

Telangana irrigation crisis raises questions over water management and project utilisation

Hyderabad: The Revanth Reddy government's warning that irrigation water may not be available for the coming Yasangi season has raised questions about whether Telangana's water crisis has been aggravated by the failure to utilise available river flows and existing infrastructure. But the real reason appears to be the Congress government's determination to discredit the previous regime's irrigation projects, which has taken precedence over farmers' needs.

Woman throws her twin daughters into Manjeera river before jumping into it in Medak

Medak: Family issues reportedly drove a woman to throw her twin daughters into river Manjeera before jumping herself into the water near Chinna Ghanpur under Kulcharam police station limits on Tuesday. The locals, who noticed the woman jumping into the river, have called the Kulcharam police who came to the place and recovered their belongings and a mobile phone.Based on them, they have identified them as Saritha (27) and her twin daughters Vaishnavi nd Sravani, residents of Malkapur in Kamareddy district. Saritha also informed her decision to end life to her father Balakrishna minutes before jumping into the river.

Medak farmer electrocuted at agricultural field in Rangaiapally

Medak: In a tragic incident, a farmer Rajaboyina Lakshman (46) was electrocuted at Rangaiapally when he accidentally came in touch with live electric wires at his agriculture field on Tuesday.

Lakshman, who went to his agriculture field to switch on the motor, was found dead by his nephew Ramu. The Manoharbad police registered a case. He was survived by his wife and two children.



PM Modi and Liechtenstein's Prince discuss deepening cooperation across sectors

New Delhi, Oct 27 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with Liechtenstein's Prince Alois and Princess Sophie at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Tuesday, discussing ways to further deepen cooperation in trade, innovation, science and technology, skill development and people-to-people ties.

During the meeting, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to working together to reform and strengthen multilateral institutions, including the United Nations. They welcomed the positive momentum generated by the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen bilateral partnership

"PM Narendra Modi held extensive discussions with H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein and H.R.H. Hereditary Princess Sophie at Hyderabad House today. The leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of India-Liechtenstein relations and discussed ways to further deepen cooperation in trade and investment, innovation, science and technology, skill development and people-to-people ties," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

wrote on X.

"They also reaffirmed their commitment to working together to reform and strengthen multilateral institutions, including the United Nations. They welcomed the positive momentum generated by the India-EFTA TEPA and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the bilateral partnership," it added.

Earlier in the day, Prince Alois and Princess Sophie paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in New Delhi.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar also called on Liechtenstein Prince and discussed bilateral ties and emerging opportunities under the India-EFTA TEPA.

"A pleasure to call on H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, on a State Visit to India. Our bilateral partnership is witnessing strong momentum across a wide range of domains, driven by the opportunities enabled by India - EFTA TEPA," the EAM posted on X after the meeting.

As Cyclone ‘Arnab’ turns severe, South Central Railway cancels 11 trains

Hyderabad, Oct 27 (IANS) South Central Railway has cancelled 11 trains in view of a ‘very severe’ cyclone ‘Arnab’ in the Bay of Bengal, which is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast on Wednesday.

South Central Railway (SCR) said in a release on Tuesday that it has cancelled the trains in the interest of passenger safety.

Ten trains, whose journey was scheduled to commence on Tuesday (October 27), have been cancelled. Another train scheduled to depart on October 28 has also been cancelled.

The cancelled trains include Secunderabad-Howrah Falaknuma Superfast Express, Secunderabad-Bhubaneswar New Visakha Express, Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam Goadavari Superfast Express, Mahabubnagar-Visakhapatnam Su-

perfast Express, Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Garibrath Superfast Express, Lingampalli-Kakinada Town Cocanada Superfast Express, Lingampally-Narsapur Express, Lingampalli-Kakinada Port Gowthami Superfast Express, Hazur Sahib Nanded-Sambalpur Nagavalli Superfast Express, Charlapalli-Srikakulam Road Special and Srikakulam Road-Charlapalli Special.

Nagrasol-Narsapur has been partially cancelled between Charlapalli and Narsapur. Howrah-Secunderabad Falaknuma Express, leaving Howrah on October 29, also stands cancelled.

South Coast Railway has already announced the cancellation of 61 trains.



South Central Railway said that due to the intensification of cyclone, which is likely to affect several places in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and other areas, there will be a change in the pattern of train services in the region as per the need of the situation in the interest of safety of passengers and train operations.

The cyclone ‘Arnab’ is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam (near

Yanam) on the forenoon of October 28 as a very severe cyclonic storm.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Khammam, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Mulugu and Mahabubabad on October 28. Heavy rain is also expected over Warangal, Hanumakonda, Suryapet and Nalgonda on October 28 and 29. In view of this, several trains passing in this direction/sections are expected to be cancelled/diverted.

Liechtenstein Prince Alois accorded ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi, Oct 27 (IANS) Liechtenstein's Hereditary Prince Alois was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi warmly welcomed Prince Alois upon his arrival at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Prince Alois arrived in the national capital from Gujarat's Vadodara on Monday. He was received by Union Minister of State (MoS) Jayant Singh at the airport.

"A new chapter in India-Liechtenstein engagement. H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein arrived in New Delhi today, following his visit to Vadodara, as part of his ongoing State Visit to India. He was received by MoS Jayant Singh at the airport. The visit will provide renewed impetus to the bilateral relations," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X.

Extending a warm welcome to Prince Alois, MoS Singh took to X and posted: "Following our earlier engagement at Davos, I look forward to further strengthening the warm and friendly ties between India and Liechtenstein and advancing our shared interests through greater cooperation."

Prince Alois arrived in Mumbai as he began his State Visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is accompanied by his wife, Princess Sophie, and a high-level official and business delegation comprising top industry leaders.



Techie dies by suicide by jumping into Hyderabad lake

Hyderabad, Oct 27 (IANS) A techie allegedly died by suicide by jumping into Durgam Cheruvu Lake in the Madhapur area of the IT hub of Cyberabad, Telangana.

Rajesh (25) jumped into the lake from the Cable Bridge in the HITEC City.

Hailing from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Rajesh was working at a software company in Hyderabad

Rajesh, who was staying at a hostel in Nacharam, had come to Ayappa Society in Madhapur on Monday to meet a friend. He later went to Cable Bridge and allegedly jumped into the lake.

On a complaint by Rajesh's sister, Madhapur police registered a case and took up the investigation.

The reasons for the alleged suicide were not known.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were searching for Rajesh's body in the lake.

This is the second suicide case by techies in Hyderabad during the last three days.

A 29-year-old software employee was found hanging at her residence in Hyderabad, in the early hours of Sunday. She was identified as Archana Chaudhary Malik, a native of Uttar Pradesh who worked for a software company.

According to police, the woman made a video call to one of her colleagues at around 2:30 a.m. while he was attending a function with his mother outside Hyderabad and allegedly threatened to end her life if he did not marry her.

Police said he later tried to contact her repeatedly but received no response. He reached her flat around 5.30 a.m. and found the door locked from inside.

He alerted the police. The patrol police reached the spot, forced open the door and found her hanging.



Hyderabad, Oct 27 (IANS) The government of Telangana has declared 365 mandals in 31 districts as drought-affected for Kharif 2026, following deficit rainfall during the South West Monsoon due to the impact of El Nino.

Revenue Disaster Management Department issued an order to this effect on Tuesday.

El Nino impact: Telangana declares 365 mandals drought-affected

The department has declared 111 mandals as severe drought mandals and 254 as moderate drought mandals for Kharif 2026.

This followed the recommendation made by the Cabinet Sub-Committee on El-Nino impact and drought conditions in the state during the review meeting held on October 23.

Various Secretariat departments, Heads of Departments and all the Collectors & Magistrates of districts were requested to furnish detailed information and necessary proposals for declaration of mandals as drought-affected in their districts, in accordance with parameters prescribed under the National Manual for Drought Management 2016.

The proposals revealed that the South West Monsoon (SWM) 2026 in Telangana has been adversely affected by emerging and strengthening El-Nino conditions,

weak Bay of Bengal Low-Pressure systems, and prolonged dry spells. The state as a whole received cumulative rainfall of 615.5 mm as against the normal rainfall of 740.6 mm, with a deviation of -17% during 1st June to 30th September 2026. With 18 of 33 districts in deficit, kharif crop area reduced from 139.28 to 126.06 lakh acres.

Paddy area reduced by 18% (from 69.19 lakh to 57 lakh acres) and current live storage in major and medium reservoirs is 179.63 TMC against 585 TMC capacity, raising risks to drinking water, agriculture, livestock and power.

The State Legislative Assembly on September 18 unanimously passed a resolution, urging the Central government to send a central team for assessment, to sanction NDRF assistance and release its share of SDRF, and to provide crop loss and input subsidy, drinking wa-

ter, fodder and groundwater and water-body restoration support.It also asked for 50 additional days of work under VB-G RAM G (with the Centre bearing the full cost), more fertiliser and 1,500 MW of additional power, a Rs 20,000 crore special drought-relief package, an increase in the FRBM borrowing limit from 3% to 3.5% of GSDP for 2026-27, and additional assistance under Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes with relaxed norms."Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the Manual for Drought Management, Kharif drought is required to be notified not later than 30th October. Having regard to the resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly and owing to persistent rainfall deficits recorded during the South West Monsoon 2026, prolonged dry spells in critical crop growth stages and deteriorating soil moisture, the government has carried out a multi-criteria scientific assessment across all mandals," reads the GO.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Politics of India-US trade ties — can strategic convergence survive economic friction?

The India-US economic relationship has evolved into a geopolitical quagmire, especially for India. Over the past one and a half decades, bilateral economic relations between the two nations have been seen as an extension of the broader strategic framework in which their ties have developed. Key areas such as defence, investment, trade, technology and the movement of skilled professionals have become increasingly interconnected.

However, ties between the two nations have continued to face significant friction. The primary reasons include differences over tariffs and market access, agricultural protection, digital regulation, and intellectual property. In simple terms, differences in industrial policies have cast a shadow over the overall strategic partnership. In February 2026, the two countries announced a framework for an Interim Agreement following trade negotiations that began in February 2025. This was a significant development in bilateral economic ties. The negotiations not only addressed customs duties but also reflected differing understandings of what constitutes a fair trading relationship, as well as competing economic priorities. The Trump administration emphasised reciprocity, pressing India to reduce its tariff and non-tariff barriers, and expand American access to the Indian market. India sought greater access for its exports while attempting to protect sensitive domestic sectors and preserve policy space for development-related priorities.

This shows that the politics of bilateral ties extends beyond trade negotiations and agreements. It also highlights how two large democracies seek to balance domestic economic interests with geopolitical objectives. However, this raises a fundamental question: can strategic convergence between the United States and India withstand their many disagreements over trade and economic policy? The transformation of India-US bilateral ties since the early 2000s has been remarkable. The US perception of India moved from the Cold War-era suspicion to a strategic partnership encompassing defence, technology, energy and commerce. Arguably, the bilateral economic ties have become one of the key foundations of this transformation.

The combined trade in goods and services between the two reached an estimated \$239.6 billion in 2025. Trade in goods stood at around \$149.1 billion, while services amounted to about \$90.4 billion. During the same time, the US recorded a goods trade deficit of \$58.4 billion with India. These numbers show why trade has become a politically sensitive issue in Washington. The US increasingly views its ties with India through the lens of reciprocity. In 2025, US trade policy placed an emphasis on large and persistent goods trade deficits, tariff disparities, and non-tariff barriers. India's relatively high average import tariffs became a focus of US trade policy. From India's perspective, tariffs were not merely instruments of protectionism. Historically, they have served several purposes, including protecting key industries, promoting domestic manufacturing and preserving a degree of policy flexibility for the government. As a result, tariff reductions also have implications for India's domestic politics. For instance, agricultural imports are a politically sensitive issue, particularly in northern Indian States, given the large population dependent on the country's agricultural sector. The trade negotiations were shaped by this differing perspective. While the Trump administration approached the issue from the lens of reciprocal market access, the Indian side had to balance its international commitments against domestic, economic and political constraints.

Along with the trade negotiations, the two countries also initiated the US-India COMPACT initiative, linking commerce with technology, defence and strategic cooperation. They set a target of more than doubling their bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. The US adopted an assertive negotiating stance on tariff policy. This became evident in April 2025, when the Trump administration introduced its reciprocal tariff framework. Washington argued that differences in tariff rates and non-tariff barriers contributed to persistent US trade deficits. India responded with concern to the policy.

Foundation Laid for CC Road Works Worth Rs. 1 Crore in Officers Colony, EC Nagar and Ramakrishna Nagar



— Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy launches construction of 900 metres of CC roads KAPRA, OCTOBER 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy laid the foundation stone for the construction of 900 metres of cement concrete (CC) roads at a cost of Rs. 1 crore in Officers Colony, EC Nagar and Ramakrishna Nagar under Cherlapally Division. The initiative aims to improve road infrastructure and provide better transportation facilities to residents of these localities." Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy said that priority was being given to the development of basic infrastructure across all areas of the Uppal Assembly constituency. He stated that development works, including road construction and improvements to the drainage system, were being undertaken in phases to ensure better civic amenities and hassle-free movement for the public. "The MLA emphasized that the development of roads in residential colonies would provide greater convenience to local residents. He instructed the concerned officials to complete the works at the earliest while maintaining quality standards. He further stated that efforts were being made to identify public needs, address local issues and ensure the planned development of the Uppal constituency."

Grand Felicitation to Asifabad Mandal Party Workers' President Srinivas



"Sarpanches Lead Felicitation Ceremony in the Presence of Congress Leaders and Workers" Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October.

28. "Asifabad: Srinivas, President of the Asifabad Mandal Party Workers' Wing, was felicitated grandly by local leaders and party workers under the leadership of mandal sarpanches. On the occasion, the leaders extended their congratulations and wished him success in his future political endeavours.

The programme was attended by Chilati Sarpanch Vinod, Rota Sarpanch Vinod, Sankepalli Sarpanch Atram Kondu, and the Sarpanch of Tejapur. Former sarpanches Karthik and Lingu, along with Vinod, President of the Asifabad Mandal Youth Congress, also participated and congratulated Srinivas. Senior Congress leaders Mahesh, Abdullah, Suresh, Pentu, Venkata Rao, and others attended the programme and conveyed their best wishes to Srinivas. "The felicitation ceremony witnessed the participation of several Congress leaders and party workers, who expressed their happiness and extended their support to Srinivas.

Mission Amrit Jal Pilot Project Launched in Goyagaon by Minister Seethakka



"DCC President Atram Sugunakka and MLC Dande Vittal Attend the Programme" Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 28. "Kerameri, State Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Seethakka inaugurated the Mission Amrit Jal Pilot Project in Goyagaon village of Kerameri mandal in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district on Monday night. District Congress Committee (DCC) President Atram Sugunakka and MLC Dande Vittal attended the programme. The initiative aims to provide safe drinking water to people in rural areas, ensure the effective utilisation of available water resources, and find sustainable solutions to drinking water problems. The leaders highlighted the importance of improving drinking water facilities in villages and ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water for rural



communities. "Speaking on the occasion, the leaders emphasised that addressing drinking water shortages and managing water resources efficiently are essential for rural development.

They stated that initiatives such as the Mission Amrit Jal Pilot Project could contribute to improving drinking water facilities and addressing the needs of people in rural areas. The programme marked an important step towards focusing on drinking water facilities and the effective management of water resources in Goyagaon village. The initiative is intended to support efforts to address drinking water-related challenges in rural communities. District Library Corporation Chairman Anil, Asifabad Market Committee Chairperson Irukula Manga, Congress party leaders, party workers, and others participated in the programme.

Blocking Development Means Causing Loss to the People!



Political Concerns Raised Over Alleged Obstacles to Development Works in Kagaznagar" Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 28. "Kagaznagar: Congress leaders have questioned the development works carried out during the past 15 years under the former MLA and their councillors, demanding that they explain the progress achieved during their

tenure. "They questioned why attempts were allegedly being made to obstruct development works in Kagaznagar when MLC Dande Vittal was bringing funds and initiating development projects for the town. Congress leaders expressed concern that, instead of welcoming initiatives aimed at providing development benefits to the people, some were allegedly creating obstacles. They also raised suspicions that political motives could be behind such actions. Development should be above politics, they said, emphasising that people need essential infrastructure such as roads, drainage systems, drinking water facilities, streetlights, and other basic amenities, regardless of political affiliations. "They stated that obstructing development works for political reasons was not appropriate and urged all sections to cooperate in the town's progress. The people of Kagaznagar are closely observing these developments, they said, adding that citizens expect tangible results rather than mere promises and statements. "People need development that is visible on the ground, not just words. Everyone should cooperate in development works and give priority to public welfare beyond political differences," Congress leaders stated.

Sree Chaitanya Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences stresses attendance, parental involvement



Principal outlines career prospects and academic expectations for B.Pharm and Pharm.D freshers at orientation programme. Karimnagar October 27, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): Sree Chaitanya Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences organised an orientation programme for freshers admitted to its B.Pharm and Pharm.D courses on Monday, familiarising them with academic expectations, career prospects and the importance of discipline.

Chairman M. Ramesh Reddy emphasised the role of pharmaceutical education in preparing students for professional careers and urged them to make effective use of the academic opportunities and facilities available at the institution. Director K. Narender Reddy stressed the impor-

tance of discipline, dedication and commitment to academic excellence, asking students to approach their studies with a sense of responsibility. Principal A. Rama Narasimha Reddy outlined the career opportunities available to B.Pharm and Pharm.D graduates in the pharmaceutical industry and healthcare sector. He emphasised the need for regular attendance and consistency in academic performance, and called for active parental involvement in monitoring students' attendance, academic progress and overall development. Heads of Departments Dr. Ravinder and Dr. Chandramouli attended the programme.

Hot, Dry Climate Zone in South India Shrinks by Nearly Half : IMD

"Hyderabad, October 27 (Indian Chronicle) : The hot, semi-arid climate zone in peninsular India has shrunk from 30 per cent during 1951-1980 to 16 per cent in 1991-2020, according to a study by scientists from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune. The study, published in the journal MAUSAM, attributed the change to increased rainfall, which has led to the expansion of tropical savanna climate regions. However, South India recorded 24.3 per cent less rainfall than normal this year due to the impact of El Niño. Ananya Karmakar, lead author of the study, said that increased long-term rainfall does not eliminate the risk of drought during El Niño years. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of IMD and co-author of the study, stressed the need to consider both long-term climate trends and seasonal variations while planning for the future.

BRS Leaders from Marthidi Village Join Congress in the Presence of MLC Dande Vittal



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 28. "Kagaznagar: Several BRS party leaders from Marthidi village in Bejjur mandal, Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, joined the Congress party in the presence of MLC Dande Vittal at his residence in Kagaznagar. The leaders who joined the Congress party by wearing party scarves included Bedikala Kondaiah, Jadi Sai, Kummari Srikanth, Gomase Venkat, Gomasi Tirupathi, Atif Khan, Asif, and several others. "Speaking on the occasion, the newly joined leaders said they were attracted by the development and welfare programmes being implemented by the Congress government. They expressed their willingness to support the Congress party's efforts towards public welfare and village development. "Marthidi village Sarpanch Mannempalli Malleesh, Busa Shankar, Aatram Rajaram, Meesala Durgayya, Kameela Arun, Sundilla Lavesh, and others participated in the programme.

Special Thanks and Invitation to the 70th Ashoka Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Day Celebrations



"SE Jade Uttam Donates ₹15,000 for the Celebrations at Lumbini Deeksha Bhoomi, Asifabad" Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 28. "Asifabad: Jade Uttam, Superintending Engineer (SE), Electricity Department, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, has extended financial assistance of ₹15,000 towards the organisation of the 70th Ashoka Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Day celebrations, scheduled to be held on October 29 at Lumbini Deeksha Bhoomi, Asifabad. "On this occasion, the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Center Committee expressed its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Jade Uttam for his generous contribution. The committee members also extended a cordial invitation to him to attend the celebrations and help make the event a grand success. The committee is making arrangements to organise the programme in a grand manner to spread the teachings of Buddhist Dhamma and the ideals of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar among the people.

Exemplary Employees Honoured at Chengicherla Depot

Medipally CI Jalandhar Reddy Calls for Accident-Free Services and Passenger Safety" MEDIPALLY, OCTOBER 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "An exemplary employees' felicitation programme was organised in a grand manner at Chengicherla Depot on Tuesday.



Medipally Police Inspector Jalandhar Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and offered valuable suggestions to the employees. "Speaking on the occasion, CI Jalandhar Reddy emphasised that RTC employees should prioritise the safety of passengers and other road users by ensuring accident-free services. He urged them to remain alert while performing their duties and strictly adhere to road safety regulations. He also called upon the employees to discharge their responsibilities diligently and contribute to the development of the organisation. "Later, CI Jalandhar Reddy felicitated drivers who had achieved fuel efficiency targets and conductors who had generated the highest revenue during September. "His valuable suggestions and words of encouragement inspired the employees to perform their duties with greater dedication and responsibility. "Medipally Sub-Inspector, Chengicherla Depot Manager S. Swathi, supervisors, depot staff and others participated in the programme.

Job mela at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium on October 31

Hyderabad: A job mela will be held at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium on October 31 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., offering employment opportunities to freshers and experienced candidates in non-IT sectors. Organised by The Mighty Dream in association with Deccan Blasters, the job fair is expected to see the participation of around 50 companies, with spot offer letters to be issued to selected candidates.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
OPERATION: SIDDIPT CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice for Tender Specification No. T-4/2026-27, T-4/2026-27 (Extended), T-4/2026-27 to T-54/2026-27 (New) of SE/Op/Siddipt for various electrical and civil works in Siddipt Circle. For open tenders, sale of Bids starts from 28.10.2026 and ends on 04.11.2026 at 17:00Hrs. Last date for submission of bids is 05.11.2026 at 14:00Hrs and opened on 05.11.2026 at 15:00Hrs. For E-tenders, bid downloading starts from date: 28.10.2026. Bid downloading end date 04.11.2026 at 17:00Hrs and last date for submission of bids is 05.11.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. and opened on 05.11.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. Tender details can be viewed in www.southernpower.com and <http://tenders.telangana.gov.in>. Phone: 8712471034. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, DIPR.NO. 12519-PPICL/ADVT/11/2026-27, Dt: 27.10.2026 Operation, Circle: Siddipt, TGSPDC.

Sarandi Main Road in Ruins: Travelling Has Become a Life-Threatening Challenge!



