RNI No.TELENG/2013/49469

INDIAN CHRONICLE

PUBLISHED FROM :RANAGAREDDY,AHMEDABAD, MUMBAI, LUCKNOW, BENGALURU, CHENNAI, VIJAYAWADA

9 October 2026|Friday | Volume No:14 | Issue No: 233Pages: 12+8 www.indianchronicle.com Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) ₹1/-

TGSRTC to pick up Dasara travellers from residential colonies, hostels

Hyderabad: Planning to head home for Dasara? This year, the journey could begin right outside your colony or hostel instead of at a crowded bus depot.

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is offering special bus services from residential colonies, gated communities, townships, hostels and colleges across Hyderabad for groups of 30 or more passengers travelling together.The initiative is aimed at making festival travel more convenient, particularly during the rush surrounding Dasara, when thousands of students, employees and families leave the city for their hometowns.

Vikarabad farmers protest frequent power cuts, demand adequate supply

Hyderabad: Unable to bear frequent power cuts, farmers from Kerelli, Ibbanur, Kondapur, Kurdu and Bacharam villages under Vikarabad constituency staged a protest on the Vikarabad-Tandur road on Thursday, demanding sufficient power supply.The farmers squatted on the road and raised slogans against the State government. They said insufficient and erratic power supply was causing additional losses as agriculture pump sets motors were frequently getting burned out.The farmers said power supply improved slightly at night, but the situation during the day was extremely difficult due to frequent interruptions. They alleged that electricity department staff were cutting power arbitrarily in the name of Line Clearance, making it difficult to ensure regular irrigation for their crops.

TGSRTC union elections set for October 9 in erstwhile Khammam district

Khammam: All is set for recognised union election in Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) in erstwhile Khammam district.

Around 1,791 workers across seven depots in Khammam district are set to exercise their right to vote on October 9. The union elections taking place after a gap of nearly ten years have generated considerable excitement and anticipation.Key issues on the agenda include the merger of the RTC with the government, implementation of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) recommendations, payment of wage arrears, staff shortages and job security besides reducing work pressure resulting from the introduction of free bus travel for women under Mahalakshmi scheme.

BJP trying to take away votes of those who turned against it: Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (IANS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was afraid of poor people who had turned against it and, therefore, wanted to deprive them of their right to vote.

For a second consecutive day, the Chief Minister participated in the INDIA bloc's protest in New Delhi demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

He alleged that the BJP had tried to divide Indians based on religion, caste, region and language.

"They have also misused Central agencies as a threat to weaken the Opposition and stifle institutions. Now that defeat is imminent, the country is being divided into two major camps: those who have the right to vote and those whose votes they want to steal," a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) quoted him as saying.

"The BJP is afraid of the poor people who have turned against it, including Dalits, tribals, OBCs and minorities. Hence, they want to take away their votes," said Revanth Reddy, who joined Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other Congress and INDIA bloc leaders in the sit-in protest at Raj Ghat.

The Chief Minister stated that if the votes of 13 crore or more citizens were taken away, it would amount to the single largest disenfranchisement exercise on the planet.

He said this figure was greater than the population of many countries."We are setting up a strange situation where, after the number of voters increased in every election in India since 1952, including the last three General Elections in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power, the total number of voters in India will decline in the next polls," he said.

Raksha Expo, air show to form part of Telangana Global Summit

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (IANS) Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said on Thursday that Raksha Expo and an air show will be organized as part of the Telangana Global Summit–2026 scheduled to be held in Hyderabad from December 7 to 9.

He added that the Raksha Expo would provide a major platform to promote the growth of the defence and aerospace industries and attract investments to Telangana.

The Chief Secretary chaired a meeting at the B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat to review the arrangements for the Raksha Expo.

He discussed the participation of defence and aerospace companies, infrastructure, security arrangements, publicity and other related issues.

Sanjay Jaju noted that that around 30 per cent of the defence and aerospace industries are based in Hyderabad, making the city an important hub for these sectors.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to invite leading national and international defence, aerospace and arms manufacturing companies to participate in the Raksha Expo.

He told that roadshows will be organised in Hyderabad on October 24 and in New Delhi on October 29 as part of the promotional campaign for the Expo.

He said the state government is according priority to the development of the defence and aerospace sectors and recalled that an airfield strip is being developed in Adilabad district.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to ensure participation of industry bodies such as FICCI, ASSOCHAM, SIDM and MSMEs, along with public and private sector organisations in the defence and aerospace sectors.Leading organisations such as HAL, BEL and BDL are expected to showcase their products at the Expo.

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren performs last rites of mother Rupi Soren in ancestral village

Ramgarh (Jharkhand), Oct 8 (IANS) Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday performed the final rites of his mother and wife of Dishom Guru Shibu Soren, Rupi Soren, on Thursday at his native village Nemra in Ramgarh district.

The Chief Minister lit his mother's funeral pyre.

The last rites were performed according to traditional customs at Dhekanala Ghat in Nemra, under Gola block of the district.

Rupi Soren's mortal remains reached Nemra from Ranchi at around 2 p.m. on Thursday. A large number of villagers, supporters and well-wishers gathered to pay their last respects.

A funeral procession was also taken out, with mourners walking with the mortal remains to Dhekanala Ghat.

A sombre atmosphere prevailed in Nemra and surrounding areas as family members, close associates and villagers gathered to bid her a final farewell. Dhekanala Ghat is the same place where Dishom Guru Shibu Soren was also cremated some time ago.

Rupi Soren, 80, passed away on Wednesday while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Ranchi. She had been suffering from heart disease and several other ailments. She had returned after undergoing treatment in Hyderabad about a month ago.

The administration made elaborate security arrangements for the funeral in view of the anticipated gathering. Officials from the Ramgarh and Hazaribagh district administrations were present in Nemra since morning to oversee the arrangements.

Police personnel and magistrates were deployed, while special arrangements were put in place on roads leading to the village and the cremation site to regulate crowds and maintain smooth traffic movement.

Revanth Reddy, Pawan Kalyan condole Nana Patekar's demise

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (IANS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan have expressed deep grief over the demise of renowned actor Nana Patekar.

Telangana Chief Minister condoled the death of the leading actor, director and theatre artist. He said Nana Patekar's powerful performances and natural acting left an indelible mark on Hindi and Marathi cinema. His passing is a great loss to the Indian film fraternity.The Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and admirers, and prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace.Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan condoled the passing of Nana Patekar."I convey my deepest condolences on the passing of renowned actor Shri Nana Patekar Ji. I pray to the Almighty for his soul to rest in peace and convey my heartfelt sympathies to his family and loved ones," the actor-politician said in a post on X.The Jana Sena leader stated that Nana Patekar was an exceptional actor who brought remarkable depth and authenticity to every character he portrayed."His unforgettable performance in Krantiveer remains etched in the memories of cinema lovers. Parinda, Khamoshi, Tirangaa, Agni Sakshi, Natsamrat, Ab Tak Chhappan and Apaharan are among the many memorable works in his illustrious career.

'Their courage will forever inspire generations': T'gana, Andhra leaders greet air warriors on India Air Force Day

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (IANS) Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended their greetings to the air warriors of the Indian Air Force and their families on the occasion of Indian Air Force Day.

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said that the valour, dedication and professionalism of the Indian Air Force in safeguarding the nation's airspace and sovereignty are a matter of immense pride.

He paid tribute to the martyrs of the Indian Air Force and expressed gratitude for the selfless service and sacrifices of the Air Warriors and their families.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended his heartfelt greetings to the brave air warriors of the Indian Air Force, saying their courage, vigilance and unwavering commitment stand as a shield for our nation, day and night.

"Their valour in the skies, discipline in service and dedication to the nation embody the spirit of India and remain a source of immense pride for every citizen," he said.

The Chief Minister also paid solemn tribute to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation. "Their courage, patriotism and supreme spirit of sacrifice will forever inspire generations and remain etched in the heart of our nation. Salute to our Air Warriors."

INDIA Bloc leaders detained during 'Save Democracy' protest in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (IANS) Leaders of Congress and other constituents of the INDIA Bloc were detained in Hyderabad on Thursday as they tried to march towards Lok Bhavan demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the alleged irregularities in Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Telangana Congress President Mahesh Kumar Goud, MLC Kodandaram, CPI MLA and party's state Secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, CPI-M state Secretary John Wesley, were among those detained by police as they tried to break the police cordon and proceed towards Lok Bhavan, the official residence of the Governor.

Several Telangana ministers and leaders and workers of the ruling Congress, CPI, CPI-M and other parties participated in the 'Save Democracy' march.

Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Ponnam Prabhakar, Sridhar Babu, Adluri Laxman Kumar, Vakati Srihari, and Mohammed Azharuddin participated in the protest.

The protestors gathered at the Indira Gandhi statue on Necklace Road and marched to Lok Bhavan.

They were holding flags of their respective parties and raising slogans against the CEC and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.Some of the banners carried by the participants read 'Desh Drohi', 'Gyanesh, It's done Bro', 'Vote Chor Gyanesh Kumar', and 'Impeach Gyanesh Kumar'.

The rally was stopped at Khairatabad crossroads as police erected a barricade to block the Lok Bhavan Road.

Indian Chronicle
English Daily

Raising repo rate — calibrated tightening

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to raise the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50 per cent reflects a calibrated tightening in the face of inflation risks, uncertainties in the global environment, surging crude oil prices and currency volatility. This was the first rate hike in almost four years—the last dose happened in February 2023 when it was raised by 25 basis points. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted for the rate hike, shifting the stance from neutral to calibrated tightening. It is clear that the RBI is using strong growth as a window to act before inflation gets entrenched. Overall, GDP growth has held up better than expected, while inflation risks are building again and the global interest-rate environment is making it harder for India to maintain a wide policy gap. India's GDP expanded 7.8% in the June quarter, 80 basis points above the RBI's forecast, while high-frequency indicators for July and August, though showing some moderation, continue to point to firm economic activity. The resilience has also been reflected in forecasts from global institutions. Multiple rating agencies around the world have been lifting their FY27 growth projections for India. Stronger domestic consumption, public investment and continued activity in manufacturing and services have helped the economy absorb the impact of higher energy prices and geopolitical tensions. The RBI now seems to have greater confidence that the economy can absorb some monetary tightening without a significant hit to growth.

Retail inflation had accelerated to 4.82%, pushing it uncomfortably past the central bank's medium-term target of 4%. This led the RBI to revise its CPI inflation projection upward to 5.9% for the December quarter. Higher crude prices and a patchy monsoon have increased the risk that actual inflation could overshoot those projections. Experts estimate that if geopolitics and crude prices continue the way they are, Q3 inflation could peak at 6.2% to 6.3%. The combination of higher energy costs and weaker agricultural output has raised concerns that inflation could move above the RBI's upper tolerance level of 6% in the December quarter.

A prolonged oil shock can feed into transportation, manufacturing and other input costs, increasing the risk of broader and more persistent price pressures. Another factor that may have influenced the central bank's decision is the changing global interest-rate environment and its implications for capital flows. The US Federal Reserve raised rates in September and is expected to tighten again in October. The global backdrop is particularly important for India because higher US rates, a stronger dollar and elevated commodity prices can simultaneously put pressure on the rupee, imported inflation and foreign portfolio flows. At a broader level, the RBI's rate hike move is less about choking off growth and more about preventing the current inflation shock from becoming entrenched.

PARAMESWAR REDDY Urges Rajya Sabha Member Vem Narender Reddy to Resolve Contract Employees' Issues

"UPPAL, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):" Uppal Constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy urged Rajya Sabha Member Vem Narender Reddy to take appropriate measures to resolve the problems faced by non-teaching employees working on a contract basis at Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Women's University."On Thursday, contract non-teaching employees of the university, led by Parameshwar Reddy, met Rajya Sabha Member Vem Narender Reddy. During the meeting, Parameshwar Reddy brought to his attention the various issues being faced by the contract non-teaching staff."He requested that due priority be given to the experience and services of existing staff while making appointments to non-teaching posts at the university. He also appealed for steps to regularise the services of contract non-teaching employees who have been serving the university for a long period.Parameshwar Reddy further requested that all contract employees be provided with the benefits of time-bound pay scales and that medical insurance facilities be extended to them on par with regular employees.

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Attends Graduate MLC Election Preparatory Meeting

"KAPRA, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):" Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended an important preparatory meeting held at the Kapra Municipal Office (Kapra Circle Office) in connection with the upcoming Graduate MLC elections. The meeting was conducted under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nityananda."Leaders, public representatives, party workers, senior leaders and party members from all levels of the Nacharam Division participated in the meeting.During the meeting, discussions were held on preparations for the upcoming Graduate MLC elections, grassroots-level coordination, interaction with voters and various aspects related to the conduct of the elections."MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy urged party leaders and workers to create awareness among graduate voters about the election process, understand their issues and opinions, and bring relevant matters to the attention of the concerned authorities.A large number of party leaders and members from various levels participated in the meeting and shared their views on the preparations for the Graduate MLC elections.

Gandhi, Non-Violence Day Celebrations Conclude

"Hyderabad, October 08 (Indian Chronicle) : The concluding celebrations of Gandhi Jayanti and the International Day of Non-Violence were held in a grand manner at the Telangana Saraswata Parishat auditorium in Abids under the aegis of the Telangana Intellectuals Forum. Telangana Council of Education Chairman Prof.V.Balakrishna Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest. Justice Vaman Rao, Prof.Surya Dhanunjay, Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Major Prof. K.A.Shiva prasad, Lion Prem Chand Munoth Jain, Dr.Raj Narayan Mudiraj, Dr.Mohammed Akhtar Ali, Meghada Swapna Rajesh, Tasheen Sabha, G.Venugopal and Bichchukari Suryulu were among those who participated in the event. The Gandhi Peace Awards-2026 were presented to T.Anjana Devi, Prof.Jaganmohan Siddha, Dr.Mridula Nandana, Dr.M.Raj Kumar, Dr.Sangeetha Motkuru, Dr.Raviteja, Lieutenant Dr.B.Deepika, Dr.P.Ashwini Reddy, S.Madhu sudan, G.Anjaiah, M.Vijaya bhaskar Reddy, K.Joji Reddy, Tarun Kumar Mehta, Edla Balaraj, P.Sundar, M.Kiranmayi, K.Ravinder, M.D.Soheb Roomy, Jameel Rabbani, Mitra John Banyan and K.Prapoorna Reddy. Kuchipudi artistes Kumari Sirisha and child artiste Siri Nandana, along with Bharatanatyam artiste Nehru Naik, were felicitated. Winners of the essay-writing competitions were also honoured on the occasion.

Bhooreddy Sanjeeva Reddy Takes Charge as TRSMA Uppal Mandal President

State and District Leaders Extend Greetings to Sanjeeva Reddy""RAMANTHAPUR, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Bhooreddy Sanjeeva Reddy assumed charge as the President of the Uppal Mandal unit of the Telangana Recognised Schools Management Association (TRSMA). He formally took the oath of office in the presence of state and district-level leaders at a programme held at Sri Sai High School in Ramanthapur.TRSMA State General Secretary K. Anil Kumar, State Treasurer K. Srikanth Reddy, spokesperson Lion Ram Chander, Associate President Rameshwar Reddy, Lion Satya Reddy and other state leaders attended the programme and congratulated the newly appointed president.District President N. Srikanth Reddy, District General Secretary B. Anjaneyulu, other district leaders and members of the Uppal Mandal executive committee were also present."A large number of private school correspondents from Uppal, Chilkanagar, Nacharam, Mallapur, Nagole, Ramanthapur and surrounding areas attended the programme."Speaking on the occasion, Sanjeeva

Reddy said that strengthening unity among private schools in Uppal Mandal and working towards resolving the problems faced by school correspondents would be his main priorities."He assured that TRSMA would stand by every school correspondent and said that collective efforts would be made to improve educational standards and promote the overall development of private schools.

Rainbow Children's Hospital Performs Liver Transplant on 2.9-kg Baby

"Hyderabad Correspondent, October 8 (Indian Chronicle): A six-week-old baby weighing just 2.9 kg has successfully undergone a living-donor liver transplant at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Banjara Hills, after developing rapidly progressive liver failure caused by the rare Gestational Alloimmune Liver Disease (GALD). The hospital described the case as a landmark procedure involving what it termed South India's smallest baby to undergo a liver transplant. The infant received a 62-gram liver graft donated by the mother, which was carefully reduced to match the baby's size. The surgery was particularly challenging because of the newborn's extremely small blood vessels and limited abdominal space. Surgeons had to precisely connect the tiny blood vessels and position the graft safely, the hospital said. The baby developed jaundice during the first week of life, progressing to severe liver failure by the third week. After infections, metabolic disorders and genetic causes were excluded, doctors suspected GALD. Intravenous immunoglobulin and two exchange transfusions failed to stop the deterioration, leading to the decision to proceed with transplantation. Post-operative recovery was complicated by severe lung problems requiring advanced respiratory support, including high-frequency oscillatory ventilation and inhaled nitric oxide. The baby also developed resistant bacterial infections and an intestinal leak that required a second surgery and temporary stoma. Following prolonged nutritional support and multidisciplinary care, oral feeds were gradually resumed. The baby was eventually discharged breathing without oxygen and taking full feeds by mouth. Dr Prashant Bachina, paediatric gastroenterologist and hepatologist, stressed the importance of early diagnosis and timely transplantation. Dr Srinivas Reddy Mettu, paediatric liver transplant surgeon, said the procedure required meticulous planning, precision and close teamwork. The hospital said its paediatric liver transplant programme across Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru has completed 107 transplants, with an overall survival rate of 95%.

Woman Gives Birth Inside 108 Ambulance

"EMT Praveen Yadav and Driver Ramesh Act Promptly and Ensure Safe Delivery""Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"October. 09.""Asifabad: A pregnant woman from Adaghat village in Asifabad Mandal gave birth to a baby girl inside a 108 ambulance while she was being shifted to Asifabad Hospital. The timely response and presence of mind of the ambulance staff ensured the safety of both the mother and newborn.Atram Mengubai, wife of Srinu and a resident of Adaghat village, developed severe labour pains. Her family members immediately contacted the 108 emergency ambulance service. The ambulance staff reached the village and began transporting her to Asifabad Hospital."However, while travelling, her labour pains intensified. Observing her condition, EMT Praveen Yadav immediately responded and stopped the ambulance near the Buruguda petrol bunk. He provided the necessary emergency assistance and conducted the delivery inside the ambulance."Mengubai delivered a baby girl during her fifth pregnancy. Following the delivery, the mother and newborn were safely shifted to Asifabad Hospital for further medical care.The family members expressed their gratitude to EMT Praveen Yadav and ambulance driver Ramesh for their timely response, presence of mind and dedicated service during the emergency. Locals also appreciated the ambulance staff for ensuring the safe delivery of the mother and child.

Senior Citizens Association Seeks List of Closed Industries

CHILKANNAGAR, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Representatives of the Senior Citizens Association, led by Association President Das Goud, visited the Nacharam Industrial Area Local Authority (AILA) office in their locality on Thursday and submitted a representation to the officials.During the visit, the association representatives requested the officials to provide, in writing, a list of industries that have remained closed for several years for information and further action."The association representatives stated that they would announce their further course of action after receiving the details related to the closed industries.Association General Secretary Boda Vidyasagar, Treasurer Shamirpet Chandraiah, Vice-Presidents Madhav Reddy Srinivas Reddy and Devulapalli Purushotham, Joint Secretary Vijayagiri Venkatachari, Executive Committee members Maila Ailaiah and Kura Devaraju, among others, participated in the programme.

