team, although recent performances seem to have put rest to that as well. "As far as the BCCI is concerned, we are not in a position to comment, as it all depends on the selectors and the coaches," Manhas told Sportstar about the role of the veteran pair going into the World Cup.

"But, from my perspective, fitness and performance should be the criteria for selection, definitely not age. If someone is fit to play, performing well and winning games for the country, that should be the only criterion we focus on." Both Kohli and Rohit have captained India at World Cups and experienced disappointment. Kohli led the side to the semifinals in 2019 where they lost to New Zealand. Rohit, on the other hand, led a side that dominated the 2023 tournament all the way to the finals but were then comprehensively outplayed by Australia. Kohli was part of the Indian team that won the 2011 World Cup but Rohit has never won the trophy. Both players were integral in India winning the 2024 T20 World Cup, after which they retired from the format.

Manhas said that their presence, along with that of other



senior players, would be very helpful for current captain Shubman Gill. "It will be extremely crucial. Shubman has been the captain of Gujarat Titans for two or three years now, apart from leading India. I think that experience will come in handy when he begins his World Cup campaign." Having Virat, Hardik (Pandya) and Rohit in the side will definitely help him. Then there are the likes of (Jasprit) Bumrah, who could take charge as the bowling captain, while someone else could lead the fielding unit. So, it is all about distributing the workload. It will be interesting to see how things unfold. But Shubman is a level-headed guy, and I think having the seniors around him will be an advantage."

Shailesh Kumar wins gold as India sweeps high jump podium

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Nagoya: India delivered a spectacular performance in the men's high jump T63 final, achieving a podium sweep by securing all three medals. Shailesh Kumar clinched gold, while Varun Bhati secured silver and Rahul bagged bronze. Shailesh registered an outstanding jump of 1.89 metres to win gold, while Varun secured silver with a jump of 1.84 metres. Rahul completed India's clean sweep with a personal-best performance of 1.81 metres.

India replicated its 2022 podium sweep in the men's high jump T42/T63, once again claiming all three medals. It was India's third podium sweep at the Games. Devender Kumar had earlier led an Indian sweep in the men's discus throw F44/64 event, while Sachin Khilari led another in the men's shot put F46 final. Varun is an accomplished Indian para high jumper from Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. His breakthrough on the Paralympic stage came at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, where he cleared 1.86 metres to win bronze in the men's high jump T42 event.

He subsequently won bronze at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships and silver at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, where he cleared 1.82 metres. More recently, he won bronze in the men's high jump T63 at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, with a clearance of 1.85 metres. Earlier in the day, India recorded a one-two finish in the women's 400m T47 event, with



India swept the men's high jump T63 podium at the Asian Para Games, with Shailesh Kumar winning gold, Varun Bhati taking silver and Rahul claiming bronze. The result marked India's third podium sweep at the Games in para athletics

Anjanaben Bumbadiya clinching gold in 59.97 seconds and Jayanti Nehra securing silver in 1:00.65. Anjanaben delivered a strong performance to claim the top spot on the podium, while Jayanti followed closely to complete a memorable double podium finish for India, further strengthening the country's para athletics medal tally.

Captain-manager feud plays out in open after Manchester United sink to 4-1 loss to Como in Champions League



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Manchester United's crisis deepened and disagreements between captain Bruno Fernandes and manager Michael Carrick played out in public as they were thrashed 4-1 by Italian Champions League newcomers Como on Wednesday. Carrick apologised to fans after the performance but Fernandes, in an interview that he gave broadcasters after the former, questioned the tactics that were deployed. "I care an unbelievable amount about the supporters. They are the heartbeat of this football club and they always will be," Carrick said. "For them to travel, I had to apologize for the performance. To have to watch a perfor-