“Road Damaged with Exposed Gravel and Potholes; Accident Risks at Every Turn” “Commuters Face Hardships Day and Night” “More Than Half the Road Damaged, Yet No Action Taken?” “Locals and Commuters Demand Immediate Repairs” “Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" October. 28. “WANKIDI: Roads are the backbone of rural development, connecting villages and enabling people to access essential services, education, healthcare, and employment. However, the condition of the main road connecting Sarandi Gram Panchayat with neighbouring villages in Wankidi Mandal of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district has become a serious concern. Local residents and commuters allege that the road has deteriorated significantly, making everyday travel difficult and dangerous. “The road is reportedly covered with loose gravel, damaged tar surfaces, and potholes. With more than half of the road said to be in a damaged condition, motorists are struggling to travel safely. Residents are urging the concerned authorities to inspect the road and initiate immediate repair work to prevent accidents and provide safe transportation. “Exposed Gravel and Potholes Make Travel Difficult” “The main road serving Sarandi Gram Panchayat plays an important role in connecting the village with neighbouring areas. Residents regularly use this route for agricultural activities, daily necessities, educational purposes, and other essential work. “However, the deteriorating condition of the road has made commuting increasingly difficult. The damaged tar surface has exposed loose gravel in several places, while potholes have developed along the route. As a result, motorists are being forced to drive cautiously to avoid losing control of their vehicles. “According to local residents, more than half of the road has been severely damaged. They say that travelling on the road has become uncomfortable and risky, particularly for two-wheeler riders. Even a moment of carelessness could lead to an accident, they warn. “Residents are questioning why the road has been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent

despite its importance to the surrounding villages. “Accident Risks Persist During Both Day and Night” “While travelling on the damaged road is difficult during the daytime, the situation becomes even more dangerous at night, residents say. Poor visibility makes it difficult for motorists to identify potholes, loose gravel, and damaged sections of the road in time. “Two-wheeler riders are particularly vulnerable, as loose gravel and uneven surfaces can cause vehicles to skid or go out of control. Those travelling at night for emergencies and other essential purposes are also facing considerable difficulties. “Residents fear that continued neglect of the road could result in serious accidents and injuries. They have urged the concerned authorities to take preventive measures before an unfortunate incident occurs. “They emphasise that roads intended to provide convenient transportation should not become a source of fear and danger for the public. “An Important Connecting Road Neglected” “Road connectivity is essential for the development of rural areas. Farmers, students, agricultural labourers, small traders, and other residents depend on roads to travel between villages and access various services. “In this context, the poor condition of the Sarandi main road has become a major concern for people who depend on it daily. Residents believe that repairing the road would significantly reduce their difficulties and improve transportation between Sarandi and neighbouring villages. “They have appealed to officials to pay special attention to rural roads that serve as important connecting routes. According to them, improving road infrastructure would not only make travel easier but also support economic activities and improve the quality of life in rural communities. “Motorists Struggle Due to Poor Road Conditions” “Commuters using the Sarandi road are reportedly facing several difficulties because of its damaged surface. Loose gravel and potholes make it difficult to maintain vehicle balance and increase the risk of accidents. “Regular commuters say that they are compelled to take additional precautions while travelling along the route. The condition of the road has become a daily inconvenience for people who depend on it for their routine activities. “Residents have requested the concerned department to identify the damaged stretches and undertake necessary repairs without further delay. They have also stressed the importance of regular inspections to ensure that the road remains in good condition after the repairs are completed. “Public Safety Must Be Given Priority” “Timely maintenance of roads is essential to ensure public safety and prevent accidents. When roads deteriorate, prompt repairs can help reduce risks and provide safer transportation facilities. “Local residents have urged the concerned authorities to conduct a field inspection of the Sarandi main road, assess the extent

CC Road Works in Venkata Sai Nagar Colony Must Begin Immediately:



FORMER MLA NVSS PRABHAKER— Former MLA speaks to officials over the phone in the presence of colony residents and directs them to expedite the works” “RAMANTHAPUR , OCTOBER 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Uppal MLA NVSS Prabhakar has directed officials to immediately commence the construction of CC roads sanctioned in Venkata Sai Nagar Colony under Ramanthapur Division. In this regard, he spoke over the phone with the Deputy Commissioner of Uppal Circle and the Superintending Engineer in the presence of colony residents, instructing them to take immediate steps to start the works without further delay. “Prabhakar stressed that the sanctioned CC road construction works should not be delayed and that the pace of execution should be accelerated to prevent inconvenience to the public. He also emphasized the need to maintain quality standards in road construction and directed the concerned officials to regularly monitor the works to ensure that they are carried out according to the prescribed standards. “The former MLA stated that road development works in the colony should be completed at the earliest in accordance with the needs of the

residents. He urged the officials to act promptly and ensure that there was no negligence in addressing the issue. “Venkata Sai Nagar Colony President Vijayender Reddy, along with colony committee members and residents, expressed their gratitude to former MLA NVSS Prabhakar for responding to their concerns and directly contacting the concerned officials to ensure the immediate commencement of the CC road works. “Those present included Colony President Vijayender Reddy, BJP Medchal District OBC General Secretary Vallapu Jagan Yadav, senior BJP leaders Maheshwar Reddy and Narasimha Reddy, colony honorary members Ramesh Goud, Gopal Yadav, Sarva Satyaiah Yadav, Shiva Shankar, Sanjeeva and Beerappa. “Colony committee members R. Govind, G. Ashok, C.H. Srinivas Goud, Dr. Vidyasagar, Shivakumar, Ramakrishna, Chalapathi Rao, Shetty Ramesh, Shekhar, Harish, Siddu Goud, Chitkela Srinivas, Pedda Narasimha, Mahesh Goud, Narasimha, Ganesh, Bhanu Chander, Gottike Srisailam, Venkatesh and Chari, along with other colony members, also participated in the programme.

V. Reshmita, a student of StemSpark Resonance, wins first prize at a national-level dance competition.

“V. Reshmita, a student at StemSpark Resonance School in Srinagar Colony and the daughter of V. Ashok Kumar and Sowjanya, participated in the Bharatanatyam category of a competition organized by Sri Shiva Sai Kuchipudi Nritya Kalakshetram, Rajamahendravaram. She captivated the audience with her performance and demonstrated exceptional talent, securing first prize at the national level in both the individual and group categories for Bharatanatyam (Juniors). She was honored by the organizers with gold medals, certificates, and a grand felicitation. “During the congratulatory event, school directors Konda Sridhar Rao and Krishnaveni stated that the institution strives for the holistic development of its students by providing expert training in various arts—aligned with the children’s interests—alongside their academic education. Praising V. Reshmita, who is currently in the fourth grade, they remarked that achieving a first prize at the national level at such a young age is a remarkable feat. They offered their blessings and best wishes, expressing hope that she would go on to achieve even greater success and reach new heights in the future. School Principal K. Suresh, along with the teaching and non-teaching staff, participated in this event and congratulated the winner.



A meeting of BRS leaders was held regarding the registration of voters for the MLC elections.



“Serilingampalli Zone: An urgent meeting of key BRS party leaders took place at Kolan Raghava Reddy Gardens in the Serilingampally constituency. Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao and MLC Shambipur Raju attended the meeting as chief guests. “Also present were the former corporator of the Gachibowli division, Komirishetti Saibaba, and a senior BRS leader from the Nallagandla division, Ragam Harishankar Yadav. “During the meeting, the leaders discussed the registration process for graduate MLC voters. They advised reviewing existing graduate voter lists, identifying eligible graduates, and taking the neces-



sary steps to ensure they register their names on the electoral roll. “As November 6 is the final date for voter registration, they emphasized accelerating the process to ensure all eligible graduates register before the deadline. “The leaders were urged to work in coordination to secure a victory for the BRS candidate in the upcoming MLC elections. Elected representatives and party leaders were called upon to act responsibly and drive forward the election-related activities. “The event was attended by Kishore, Ganesh, and Mahesh, along with several other key BRS party leaders and senior members from the Serilingampally constituency.

Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy participated in the Urs celebrations of Jamale Bahar



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 27):- Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy participated as the chief guest as part of the Urs celebrations at the local Jamale Bahar Dargah in Bhuvanagiri town. A special prayer was held on this occasion. The program was attended by Library Chairman Awais Chisti, Municipal Chairman Vice Chairman Municipal Council members, festival committee members sk Mazar Pasha, Edla Venkat Reddy, Sami Ilyas, Pothunak Pramod Kumar, Barre Jahangir, Tangellapalli Ravi Kumar, Jalil and others.

Baba In First Infrastructure Crystal Venture owner MA Majeed Baba participated in Urs celebrations



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 27):- As part of the Urs celebrations organized at the local Jamale Bahar Dargah in Bhuvanagiri town, prominent business tycoon Baba In First Infrastructure Crystal Venture head MA Majeed Baba participated as the chief guest and participated in the Panka procession program. Speaking on this occasion, he said that he was very happy that the people of Bhuvanagiri are organizing Urs celebrations irrespective of caste and religion. The pro-

gram was attended by Library Organization Chairman Awais Chisti, MD Sami, Ward Councilor Tahara Bablu, MD Sujayat Ali, Kausar, Asif Maison Fahim Sameer Siddique and others.

Over 10,000 Women Participate in Pinkathon Day



“Hyderabad, October 27 (Indian Chronicle) : Over 10,000 women participated in the fourth edition of Pinkathon Day, aimed at promoting women's fitness, health and financial awareness. With Mutual Funds Sahi Hai as the title partner, the event was held across 168 locations in 65 cities in India, Bangladesh and the Netherlands. A 3-km run

was organised in Hyderabad. The participation of a 96-year-old woman along with her family was a special highlight. Association of Mutual Funds in India(AMFI) Chief Executive Venkat N.Chalasani and Pinkathon founder Milind Soman urged women to prioritise financial security alongside physical well-being.

Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan National Program at Genius High School in Bhuvanagiri Town

Bhuvanagiri Chief Junior Civil Judge G. Swathi “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 27):- Bhuvanagiri Chief Junior Civil Judge G. Swathi organized a legal science seminar as part of the Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan National Program at Genius High School in Bhuvanagiri Town. In this program, Judge, Bhuvanagiri Rural C. I. Chandrababu, Legal Assistant Advocate N. Rajasekhar, Bhuvanagiri Town S. I. Anil, Child Line staff, Dasharatha Pathashala students and students were made aware of POCSO Acts, child rights, precautions to be taken against cyber crimes, legal aid eligibility 15100, Child Line 1098. A public speaking competition on law was organized for the students and the judge presented mementos to the



students. School Correspondent Suryanarayana Reddy, Principal Sucharitha, staff, students participated in this program.

Yusuf Pathan gets his ‘gift’: Vadodara civic body clears transfer of 978-sq-m plot



GNS News Agency, Oct 24

The Standing Committee of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) on Friday (October 23) unanimously approved the allotment of a 978-square-metre plot of land to Yusuf Pathan, over which it had served the former India cricketer an encroachment notice two years ago. Congress leaders staged a dharna outside the Standing Committee hall, carrying placards opposing the allotment. But no questions were asked inside. All 12 members of the Standing Committee are elected corporators from the BJP. The Congress, which has only six corporators out of the total 69 in the VMC, has no representation in the Standing Committee. The proposal was “approved unanimously, with no questions raised during the meeting”, sources said. The Indian Express first reported on October 19 that Gujarat’s BJP government had decided to allot the plot to Pathan two months after he rebelled against Mamata Banerjee and broke away from her Trinamool Congress (TMC) along with 19 other West Bengal MPs.

Pathan, who won the Baharampur Lok Sabha seat on a TMC ticket in 2024, and the other MPs have since joined a little-known outfit called the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), and asked the Lok Sabha Speaker to be seated separately from the TMC. The 978-sq-m plot located at Town Planning Scheme 22, Final Plot 90, is adjacent to the Bagh-e-Mehmud bungalow owned by Pathan. Five hundred square metres of the land will be transferred to him as a “gift”, while the remaining 478 sq m will be given at a concessional rate of 55% of the valuation made earlier by the Valuation Committee of the Vadodara Urban Development Authority (VUDA). The proposal cleared by the Standing Committee essentially approves an application that Pathan had submitted back on March 3, 2012, seeking a 99-year lease of the plot without an auction. The Gujarat government had rejected his request in June 2014. The VMC had subsequently alleged that Pathan had fenced and occupied the plot despite the rejection. Pathan had challenged the rejection before the Gujarat High Court, where a single judge had dismissed his plea in August 2025. Pathan had appealed this order, but had withdrawn the appeal on August 31, 2026 – two days after the VMC received a communication from the state government approving the transfer of the plot to Pathan. In June 2024, days after Pathan became a TMC MP, the VMC had served notice on him,

asking him to remove the alleged encroachment on the plot.

With proceedings in court still underway, the Standing Committee, which is the highest executive body of the VMC, had in July this year, began preparations for a public auction of the plot – and approved a valuation of Rs 2.10 lakh per sq m, which put the estimated value of the land at around Rs 20.5 crore. However, this proposal was withdrawn after the General Board, the top legislative and decision-making body of the civic administration, raised questions about the alleged encroachment by Pathan, saying the plot could not be disposed of without the matter being settled. Meanwhile, Pathan and the other TMC MPs had announced on June 14 that they had switched to the NCPI. Mamata Banerjee had lost power in West Bengal on May 4, and Suvendu Adhikari had taken charge as the new BJP Chief Minister of the state on May 9.

On Friday, even before the Standing Committee met, Congress corporators Pushpa Vaghela, Ashish Joshi, city party president Rutvij Joshi and Congress leader Swejal Vyas sat on dharna in the front of Committee hall, holding placards with messages against the BJP and the decision to transfer the plot. The Standing Committee’s decision on Friday came a day after a body known as Vishwamitri Bachao Samiti submitted a memorandum to the VMC commissioner, urging the civic body to withdraw the proposal. The proposed transfer raised questions of equality, limitation, and the treatment of public land, the Samiti argued. Advocate Shailesh Amin, representing the Samiti, pointed out that Pathan had represented India in the 2007 and 2011 ODI World Cups, yet the state government had, in 2014, rejected his proposal. “The present proposal risks treating Pathan differently from other international cricketers and sports persons who would not be able to seek similar treatment because the government has stipulated that the decision cannot be cited as a precedent.

Our question is that Vadodara has many cricketers who have played international cricket... We have four Arjuna Awardees in Vadodara. Why has no one else been given such a gift? Will the government consider gifting a plot to Yastika Bhatia [who plays for the Indian women’s cricket team in all three formats] and [all-rounder] Hardik Pandya too?” Amin said. The government’s proposal specifically states that the decision to “gift” Pathan the land should not be treated as a precedent. Standing Committee chairman Varsha Vyas told reporters on Friday that the proposal had been cleared “based on the resolution of the state government on which the Municipal Commissioner had sent the proposal”. “The allotment is being considered under the Urban/Area Development Authorities (Disposal of Land and Other Properties) Regulations, 2002, which govern the disposal of land and other properties by urban development authorities. Regulation 3(1) permits disposal through sale... or the grant of development rights. Pathan has brought great pride to India due to his sport and so the government has decided to allot him the land, we have only taken the government approval into consideration and accepted the proposal put forth by the VMC commissioner,” Vyas said.

Over 100 detained in Delhi during protest against election panel chief



GNS News Agency, Oct 24

Delhi Police on Friday detained more than 100 protesters during a march in Central Delhi against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The call for the march was given on Thursday by the Delhi Coordination Committee of People Against SIR, a civil society collective. CPI(M) leaders Brinda Karat, CPI’s P Sandosh and members of the All India Democratic Women’s Association (AIDWA) and the All India Democratic Students’ Organisation

(AIDSO) also joined. Around 2 pm, around 300 people gathered near Gole Dak Khana, at the intersection of Kalibari Marg and Bhai Vir Singh Marg, with participants carrying the national flag and banners demanding an end to the electoral roll revision exercise.

The group started marching towards Gurdwara Bangla Sahib. More than 1000 police and personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces were deployed around the area, with heavy barricading at the ECI office and the Jantar Mantar protest site. Unable to go towards ECI, most of them gathered around the roundabout near Bangla Sahib and started a sit-in protest dubbed a ‘people’s Parliament’. By 3 pm, security forces started detaining people. Within an hour, at least three buses were filled with detainees and taken to multiple detention centres. The ‘People against SIR’ announced on its website that 145 organisations will organise more protests in 88 cities across the country in the coming days. This was the first major protest call after October 16, when Cockroach Janta Party’s Abhijeet Dipke had announced a ‘Tiranga Lehra do’ protest at Connaught Place’s Central Park. By the end of that protest, more than 100 people were detained, including All India Students’ Association (AISA) president Neha Bora.

Why Aaditya Thackeray wants Amazon’s AI data centre paused

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray Member of Legislative Assembly Aaditya Thackeray urges Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to halt proposed Amazon data centre in Thane pending expert panel report. Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray urges Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to halt proposed Amazon data centre in Thane pending expert panel report. Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray has urged Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to keep the proposed Amazon data centre in Thane’s Balkum-Majiwada area on hold until a state-appointed expert committee submits its report on the impact of data centre projects. In a letter to Fadnavis dated October 22, Thackeray also sought the inclusion of representatives of grassroots local organisations in the 17-member committee, headed by former Atomic Energy Commission chairman Dr Anil Kakodkar. He said the committee’s findings would provide an objective assessment of the project’s possible impact on Thane and its residents. “Thane and Uran residents won’t have water supply on particular days, but the regime will keep supporting the builders and vested interests, and not stop the work on projects like the AI Data Centre that are detrimental to the city. I demand that data centre to put on hold considering the current scenario and until the time the committee submits report,” he said. The committee must submit its final report within three months of the government resolution constituting it. It will examine the impact of data centres on water and electricity supply, the environment, heat emissions, noise pollution and residents’ daily lives, and recommend measures for sustainable data centre development, including energy efficiency, water conservation and alternative cooling technologies. In his letter, Thackeray asked the government to clarify its policy for data centres and AI data centres, the criteria for approving such projects, and the arrangements for their water and electricity use. He also sought details of safeguards for the

environment and residents, the role of local self-government bodies, and provisions for citizen participation and transparency in approvals. He flagged the potential impact of emissions from diesel generators, noise and heat released by the facility. In a social media post, he questioned why the facility was planned in a residential area and could not be shifted to an industrial one, alleging that residents’ concerns had not been adequately addressed. Residents of Balkum, Majiwada and nearby areas have opposed the proposed Amazon Web Services facility over its electricity and water use, backup generators and environmental impact. Amazon has said the facility will use closed-loop cooling and will not draw on the local potable water supply for cooling. It has also said the facility will get electricity through a dedicated high-voltage connection rather than the local network serving homes and businesses. Get the latest Mumbai news today here. From breaking stories and local headlines to developments across Maharashtra, this is your place to catch up on what’s happening in the city and beyond. Read today’s Mumbai news headlines on politics, crime, civic issues, transport, education, weather and real estate. Follow BMC decisions, local train and Metro updates, road projects and changes affecting your daily commute. Keep track of rainfall, public health concerns, school and college developments, and housing projects across Mumbai’s neighbourhoods. Beyond the headlines, explore reports, explainers and investigations that put the city’s important issues in context. From decisions at the Maharashtra government to developments in local communities, discover the stories shaping life in Mumbai and what they mean for its residents. Whether you’re checking the day’s news or following an ongoing story, browse the latest updates alongside coverage of the city’s culture, festivals and everyday life. Bookmark this page to return to Mumbai news and important Maharashtra developments from

Mumbai’s first bridge to Navi Mumbai is rusting, and nobody wants to own it



Drive out of Mumbai towards Navi Mumbai, over the Thane Creek, and you could miss it. The road is aligned to skirt past the old bridge, which is boarded up. It runs right alongside the new one you’re driving on. Glance out of your window and you’ll see it. Rusting weeds along its sides, the road signs washed out, a few cabins and some garbage the only signs of a past life. Now and then a local slips in to fish in the creek. This is Thane Creek Bridge-1, which opened in 1973 as the only road link over the creek, connecting Mankhurd on Mumbai’s eastern edge to Vashi, the entry into Navi Mumbai, the planned city then being built across the creek to ease the pressure on Mumbai. Since then, it has been overshadowed by two newer bridges beside it, and is now caught in a custody battle between three agencies, none of which wants it.

The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), which built the newest bridge in the narrow gap beside it, has no use for it and wants to hand it off. The Public Works Department (PWD), its original owner, closed its chapter on the Thane Creek bridges years ago and dissolved the department that looked after them. A government order from November 2025 directs that the bridge go to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC). The NMMC says it does not fall in its jurisdiction.

The bridge to nowhere TCB-1 began as an idea in 1959, when the S G Barve-headed Study Group for Greater Bombay suggested a rail-cum-road bridge over the Thane Creek. It would open up land across the creek for a township and industry. Mumbai is an island city, and until the bridge was built, road traffic to the mainland had to loop north through Thane. The idea returned in the 1960s, when the architect Charles Correa, the structural engineer Shirish Patel and the architect Pravina Mehta drew up the plan for a new city across the harbour, which became Navi Mumbai. The bridge itself was apparently proposed by Adi Kanga, a civil engineer who, according to the Parsi archival website Parsi Khabar, was general manager of CIDCO, the agency set up to build the new city, and is counted among Navi Mumbai’s early planners.

“For some years while the land procurement delays brought the project to a standstill, people called it ‘The Bridge to No Where,’” notes a tribute to Kanga by Rusi Sorabji on the website. The two-lane, 1.8-km bridge opened in 1973. Within a few years, the salty creek water had acted on the structure and the bridge needed major repairs. Reports say it was shut soon after, and later repaired.

With Navi Mumbai on track, a second bridge was needed. Determined not to repeat the mistakes of the first, the PWD’s consultants, STUP, took extra care. “In view of the highly aggressive and polluted marine environment, a number of precautions have been taken for enhancing the durability,” they noted in documentation preserved by the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering from its 1992 conference. These included a four-stage anticorrosive treatment for reinforcing bars, protective coatings and better drainage. The six-lane TCB-2 opened in 1997 and took over as the main crossing. TCB-1, with its structural defects, was kept on as a backup, opened now and then to light vehicles and two-wheelers until the 2010s, when needed or while the newer bridge was under maintenance. Within ten years, even the newer bridge proved too small. In 2012, approvals came through for a third bridge over the creek. In 2020, TCB-1 found a new purpose. The state road corporation, MSRDC, had begun building the third bridge, TCB-3, as a pair of three-lane carriageways, one on each side of TCB-2. The carriageway nearest the old bridge had to be squeezed into a 22-metre gap, and the old bridge, shut to traffic, became a platform for the work. The creek was shallow, the tides unpredictable, and engineers had to avoid damaging the bridges on either side, which made it hard to move heavy machinery. At night, one lane of TCB-2 was shut to help the work along. “The MSRDC was handed over TCB-1 and TCB-2 during the construction of the TCB-3, to aid in construction and access. As the old bridge was shut to traffic, we wanted to use it to help us during construction, possibly station some guards, park equipment and machines on it in the thick of construction,” said an MSRDC official. “But the old bridge was in a terrible condition.” Before using it, the MSRDC had the bridge surveyed, including an underwater inspection of its pillars. The findings, cross-checked by engineers at Mumbai’s Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), were clear: the bridge was unsafe. Its foundations were weak, and so were the steel cables inside the concrete that hold a bridge

of this kind together. Even to put watch cabins and site offices on it, the MSRDC had to reinforce it by running new steel cables along the outside of the structure and tightening them. The cabins still standing on the bridge date from that time.

A government order, and no takers TCB-3 opened in 2025, taking the crossing to 12 lanes. The MSRDC considered its job done. On November 3, 2025, its managing director Anilkumar Gaikwad wrote to Milind Mhaikar, additional chief secretary of the state Public Works Department (PWD), which owned the first two bridges, asking the department to take over all three. “Since the ownership of the TCB 1 and 2 rests with the PWD, it is proposed to transfer the bridges to the PWD for daily maintenance and repair,” the letter said. It asked the PWD to take TCB-3 too, even as the MSRDC continues to collect toll on it. But the PWD had moved on. “By the time construction on the TCB-3 began, the custody of the TCB-1 and TCB-2 had been with MSRDC for a while. The TCB division, earlier stationed at Konkan Bhavan, was almost as good as defunct, with no work for it,” a PWD engineer said, referring to the department’s office at the government complex in Navi Mumbai. The division was dissolved in 2021 and its staff moved elsewhere.