20-year-old dies after alleged assault in Talabkatta

Hyderabad: A 20-year-old youth, identified as Shaik Ismail alias Ashu, died while undergoing treatment after allegedly being assaulted by his friend Mujju alias Zubair in Talabkatta.According to police, Ismail was called out by his friend Omer on the pretext of a discussion on October 5. Later, family members were informed that he had fallen ill and was admitted to a private hospital.

Inspector Jalandhar Reddy Holds Meeting with Officials on Conduct of TGSRTC Elections

""MEDIPALLY, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):" Medipally Police Inspector Jalandhar Reddy held a meeting with TGSRTC officials under the jurisdiction of Medipally Police Station on Thursday to discuss arrangements for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming TGSRTC elections."The meeting, held at 11 a.m., was attended by Inspector Jalandhar Reddy along with SIs Uday Bhaskar, Edukondalu and Narsinga Rao. Chengicherla Depot Manager Swathi, Uppal Depot Manager Ram Mohan and Workshop Works Manager Zakir Hussain also attended the meeting."During the meeting, the officials discussed various precautionary measures required to ensure that the TGSRTC elections are conducted peacefully without any untoward incidents. The discussions covered arrangements for polling centres, installation and functioning of CCTV cameras, coordination with various workers' unions, voter details and security arrangements."Inspector Jalandhar Reddy directed the concerned officials to complete all election-related arrangements well in advance and maintain close coordination with the police department. He instructed the officials to take all necessary security measures to ensure that the elections are conducted peacefully, transparently and smoothly.

Malkajgiri civic body steps up preparations for Bathukamma celebrations

Hyderabad: Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation commissioner T Vinay Krishna Reddy on Thursday directed officials to complete advance preparations for Bathukamma celebrations, ensuring public safety and convenience.At a coordination meeting with key civic body wings here, Reddy reviewed sanitation, road maintenance, street lighting, drinking water supply, public amenities, traffic management, waste collection and cleanliness in parks and surrounding areas.Officials were asked to take proactive measures to prevent inconvenience as large crowds are expected. Sanitation operations should continue before, during and after celebrations at event venues, with special staff deployed for immediate waste collection and removal, according to a press release.

Major Power Upgrade for Yapral: 3-Phase Lines and New Poles Proposed to Address Local Electricity Issues

Alwal, October 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE)““Following the directions of Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajashekar Reddy, Malkajgiri AE Srinivas Reddy, officials from the TGSPDCL Electrical Department, and Yapral resident Ramesh Yadav inspected electricity-related issues in the Dargah area behind Samala Lakshmi Nagar and along the Barshapet Cheruvu line.During the inspection, officials examined the existing single-phase electricity line in the Dargah area behind Samala Lakshmi Nagar. They also inspected the electricity line extending from Ramireddy's residence to Jagan Reddy's residence along the Barshapet Cheruvu line.The inspection also focused on the requirement for three-phase electricity supply in these areas and the need for new electricity poles at locations where additional infrastructure is required.As part of the decisions taken, steps were proposed to replace the existing single-phase line with a new three-phase electricity line. A three-phase line is also proposed along the Barshapet Cheruvu stretch from Ramireddy's house to Jagan Reddy's house. The installation of new electricity poles at necessary locations was also decided upon.The inspection was aimed at identifying and addressing electricity-related issues faced by residents in the area and improving the local power infrastructure.Local residents including Raju, Laxman Raju, Komraiah, Rahman, Ravi Yadav and Srinu, along with other colony residents, participated in the inspection.BRS senior leaders Bandari Laxman Yadav, Venkatesh Yadav, Mallesh Yadav, Naresh and Srinivas, among others, were also present.The inspection covered areas under Kowkoor Division 189 and Yapral, with public representatives and electricity department officials examining the local power infrastructure and requirements.

Journalists Play a Crucial Role in Society:

Syed Imam“Senior Journalist Veera Reddy Honoured with Journalist Excellence Award“

“HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“ Journalists play a crucial role in society and stand by the people at the grassroots level, said Syed Imam, Chairman and Managing Director of Greater Infra Projects.Journalist Excellence Awards were presented to senior journalists at a programme organised by Peoples Media at Ravindra Bharathi on Thursday. Syed Imam, who attended the event as the chief guest, said the media, being one of the important pillars of society, has a significant responsibility in bringing people's issues to the forefront.“He appreciated the representatives of Peoples Media for recognising senior journalists from across Telangana and honouring them with awards.Film actor Babu Mohan, who attended the programme, said such initiatives further enhance the responsibility of journalists. He noted that recognising and encouraging people who have demonstrated excellence in various fields would motivate them to contribute even more to society.On the occasion, several senior journalists who had rendered distinguished services in the field of journalism were felicitated and presented with awards by Babu Mohan and Syed Imam.Senior Sakshi journalist Chintareddy Veera Reddy was presented with the Journalist Excellence Award in recognition of his outstanding services to journalism and was specially congratulated by the dignitaries.“Peoples Media organiser Sampath Reddy, Dr. Sanjeev, Private Employees Organisations Association president Gandham Ramulu, former Nizampet corporator Balaji Naik, Telangana Jana Samithi Greater Hyderabad president M. Narasaiah, Journalists Association president Bollam Srinivas, senior Congress leader Satyanarayana Murthy and others attended the programme.

Government Services Complaints Can Now Be Filed Through WhatsApp

Special Grievance Cells Set Up to Make Government Services More Accessible““Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"October. 09.““Asifabad: People can now submit complaints and grievances related to government services directly through WhatsApp without having to visit government offices. On the directions of Joint Adilabad District In-charge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, special grievance cells have been established at the four Collectorates in the erstwhile Adilabad district.“DCC President Atram Sugunakka said the WhatsApp grievance facility would help bring government services closer to the people and enable them to bring their problems to the notice of officials quickly. She urged people to make use of the facility.“Collectors have made special WhatsApp numbers available so that people can submit their grievances and petitions from home. The facility is also available at Minister Jupally Krishna Rao's office in Hyderabad.The Minister directed the Collectors to ensure that every complaint received from the public is examined by the concerned officials and that necessary steps are taken for speedy resolution. He also instructed officials to forward complaints to the concerned departments and continuously monitor their disposal.“WhatsApp Numbers“Minister Jupally Krishna Rao's Office: 8500689596“Adilabad Collectorate: 9492341947“Nirmal Collectorate: 8317557897“Kumuram Bheem Asifabad

Collectorate: 7569986036“Mancherial Collectorate: 9492123642“The Minister urged people to use these WhatsApp numbers to bring their problems directly to the notice of the concerned authorities and seek timely resolution. Collectors advised people to include complete details of the issue, location, address, supporting documents and photographs along with their WhatsApp complaint.

C M Uddyami Yojna Program Organises

“On Thursday 'Chief Minister Uddyami Yojna'“Program was organised at Bapu Sabhagar Patna in which the CM Samrat Chaudhary, other Ministers ,Officers and beneficiaries participated. As on this occasion the CM addressed the entrepreneurs and encouraged them to come forward and make the economy of the state strong.He assured the youths of Bihar to make them industrialist when they would enter in the field of start up.As the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned 10,000 Crore for this scheme.As the population of Bihar is approximately 14 crore and a change has been seen.The government has provided basic facilities as road,drinking water and electricity to all houses of Bihar. As the government has helped 9000 adolescent to establish their start up in which 2500 belong to Minorities community. As on Thursday 7000 people got the amount. His government has tried to make 45000 new entrepreneurs. As 27 years ago the budget of Bihar was 6000 crore .But in this year the budget of Bihar is 3 lac 45 thousand crore.As 12 lac people are migrated from Bihar to earn their bread in other states so his government will develop industrial growth in Bihar and check the migration. As the motto of the government is to make one crore people entrepreneurs under the scheme of MSME.The government will purchase 40 percent product of Bihar.The government has also made a scheme to acquire 13000 Acre land for the establishment of industries with the aim of the investment of 5 lac crore.Others who were presented on this occasion as Ministers-- Shreyasi Singh, Lakhendra Paswan, Mrs Rama Nishad,Jama Khan, and officers as Pratay Amrit, Lokesh Kumar Singh etc.““

E O U Raids in Munger.“On Thursday a team of EOU (Economic Offences Unit) Bihar conducted raid on the premises ofan Executive Engineer Narad Kumar Das in Munger district of Bihar in connection with disproportionate assets.As a special team of EOU arrived in Munger from Patna and conducted raid at his residence in Belan Bajar locality .As the action has started against corruption in Bihar .Several raids were conducted against the corrupt officers of Bihar in pervious and huge wealth as Cash, kinds and papers regarding land were recovered. As Economic Offences Unit (EOU),a specialised branch of Bihar Police which investigates complex financial crimes,corruption and fraud.““ Erosion of the Gandak alarms“After receding the flood water of the Gandak the erosion has made thd situation alarming in several areas of Bagha Subdivision in West Champaran district of Bihar.As on Thursday the erosion of the Gandak has badly affected Rohua Nala locality of Ratwal Punchayat under Bagha 1 st block of Bagha Subdivision in West Champaran district.As the SDM Bagha Mrs Chandni Kumari got information about the incident she rushed to the erosion site and took stock of the situation .She directed the concerned officers to save the area from erosion .The electric poles of the electricity department also came under erosion so the concerned department has cut electric supply in the area.She also said that the primary duty of administration would to save the life of people from disaster and other calamity.“ As it is noted that the flood and erosion of the Gandak has badly affected several areas of several districts as West Champaran, East Champaran, Gopalganj, Saran and Vaishali. As in west Champaran the breached of Embankment has destroyed the crops of the peasants and washed away several houses as well as made maroon thousand of people.“ “ Sarkar Apke Dwar Program organised““On the direction of Bihar Government under Seva Sankalp Abhiyan a program ',Sarkar Apke Dvar' was organised in several selected punchayats of several blocks areas of the district to provide help among the beneficiaries of various wrlfare schemes of the Government. As the District Magistrate West Champaran Taranjot Singh visited in the atea of Lauria block and inspected the camps.He directed the local officrrs to encourage people towards PM Surya Ghar Mufta Bijli Yojna.“

After that the DM inspected Model School as Uttkramit Sarswati Vidya Niketan +2 H/S School Jawaharpur under Lauria block area of thr district. As the DM interacted with the students and asked questions regarding 2nd World War and students answered in this regard.““Ajay Kr Mishra “Bettiah/Bihar

Centre Failed to Protect Democratic Values: Atram Sugunakka

Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"October. 09.““Congress Holds Protest Wearing Black Badges, Submits Petition at Ambedkar Statue“Asifabad: DCC President Atram Sugunakka alleged that the BJP-led Union Government has failed to protect democratic values and constitutional rights. The district Congress unit staged a protest wearing black badges in front of the Ambedkar statue in Asifabad town on Thursday, demanding protection of democracy and voting rights. Later, Sugunakka, along with constituency in-charge Shyam Naik and other Congress leaders, submitted a petition at the Ambedkar statue.Speaking on the occasion, Sugunakka said the electoral process should be completely transparent and every eligible voter should have their name included in the electoral rolls. She demanded steps to ensure that no citizen's voting rights are removed unjustly.She said the government and the electoral system have a responsibility to respond to questions raised by opposition leaders regarding the electoral process. She also expressed concern over the reported detention of Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and INDIA bloc MPs by police while they were on their way to meet the Election Commission in Delhi.“Stop vote theft and protect democracy,” Sugunakka said. She stated that protecting the rights guaranteed to every citizen by the Constitution framed under the leadership of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is the responsibility of everyone. She called for transparent measures to strengthen public confidence in the electoral system and said the Congress party would continue its campaign for the protection of democracy and voting rights.Market Committee Chairperson Irukula Manga, Municipal Floor Leader Abdullah, DCC Vice-President Tariq, Mandal President Murali, Town President Imran, Wankidi Mandal President Mangaji, Kerameri Mandal President Sujahid Khan, Market Committee Director Gazula Jakkayya, ATMA Committee Chairperson Gaddala Satthayya, senior leaders Chitla Narayana, Balu Yadav, Mohammed, Vishwanath, Shankar and Pentu, women leader Kalavathi, Youth Congress leaders Saikumar, Elagala and Naitambanu, among others, participated in the protest.

Collector orders repairs, temporary shifting of SC hostel students.

Karimnagar October 08, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): District Collector Chitra Mishra on Thursday conducted a surprise inspection of the SC Boys' College Hostel at Karkhanagadda here and directed officials to undertake immediate repairs to the hostel building and temporarily shift the students to an alternative facility.The Collector inspected the hostel rooms, kitchen and premises and interacted with the students to ascertain the quality of food, drinking water, accommodation and other facilities. She also entered the kitchen and inspected the preparation of food, including the ingredients being used and hygiene practices.

Ms. Mishra stressed that students should be provided nutritious food of good quality in accordance with the prescribed menu and that there should be no compromise on food quality or cleanliness. She directed officials to closely monitor the facilities and address students' grievances promptly.During her inspection of the building, the Collector observed the need for repairs and ordered the officials to take up the work immediately. She directed them to ensure that students were shifted to an alternative hostel until the repairs were completed, keeping their safety in mind.She also interacted with the kitchen staff and enquired about their problems, asking them to bring any difficulties related to hostel management to her notice.Social Welfare Deputy Director Bhagyalakshmi, ASWO Tirupathi Naik and SWO Satyanarayana were among those present during the inspection.

Komatireddy demands CEC's resignation over alleged electoral irregularities.

Karimnagar October 08, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): Former SUDA chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy on Thursday observed a one-day hunger strike at his office in Mukarampura here in protest against what he alleged was the assault and arrest of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi during a peaceful demonstration against alleged irregularities in the electoral process.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Narender Reddy alleged that the BJP-led Union government was using the Election Commission to undermine the voting rights of citizens. He demanded the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that he had failed to prevent irregularities in the electoral process.

He said the right to vote was a fundamental right in a democracy and alleged that attempts were being made to deprive people of the right through the electoral roll revision process.Mr. Narender Reddy also raised questions over the verification of voter details through Form 6 and alleged that bogus Form 7 applications with forged signatures were being used to delete votes. He demanded that the Election Commission ensure transparency in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.He said the protest being led by Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi was aimed at protecting democratic values and the Constitution and claimed that it had the support of people across the country.“If the Union government continues with the same approach, we are prepared to undertake an indefinite hunger strike, if necessary,” he said.Several party leaders, corporators and activists, including MD Taj, Varala Narsingam, Parvatham Mallesham, Kanthala Jagan Reddy, Gundati Srinivas Reddy and Nihal Ahmed, participated in the hunger strike.

Comprehensive Review of Poet-Storyteller Jimbo's Literature

“Hyderabad, October 08 (Indian Chronicle) : A special literary review on the works of noted poet and storyteller Jimbo was held at Lamakaan, Dr.B.Narsing Rao said in a statement on Thursday. Programme coordinator Dr.Satya narayana Dyavanapalli said Jimbo had authored around 10 story collections, 10 poetry collections and a book on the Telugu language. He highlighted the connection of the former Karimnagar region with ancient literary works such as Brihatkatha and Gathasaptasati. Jimbo's writings reflect his experiences with courts and the judicial system, human relationships, childhood memories and his association with Vemulawada, he said. Jimbo responded to questions from literature enthusiasts, who appreciated the organisers for conducting the programme.

Owaisi calls for unity to strengthen AIMIM in Karimnagar.

Karimnagar October 08, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has called upon party leaders to set aside factional differences and group politics and work collectively to strengthen the organisation.Mr. Owaisi appointed Syed Ghulam Ahmed Hussain as AIMIM president for the erstwhile Karimnagar district and Mohammed Atif Ateena as Karimnagar town president. He handed over the appointment orders to the newly appointed leaders at Darussalam in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Mr. Owaisi directed the district and town committees to work in coordination and strengthen the party organisation. He stressed the need for unity among party leaders and workers and asked them to focus on organisational strengthening by keeping internal differences aside.Mr. Ghulam Ahmed Hussain thanked Mr. Owaisi for entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the party in Karimnagar, Peddapalli and Rajanna-Sircilla districts. He said he would make every effort to strengthen the party and expand its organisational base in the three districts.

MLC Shambhipur Raju Assures Action on Local Issues as Quthbullapur Delegation Calls on Him.

""Dundigal, Oct 8 (IC Correspondent):"A delegation comprising former public representatives, BRS party leaders, activists, and representatives from various residential colonies across the Quthbullapur constituency paid a courtesy visit to Medchal District BRS Party President and MLC Shambhipur Raju today."The meeting took place at the MLC's campus office in Shambhipur, located within the Dundigal Municipality."During the interaction, colony members and local leaders brought a range of civic infrastructure and civic grievances to his attention, submitting representations for their early redressal."Reassuring the public delegation, MLC Shambhipur Raju stated that addressing public grievances and working toward the holistic development of the constituency remains their primary objective. He promised prompt follow-up with the relevant authorities to resolve the issues raised.

Congress Demands Resignation of Gyanesh Kumar Congress Cadre Turn Out in Large Numbers for "Chalo Lok Bhavan"

""UPPAL, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):" Congress leaders and workers from the Uppal constituency participated in large numbers in the "Chalo Lok Bhavan" programme organised under the aegis of the INDIA bloc, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar."The rally began at the statue of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and was attended by TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Ponnam Prabhakar, Vakiti Srihari and Azharuddin, along with District Congress President Vajresh Yadav."Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, along with Narsa Reddy, Bhupathi Reddy, INDIA bloc leaders, senior Congress leaders and party workers from the Uppal constituency, participated in the programme in large numbers."The programme was organised to safeguard democracy, ensure transparency in the electoral process and protect constitutional values. Congress leaders and workers strongly expressed their

views on the need to uphold democratic principles.They stated that protecting democracy and safeguarding constitutional values would remain their foremost responsibility.

Prominent Citizens Unveil Pamphlet for Bodrayi 12th Pushkara Mahotsavam in Uppal

"UPPAL, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):" On the occasion of the completion of 12 years since the installation of Bodrayi at the heart of Uppal village, prominent citizens of Uppal unveiled the pamphlet for the 12th Pushkara Mahotsavam on Thursday at the Bodrayi premises under the aegis of the Bodrayi Management Committee.The three-day religious celebrations will be held from October 23 to 25 with special pujas performed as part of the ceremonial three-day initiation. The celebrations are being organised to mark the successful completion of 12 years since the re-installation of Bodrayi, which is worshipped as the village deity.With the cooperation and support of the villagers, the 12th annual anniversary, or Pushkarotsavam, will be conducted with devotion and spiritual fervour. As part of the celebrations, special pujas, homams and annadanam programmes will be organised in the village.The prominent citizens appealed to devotees to attend the auspicious celebrations along with their families and seek the blessings of Sri Shiva-Parvati Swarupa Bodrayi (Nabhishila).Prominent citizens of Uppal and representatives of the Bodrayi Management Committee participated in the programme.