mance like that, I totally feel for them." "It was more than disappointing. I think everybody has got to take responsibility for that," he said. "I 100% take responsibility for the overall team and the performance – that's where it stops. It stops with me and I'm absolutely fine with that. I accept that totally. But as a supporter of this football club for so long, to see a performance like that is unacceptable, I have to say." Fernandes in a later interview questioned United's tactical call to not press man-to-man, stating that they gave Como the ball for too long and boosted their confidence. This was followed by Carrick criticising the players, and Fernandes in particular, for not working hard enough on the field in the post-match press conference. "It's a decision from the staff not to press man to man and sometimes leave a little bit of space in behind and trying to get the ball. To wait for them to give the ball. But sometimes when you give too much of the ball to these teams they gain confidence. They have so many bodies behind the ball and can frustrate you. And then when you recover the ball, the legs are gone," said Fernandes. Carrick was asked about these comments in the post-match press conference and he seemed to take a veiled dig back at Fernandes. "We did press man to man second half and conceded from that. Whatever tactics you play, if you don't run forward or back, you aren't going to win," he said.

Samson-Abhishek to open, Bhuvneshwar set for return

GNS News Agency, Oct 23 India open their New Zealand tour with the first T20I at Christchurch on Thursday, and the challenge is as much about conditions as it is about the opposition. Hagley Oval in Christchurch promises seam movement and extra bounce, a world away from the flat tracks India feasted on at home. With only one practice session to adjust, Shreyas Iyer's side will need to find their footing quickly against a New Zealand attack built to exploit local conditions.

Captain Iyer has made it clear that the opening combination remains untouched, meaning 15-year-old prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi may have to wait longer for a look-in. "It's not like he can walk in right now, because our openers are scoring consistently, and they have won the World Cup," Iyer said, backing Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma at the top. Sooryavanshi, who has 246 runs in eight T20Is at a strike rate of 186.36, will instead gain from watching and adapting to overseas conditions. The bigger headline is Bhuvneshwar Kumar's long-awaited return to international cricket after a four-year gap. The 36-year-old seamer, rewarded for consecutive title-winning IPL seasons with Royal Challengers Bengaluru, is expected to slot straight into the XI and bring control and swing on New Zealand's bouncier surfaces. Arshdeep Singh and either Prince Yadav or Varun Chakravarty are likely to complete the pace attack, with Axar Patel offering the spin option and Shivam Dube and Nitish Kumar Reddy as all-round cover. The middle order wears a familiar look through Iyer and Tilak Varma, but adaptability will be as important as intent.

India vs New Zealand 1st T20I Predicted Playing XI India Predicted XI: Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek



Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer (c), Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Prince Yadav/Varun Chakravarty, Arshdeep Singh. New Zealand Predicted XI: Finn Allen, Tim Seifert (wk), Devon Conway, Glenn Phillips, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner (c), Nathan Smith, Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson. India vs New Zealand T20I Series Squads India Squad: Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer (c), Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav, Kuldeep Yadav, Shivam Dube, Varun Chakravarty, Arshdeep Singh, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. New Zealand Squad: Finn Allen, Tim Seifert (wk), Devon Conway, Glenn Phillips, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner (c), Nathan Smith, Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson, Josh Clarkson, Jacob Duffy, Bevon Jacobs, Adam Milne, Blair Tackner.

How Praveen Kumar overcame a hip injury to reclaim his high-jump form at Asian Para Games

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Between attempts at the Asian Para Games, where he won the men's high jump T44/64 title with a season-best jump of 2.05m at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletics Stadium, reigning Paralympic champion Praveen Kumar was battling a bout of illness. He vomited and suffered coughing spells during the competition. Kumar had contracted a viral fever a few days after arriving in Japan and been struggling with a cough and fever for most of the week. On Wednesday, he cleared 2.05m to better the previous Asian Para Games record of 1.95m in the T44 category and claim his second successive title.

"With the fever, cold and cough, training here became a difficult task, but I continued with short breaks. While my body felt fine during the final, my first jump gave me a severe headache. The mucus from my blocked nose and throat was also troubling me. I wanted to better my Asian Para Games record, and to achieve that in such a condition is a special feeling for me," Kumar tells The Indian Express from Japan. At the Paris Paralympics, Kumar had upgraded his Tokyo silver medal to gold with a career-best jump of 2.08m, which remains the Asian record. He followed that up with a bronze medal at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi last September, clearing 2.00m despite struggling with a hip injury. The injury continued to hamper him, preventing him from crossing the 2.05m mark in the months that followed. A jump of 2.03m on the national circuit two months ago, however, offered hope of a comeback.