Within days of the MSRDC’s letter, on November 20, 2025, the PWD issued a government order transferring a list of roads, flyovers and bridges from the MSRDC to the municipal corporations in whose areas they fall. The order, which carried the chief minister’s approval, cited public complaints about the condition and maintenance of these structures. TCB-1 and TCB-2 were to go to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC). Almost a year on, the handover has not happened. The MSRDC has appointed a private consortium to maintain TCB-2. Nobody maintains TCB-1. With the government order in, what is left for a handover is a joint inspection by both authorities, transfer of documents on the structures, and an agreement on what maintenance is to be done and which authority will foot the bill for it,” said a PWD chief engineer who has tracked the process, referring to the MSRDC and the NMMC. “The MSRDC has written to the NMMC for the handover, but it is yet to happen.”

Whose bridge is it?

The NMMC’s objection is about geography. The November 20 order that transferred the bridges to it also handed it three other structures, at Nerul, Vashi and CBD Belapur, all within Navi Mumbai’s limits. The corporation is accepting those three, even at a repair cost of Rs 75 crore. The Thane Creek bridges, it says, are different. Part of the Sion-Panvel Highway, a state highway, they begin in Vashi but end in Mankhurd, into the territory of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), and that, the NMMC argues, puts them outside its jurisdiction. “The bridges over the Thane Creek have one end in Vashi and one end in Mankhurd. But that doesn’t put it in the jurisdiction of the NMMC,” a senior NMMC official said. “The NMMC is ready and in the process to accept and take over the other bridges mentioned in the order, one at Nerul, Vashi and CBD, even as those come with a repair cost of Rs 75 crore, pending an approval from our general body. But as the TCBs don’t come in the NMMC jurisdiction, there is no cause for us to take over, do an inspection for it, or ponder what to do with it. After all, the MSRDC continues to collect the toll and has given away the advertising rights from the bridges.” The corporation has said as much to the MSRDC in writing. Beneath the dispute is a bigger question, officials said: who should own and maintain infrastructure that sits across jurisdictions? The MSRDC keeps the toll and the advertising revenue from the Thane Creek bridges. How, the NMMC asks, can a city body then be handed the bill for their upkeep? The contrast is next door. Atal Setu, the 22-km sea bridge that also crosses the creek, was built by the state’s Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority and stays with it.

What happens to it now?

Nobody has an answer. One idea is to repair it and reopen it to traffic. Another is to use it for the proposed Metro corridor between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. Engineers are not hopeful about either. “Repurposing the bridge for a Metro would not be possible. Nor would repairing or strengthening the bridge to handle light traffic make sense, as that would cost almost or just as much as building a new bridge,” said a retired engineer who worked with the MSRDC and other government agencies. “Bridge 1 is not in such a bad condition that it would collapse, and it also carries a pipeline across the creek. In its present state, it is not doing any harm.” The MSRDC official agreed. “Only the government or the authority that takes over the old bridge will be able to decide its fate,” he said. “But it is highly unlikely that it will be possible to salvage it for some other use, as the bridge is in too bad of a condition. If anything, it will be dismantled – but that order can only be given by the government. Perhaps the government could even want it dismantled to clear off space to build another bridge, as the corridor sees 1 lakh vehicles use it every day, and the bottlenecks add to the traffic. But till then, it is causing no harm; an extra set of pillars along with the rest.”

Why did Lawrence Bishnoi gang shoot at Tiger Shroff? What police told the court

The attack on Tiger Shroff was carried out by the Bishnoi gang for financial gain, to establish dominance and to create terror, according to the Mumbai Police’s remand application seeking custody of three accused. The motive in the application, made available on Friday, is the same as that cited in police chargesheets in the Salman Khan firing case, the Baba Siddique murder case and the Rohit Shetty firing case. In a screenshot shared on social media and an audio clip, a person claiming to be Anil Pandit said Tiger was attacked because he was close to Salman Khan and had ignored the gang’s warning. The gang has sought to link its earlier attacks, including the Siddique murder and the Shetty firing, to Salman Khan too. In those chargesheets, police said the motive was to create fear and terror to facilitate extortion. The remand application places the attack on Tiger in the same category.

Seeking the remand of Jatin Panchal, Samir Khatri and Ankit Khatak on Friday, police said they had earlier conducted recce of the residences of other influential people in the city and needed to be questioned further. The application also stated that the accused had planned to flee abroad after the attack. The trio, arrested from Haryana’s Sonapat, were produced before an Esplanade court, where police sought their custody till October 31 to investigate their alleged roles, their links with Pandit and the procurement of the firearm. Police told the court that two of the accused were in contact with Pandit, a wanted accused.

Opposing the plea, advocate Ajinkya Mirgal argued that police had already recovered evidence from the hotel



room where the accused allegedly practised firing. “As they have established that arrested accused are in touch with the wanted accused, their electronic devices can be seized. Custody is not required,” he told the court. Police said they needed to investigate an alleged misfire inside the hotel room during a firing practice session. “During their stay in the hotel, there was an incident of misfire. We want to investigate this further,” the police told the court. “We want to examine all of them, hence custody is needed,” the police said. The court remanded the three in police custody till October 28. Mohamed Thaver is a highly specialized journalist with the Expertise and Authority required to report on complex law enforcement and legal issues. With a career dedicated to the crime beat for over a decade, his work provides readers with informed and trustworthy insights into Maharashtra’s security and justice systems.

Karnataka sanctions prosecution of IAS officer Gyanendra Gangwar



GNS News Agency, Oct 27

The Karnataka government Saturday sanctioned the prosecution of jailed senior IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar for his alleged involvement in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment paper leak case. Gangwar, a 2016-batch IAS officer currently in judicial custody, served as KPSC controller of examinations from January 2024 to March 2026. He is accused of leaking the question paper for the competitive examination held on January 8 and 9 to recruit veterinary officers.

Emphasising the state's zero-tolerance stance on corruption, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said, "Our government will not tolerate corruption or shield the guilty!"

Prosecution sanction has been granted against IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar in connection with the corruption case linked to the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment scam. "Our government will not tolerate any wrongdoing that jeopardises the future of our youth or undermines their faith in a fair and transparent recruitment process. Every aspirant deserves a fair opportunity based on merit and hard work. We are committed to ensuring transparency, integrity and accountability in public recruitment and governance, and to upholding the rule of law without fear or favour."

Bribes and ED-CID probe The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) formally requested sanctions for prosecution, while the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is probing the money-laundering aspect of the scam. Investigative findings by the CID and ED revealed that Gangwar allegedly received Rs 1.30 crore out of Rs 1.52 crore collected from candidates in exchange for leaking the question paper. Interrogations of middleman Basavaraj Kannale, a close associate of Gangwar, disclosed that around 20 candidates paid between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 40 lakh each to secure the leaked exam paper. The prosecution sanction was issued under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which mandates official state sanction when public officers are directly implicated in criminal offences.

KTR targets Rahul Gandhi over silence on Telangana corruption

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for his silence on corruption, irregularities and scams in Telangana. He accused the Congress MP of treating the State as an "ATM" for the party. While the BJP government at the Centre was sowing divisions among people, the Congress government in Telangana was busy plundering them, Rama Rao charged. On Sunday, Jibrán Sharif, a senior minority leader from the Khairatabad constituency, joined the BRS at Telangana Bhavan.

Addressing the gathering, Rama Rao said that Telangana had effectively become an "ATM" for Rahul Gandhi under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's administration. He described the Chief Minister as the Congress MP's "ATM card." Referring to the Congress party's electoral promises, Rama Rao recalled that Rahul Gandhi had assured the people that the party would implement six guarantees within 100 days of coming to power in Telangana.

Rama Rao questioned why Rahul Gandhi, who travels across the country speaking about initiatives such as 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' (Voice of Students), lacked the courage to visit Telangana. "Rahul Gandhi has a responsibility to answer for the promises made to the people of Telangana," he demanded. He also criticised Rahul Gandhi for failing to address the concerns of unemployed youth. Rama Rao recalled that Gandhi had made major promises to them while sitting at a tea stall in Ashok Nagar ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. Rama Rao stressed that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises to minority communities under the special 'Minority Declaration'. He questioned what had happened to the promise of allocating Rs. 4,000 crore for minority welfare. The BRS working president also raised allegations of corruption against



the Revanth Reddy government. He alleged that a five-acre plot worth nearly Rs. 200 crore had effectively been gifted to the Chief Minister's younger brother for just Rs. 7 crore. He also questioned the educational qualifications of the Chief Minister's younger brother and his business activities in the aerospace sector. Rama Rao further demanded that the Congress government disclose details of an alleged Rs. 1,000 crore deal linked to another of the Chief Minister's brothers, who resides in the United States. Rama Rao said public dissatisfaction with the Congress government was growing. He said people were watching the government's treatment of the poor, farmers and unemployed youth, as well as its handling of BRS leaders and party workers. "The BRS will not spare those who oppress the public or those who engage in wrongdoing by leveraging their power. The party will continue to pursue legal action against officials who abuse their authority," Rama Rao warned. He expressed confidence that the BRS would return to power within the next year and a half. He assured people that a BRS government would work to restore Telangana's position as the number one State in the country.

Revanth Reddy faces uphill task in securing Maharashtra's nod for Tummidihatti barrage



GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Hyderabad: After accusing Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of denying him an appointment to discuss the Tummidihatti barrage issue, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is finally set to meet his Maharashtra counterpart in Mumbai on Monday to resolve the long-pending dispute. Much is at stake for the Congress government, which has maintained that constructing the Tummidihatti barrage is the most viable solution to secure water beyond Kaleshwaram. However, three years have passed, and the government has yet to convince

Maharashtra to approve the project.

Accompanied by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Revanth Reddy left for Mumbai on Sunday. However, doubts remain over whether he can convince Maharashtra to agree to the proposed height of the barrage, particularly with the El Nino crisis looming. Telangana has been urging Maharashtra to approve the construction of the Tummidihatti barrage across the River Pranahita, a tributary of the River Godavari, at a height of 152 metres. However, Maharashtra has expressed concern over the submergence of villages if the barrage is built at that height. Telangana maintains that the project would not submerge any villages in Maharashtra. It has stated that a Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 152 metres would result in the submergence of only 2,300 acres, while the affected area would be less than 1,000 acres at an FRL of 150 metres. At a meeting with officials on Friday, Revanth Reddy pointed out that Maharashtra had previously agreed to an FRL of 148 metres. He also stressed that constructing the barrage at such a low height would prevent Telangana from drawing or diverting the expected quantity of water. Revanth Reddy will now have to convince his Maharashtra counterpart to approve construction at an FRL of 152 metres. He is expected to present technical reports, details of water availability and estimates of the extent of submergence to support Telangana's case.

Judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar transferred to Muzaffarnagar family court

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh): Additional District and Sessions Judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar, who awarded 23 death sentences in six months, has been transferred to the family court in Muzaffarnagar following an order of the Allahabad High Court, officials said on Sunday. Diwakar, who was presiding over a fast-track court, has been appointed Additional Principal Judge of the family court.

According to the High Court order, Shiv Kumari will take over as the Additional District and Sessions Judge of the fast-track court. Diwakar awarded 23 death sentences in 11 cases between April and September this year.

Recently, he questioned the withdrawal of 97 part-heard cases involving murder and other serious offences from his court through administrative orders issued in August by the then District and Sessions Judge, B.K. Singh. In a 35-page judgment acquitting an accused in a nearly 10-year-old case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Diwakar questioned whether cases in which hearings had commenced could be with-



drawn through administrative orders without following the procedure prescribed by law. He also raised concerns about judicial independence and the limits of the administrative powers exercised by district judges.

Raj Thackeray deletes Modi-Adani documentary after Mumbai Police request



GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Mumbai: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Sunday said he had deleted a documentary about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani from his social media accounts following a "request" from the Mumbai Police Commissioner. Thackeray's statement comes days after Mumbai Police issued legal notices to 24 X (formerly Twitter) account holders for sharing a controversial documentary posted by tech entrepreneur and Hotmail founder Sabir Bhatia. Reacting to the development, MNS leaders questioned whether the police were under pressure to make such a request. Thackeray claimed that the documentary, made by Bhatia, had garnered more than 48 lakh views on X after being posted to inform the public. The MNS chief said he had been raising concerns about the close ties between Adani and Prime Minister Modi since January 2026, ahead of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections.

"The Mumbai and Maharashtra Police are the most efficient police force in the country, and I have always had respect for them in my heart. I am just honouring the request made by the head of such a Mumbai Police," he said in a post on X. Thackeray said the documentary provided

information about the history of the relationship between Adani and Modi. He noted that Bhatia had produced the documentary recently, but he himself had made a detailed presentation at his residence, Shivteerth, in January 2026. According to Thackeray, the presentation illustrated how the Adani Group was seeking to take control of the country. He said the presentation had received an exceptional response and that videos of it remained available on his social media accounts. Some clips, he added, had been incorporated into the documentary. Meanwhile, MNS leaders expressed surprise at the documentary's removal. It had been screened at one of the party's shakhas, or local branches, on Saturday. MNS leader Sandeep Deshpande questioned why the Mumbai Police had asked Thackeray to remove the documentary. "What pressure did Mumbai Police have? Is this the job of the Mumbai Police? They don't have time (to find out) how Bishnoi gang goons come to the city, but they have time to see who posted what video," Deshpande said. The Bishnoi gang has been linked to attacks on several high-profile personalities. The specific reference to actor Tiger Shroff in the original report should be independently verified before publication. On October 18, Mumbai Police issued legal notices to 24 X account holders who had shared the documentary posted by Bhatia. According to the notices, the documentary allegedly contained false, misleading and disparaging statements and allegations against the company, circulated without any factual or lawful basis and causing continuing harm to its reputation, goodwill and public image. In a separate post, Thackeray alleged that the Centre had directed the Maharashtra government to hand over several hundred hectares of forest land in Bhimashankar to Gujarat-based Torrent Group. He further alleged that the government had transferred large tracts of forest and wilderness land in Maharashtra to a select group of industrialists and planned to hand over more. An MNS functionary said Thackeray would address a rally in Karjat on October 28 on the issue.

RSS holds route marches across Bengaluru amid tight security

Bengaluru: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) held route marches at several locations across Bengaluru on Sunday as part of its centenary celebrations and Vijayadashami observances. BJP leaders R. Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy participated in the events. Route marches were also organised in several other districts of Karnataka, although some were cancelled or postponed over permission-related issues. RSS sources said the marches were held at several locations across Bengaluru, including Jayanagar and Chamaraipet, amid tight police security to prevent untoward incidents and maintain law and order. Children, young people and senior members participated in the marches.

In Chamaraipet, the march passed through several areas before concluding in front of Siddharoodha Ashram. Volunteers walked to the beat of drums and paid their respects to "Mother India". Former Bengaluru Police Commissioner and BJP leader Bhaskar Rao also participated in the event. Police made elaborate security arrangements at the venues to prevent untoward incidents and traffic congestion. The route march scheduled in Tumakuru was postponed in view of the graduates' constituency election. In Mulbagal in Kolar district, the event was rescheduled for October 31, while the march in Chikkaballapur was deferred after the Deputy Commissioner withdrew permission. The route march in Koppal was also reported to have been postponed, while conditional permission was granted for events in Ramanagara and Kalaburagi. In Kalaburagi, organisers



were directed to follow the prescribed route and refrain from making provocative speeches. The RSS also planned to hold a route march in Hubballi, followed by a public meeting, sources said. The events took place amid a political debate over the permissions required for RSS route marches. Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge has maintained that the organisation must obtain permission from the authorities rather than merely inform the police. Kharge has also criticised RSS route marches in which participants carry sticks and questioned the organisation's practices. He has further asked RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat why the organisation has not been registered despite having existed for a century, and what its sources of revenue are for conducting large-scale events.

Telangana CID registers three cases over alleged Sanna Rakam paddy diversion



GNS News Agency, Oct 27 Hyderabad: The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) has registered three criminal cases into alleged diversion of Sanna Rakam paddy and substitution with cheaper coarse rice meant for deliv-

ery to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the Kharif 2025-26 season. Fourteen rice millers have been arrested.

According to officials, certain millers allegedly diverted the fine-quality Sanna Rakam paddy allotted to them to the open market and supplied cheaper Doddu Rakam rice instead. Some of the coarse rice was allegedly sourced from outside Telangana, raising concerns over the quality and authenticity of supplies made under the Custom Milled Rice (CMR) agreement. In Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Mulugu districts, 16 rice mills allegedly delivered 3,385.820 metric tonnes of Doddu Rakam rice against Sanna Rakam allotments. The estimated loss to the government through bonus payments was Rs. 1.69 crore. The CID registered the cases following a complaint by the Civil Supplies Corporation's General Manager (Procurement) on October 24. The probe is covering the alleged diversion, the role of millers and officials, possible conspiracy and the actual financial loss to the government.

Farooq Abdullah's Kashmir comments trigger fresh criticism

New Delhi: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah faced criticism from Muslim clerics on Sunday over his controversial remarks on Kashmir, drawing further criticism from the BJP. The veteran National Conference (NC) leader triggered a political row on Saturday with remarks at a rally in Baramulla district of the Kashmir Valley that were interpreted as favouring Pakistan. Abdullah questioned the Centre's silence on Kashmir and reportedly claimed that the neighbouring country was helping protect the region. All India Imam Association (AIIA) president Maulana Sajid Rashidi condemned Abdullah's remarks, describing them as deplorable and alleging that they amounted to treason. "I state clearly that this statement by Farooq Abdullah falls under treason. This man is a traitor, a treasonous person. Because he has spoken about Pakistan, a Pakistan that, from the beginning until now, has continuously carried out terrorist attacks in India," Rashidi told IANS. Rashidi also criticised Pakistan, recalling the Pahalgam attack in which more than two dozen people were killed, and referring to previous attacks. "Before that, there was Pulwama; before that, count how many attacks were carried out against us, including the Kargil War. Under the guise of Jihad, Pakistan has always engaged in terrorism against India," he said. Abdullah, who heads the ruling NC, had reportedly said that the Centre's intentions towards



Kashmiris were not right and credited Pakistan's diplomatic efforts with helping their voices reach a global audience. Reacting to the remarks, Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali and Maulana Saif Abbas also expressed strong displeasure. Both clerics said it was inappropriate for the NC leader to rely on another country for Jammu and Kashmir's security. Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali demanded a detailed explanation and an apology from Abdullah, describing his comments as unacceptable, objectionable and condemnable.

Vietnam People's Army's delegation of 10 Young Officers visit defence establishments in India



GNS News Agency, Oct 27

New Delhi: A delegation of 10 Young Officers from the Vietnam People's Army visited India under the Young Officers Exchange Programme, reaffirming the "enduring friendship and growing defence cooperation" between the two nations. During their visit to India, the Young Officers from the Vietnam People's Army visited defence establishments and places of cultural significance in Pune, Ahilyanagar and Deolali. In a statement shared on X, the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information stated, "A delegation of 10 Young Officers from the Vietnam People's Army visited India from 17 to 23 October 2026 under the Young Officers Exchange Programme. The delegation visited defence establishments and places of cultural significance in Pune, Ahilyanagar and Deolali, fostering professional exchanges, mutual understanding and camaraderie. The visit reaffirmed the enduring friendship and growing defence cooperation between India and Vietnam."

Last month, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth held a meeting with Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army Lieutenant General Le Van Huong and discussed measures to deepen defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement. "Strengthening India-

Vietnam Friendship. Lieutenant General Le Van Huong, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army, during his official visit to India, paid solemn tributes to India's bravehearts at the National War Memorial in New Delhi, followed by a Ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information posted on X. "The General, then was warmly received by COAS General Dhiraj Seth. Measures to deepen defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement were discussed by the military leaders, reaffirming the shared commitment of both armies to regional stability and peace," it added. Earlier in August, India and Vietnam held high-level defence talks and reaffirmed their shared commitment to enhance defence cooperation under the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries. The two sides exchanged views on regional and international security issues of shared concern. The discussion took place between Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and General Nguyen Tan Cuong, Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army and Deputy Minister of National Defence. "In the framework of the ongoing official visit to Vietnam, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, paid a courtesy call on General Nguyen Tan Cuong, Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army and Deputy Minister of National Defence. The two sides reviewed the positive developments in Vietnam-India defence cooperation, particularly emphasising the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries' Air Forces, capacity building, and promoting professional exchange activities," the Indian Embassy in Vietnam posted on X. "They also exchanged views on regional and international security issues of mutual concern. The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of Vietnam and India to continue further deepening defence cooperation within the framework of the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries," it added.

Iran's supreme leader meets judiciary chief, urges compensation for US-Israeli 'crimes'

Tehran: Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has stressed the need for "serious" efforts to pursue the Iranian people's rights and ensure the payment of compensation for the damages inflicted on the country during the US-Israeli attacks. The issues were highlighted in a meeting between the supreme leader and the country's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, according to a statement published on the leader's website on Saturday. Among the issues underlined during the meeting were promoting justice, safeguarding public rights, fighting corruption and its root causes effectively, handling judicial cases promptly, precisely and decisively, enforcing judicial rulings in a timely and deterrent manner, and bringing about a "comprehensive and tangible" transformation in the country's judicial apparatus.

The other matters included the necessity to draw up plans and make efforts to decisively fight crimes as well as to seriously pursue the restoration of the Iranian people's rights and compensation for the material and non-material damages resulting from the "crimes perpetrated by the US-Israeli criminals," reports Xinhua news agency.

On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region, and tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump on Friday raised the prospect of renewed military strikes against Iran, claiming that the United States could seize all of the country's oil or even take over the entire country. "Iran is not able to do much now. And we could,



if we wanted to, just take all of the oil," Trump told reporters as he left the White House for a rally in Florida. "We could take the whole country." Asked about US Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz saying the conflict with Iran could drag on for another year, Trump said: "We could end it very quickly ... The question is, 'Do we want to finish it off or do we just want to let it wither?'" Later at the Florida rally, Trump suggested another military operation against Iran was possible. "We may do another little Epic Fury," he told attendees, referring to the large-scale US military operation against Iran launched on February 28 alongside a coordinated Israeli offensive. Trump's latest remarks came amid reports that the US and Israeli militaries have drawn up plans for renewed strikes against Iran after the US midterm elections. However, whether Trump will ultimately authorise another military operation remains uncertain, according to US media reports.

Zelensky says Ukraine ready to freeze front lines but rejects territorial concessions



GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine was prepared to freeze combat operations along the existing frontlines to bring a swift end to the conflict, while firmly rejecting territorial concessions. In an interview with ABC News, Zelensky expressed willingness to reach a ceasefire deal but rejected proposals to give up 25 per cent of Ukrainian territory. Zelensky also expressed regret over the recent decline in US military assistance, saying Ukraine had received only 24 interceptor missiles for its Patriot air defence systems from the United States over the past three months, far below its average monthly requirement of 350.