AKARAPU ARUN PATEL Participates in Sharannavaratri Arrival Celebrations

"VENKAT REDDY NAGAR, OCTOBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel participated in the Sharannavaratri celebrations of Goddess Durga held at various locations in the Venkat Reddy Nagar Division and offered special prayers.Arun Patel attended the Devi Sharannavaratri arrival programmes organised in Venkat Reddy Nagar, Ram Reddy Nagar, Old Ramanthapur, Vasavi Nagar and Ramanthapur. He performed special pujas to Goddess Durga and offered prayers with devotion.Speaking on the occasion, Arun Patel prayed that the blessings of Goddess Durga remain with the people always and wished everyone good health, prosperity, happiness and peace.Local leaders and his associates, including Ashok Singh, Harish, Ambati Prabhakar and Sunil Kumar, along with a large number of colony residents and devotees, participated in the programmes.

1.83 Crore Development Works Launched in Dr. AS Rao NagarUppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy

"DR. AS RAO NAGAR, October 8 (Indian Chronicle): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy laid the foundation stones for seven development works being taken up in Ward No. 15 of Dr. AS Rao Nagar at an estimated cost of ?1.83 crore."The development works mainly include the construction of CC roads and storm-water drainage systems at several locations. The MLA said the works were being undertaken to provide better road connectivity to residents and prevent drainage-related problems during the rainy season."The works will be taken up in and around Ayyappa Swamy Temple, South Kamala Nagar by-lanes, Mahesh Nagar–Gayatri Nagar Road, Nayakranti Nagar–Netaji Nagar Junction, Srinivas Nagar, Kamala Nagar, Srinagar Colony, Subhash Chandra Nagar, New Srinivas Nagar and V.N. Reddy Nagar."The details of the works are as follows:"1. CC roads and by-lanes at Ayyappa Swamy Temple and South Kamala Nagar – ?30.50 lakh."2. CC road from Mahesh Nagar to Gayatri Nagar Road – ?19 lakh."3. Storm-water drain from Plot No. 58 in Nayakranti Nagar to Netaji Nagar Junction – ?52 lakh."4. CC roads at the auto stand, Srinivas Nagar and near HDFC Bank in Kamala Nagar – ?18 lakh."5. CC roads near the Pochamma Temple in Srinagar Colony – ?16.50 lakh."6. CC road from House No. 9-124/B in Subhash Chandra Nagar to Rim Design Technologies – ?28 lakh."7. CC roads on Roads 10, 11 and 12 of New Srinivas Nagar and near the culvert in V.N. Reddy Nagar – ?19 lakh."Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy said providing basic infrastructure facilities to the people was their primary objective. He assured that pending issues in Dr. AS Rao Nagar would be resolved in a phased manner."He directed the officials to complete the ongoing development works at the earliest while maintaining quality standards."BRS State leader Soma Shekhar Reddy, former corporators Sirisha Soma Shekhar Reddy and Kotha Rama Rao, former division president Mahipal Reddy, BRS division leaders, colony residents and officials were present.

Madhusudhan Reddy Nagar RWA Executive Delegation Convenes Courtesy Meeting with BRS LP Whip & Quthbullapur MLA KP Vivekanand.

"IC Correspondent | October 8, 2026"HYDERABAD — The newly constituted executive council of the Madhusudhan Reddy Nagar Residents Welfare Association (Division 131, Quthbullapur) paid a formal courtesy visit to the BRS Legislative Party Whip and Quthbullapur Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), KP Vivekanand, at his residence office today."Addressing the delegation during the interaction, KP Vivekanand emphasized the vital role played by civic welfare bodies in driving grassroots urban development. He affirmed his steadfast support and pledged full legislative and administrative cooperation toward accelerating infrastructural and civic progress across the colony."> "Residential welfare associations serve as indispensable catalysts for community advancement. My unwavering support and resources remain fully committed toward fulfilling the developmental aspirations of Madhusudhan Reddy Nagar.""> — KP Vivekanand, BRS LP Whip & MLA"> "Key Attendees at the Delegation"| Role | Represented Members |"|---|---|"| President | AV Chinnayya |"| Advisors | Raghuma Reddy, Shekhar Reddy, Prasad Rao, Mallaiah Goud |"| Working Presidents | Pulla Rao, Madhusudan, Sanjay Kumar |"| Vice Presidents | Gnaneshwar Reddy, Shekhar Goud, Sriram, Narasimha Reddy, Sriramayya |"| General Secretary | Santosh Reddy |"| Treasurer | Dokku Srinivasa Rao |"The gathering was also attended by executive committee members and prominent local BRS party leaders.

Elimineti Krishna Reddy appointed as the chairman of the Atma Committee

Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy

""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 8):- On Thursday, the names of the directors of the Atma Committee were announced by the honorable Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy. The Bhuvanagiri MLAs who participated in the program were Atma Committee Chairman Elimineti Krishna Reddy Injapuram Jyoti Elkaraju Venkatayya Taviti Thirumalesh Marri Narasimha Reddy Jitta Krishna Reddy Jammalamadugu Nagaraju "Pinnam Raju Padma Daravat "Eleti Narsinga Rao Daravat Satish Goreddy Krishna Reddy Pabbati Venkayya "Noone Govardhan Yata Shankarayya "Erragunta Nirmala Rachakonda Ramesh "Sarakanti Rangam Reddy Erra Venkatesh "Korra Perenga Kanutala Bhaskar Reddy "Kota Sudhakar Boda Venkatanarsayya "Chalamalla Saritha Kesharla Mahender Reddy "Sheikh Rasool Siripangi Meenayya Rapolu Srinivas Naragoni Pramod Nudchara "District Congress Party Vice President Chukka Swamy Market Committee Chairman Rekha Baburao Mandal Con-

gress President and District Youth Congress President Manga Praveen Minority Cell Leaders Shanur Baba Mandal Leaders Chitti Yadagiri Manne Varu Pampuma Village Branch President Rambabu Guntakandla Suresh participated.

Bhongir MLA Kumbam Anil Kumar Reddy Participates in 'Chalo Lok Bhavan' Rally Under 'Save Democracy' Slogan

"(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – October 8): Bhongir MLA Kumbam Anil Kumar Reddy participated in the 'Chalo Lok Bhavan' program organized under the 'Save Democracy' slogan.

Responding to the call given by the INDIA alliance demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, party members from the Bhongir constituency—led by MLA Kumbam Anil Kumar Reddy—marched from the Indira Gandhi statue on Necklace Road to Lok Bhavan on Thursday.

Josh Team Launched as Part of TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 8):- As part of TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, Josh Team was launched at the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Officers' Complex under the joint auspices of the Central and State Governments. DM&HO Dr. Manohar, TB Program Officer Dr. Vamsi Krishna, DIO Ramakrishna, Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar as the chief guest, District Library Organization Chairman Chisti, District Youth Sports Officer Dhananjaneyulu, ZP CEO Shobharani, Sarpanches of TB Mukt villages, officials, district NCC cadets and others participated in the program." Youth Association President Saragada Karun was felicitated with a shawl and a certificate of appreciation by the chief guests for distributing nutritional kits to TB patients under the auspices of Nava Bharat Youth Association as per the call of Kshay Mitra. Speaking on the occasion, they said that although various service programs are being organized under the auspices of Nava Bharat Youth Association in the district, providing

nutritious food to TB patients is commendable. Saragada Karun said that Nava Bharat Youth Association will contribute its share to achieving the goal of TB Mukt Bharat in the coming days. He revealed that in addition to organizing awareness seminars in the district, they will encourage people to undergo TB diagnostic tests and provide all necessary cooperation. "Everyone should be a partner in making Yadadri Bhuvanagiri a TB-free district," he called.

Katraj flyover enabling smooth traffic flow on two national highways will be ready by December end

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

As the Pune civic body accelerates work on the long-pending Katraj-Kondhwa road, the flyover connecting the stretch to the Bangalore-Mumbai bypass at Katraj junction will be completed by the end of this year, while the 50-metre-wide road will be developed by March next year, according to Shruti Naik, executive engineer of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).The bypass will ensure seamless traffic movement between the Katraj-Kondhwa road and the Bangalore-Mumbai bypass, enabling vehicles from the Pune-Solapur national highway to reach the Pune-Mumbai or Pune-Satara highways without entering city limits.

Officials from the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and the NHAI recently conducted a site inspection to review progress on the Katraj-Kondhwa road and the Katraj Chowk flyover.During the review, authorities decided to acquire 10 additional properties crucial for road development that were previously excluded from the acquisition process. The civic body has pushed to fast-track the 3.5-km-long Katraj-Kondhwa road project, which faced years of delays due to land acquisition hurdles.Municipal Commissioner Naval Kishore Ram directed officials to acquire the required land as soon as possible after holding discussions with landowners. He instructed all involved agencies to meet the March 2027 deadline for the 50-metre widening work."It was also decided to complete the necessary land acquisition process to further widen the Katraj-Kondhwa Road to 84 metres, with a target completion date of March 2028," Commissioner Ram said.He noted that most of the service road work is complete, though electric poles must still be removed to facilitate construction of the grade separator bridge.The PMC also plans to develop a 9-km extension from Khadi Machine Chowk to Wadki Chowk to connect the Mumbai-Satara highway with the Solapur highway.Long-delayed projectThe PMC completed land acquisition for the Katraj road widening in over 28 years with an investment of Rs 21 crore. The Katraj junction has traditionally served as an entry point to Pune for travellers coming from Bangalore, Goa, Kolhapur, Sangli, and Satara.However, despite the construction of a new road as part of the Mumbai-Bangalore bypass via Narhe, the traffic situation at Katraj continued to worsen due to the increasing volume of vehicles on the narrow Katraj-Kondhwa road, which connects the city to Saswad and Solapur.

Ghatal Master Plan gets Rs 1,200 crore allocation, says Suvendu

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

Ghatal (WB): West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday announced that Rs 1,200 crore would be allocated in the current financial year for the Ghatal Master Plan to mitigate recurring floods.He also directed officials and local MLAs to expedite work on the master plan.The CM was addressing a gathering after paying tributes to Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar on his 206th birth anniversary at his birthplace, Birsingha, in Ghatal of Paschim Medinipur district."We will allocate Rs 1,200 crore for the Ghatal Master Plan this financial year. The Centre will provide 50 per cent of the funds, and the state government will bear the remaining costs.

"We will receive some funds from the Disaster Management Department for procuring land for the master plan. We have asked local MLAs to expedite work on the master plan," Adhikari said.He said the work under the master plan should be carried out on a war footing after Durga Puja and completed by June next year, before the commencement of the monsoon season.Adhikari also criticised the previous TMC government over its "faulty policies", which he said resulted in West Bengal slipping to the 31st position among states and Union territories in the education sector.

He said West Bengal also ranked very high in child marriage and was competing with Jammu and Kashmir for the dubious distinction."Today, because of the previous government's wrong policies, we are not in the top 10 in education… We are at 31st in the country. We are also competing with Jammu and Kashmir in child marriage. We have around 60,000 adolescent mothers, of whom 13,000 are in Murshidabad and 9,000 in South 24 Parganas. There are instances in this district (Paschim Medinipur) as well," he said.The Ghatal Master Plan, estimated to be worth around Rs 1,500 crore, is aimed at mitigating recurring floods in the region by improving drainage and channelising excess water through canals and rivers into the Rupnarayan River.It covers 11 blocks and five municipalities across Purba and Paschim Medinipur districts, spanning five Assembly and three Lok Sabha constituencies. The area covered by the plan is around 1,659 sq km.It was originally estimated at Rs 50 crore, but the project remained unimplemented for nearly five decades, and its projected cost rose to around Rs 1,500 crore.

10-year-old startup gets licence to build warships and submarines

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

Pune-based Sagar Defence Engineering (SDE) has secured a licence to build warships and submarines for the Navy. Founded 10 years ago in a 150 sq-ft apartment, the startup has been building unmanned surface vehicles and unmanned underwater vehicles—technologies governed by the defence ministry's strict regulatory framework.Capt Nikunj Parashar, the former Merchant Navy officer who founded SDE, says, "The licence is proof that the government trusts organisations like us to undertake design, manufacturing, construction, integration, as well as testing, assembly, and supply of specific naval defence platforms and other ancillary associated systems."

Parashar adds that the war in the Strait of Hormuz has revealed two critical opportunities: sea control and sea denial. The former means access and passing of traffic to the Strait that Iran and the US are controlling separately."Sea denial is of extreme importance and means that platforms are getting captured or the risk of vessels going down due to mines. This has made us understand that underwater domain awareness is the next big chapter in symmetric and asymmetric warfare of the future," says Parashar.SDE has already been making unmanned underwater vehicles for the Navy's mine countermeasure programmes. The Navy and the Coast Guard, among others, also use SDE's maritime drones."These are completely built out of India except the engines and the radar," says Parashar."SDE has a large team working on these projects, but you will be disappointed if you look for degree holders from the world's top institutes here," he adds.The employees of the company, which Parashar says operates in a highly covert mode, have an average age of 23. "Most of us are from tier-III or tier-IV towns. Around 96 per cent of us come from families below the poverty line, children of traders, autorickshaw drivers, and labourers," he says."It is our grit due to which we have managed to grow exponentially in a decade. We are driven by a dream of participating in India's dream to become atmanirbhar by 2047," Parashar adds.

SIT summons SAD leader Bikram Majithia, ex-cop Jagdish Bhola in drugs case

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

A Punjab Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) has summoned Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia and convicted former deputy superintendent of police Jagdish Singh Bhola for questioning on October 5 in the long-running synthetic drugs case widely described as a Rs 6,000-crore network.Both men have been asked to appear on the same day, raising the possibility that investigators will question them face to face for the first time.The notice to Majithia comes at a time when he has been vigorously attacking the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government on various issues, including the allegation of a Rs 5 crore bribe levelled on the wife of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the issue of alleged misuse of government houses by AAP functionaries.The development also follows the surrender and questioning of dismissed assistant inspector general of police Raj Jit Singh, who surfaced last week after having been absconding since 2023.

The police custody of Singh, who has been facing allegations of shielding drug smugglers and running targeted extortion racket from drug smugglers, has been extended till October 3. Police sources said that the notices to Majithia and Bhola may have been issued following his detailed interrogation.When Bhola named MajithiaThe notices revive a probe that began with Bhola's arrest in November 2013 and later drew in Majithia's name through statements recorded in 2014. Majithia, a former Punjab minister, has denied any role and called the case politically motivated.

The Punjab Police arrested Bhola, an Arjuna Award wrestler who had been dismissed from the force in 2012, after recoveries of synthetic drugs, precursor chemicals, cash and arms. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) later treated the associated money-laundering trail as far larger than the police's initial estimate and associated a figure of about Rs 6,000 crore with the overall racket.Bhola named Majithia while being produced in court after the arrest of associates Jagjit Singh Chahal and Maninder Singh 'Bittu' Aulakh. A 2018 anti-drug Special Task Force report recommended further investigation of Bhola and Aulakh's claims against Majithia. Later, appearing before the Punjab Vigilance Bureau, the two criticised the initial ED investigation, terming it a piece of "political drama".FIR in 2021, no chargesheet filedOn December 20, 2021, during the Charanjit Singh Channi government, the police registered an FIR at the State Crime Police Station in SAS Nagar under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.Majithia spent more than five months in custody in 2022 before the Punjab and Haryana High Court granted bail, noting the absence of direct recovery. He has since appeared before successive SITs more than a dozen times. No chargesheet has been filed in the 2021 NDPS case.In June 2025, the Vigilance Bureau arrested Majithia in a disproportionate assets case after the SIT wrote that its NDPS inquiry had found an alleged trail of about Rs 540 crore routed through family-linked companies, suspected foreign entities and unexplained deposits. The bureau has spoken of assets far above declared income. Majithia's lawyers say it recycles material already tested in bail hearings.Bhola was convicted in 2019 and again in 2024. After nearly 12 years in prison, he was granted bail by the high court in May 2025 and released in early June, with conditions including a bond, monthly reporting and passport surrender. His appeals are pending.The 2021 FIR has been handled by five SITs. The team now issuing summons was reconstituted on March 31, 2025. It is headed by Mohali Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Varun Sharma, with Tarn Taran SSP Abhimanyu Rana and Patiala SP (NRI/Detective) Gurbans Singh as members.

'No calls please.' At the Dipke home, a quiet birthday for the CJP founder's parents as he prepares for next protest

GNS News Agency, Oct 8In his birthday, Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke put up a rather "unbirthday-like" Instagram post: "No calls please." His parents, Anita Dipke and Bhagwan Shankar Dipke, were among those who obeyed."Every year, even when he was studying in Delhi, he used to come home for his birthday. We would cut cake, gift him new clothes, celebrate with his friends and go out to eat. Chicken biryani is his favourite," says Bhagwan Shankar.The family lives in Aurangabad, now called Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. For the last two years, Abhijeet was in the US, where he was studying at Boston University. This year, his parents wanted him home again.

But the 31-year-old, who is in Delhi, has other things happening. The CJP has called for a Jail Bharo Andolan at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on October 2. "We asked him to come home. He said that it was not possible," says Bhagwan Shankar.In their ancestral village Santuk Pimpri, in Hingoli district, a blood donation camp was organised by village youths on the occasion. "When Abhijeet comes home, more than 100 people visit every day. Mostly women, college students and social workers from all over Maharashtra. The house is so quiet now," says Bhagwan Shankar.On Tuesday, CJP co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka posted a heartfelt message for Dipke. "You lifted this country (and me) up just when we were starting to lose hope. To all the great things and great moments that await us! Love you so much mere bhai!"Before leaving for Delhi a few days ago, Abhijeet had told his mother, "Tension nahin lena Mummy. Main abhi tumhara baccha kam, desh ka zyada hoon. (Don't be tense mummy. I am not so much your child as the country's now)."

Bhagwan Shankar, Abhijeet's father, is a retired civil engineer of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. As Abhijeet became the face of youth discontent in the country, his family has made subtle adjustments."He has refused to get married for two-three years. He is doing India's work. We have stopped saying anything," says Anita. When he is home, Abhijeet takes his father's car and drives off into the village to survey schools. "The CJP is highlighting the condition of rural schools. Nobody used to pay attention to schools in the interiors of villages. These have started improving since the CJP took up the cause," says Anita.Bhagwan Shankar is the one paying off Abhijeet's education loan from his pension. "Bahut amount baki hai," he says. Abhijeet has told his family that he won't get a job at present. He is raising the issues of common people and fighting for them. "He will not join politics. Sirf samaj seva karne ka (He will only serve society)," says Bhagwan Shankar.Abhijeet's mother adds that she is nervous about violence during protests. "But, Abhijeet is also getting a lot of support and this makes us happy," says Bhagwan.

After raids, ex-minister Indranil Sen appears before ED in Durga Puja 'preview show' case

West Bengal's former tourism minister Indranil Sen on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate following a summons in connection with financial irregularities involving a company that ran Durga Puja preview shows. The central agency issued the summons following marathon searches conducted at 15 locations, including the residences of Sen and his relatives, on Tuesday.According to ED sources, they have found evidence backing the allegations during the raids.