Kumar, who has a congenital deformity in his left leg, struggled with his run-up and take-off while executing the Fosbury Flop technique. "I suffered a ligament tear in my hip last year, which meant I could not generate enough power from the hip during take-off. When I planted my right knee to jump, my hip would hurt a lot and I could not generate the lift. The first focus was to recover, followed by jumping exercises to strengthen the hip muscles and short sprints to build strength in my left leg. Not having a jump close to 2.05m was a bit demotivating, but I knew I had to recover and train fully to regain my old form," Kumar says. Indian para-athletes Praveen Kumar and Banti, who won gold and silver medals, respectively, in the men's high jump T64 event at the Asian Para Games 2026. (PTI) Indian para-athletes Praveen Kumar and Banti, who won gold and silver medals, respectively, in the men's high jump T64 event at the Asian Para Games 2026. (PTI) Kumar, who initially learnt about high jumping by watching videos online, has trained under coach Satyapal Singh since 2018. With the injury stalling his progress towards bettering his personal best of 2.08m, Singh's first task was to keep the athlete motivated through regular conversations.

"Praveen's strength has always been his smooth take-off and clearance in the Fosbury Flop technique. While able-bodied high jumpers have to bend the non-leading knee during take-off, his deformity in the left leg means he does not have to worry about that aspect. He had good speed on the runway even at a young age and was also good at running



the curve. His back-leaning position and flexibility during clearance were always good, and we only had to improve them with time. He is a short high jumper, but he compensates for that disadvantage with almost perfect technique. After the injury, I knew rebuilding strength in his hip would take time, but I kept reminding him of his best jumps. I did not want him to think negatively," Singh says. With his second successive Asian Para Games title secured, Kumar is already looking towards defending his Paralympic crown in Los Angeles. One of his biggest sources of inspiration is Canadian high jumper Derek Drouin, who won gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics with a jump of 2.38m. "For the last seven to eight years, I have watched videos of Derek Drouin competing at the Rio Olympics almost daily. I closely observe how he generates explosiveness from his run-up and then almost stops at take-off to create vertical lift. Even though my left leg is not as strong as my right, I have been working on building its strength. I am also aiming to increase my run-up by one or two steps. It will take time to adjust, but I am confident I can surpass my personal best next season and work towards defending my title at the LA Paralympics," Kumar says.

RCB must fix middle-order gaps, says Reema Malhotra

New Delhi: Former Indian cricketer Reema Malhotra believes defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will look to sign Indian batters and all-rounders at the WPL 2027 auction, scheduled to take place in Kochi on October 28. She added that the franchise needs to plug gaps in its middle order and find a reliable number seven.

RCB will enter the mini-auction with just five slots to fill after retaining most of the squad that won them the title last season. They will be aiming for a second successive crown and their third overall. The fifth season of the WPL will take place from January 14 to February 7. "RCB will be very busy at the mini-auction for Indian players, especially batters and all-rounders, and they have a decent auction purse too.

Sona Mohapatra doubles down on Daler Mehndi criticism amid backlash: ‘Can’t abandon accountability’



The controversy surrounding Daler Mehndi has divided the film industry, with some questioning the singer's professional accountability and others defending his dignity, criticising what they perceive as his public humiliation. Singer Sona Mohapatra, who has faced considerable backlash for questioning Daler's professionalism while extending respect to him as a senior artiste, has now shared another lengthy note reflecting on why she refuses to conform to popular opinion. She also reaffirmed her stance, suggesting that raising questions about accountability was not wrong. In a lengthy post, Sona opened up about her tendency to question what others might prefer to overlook, even when it means inviting criticism.