He underscored the urgency of the situation, saying 30 ballistic missiles struck Kyiv on Thursday night alone. Meanwhile, US media have reported increased pressure from Washington on Zelensky to make concessions to secure a peace agreement, with US President Donald Trump repeatedly blaming Kyiv for the lack of progress in US-brokered talks. Trilateral talks between Russia, Ukraine and the United States are scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, in the first half of November, with a focus on security arrangements for Russia and Ukraine following a peace settlement, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday. Additionally, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported that Zelensky said Ukraine is ready to hold a trilateral meeting with the United States and Russia next month in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. The timing of the meeting at the negotiating-team level depends on the Russian side, but at the moment it is planned for the first half of November, Zelensky said in an online address to the Hudson Institute, a US think tank. European representatives must also participate, he said. Zelensky also stressed the need to hold the trilateral talks at the leaders' level, saying it is necessary to move from technical-level negotiations to a meeting of leaders, as key issues can only be resolved at the highest level.

At least 12 injured in shooting near football stadium in Florida

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Tallahassee: At least 12 people were injured, including six children, in a shooting near a football stadium in Tallahassee on homecoming weekend for Florida A&M University, authorities said. Tallahassee Police Chief Lawrence Revell told reporters on Saturday that no arrests had been made.

In a statement, police said the preliminary investigation indicates that a fight broke out prior to the shooting. It followed a football game in a crowded area. Eleven of the victims sustained gunshot wounds, and at least three victims sustained serious injuries, according to police. The university said on social media that the shooting happened near its campus and that it remained safe.



Protests sweep Italian cities, clashes reported



Rome: Protests over rising living costs, military expansion and increased arms spending swept across several Italian cities, with clashes between demonstrators and police reported in multiple locations, according to Italian media. In Bologna, clashes broke out between some demonstrators and police on Saturday evening, the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera reported.

Emergency medical services received 17 calls for assistance, and six people were taken to hospital by ambulance.

Obama tears into Trump over Iran war, tariffs and 'grifter' presidency at Ohio rally

GNS News Agency, Oct 27 Washington: Former US President Barack Obama launched a sweeping attack on President Donald Trump at a rally in Cleveland, Ohio, blaming his administration's war with Iran, tariffs and immigration crackdown for rising costs and calling the November 3 midterm elections "the circuit breaker in the system". Obama spoke on Saturday at the Cleveland Public Auditorium in support of Democrat Amy Acton, who is running for Ohio governor, and former Senator Sherrod Brown, the Democratic candidate for the US Senate. Brown introduced him.

"This administration's actions are directly responsible for rising costs," Obama said, adding that the President "decided to start an unnecessary war that nobody asked for and nobody voted for." Turning to the Iran war, Obama said, "Iran didn't have nuclear weapons because I put a deal in place that everybody acknowledged, kept them from getting nukes, and I didn't have to fire a missile to do it. I just had to engage in diplomacy."

Seven months on, he said, "Our allies and our bases have been attacked, Americans have been killed, hundreds of Americans have been wounded, we have run down our stock of missiles and Iran now has veto power over the Strait of Hormuz where oil goes through to the world market." "This is the reason why the price of oil is up," he said. "This is the reason the price of diesel is up." The Strait of Hormuz is also a key route for crude oil shipments to Asian importers, including India. On trade, Obama said Trump "loves tariffs" and had been warned that "consumers pay the tab". "In fact tariffs helped contribute to rising prices," he said. "And the big trade war he's starting now is with that well-known evil empire, Canada," he said to laughter. "These are the people who gave us maple syrup and Martin Short." On immigration, Obama said he believed the border must be "orderly and secure, and that people who want to come here do so lawfully". He recalled being criticised by Democratic allies

for tightening enforcement when he was President. "But I don't recall anybody campaigning on sending masked agents running through our streets," he said. "I don't recall anybody talking about law-abiding citizens being arrested, detained, or shot." He mocked Trump's White House renovations. "He should be on HGTV. The guy's building a ballroom that's bigger than the White House," Obama said, adding, "there's gold everywhere." Obama accused Trump of using the office for personal gain, citing a pardon granted to a Venezuelan billionaire. "We have never seen a President it's just straight-up grifter on your dime," he said. "From meme coins to taxpayer funded contracts for his kids' companies." "Not a single Republican in Congress has done anything to stop him," he said, naming Ohio Senator Jon Husted, Brown's Republican opponent. "This election is our last best chance to at least rein in some of the foolishness of this administration. It's the circuit breaker in the system. We need to flip that circuit breaker," Obama said. Obama also criticised Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy over his campaign ad on Acton. Obama later travelled to Detroit to campaign for Democratic candidates in Michigan.



Clashes erupt in Paris as over 400,000 rally across France over schools, living costs

More than 400,000 people protested across France over school funding shortages and the rising cost of living, with clashes breaking out in Paris and several other cities. Police used tear gas and water cannons, while dozens were arrested as the growing movement intensified pressure on President Emmanuel Macron's government. Paris: Clashes erupted in Paris Saturday at the end of a major demonstration as more than 400,000 people protested across France over school funding and soaring living costs, challenging President Emmanuel Macron's government a week after widespread rioting and looting.

The Paris march began peacefully. But near its endpoint at Porte de Vincennes, some protesters threw projectiles while police fired volleys of tear gas and used water cannons to disperse people. The Interior Ministry put nationwide turnout at 410,000, including 110,000 in Paris. Authorities had confined the capital's march to the city's southeastern edge, keeping protesters away from central neighbourhoods hit by last weekend's destruction. Elsewhere in France, police used tear gas in Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand and Strasbourg and water cannons in Nice and Nantes, French media reported. In Marseille, officers fired tear gas during clashes with several dozen people near the march's endpoint. The Paris prosecutor's office said 64 people had been arrested in connection with Saturday's demonstration and 40 placed in police custody. Those arrested included six minors. Most arrests concerned suspected weapons offences or participation in a group preparing violence or property damage, the office said. The unrest is testing Macron's authority in the final months of his presidency before voters choose his successor in May. The stakes are high: the far-right National Rally has accused his government of failing to protect the public and urged people to channel their anger into votes for them.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez had announced a nationwide deployment of up to 70,000 officers, backed by helicopters, armoured vehicles and water cannons. Trade unions led the procession, followed by protesters in raincoats carrying flags and handmade placards. Camille Chesnier, 27, said she had been unable to find work despite having an engineering degree and a master's degree. "There are enormous numbers of people in the same situation as me but who aren't privileged and who find themselves living on the streets and in squats and, frankly, it's very tough," she said. A small protest became a national movement. What began last month as a protest over staff shortages at one high school southeast of Paris has spread nationwide, drawing students demanding better schools and workers seeking higher wages and pensions. In Paris, Bénédicte Pittion, a 46-year-old teacher, marched through steady rain with her 16-year-old daughter, Garance, a high school student. Both had supported the movement from the start, but this was their first protest together. "The young people who have been demonstrating have not been heard, and as a parent and as a teacher, I stand with them," Pittion said. Garance said she had been "really scared" to attend after seeing images of last weekend's violence, but argued that staying away would hand the government a victory. Public middle and high



schools lost 15.4 million teaching hours in the 2024-25 school year because absent teachers were not replaced, according to Education Ministry figures. That amounted to 7.5 per cent of scheduled teaching time.

Macron met high school representatives Friday. They said he had promised to overhaul university admissions, but called for protests to continue until concrete measures are announced. Organisers from the "yellow vest" protest movement called for another day of rallies Oct. 31 to defend the right to demonstrate. Soumaya Abed, a 58-year-old nurse wearing a red CGT union vest, said she had been joining protests for more than 30 years, but had never seen one start at Porte d'Italie, on the capital's outskirts. "They are using what happened last week as an excuse to quiet protesters," she said. "But it won't stop the movement. It won't stop students from demanding better conditions in schools." In Marseille, police put attendance at 17,000, while the CGT union estimated 100,000. In the southwestern city of Toulouse, 26,500 people joined the protests, according to authorities.

Authorities had banned rallies in cities including Lyon, Nice and Montpellier. Trade unions have criticised the bans, calling them violations of freedom of expression, which is protected by the constitution. Thousands also marched Saturday in Orléans, south of Paris, in a separate peaceful protest against the far right as Marine Le Pen's National Rally held a two-day congress in the city. Macron, a centrist, has entered the crisis in the final stretches of his term with his popularity at its lowest since he took office in 2017. He has said that the measures are needed to protect city centres, businesses and public buildings. Nuñez acknowledged Monday that police had lost control in some cities during last weekend's unrest, when more than half a million people took to the streets, and some 3,000 shops across France were damaged or looted amid street violence not seen in years. He offered to resign, but Macron refused the offer. Shops boarded up and museums closed. Gendarmes stood guard Saturday beneath the Arc de Triomphe, and shopkeepers boarded up storefronts across Paris. Near the Saint-Lazare train station Saturday, Akram Ahmed, a 34-year-old contractor, was boarding up an optician's shop. "I got the call last night," he said. "The owner seemed desperate. He said I was saving his life."

Portable ion chromatograph brings real-world practice to classrooms



Ion chromatography, or the process of separating ions from a sample by passing it through a long column, is usually carried out in a laboratory using expensive, sophisticated equipment. Now, scientists at the University of Tasmania in Australia have devised a simpler way to perform the technique out in the field — one that could benefit science classrooms, too. Working with second-year undergraduate students, the scientists helped them analyse soil pore water, or water in between soil particles, immediately after collecting it using a portable ion chromatograph called Aquamonitrix. The students used it to separate and analyse concentrations of nitrate and nitrite ions in the sample as both these ions are known to be harmful for the environment in high concentrations. Then they took the samples back to the lab and analysed them using a conventional chromatograph. Based on their findings, published in *Journal of Chemical Education*, the portable chromatograph produced results comparable to that of a conventional device in the lab. Chemistry out of the lab

"One of the things we're always interested in is taking our chemistry out of the laboratory [and] into the field," said Brett Paull, a professor of chemistry at the University of Tasmania and the senior author of the study. "So that the students don't only learn that analytical chemistry is something you do in the lab, but it's something that you can do anywhere." The 2023 ACS Guidelines for Undergraduate Chemistry Programmes says "hands-on" experience in separations and chromatography should be incorporated into the undergraduate chemistry lab coursework. While performing ion chromatography using lab equipment does help students get experience with handling experiments, it still doesn't equip them to apply their analytical skills in a real-world scenario. Paull and his team collaborated with Aquamonitrix, the company that manufactures the portable ion chromatograph of the same name, to help young undergraduate students analyse samples in the field. "Portable instruments give us the opportunity to go out into the field and do actual measurements there," said Dr. Paull. Simplicity to its benefit. The students first obtained the soil pore water by extracting it from the soil using a portable vacuum pump. Then they filtered the water on-site and directly injected it into the chromatograph. Aquamonitrix works as a simple, low-pressure ion chromatograph that can separate anions along a relatively short column. The solution used to carry

the sample into the chromatograph and facilitate the exchange of anions with the column contains only sodium chloride, thus keeping the process environmentally friendly. To specifically detect nitrate and nitrite ions among all the anions, the device contains a low-cost absorbance detector that uses UV light. Because both these anions absorb UV light, the students were able to see two peaks in the chromatogram corresponding to the presence of the two anions. "Nitrite and nitrate absorb quite reasonably in that low UV region, and we don't get any interference from any other anions," Dr. Paull explained. "So [its] simplicity is to its benefit, because we don't get a big messy chromatogram with all the other material."

A simpler specialist. When the students brought the sample back to the lab and measured nitrate and nitrite levels using a conventional, commercial ion chromatograph, they found the numbers produced by the portable device were similar. This suggested the portable method provided accurate results — and for less money and time. The lab-based ion chromatograph is "much more complicated, much more expensive and advanced," Dr. Paull said, and works using longer columns and high-pressure pumps. It may also detect many other anions and produce a more complex chromatogram. "We don't want to do everything," he added. "It's not possible to take a \$100,000 laboratory instrument and just take it out to the greenhouse and use it. What we do is develop a \$10,000 instrument which actually can do one or two things very well, can be run by a battery, and can be used by a student who's not highly trained or highly skilled. We're not trying to replicate the lab in the field; we're trying to develop low cost, versatile instruments that can be taken into the field." The scientists have also worked on another similar instrument that they say can measure ammonia levels in the field. "So, nitrite, nitrate, and ammonia and then, [eventually] you can look at the complete nitrogen cycle in, say, water treatment plants or in soil chemistry," Dr. Paull said. The team is also working on a similar instrument to detect arsenic in contaminated soils and agricultural areas. The presence of this toxic element in the soil is a major concern in countries like India and Bangladesh, where groundwater extraction is high. "By allowing students to perform both field and laboratory analyses, [the portable device] provides a comprehensive learning experience that combines theoretical concepts with practical applications," Vipul Gupta, a lecturer in chemistry at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia, said. "The hands-on nature of the experiment, coupled with the opportunity to address real-world environmental challenges, fosters curiosity and interest in analytical chemistry." Dr. Gupta expressed belief the exercise can be extended to a more long-term continuous monitoring on the field as well. "Moreover, I believe the use of such portable systems would encourage students in future to develop their own innovative analytical chemistry projects," he added. "I think getting students enthusiastic about analytical chemistry [is] hard if they're always enclosed within the lab," said Dr. Paull. "If you actually take them outside of the lab and show them you can actually do analytical measurements in that real world situation, outside in the environment, it makes it a much more enjoyable situation for the students."

FSSAI alert on baby foods: What parents should know about nutrition and contamination

Recent infant-formula safety alerts in the US have renewed concerns about the nutritional quality of products designed for babies. US authorities reported investigations and recalls involving potential microbial contamination, alongside wider testing for heavy metals, pesticides and other chemical contaminants. These developments highlight the importance of ingredient sourcing, manufacturing controls and regulatory oversight. In India, the issue has taken on added relevance following a September 2026 FSSAI action concerning a sample of follow-up formula that did not meet prescribed biotin (Vitamin B7) requirements on re-analysis. The regulator also initiated separate proceedings over alleged misleading label claims. While nutritional non-compliance is distinct from contamination, both raise questions about product quality, labelling and consumer trust. As Dr Shalini Garwin Bliss, Head — Dietetics, PSRI Hospital, New Delhi, explains, parents should look beyond marketing claims and focus on what matters most: "Good infant nutrition is not about buying the most expensive product; it is about providing safe, balanced nutrition that meets the child's needs at every stage."

What are the potential health risks if infant formula fails to meet prescribed nutritional standards, particularly for biotin?

A baby's nutritional needs differ significantly from those of an adult because of rapid growth and development. Biotin helps the body process fats, carbohydrates and proteins. Deficiency may cause skin rashes, hair loss, poor feeding and, in severe cases, neurological symptoms. Formula must meet prescribed nutritional standards because babies may depend on it for essential nutrients. Parents concerned about a product's quality should consult their paediatrician rather than make feeding changes independently.

How important is exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months, and when may formula be necessary?

Exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for the first six months because breast milk provides essential nutrients and antibodies that help protect babies against infections. However, every mother's circumstances are different. Medical reasons or breastfeeding difficulties may make formula necessary. The priority is to ensure adequate nutrition with professional guidance. Mothers should receive support without guilt or judgement, regardless of how they feed their babies.

What are the alternatives to infant formula?

For babies under six months, breast milk is preferred. If breastfeeding is not possible, an appropriate commercial infant formula recommended by a healthcare professional may be necessary. Animal milk, plant-based drinks and homemade formula are not safe substitutes for young infants because they may lack the right balance of nutrients. From around six months, complementary foods such as well-cooked vegetables, fruits, cereals and pulses can be introduced alongside continued breastfeeding or formula feeding. Foods should provide iron, protein, vitamins and minerals, with variety and texture increasing as the baby develops.

How can parents distinguish scientific evidence from marketing claims about immunity, digestion and brain development?

Claims such as "boosts immunity" or "supports brain development" can sound reassuring, but parents should look beyond the packaging. Health claims should be supported by credible scientific evidence. The presence of a particu-



lar ingredient does not automatically guarantee better immunity, faster growth or improved development. What matters is whether the product meets the child's overall nutritional needs. Parents should seek professional advice rather than rely on advertising or social media promotions.

What are the health consequences of added sugar in commercial baby foods?

Babies do not need added sugar. Frequent exposure can contribute to tooth decay and encourage a preference for sweeter foods, potentially displacing more nutritious choices. Parents should check ingredient lists for sugar, glucose syrup and other sweetening ingredients instead of relying on front-of-pack claims such as "healthy" or "nutritious". Choosing unsweetened, age-appropriate foods helps establish healthier eating habits. Honey should not be given to babies under one year.

Do human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs) and whey protein necessarily make one formula better than another?

Not necessarily. HMOs are complex carbohydrates naturally found in breast milk, while whey is a milk protein. Although certain ingredients may help replicate some aspects of breast milk, formula cannot fully reproduce its composition. The most important considerations are nutritional adequacy, safety and suitability for the baby's individual needs. Specialised formula should be selected with a paediatrician's guidance, not simply because they advertise premium ingredients.

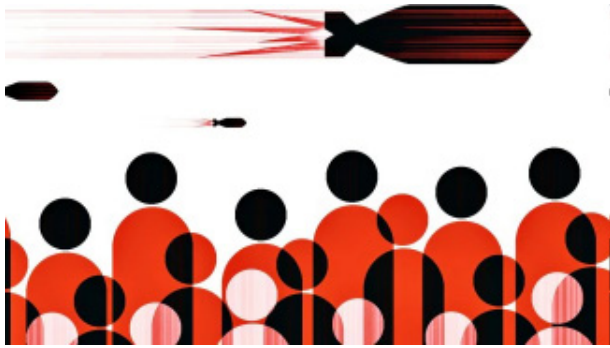
What should parents check on packaged baby food labels, and how concerned should they be about contamination?

Parents should check the age recommendation, ingredient list, nutritional information, expiry date, storage instructions and packaging condition. Contaminants such as heavy metals, pesticide residues and harmful microorganisms are legitimate concerns. They may enter the food supply through raw ingredients, water, processing or handling. Some exposures can affect development, while microbial contamination can cause serious illness. Contamination cannot always be detected by looking at a product or reading its label. Manufacturers' quality controls, laboratory testing and regulatory oversight are therefore essential. Parents should buy products from reliable sources, use safe water, maintain hygiene and follow official recalls and safety advisories. Powdered formula is not sterile, so preparation and storage instructions must be followed carefully. Boiling water does not remove chemical contaminants such as heavy metals.

What practical steps should parents take to ensure safe, balanced and age-appropriate nutrition?

Focus on the baby's nutritional needs rather than marketing claims.

Gaza should haunt us



Gaza, Gaza conflict, Gaza Israel conflict, Hamas Israel conflict, Benjamin Netanyahu, Gaza Palestine, Israel and Palestine, Israel Palestine conflict, Israel Palestine relations, Israel-Palestine talks, Palestine-Israel relations, India news, Indian express, It is ethically perverse to regard any juristic or humane concern with the plight of the Palestinians as "antisemitic"; rather, it calls for a renewed enterprise in the vein of Levinas to understand the "difficult freedoms" that we all have. A flotilla of 34 boats carrying 500 tons of humanitarian aid and 600 people from 45 countries, including Italy, Greece, Spain and Tunisia, is now poised to reach Gaza. This initiative is unique in that it includes, among others, members of the European Parliament such as Italians Annalisa Corrado and Benedetta Scuderi, Emma Fourreau from France, and Ireland's Lynn Boylan, who is accompanying the Flotilla to document any "possible breaches of human rights or international law". Although "scared", they insist they are not "intimidated". As Scuderi put it: "I think it's normal to be afraid of facing the Israeli government, which sets no limits in its destructive actions, acts contrary to international law, and has already stated it wants to treat us as terrorists [...] But we will not be intimidated." She adds that this is a mission "worth making oneself available for, even if the consequences may be heavy or difficult to manage. I cannot even imagine the fear Palestinian children feel under the bombs or when being amputated of their limbs without anaesthesia."

This haunting spectacle of human suffering brings to mind the 16th-century jurist Hugo Grotius, who argued that pain and suffering must be minimised even amidst warfare. Avoiding "unimaginable" surplus suffering is central to modern human rights principles. Yet, Gaza today faces "the largest humanitarian blockade of the 21st century", which has placed 2,44,000 people in famine conditions under IPC Phase 5, the most severe category of food insecurity. Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has already announced that "activists will be designated as terrorists, imprisoned, and denied special privileges such as television, radio, and choice of foods". Governance becomes a tool for repression, part of a global process of "democratic backsliding" — a euphemism for righticide and democide, where even a modicum of human rights activism is recast as terrorism.

Against this backdrop, 142 nations recently voted in favour of a resolution introduced by France, with 10 against and 12 abstaining. The resolution urges "peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue and implementation of the two-

state solution". Those who voted against it include Argentina, Hungary and, unsurprisingly, Israel and the US. That India has thrown its support behind the resolution, despite growing strategic and industry/trade ties with Israel, is a happy sign. The resolution prescribes "a single roadmap" to a two-state solution, entailing an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages and the establishment of a Palestinian State "that is both viable and sovereign". Crucially, it calls for "the disarmament of Hamas and its exclusion from governance in Gaza", the normalisation of ties between Israel and the Arab countries, as well as collective security guarantees. Far from being a "one-sided" declaration and "hollow gesture", as Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon has claimed, the resolution explicitly condemns the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023, and calls for the disarmament of Hamas. To reject it as a victory for Hamas reeks of the arrogance of hard power. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his war cohorts would do well to read with care the work of the great Jewish theologian and philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, who spoke of the two Torahs — one being the transcendent voice of God, and the other concerning everyday human ethics. Both constrain the lust for violence and destruction and, in different ways, lead us away from "egology" towards "responsibility toward the Other." As Rabbi Israel Salanter observed in 1850: "The material needs of my neighbour are my spiritual needs." Yet, beyond the neighbour lies the distant third — all too often construed as a monstrous third who inspires the "temptation to murder", a passion for killing which often results in war and renders "morality derisory" and leads to "the diabolical criminality of absolute evil" seen in genocide and other "horribly perfect" forms of racism (Levinas). The foundational violence of necropolitics — the use of political power to decide who lives and who dies — must now cease. (See Jothie Rajah's *Discounting Lives: Necropolitical Law, Culture and the Long War on Terror*). Most read: Israel is now combating the indictment of "genocide" before the International Court of Justice. Although the Court has never found sufficient evidence for deliberate and systematic killing or persecution of a large number of people "from a particular national or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group," Article 6 of the Genocide Convention enacts the duty of states to prevent and punish preparation for genocide. The Court must now arrive at a sound rural construction on the materials and arguments pressed before it. Already noted (in the context of Israel's military offensive in Rafah, which has led to the exodus of approximately 800,000 Palestinians) is that the steps for the security of civilians in the Gaza Strip are "insufficient". Further, Israel must now act to "take effective measures to prevent the destruction" of the relevant evidence and to ensure any UN-mandated body "unimpeded access" to the Gaza Strip. Considering the "catastrophic situation in Gaza," the ICJ has ordered the provision of "urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance," and reiterated its "grave concern over the fate of the hostages" and held by "Hamas and other armed groups", calling for their "immediate and unconditional release". It is ethically perverse to regard any juristic or humane concern with the plight of the Palestinians as "antisemitic"; rather, it calls for a renewed enterprise in the vein of Levinas to understand the "difficult freedoms" that we all have.