The case stems from a police complaint filed in June that alleged that after Kolkata's Durga Puja received United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (Unesco) recognition, an organisation named 'massArt' carried out a major financial fraud using the UN body's name.It stated that Sen and officials of 'massArt', led by his wife Madhuchhanda Sen, misappropriated public funds and hurt religious sentiments after falsely claiming the organisation was Unesco's official partner to promote Durga Puja in the state. Sources said massArt collected Rs 50 crore-Rs 60 crore from people in the name of preview shows, which was distributed among many and also transferred for personal gain.The ED is also investigating how the puja communities were included in the fund collection, the money trail, and who the influential people were. Sources said the ED has not got any proof that Unesco had supported massArt.The ED is also investigating the rate chart which was made by the company: Platinum Family, Platinum Couple, Platinum Single, etc. The Gold Pass and Silver Pass tickets cost more than Rs 5,000. The ED is also investigating who all were involved in fixing the rate chart.In June, the agency registered two cases, one of which was against Sen and his wife, prompting the ED to file an ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report).

Election Commission to review changes to SIR process and Form 6

GNS News Agency, New Delhi: The Election Commission is meeting on Wednesday evening to review a series of decisions taken last week, mostly concerning the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list.Officials said Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi will meet around 4.30 pm for the review meeting.Amid questions over its handling of the SIR exercise, the poll panel has decided that people will no longer have to appear for a hearing before poll officials over discrepancies in their SIR forms.Also, in states where the SIR has already been completed, the online version of Form 6 for new voters will not have the declaration seeking details of their parents in the last poll roll revision.

AAP not part of INDIA bloc, won't attend meeting: Sanjay Singh

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh on Wednesday said his party is not part of the INDIA bloc and is therefore not attending the meeting called to discuss issues concerning the Election Commission.The AAP leader also said his party supported the impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and was fighting against what he described as shortcomings of the Election Commission "from the streets to Parliament".

The AAP announced its exit from the opposition INDIA bloc on July 18, 2025, with Singh saying the alliance was formed specifically for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections."There is no question of joining the meeting. Aam Aadmi Party is not part of the INDIA bloc," Singh said in response to a question.Top leaders of the INDIA bloc are meeting here to finalise an action plan for a joint agitation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision. Among those at the meeting are Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, the TMC's Mamata Banerjee, and leaders from parties such as the SP, CPI, CPI(M), NCP(SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT).According to Singh, 27 lakh voters in West Bengal had been deprived of their voting rights. He also questioned the time being taken to complete hearings before the tribunals.

Girl gangraped, friend assaulted in abandoned Faridabad building; 3 arrested

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

Police sources said the accused were produced before a local court on Thursday night, which remanded them to three-day police custody.Police sources said the accused were produced before a local court on Thursday night, which remanded them to three-day police custody.Three men have been arrested for allegedly gangraping a minor girl, assaulting her 16-year-old male friend, and robbing the two inside a vacant building at Greater Faridabad's Sector 78, senior Faridabad police officers said on Friday.According to officers, the alleged incident took place on the evening of August 24 but came to light earlier this week after the girl's mother approached police on Tuesday to lodge a formal complaint.

Police said the two minors were threatened by a group of six men between 7 pm and 8 pm and taken inside an abandoned structure at Sector 78, where the accused allegedly assaulted them, robbed them, and fled the spot.The girl's mother observed changes in her daughter's behaviour over the past few weeks, noting that she had become withdrawn and stopped attending her coaching classes. The girl eventually broke down and narrated the incident, following which the family approached the boy, who corroborated the sequence of events, senior police sources said.The survivor recounted the name of one of the accused. Within

hours of the complaint being registered, police teams tracked down three suspects in their 20s, identified as Kunal, Deepak, and Yash.Police sources said the accused were produced before a local court on Thursday night, which remanded them to three-day police custody. Investigators added that the arrested suspects are local youths with a history of drug abuse.The survivor has undergone mandatory medical examinations, and an FIR has been registered under relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act alongside assault and robbery.Multiple crime teams have been deployed to conduct raids across suspected hideouts to trace the suspects on the run, senior officers said.

Bengaluru man left home for a day. Then his father got Rs 90 lakh ransom call

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

Bengaluru abduction case, Bengaluru kidnapping case, Bengaluru man kidnapped, Bengaluru WhatsApp ransom calls, Bengaluru staged kidnapping probe, Bengaluru police rescue, ransom demand Karnataka, Karnataka crime news, Indian Express news, Bengaluru crime newsThe man's father received calls on WhatsApp demanding for his son's release.

For nearly two days, Manohar Patel feared the worst. His son Manish, 40, had left their home in Bengaluru, saying he was headed to Gadag, around 390 km from the Karnataka capital, and would return the next morning.Instead, Manohar, 62, began receiving WhatsApp calls demanding Rs 90 lakh for his son's release, along with photographs showing Manish tied to a chair.The trail eventually led the Bengaluru police to a remote village near Belur in Hassan district, around 180 km from the city, where they found Manish in a house in the early hours of October 1.The police have arrested the two men in connection with the incident.

According to a senior police officer, Manish left his home around 8 pm on September 29 after telling Manohar he was going to Gadag for a financial transaction and would return the next morning. However, he did not return as promised.The next day, Manohar began receiving WhatsApp calls from someone claiming that his son had been abducted. The callers allegedly said Manish was being held captive and demanded Rs 90 lakh for his release.Sources say that the caller also sent photos of Manish being tied to a chair and threatened the family with dire consequences if the ransom was not paid.Concerned about his son's safety, Manohar approached the police and

lodged a complaint. The police registered a case and began tracking the mobile number used to make the calls.The police initially traced Manish's mobile phone and subsequently tracked another number used by the alleged abductors. The investigation led police to a remote village near Belur, where they located the house where Manish was staying.A police team raided the house early Thursday and found Manish with two other men. The police rescued Manish and detained the other two, bringing them to the city.During questioning, the accused allegedly gave conflicting accounts about the circumstances in which Manish was found there, prompting the police to examine the possibility that the abduction could have been staged to extort money from his father."It is too early to conclude that Manish planned the episode himself. We are investigating whether he was instigated or motivated by someone else," a senior police officer said, adding that they are also investigating whether anyone else was involved.The police are also examining the financial circumstances behind the demand for Rs 90 lakh and the role of the two other men.

Actor Dino Morea questioned in Rs 65 crore Mithi River desilting scam

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

Bollywood actor Dino Morea was questioned by the Mumbai Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on Friday in connection with the alleged Rs 65.54-crore Mithi River desilting scam. Morea reached the EOW office around 1.30 pm and joined the investigation.A senior EOW officer confirmed the questioning, saying Morea was called in to verify certain facts that emerged during the probe. The EOW has so far arrested three people in the case.

The case relates to alleged financial irregularities, inflated equipment rental rates and other corrupt practices in contracts awarded for desilting the Mithi River.Morea had earlier been questioned twice in May last year after investigators found transactions between him and Ketan Kadam, one of the accused, between 2019 and 2022.Morea's family member Santino Rocco Morea and Kadam's wife, Punita Kadam, were directors in UBO Ridez Private Limited, which operates Victorian-era-style electric carriages in Mumbai. Santino was also questioned by the EOW last year.

Kadam, owner of Woder India LLP and CEO of Virgo Specialties, was arrested on May 7 along with Jayesh Joshi, who was associated with Virgo Specialties. They were among 13 people booked for allegedly causing a Rs 65.54-crore loss to the BMC.In August, the EOW arrested Borivali-based contractor Shersingh Rathod for allegedly submitting fake photographs and videos to show that silt had been removed from the river. Investigators allege that his firm, Maideep Enterprises, submitted bills worth Rs 29.63 crore, which were cleared by BMC officials.According to the EOW, some BMC officials travelled to Kochi in October 2020 to procure desilting equipment from Matprop Technical Services Pvt Ltd. The specifications in subsequent tenders allegedly matched Matprop's machines, effectively requiring

contractors to use its equipment.Investigators allege contractors approaching Matprop were directed to Kadam and Joshi, who allegedly rented out the equipment at inflated rates. The EOW is also probing how Woder India LLP secured various civic contracts.The probe into Rathod began when investigators examined contractors awarded work under the desilting tenders. His firm was among five contractors awarded work in 2021-22.Investigators allegedly found that trucks shown in photographs and videos as transporting silt had instead carried building debris, an official said.Rathod later produced agreements purportedly signed with landowners in Bhiwandi and Panvel for dumping the silt. The landowners denied knowing Rathod and told investigators that the documents and their signatures had been forged, officials said.In one case, an agreement purportedly signed in April 2021 was in the name of a landowner who had died three months earlier, an officer said.The EOW alleges Rathod used forged documents and submitted Rs 29.63 crore in bills in the name of Maideep Enterprises, which were cleared by BMC officials.

Tigress released into Bengal's Buxa Tiger Reserve; 3 more planned

In a significant milestone for tiger conservation in India, a tigress from Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve was released into West Bengal's Buxa Tiger Reserve on Friday, marking the start of a phased programme to reintroduce tigers to the area after decades without a stable resident population.The tigress was released in the presence of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who said that three more tigers would be introduced into Buxa over the next two months. "Earlier, it was a tiger reserve only in name. There were no tigers there," he said, in a jibe at the previous Trinamool Congress government.Adhikari also announced plans to develop a world-class tourism centre on 2,000 acres near Jayanti and said the Union government had sought an inspection of the proposed site.In a post on X, Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said the reintroduction fulfilled a major conservation commitment and thanked the Bihar and West Bengal governments."Inspired by PM Shri @narendramodi ji's push for landscape conservation and species protection, today we have fulfilled the significant promise to reintroduce tiger in Buxa. T138 has been brought from Valmiki Tiger Reserve from Bihar to Buxa. I thank Bihar Chief Minister Shri @samrat4bjp and West Bengal Chief Minister Shri @SuvenduWB for their support in this successful reintroduction. #TigerBackInBuxa…," the post read.

The Buxa Tiger ReserveHistorically an important tiger landscape of north Bengal, Buxa was declared a tiger reserve in 1983, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said in a statement."It forms part of a larger ecological landscape with connectivity to forests and protected areas of Bhutan and Assam. Over the decades, however, habitat degradation and fragmentation, changes in land use and decline in prey availability affected the ecological conditions required to sustain a resident tiger population. The Reserve subsequently witnessed a prolonged absence of a stable resident tiger population," the statement added.According to the statement, the tigress's release marks the first phase of a planned, phased and adaptive recovery programme. "It marks a fitting beginning of India's Wildlife Week 2026, with the initiation of a phased Tiger Reintroduction Programme aimed at restoring a viable and self-sustaining tiger population in this historically important tiger landscape," it added.

Steps taken since 2018Terming the recovery of Buxa "a sustained, science-based effort", the ministry said that the state's Tiger Augmentation and Recovery Project, initiated with support from the National Tiger Conservation

Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India, has been implemented collaboratively since 2018.To support recovery efforts, authorities have released more than 800 chital into the reserve and restored or converted about 380 hectares of grassland since 2018. Camera traps also recorded tiger movement in the landscape in 2021, 2023 and 2026, including one tiger matched to Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam."The recovery of tigers in Buxa is also significant at the landscape level. Its ecological linkages with North Bengal, Assam and Bhutan provide opportunities for movement and dispersal of wildlife across a larger connected landscape. Strengthening Buxa therefore has implications not only for tiger conservation but also for the conservation of forests, grasslands, prey species and wider biodiversity," the statement said, adding that the tigress's release represents the "beginning of a new chapter" in Buxa's conservation journey.The tigress will be subject to intensive post-release monitoring using telemetry, camera trapping and field-based monitoring.

This will enable assessment of its movement, adaptation, health and behaviour, the statement said."The programme is not merely about bringing tigers back to Buxa. Its objective is to create the conditions in which a tiger population can establish, breed and ultimately become viable and self-sustaining," it added.Future introductions, the statement said, would depend on scientific assessments of habitat suitability, prey availability, population viability and expert advice. "Community participation remains central to this recovery effort. The programme has engaged 64 eco-development committees/joint forest management committees, with emphasis on community dialogue, livelihood opportunities, human-wildlife conflict mitigation and conservation-linked benefits," the ministry further said.

Cops drew woman's blood, alleged 'unnatural relations' in murder probe, High Court told

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

A 47-year-old woman has moved the Gujarat High Court alleging that policemen in plain clothes had taken her from her home to a police station in a private vehicle at night, and detained her there until the early hours of the morning in violation of the law and guidelines of the Supreme Court.The woman, Kiran Rathod, has alleged that Surat district police continued to contact her even afterward, pressuring her to become a prosecution witness or approver in the murder of a 25-year-old woman in Mandvi five weeks ago.A Division Bench of the court on Thursday (October 1) issued notice after counsel for Rathod submitted that police had tried to force her to testify against a woman friend in the murder case, drawn samples of her blood without her consent, and asked her questions about an alleged "unnatural relationship" among the three women.

A woman's mysterious murderEarly on August 24, the parents of Nidhi Kumari returned from a trip to discover their 25-year-old daughter dead in the house. According to the FIR registered at Mandvi police station, Nidhi was allegedly killed by robbers who took away jewellery, cash, and her mobile phone. The stolen property was valued at Rs 2.52 lakh.Police initially named unknown persons as accused in the alleged murder. But they later arrested a woman named Alpa, whom Nidhi had allegedly met while on a walk after dinner, shortly before she died.Rathod is a friend of Alpa's. In her petition filed through advocate Utkarsh Dave, Rathod has said that she had stayed at Alpa's home for about a week or 10 days before the alleged murder, and had returned to her own home on the day that Nidhi died.Rathod has alleged that police contacted her by phone and WhatsApp because she was staying with Alpa at the time of the alleged murder.She has said that she cooperated with police, but they still showed up at her residence and took her to Mandvi police station without a summons or written order.According to Rathod, even after she was allowed to leave the police station, police officers had continued to contact her, including on WhatsApp, and had allegedly called her to appear for questioning again without issuing formal summons.Rathod has alleged that police seized her mobile phone, and collected samples of her blood under coercion. She has alleged that investigators wanted her to become a witness or approver to implicate her friend Alpa.Advocate Dave informed the court that Rathod was "not an accused in the FIR and was, at most, being treated as a witness" by the investigators. However, police were "attempting to establish an unnatural relationship between Rathod, Alpa and the deceased (Nidhi)", he said.This last allegation about the alleged "unnatural relationship" is, however, not a part of the petition filed before the court.Rathod's lawyer submitted verbally on Thursday that investigators had questioned her on this subject, and had sought to connect the alleged relationship among the three women with the circumstances of Nidhi's murder.It was clarified before the Bench that this allegation had "not been set out in the petition because it could not be substantiated at that stage".The explicit allegations in the petition are only that police detained/ questioned Rathod, sought to make her a

witness/ approver against Alpa, and took her blood sample and phone without her consent.

The petition also states that Rathod – the petition describes her as "Dr Rathod" – is unmarried and into "spiritual" learning.Her lawyer mentioned the fact that she was single in his oral submissions before the court, saying that police were probing the alleged "unnatural relationship" among the women only because Rathod was not married, and had lived with a woman friend (Alpa) for a few days.Rathod has named individual police officers and described their alleged roles during her detention.Advocate Dave told the Bench of Justices N S Sanjay Gowda and J L Odedara on Thursday that the alleged conduct of the police officers was particularly serious because there was an officer of the level of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) among them.According to Rathod's petition, the alleged conduct of the police was in violation of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the landmark 'D K Basu vs State of West Bengal' case of 1997. Some of these guidelines were subsequently codified in law as amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC).Rathod has sought contempt proceedings against the police officers, alleging wilful disobedience of the safeguards laid down in 'D K Basu'. She has also sought directions concerning preservation and production of records relating to her alleged detention and interrogation.

Software engineer dies of injuries after road accident

Kothagudem: A 27-year-old software engineer died in a road accident on the main road at Vidyanagar Colony in Kothagudem on Friday.The deceased, R Satyanarayana of Vepalagadda, was working as a software engineer with Wipro in Hyderabad and had come home under a work-from-home arrangement. On Thursday night, he visited Kothagudem for work-related reasons and was returning home around midnight.According to the police, Satyanarayana was riding his two-wheeler near the Hanuman Temple in the colony when a dog suddenly appeared in his path.

Shiv Sena leader Purnekar murder: Aide-turned-rival, suspected shooter among 3 arrested

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

The Thane City police SIT Thursday arrested two more persons including the suspected shooter in connection with the murder of Pradeep Purnekar, the Shiv Sena UBT shakha pramukh who was stabbed and shot dead on Tuesday night.With the earlier arrest of Purnekar's aide-turned-rival Pappya Shinde, a total of three persons have been arrested in the Shiv Sena leader murder case so far. Two more accused are currently on the run.A senior official from the SIT confirmed that two accused identified as Nikhil Yadav and Nitesh Pawar have been arrested from near Raigad on the Mumbai – Goa highway.

The official said, "Currently two more accused including one Santosh Kanojia alias Talli and another unidentified accused seen wearing a helmet are on the run," the officer said.The officer however refused to clarify who was the shooter and the accused who stabbed the deceased. " Once we manage to arrest the other absconding accused and interrogate them together will we get clarity on the exact roles of the accused," the officer said. The SIT has also called two Mira Road based women for enquiry.

While the FIR was initially registered at the Kapurbawdi police station, the probe was handed over to the Thane crime branch and an SIT was formed under DCP Amar Sinh Jadhav comprising other senior officers to look into the incident.On Thursday, a supplementary statement by Purnekar's son named several people, including former Thane mayor Meenakshi Shinde and her husband Rajendra Shinde, for investigation. The Shinde couple denied the allegations. Police said the SIT was examining several possible motives behind the killing.Ram also asked the SIT to examine another possible angle involving a local woman, whom his father had allegedly caught with two men in a room and handed over to Kapurbawdi police. According to Ram, the woman was later released with a warning and was subsequently seen near Purnekar's office.

Kawal Tiger Reserve hosts nature walk to promote wildlife conservation

Mancherial: The Forest department organised a nature walk to mark Wildlife Week at Kawal Tiger Reserve near Jannaram on Friday.

Speaking after flagging off the walk, Jannaram FDO K Rammohanon said the department was striving to conserve wildlife. He said protecting wildlife was everyone's responsibility and urged people to cooperate with the department in conservation efforts.

The FDO said killing wildlife was a cognisable offence and urged the public not to lay snares near water bodies or put up electrified fences around farms. He said programmes such as essay-writing competitions for school students, rallies and a photo exhibition would be conducted as part of Wildlife Week.Meanwhile, rallies were held in Chennur, Bellampalli, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, Utnoor, Adilabad, Khanapur and Nirmal divisions.

The US said China was priming a trade superweapon. Then it vanished.

WENZHOU, China/TOKYO, Four years ago, the United States warned that China was poised to unleash a trade superweapon: a state-backed digital dragnet that would rapidly expand across the globe and give Beijing unprecedented insight into the flow of international cargo.The LOGINK platform promised to streamline global shipping by providing a digital system to exchange logistics data from customs authorities, ports and third-party transport services, replacing paper processes.The Misinformation Monitor newsletter rounds up international misinformation narratives, with a "Real or Fake?" quiz in every edition. Sign up here.