"Sometimes, I wonder what is wrong with my wiring. Why, when an entire room seems to agree on something, do I find myself staring at the one thing nobody wants to talk about? Why can't I just nod along, belong, enjoy the comfort of consensus? It would certainly be easier. Less noise. Less outrage. Definitely less cortisol! Yesterday reminded me of this strange predicament of mine," she wrote. She went on to reveal that her notifications were flooded with tags, alerts, comments and comparisons following her take on the Daler Mehndi controversy. Expressing surprise at the contrast between her position and the broader industry's reaction, she wondered why she was "constitutionally incapable of going with the flow". "Not because I enjoy being contrary. There is nothing particularly enjoyable about the exhaustion that follows," she added.

Sona also questioned whether artists sometimes lose

sight of the audiences whose support makes their success possible. Reflecting on the importance of accountability, she wrote, "When did gratitude towards everything that makes all this possible become less important than protecting our own? When did empathy become a reason to abandon accountability?" She further questioned how emotional narratives can sometimes overshadow critical scrutiny when an artist faces criticism. "The victim is chosen, the sides are drawn, and critical thinking quietly leaves the room. Sentimentality can be a beautiful human instinct. But when it becomes a substitute for scrutiny, it can also be terribly manipulative," she wrote. Thanking those who took the time to read and understand her previous post, Sona concluded that the number of people supporting a particular position did not necessarily determine the truth. "I only know that I have never believed the number of people standing on one side of a fence determines where the truth lives. And while this strange wiring exhausts me, sometimes terribly, I cannot pretend I don't feel a quiet pride in it too," she wrote. She added, "Belonging to myself matters more to me than belonging to a crowd. Even on the days I wish it didn't cost quite so much."

What happened at the Daler Mehndi event?

Singer Daler Mehndi found himself at the centre of a public confrontation at the Siddhpeeth Maa Kunhapuri Tourism and Development Fair in Uttarakhand, where state cabinet minister Subodh Uniyal interrupted his performance on stage. The incident triggered a debate within the entertainment industry. Several personalities, including Mika Singh and Anupam Kher, came out in support of the veteran singer and criticised the minister for confronting him publicly. Amid the backlash, Sona shared her perspective on Instagram, recalling an earlier incident involving Daler that, according to her, raised similar concerns about professional accountability. She claimed that in February this year, she headlined the opening evening of an event at Delhi's Sunder Nursery, where Daler was scheduled to perform the closing act. However, she alleged that the singer was unable to deliver the expected performance, disappointing both the audience and the organisers. "Daler ji appeared disoriented, struggled to hold a note and kept repeating the same musical phrase," she wrote. Sona questioned the accountability of performers towards audiences who spend money to attend their shows, as well as organisers who invest time, effort and resources in putting events together. Her remarks, however, did not go down well with several social media users, many of whom criticised her for speaking out amid the controversy. Responding to the backlash in her Instagram comments, Sona said, "To those sending hate, perhaps ask yourselves how YOU would like to be treated by artists, or anyone else for that matter. Would you enjoy being taken for granted? If yes, be my guest! There's no shortage of people in this world happy to take your money while making you feel they're doing you a favour. You're welcome to that arrangement and the false sense of importance it gives you."

Jayasurya and Vinayakan’s fantasy comedy is a tiring, unfunny disaster

Titans movie review: There are some movies we don't want to end. We are so immersed in them and in love with their characters that we just don't want to leave. Then, there are some movies that we can't wait to end. The only reason we remain in the theatre without leaving halfway through is that we bought the ticket. Director Prince Joy's Titans belongs to the latter category. Antony Yakuza (Jayasurya) is a mobster who is well past his glory days. Following the death of his mafia boss, he works under the latter's son, Peter (Baby Jean), who does not value Antony at all. Constantly ridiculed and belittled by Peter, Antony wishes to break free from his clutches by pulling off one big job. With the help of his roommate Anwar (Nihal Nizam), he starts making plans. Their search for a skilled getaway driver leads them to Rejimon (Vinayakan). Although he seems naive at first, Antony and Anwar soon realise that he is an angel with an ulterior motive behind joining them. They soon find themselves caught in a web of chaos from which escape isn't as easy as it seems.