Young Kerala couple's twisted 'revenge plan': Send a friendly invite, then dish out brutal torture

A couple in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district have been arrested for allegedly luring two youths, with whom the woman had purportedly been maintaining a relationship for some time, to their home before torturing and robbing them, police said. Pathanamthitta police registered a case last week after a 29-year-old man alleged that he was assaulted by his girlfriend's family. However, finding gaps in his statement, the police looked further into the matter and found that the accused couple was allegedly behind the attack. Police said the couple, after allegedly torturing him, threatened him to make up a story about being beaten up by his girlfriend's family. On Friday, police from the Aranmula area arrested Malayil Veetil Jayesh, 30, and his wife Reshmi, 25, both from Koipuram village. Apart from the 29-year-old, the police found that a 19-year-old was also similarly attacked by the couple.

According to police, both men had worked with Jayesh in Bengaluru and had been friends with the couple. Police claimed that Reshmi had maintained a relationship with the two men and that eventually, Jayesh found her chats with them on WhatsApp. Angered, he planned to take revenge on the two men and even roped his wife into the plan, officers said, adding that she agreed to this as part of a truce with her husband. "The couple robbed their victims, with one of the youths losing Rs 20,000. Besides, while torturing the victims, the couple behaved in a perverted manner. The victims feared that the couple were performing black magic on them. However, the real motive of the couple has to be ascertained after detailed questioning," said a police source. Pathanamthitta district Superintendent of Police R Anand said a special team will probe both cases of assault. "Both cases are at their preliminary stage. We have to look into whether the accused persons have committed more crimes in the same fashion. A detailed scientific probe is required as the accused are not cooperating with the police," he said. As per the statements given to the police, the 29-year-old victim, a native of Ranni in Pathanamthitta, said, "Jayesh wanted me to come to his home on day of Onam (September 5) and join the celebrations. When I reached his house, Jayesh greeted me with pepper spray and thrashed me without any provocation. Both my hands were tied and I was hung from a wooden pole overhead. Reshmi brutally attacked me with various objects, including iron rods."

"While Reshmi tortured me, Jayesh recorded it on a mobile phone. My privates were stapled several times. At around 8 pm that day, the couple took me on Jayesh's scooter and abandoned me at a location called Puthumon. As I was brutally assaulted, I was seated between Jayesh and Reshmi in the scooter. Before dropping me, they threatened me and said that I should tell others I was attacked by the family of the girl whom I love," he said. When locals found the seriously injured man, they took him to hospital and the police were informed. However, he initially told police that he was attacked by his girlfriend's family as per the instructions of the couple. "The couple had threatened the youth that he would be killed if revealed anything about the torture. Hence, he gave the wrong version of events. He later recounted the horror from the couple," an officer said. While interrogating them, the police learned that they had tortured another man in a similar manner on September 1. Based on the details collected from the accused couple, police traced the other victim, a 19-year-old from Alappuzha. He had also kept the incident to himself.

He told police that he was invited to the couple's house and Jayesh picked him up on a two-wheeler from the



Maramon area on September 1. At the house, he was allegedly tortured and stripped. He claimed that Jayesh switched on the camera of the mobile phone and asked him to act like he was performing sexual acts on Reshmi, and that when he refused, he was assaulted. Both his hands were tied with a shawl and he was hung by that shawl to a wooden beam on the sealing, he said. He was then allegedly beaten all over the body and pliers were used on his fingers. The couple took Rs 20,000 from his wallet, but gave a Rs 1,000 back for his travel expenses, he told police, adding that he was then dropped off at a nearby autorickshaw stand. They also threatened that he would later be killed. At Koipuram, a neighbour of the couple said they (Jayesh family) led a "secluded life" at an isolated location in the village. "They rarely interacted with others. Jayesh used to work as an operator of an earthmover while his wife had been doing odd jobs with a catering firm. But the woman used to always complain about financial constraints and hand-to-mouth existence," said the neighbour, who did not want to be named. Jayesh had faced a POCSO case years ago, and had been jailed. He later got married to Reshmi and the couple have two children, the neighbour said.

Hyderabad records minimum temperature of 14.8 degrees Celsius as nights turn cooler

Hyderabad: There is a distinct nip in the air in Hyderabad and districts of Telangana as night and early morning temperatures have dropped quite significantly in the last 24 hours. Driven by clear skies and northerly wind flows following the monsoon's withdrawal, the rapid nighttime cooling has created a unique weather with cold breezy wind flowing across the twin cities.

In the last 24-hours, between Sunday evening and Monday morning, the lowest temperature of 14.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Patancheru, according to Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS) data.

After Patancheru, the TSDPS data indicated that Ameerpur area recorded 14.9 degree Celsius, while BHIL and HCU Serilingampally recorded 15.1 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperatures in the residential zones within the core regions of Hyderabad ranged between 17 degree Celsius and 19 degrees Celsius.

Focus turns to security guarantees after Ukraine summit leaves path to peace unclear



LONDON/KYIV, Ukraine and its European allies have been buoyed by Donald Trump's promise of security guarantees for Kyiv to help end the Ukraine war but face many unanswered questions, including how willing Russia will be to play ball. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed Monday's extraordinary summit at the White House with Trump as a "major step forward" towards ending Europe's deadliest conflict in 80 years and towards setting up a trilateral meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin and the U.S. president in the coming weeks. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

Flanked by the leaders of allies including Germany, France and Britain at the summit, Zelenskyy's warm rapport with Trump contrasted sharply with their disastrous meeting at the Oval Office in February. But beyond the optics, the path to a lasting peace remains deeply uncertain and Zelenskyy may be forced to make painful compromises to end a war that analysts say has killed or wounded more than 1 million people. And despite the temporary sense of relief in Kyiv, there was no let-up in the fighting. Russia launched 270 drones and 10 missiles in an overnight attack on Ukraine, the Ukrainian airforce said, the largest this month. The energy ministry said Russia had targeted energy facilities in the central Poltava region, home to Ukraine's only oil refinery, causing big fires. "The good news is that there was no blow-up (at the White House). Trump didn't demand Ukrainian capitulation nor cut off support. The mood music was positive and the trans-Atlantic alliance lives on," John Foreman, a former British defence attaché to Kyiv and Moscow, told Reuters. "On the downside, there is a great deal of uncertainty about the nature of security guarantees and what exactly the U.S. has in mind." Zelenskyy said on Tuesday his officials were working on the content of the security guarantees. Russia has made no explicit commitment to a meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday Moscow did not

reject any formats for discussing the peace process in Ukraine but that any meeting of national leaders "must be prepared with utmost thoroughness".

President Putin has warned that Russia will not tolerate troops from the NATO alliance on Ukrainian soil. He has also shown no sign of backing down from demands for territory, including land not under Russia's military control, following his own summit talks with Trump last Friday in Alaska. Trump has not specified what form U.S. security guarantees could take, and backed away from insisting that Russia agree to a ceasefire before any peace negotiations kick off in earnest. The U.S. president has also told Ukraine to forget about regaining control of Crimea, which was annexed by Russia in 2014, or joining NATO. "It is hard to imagine there being any deal today that is acceptable and that respects the red lines of the Ukrainians and Europe as well as the red lines of the Russians," said Matthias Matthijs, senior fellow for Europe at the Council on Foreign Relations. Europe's dealings with Trump are similar to the fraught negotiations on tariffs, Matthijs said: "Having avoided the worst outcomes, they come to some sort of agreement. It's better than they feared, but it's always worse than the status quo." Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Zelenskyy and his allies had "failed to outplay" Trump. "Europe thanked & sucked up to him," Medvedev wrote on X. The last direct talks between Russia and Ukraine took place in Turkey in July while Putin also declined Zelenskyy's public invitation to meet him face-to-face in May. "President Trump has now opened the door to the negotiating room for him, and Putin must now enter it," German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul told the Deutschlandfunk radio broadcaster. If not, he said, sanctions must be intensified. Ukraine's allies will hold talks in the so-called "Coalition of the Willing" format on Tuesday to discuss the way forward. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, who also attended Monday's talks, said NATO membership for Ukraine was not under discussion but that there was a discussion on "Article 5"-type security guarantees for the country. Article 5 of NATO's founding treaty enshrines the principle of collective defence, in which an attack on any of its 32 members is considered an attack on all. "There is, of course, the question of what Russia will accept. But also, what western countries are willing, and able, to do for Ukraine," said a note by Eurointelligence. Orysia Lutsevych, a research fellow at Chatham House, said the worst case scenario "of Trump selling Ukraine out to Putin was avoided" at Monday's talks, but she added: "A bilateral with Putin is dangerous for Zelenskyy. Even if it happens, which is highly unlikely, Putin will blame him for obstructing peace, being unreasonable. In such a case, the question is: who Donald Trump will trust and blame for his failed peacemaking efforts." Graphic: Map of Ukraine shows the eastern oblasts and the areas under Russian control

Israel studying Hamas reply to Gaza ceasefire proposal

JERUSALEM/CAIRO, GNS News Agency, Oct 27 Israel is studying Hamas' response to a Gaza ceasefire proposal, two officials said on Tuesday of a potential deal for a 60-day truce and the release of half the Israeli hostages still held in the battered enclave. Efforts to pause the fighting gained new momentum over the past week after Israel announced plans for a new offensive to seize control of Gaza City, and Egypt and Qatar have been pushing to restart indirect talks between the sides on a U.S.-backed ceasefire plan. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

The proposal includes the release of 200 Palestinian convicts jailed in Israel and an unspecified number of imprisoned women and minors, in return for 10 living and 18 deceased hostages from Gaza, according to a Hamas official. Two Egyptian security sources confirmed the details, and added that Hamas has requested the release of hundreds of Gaza detainees as well.

The proposal includes a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces, which presently control 75% of Gaza and the entry of more humanitarian aid into the enclave, where a population of 2.2 million people is increasingly facing famine. Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said the 60-day truce deal would include "a pathway to a comprehensive agreement to end the war." Israel had previously agreed to the outline, advanced by U.S. special Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, but negotiations faltered over some of its details. The last round of talks ended in deadlock in late July. Israel's plans to seize control of Gaza City in the heart of the Palestinian enclave have since stirred alarm abroad and among the estimated one million people presently living there. On the ground, there were no signs of a ceasefire nearing as Israeli gunfire, tank shelling and airstrikes killed at least 20 Palestinians on Tuesday, according to Gaza health officials. Tanks completed taking control of the Zeitoun suburb, an eastern neighbourhood on Gaza City's outskirts, and continued to pound the nearby area of Sabra, killing two women and a man, medics said. Local health authorities said dozens of people had been trapped in their houses because of the shelling. The Israeli military said it was checking the report. On Friday, it said its forces were operating in nearby Zeitoun to locate weapons, tunnels and gunmen. "It has been one of the worst nights in Sabra and Gaza City as the explosions are heard throughout the city," said Nasra Ali, 54, a mother of five, who lives in Sabra.

Canada opposition leader Poilievre wins seat, to take on Carney over tariffs

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

OTTAWA, - The leader of Canada's official opposition Conservatives, Pierre Poilievre, secured a return to Parliament and a chance to grill Prime Minister Mark Carney over U.S. tariffs, staging a comeback after unexpectedly losing his seat in an April election. Unofficial results from Elections Canada on Tuesday showed Poilievre had easily won a special election on Monday in the parliamentary constituency of Battle River-Crowfoot in the western Canadian province of Alberta, a Conservative stronghold. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. Poilievre, who accuses the Liberal government of botching its handling of U.S. relations, will be able to confront Carney when the House of Commons returns on September 15. Carney, who took over as prime minister in March, secured a strong minority government in April's federal election, while Poilievre lost the Ottawa-area seat he had held for 21 years. Carney won on a promise to stand up to U.S. President Donald Trump but

has since moderated his approach even as Washington imposed more tariffs. "Mark Carney has been failing. He's failed, he's backed down, he's made concession after concession vis-a-vis the Americans," Poilievre told a press conference last Thursday. Carney, however, is in no immediate danger politically. Although the Liberals fell three seats short of a majority in April, they should be able to rely on the support of smaller parties to survive confidence votes. A Nanos Research poll earlier this month put the Liberals at 44% popular support compared with 33% for the Conservatives. Carney has pulled the Liberals more to the center and Poilievre will find it harder to draw a sharp contrast, said pollster Nik Nanos, CEO of Nanos Research. "Poilievre needs to articulate what he learned from the last federal election and how his government would be different than a Carney government," he said via email. At the start of the year the Conservatives looked set for a crushing election victory over the Liberals of then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who were far behind in polls after more than nine years in power.

Somalia faces diphtheria surge amid vaccine shortages and aid cuts



MOGADISHU, Diphtheria cases and deaths have risen sharply this year in Somalia, where the response has been curtailed by vaccine shortages and U.S. aid cuts, Somali officials said. More than 1,600 cases, including 87 deaths, have been recorded, up from 838 cases and 56 deaths in all of 2024, said Hussein Abdulkar Muhidin, the general director of Somalia's National Institute of Health. Keep up with the latest medical breakthroughs and healthcare trends with the Reuters Health Rounds newsletter. Sign up here. Diphtheria, a bacterial disease that causes swollen glands, breathing problems and fever and mostly affects children, is preventable with a vaccine that became widely available in the mid-20th century. Childhood immunisation rates in Somalia have improved over the past decade, but hundreds of thousands of children are still not fully vaccinated.

After fleeing fighting between government forces and Islamist militants in the central Somalia town of Ceeldheere three months ago, all four of Deka Mohamed Ali's children, none of whom was vaccinated, contracted diphtheria. Her 9-year-old daughter recovered, but her 8-year-old son died and two toddlers are now being treated at a hospital in the capital Mogadishu. "My children got sick and I just stayed at

home because I did not know it was diphtheria," she told Reuters from the bedside of her 3-year-old son Musa Abdullahi whose throat was swollen to the size of a lemon from the infection. Health Minister Ali Haji Adam said the government had struggled to procure enough vaccines due to a global shortage and that U.S. aid cuts were making it difficult to distribute the doses it had. Before President Donald Trump cut most foreign assistance earlier this year, the United States was the leading humanitarian donor to Somalia, whose health budget is almost entirely funded by donors.

"The U.S. aid cut terribly affected the health funds it used to provide to Somalia. Many health centres closed. Mobile vaccination teams that took vaccines to remote areas lost funding and now do not work," said Adam. Muhidin separately echoed his comments about the closures. Overall U.S. foreign assistance commitments to Somalia stand at \$149 million for the fiscal year that ends on September 30, compared with \$765 million in the previous fiscal year, according to U.S. government statistics. "The United States continues to provide lifesaving foreign assistance in Somalia," a U.S. State Department spokesperson said when asked about the impact of its aid cuts in the country.

"America is the most generous nation in the world, and we urge other nations to dramatically increase their humanitarian efforts." Aid group Save the Children said last month that the closure of hundreds of health clinics in Somalia this year due to foreign cuts has contributed to a doubling in the number of combined cases of diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, cholera and severe respiratory infections since mid-April. Besides the U.S., Britain, France, Germany and other major Western donors are also cutting aid budgets. Somalia's government has also faced criticism from doctors and human rights activists for its limited funding of the health sector. In 2024, it allocated 4.8% of its budget to health, down from 8.5% the previous year, Amnesty International said. The health ministry did not respond to a question about that criticism. It has said it is planning to launch a vaccination drive but has not given details when.

China pledges to address India's rare earth needs, Indian source says

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

NEW DELHI, There is an upward trend in India-China relations and Beijing has promised to address New Delhi's needs on rare earths, a top Indian official and a source said on Tuesday, as the neighbours rebuild ties that were damaged by a 2020 border clash. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is visiting India for the 24th round of border talks with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and is also due to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, days before Modi travels to China for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

"There has been an upward trend. Borders have been quiet. There has been peace and tranquillity," Doval told Wang as he opened the talks. "Our bilateral engagements have been more substantial." "The new environment that has been created has helped us in moving ahead in the various areas that we are working on," he said. Wang told Doval that "the stable and healthy development of China-India relations is in the fundamental interests of the two countries' people," according to a readout of the meeting released by China's foreign ministry. The two sides "should enhance mutual trust through dialogues and expand cooperation," Wang said, and should aim for consensus in areas such as border control and demarcation negotiations. Earlier on Tuesday, an Indian source said that China had promised to address three key Indian concerns. Wang, the source said, had assured Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar that Beijing is addressing India's need for fertilisers, rare earths and tunnel boring machines. The Indian foreign and mines ministries did not respond immedi-



ately to Reuters requests for comment. China's commerce ministry also did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It was not immediately clear whether China had agreed to approve export licenses faster or grant blanket exemptions for India. China has previously committed to speeding up export licenses for Europe and the U.S. without actually dismantling the control regime. China's exports of rare earths and related magnets jumped in June after these agreements and as the commerce ministry worked through a huge backlog of applications.

However, rare earth magnet exports to India were still down 58% compared to January levels, according to Chinese customs data. June is the last month for which country-level data is available. India has the world's fifth-largest rare earth reserves, at 6.9 million metric tons, but has no magnet production and relies on imported magnets, mainly from China.

Bay Area marks India's 79th Independence Day with grand 'Swades' Parade and cultural festival



GNS News Agency, Oct 27

The streets of downtown San Jose turned into a vibrant tapestry of color, music, and tradition as the Association of Indo Americans (AIA), in partnership with Bolly 92.3, hosted Swades 2025 to celebrate India's 79th Independence Day. The daylong festivities drew an estimated crowd of over 25,000, making it one of the largest Indian American gatherings in Silicon Valley this year. A parade of culture and unity

The highlight of the celebration was the grand India Parade, featuring more than 75 floats supported by over 50 community organisations. Each float showcased the cultural richness of India's states — from traditional dances of Gujarat and Haryana to depictions of Ramayana and Kerala's temple arts. Participants dressed in colourful attire brought the streets alive with patriotic songs, drums, and folk performances. Flag hoisting and dignitaries The ceremonial flag-hoisting was led by popular Indian actress Ameesha Patel, who served as Grand Marshal, along with Srikanth Bolla, Founder of Earth Cleanse, and Rakesh Adlakha, Deputy Consul General of India in San Francisco. San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan hoisted the American flag and praised AIA's efforts, calling the event "a growing tradition that will only get bigger in the years to come." More than 50 elected officials across Silicon Valley, including Mayors, Council members, and State representatives, attended to show solidarity with the Indian American community. Music, dance, and festivities The festival continued late into the night with Vijay Bharat, a cultural showcase featuring classical and contemporary dances, a live concert by Jhoom Productions, and patriotic music performed by BATA/AIA karaoke sing-

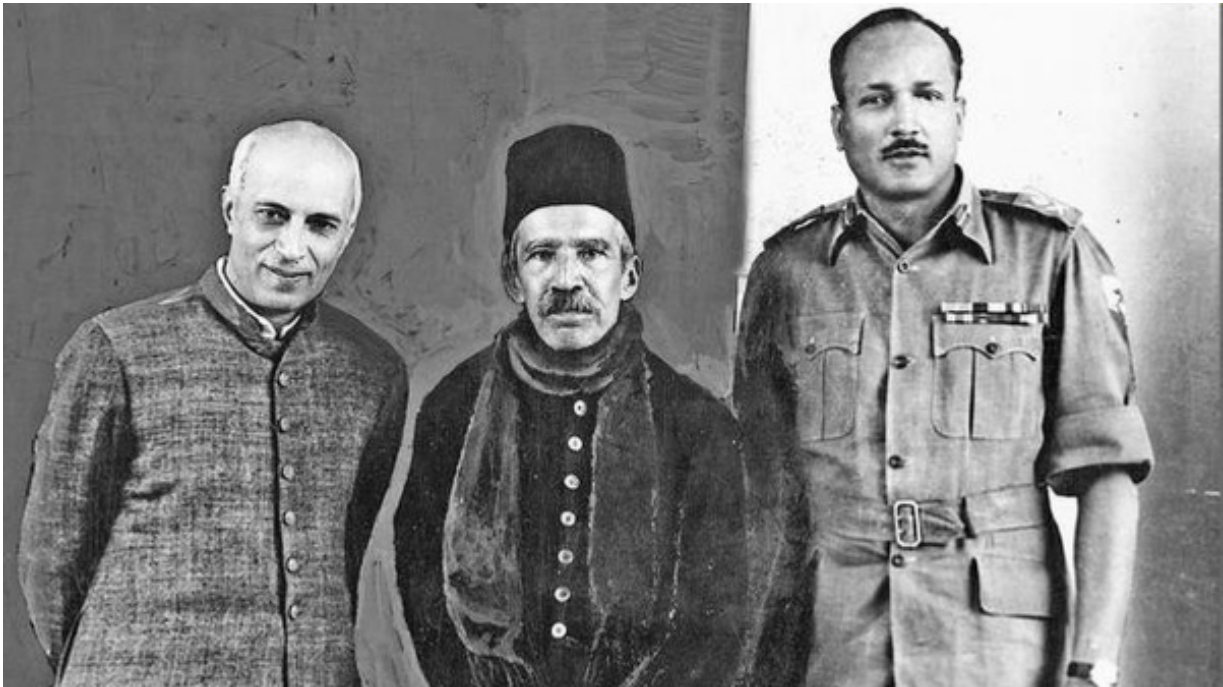
ers. A special Dhol-Tasha performance set a powerful rhythm, drawing crowds into celebration. The evening concluded with fireworks that lit up the San Jose skyline. Community spirit and recognition Throughout the day, stalls offered regional delicacies, handicrafts, and games like carrom and chess, while children took part in traditional dance competitions. On stage, community leaders honored volunteers and sponsors whose support made the event possible. AIA extended thanks to its sponsors, including Sanjiv Gupta CPA (Grand Sponsor), Lavanya Duvvi (Platinum Sponsor), Travelopod, and ICICI Bank, along with media and cultural partners. Looking ahead With Swades marking another successful milestone, AIA announced preparations for its next flagship event, the Dussehra Diwali Dhamaka, scheduled for October at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The program will feature a grand Rath Yatra, Mahamangala Aarti, fireworks, and the dramatic burning of a 35-foot effigy of Ravan. Preserving heritage abroad For the Bay Area's Indian diaspora, Swades has become more than just a parade. It's a living reminder of their roots, a platform for youth to embrace culture, and a bridge of friendship with the wider American community.

TG-iPASS portal services disrupted since October 22 after suspected ransomware attack

Hyderabad: The single-window portal for industrial clearances, TG-iPASS, has suffered a suspected ransomware attack, disrupting services since October 22.

Officials found that the portal's database had been encrypted and file names altered with the extension 'vgb'. A ransom note was also reportedly discovered on the server, raising suspicions of a ransomware attack. However, the hackers have reportedly not demanded any money and have provided only an email address for communication. The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau has started investigation following a complaint lodged by the Industries Department's joint director.

When India sent a 6 crore bill for the annexation of Hyderabad



The road into Hyderabad forks just outside Chandanagar, where a gleaming flyover now carries impatient motorists toward Miyapur. Traffic slows, then surges, as cars and scooters climb onto the bridge and speed into the city. Few among today's motorists would guess that this exact spot once witnessed the dramatic finale of a princely State. On a hot September afternoon in 1948, a line of Indian Army tanks and jeeps halted here. A jeep bearing the Divisional Commander's pennant rolled ahead. From the opposite direction came a Buick staff car, stopping within 30 yards of the column. The war, if it could be called that, was over. At 4.30 p.m. on September 18, Commander of the Hyderabad State Army Major General Syed Ahmed El Edroos surrendered unconditionally to Major General J. N. Chowdhury, leading India's forces.