Instead, the venture suffered a stunning reversal, reported here ?for the first time. Its flagship global partnerships have stalled, it dropped out of an international maritime association, and it has become mired in domestic lawsuits over unpaid bills, according to interviews with more than 20 shipping industry insiders and officials, as well as a Reuters review of legal ?filings.When a reporter visited LOGINK's operations hub in the coastal city of Wenzhou in September, the offices appeared abandoned: lights off, reception bare, computer cabling stripped out.Calls and emails to LOGINK went unanswered. China's transport ministry declined to answer questions. The ministry in June, however, issued a policy document calling for the system to be connected to more domestic data streams.LOGINK's international retreat is a setback for Beijing, which has been engaged in a battle with Washington to control the physical infrastructure and technologies underpinning global shipping, a sector that carries 80% of world trade. The platform's decline will be welcomed by the US, which contributed to LOGINK's reversal in fortunes by "naming and shaming" those who used the system, said Randall Schriver, chair of a US Congress commission that issued a report on LOGINK in 2022.Reuters could not establish ?why the platform championed by China's cabinet as a "key project" abruptly went dark and spiraled into financial and legal troubles. The timing of its retreat, however, coincided with US efforts to pressure allies and organizations that had made tentative steps to collaborate with LOGINK as it pushed for global expansion.US officials and security experts worried ?that Beijing could use the system to gather non-public information on traded goods, volumes and pricing to help Chinese firms undercut Western rivals. Some also feared that LOGINK could be used to track sensitive military shipments, including US arms deliveries to Ukraine and ?Taiwan, many of which move through commercial freight networks.

LOGINK has not publicly disclosed the exact nature and scale of the data it collected. In a submission to the US Trade Representative's Office in 2024, LOGINK official Li Zhao said that it lacked "the capacity to collect sensitive commercial information or to continuously monitor global cargo movements."A US State Department spokesperson ?did not provide specifics when asked about its diplomatic efforts to curb global use of LOGINK, but said that Washington would not allow a platform controlled by Beijing to "gain a chokehold over global maritime data."

"We have prohibited its use across our own government and critical port infrastructure, and we urge allies and industry to take this threat with the same seriousness," ?the spokesperson added.Signs for the China Transport Telecommunications and Information Center (CTTIC) and LOGINK, a logistics data platform, are seen at an office in an industrial park in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, China September 10, 2026. Picture taken with a mobile phone. REUTERS/Joe Cash Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

FROM TRADE SOLUTION TO HAZARD?LOGINK is formally known as the National Transportation and Logistics Public Information Platform. It started two decades ago as a local government project in China's Zhejiang province to improve coordination of cargo movements by bringing data from ports, trucks and vendors into a single searchable platform.The platform won the backing of policymakers in Beijing, who soon after transferred control of LOGINK to China's transport ministry. International expansion quickly became a priority.In 2010, China struck a cargo data-sharing deal with the Japanese and South Korean governments that linked LOGINK to their national logistics information platforms.A few years later, LOGINK signed an agreement with a Hong Kong-based logistics platform that the Chinese entity said in a press release would give it access to "more than 90% of global ship tracking data."

LOGINK will be a "one-stop ?portal connected with global logistics information systems," according to a 2015 Chinese transport ministry presentation to a United Nations commission which was posted online.By the late 2010s, LOGINK was also exploring ways to collaborate with European ports. But in 2022, US policymakers started publicly pushing back on the Chinese platform.A turning point came that April, when LOGINK signed up ?to an international data-sharing project linking operators of digital platforms that facilitate the exchange of cargo and customs information at ports.LOGINK's participation in that project would double its cooperation with international ports, according to the US commission's report.A few months later, a group of Republican lawmakers urged then-US president Joe Biden in an open letter to act against LOGINK. Among them was Marco Rubio, ?now Trump's Secretary of ?State.Unchecked expansion of LOGINK could allow the Chinese Communist Party "to gain a stranglehold on the arteries of global trade," they said.One of the lawmakers, then-Representative Michelle Steel, in late 2023 also asked the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA), which spearheaded the data-sharing project, to immediately cut its ties with LOGINK.Congress at around that time additionally passed a law prohibiting the Pentagon from entering into contracts with LOGINK-connected entities. The law also directed officials to dissuade allies and partners from using the platform.

Officials in Seoul and Tokyo who collaborated with LOGINK, however, told Reuters that the scope of data-sharing was more limited than some in Washington feared.South Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and Japan's transport ministry said that only vessel arrival and departure times and information on cargo loading and unloading were made available, not details on cargo contents.The platform's participation in IPCSA ended in 2024 after it stopped paying its membership dues, according to a person familiar with the matter.

LOGINK's website went dark around that time. The latest available scrape on the Wayback Machine archive dates to ?June 2024.IPCSA General Manager Inga Morton confirmed that LOGINK was no longer a member ?and said that the international data-sharing project was "on hold and inactive".Meanwhile, China's service ?with South Korea and Japan that was LOGINK's flagship international initiative has also faltered. Participants from the three countries have held regular meetings since the service's launch, but China abruptly canceled an event scheduled for March 2024, citing "internal circumstances," according to South Korea's oceans ministry. No meetings have been held since.Tokyo's access to LOGINK data via that service later stopped without notice, a transport ministry official said. The official told Reuters in August that Japan had lost access more than a year earlier and that Tokyo had been unable to ?contact Chinese counterparts.The Chinese venture also had little to show for its efforts to expand into Europe.Ana Rita Rosa, a spokesperson for the authority governing Sines, Portugal's largest port, told Reuters that a memorandum of understanding it had signed with LOGINK in ?2017 to explore data-sharing led to no significant ?outcomes.And Portbase, the digital system that underpins Europe's largest port of Rotterdam, said that a 2019 MOU with LOGINK did not progress beyond exploratory discussions. A person familiar with the matter said Dutch government queries about the relationship in early 2022 contributed to Portbase's decision not to pursue any collaboration with the Chinese platform.Rosa and Portbase declined to comment when asked if US diplomatic pressure had any impact on their decisions not to pursue collaboration with LOGINK.The commercial entity behind the platform's Wenzhou hub has since January 2024 faced at least 39 court claims that total some $1.3 million, according to filings on Qichacha, a corporate data provider. Some of the ?complaints were listed as ?labor disputes, while others appeared to involve unpaid utilities.Among the claimants is a local subsidiary of China Mobile, which sued LOGINK in October 2025 over a "contract dispute over service provision." A court subsequently ordered LOGINK ?to pay the telco, but the filings do not show if that occurred.LOGINK also appears to be facing eviction. A judge in May presided over a "property lease dispute" brought against the company by the state-backed developer running the industrial park where LOGINK is based, the records show.

When Reuters visited the Wenzhou building, by a river on the outskirts of the city, there was ?no sign of activity.Emblazoned on the wall next to desks and chairs gathering dust, however, was a large Communist Party slogan heralding China's plans to "leverage global supply chains" by 2035.Reporting by Joe Cash in Wenzhou and John Geddie in Tokyo; Additional reporting by Tim Kelly in Tokyo, Joyce Lee in Seoul and Michael Martina in Washington; Editing by Katerina AngOur Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles., opens new ta

Joe Cash reports on China's economic affairs, covering domestic fiscal and monetary policy, key economic indicators, trade relations, and China's growing engagement with developing countries. Before joining Reuters, he worked on UK and EU trade policy across the Asia-Pacific region. Joe studied Chinese at the University of Oxford and is a Mandarin speaker.John is the lead writer for Japan & Greater China, reporting on everything from elections to earthquakes. Previously based in Singapore and London, his work has received several journalism accolades, including a 2022 SOPA Award for Excellence in Reporting on the Environment.

US removes bombers from UK base at centre of suspected Iranian plot

LONDON, The United States ?has removed its B-1 bombers from a British air base one week after five men were arrested nearby on suspicion of preparing terrorist acts, ?a suspected plot that British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said was likely backed by Iran.The planes had been stationed at RAF Fairford, the preferred European base for US bombers located 90 miles (145 km) west of London, which had recently been used for US strikes on Iran. A Pentagon official said on Sunday they had now returned to their home bases in the US.

Get a look at the day ahead in European and global markets with the Morning Bid Europe newsletter. Sign up here.Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in late July ?that the base was a legitimate target. A NATO military source said on Monday: "It is still believed that Iran poses an acute threat to US assets in ?the UK".The five men arrested by British police have been released on bail, and the incident remains largely unexplained. A sixth man, a ?dual UK-Iranian national arrested on suspicion of preparing terrorist acts, has also been released on bail.Iran has said accusations it was involved in any plot are baseless, and ?its foreign minister, Abbas Araqchi, wrote on X: "I can confirm Iran's belief that releasing supposed terrorists working for foreign states really says it all. You're barking up the wrong tree."KEY ?AIR BASE FOR US OPERATIONSAs one of the US Air Force's only European airfields suitable for heavy bombers, the Fairford base has historically played a key role in previous US campaigns in the Middle East, although its bombers are not stationed there permanently.During the current conflict, the US had permission to use Fairford to only strike Iranian missile sites that were attacking ships in the Strait of Hormuz - ?so-called defensive strikes - after London refused to grant permission for the US to use British bases for offensive strikes on Iran.That approach has strained ties between the US ?and Britain, typically one of Washington's closest allies."We can acknowledge now that all US bombers that were deployed to RAF Fairford have re-deployed to their home stations in the United States," a Pentagon ?spokesman wrote ?in an email.The Pentagon added that the country's bomber force remained ready to deliver precision global strike capabilities "anywhere, anytime".The New York Times, citing two US officials, said the US had rushed over the weekend to move the bombers after commanders received new threats about an Iran-backed plot. It said some of the planes had left while aerial refuelling aircraft were still being scrambled.

A US official declined to comment. The British government has declined to comment.Christoph Bergs, research analyst at defence think tank the Royal United Services Institute, said the ?redeployment would in the short term reduce the ?US's capacity "to quickly surge sorties against ?Iran, reducing the threat level somewhat".But he noted that use of Fairford was already limited given London's stipulation on defensive strikes. The aircraft could now potentially be sent to either Diego Garcia or bases in the Gulf, to reduce the need for more air-to-air ?refuelling to cover the additional distance, but that would depend on capacity availability, negotiations with allies and security, he added.PLOT WAS ?FOR 'BIG DAMAGE'In the early hours ?of September 27, five British men in their 20s were arrested after being seen running into fields from three white vans parked near the base. Police said no explosive devices were found but a quantity of petrol was present.US President Donald Trump said at the time that those involved in the plot had planned "big damage" and that it might have been connected to ?Iran, adding ?that he would not have released the suspects on bail. "I wouldn't have done that," he said on Tuesday.A senior ?NATO military official said the move would not have any impact on the alliance: "NATO's defensive agility towards any aggression remains unchanged and unmatched thanks to the unity, strength, and combined capabilities of 32 nations".The Wall Street ?Journal first reported the removal of the US bombers.Adds paragraph 8-9 on political ties, 12-13 on threatsAdditional reporting by Svea Herbst-Bayliss in New York and Sabine Siebold in Germany; Editing by Sergio Non, Nia Williams and Hugh Lawson

Yemeni government forces advance to Bab el-Mandeb Strait

Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces have secured effective control ?of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Yemen's Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani told Reuters on Monday, though fighting continues with Houthi forces in the area.The government forces advanced rapidly ?along the coast with heavy Saudi air support to seize key positions in the Dhubab area on the narrowest point of the strait, a vital oil route whose seizure by the Iran-backed Houthis last month sent shockwaves through energy markets.

The Misinformation Monitor newsletter rounds up international misinformation narratives, with a "Real or Fake?" quiz in every edition. Sign up here.However, while Eryani said the military had seized Dhubab airstrip, located just inland from the strait, and cut off remaining Houthi forces in the area, another government source said fighting continued at a military base near ?the strait.The Houthis earlier denied that government forces had made gains, describing such claims as "completely untrue".

While recapturing the coastal area around the strait would make it harder ?for the Houthis to disrupt shipping between the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean, they could still target vessels with drones from positions further up ?the coast and inland.Meanwhile, the Houthis themselves made important advances near the city of Taiz, gaining sections of a mountain road to leave government forces there besieged, according to five military ?sources with the Yemeni government. One other government source denied the road had been cut.

KEY ENERGY EXPORT ROUTE UNDER THREATFighting has raged along several frontlines in Yemen for weeks after a ?dormant civil war erupted in a spillover from the US-Iran conflict, with the Houthis seeking to control the vital Bab el-Mandeb Strait and firing missiles and drones at Saudi cities and infrastructure.With Gulf energy exports already restricted by Iran's closure of the Hormuz Strait, the fighting in Yemen has threatened another major oil export route, pushing up global prices and raising new risks in a region already aflame.The internationally recognised Yemeni government announced ?on Sunday the launch of its offensive to recapture territory, with President Rashad al-Alimi swearing to fight "until the country is liberated from the grip of the terrorist militia".

Saudi Arabia, which ?arms and trains Yemeni government forces, is backing the military campaign with air power and has sought logistical help from allies to push back the Houthis, restore free traffic in the Red Sea, and ?end the group's ?attacks on its territory.Riyadh said on Monday it had attacked hundreds of targets in Yemen to provide air cover for the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and Yemeni ground forces.The Yemeni government said it had launched attacks on several fronts including in the province of Sanaa, the Yemeni capital.The Houthi-run health ministry said two people had been killed and seven wounded in strikes on Sanhan and Sa'wan districts in Sanaa province.HEAVIEST FIGHTING IS IN SOUTHWEST YEMEN

While the war has raged on several frontlines in Yemen, the heaviest fighting has been in the southwest, both in the ?coastal area near the strait and in the ?hills around Taiz, where the Houthis have ?been battling to surround government forces.Last week Houthi attacks damaged a culvert on the Taiz-Aden road, making it impassable.On Sunday night the group's fighters made new advances into the town of al-Turbah, sitting atop a high promontory on the road, five government military sources said, though ?another government source denied this.A Houthi-run news agency on Monday cited a military source as saying the group had driven government forces ?from the al-Mawasit district of ?Taiz province, reaching the home of Alimi, head of Yemen's interim presidential council.Those fresh advances leave Taiz, Yemen's third-largest city with a population of over half a million and a garrison of thousands of government fighters, surrounded by Houthi forces, the government military sources said.Taiz, nestled among Yemen's southern highlands, has been on the frontlines since early in the civil war, often under Houthi shell ?and sniper fire.Yemen's ?conflict began after the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa in 2014, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene in ?the following year with an air campaign aimed at restoring the government and ousting the Iran-backed group.The fighting quickly ground to a bloody stalemate, with most frontlines stalled, leading to a major humanitarian crisis in what was already ?the poorest Arab state, until a ceasefire was agreed in 2022 that held until this summer.Recasts with Yemeni information minister claim of control over the strait in paragraphs 1, 3, Houthi-run health ministry, paragraph 13, more context

AI self-policing proven failure: Former FTC chair

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

Asked during ABC News' "This Week" about criticism that relying on the industry to regulate itself could be dangerous, Khan said the experience of the social media era provided a warning. "That's right. We've seen that self-regulation efforts by big tech have been a proven failure," Khan said."I mean, we need to remember what happened a decade ago where you had big tech companies, social media companies, similarly suggests that existing laws and regulations no longer apply to their new technologies, and that they were going to try instead to self-police." Khan said the consequences of that approach were now evident. "What we've learned since then is that Meta, for example, was concealing evidence that its own products were deeply harmful to kids. We've seen just innumerable harms come from the unchecked domination of these big tech companies." "And so now, as we face new horizons with these advanced AI systems, it would be an enormous mistake to repeat that playbook," she said.Trump said at the White House summit that AI would be safe because companies would police themselves and each other. "It's going to be very, very safe. There's a self-policing. And there's also a group policing, and it's going to be great," Trump said.The debate comes as concerns grow about increasingly autonomous AI systems. The ABC programme reported that OpenAI had paused the release of its latest model because it did not meet the company's standards on staying within scope and authorisation. It also cited researchers as finding examples of AI agents attempting to hack government-run websites.OpenAI CEO Sam Altman acknowledged the broader risks in remarks cited by the programme."As the process of building AI becomes more automated, the pace of AI progress could accelerate rapidly. This moment calls for extreme care," Altman said.

Trump cites Indian election that didn't happen to call US electoral process 'corrupt'

Washington: In an apparent faux pas, US President Donald Trump mentioned India in a social media post to claim that the electoral process in the US was "corrupt", when there were no elections in India, and the post clearly appeared to be about the presidential election in Brazil.In a Truth Social post on Sunday, Trump claimed that "125 million people voted in India's Presidential elections and the results came out shortly after the vote closed".

"Voting in America is CORRUPT," Trump said, referring to the weeks taken for the counting of votes in elections in US cities and states."125 Million People voted today in the first round of India's Presidential Election. The results came out shortly after the vote closed, on the SAME DAY," Trump said.

"In Detroit, Philadelphia, California, and numerous other US Cities and States, the results, with much smaller numbers, will often take weeks to Rig, I mean, calculate. Voting in America is CORRUPT," the US president said.The reference to India appeared to be a possible mix-up with Brazil. Brazil held the first round of its presidential election on Sunday, with 125.27 million valid votes recorded, according to the country's electoral authority.Results began to be released at 5 pm, when voting ended, and were updated as ballots were received and processed.Brazilians voted in the presidential election pitting incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva against Flavio Bolsonaro, the son of former president Jair Bolsonaro. With neither of them able to secure a majority in the first round, the run-off election will be held on October 25.India, meanwhile, did not hold a presidential election. President Droupadi Murmu, who took office in July 2022, is the current President of India.Also, Indians do not directly elect their President. The President is elected by an Electoral College comprising elected members of both Houses of Parliament and elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states and union territories through a system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.In India's regular elections, voters directly elect members of the Lok Sabha (lower house of the Parliament) and state legislative assemblies.

Salt, Gandhi, and the physiology of sodium hunger

The English summer in 1930 was a troubled one for the British Empire. In the 1930 Ashes series, legendary Australian cricketer Don Bradman tore into English bowling, scoring 974 runs (a record still on) with such ferocity that it humiliated the hosts in the Western hemisphere. Contemporaneously, in the grand halls of the Viceroy's house in Delhi, negotiations with Indian leaders tested the nerves of Lord Irwin in the Eastern hemisphere. Just three months before Bradman's exploits, Mahatma Gandhi had set out on his legendary march to the Arabian Sea, scooping up a fistful of salt at Dandi, declaring defiance against an unjust tax. To the English, both bat and their crown jewel seemed to be conspiring against their vaunted prestige.For the world, the Dandi March was a masterstroke of political theatre. Salt, an everyday necessity, became a symbol of oppression and one of liberation. Gandhi's choice of salt was genius: he transformed the Indian National Congress from an urban debating club into a mass movement. But while most histories have framed the salt issue in economic or political terms, very little has been said about the physiological reality of salt hunger and its tragic consequences in colonial India.Salt beyond symbolism

Salt is not merely a condiment: sodium chloride is indispensable for human survival. It maintains the balance of fluids in the human body, regulates blood pressure, and allows muscles and nerves to function. Heavy sweating during manual labour drains salt relentlessly in hot, tropical climates like that of India. Deprived of salt, the body cannot maintain its sodium levels, leading to hyponatremia, which is a condition marked by fatigue, cramps, weakness, confusion, and in severe cases, death.Diarrhoeal diseases, common in 18th and 19th-century India due to poor urban sanitation, worsened matters. Each bout of diarrhoea can strip the body of critical sodium reserves. Without replenishment, rehydration fails, and what begins as "bowel complaints" can end in death. Modern medicine acknowledges this by placing salt at the heart of oral rehydration solutions (ORS). But in colonial India, taxed salt often lay beyond the reach of the poorest families.