An okay premise ruined by poor execution Technically a fantasy comedy, Titans' biggest shortcoming is its extremely shoddy script that fails to do justice to any of its aspects. Sometimes, writer James Sebastian spells out even the most basic things for no reason; other times, he simply jumps from one point to another without ensuring their seamless connection, rendering the script incoherent. After a while, it starts to feel as though even director Prince and writer James weren't convinced by the narrative they built, as they fail to push it far enough to connect with the audience on a deeper level. The unfunny "jokes" only make matters worse. There are moments when one might feel sorry seeing just how desperately Titans is trying to make us laugh, and some might even contemplate offering pity laughs going forward. But the humour, including most one-liners, is so clumsily handled that it's difficult to play along. "Is Antony a [wind-up] toy to give him a key?" Xavier (Manikandan R Achari) quips when Anwar asks him to give Antony the [car's] key, and laughs by himself. Hearing this, Antony points out to Anwar how bad the joke is. This could even be seen as a meta reference, as this is exactly what one might feel about Titans' "jokes."

Some movies end up being 'so bad they're good,' giving us enough content to create memes or troll them. Titans just leaves one emotionless, wondering, "Did the makers genuinely think all this would be entertaining and emotive? Really?"

Fantasy elements that completely miss the mark Even its fantasy elements are subpar and unconvincing. By unconvincing, I am not suggesting that they should have been realistic. But conviction is key to any film, irrespective of its genre. How can a horror film that doesn't convince itself of its own horror convince the audience? Titans is essentially weighed down by the flimsiness with which its fantasy aspects are handled, particularly the conflicts faced by Rejimon. Although Prince and James try to root the film in emotions and weave in motives, none of them strikes the right chord, mainly because the plot devices aren't strong enough. Don't Miss | Jailer 2 movie review: Rajinikanth's supreme aura carries Nelson's uneven action thriller

Take, for instance, movies like Anil-Babu's Sakshal Sreeman Chathunni (1993) or Vivek Sharma's Bhoothnath (2008). One reason those films resonated with audiences



was how they established the struggles of the genie and the ghost, respectively. The makers anchored these plot devices in emotions and wove the entire narratives around them. However, in Titans, a similar attempt comes across as created for a high school play. Then there are characters like Anand G (Indrans), the boss of the angels, and Lucifer (Sunny Wayn), the devil, but they contribute little more than their frequent appearances. Although Titans tries to humanise Rejimon, the malak, even Antony and Anwar barely feel human because of the poor writing, so there's little point in discussing Rejimon at all.

Falcon aka Captain America in Kerala! The movie also attempts to portray him as a regional version of the Falcon, who later becomes Captain America. But beyond one or two fight scenes, there's barely anything in the script that capitalises on this. Although positioning a dark-skinned, righteous angel opposite a fair-skinned Lucifer, who is always dressed in white, is a strong creative choice that subverts conventional depictions of good and evil, Titans doesn't even manage to scratch the surface of this potent idea. Memories of Blunder | Kamal Haasan, Shankar's Indian 2 reveals why Boomer clones easily fall for internet scams The film is also marred by convenient writing and portrayals, where events unfold as if scripted, making everything predictable. There's a stunt scene that begins with Peter gunning down a man. His whole gang is armed, yet none of them fire at Antony when he appears; instead, they all start fighting. When they eventually do fire at him, the angel comes to his rescue. Were the villains waiting for the angel to come save him? Are Peter and his gang such "nice" people? Titans features one of the most bizarrely choreographed and poorly shot climax fight scenes in recent Malayalam cinema. While the staging and framing themselves are unimpressive, the fast cutting only exacerbates the issue. Dawn Vincent's music provides some solace at times, but not always. Jayasurya is serviceable as Antony Yakuza, managing to make a few unfunny one-liners somewhat funny. Vinayakan seems pretty clueless about what he is doing in the movie, highlighted by his artificial dialogue delivery and unimpressive dubbing. Both Indrans and Baby Jean are wasted in underwritten characters that clearly did not require actors of their calibre. Titans movie cast: Jayasurya, Vinayakan, Nihal Nizam, Baby Jean, Sunny Wayn, Indrans, Suresh Krishna Titans movie director: Prince Joy Titans movie rating: 1 star

Sohum Shah reveals why Alia Bhatt signed Tumbbad 2 after just two meetings



Sohum Shah has revealed that signing Alia Bhatt for Tumbbad 2 was a smooth process, with the actor agreeing to come on board after just two meetings. He also praised her professionalism, sharpness and business sense. In a conversation with Variety India, Sohum said Alia was impressed by the script and understood what the film had to offer.