The two men, once acquaintances when Gen. Chowdhury was posted in Secunderabad, then drove together to the cantonment. At the Secunderabad Club today, portraits of both generals still gaze down from the Colonnade Bar, reminders of the quiet dignity with which the Asaf Jahi dynasty's 224-year reign ended. Like the fractured narratives of Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon*, the story of Hyderabad's annexation appears different depending on who tells it. Some remember betrayal, others liberation, still others the ruthless pragmatism of power. Yet beneath the political speeches, diplomatic manoeuvres, and rhetoric lies the stark military reality — the Indian Army's 'police action' was brief because it had been meticulously set in motion for over six months. The one-year Standstill Agreement was signed on November 29, 1947 but India moved its armed columns within four months in March 1948. Confidential files preserved in the National Archives reveal that Operation Polo was not a sudden thrust but the climax of a patient buildup. The first unit to reach Hyderabad's 644-kilometre border on March 1, 1948 was the 740 Goods and Personnel Transport Company. Other units soon followed, pouring in from far-flung corners of India — Miransahib, Nawanshahr, Kirkee, Ambala, Kathua, even Srinagar. Hyderabad's Prime Minister Mir Laik Ali dismissed such a mobilisation as impossible. India, he reasoned, was too distracted by war in Kashmir and by the chaos of Partition to spare such resources. He was wrong. So too was General Roy Bucher, the British officer serving as Independent India's first Commander-in-Chief. On March 15, 1948, Gen. Bucher had advised caution. "The launching now of a comparatively large-scale and long-range offensive into Hyderabad State, on the lines of Operation Polo, in addition to all existing commitments, will constitute an over-burden, and will be strategically imprudent, to say the least of it."

But Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his government pressed ahead. On March 31, 1948, the 1 Bihar Regiment reached the Hyderabad border. On May 5, the 9 Dogra Regiment joined. By May 20, the 2 Sikh Light Infantry, re-deployed from embattled Srinagar, were also in position. The massed troops numbered 28,017 by August 1, 1948. Defence Ministry and Finance Ministry records show the care with which each troop movement was documented. While the Air Force was deployed, strict instructions forbade targeting civilian airports, including Begumpet. India wanted a swift victory, but not at the cost of civilian casualties.

Razakar menace Earlier, events within Hyderabad provided India with ample justification for action. The Razakars, a paramilitary force loyal to the Nizam and his Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimen supporters, had spread terror across the Dominion. Their raids and reprisals struck not only rural opponents but also urban residents of Secunderabad and Hyderabad. One chilling account survives in Defence Ministry records. J. Iyyuloo, a waiter at the upscale Percy's Hotel in Secunderabad, lived with his family in Nallagutta near fashionable James Street. On May 8, 1947, his three sons volunteered at a public meeting addressed by a leader advocating Hyderabad's accession to India. Enraged, a mob of 75 Razakars stormed Iyyuloo's house. They demolished it, looted valuables worth ₹4,000, beat his brother-in-law Anjaiah to death, and grievously injured several other relatives, including his daughter. Such stories underscored the breakdown of civil order and the brutality of the Razakar campaign. By mid-June 1948, India's patience had worn thin. 'Operation Kabaddi' was quietly set in motion, station-

ing elements of 1 Armoured Division along the Ahmednagar–Tungabhadra line. This was also against General Roy Bucher's May 1948 appreciation that specifically warned: "The move of HQ 1 Armoured Division and 1 Armoured Brigade to the south will weaken considerably our strategic reserves in the event of a deterioration of the situation between India and Pakistan." Operation Kabaddi soon changed to Operation Polo and which was again changed to 'Operation Caterpillar' due to security reasons. Balancing strategy and morality For India's leaders, the decision to act carried both strategic and moral weight. Defence Minister Baldev Singh made the government's position explicit in a speech at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun on September 11, 1948: "It was not the intention of the Government of India to wipe out the State. If, however, the State was wiped out, the Nizam's Government would be responsible for it. What they wanted was a responsible Government in the State, the same way as in other States. All people in Hyderabad should have equal rights." Counting the costs Hyderabad surrendered on September 18, 1948. On September 23, just five days after Maj. Gen. El Edroos laid down arms, the Defence Ministry issued instructions to track extra expenditure linked to Operation Polo.

By March 1949, meticulous tallies were complete. The Defence and Finance ministries together calculated that the 'expenditure incurred by the Defence Services in connection with Hyderabad police action' was ₹598.76 lakh. This included ₹23 lakh spent on the Air Force, Nepalese contingents ₹34 lakh, and Provincial Defence Battalions. The total, roughly ₹6 crore, covered deployments from May 21 to September 18, 1948. In the five days of fighting, 42 Indian soldiers were killed, including one officer. Twenty-four others were reported missing. Officials in Delhi argued that Hyderabad, not the Union budget, should bear the cost. The Defence Secretary justified this approach clearly: "In so far as the Hyderabad action is concerned, it seems to me justifiable to charge expenditure on some of the Defence Battalions which had to be raised and also expenditure which we had to incur on the loan of the Nepalese Battalions." As this debate was going on the Hyderabad government paid ₹3 crore as per a secret letter dated December 13, 1949. The Military governor of Hyderabad had earlier asked for more time as there was a shortage of Indian Government currency in Hyderabad. A war that was over before it began When the final order to advance was given in September 1948, the outcome was never in doubt. The Indian Army's months-long preparation had assembled an overwhelming force. Hyderabad's forces, poorly trained and politically riven, could not mount a serious resistance. Within 108 hours, the Nizam's Army surrendered. The cost to Hyderabad was more than the ₹6 crore bill it received. The Asaf Jahi dynasty, which had ruled since 1724, lost its sovereignty. For the rest of the money, the Indian government gave the option of it to be paid in installments. "As you will see, it was agreed that the Hyderabad Government would pay ₹1 crore in 1948-49 and I understand it was later agreed that another ₹1 crore would be paid in 1949-50. The exact figure is ₹599 lakh. This, however, does not include any portion of the maintenance cost of the forces remaining in Hyderabad after 18th of January 1949," wrote B.B. Ghosh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence in a secret missive to M.K. Vellodi, who would go on to head the first civilian government of Hyderabad. Then there is a finesse to the demands being made by India. While one set of officers wanted the whole expense of stationing soldiers and movement of troops to be recovered, another group of officers did not want such a course of action. "After the termination of the actual action, i.e., 18th September 1948, only the cost of units in Hyderabad should be taken into consideration for purposes of recovery... Personally I thought this refinement was unnecessary, but Brigadier Maneckshaw and Mr. Ghosh said that there was no justification for charging the cost of troops outside Hyderabad State after 18.9.49," wrote K.S. Sundara Rajan, Deputy Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Finance. Legacy of Operation Polo The annexation of Hyderabad is often remembered for the drama of its military sweep, the political theater of the Nizam's appeals to the United Nations, or the communal violence that scarred its aftermath.

Elon Musk reveals proposed X feature to send money with a long press

New Delhi: Elon Musk on Sunday announced a proposed X Money feature that would allow users to send \$1 to another user by long-pressing the Like button, advancing his vision of turning X into an all-in-one platform for social networking and financial services. In a post on X, Musk suggested that the functionality could provide a simple way for users to transfer small amounts of money to others on the platform.

The feature is expected to make it easier for users to tip content creators and support posts they appreciate without leaving the app. The proposed payment mechanism is part of Musk's broader strategy to transform X, formerly known as Twitter, into an "everything app" that combines social networking, messaging, payments and other digital services within a single ecosystem. "We're adding long press on like to send someone \$1 via X Money," Musk wrote on X. Under the proposed system, users would be able to initiate a \$1 payment to a post's author by pressing and holding the Like button, with the transaction processed through X Money. While the concept has generated interest among users and creators, the company has not yet disclosed a detailed rollout timeline or broader eligibility requirements. X Money has recently begun rolling out in the United States, offering services such as peer-to-peer money transfers and



an X Visa debit card for physical and digital transactions. The debit card can also be linked to Apple Pay, enabling contactless payments where supported. The platform has also promoted features aimed at simplifying international transactions, although the exact benefits and conditions vary depending on user eligibility and applicable terms. For now, X Money remains focused on the US market. The company has not announced when the service or the proposed Like-button payment feature will become available in other countries, including India, one of the world's largest digital payments markets.

'Judicial experimentalism' versus the right to justice



The Supreme Court of India, in Shivangi Bansal vs Sahib Bansal (July 22, 2025), endorsed the guidelines by the Allahabad High Court, in Mukesh Bansal vs State of U.P. (2022), to prevent the misuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (now Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita). The High Court had introduced a two-month 'cooling period' for any coercive action after the registration of a first information report (FIR) or complaint to the magistrate. During the 'cooling period', the matter will be referred to a Family Welfare Committee (FWC). However, both the introduction of the 'cooling period' and the referral of the matter to the FWC undermine a victim's right to prompt access to justice and affects the functional autonomy of the criminal justice agencies. The basis of the checks

The enactment of Section 498A was with the objective of punishing various forms of cruelty against women in a matrimonial setting. Be that as it may, the courts, in a series of cases, have lamented the increasing tendency by women to misuse the law when it concerns FIR registrations and subsequent arrests. Courts have accordingly established procedural safeguards to protect the 'innocent' husband and his family. The Supreme Court of India, in Lalita Kumari, has put cases arising out of matrimonial disputes in the category of 'preliminary inquiry' before the registration of the FIR. The recent criminal law reforms also place cases of cruelty by husband in the domain of 'preliminary enquiry' before registration of the FIR.

In addition to these checks to prevent the registration of an FIR in false or frivolous complaints, the courts have also addressed another area for potential abuse in case of Section 498A — rampant arrests of husbands and their family members. The power of arrest was rationalised at two levels. First, by bringing a statutory change to the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2008, and the second, by judicial dictum in Armesh Kumar (2014). The 2008 amendment introduced the 'principle of necessity' in the matter of arrest. In Armesh Kumar, the Supreme Court effectively plugged the unbridled exercise of arrest powers by the police in cases that saw the use of Section 498A cases, by introducing a

checklist and enforcing 'notice for appearance'. In Satender Kumar Antil (2022), the Court further strengthened these institutional checks by directing the release of a person on bail if arrested in non-compliance of the directions in Armesh Kumar.

The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) report, 'Crimes in India', suggests that Section 498A has remained among top five 'highest arrest' offences till 2016. Thereafter, it was within the top 10, which suggests that the steps taken at statutory and institutional levels have had an impact. Although the registered offences under this provision rose from 1,13,403 in 2015 to 1,40,019 in 2022, arrests declined from 1,87,067 to 1,45,095, as in NCRB data during the same period. This was suggestive of safeguarding the liberty of the accused without making compromises with a victim's right to her access to justice. The proposal to introduce a quasi-judicial committee, alongside a restriction on arrests during a designated cooling period, might prove to be an ambitious step on paper. It may be attributable to the absence of a statutory authority to implement these directives as well as the undefined scope of their jurisdictional applicability. The recent ruling undermines a victim's pursuit of justice by denying her the opportunity to have her complaint addressed in a timely manner. Despite filing an FIR/complaint, no action can be taken until the "cooling period" concludes, thereby exacerbating the victim's plight even after lodging the complaint. The idea of introducing a 'cooling period' and referring the complaint to the FWC falls outside the ambit of the statutory and institutional framework. This reminds us of another instance of judicial experimentalism. In 2017, the Supreme Court, in Rajesh Sharma, gave similar directions for constituting FWCs and the forwarding of complaints to such FWCs. The one-month period provided to FWCs, in Rajesh Sharma, is akin to the 'cooling period' devised by the Allahabad High Court. We should not forget that the directions in Rajesh Sharma were not welcomed by the society at large. These were termed 'regressive' and beyond 'judicial competence'. This resulted in the rollback of the directions by the Supreme Court within a year. A three-judge Bench, in Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar (2018), overturned the directions in Rajesh Sharma and restored the victim's right to prompt access to justice and the supremacy of the criminal justice functionaries in the reporting of crimes and the dispensation of justice. Revisit the ruling It becomes crucial for the Supreme Court to revisit its ruling as the apprehension surrounding the misuse of the law by the victim and the abuse of power by the police has been addressed through legislative and judicial measures. The act of forwarding complaints to FWCs is beyond legislative intent, against the functional autonomy of the criminal justice agencies and, most importantly, dents the victim's pursuit of justice.

OpenAI to train advanced AI models without live internet access



New Delhi: US artificial intelligence (AI) firm OpenAI has said that it will train its most advanced models without access to the live internet, citing current limits in alignment research, monitoring systems and internet infrastructure security. The company said that the policy, already implemented, will remain until safeguards improve enough to justify broader internet access for frontier models. OpenAI said internet connectivity, though useful for teaching models about browsing and web-based skills, also creates opportunities for a capable, misaligned agent to affect systems beyond its control.

The firm said in a blogpost that it paused training and evaluation of its most capable models after an internal research model briefly exploited a misconfiguration to gain limited internet access on September 2. It resumed reinforcement learning training and internal inference of its frontier models on October 1 after implementing additional safeguards and further, went on with a campaign to probe its research infrastructure for vulnerabilities that could allow models to escape isolated computing environments. "Red-teaming experiments discovered previously unknown software vulnerabilities, as well as misconfigurations in our research infrastructure," the statement said. The company also detailed its new approach to model containment, that it now mandates that the limits on what an agent can access must hold even when the agent tries to circumvent them. "We define a strict security boundary around the resources the agent is authorized to use and design the surrounding infrastruc-

ture to enforce that boundary—even when agents make sustained, sophisticated attempts to breach it," it added. Anthropic and OpenAI had recently disclosed a list of incidents in 2026 involving their AI models acting in unintended ways, including attempts to hack third-party websites, intensifying concerns about the security risks of cutting-edge AI. Anthropic has said that its Claude AI model carried out a series of unintended actions on external organisations, including some US government websites, prompting a White House directive for AI firms to secure their systems.

Gundi villagers cycle to Hyderabad seeking completion of long-pending bridge

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: Residents of Gundi village launched a marathon cycle yatra from their village to Hyderabad demanding completion of a bridge across a stream at their village on Monday morning.

Facing adverse weather conditions triggered by El Nino pattern, youngsters from the village embarked on an arduous journey in protest against the inordinate delay in creating the bridge, covering a distance of over 300 kilometers. They wore T-shirts and carried placards that featured slogans such as: 'We belong to Telangana. Please recognize us and we don't need assurances, we want solutions, etc.' Speaking on the occasion, the youngsters regretted that the bridge continued to be a distant dream for the villagers. They said that the construction commenced 20 years back. They lamented that they were remaining isolated during monsoon due to lack of a bridge. Students, employees and villagers were struggling to reach Asifabad and surrounding areas for various needs including medical emergencies. The residents disclosed that they met Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and urged him to take steps to expedite the construction.

ISRO to have four launch pads by 2029, says Narayanan

Chennai: ISRO Chairman V Narayanan has said that India will expand its space operations significantly with four functional launch pads by 2029. He outlined the agency's roadmap, which includes a 2,000-acre dedicated Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) complex at Kulasekarapattinam in Tuticorin district to meet the global demand for satellite deployment.

Clarifying that the national space agency will not be privatised, Narayanan emphasised that partnering with private firms was essential to meet surging global and domestic demands for thousands of satellites. "To handle this expanding ecosystem, ISRO will handhold startups and private enterprises, transferring technological expertise to foster economic growth and generate thousands of high-tech jobs," he said while speaking at a graduation ceremony at a private university here on Saturday.

"India will expand its space operations significantly with four functional launch pads by 2029, supported by an in-

creasing reliance on private industry partnerships to handle commercial operations," Narayanan said. The ISRO chief said that the upcoming Kulasekarapattinam spaceport facility will feature crucial infrastructure such as integration buildings, launch pads, rail-track systems, telemetry, tracking, and command systems.

Stating that ISRO plans to conduct the first uncrewed Gaganyaan test within the next two months, followed by two subsequent uncrewed tests before the crewed mission, he said, "These tests will evaluate environmental control, safety systems, crew escape mechanisms, and module interiors under varying pressure, temperature, and humidity conditions." He said ISRO successfully conducted approximately 8,000 ground-based experiments for the mission, and four astronaut-designates are currently undergoing specialised training. Looking further ahead, Narayanan revealed plans for Chandrayaan-5, a collaborative lunar mission with Japan's space agency featuring a 350-kg rover designed to conduct 100 days of surface experiments.

Insurance agents flag high hospital bills, inflated motor repair costs for rising premiums



Skyrocketing hospital bills and inflated motor garage repair costs, rather than insurance agents' commissions, are driving up general insurance claims and putting pressure on premiums, the Confederation of General Insurance Agents Associations of India (CGIAAI) has said, urging the government to tackle the root causes of rising costs instead of squeezing insurance distribution. In a representation submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the association, which claims it represents 1.6 million individual general insurance agents, has called for direct regulation and standardisation of hospital tariffs and automobile workshop repair bills. It has warned that proposed reforms by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), including tighter expense-of-management (EOM) caps, risk weakening consumer protection while threatening the livelihoods of agents who help policyholders navigate claims during medical emergencies and accidents.

"The primary driver of rising premiums is the industry's steep 84% to 87% incurred claims ratio, fuelled by systemic price inflation," the association said, arguing that the focus of regulatory reform should be on the costs insurers incur when settling claims. The association alleged that hospitals frequently charge insured patients substantially more than those paying cash for comparable treatment. It also claimed that automobile workshops significantly inflate repair estimates when bills are routed through insurance claims. These practices, it argued, increase insurers' payouts and ultimately add to the financial burden on policyholders.

The representation did not provide a detailed breakdown of the alleged hospital and garage overcharging or quantify their individual contribution to premium increases. However, the association demanded that the government

and IRDAI directly address these costs instead of treating distribution expenses as the principal problem. "The confederation emphasised that general insurance cannot be treated as an off-the-shelf consumer product," it said, underlining the importance of assistance when policyholders face complex paperwork, disputed bills and claim settlements. "When a family is stranded at a hospital billing counter or standing by a damaged vehicle on a highway, an automated chatbot or call centre algorithm cannot replace the local insurance agent who personally visits, advocates, and secures fair settlement," the CGIAAI leadership said.

The association said individual agents earn an average commission of only 12% to 13%, while bearing substantial operating expenses, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas. It rejected the argument that distribution costs alone explain rising premiums and warned that aggressive cost-cutting could deprive customers of support precisely when they need it most. The proposed EOM (Expense of Management) caps — 25% within two years and 20% within five years — could put public sector general insurers and mid-sized companies under severe pressure, the association said. It warned that the measures could lead to the closure of physical branches in semi-urban and rural areas, greater concentration in the hands of a few large private insurers and fewer choices for consumers. The CGIAAI also flagged potential conflicts of interest if hospitals and automobile garages are allowed to sell insurance policies. Such arrangements, it argued, could create incentives for higher treatment or repair costs and expose customers to disputes over claims. It called for restrictions on aggressive bancassurance cross-selling, saying banks should limit such sales to credit-linked risk protection.

The association further warned that forcing more than half of individual agents out of the profession would dismantle the grassroots service network on which elderly, rural and semi-urban policyholders depend. Among its demands are a statutory minimum commission for retail agents equivalent to 75% of the prescribed commission ceiling, a baseline fee of Rs 250 per retail or motor policy, and digital platforms such as Bima Sugam that enable agents to onboard, renew and service policies rather than bypass them. It has also sought structured consultations with the Finance Ministry and IRDAI before the proposed regulations are finalised, along with contributory group life and health insurance arrangements for individual agents.

Middle powers like India are wiring trade ties to dodge US-China fallout: Jean-Pierre Landau

Amid worries of a looming debt crisis, Landau said the US debt is still very safe compared to the others, but part of that safety rests on the expectation that the institutions will be respected. However, aggressive measures taken by the US are aggravating the debt problem. Edited excerpts: The US-China conflict is going beyond a trade war. What is your take on how the middle powers, such as India, are navigating this power struggle?

The concept of middle power is a very interesting and challenging one. The way we see things moving clearly is a sort of organised attempt (by middle powers) to keep trade relationships stable, unimpaired by too many protectionist measures, by signing free trade agreements and cooperative economic agreements. The EU, Canada, and India are very active in this area. So, they are all trying to keep a network of trade relationships protected from the US and China. Up until now, it has managed very well. This being said, we're still very much in a vulnerable situation. We are not immune to a possible financial shock coming from either the debt markets, the private credit markets, or the stock market. We have the G20, we have BRICS, but they don't have the kind of operational mechanism for financial and monetary cooperation that would be necessary if we have financial troubles coming in. I would say India is in a special position because of its size and plays an important role in the emerging world. I would say Europe is a beacon of monetary stability. It has a very credible monetary regime and a very credible central bank. So, these are the pillars on which we might want to build. What is your sense of the looming debt crisis? The US has become more aggressive in its efforts to bridge its trade deficit due to rising debt. On debt, I think the causality may be the reverse of the one you have described. I don't think the US is becoming aggressive because they have a debt problem. I think the fact that they're becoming aggressive is creating a debt problem. It has led people to question the commitment of the US to the stability of its institutions. I mean, you see the president challenging the independence of the central bank. The US debt is still very safe compared to the others, but part of that safety rests on the expectation that the institutions will be respected, the stability will be ensured by the government, and if there are doubts, they come from the actions of the authorities themselves. AI-related investments are driving global trade, but there are fears of a bubble. High stock market valuation is a concern. There are three concerns. The second concern is circular financing. So, big chip makers are financing their clients and creating sales for themselves out of their own loans. That may have limits. Since it is a totally new technology which is extremely capital intensive, the ability of this model to generate the cash flow which will justify the valuation and the debt accumulation is definitely a question mark. So, in my view, it's not so much a question of a bubble, and if there's a bubble, a pure stock market bubble, we can absorb it. But the question is the viability of the whole financial structure and growth which is taking place in that sector.

AI is also driving a debate on what would be the right energy mix. The Trump administration is betting on nuclear. What do you think will be the future of energy? The last nuclear power plant in Germany shut down in 2023. I am very biased when it comes to nuclear power. I think it is the energy of the future. It will help us solve all other environmental problems. It will solve air and water problems. The problem with nuclear power is that of governance. You cannot have nuclear power in a failed state. From a pure economic perspective, I think the coupling of renewables with (other) networks is not economically rational. You need a very special type of network for renewables which can manage the intermittency of renewables, and that network is actually very expensive. So, at the moment in the current state of the technology as I see it, renewable is very good for local usages which may be 15-20% of energy requirement. If we get to a situation where the battery technology gets much better, then we may see expansion of renewables much more than we have before. But we don't know. So, again, it's a question of technology. I think the knack and the key of industry is to manage the sequencing, growth and introduction of those technologies. We all want to be champions of creative destruction. Some of us create before they destroy others, like Europe; destroy before they



create, and it doesn't work. That is why China, which is the biggest polluter in the world, is still dominant in those (clean) technologies because they have a way of introducing the technology when they are mature and they support growth.