Under the Mughals, salt was lightly taxed at around 2.5 % for Muslim traders and 5% for Hindu traders. The British, however, turned salt into a revenue machine. After Robert Clive established the Exclusive Company in 1765, the East India Company enjoyed monopoly rights. Wholesale prices doubled, with tax often accounting for two-thirds of the final price. By the 19th century, a maund of salt could cost around five rupees, while an agricultural labourer earned barely three or four rupees a month.A family required about 40 pounds of salt annually to remain healthy. To buy this much, a worker had to spend 2.5 to 3.5 months of income. For peasants, that meant living on a perpetual salt deficit. Salt consumption in taxed areas of Bengal was sometimes as low as 8 pounds per adult per year, compared to pounds in regions with untaxed salt. At its peak, the salt tax contributed 8 to 10 % of British India's general revenue, a staggering figure for a single essential commodity, a revenue that was extracted by depriving Indian bodies of what they needed.Famines magnified this tragedy. During the famine of the 1800s until till 1943, millions of deaths were officially recorded, though later estimates suggested many more. Measuring daily salt intake is difficult, and in colonial times, the symptoms of hyponatremia were largely unrecognised, often misattributed to vague ailments, making accurate attribution of salt-related deaths elusive. There was no remission on salt duty even during the famine years. Salt hunger then, was both a hidden cause and an aggravating factor in mortality.To give the British the benefit of the doubt, sodium as a chemical element was isolated only in 1807 by British chemist Humphry Davy, and the clinical understanding of hyponatremia came much later (ironically, in the 1930s). Colonial administrators did not fully grasp that taxing salt was not just an economic imposition but a direct physiological assault on human bodies. Yet it is equally true that had they known, little might have changed. For the empire, revenue mattered more than Indian lives, and racial disdain often blunted compassion.In identifying salt, Gandhi elevated the struggle for freedom to a battle for survival. It was Gandhi's brilliance that recognised salt as the pivot between physiology and politics. By choosing salt, he struck where every Indian, be it the farmer or worker or housewife, felt the pain. No abstract argument about British misrule could mobilise the masses like a handful of salt. His Dandi March in March 1930 was both symbolic and practical. It was an attack on a tax that drained bodies as much as it filled imperial coffers.Salt todaySalt remained taxed for decades in independent India, though never with such cruelty. With the Goods and Services Tax (GST) introduction in 2017, salt was finally exempted from tax, symbolically recognising its political and historical weight.Today, the problem is not salt hunger but salt excess. High sodium intake fuels hypertension, heart disease, and stroke. Like much of the modern world, India struggles with the consequences of processed food laden with salt. The story of salt in India is that of a cycle of deprivation and excess. Had Gandhi been alive today, he might have marched not from Sabarmati to Dandi, but perhaps from Dandi to Gandhinagar, urging taxation. Salt, that most ordinary substance then, tells us an extraordinary story of the empire, resistance, and health.

Retired kolu dolls make a comeback

Each doll in her kolu collection now can share an account of how wholesomeness was restored to it. When Renu picked them up, these dolls were lying in dingy cubbyholes and dusty antique stores, broken in body. Missing body parts had to be reconstructed and glued on to their frames, which were usually hugely lacklustre, requiring deft dabs of an enamel paint-carrying brush. Renu has made them whole again in an ongoing do-it-yourself project (est. 2018). In her own words, this project (entirely a hobby to her) has so far notched up a tally somewhere between 200 and 300 dolls, each of them restored variously.The artist in Renu encourages her to seek those dolls that need to check into a workstation before ascending the kolu stage. Quoting Renu: "I am able to do this work only because I know how to draw and paint." Though "Renu the artist" is germane to the topic, let us save that for the last.

The Kolu display stands out for its diversity, the dolls differing noticeably in stature and dimension.Renu, a resident of Kesavaperumalpuram in R.A. Puram, explains: "Nothing I got, I got as a set. That is why the dolls are in disparate sizes. I think in those days they used to make the Ramayana set and all that. But nothing has been handed down to me from those days. This is not from my in-laws, this is not from my parents. This is what I have collected myself in antique shops. So, sometimes you get big dolls, sometimes small dolls."In traditional kolu displays, the dolls sit squat on stands with multiple steps (kolu padi), resembling school students in a bleachers-style seating arrangement, every strand of hair slicked into place for a group photograph. This tiered arrangement works best when the author of the display is faced with restrictive spatial bandwidth. Renu need not skimp on space, but that is only half the reason for dispensing with the traditional display format. The other half, the more compelling one, is that her kolu tableux accommodates multiple themes, and demands (and warrants) a walkaround. The result: a "banquet" distinguished by "themed counters", each representing a purana.Terracotta kolu dolls that Renu restored and has now displayed in a sequential manner for her to give a commentary on Krishna avatar. How she put together a collection with its various themes provides a microcosmic view of the human situation, giving a peek into the weighty philosophical question of determinism versus free will. Renu's collection seems to prove one has agency to craft their personal stories up to a point, and beyond that, those stories develop a mind of their own and unapologetically rewrite themselves, striking out entire paragraphs with the red-end of a two-coloured editor's pencil. Putting it plainly, the drift of her kolu stories is predicated on the dolls that show up in those old antique stores, some cobwebbed.Renu notes: "When I find this doll, then that doll, I say, okay let me have this story." Which ancient story, and which aspect of it is thrown into relief, depends on the dolls she has gathered as well as the dolls she is willing to wait for.An illustration from Renu: "I found these two beautiful dolls, which were Sita and Lakshmana. And for a long time, I searched for a Rama doll to match this. But no Rama doll I found came equal to the beauty of these two dolls. I could not match it. I told myself 'Why not try something new?' And so, I did the Lakshman Rekha part of the story." She placed a decorative tape to signify the Lakshman Rekha with the Sita and Lakshmana dolls in the picture.The themes she has stitched together working around the inherent limitations of her uncompromising kolu-designing philosophy include Rama avatar, Krishna avatar, Meenakshi kalyanam, Trishabha vahana, a collection of Vahanas, the story of Kannappa Nayanar from Periya Puranam, the story of Kothai becoming Andal. Towards the fag end of the walkaround, one notices a shift in focus. She has dolls demonstrating justice delivered and denied from the seat of power by Manu Nidhi Cholan and Pandya king Nedunchezhian respectively. The tour ends with with two themes, each sending out a message to the modern, largely urban consumerist soul — how ancient traditions conserved water and eschewed excess even in wedding ceremonies.Now, let us have a glimpse of the rehabilitation process. Renu works with clay and enamel paint to restore these dolls. Dexterity is an invisible ingredient. Terracotta dolls make a massive majority, coming close to constituting the entire collection. And sandblasting an old, vintage car, 10 feet long and abandoned for a hundred years is an undemanding exercise when compared with cleaning a terracotta doll that fits in between the thumb and the index finger. Porous, terracotta dolls accumulate considerable dirt. Brittle, they can give way under slightly sustained pressure. One can be certain she was breathing easy while working on a handful of wooden dolls, also on display at the kolu.Renu has been collecting and restoring kolu dolls since 2018, adopting the hobby to fill a void created by an empty nest, the children leaving home in pursuit of their own destinies. Renu notes in all these years only around a couple of dolls came painted in natural pigment colours; the rest arrived with enamel paint in various stages of flaking. In many a case, she has had to recreate entire features with the paint brush, and restore the doll's essential patina. Renu the artist is intrinsic to this collection. She observes that when she saw two dolls, both based on Ravi Varma's paintings, she knew the creative source.Renu calls herself "a largely self-taught artist" and "an amateur artist" (which comes across as a modest self-assessment when one gets acquainted with her work) who "works with different art forms". One senses a particular liking for Gond tribal art. She does not always work with paper and canvas, occasionally with white shoes too — "shoes" here is not an auto-correct error.Her husband Rajendran Sabanayagam (who was with McKinsey & Company in New York and on return to India founded Sumangala Steel) explains: "Her artistic abilities were developed under the informal tutelage of my mother, Savithri Sabanayagam, and while travelling with me both in India and abroad. The artworks are of professional quality, everyone who sees them say that, but she does not want to leave her comfort zone and keeps it within the family." Which means giving her artworks to relatives, and also adding artistic value to white shoes bought for children in the family (she has three grandchildren) as well as those in the extended family.

1,000 kidney transplants and counting at Chennai's Stanley Hospital

The Department of Nephrology, Government Stanley Medical College Hospital (SMCH), recently achieved a significant milestone, having completed over 1,000 renal transplants, including both living and deceased donor organ transplants. In addition to renal transplants, the department is also one of the crucial hubs for renal care in Chennai, providing dialysis to nearly 100 patients every day.It was 29 years ago that the first renal transplant (living donor) was performed at SMCH. "That was in April 1986. The first deceased donor kidney transplant took place almost a decade later, in February 1996. When the first cadaveric liver transplant was performed here by senior surgical gastroenterologist R.P. Shanmugam, one kidney was allotted to a patient here, and the other to a patient at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital," M. Edwin Fernando, professor and head of department, Nephrology, SMCH, said.To date, a total of 1,006 renal transplants have been performed — 837 from live related donors and 169 from deceased donors. There has been a growing inflow of patients to the department. In the previous year, the department saw nearly 30,000 outpatients and 25,000 inpatients.A. Aravind, dean of SMCH, said the department provides all kidney-related care under a single roof. It has 30 dialysis machines that run throughout the day. According to data available, the department, on average, records 25,000 dialysis sessions in a year."The number of patients coming for dialysis has increased, partly due to a high number of referrals from nearby centres. The access to dialysis services has also greatly improved, particularly due to the availability of coverage under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme," Dr. Fernando said. Patients undergoing dialysis are given a protein-rich diet, which includes two boiled eggs, 100 grams of chickpeas, and 100 ml of milk — an initiative recently launched by the State government.The department runs special OP clinics as well. This includes a vascular access clinic in coordination with the Department of Vascular Surgery, a systemic lupus erythematosus clinic, a post-transplant clinic, and a deceased donor registration programme, where patients on the waitlist are screened and counselled.

At least 200 persons are seen at the post-transplant OP every week. Here, doctors review the health status of patients, and blood samples are drawn for periodic tests before they collect their medications, all of which are done free of cost every Wednesday, he added.A laboratory at the nephrology department of Stanley Hospital, equipped for vital kidney function tests and diagnostics"As for living donor renal transplants, we closely follow up with the donors as well. This is part of our protocol. A donor is an important person, as they are healthy people who go on to donate one of their kidneys. We did a study and found that a majority are healthy. We tell them to come for tests during their birthday month. When we do the work-up for donors, we ensure that they are fully fit," he explained.Donors are also counselled prior to the transplant to assess their willingness, to allay their apprehensions, and to make sure that no one is coerced to donate, he added."Kidney ailments are on the rise. This is primarily due to diabetes, blood pressure, and obesity. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) of unknown origin is another growing challenge. Now, at least 40% to 50% of cases are due to CKD of unknown origin. Factors including exposure to heat and not drinking enough water are among the reasons," Dr. Fernando said.With outdoor workers at increased risk, they have asked the Labour Department to provide two hours of rest for all workers between 11 a.m.

and 1 p.m., provide shelters, and proper drinking water and toilets for them. In some pockets, contaminated groundwater may also be a contributing factor."Kidney diseases are mostly silent. Persons with diabetes, hypertension, and family history of kidney disease should undergo periodic screening," he said. Going ahead, he felt that the deceased donor programme should be more robust, considering the fact that nearly 7,000 persons are currently waitlisted for renal transplants with the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu.

Temple wearable to launch in six colours, says Deepinder Goyal

Hyderabad: Deepinder Goyal, founder of Zomato and Eternal, has said his Temple wearable will be launched in six colours, with pre-orders potentially opening as early as next week.In a recent post on X, formerly Twitter, Goyal said the launch edition of Temple would be available in True Gold, Rose Gold, Black Mirror, Real Jade, Deep Blue and Purple Funk. He added that people who have joined the early-access waitlist would get priority when bookings open.

"Six colors for the launch edition of temple. Pre-orders open soon – hopefully next week; just need certainty on a couple more items. Folks on early access waitlist get priority access," Goyal wrote.

Temple has attracted attention for its unusual form factor. Unlike conventional smartwatches and fitness bands, the wearable is designed to be worn on the side of the head, near the temple.Goyal, 43, has described the latest version as the smallest wearable on the market by volume. In an earlier post, he claimed that Temple was "the smallest wearable on the market" by volume and described it as a highly powerful device.The wearable is designed to collect information related to brain blood flow and a metric called Entropy, which Goyal says reflects the body's metabolic and sympathetic demand.Temple's reported functions include monitoring changes associated with brain blood flow, cognitive load, stress and fatigue. Its BrainFlow technology is designed to continuously monitor changes through sensors positioned near the temple.Goyal has also described Entropy as a real-time measure of the body's metabolic demand. He said the metric can change with factors including sleep, stress, exercise, caffeine and meditation.

Understanding and prioritising heart health in India

World Heart Day is celebrated annually on September 29, to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases, their risk factors, and preventive strategies.Each year, cardiovascular disease (CVD) claims over 20.5 million lives. Up to 80% of premature CVD deaths are preventable through affordable access to care, early screening, increased opportunities to make healthy choices in nutrition, and by staying active. That is why on World Heart Day, we unite across six continents to raise awareness, inspire action, and celebrate heart health.The history of World Heart Day goes back to 1999, when the World Heart Federation (WHF) teamed up with the World Health Organization (WHO) to designate a day for global heart health awareness. The first World Heart Day was held on September 29, 2000. This year will mark 25 years of World Heart Day. This World Heart Day, we are telling the world: Don't miss a beat.

Coronary Artery Disease (CAD): Coronary Artery Disease arises when blood vessels supplying the heart narrow or become blocked due to plaque buildup. This reduces oxygen and nutrient flow to the heart muscles, causing chest pain (angina), shortness of breath, or heart attacks.Heart Attack (Myocardial Infarction): A heart attack happens when a coronary artery suddenly becomes completely, 100% blocked. Symptoms include severe chest pain, sweating, and breathlessness. Rapid medical response with treatment such as Primary PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention) or thrombolysis can save lives.Cardiac Arrest: A cardiac arrest is a sudden loss of heart function, breathing, and consciousness. Often triggered by electrical disturbances, it can be fatal within minutes without immediate intervention such as CPR or defibrillation. Training and readiness for such emergencies is vital.Hypertension (high blood pressure):Hypertension occurs when blood pumps through arteries at persistently high pressure. Often called a silent killer, if left untreated, hypertension can lead to a heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, or heart failure.Heart Failure & Arrhythmias: Heart failure arises when the heart cannot pump blood efficiently, resulting in fluid retention, fatigue, and breathlessness. Arrhythmias involve irregular heartbeats: too fast, too slow, or erratic.Risk factors for cardiovascular disease include excessive smoking and excessive alcohol consumption as well as obesity, sedentary lifestyles, diabetes, high cholesterol level, hypertension, a family history of cardiovascular disease and stress.

Adopting healthy daily routines can support long-term cardiovascular wellness. Simple practices such as regular check-ups, medication adherence, avoiding tobacco, limiting alcohol, and staying socially engaged reinforce heart protection.A balanced diet plays a central role in heart disease prevention. Focus on lean proteins, whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and healthy fats such as olive oil and nuts. Limit salt, red meat, sugary drinks, and trans fats.Physical activity strengthens the heart, lowers blood pressure, improves cholesterol, and aids weight control.

Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise weekly, plus muscle-strengthening activities at least twice per week.Mental health factors are critical, yet often overlooked risk modulators. Prioritise 7–9 hours of quality sleep each night. Use relaxation techniques, mindfulness, or counselling to manage stress

Cardiologists play a vital role in the diagnosis, management, and prevention of cardiovascular disease. At cardiac care units and cardiology centres, experts use tools including ECGs, echocardiograms, stress tests, blood tests, and cardiac catheterisation to assess heart health.The importance of World Heart Day lies in its power to raise mass awareness about heart diseases. Encourage early screening and detection, inspire governments and policymakers and motivate individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles

India's demographic dividend as a time bomb

Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore once said, "Don't limit a child to your own learning, for she was born in another time." In the context of India's education system, this quote is particularly resonant today. India's education system is outdated. We are preparing students for jobs that are rapidly disappearing or evolving.Meanwhile the future of work is being shaped by emerging technologies, led by Artificial Intelligence (AI), being the most disruptive of them all. AI is reshaping how we work and think, with our research suggesting that up to 70% of current jobs, globally, will be impacted, and up to 30% of tasks in many current jobs will get completely automated. A plethora of new jobs related to AI development and implementation are being created as we speak. This technological shift via AI is already changing the world and the job market, whereas the curriculum update cycle in our schools and colleges runs in three-year cycles. This is incremental at best, leading to many students being left behind if we do not up-skill, cross-skill and re-skill them.

India's 'demographic dividend' has long been touted as a key driver of the nation's future growth. With more than 800 million people below the age of 35, the country boasts of having one of the largest youth populations anywhere. This demographic 'asset', however, is increasingly under threat of becoming a 'liability', as the gap between education and real-world skills, and degrees and employability widens. If this gap is not addressed, India's demographic dividend could morph into a demographic time bomb — a paradox at scale.

The stark reality is that while India is producing millions of graduates every year, many of these graduates remain underemployed and are increasingly becoming unemployable. Despite popular belief, this is not merely a problem facing social science or non-STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students. Over the past decade, data show that 40%-50% of engineering graduates from Indian universities have not been placed in jobs, highlighting the worrying gap between academic education and industry requirements. More and more youngsters are going to college or university, yet employers report increasing difficulty in finding talent with the right skills. Belatedly, educators are acknowledging the problem, with 61% of higher education leaders today agreeing that curricula are not aligned with rapidly changing job market needs.

The mismatch begins in high schoolAs the AI revolution accelerates, India faces a deepening skills crisis. According to McKinsey, nearly seven out of every 10 Indian jobs are at risk from automation by 2030. This means a massive and unprecedented change could be affecting the nation in just the next five years. Of course, it is not all bad news. The World Economic Forum predicts that AI and other new tech will create 170 million new jobs by 2030. The problem is that in the same period, more than half of this number of newly created jobs (92 million) will be displaced. Consequently, skilling must become a critical national priority.The challenge lies in how Indian youth are entering the workforce. A significant number are doing so with outdated or irrelevant skills. This misalignment begins in high school, where students are largely unaware of the multitude of career paths that exist. A Mindler Career Awareness Survey from 2022 revealed that 93% of Indian students between classes 8 to 12 are aware of only seven career options, most of which are traditional roles such as doctor, engineer, lawyer, or teacher. In contrast, the modern economy offers over 20,000 career paths. Surprisingly, a mere 7% of students report receiving formal career guidance during their schooling years. This lack of awareness leads to millions of our best and brightest, pursuing degrees that do not match their aptitudes or market needs. Do not take our word for it. According to the India Skills Report 2024, more than 65% of high school graduates pursue degrees that are not aligned with their interests or abilities. This alarming reality means that students emerge from their degrees ill-equipped for the rapidly changing job market, further exacerbating India's unemployment crisis.