Speaking about how Alia Bhatt came on board, Sohum Shah said, "We first gave a narration to Alia and then she read the script, and immediately agreed to do the film. She found the script really amazing. So, it was a very easy process.

She is very sincere and a very professional actor. The process was quite smooth." He added that the team did not have the backing of a big filmmaker or director, but believed the script would speak for itself. "We aren't big filmmakers. We don't have a big director but our magic here was the script," he said. Sohum Shah recalled how quickly the deal came together. He said Alia Bhatt asked the right questions during their first meeting. "In two meetings, we signed Alia Bhatt. Usually, it doesn't happen like this. It's very tough but she understood what is in the script." Praising Alia beyond her acting abilities, Sohum added, "According to me, she is very sharp. Just like her brilliance in acting, she also has a great business sense."

Sohum also shared that Alia had watched the first Tumbbad and loved it. He said she shared his view that the film should not be restricted to the horror genre. "She has watched the film, and she loves it," he said, adding that he believes Tumbbad is better described as a folklore fantasy drama than a horror film. "Everyone is labelling Tumbbad into horror category but according to me it's not a horror film. There are some horror elements but Tumbbad is a folklore fantasy, drama," Sohum explained. The filmmaker addressed whether the commercial success of the first film and the expectations surrounding the sequel had added to the pressure on him. "I don't feel any kind of pressure. Whatever is the demand of the story, we are trying to make that. Nothing else matters." He agreed that the sequel has grown in scale and said, "Yes, the film's scale has increased. Alia has joined the film, and contributes a lot to her character in this film." Sohum expressed confidence that audiences would understand the casting choice once they watched the film. "After people have watched the film, they'll realise Alia Bhatt is a very correct casting," said the Crazy actor.

Hrithik Roshan’s son Hridaan joins Zayed Khan for brand campaign.

It was a special evening for Sussanne Khan's family as a launch event was held in Mumbai for a new men's jewellery brand by Azaan Ali, the son of jewellery designer and her sister Farah Khan Ali. The event turned into a family celebration, as Sussanne and Farah Khan Ali's brother and actor Zayed Khan, joining the younger boys of the family for the brand's campaign, one of which is Sussanne and Hrithik Roshan's son, Hridaan Roshan. The event also saw the launch of a brand shoot video featuring Zayed Khan, son of actor-filmmaker Sanjay Khan and Zarine Katrak Khan; his sister Simone Khan Arora's sons, Armaan and Yuraaz Arora; and Zayed's sons, Zidaan and Aariz Khan, whom he shares with wife Malaika Parekh. The video also features Sussanne Khan's son Hridaan Roshan, whom she shares with ex-husband Hrithik Roshan, and Farah Khan Ali's son Azaan Ali himself.

Farah, who married DJ Aqeel in 1999, has two children with him, Azaan Ali and Fiza Ali. The couple later separated, and their divorce was finalised in February 2023. Farah is the sister of interior designer and entrepreneur Sussanne Khan, Hrithik Roshan's former wife. Despite their separation, Hrithik continues to share a cordial relationship with Sussanne and her family. Hrithik Roshan and Sussanne Khan's younger son, Hridaan Roshan, is reportedly studying film and television production at the University of Southern California (USC) in the US. The 17-year-old's school, the American School of Bombay, had announced the news on Instagram earlier this year, writing, "It's no surprise to us that we'll C Hridaan at USC studying film and TV production! Congratulations, Hridaan; we are so proud." Hridaan's mother, Sussanne, also celebrated the milestone with an emotional note, calling him her "creative genius, my heartbeat, my superpower and my bestest friend in the world." On the other hand, Hrithik Roshan's elder son, Hrehaan Roshan, was recently in the news after he made his debut as an independent musician with his first single, This Heavenly Place, stepping into the world of music as a singer-songwriter