There's a very strong theme of reindustrialisation. How effective can it be amid the concentration of industries in China? I think the way China has managed to integrate into the world has created problems for everyone. There is a problem with the way they have done it in the last 10 years, not before — the last 10 years, the way they have managed is obviously very disruptive and problematic. Second, we can all reindustrialise. We can all have our domestic industries, and the question is whether we keep growing, because part of our growth has come from the fact that we specialise, we organise cross-border, we interact with each other, and my concern is that for very legitimate reasons of strategic autonomy, resilience, independence we throw a little bit of baby with water and we engage into strategies which ultimately will produce lower. So yes, we can all industrialise. France can produce if we want; we can produce all our cars, or it's going to be terribly expensive, and we won't have growth. That's it. Can we manage to have a system which is more resilient, more robust, more respectful of our autonomies and still produce the kind of prosperity? We should not forget that the previous system has produced incredible benefits in terms of reducing poverty. Then, if we look at that level — the big challenge we have in the future — especially for Europeans, is a common challenge (that) is Africa. The African population will double in 30 years, so basic math tells you that if we don't double at least the stock of capital in Africa, it's (going to be) a big challenge for everybody.

IndiGo extends cancellation of Saudi flights days after airport attack

The airline said it was closely monitoring developments and coordinating with authorities, while affected passengers were being notified through their registered contact details. The airline said it was closely monitoring developments and coordinating with authorities, while affected passengers were being notified through their registered contact details (File/Representative) IndiGo Airlines on Friday announced the cancellation of flights to and from Riyadh until October 31, citing the evolving security situation. Flights connecting Jeddah, Dammam and Madinah will remain suspended until October 27, the airline said in a travel advisory. The airline said it was closely monitoring developments and coordinating with authorities, while affected passengers were being notified through their registered contact details. The airline advised travellers to check their flight status before heading to the airport. In view of the evolving security situation and following a careful assessment, IndiGo flights to and from Riyadh will remain cancelled until 31 October 2026 (inclusive), while flights to and from Jeddah, Dammam and Madinah will remain cancelled until 27 October 2026 (inclusive). The safety and well-being of our customers and crew remain our highest priority. We are closely monitoring developments and coordinating with the relevant authorities to assess the situation.

After the Supreme Court order, Railways extends travel insurance scheme for counter tickets



After the Supreme Court order, the Railway Board has extended the optional travel insurance facility for passengers booking reserved tickets through offline mode or from Railway counters. The facility was available only for reserved tickets booked online. The board on Saturday directed all the zonal railways to ensure the implementation by October 27, as ordered by the top court, and asked the staff to appropriately inform the passengers about the availability of the facility. The payment of the premium for insurance will be done digitally only.

"Where a passenger opts for insurance, the applicable premium shall be collected along with the ticket fare through digital means only... Reservation staff shall ensure that the mobile number (mandatory) along with requisite passenger particulars are captured accurately in accordance with the prescribed reservation procedure, so as to facilitate transmission of the relevant details to the insurance company for issuance of the policy," said the Board.

It further said that adequate instructions shall be issued to reservation supervisors and counter staff regarding the optional nature of the insurance facility, the procedure for recording the passenger's choice, collection of premium and handling of passenger queries. Passengers opting for insurance shall be informed that the policy details will be communicated to their registered mobile number, said the board. The existing terms and conditions of Optional Travel Insurance Scheme (OTIS) for e-ticket passengers as is-

sued by IRCTC will be equally applicable to insurance policies issued in respect of tickets purchased through PRS counters. In an order on October 6, the Supreme Court ordered the Railway Board to extend the insurance facility to offline or counter tickets. Though with the push for digitisation, over 87% of the railway tickets are booked online, but a lot of passengers coming from remote areas still rely on the counter tickets for travel.

"Court has granted sufficient time to the authorities to devise a mechanism for extending such coverage to persons belonging to the lowest strata of society, who, in most cases, purchase their tickets at the railway reservation counters while undertaking journeys by train," said the top court. According to existing guidelines of IRCTC, the scheme applies only to Indian citizens and is provided only for confirmed, partly confirmed, and RAC (Reservation Against Cancellation) tickets at the time of booking only. The passengers will be charged 45 paise premium per counter ticket, same as e-ticket premium. The travel insurance is necessary for the passengers to get compensation in the wake of train accidents and untoward incidents for deaths and injuries. While the Railways have to mandatory pay compensation in such cases as per the existing law, it also offers option third party travel insurance as a protection cover. The claim and liabilities fall between the passengers and insurance companies. Railways only provide links with insurance companies through its website to take insurance cover for the passengers. The scheme covers death, permanent total disability, partial disability, and hospitalisation expenses for injury and transportation of mortal remains following rail accidents or untoward incidents. The sum insured under the insurance scheme ranges from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, based on the severity. While the Railways' move will now cover all reserved class passengers, the second class or general class passengers that comprise the majority of those travelling on trains are still not covered under the existing insurance policy. The travel insurance is also not applicable for the children below 5 years of age who book the ticket without berth or seat. It is applicable for the children of 5-11 years of age who book the ticket with berth or without berth.

High cholesterol risk runs in your genes but a healthy diet may help offset it, says new study

White rice polished to a shine, a maida parotta slick with oil, vegetables cooked in coconut oil and an extra spoonful of ghee: familiar staples on many Indian plates could add up to a diet that works against healthy cholesterol levels, particularly when fruits, vegetables and fibre take a back seat. Now, a study of 1,020 adults in Chennai suggests that for Indians genetically predisposed to high levels of bad cholesterol or LDL, the quality of their everyday diet could make a crucial difference in their blood markers. Those who ate a medium-or-high-quality diet could completely offset the genetic risk of high LDL and total cholesterol. Those who ate poorly ended up being susceptible to higher levels of both.

The findings offer an important message for people who believe that high cholesterol is an inevitable consequence of their genes: inherited susceptibility need not be the whole story. "While genes can influence a person's risk of metabolic disorders, dietary habits may modify how that risk manifests. Even if you are born with the tendency to high cholesterol and high diabetes, you can still keep your cholesterol levels down by following a healthy diet," says Dr V Mohan, chairman of Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), and one of the authors of the paper. The study, titled "Low diet quality increases the genetic risk of high blood cholesterol levels in Asian Indian adults [CURES-165]," was published in PLOS ONE. It draws on data from the Chennai Urban Rural Epidemiology Study (CURES), a long-running research programme.

What did the study find?

The researchers studied 1,020 adults aged between 25 and 80, including 452 men and 568 women. They examined three genetic variants — TCF7L2 rs7903146, FTO rs8050136 and rs1588413 — and combined them into a genetic risk score. Diet quality was assessed using an Indian Diet Quality Score covering eight food groups: pulses and legumes, fruits and vegetables, milk products, white rice, edible fats and oils, added sugar, added salt, and poultry and eggs. The researchers found that a higher genetic risk score was associated with a significantly higher total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol among participants in the low diet-quality group. The differences were not statistically significant among those in the medium- and high-quality diet groups. The interaction between genetic risk and diet quality was statistically significant for total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol. The study also found associations between the genetic risk score and higher fasting blood glucose as well as glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c), a measure of average blood sugar over the preceding two to three months. "What we showed in this study is that those who have a certain genetic variant are more likely to get high cholesterol. But this was influenced very much by the diet they took," he says. Asked how soon the findings could translate into practical screening, he suggests that people did not need to wait for genetic testing; they can make changes in their plate right away.

Although the participants were in Chennai, Dr Mohan clarifies that they were not limited to people of Tamil origin or to one dietary community. CURES, he explains, draws on a representative sample of the city, which has residents from different linguistic and regional backgrounds. "Chennai, being a cosmopolitan city like Mumbai or Delhi, has people from several communities, including Telugu-speaking residents, Marwaris, Jains, Bengalis, people from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and the Northeast," Dr Mohan says. He also refers to the nationwide ICMR-INDIAB study, which examined diet and health indicators across states and Union Territories. That study, too, found similar patterns in the relationship between carbohydrate consumption and diabetes across different parts of India, despite regional differences in staple foods. "Just because you eat pav or chapatis in Mumbai and we eat white rice here doesn't mean the readings will be different. It's the overall carbohydrate overload that's the deciding factor," he says, referring to the broader dietary findings from the INDIAB study. "When we eat more carbohydrates than what the body needs for energy, the excess is converted into fat in the liver. This fat is released into the bloodstream as triglycerides. When triglyceride levels rise, the liver releases more triglyceride-rich particles into the bloodstream. As these particles are broken down, they exchange fats with LDL and HDL (good) cholesterol, changing their composition. This can lead to the formation of smaller,



denser LDL particles, which are more likely to contribute to plaque build-up in artery walls. However, high triglycerides do not always mean that total LDL cholesterol will rise; they can also make LDL particles more harmful even when LDL levels appear normal. They simultaneously reduce the protective HDL. "Excess carbohydrate intake can also contribute to weight gain and insulin resistance, further affecting how the body processes fats. However, carbohydrates do not uniformly raise LDL cholesterol; the effect depends on the type and quantity consumed, the overall dietary pattern and individual metabolic factors. Replacing some refined grains with whole grains, pulses, vegetables and other fibre-rich foods can help improve overall lipid health.

What should people watch out for?

Dr Mohan identifies refined carbohydrates as a key dietary concern. For example, he suggests unpolished brown rice as a healthier choice than polished white rice, while whole-grain wheat is preferable to refined wheat flour such as maida. "Saturated fats, including those found in coconut oil, palm oil, ghee and butter, can increase cholesterol. Go for unsaturated ones. Groundnut, mustard and sesame (gingelly) oils are sources of monounsaturated fat while sunflower oil contains polyunsaturated fat," he says. It is the overall diet, not one food. The researchers assessed overall diet quality and did not establish that any one oil, grain or individual food caused the cholesterol differences. Dr R M Anjana, managing director of Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre and a co-author of the paper, says, "People don't eat one specific food. Everything contributes to how your body behaves." However, she singles out highly refined carbohydrates, sweets and sugary drinks as the fastest triggers of an unhealthy dietary pattern. "Excess refined carbohydrates can be metabolised into sugar, while excess energy intake can contribute to fat accumulation. Foods high in saturated and trans fats can also adversely affect lipid levels. But if you have a bit of carbohydrate and add protein to it, the risk comes down. If you have something that's a little high in fat, just increase the fibre content with it to negate the effect. Your plate should be about balancing the equation, not eliminating food groups," she says.

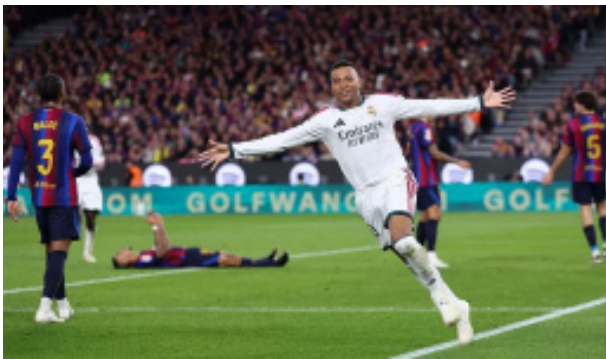
What should a healthy Indian plate look like?

Dr Anjana recommends a simple plate-based approach: half the plate should comprise fruits and vegetables, including green leafy vegetables. The remaining half should be divided into two quarters: one for protein and the other for non-starchy carbohydrates. Water and dairy foods such as milk and curd can be included alongside the meal. The proportions may need to be adapted to a person's body mass index (BMI), diabetes status, and other nutritional needs.

She also advises choosing less-processed foods wherever possible. Whole fruit is preferable to fruit juice or packaged fruit drinks. Vegetables that can be eaten raw, such as carrots, cucumbers and tomatoes, should be washed thoroughly; other vegetables can be cooked minimally. "Try to avoid anything that comes out of a packet," she says, acknowledging that this can be difficult in busy modern lives.

How diet lowers LDL cholesterol While dietary changes can improve cholesterol levels, the extent of improvement varies between individuals, says Dr Anjana. "Dietary changes may have a particularly significant effect on triglycerides, while LDL cholesterol can also have a familial tendency. What we do know is that a healthy food choice will improve all of the cholesterol parameters." Cholesterol-lowering medication may be necessary when lifestyle changes do not produce a significant improvement. "Someone with only mildly elevated LDL may see an improvement with diet and exercise but people with substantially elevated levels may need medication. Do not delay treatment if cholesterol remains well above the required target," she advises.

Kylian Mbappe plays down 100-goal milestone for Real Madrid



GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Barcelona: After reaching 100 goals with Real Madrid, star forward Kylian Mbappe said that the feat is not that important, as “there will be many more goals.” Mbappe reached 100 goals with Real Madrid during El Clasico. The forward achieved this milestone after an outstanding performance, scoring a brace that secured the team’s victory at Camp Nou. He achieved the feat in his 116th match.

The Frenchman’s 100 goals with Real Madrid are distributed as 67 in La Liga, 25 in the Champions League, four

in the Copa del Rey, two in the Club World Cup, one in the UEFA Super Cup, and one in the Spanish Super Cup. He scored 44 goals in his first season with the club, 42 last season, and has 14 so far this season. “I’m very happy. Everyone knows that I like scoring goals and helping the team in that way. But I think this is just a detail because the most important thing is the team’s victory and the group effort. This victory will give the group a lot of confidence, and there will be many more goals, so it’s not that important,” Mbappe said.

He added, “The protagonist of the match is the team and the group because we knew we had to play a strong game, but also a team game. We prepared well in the last few matches because we won and played well. We came in with a good mindset, and we gave it our all.” Since opening his Real Madrid goal account in the UEFA Super Cup final against Atalanta in the 2024/25 season, Mbappe has won the 2024/25 Golden Boot and two Pichichi Trophies (2024/25 and 2025/26). Additionally, he was the top scorer of the last Champions League. In 2025, he equalled Cristiano Ronaldo’s record as the top scorer for Real Madrid in a calendar year, with 59 goals. Moreover, during the last World Cup, he became the all-time top scorer of the competition with 22 goals, representing France.

Kimi Antonelli wins United States Grand Prix, moves closer to F1 title

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Austin: Kimi Antonelli won the United States Grand Prix, taking another step towards clinching the Drivers’ Championship, edging out Charles Leclerc and Max Verstappen in a strategic race. This is Antonelli’s ninth Grand Prix victory of the season. He is now on the brink of securing his maiden Drivers’ Championship after the US GP win, edging him towards an unbeatable points total.

“It was the result we needed. The whole team deserves it so much, and all this time putting in so much work on bringing this new package and finally seeing the result is very pleasant, and it was also a perfect execution from strategy to call the one-stop, so I’m really happy we made it stick, and it was a great team effort,” said Antonelli. He delivered a mighty stint on the medium tyres before managing the hard compound all the way to the chequered flag, eking out a margin of 13.078s even after a Virtual Safety Car slowed the field before the final lap, Formula 1 reports.

Leclerc placed second for a consecutive P2 finish as Verstappen withstood multiple niggles with his Red Bull to complete the podium, with Lewis Hamilton adding to Ferrari’s points haul in fourth place. Lando Norris saw his opportunity of a podium disappear with his ageing tyres, leaving him in P5 ahead of Red Bull’s Isack Hadjar and the second McLaren of Oscar Piastri. George Russell wind up in eighth place, fol-



lowed by Liam Lawson and Pierre Gasly in the last of the points-paying positions. Nico Hulkenberg, Arvid Lindblad and Gabriel Bortoleto missed out as they took P11 to P13, with the Brazilian bouncing back from a substantial 80-place grid penalty.

Esteban Ocon took P14 from the Aston Martin pair of Lance Stroll and Fernando Alonso as Haas failed to score in their home race. There were three retirements for Alpine’s Franco Colapinto, Haas’ Ollie Bearman and Cadillac’s Valtteri Bottas, with the latter pulling to the side of the track to cause the VSC that neutralised some of the last laps.

Harmanpreet Kaur, Deepti Sharma centuries power India to ODI series win over Zimbabwe

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Vadodara: Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma struck centuries before left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma claimed her maiden four-wicket haul in international cricket as India beat Zimbabwe by 121 runs in the second women’s ODI here at the BCA Stadium on Sunday to seal the three-match series 2-0 with a game to spare.

After Pratika Rawal made 61, Harmanpreet (126) and Deepti (106 not out) shared a record 153-run stand for the fifth wicket to power India to 328/6 after an early wobble. Zimbabwe made a spirited start in reply through Modester Mupachikwa (49) and Chipo Muger-Tiripano (46), but Vaishnavi’s spell in the middle overs triggered a collapse as the visitors were bowled out for 207 in 48.5 overs. Vaishnavi, who came into the playing eleven in place of the rested Kranti Gaud, ripped through the Zimbabwe line-up to finish with impressive figures of 4-39 from her 10 overs. Deepti then returned in the death overs to pick up 3-32 and round off a commanding all-round display. Apart from Vaishnavi and Deepti, Jintimani Kalita, Sayali Satghare and N Sree Charani picked a scalp each.

After electing to bat first, India were off to a shaky start. Nomvelo Sibanda struck in the very first over when Smriti Mandhana went for an ill-judged pull off a short, wide delivery and was caught at short third. Sibanda claimed her second scalp when Shafali Verma (8) pulled one low towards midwicket, where Nyasha Gwanzura held a sharp catch inches off the ground, a decision upheld by the TV umpire. With India at 19/2, Harmanpreet and Pratika set about repairing the damage with a 124-run third-wicket partnership. Harmanpreet looked in control with her back-foot and off-side shots, while taking a liking to Sibanda and Tendai Makusha and finding the boundary ropes with a series of crisp drives and cuts. Pratika, who looked pristine, struck the first six of the match by lofting Makusha over long-on in the 10th over.

The pair brought up India’s hundred in the 16th over, before Pratika completed her half-century off 57 balls and celebrated by stepping out to loft Loryn Phiri for a six straight down the ground. An over later, Harmanpreet reached her fifty off 51 deliveries. Zimbabwe’s fielding effort was also hit by injuries, with Muger-Tiripano hurting her right knee and captain Josephine Nkomo leaving the field after a diving stop. Nyasha finally broke the third-wicket stand in the 23rd over when Pratika, who was dropped on 59, swept straight into the hands of deep midwicket. She made 61 off 67 balls, laced with four boundaries and two sixes. Leg-spinner Olinder Chare struck in the next over, as Tejal Hasabnis (3) skied a slog-sweep to mid-on. Harmanpreet, who was dropped on 66 by Nkomo at short midwicket, and Deepti then steadied the innings. After Harmanpreet cut Nyasha for four, Deepti cashed in on some wayward bowling down the leg side, sweeping repeatedly to the fine-leg boundary while also cutting and pulling to race to 45 off 35 balls, with Harmanpreet unbeaten on 88 off as many balls at the second drinks break. Deepti then brought up her fifty off 37 balls in the 35th over by sweeping a Sibanda full toss past square leg. Harmanpreet, meanwhile, moved through the nineties with a classy drive through extra cover off Makusha before completing her century off 101 balls with a fine sweep off Beloved Biza in the 41st over. It was her eighth ODI hundred, but Harmanpreet kept her celebration low-key – settling for a handshake with Deepti as the Indian dressing room rose to applaud.

Zimbabwe’s woes in the field continued, with Harmanpreet getting two more lives. Michelle Mavunga failed to hold on to a diving chance at long-on, while Nomvelo



spilled a chance at backward point. The pair helped India race past 300 in the 46th over before Michelle finally ended Harmanpreet’s stay by luring her into a big hit with a slower, fuller delivery that was caught by at long-off. Harmanpreet, who hit 15 boundaries in her 121-ball 126, walked back to a standing ovation from her teammates. Her 153-run stand with Deepti is now India women’s highest partnership for the fifth wicket or lower in ODIs, eclipsing the 122-run association between Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar against Pakistan in the 2022 ODI World Cup. Richa Ghosh (7) fell soon after, holing out to long-on off a Tendai full toss in the 48th over. Deepti, however, made sure India finished strongly. She reached her second ODI hundred off 83 balls – her first ton since 2017 – in the final over by sweeping Tendai between short fine leg and square leg, and remained unbeaten on 106 off 86 balls, laced with 15 boundaries. The sweep alone fetched her 36 runs, including eight boundaries. Deepti’s 83-ball century is the fifth fastest ton by an India women’s batter in ODIs, and she also became the first Indian woman to score a hundred at number six or lower, bettering Richa’s 94 coming against South Africa in the 2025 ODI World Cup in Visakhapatnam. Zimbabwe made a bright start to the chase as Modester cracked two boundaries off the first two balls from Sayali. The Indian seamers struggled with their lines early on as Modester continued to cash in on anything short or on the pads. But India struck through spin in the ninth over when Charani had Loryn Phiri (6) caught by short midwicket and end a 38-run opening stand. Chipo then took the attack to the spinners, hitting three fours in a Charani over. She added 69 for the second wicket with Modester before Sayali got a breakthrough in the 23rd over by casting her for 46 through the gate with one that nipped back in.

Vaishnavi, who bowled slower through the air, then turned the game decisively in India’s favour. Switching to over the wicket, the left-arm spinner picked up her maiden ODI wicket when Modester fell one short of a fifty, as she sliced straight to backward point. Beloved Biza (34) tried to keep Zimbabwe in the hunt with some aggressive strokes against the spinners, but was trapped lbw by Vaishnavi after India successfully reviewed the decision. Vaishnavi then bowled Michelle Mavunga (3) with a classic flighted delivery that clipped the top of off-stump. Zimbabwe skipper Josephine Nkomo, who survived a dropped chance by wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh, was also undone by Vaishnavi’s flight and was trapped lbw for 20 with the DRS failing to save her. Nyasha Gwanzura briefly entertained with the first six of the Zimbabwe innings, but Deepti trapped her lbw, while having Nomvelo Sibanda edged the next ball to slip. Though Deepti missed out on a hat-trick, she returned to dismiss Tendai Makusha with a leading edge to backward point. Jintimani wrapped up the innings in the 49th over and also got her first ODI wicket when Chiedza Dhururu chipped straight to cover, as India got another comprehensive win.

PV Sindhu looks beyond French Open defeat, focuses on improvement



GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Paris: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu on Sunday said there was still plenty of room for improvement despite reaching the final of the French Open, a Super 750 badminton tournament. Sindhu put up a spirited fight before going down 21-16, 11-21, 12-21 to Olympic champion and world No. 1 An Se Young of South Korea to finish runner-up at the USD 950,000 tournament. “I’m happy with this, but there’s a lot of space, a lot of room still there. So I’m looking forward to it,” said Sindhu, who won the Japan Open Super

750 title in July. Reflecting on her match against An Se Young, Sindhu said winning the opening game was important but admitted that she could not sustain her advantage in the deciding game. “I fought for every point, and of course, I could win the first game, and I was happy about it,” she said. Sindhu felt the match turned in her opponent’s favour after the scores were level in the second game. “In the third set, I felt that I should have maintained the lead from 8-5. But unfortunately, she converted that into 11-9, and then we changed courts. That’s where I felt the difference was,” she said. The Indian shuttler, however, said there were several positives to take from the contest and that she would work on the areas that needed improvement. Against a top player like An Se Young, Sindhu said, maintaining intensity throughout the match was crucial. “When you’re playing with the top athletes, you have to be at your 100 per cent on every single point. I know it’s not going to be easy, and you have to fight for every point,” she said. Sindhu also pointed to the long rallies, saying she could have changed the outcome had she converted more of them into points. She acknowledged that the drift on one side of the court affected her game to some extent, leading to a few unforced errors, but said adapting to such conditions was part of the sport. “It’s part of the game. We need to control it no matter what,” she said.