Digital tools, but analog mindsetsWhile most students in India now have access to some technology as smartphones have become much cheaper, and the government has also tried to roll out computer and AI labs, most schools still follow traditional, examination-centric curricula. There is limited focus on career exploration or the development of job-ready skills. As a result, students graduate with degrees but lack the practical experience required by employers. In fact, the Graduate Skills Index 2025 produced by Mercer-Mettl found that only 43% of Indian graduates are deemed job-ready. In our experience with interns and fresh graduates, this figure, if anything, underestimates the scale of the problem.

EdTech platforms primarily focus on test preparation and rote learning, rather than career discovery or skill development. Coursera, Udemy and other look-alikes have tried to address this problem, but the certificates obtained from these are becoming increasingly commoditised. School curricula remain disconnected from the evolving job market, leaving students unprepared for the challenges ahead. Only a few State boards and central bodies have introduced career readiness frameworks, and even fewer integrate emerging career pathways into their curricula.

The Indian government, to its credit, has launched several initiatives that are aimed at bridging the skills gap, the most prominent being the Skill India Mission, which aimed to train over 400 million individuals by 2022. Despite large-scale funding, the mission fell far short of this target. Multiple systemic issues have contributed to this failure: besides the Skill India Mission, an acronym soup of other policies has also been launched which includes the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana (PMYY), Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, and many others,What India needs is a cohesive strategy that aligns education and skill development with industry demands. We have undertaken deep research and devised a platform for just that. We are in conversations with NITI Aayog, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), and the Skill Ministry to translate this solution into reality. Collaboration between the government, private sector and educational institutions will be essential to create a robust ecosystem for skill development.The decisive decade

India's ambition to emerge as a global digital powerhouse rests on its ability to integrate technology, education and employment into a coherent national framework. India's youth will either be equipped with the skills to thrive in an AI-driven world or be left behind. This is not just an education or employment crisis; it is a crisis where our entire social contract could come undone. The student civil disobedience during the Mandal Commission days in 1990 bear witness to the havoc that youth-led protests can create, escalating into violence, clashes with police, property destruction, and, in some cases, fatalities due to police firings. If India fails to act now, it risks creating a generation of highly literate, even educated but unemployable youth that can become a ticking time-bomb. The World Bank Economic Review has ably captured this paradox at scale in an article by Lant Pritchett, "Where Has All the Education Gone?". The ramifications of such a crisis are dire. The good news is that this is an entirely fixable problem. India must prepare its youth not for the jobs of yesterday, but for the careers of tomorrow. The clock is ticking and it is up to us to convert India's demographic dividend into an asset or a liability.

Martin Whitehead is a behavioural economist and former Partner, PwC. Amar Anand Singh is currently Chief Investment Officer of Auroville Investment Management Limited and Founder of the Auro Group of Companies. He was Managing Director and part of the founding team at Tybourne Capital. He previously held roles as an Analyst at McKinsey & Company and Vice President at Citigroup in New York, and Associate Director at Cinven Private Equity in London. Ritu Kulshrestha supported the initial stages of the article, specifically with data content and drafting

In Ukraine's war-torn eastern regions, residents navigate deadly minefields

While foraging for mushrooms earlier this summer, a 53-year-old woman from the Sumy region of Ukraine accidentally picked up an explosive object, one of the many littered across the otherwise lush forest landscape that cover much of the region.Injured but conscious, the woman, whose identity has not been revealed by the authorities, called her son, who alerted the local police immediately. "She was found bleeding and provided with first aid and evacuated from the area, which remains unsafe," the police department said, adding, "The trip to the forest almost ended in tragedy."

Soon after, another statement was issued, one that has been repeated frequently over the last three years: "The police once again emphasise: border and forest areas may be mined! Under no circumstances should you enter such areas without urgent need."Residents of Sumy and the surrounding eastern regions have become all too familiar with these warnings. "It is a fate one accepts living next door to Russia," said 30-year-old Anna, a resident of Kyiv, who only wished to share her first name.

Largest contaminationAs the country comes under massive shelling, missile and drone attacks, the Ukrainian landscape has got contaminated with active remnants of explosive devices, bombs, and even drones.The Russians, while retreating from some of the areas they captured in the initial phase of the invasion, planted hundreds, possibly thousands, of anti-personnel mines, stepping on which could instantly dismember the victim."There are currently over a million mines in the Ukrainian soil," estimated Paul Heslop, Senior UN Mine Action Adviser in Ukraine.But mines aren't the only explosives concerning organisations which are working on demining. "There is also an awful lot of unexploded shells, rockets, grenades, mortars from the fighting, particularly in the buffer zone where artillery's got roughly a 20-mile range," he said, adding urban environment that saw the Russian invasion were no better."We are looking at some of the worst contamination we've seen since the Second World War," he said.According to data shared by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU), there have been 910 incidents involving mines and explosive remnants of war, resulting in 992 people injured and 359 killed since the start of the war in February 2022. In 2025 alone, SESU stated that there have been 162 incidents, involving 187 injuries and 33 deaths.The Ukrainian National Mine Action Authority, estimated that as of mid-July this year, almost 139,000 sq. km — about 23% of the country's landmass — is directly affected by Russian explosives and mines. Of this, about 687,000 hectares are forest areas.Over six million people are living in and around the contaminated areas.Several Ukrainians shared accounts of coming across mines and unexploded ordinances while foraging for mushroom in the forests. "It was especially very common in the earlier days after the invasion," Ms. Anna said.Earlier this year, Ms. Anna and her friends came across pieces of explosives in forests around Kyiv.

"We loved going on hikes as a weekend activity, but coming across pieces of bombs and explosives made it a very stressful experience. Especially if you have kids because they will pick up anything," she said.The popularity of this outdoor activity, combined with the frequent risk of finding mines, prompted the Ukrainian government to issue instructions about safely foraging.Shifting frontlinesWhat compounds the problem is advanced weapons technology and drone warfare employed in this war. Mr. Helsop explained that as the delivery system of explosives changes, "every drone could be a potential unexploded device".In recent months, record-breaking aerial attacks, involving Iran-made Shahed drones, have caused casualties and forced residents to spend nights in shelters. The largest of these was recorded on July 9 with 728 drones and 13 missiles targeting multiple cities across the country.The changing weapons technology is also getting harder for demining agencies to combat them. "The clearance of advanced explosive objects, especially those of industrial or high-tech origin, poses many serious challenges," said Andrii Danyk, the head of SESU. "[Russia] uses new types of drones, self-detonating systems, and cluster munitions, which are more difficult to detect using standard methods," he said, adding that many devices are created or modified by hand, which makes it harder to identify and mitigate their threats.But even as the risks of mines and exploded ordinances have risen in recent years, countries,

Of an adoption maze and a menace thriving in its shadow

Every morning Pranathi wakes up to the same routine — checking the phone and opening the government child adoption portal with a fervent hope that there will be some movement in her application. "For two years now, my life has been defined by waiting," says the exasperated 45-year-old.Pranathi and husband, 48-year-old Ramakrishna, have been married for the past 12 years and are childless. The couple, residents of Tenali in Guntur district, spent years moving from one fertility centre to another, trying every available medical option.

She underwent two rounds of Intrauterine insemination (IUI) and one round of in-Vitro Fertilization (IVF). The treatments were exhausting. "The injections were painful and had to be taken regularly," she says, recalling the regimen. "There were side-effects too; the medicines leave you drained in more ways than one," she says. When medical science offered no solace, the couple turned to adoption, registering in June 2023. "We want to share our lives with a child," she says.According to the guidelines of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), a government agency that regulates and facilitates adoption in India, Pranathi-Ramakrishna couple are eligible for a child in 2-4 age group. For them, adoption is the only path to parenthood. But the wait, she says, has been unbearable.Pranathi admits that, in moments of desperation, she is tempted to consider shortcuts, but reports of child trafficking and illegal adoptions landing parents in legal trouble quickly have her thinking better of it. "I can't imagine losing a child after holding it in my arms," she says, voice breaking.A crime feeding off desperationPranathi's fears are not unfounded. The instances of child trafficking feeding on the vulnerability of childless couples are growing in the State.

A case in point is that of 26-year-old Ch. Meghana from Ongole in Prakasam district. Meghana and husband Vishnu Teja got married in 2019 but remained childness. As the couple began contemplating adoption through CARA, a known registered medical practitioner (RMP) from Guntur approached their relatives informing them that a college girl, who had delivered a baby, wanted to give up the infant. The relatives discussed the matter with Meghana's father-in-law, who collected the 16-days-old baby from the RMP.

The arrival of a baby was nothing short of a miracle for the childless couple, as it filled the silence of their home with laughter, purpose and a joy that knew no bounds. But the jubilation turned into despair on July 14, when the child was taken away by the Vijayawada police, who informed her that it was a trafficked infant. Meghana has now appealed to the District Collector and moved the court, seeking their intervention to regain custody of the child.In another case, which could perhaps be the gravest of the trafficking incidents thus far, a three-month-old infant girl changed hands seven times within two months in August 2022. Originally from Mangalagiri in Guntur district, she was sold by her father Medabalimi Manoj of Dandalayapet in Mangalagiri to Mikkili Nagalakshmi of Kondaprolu village in Nalgonda district (Telangana) for ?70,000.

Nagalakshmi sold the baby to Meghavat Gayatri for ?1.2 lakh, who went on to hand over the child to Bhukya Nandu for ?1.87 lakh. Bhukya Nandu sold the baby to Sk. Noor Jahan through one Anubolu Kiran for ?1.9 lakh. Subsequently, the baby got transferred to Bommada Uma Devi of Hyderabad (amount not known). She was then sold to Padala Sravani of Vijayawada for ?2 lakh and then to Garikamukku Vijayalakshmi of Vijayawada for ?2.2 lakh, before reaching the hands of Varre Ramesh of Eluru district, who paid ?2.5 lakh.Based on a complaint by the infant's mother and grandmother, the Guntur police formed a special task force and traced the trafficking chain. Eleven people, including the father, were arrested and the baby was reunited with her mother."An acquaintance of my wife told her that babies could be arranged quietly through intermediaries if she didn't want to wait for the legal process to be over."Sarveshwar RaoA resident of Singh Nagar in VijayawadaThe case sparked a state-wide debate about the complex adoption procedures that drive desperate couples towards illegal methods, weak vigilance in hospitals and communities and delayed police response to missing child or trafficking cases.Following the incident, the Andhra Pradesh High Court took suo motu cognisance of the issue and appointed senior advocate P. Sri Raghuram as amicus curiae to guide the court on broader systematic failures and recommend reforms. The disturbing frequency of transactions in this single case prompted the High Court to examine whether procedural delays and enforcement gaps in legal adoption were inadvertently fuelling illegal trafficking.Raghuram found that the adoption process is excessively bureaucratic and slow, often taking years to complete, and that the delay pushes aspiring parents toward illegal alternatives. He also underlined the delay in response by the law enforcement agencies and called for community-level vigilance.He suggested simplification of the adoption process, strengthening of vigilance at key points, swift police response and a series of awareness campaigns to educate the public about legal adoption process, the penalties for trafficking or sex determination and on the importance of promptly reporting any suspicious activity."The wait is unbearable. Friends whisper of 'other options.' An acquaintance of my wife told her that babies could be arranged quietly through intermediaries if she didn't want to wait for the legal process to be over," says Sarveshwar Rao from Singh Nagar in Vijayawada.

Married for sixteen years, the couple decided to adopt a child and registered in CARA. "We were told it might take two to three years, but it stretched to four before we could finally bring home the baby," says the 40-year-old teacher.He says after completing every formality that the government asks for, background checks, counselling sessions, home inspections and medical certificates, the wait becomes painful. "And yet, every moment of that wait feels worthwhile now, for the joy he has brought into our lives comes without the shadow of fear or the worry of future uncertainty." The couple was given a three-month-old baby in April.Struggles for parenthood

A District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) officer, seeking anonymity, recounts how couples usually approach the Women and Child Welfare Department only after exhausting every possible fertility treatment. "One woman came to us completely bald," the officer recalls. "She said she lost her hair because of the strong medication she was put on."The DCPU says he has also received desperate calls from men saying that their wives have slipped into depression because of the wait. "Their voices carry both helplessness and fear," he says. For those without much money or knowledge, the centralised child-adoption system feels out of reach."This is also why many couples look for other options," says N. Siva Prakash, a native of Thotlavallur in Krishna district. The 42-year-old man, with his wife Rama Devi, visited the local office of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in 2021 to learn about child-adoption procedure. "They spoke about CARA guidelines, Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) portal, registration and paperwork involving online forms, income proofs and certificates and long waiting time, especially for infants and healthy babies. I couldn't understand their legal terms, so I gave up the idea of adopting through CARA," he said.There were other reasons, too, for the couple to avoid the CARA route. "They wanted me to show a certificate proving that my annual income was at least ?3 lakh. But if I did that, my white ration card would be cancelled, and I couldn't afford to lose it," he says. The couple adopted a baby from a relative and the girl is four years old now.How the processes go

CARINGS, an online portal maintained by CARA for prospective adoptive parents (PAPs) to register, track and complete the adoption process, is aimed at ensuring that adoptions are legal, transparent and in the child's best interest. The district Women and Child Welfare Department is the local authority overseeing child protection and welfare, and it coordinates with Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and adoption agencies ensuring that the process follows CARA rules.The DCPUs are the ground-level arm of the department, which identify orphaned, abandoned or surrendered children, produce them before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for declaring them legally free for adoption and support adoptive parents with documentation and counselling.The Women and Child Welfare Department promotes adoption through the 27 Specialised Adoption Agencies (SSAs) or Sishu Gruhas established in 26 districts. Children in the 0-18 age group are placed for adoption, and over the past three years, the department placed 239 children for in-country adoption and 34 children for inter-country adoption."Most prospective adoptive parents prefer children below one year," says Secretary, Women and Child Welfare Department, A. Surya Kumari. This is perhaps for the ease of bonding, to experience early stages of parenthood (feeding, first words, first steps) and due to social stigma, as parents prefer a newborn so they can present it as their biological baby.

Surya Kumari says the department is also encouraging foster care to provide a safe and nurturing family environment for a large number of children in the 6-18 years group who are staying in CCIs. "As their parents or guardians are unavailable or are unable to take care of them due to various circumstances, they can be placed under foster care," she explains."Foster care is about flexible commitment, which allows couples and single women aged 35-60 to provide temporary care without the permanency of adoption."

A. Surya KumariSecretary, Women and Child Welfare DepartmentIn foster care, a child in need of care and protection is placed in the domestic environment of a family on short term, and the process is coordinated by DCPU and approved by the CWC of the district concerned. "It is about flexible commitment, which allows couples and single women aged 35-60 to provide temporary care without the permanency of adoption," explains Surya Kumari, adding that it suits those who want to help but are not ready for lifelong responsibility. She says this can evolve into adoption after two years, if desired.Meanwhile, voices demanding decentralisation of the adoption procedure without diluting the existing rules are growing louder. "Local accessibility will allow couples to approach the district or state-level adoption agencies directly instead of waiting endlessly in an online queue," feels B.V.S. Kumar, former Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee, Krishna district.He says adoption is an emotional journey, and sensitive handling at the local level can ease the stress of prospective adoptive parents, providing the much-needed human touch to it. "Besides improving speed and efficiency, it will bring greater trust, and localised processes can give confidence to the many couples who hesitate to approach Central authorities due to fear of complications," says Kumar.

Sunita Ahuja bags maiden show as judge in Farah Khan's 'Aunty Kisko Bola'

Mumbai: Filmmaker-choreographer and Youtube star Farah Khan has announced a new show titled "Aunty Kisko Bola" and welcomed her brother Sajid Khan and Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja as the first judges for it.

Farah took to Instagram, where she shared a video of Sunita and Sajid coming on stage. The text on the video read that "Welcome to the grand talent show… Hunt for India's No.1 aunty. A talent show only for aunties. Hunar ki koi age nahi hoti." "TOMORROW!! Our new show on my channel.. AUNTYKISKOBOLA #AKB .. thank u @aslisajidkhan @officialsunitaahuja for being our very first judges to bring out the talent that every woman has! N there s a special guest appearance too….@myqyuki @cashify @dhinchakofficial," Farah wrote as the caption.The show will have guest judges every week.Farah has choreographed more than a hundred songs in over 80 films winning the National Film Award for Best Choreography.In addition, she has worked on Tamil films and in international projects, such as Monsoon Wedding, Bombay Dreams, Vanity Fair and Marigold: An Adventure in India and the Chinese films Perhaps Love and Kung Fu Yoga, earning Tony Award and Golden Horse Award nominations.She then went on to direct the comedy Tees Maar Khan (2010) and the dance heist comedy Happy New Year (2014).

Talking about Sunita, on August 27, she spoke about the divorce rumours with Govinda. The two came together to celebrate Ganeshotsav, and interacted with the media.Responding to the rumours, Sunita told the media, "You guys have come for Ganpati or the controversy? Hasn't the media been slapped in the face by seeing us together so close? If there was something off, there would have been distances." "No power can separate us, neither the God nor the satan. They say, 'My husband is mine', likewise 'My Govinda is mine'. It's my humble request to everyone to not believe the rumours. Don't believe anything unless you hear it from us".

Higher airfares likely as IndiGo hikes fuel charge over fuel price rise

With jet fuel prices remaining elevated on a sustained basis amid the West Asia crisis, IndiGo on Monday announced hikes in its distance-based fuel charges for domestic and international flights from Tuesday (October 6). The hikes in fuel charge are bound to lead to a further increase in airfares, which have already been high due to the impact of the West Asia war. Jet fuel is a major cost element for airlines as it accounts for over 40% of their operating expenses.While the increases on domestic flights range from Rs 100 to Rs 350 per sector, a large number of international passengers will face substantially larger increases compared with the fuel charges announced by the airline in April. The fuel charges for international flights have been hiked by up to Rs 2,500 per sector. The revised fuel charges will apply to all bookings made from 00:01 am on Tuesday, which means that booking already made will be unaffected by the charge revision.

"ATF prices have remained volatile in recent months, especially following geopolitical issues in the Middle East. The continuous rise in the fuel prices, with the latest month-on-month increase exceeding 14%, has taken ATF costs to levels that are amongst the highest in the last decade. Given that Aviation Turbine Fuel makes up a significant share of airline's operating costs, this rise is expected to impact airlines' cost structures and network economics, including those of IndiGo," said the country's largest airline, which operates over 2,200 flights a day.IndiGo described the latest increase as a "measured and relatively modest adjustment", saying a significantly larger increase would have been required to fully offset the rise in fuel costs. The fuel charge was introduced in March, in the early days of the West Asia war, and was last revised on April 1."IndiGo regrets the additional burden these revised fuel charges may place on its customers. However, the decision reflects the sustained increase in operating costs and the evolving market environment. IndiGo will continue to monitor the situation and make relevant adjustments as and when appropriate. IndiGo remains committed to giving wings to the nation by offering affordable, convenient and consistent travel to customers," the airline said.For domestic flights up to 500 km in distance, like Delhi-Jaipur, the levy has been hiked by Rs 100 to Rs 375. For a flight distance of 500-1,000 km (like Delhi-Ahmedabad), the new fuel charge will be Rs 600, up from Rs 400. The increase in fuel charge will be Rs 300 for flights with distance between 1,000 and 1,500 km (like Delhi-Mumbai), taking the levy to Rs 900.For 1,501-2,000 km (like Delhi-Bengaluru), the new levy will be Rs 1,150 versus Rs 800 earlier, an increase of Rs 350. Similarly, for flights with a distance of over 2,000 km (like Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram), the new levy of Rs 1,300 is Rs 350 higher than the charge announced on April 1.