and guitarist. Proud father Hrithik himself had shared his video with the caption, "You were born with an innate wisdom, Ray: I trust it so much. It makes me fearless." Hrehaan's mother, Sussanne Khan, too had expressed her emotions, while Hrithik's partner, Saba Azad, also congratulated him, saying, "So beautiful, Ray. So proud of you." Filmmaker and grandfather Rakesh Roshan joined in the celebrations, writing, "Ray so proud of you, keep soaring." Coming from a family with deep roots in the film industry, Hridaan and Hrehaan Roshan are the grandson of filmmaker Rakesh Roshan and actor Sanjay Khan.

Allu Arjun joins celebrities praising Rajinikanth’s ‘Jailer 2’

Chennai: Thoroughly impressed with Tamil superstar Rajinikanth's newly released film 'Jailer 2', Telugu star Allu Arjun on Thursday said the film was a true showcase of Rajinikanth's star power, swag and aura. Allu Arjun is the latest in a long list of celebrities to have showered praise on the blockbuster, whose collections have crossed the Rs 500-crore mark. Earlier, Bollywood star Riteish Deshmukh took to X to share his experience of watching the film. He first posted his reaction during the interval. He wrote, "Watching Jailer 2 – its interval now – Maha Blockbuster Rajni Sir's aura is on another level- Dir Nelson & the team – take a bow !!!!! Do yourselves a favour - watch the film- coz It's HUKUM -TIGER KA HUKUM." Before Riteish Deshmukh, actor, producer and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan had congratulated his dear friend Rajinikanth after 'Jailer 2' emerged as a superhit worldwide.

Taking to X to congratulate Rajinikanth and the entire team of 'Jailer 2', which released on Thursday, Kamal Haasan wrote in Tamil, "News has come in that Jailer 2, starring my dear friend Rajinikanth, which released today has emerged a superhit worldwide. Heartfelt congratulations to my friend Rajinikanth, director @Nelsondilkumar, music composer @anirudhofficial, and the @sunpictures team." National Award-winning actor, director and producer Dhanush, who watched the film's first-day, first show, was among the first to congratulate the 'Jailer 2' team. Several other top stars and directors have also congratulated the team of 'Jailer 2' on the film's success. Director Lingusamy wrote on X, "In #Rajini's 51-year journey, I feel that after Baadsha, #Jailer2 is the film that has truly made the most of Rajini sir's aura, especially in the first half, which I can keep watching over and over again! The second half is a bonus. Congratulations on the grand success to Thalaivar @rajinikanth sir, @Nelsondilkumar, @anirudhofficial, @iam_SJSuryah sir @sunpictures and the entire team." Director Venkat Prabhu, in his congratulatory post, wrote, "#jailer2 is simply ?? Thalaiva @rajinikanth. Thank you @Nelsondilkumar @anirudhofficial and team!!! Whatta experience! @sunpictures." Among those spotted watching the film's first-day, first show were actors Vishnu Vishal and



Allu Arjun has praised Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2', calling it a showcase of the superstar's star power, swag and aura. Kamal Haasan, Dhanush, Riteish Deshmukh and several other celebrities have also congratulated the team on the film's reported success

Soori, director Karthik Subbaraj, and producer Nagavamsi, all of whom were reportedly thrilled with the film. Director Karthik Subbaraj wrote on X, "Thalaivar sets the screen on Wild Wild Fire. Can't take my eyes off him.... Love you Thalaiva..... Goosebumps Overloaded Mass Blast.... #Jailer2. @Nelsondilkumar writing and execution (Excellent). @anirudhofficial breathes high-octane energy in every frame. Whattay wonderful moment to see @mithundao-off sir, @Mohanlal sir @NimmaShivanna sir @bindasbhidu sir @vidya_balan madam @iHrithik sir @iam_SJSuryah sir all in one film. Entertainment max. Thank you @sunpictures and whole cast n crew for giving us Blockbuster feast in Theatres."