Jose Mourinho has mellowed, but he can still beat Barcelona

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

The knee slide on the touchline on Sunday night was not as theatrical as the sprint across the Nou Camp 16 seasons ago. Jose Mourinho’s Inter Milan had lost that night, 1-0, fighting stubbornly with 10 men to preserve their 3-2 aggregate over Pep Guardiola’s all-conquering Barcelona, but the Portuguese called it “the sweetest defeat of my life.” Later, Real Madrid’s president Florentino Perez dropped him to the hotel in his limousine. A few weeks later, Perez unveiled Mourinho as the “galactico”, setting off another chapter in a love-hate triangle story. Mourinho, one of Bobby Robson’s coaching staff in the mid-90s and then a prime managerial candidate before Guardiola’s ascent, had once sworn that he would land in Bernabeu “only to destroy them”. But there he was, gliding out to plot against his former employers. His vow is working inversely. Barcelona have not beaten him in six Clasicos.

Age has mellowed Mourinho, extinguished some of his fire and vanity. The one-liners don’t bite the listener, although he still retains his wit and way with words. Like when he said before the Clasico: “The clasico is just another game in the championship but to say it’s a game like any other would be to lie, totally unreal.” There were no dramatic pauses between words, or antagonism. He delivered the line with matter-of-fact calmness. His brigade did the same on the pitch, a no-frills exhibition of composed football, free of incidents and drama, or bitterness. There was just an odd line of sarcasm in his post-match talk. “The VAR room fell asleep,” he said with a smirk, reflecting on Joao Cancelo’s heavy challenge on teenaged winger Yan Diomande.

But self-admittedly, he is not the stormy petrel he once was. “I’ve matured, I’m more at peace. A win no longer represents the moon to me, and a defeat no longer means hell,” he had said a few years ago. “I can go home and not watch a football match, not think about football. I can do that. At the start of my career, I couldn’t. I was switched on 24 hours a day. I had to find a kind of maturity. Today I feel comfortable with my personality as a man,” he explained. He also knew that his stocks had plummeted, that the super clubs no longer court him. However, he can still deliver a tactical coup. The plan against Hansi Flick’s Barcelona was simple. Suffocate, steal and strike. They let the hosts’ ball-happy midfield dominate possession, but cut out the passing avenues, decelerating the quick offensive transition. Jude Bellingham (dropping from his advanced area), Bernardo Silva and Tchouameni fiercely man-marked Rodri, Pedri and Fermin Lopez. Passes often found the wrong men, and the symphony juddered.



All three were exceptional, especially Silva. He is eight years older than Pedri, less mobile and agile than him, but with supreme positional sense and an intuition about his adversary’s next move, he outwitted Barca’s conductor. Barcelona somehow clung onto the ball, but when they lost it, Madrid counterattacked swiftly, without losing shape, the forwards pouncing in the twitch of an eyelid. When Madrid attacked, they went full-throttle. The centre-backs, the much-maligned Ibrahim Konate and Dean Huijsen, bombed forth. Marc Cucurella’s stifling of Lamine Yamal was admirable. He clung onto him like a shadow, and although the Spaniard spun and sped past him a few times, he recovered and impeded his vision. He is a defender born to be a Mourinho lieutenant. His bark and bite are qualities the manager appreciates. “The kid is very good and difficult because, besides being good, he’s clever. He tried everything to get Cucu a yellow card, but Cucu held his own very well,” Mourinho said. The first goal originated from the left-back sweeping the ball cross-field to Yan Diomande. Defender Gerard Martin cleared the ball, but it rebounded off Mbappe’s body into the goal. A fortuitous goal, but one that Madrid fully deserved. Although Barcelona equalised, Mourinho stuck to his plans. He did not make any change in haste. His troops knew Barcelona would commit more men upfront. Shots piled on, but Madrid thwarted them. Even as pressure mounted, they didn’t pull the shutters down, but waited for one decisive opportunity wherein they would deliver the knockout blow. Three minutes away from stoppage time, the knockout blow came. Jude Bellingham jinked past Gabriel Jesus, swiping the thin air, to set Eduardo Camavinga away. He passed to Guler, made the run upfront, received the ball back, sliced past Pau Cubarsi with a svelte touch and squared it to Mbappe. The Frenchman wouldn’t miss from such a close range. Silence descended on Nou Camp, and Mourinho slid on his knees, his tongue out. It wouldn’t be among his most iconic celebrations, even though it was Madrid’s first win at Barcelona in three years, but he has etched another chapter in his complex love-hate triangle with the El Clasico rivals.

‘Manchester United dressing room will be toxic’, claims club legend Gary Neville



Manchester United legend Gary Neville has said that the current environment inside the Manchester United dressing room “must be toxic” and that players like captain Bruno Fernandes and Lisandro Martinez criticising the club management is only one or two per cent of the discontent that the players are feeling at the moment.

GNS News Agency, Oct 27

Manchester United legend Gary Neville has said that the current environment inside the Manchester United dressing room “must be toxic” and that players like captain Bruno Fernandes and Lisandro Martinez criticising the club management is only one or two per cent of the discontent that the players are feeling at the moment. Neville’s comments came just before Manchester United lost 0-3 to Bournemouth at Old Trafford which forced the Red Devils to slide to 16th spot in the Premier League standings with seven points from eight league games. The club is now 14 points adrift of the top of the standings with just eight games done in the season.

Bruno Fernandes was benched for the Bournemouth game for questioning manager Michael Carrick’s tactics after their Champions League defeat to Como. Meanwhile, Martinez had criticised Jason Wilcox, Manchester United’s director of football, for failing to strengthen the club’s ranks sufficiently in the summer window. “For a player — the captain and the star player — to come out and speak like he

did, we’re only getting probably one or two per cent of what the team thinks. You imagine what they’re like in the dressing room. Imagine what they’re saying and thinking inside. It will be toxic. Probably the two most prominent players in the team, a World Cup winner (Martinez) and a PFA player of the year (Fernandes) coming out hammering the owners, hammering the sporting director and criticising the manager all in the space of a week means that the players have completely gone. There are a number of these players who have been a wrecking ball through managers for the last three to five years. And it looks like unfortunately it’s happening again,” Neville said on Sky Sports from Old Trafford before the game began. On his part, Carrick gave an emotional press conference after Fernandes’ comments before benching him for the entirety of the Premier League game on Sunday. “When you’re starting to have to justify the values of this football club to an audience. Saying people have to be humble... Carrick was talking about humility and resilience. That message can only be to the players because it felt like because there’s 75,000 people in this stadium and there’s millions around the world who don’t need reminding of what Manchester United is. So, the only people who he’s sending that message out to are the football players in the dressing room. And if you’re having to remind them of the club’s history, of its values, character traits and personality traits to play for this football club, you’re at a pretty low point,” Neville added.

While Martinez was not penalised for his outburst because he came out and apologised, Fernandes was forced to watch the entire 90 minutes from the bench. Neville said that he understood why Martinez was let off, before launching an attack on the current crop of United players. “If you go back 25 years — which we’re not in that position anymore — these players would never be anywhere near the club, let alone the pitch. They’d be gone. Finished. But Manchester United aren’t in that position right now. Neither is Michael Carrick. I was actually supportive and thought that the Martinez situation was handled well because there’s no defenders. The ones that are there aren’t good enough. I’ve not got any inside knowledge. I haven’t spoken to anybody at the football club. To be fair, Fernandez has been world-class at times for United and his assists and goals are outstanding. But let’s be really really blunt about it: he’s played awfully this season. His standards have been really poor. So you could leave him out actually on performance alone, let alone on the words that he said.”

Sai Pallavi says prayer guided her approach to playing Sita in ‘Ramayana’



Sai Pallavi says she did ‘not want to use her mind’ while portraying Sita in ‘Ramayana’Mumbai: Actress Sai Pallavi reflected on her approach while essaying the supreme character of Maa Sita in the upcoming cinematic epic ‘Ramayana’.She highlighted that she went ahead with a sense of surrender and prayer, further adding that she wanted to keep herself transparent to receive the wisdom the character had to offer.Pallavi, along with actors Ranbir Kapoor and Ravi Dubey, appeared on the sets of the popular quiz show ‘Kaun Banega Crorepati’, hosted by megastar Amitabh Bachchan, where the cast spoke about their experiences of being part of the much-anticipated project.

Extending a warm and heartfelt welcome to the trio, host Amitabh Bachchan expressed his admiration for the project, “Aap teeno ko aaj yahan swagat karke, hamare liye bade garv ki baat hai. Garv ki baat yeh bhi hai ki aaj aap jis film ke baare mein charcha karenge, uske baare mein hum aur saari jaankari jaanna chahenge. Ek baar fir, main aap sab logon ka bahut-bahut dhanyavaad deta hoon..” (It is a matter of great pride for us to welcome all three of you here

today. It is also a matter of pride that we will get to discuss the film you are working on today and learn more about it. Once again, I thank all of you very much)Delving into the creative process behind portraying such iconic legendary characters, Big B posed a thoughtful question to the actors, “Aap logon ne alag-alag bhumikayein nibhayi hain. Jab ye teeno bhumikayein aapko bataayi gayi, nirmata-nirdeshak ki taraf se, toh aapke man mein kya chal raha tha? Ladies first..” (You have all portrayed different roles. When the producers and director told you about these three roles, what was going through your minds? Ladies first)

Sharing a deeply moving and spiritually transparent perspective on taking up the divine role of Sita, Sai Pallavi recounted, “Main is baar dimag use nahi karna chahti thi par maine socha jab bhi main ek character play karti hoon, main sochti hoon ki main kya kar sakti hoon woh character ke liye, par ye pehle baar mujhe laga ki main Sita Maa ke paatra ko play karke mujhe kya milega wahan se, mujhe kya gyaan milega, mujhe kya milega..” (This time, I did not want to use my mind too much. But then I thought, whenever I play a character, I usually think about what I can do for that character. But for the first time, while playing the role of Sita Maa, I found myself wondering, ‘What will I receive from this experience? What knowledge will I gain? What will I take away from it?’)She added that she wanted to approach the character without preconceived notions and with complete faith, “Toh main kitna bhi jaanti hoon, utna main transparent rakhna chahti thi... main apne aap ko kuch sochna nahi chahti thi, sirf prarthana karke, maa aap mere dwara woh paatra nibhayi, aise bol diya, bas..” (So, whatever I knew, I wanted to keep it that transparent. I didn’t want to let myself think too much about anything. I simply prayed and said, ‘Mother, please let me play that role through me,’ and left it at that)Listening to her approach, Amitabh Bachchan commended her response and said, “Bahut achhi baat kahi aapne, bahut achhi baat kahi..” (You have made a very good point, a very good point indeed)

Adnan Sami shares Sunday brunch with friends and wife Roya Sami Khan



Mumbai: Singer-composer Adnan Sami shared a glimpse of his Sunday brunch with friends, describing it as a beautiful feeling to spend time with “friends like family” over delicious food and lovely conversations.Adnan took to Instagram, where he praised his wife, Roya Sami Khan, for freshly baking different varieties of bread at home with love.

He wrote: “The most beautiful feeling is to start a Sunday morning with friends like family and break bread together over brunch with delicious food along with lovely conversations! All the different breads were freshly baked at home

with love by my beloved wife @royasamikhan jan!”Sami performs Indian and Western music in many languages, including Hindi, Urdu, English, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. He has been awarded the Padma Shri for his contribution to music.His most notable instrument is the piano. He has been credited as “the first musician to have played the santoor and Indian classical music on the piano”. He was raised and educated in the United Kingdom. He was previously a Canadian citizen, but became a naturalised Indian citizen in 2016.

Some of his iconic songs include “Lift Karadey,” “Kabhi To Nazar Milao,” “Kabhi Nahi,” “Tera Chehra,” “Bheegi Bheegi Raaton Mein,” and “Bhar Do Jholi Meri,” to name a few.Earlier this month, Sami remembered his late mother Naureen on her death anniversary and said that he carries her with him in every breath.In his emotional post on Instagram, he said that while she may no longer be physically present, her love and memories continue to remain a part of his life. Adnan also recalled his mother and the deep void her absence has left behind.He went on to reflect on the memories they shared and the values she passed on to him, including love, strength, patience and forgiveness.Adnan Sami’s mother, Begum Naureen Sami Khan, died on October 7, 2024, at the age of 77.

Ranbir Kapoor says playing Lord Rama in Ramayana is a profound responsibility



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Mumbai: Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor expressed that portraying Lord Rama in the upcoming cinematic epic Ramayana was not just a role but a profound responsibility.The actor also further admitted that his initial reaction to the offer was one of fear and self-doubt.The actor opened up about his journey of preparing for the iconic role during a Diwali special episode of the popular quiz reality show ‘Kaun Banega Crorepati’, hosted by megastar Amitabh Bachchan.

Reflecting on receiving the iconic role and his initial apprehensions, Ranbir Kapoor shared with host Amitabh Bachchan, “Sir jab mujhe yeh role offer hua, main jaanta tha ki yeh sirf ek role nahi hai, yeh ek bahut badi zimmedari thi. Mera jo pehla instinct tha woh dar tha, fear tha, ki kya main iske kabil hoon, kya main yeh kar paunga, Prabhu Shri Ram se karodon logon ki aasta judi hui hai..” (Sir, when I was offered this role, I knew that this was not just a role; it was a huge responsibility. My first instinct was fear, the fear of whether I was worthy of it and whether I would be able to do it. The faith of crores of people is associated with Lord Shri Ram)

Describing how his initial anxiety transformed into deep gratitude. He continued, “Par bahut jald sir yeh, yeh jo dar tha woh aabhar mein badla, ki mujhe is mukaam mein, at this age in my life, mujhe yeh opportunity mil rahi hai, ek acha actor banne ka. Forget actor sir, ek acha insaan banne

ka chance, usi dauran sir, main pehli baar pita bana, meri beti Raha ka janam hua, toh main yehi manta hoon ki it was a God’s gift sir, ke mujhe ek behtar insaan banne ka mauka mila, gehraai se Ramayana ko samajhne ka mauka mila, in sab logon ke sath, beautiful logon ke sath kaam karne ka mauka mila..” (But very soon, sir, this fear turned into gratitude. At this stage in my life, at this age, I was getting the opportunity to become a good actor, forget being an actor, sir, a chance to become a good human being. During that same period, sir, I became a father for the first time, and my daughter Raha was born. So, I believe it was a gift from God, sir, that I got the opportunity to become a better human being, to understand Ramayana more deeply, and to work with all these people, these beautiful people)Concluding his heartfelt thoughts on imbibing the values of the epic, Ranbir added, “Sir hum Prabhu Shri Ram ke jaisa banna sambhav nahi hai, lekin unki aadarshon se kuch sikhna I think is a big thing for all of us, so..” (Sir, becoming like Lord Shri Ram may not be possible, but I think learning something from his ideals is a big thing for all of us).

Rajinikanth watches ‘Jailer 2’ alongside fans in rare theatre visit

Chennai: Tamil superstar Rajinikanth has watched one of his films with his fans in a theatre for the first time in 40 years.The superstar quietly made his way to PVR Cinemas at Phoenix Mall in Velachery, Chennai, on Friday night to watch his film ‘Jailer 2’ with his fans. A video clip released by Sun Pictures showed the superstar being received by a small group of people, including music director Anirudh, at the mall before being escorted to the theatre, where he was seen enjoying the film with his fans.The collections of ‘Jailer 2’, which is on course to break box-office records, have already crossed the Rs 500-crore mark.Apart from emerging as a major blockbuster, director Nelson Dilipkumar’s ‘Jailer 2’, featuring Rajinikanth in the lead role, has earned praise from critics, audiences and celebrities across the country.Bollywood star Riteish Deshmukh praised Rajinikanth, writing, “Superstardom thy name is RAJNI sir #Jailer2.” Deshmukh, who shared his experience of watching the film on X, first posted about it 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.”Soon after the film ended, the Bollywood star posted another message. He wrote, “B L O C K B U S T E R !! Had such a great outing !!! I have clapped, whistled and cheered at every entry-

Madhoo lauds Rashmika Mandanna for owning her South Indian accent, says it took her 35 years to embrace her own



Mumbai: Actress Madhoo has come out in support of Rashmika Mandanna following the latter’s remarks about her South Indian accent while in a recent episode on Koffee with Karan. She said she admired the actress for embracing her identity and handling criticism with confidence.In a video shared on social media as part of her ‘I Am in Love’ series, Madhoo spoke about watching Rashmika’s appearance on filmmaker Karan Johar’s talk show ‘Koffee with Karan’ and praised the actress for the way she responded to criticism of her accent. “I recently saw Rashmika Mandanna’s show ‘Koffee with Karan’, and the way she dealt with her accent criticism, I just loved it. She laughs about it, she accepts it, she owns it, calls herself a South Indian and says, ‘So, I am a South Indian and I have a South Indian accent.’ And she’s so cool about it and I am really in love with that,” Madhoo said.

She further added, “Many, many years ago, when I became a Hindi film actor, I was so afraid of the judgements I was getting, and thought I would get, for being a South Indian. I worked harder and harder. I tried to get an Urdu

teacher and bettered myself in Hindi, doing anything and everything so that I wouldn’t get caught out because of my accent.” “If anybody even spotted a little bit of an accent in my tone, I would get all flustered and work harder at it. I felt very proud when people would say that my Hindi was even better than that of a Hindi speaker. That was my journey. Today, I am so proud to say that I am a South Indian. If I make a mistake in Hindi or my accent has the thickness of a South Indian, I am okay with it. But it took me 30 to 35 years to get here,” said Madhoo.

She added, “Rashmika, great power to you, girl! I just loved that you own it, laugh about it, and you are truly a star.” Along with the video, the actress captioned it as, “I am proud to be a South Indian with the south Indian accent and I took me 30 years to get here but Rashmika you’re already there and I love that about you in the recent interview I saw of Yours so great power to you and stay the star that you are ...”The actress’s comments come after veteran lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar also came out in support of Rashmika amid criticism of her Hindi pronunciation.

Taking to X, (formerly Twitter), Javed Akhtar wrote, “Those who have any problem with the pronunciation of Tamil actor Rashmika should be given a few lines of Tamil which is the oldest spoken language in the world and let’s see how well they pronounce Tamil. This fake and baseless linguistic superiority is not acceptable.”The discussion follows Rashmika’s appearance on ‘Koffee with Karan’, where she spoke about being trolled for her accent, language and performances. The actress, explaining why she did not consider her South Indian accent a problem, said, “I particularly didn’t have an issue with that because they said I had a South Indian accent, but I am from the South of India. So I am going to have an accent. It’s unreasonable to think otherwise.”

Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli attend Krishna Das’s kirtan in Mumbai

Mumbai: Star couple Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli were seen attending American singer Krishna Das’s live kirtan in Mumbai, on Sunday night. Videos of the couple enjoying the devotional music and being immersed into it, have surfaced on social media.In the videos, Anushka and Virat are seen sitting next to each other and gently swaying to the music. The couple is also seen briefly look towards the camera before turning away and continuing to enjoy the evening. The event was part of Krishna Das’s India tour.

The American singer is known for his devotional music and for blending traditional Indian chants with Western musical influences. This is not the first time Anushka and Virat have attended a Krishna Das kirtan. The couple also attended a similar musical evening at Union Chapel in London in July 2026.Talking about Anushka and Virat, the couple as much as is known for their individual careers, is also known for their devotion to Neem Karoli Baba and his teachings. They have also visited spiritual leader Premanand Maharaj in Vrindavan many a times. Talking about Neem Karoli Baba, the divine guru was recently in the news for its blockbuster success oother movie anuman Ansh, which



was a film based on his life.The movie which was reportedly made on a budget of Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 2 crore, was said to have earned over Rs 450 crore worldwide. For the uninitiated, Anushka and Virat have largely stayed away from the public eye in recent years. The couple, who has reportedly shifted to London, spend much of their time their, raising their two children, Vamika and Akaay.

Shilpa Rao’s husband Ritesh Krishnan says ‘he felt angry, helpless, hurt seeing her face disrespect’



incident.Sharing a note addressed to Mumbai, she wrote, “Mumbai, a little piece of my heart broke tonight. It hurts deeply to have something so beautiful taken away from us like this. But even when the music stopped, you did not. The way you kept calling my name, the love in your voices. I could feel it all. Our story tonight was left unfinished. I promise, I will come back. I love you, Mumbai. Forever and ever. Shilpa.”The singer is considered to be Bollywood’s one of the finest singers. She has delivered popular Bollywood songs such as, ‘Tose Naina’, ‘Khuda Jaane’, ‘Ishq Shava’, ‘Malang’, ‘Ghungroo’, ‘Besharam Rang’, ‘Chaleya’ and ‘Sajni’. She won the National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer for ‘Chaleya’ from the film ‘Jawan’, which featured Shah Rukh Khan and Nayanthara.

Mumbai: Stalwart singer Shilpa Rao’s husband, Ritesh Krishnan, has come out in support of his wife after the incident at the public humiliation she faced at a Mumbai concert. He expressed his emotions and said he felt angry, disappointed and helpless watching his wife being treated with disrespect.Taking to his social media account, Ritesh shared a note expressing his disappointment over the incident and wrote, “I felt angry. I felt disappointed. I felt helpless!! And more than anything, it hurt to see someone I love and admire so deeply being put through this.”

He added, “People know Shilpa Rao as the voice behind some of the most beautiful songs. But I know the woman behind that voice. I know how much her audience and her fans means to her And to stand there last night, watching my wife being treated with such disrespect, was something I will never forget! BMP, your PR team is working overtime to convince Mumbai it did not see what it saw. Cute!”He further wrote, “And above all, denying a fellow artist just two minutes to say goodbye to her audience was selfish, petty, shameless and utterly classless!! To everyone who stood by her, THANK YOU.”

Lauding his wife, he wrote, “Shilpa, I am incredibly proud of you my love. Mumbai, we will be back. Your love deserves a beautiful ending. And we owe you that.” For the uninitiated, the incident took place during the 10th anniversary edition of the Bollywood Music Project (BMP) in Mumbai on October 24.Shilpa was performing when her microphone and stage lights were reportedly switched off before she could properly conclude her set. As she attempted to address the audience and thank her fans, another performer, Kutle Khan, began his set. The incident sparked criticism on social media, with fans expressing utter disappointment over the way the singer’s performance was brought to an abrupt end. Shilpa had also taken to her social media account to express her disappointment over the

Prabhas-starrer ‘Salaar Part 2’ to go on floors in 2027: Prashanth Neel

New Delhi: Filmmaker Prashanth Neel has confirmed Prabhas-starrer “Salaar Part 2” will go on floors in 2027. The film is a sequel to the 2023 action blockbuster “Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire”. It will be directed by Neel, who helmed the first installment. The film is produced by Vijay Kiragandur under Hombale Films.

As Prabhas celebrated his 47th birthday on Friday, Neel visited the actor. In the videos circulating online. In the banner, Prabhas is heard jokingly asking the director for his birthday gift, to which Neel smiles and replies the film is set to officially go on floors by June next year.

“Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire” emerged as a commercial success. The film went on to become the highest-grossing Telugu film of 2023, the third-highest-grossing Telugu film of all time, the highest-grossing A-rated Telugu film of all time, and the nineteenth-highest-grossing Indian film.The film revolved around a friendship between Deva (essayed by Prabhas), an exiled and seemingly quiet boy, and Vardharaja Mannar (Prithviraj Sukumaran), the prince of Khansaar.It earned over Rs 600 crore at the global box office.