As for international flights, those to and from countries in the Indian subcontinent will attract a surcharge of Rs 1,000 for distances up to 500 km, up from Rs 900 per ticket. For flights with distances beyond 500 km but within the subcontinent, the levy has been hiked by Rs 500 to Rs 3,000.For West Asia, flights with a distance of up to 2,000 km will have a surcharge of Rs 5,500, higher by Rs 2,500. For over-2,000-km flights to and from this region, the new levy of Rs 5,500 is higher by Rs 500 from the charges announced on April 1.As for Southeast Asia and China, flights with a distance of up to 2,000 km will have a surcharge of Rs 5,500, up from Rs Rs 3,500. Flights with distances beyond 2,000 km will also attract Rs 5,500, an increase of Rs 500.Flight to and from Africa will see the surcharge rising to Rs 6,000, an increase of Rs 1,000. Flights to and from Greece and Turkey will have a surcharge of Rs 10,000, up from Rs 7,500. There is no change in the Rs 10,000 fuel charge on flights to and from the rest of Europe.

Big B recalls Yash Chopra's 'strange' transformation from 'Kabhi Kabhie' to 'Deewaar'

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan reminisced about working with late filmmaker Yash Chopra on two vastly different films, "Kabhi Kabhie" and "Deewaar".While talking to actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who came to KBC to promote his upcoming film "Udta Teer", he recalled how the late filmmaker seamlessly shifted from the romance-filled world of Kabhi Kabhie to the intense, gritty drama of Deewaar, calling it a testament to the filmmaker's greatness.

Ayushmann first paid a heartfelt tribute by singing the iconic title track "Kabhi Kabhie Mere Dil Mein". Amitabh was then heard saying: "Bohot khub Ayushmann ji aur ek baar ek jordaar taaliyan inkeliye. Thank you, bohot saari purani yaadein taaza kardi aapne. Yeh gaana humari film Kabhi Kabhie ka hain aur yeh Yash Chopraji ki film hain." (Very good, Ayushmann ji, and once again, a big round of applause for him. Thank you, you have brought back so many old memories. This song is from our film Kabhi Kabhie, and this is a Yash Chopra ji film.)The icon recalled: "Humme yaad hain ki yeh film Kashmir mein shoot hui thi aur Ayushmann ji badi ajeeb baat hain ki jab hum Kabhi Kabhie shoot kar rahe the, saath hi saath hum aur ek film shoot kar rahe the Yashji ki jiska naam tha Deewaar." (I remember that this film was shot in Kashmir, and Ayushmann ji, the strange thing is that when we were shooting Kabhi Kabhie, at the same time, we were also shooting another film by Yash ji called Deewaar.)

"Vahi keh rahe hain ki badi ajeeb baat hain Ayushmann ji aur yakeen nahi hota hain ki Yashji joh the ek romantic kisam ke director the aur unki har film romance keliye jaani jaati thi, aur achanak voh Deewaar jaisi film bana rahe the voh bhi viprit iss film se." (What I am saying is that it is a very strange thing, Ayushmann ji, and it is hard to believe that Yash ji, who was a romantic kind of director and whose every film was known for romance, suddenly made a film like Deewaar, which was completely opposite to this film.)"Humme yaad hai Deewaar ke shooting ke just doh din baad Kabhi Kabhie ki shooting shuru ho gayi aur kaise Yashji ne parivartan kiya apne aap ko aur samah ko kaise badla, voh greatness thi Yashji ki." (I remember that just two days after the shooting of Deewaar, the shooting of Kabhi Kabhie began, and how Yash ji transformed himself and how he changed the atmosphere, that was the greatness of Yash ji).Kabhi Kabhie released in1976. The musical romantic drama film written by Pamela Chopra. It stars Waheeda Rehman, Shashi Kapoor, Raakhee, Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Singh. This was Yash Chopra's second directorial film with Shashi Kapoor and Big B in the lead roles after Deewaar in 1975.Meanwhile, Deewaar also featured Neetu Singh, Nirupa Roy, Parveen Babi, Iftekhar, Madan Puri, Satyen Kappu and Manmohan Krishna. In the film, two impoverished brothers struggle to survive in the slums and eventually find themselves on opposing sides of the law.Expressing his gratitude once again for the soulful musical tribute, Amitabh was further celebrated by Ayushmann and Sara Ali Khan in honour of his birthday month.To mark the special occasion, the duo requested the megastar to deliver some of his iconic dialogues across a range of different emotions, celebrating his unparalleled versatility and legacy as an actor. Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 18 airs Sony Entertainment Television!

Accenture forecast lifts most IT stocks but near-term outlook remains hazy

A handful of Indian IT stocks were among the best performers in the stock market on Monday after global technology major Accenture's better-than-expected revenue forecast for the year lifted sentiment across Indian bourses.Big names such as Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) and Wipro Ltd gained up to 2%. Smaller names like Persistent Systems Ltd and Mphasis Ltd also added up to 3%. However, not all IT stocks rose, as Infosys Ltd and HCL Technologies Ltd fell 1-3%. In fact, the latter two were briefly in the green early in the session before swiftly falling into the red. Others that ended higher also lost some steam by the end due to profit booking. This led to Nifty IT, which had gained nearly 1.6% earlier in the session, eventually ending flat compared to its previous close.

Overall, the benchmark Sensex gained 472.77 points or 0.7% to end at 72,382.47. Nifty 50 also added 0.6% to close at 22,555.75. Many sectors, including banking, financial services and fast-moving consumer goods, also saw strong buying, helping lift the benchmarks. A handful of banks and IT majors have a big weightage on both indices.This follows a lean patch for the markets as the two key indices extended their losing run for the eighth straight week — the longest such losing streak in 25 years. "Markets staged a recovery, supported by softer-than-expected US jobs data and a moderation in crude oil prices, providing some relief to investors assessing the near-term interest rate outlook," said Vinod Nair, Head of Investments at Geojit Investments.

Irish major Accenture's earnings for the June-August quarter beat analysts' estimates on Thursday. However, the bigger talking point was the higher-than-expected guidance provided by the company for FY27. As the markets remained shut on Friday on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, this exuberance was seen on Monday."Accenture's 4QFY26 revenue of $18.68 bn (+7% y-o-y in constant currency or cc terms) exceeded its top end of guidance band of $18.4 bn. It guided for 3-6% growth in cc (with inorganic contribution at 2-2.5%) terms for FY27E, which was higher than the Street expectations of 2-5%, and expects no effect from currency movements in FY27E," noted Nomura.This guidance was despite the company's management acknowledging headwinds from the West Asia war, impact of AI-led deflation, and a dynamic discretionary spending environment

among clients. The management also noted an increase in smaller deals and improving conversion of deal wins into revenue, which is good news for Indian IT players.Big names such as Accenture and Cognizant act as bellwethers for the country's IT sector, providing a glimpse at how the sector may perform or grow in the near-term. Indian IT stocks, which earn much of their revenue from US and European clients, tend to benefit from positive commentary by these global technology giants.The picture remains bleak for IT companies despite this brief pullback. IT companies, which have delivered flat to low single-digit revenue growth in recent quarters, are expected to witness only a moderate improvement in the July-September quarter as the West Asia conflict continues to weigh on client spending and decision-making, according to Pritesh Thakkar of PL Capital.AI traction remains healthy, but smaller-sized and shorter-tenure AI projects are yet to offset leakage in traditional services, limiting the pace of revenue growth. We expect median Tier I revenue growth of 0.9% Q-o-Q in CC terms, with growth partly aided by acquisitions, while Tier II companies are expected to outperform with 2.7% Q-o-Q growth, supported by deal ramp-ups and stronger conversion of recent wins," Thakkar said in his report.AI-related deflation in revenues of IT services companies has been a major concern for the industry since early this year, as AI-driven productivity gains made by clients are expected to take away a chunk of revenue for the IT companies that deliver projects for them. The concern is so deep that Nifty IT remains down over 25% for the year.

What should parents consider when tracking their child's location?

Hyderabad: As children grow up and become more independent, parents and carers may start to worry about their safety while they're out. Their child might start walking to school alone, playing with friends outside the house, or spending time in the neighbourhood without adult supervision.Parents might consider using location-tracking technology, such as GPS-enabled phones, apps or smart watches, to keep a tab on their kids. This technology collects location information and displays it on a map in real time.While there are benefits to using the tech, there are also risks to be aware of.

So, what should parents keep in mind?

Why track your child?

Parents often start tracking their children when they're between the ages of 8 and 12.

The rationale is that tracking supports children's mobility and freedom while also allowing parents to stay informed of their movements and have peace of mind. Tracking can also be reciprocal, with features allowing children to track their parents.It can be used more practically to manage family logistics and routines, too, such as letting parents know when to pick their child up from the bus stop, or what time to have dinner on the table.

How does location tracking work?There are many apps and devices that make location tracking possible. These include phone features such as Apple's Find My, social media mapping features such as Snapchat's Snap Map, dedicated family location sharing apps such as Life360, and children's smartwatches such as SpaceTalk.These technologies vary in their functionality, but all of them visualise children's location data and notify parents of their movements.For younger children, wearable devices, such as kids' smartwatches, are appealing to parents as they allow for location monitoring without all the features, costs or risks of owning a smartphone.For older children and teenagers, location sharing has now extended into friendship communication – especially with Snap Map, which is embedded in existing social media networks and is often out of parents' view. Teenagers commonly share their location as part of their close friendships, to facilitate catch ups, and for peer connection.

What are the risks?

While location tracking provides parents with useful knowledge, it also means information about their child's everyday movements is being collected, stored, and potentially misused by third parties, such as advertisers and data

brokers. It's not always clear what happens to the data that is collected about those movements.Location data sharing also holds a risk of exposing young people to stalking, surveillance, and privacy violations. These technologies can be exploited, for example, by perpetrators of family violence to monitor and control children.So location data is not just what a parent sees in an app interface – rather, it is something that's often hidden. Parents and carers should check privacy settings on location-tracking devices and apps to evaluate what information is collected, who can access it, how long it is retained and whether it is shared or sold.

How parents feel about itA survey suggests they often feel conflicted about using these technologies and worry constant monitoring may undermine trust with their child. However, some parents also believed location tracking was beneficial to their child's wellbeing and helped with family management.Others said they preferred to use the terms "checking in" and "touching base", rather than "tracking". As one parent stated: I've used it to check my son's location so I can meet up with him or check if he's arrived safely at a friend's house. I am not a fan of "tracking" – I think it's harmful to be monitored constantly, but I do like the ability to "check in".

When should parents stop tracking?

Research shows some children continue to be tracked into young adulthood. Some young adults have even posted on social media to vent their frustration about how the tech can inhibit their independence and autonomy.This raises an important issue of consent. A child might agree to location tracking when an app is first installed. But if that tracking continues for years, does that original agreement still count?Parents may need to treat location sharing as an ongoing conversation rather than a one-time decision.

Domestic capacity, reforms key amid global uncertainty: Shaktikanta Das

Amid sustained shocks and global uncertainties, India seeks to emphasise on sustained structural reforms, building domestic capacity and competence in areas where there is large import dependence, and continuously focusing on fiscal, monetary, macroeconomic and macrofinancial stability, Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary-2 to the Prime Minister, said on Sunday. Das further said that the country stands at a pivotal moment in its development journey and "a leap to Viksit Bharat 2047 is in the realm of realisation", adding that India is within a striking distance of 8% growth.

"There can never be a moment where you can say that, whatever I have done is sufficient. There is always something more to do but in the current context… The emphasis has been to build our domestic capacity, competence in areas where we are largely import dependent. So, whether it is energy or fertiliser and so many other areas, the government is now focusing on such areas… the focus of the government is also to take measures and to develop long-term capacity in areas where again we are dependent on imports," Das said while answering a question on day two of the three-day Kautilya Economic Conclave organised by the Ministry of Finance and the Institute of Economic Growth.

Calling for strategic self-reliance, Das said self-reliance or Atmanirbharta should not mean isolation. "Rather, it stands for building stronger domestic capabilities while remaining integrated with global markets and concluding more free trade agreements," he said.Das underlined that India's real GDP grew by an "impressive 7.8%" in Q1 of 2026-27, adding that if the period from July-September 2025-26 to April-June 2026-27 is taken into account, "real GDP growth in India just exceeds 8%". "This resonates with my statement to Financial Times London a few months ago that India is within a striking distance of 8% growth," he said.

Reforms undertaken over the past decade were not one-off measures but were designed to build buffers that would help the economy absorb disruptions and recover rapidly, he said. "India's resilience is not accidental. It is the outcome of broad and mutually reinforcing reforms," he said.The former Reserve Bank of India governor cited flexible inflation targeting, the introduction of the goods and services tax, fiscal prudence, the push for digital payments and banking sector reforms among such measures.On the external front, Das said India's financial sector and prudent management had also emerged as strong pillars of economic growth. External sector indicators have remained broadly resilient, supported by export diversification, free trade agreements, a sustained surplus in services trade and steady inward remittances, he said.

Going ahead, Das said India must harness the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution to sustain high growth. "India's AI strategy rests on two complementary pillars. First, sovereign AI capability through investments in indigenous foundation models, high-performance computing infrastructure, semiconductor developments and robust innovation ecosystem," he said.He also called for deepening the financial sector to support India's expanding economic weight. "While India's financial sector has evolved significantly, the next phase of growth will require strengthening of long-term finance and patient capital," Das said. This would require further deepening of the corporate bond market, pension and insurance funds, municipal finance and innovative infrastructure financing, he added.

Hina Khan reveals 'she bled through nose every day' during Ladakh trip

Mumbai: Television actress Hina Khan has opened up about her first trip to Ladakh and described the high-altitude region as "truly a test of endurance." She revealed that she suffered nosebleeds every day during her stay.Sharing glimpses from her Ladakh journey, Hina said the region offered her a different perspective on life and made her realize the importance of slowing down. "My first trip to Ladakh—Ladakh is not at all easy; It's truly a test of endurance. The region gives you another perspective of life.. You realize how insignificant you are and how these mountains give you no option but demand to slow down.. Sharing my Ladakh experience and essentials you must must carry along with you," she wrote.The 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' actress also shared a detailed list of essentials she believes travellers should carry while visiting the high-altitude region. Hina highlighted the importance of proper acclimatisation and said carrying an oxygen backup can be a useful precaution when travelling to remote high-altitude areas.

She also mentioned Diamox, a prescription medication used to help prevent and reduce symptoms of acute mountain sickness, while advising people to consult their physician regarding dosage.The actress stressed the need for proper layering to deal with Ladakh's extreme temperature changes, along with carrying a pulse oximeter and digital thermometer. Hina also spoke about the dry conditions in the region, revealing that she experienced nosebleeds throughout her trip.

"Touchwood none of us had high-altitude sickness or required oxygen; we took proper precautions, but this thin dry air gets onto you.. I bled thru my nose everyday due to clot formation in my nasal passage till I got back home..

Make sure you use saline nasal sprays and nasal moisturizers or gels or oil to protect and soothe your nasal passages against the dry, cold air found at high altitudes," she shared.She advised travellers to carry saline nasal sprays and nasal moisturisers or gels to help protect and soothe the nasal passages from the dry, cold air.The 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay' actress also recommended carrying basic toilet-hygiene supplies such as pocket tissues, hand sanitiser, toilet seat sanitiser and toilet seat covers, particularly for long road journeys where restrooms may not be readily available.Among her other travel essentials, she listed Category 4 sunglasses, a neck gaiter to protect against dust, a long-lasting power bank and a portable nebuliser for those who require respiratory medication. Calling her Ladakh experience a lesson in endurance and preparation, Hina encouraged travellers to be mindful of the unique challenges posed by the region's high altitude and harsh climate.

Jorge Jesus won't bend, and Cristiano Ronaldo cannot be bent

GNS News Agency,Oct 8

Some time next week, or next month, Cristiano Ronaldo will reveal his side of the story. Of his latest, dramatic falling out with Portugal coach Jorge Jesus. The coach has offered glimpses of his version in a press conference: that the country's greatest footballer didn't suit the tactical demands of the game.Rumours and speculation have swirled like a juicy whodunit. Spanish journalist and Ronaldo's close friend Edu Aguirre claims the footballer felt betrayed. There supposedly was a closed-door meeting between the Portuguese football federation, Ronaldo and the coach, in which Jesus apologised to Ronaldo and said he would offer a public apology. Instead, he emphatically defended his decision to not play him against Norway in a press conference, only moments later.

Numerous inside stories, half-truth and half-fiction, will spill out, dividing a country and the footballing universe. But the falling out was imminent, considering the collision of two headstrong, egoistic personalities: the coach who considers himself a supreme force and a footballer who believes he is god's gift to the sport. Only no one expected the relationship to unravel so fast.There were hints, when you revisit Jesus's first press conference, where he said, "I wouldn't stand up to anyone." The coach's methods and his unflinching devotion to his ideals made a clash likely.Jesus, 72 and with flowing silvering locks, might not be the most fabled tactician of his times. He was a modest footballer, a midfielder whose career had more stops than a shuttle train (13 clubs in 17 years, largely in the lower rungs of the Portuguese league). He was an uncelebrated manager, whose best years were spent with Benfica (2009 to 2015), with stops in Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, in a career that began when Ronaldo was five. But most players he has managed either love or loathe him. To some, including Pablo Aimar, Fabio Coentrao and David Luiz, he is the greatest coach they have played under.Portugal's head coach Jorge Jesus speaks during a news conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026, ahead of their Nations League soccer match against Denmark. (Liselotte Sabroe/Ritzau Scanpix via AP) Portugal's head coach Jorge Jesus speaks during a news conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026, ahead of their Nations League soccer match against Denmark.

To others, he is an autocrat. On his first day at Benfica, he made the players train for four hours without a break, without letting them have a swig of water. He made them train twice a day, would shout and berate, but at the end of the day, former Portugal international Fernando Mendes said, "we knew we had a great friend in him."To the players who rebelled, he would say: "Inside the club, only one person gives me the orders. The president. No one else." Those who revolted against his exhaustive regimen, he ruthlessly relegated to the bench. He was so secretive in his tactics that he revealed them to his assistants only on the morning of the game.The rigorous methods reaped rewards. Benfica won the league the first year he joined them. In the next six years, the club won two more, in what was their most successful era this century. His tactics shape-shifted, but were always thrilling and intense. He claims he doesn't follow prototypes. "Some only copy what others do. I don't. God gave me the opportunity to be a creator," Jesus once told ESPN Brazil, after guiding Flamengo to five titles in a year.

He has no dogmatic guiding philosophy and swears by no idol, even though he spends hours studying the patterns and principles of all accomplished coaches. But there are core principles, as seen in Portugal's demolition of Denmark. They hounded the Danes with fluid aggression and heavy counter-pressing, and defended in a compact mid-block. He used three different formations in four games, but they were less tactical decisions than structural ones. Portugal played with a sense of identity that it had seldom shown before.It was evident why he ignored Ronaldo, and why he could again in the coming matches. He needs pace upfront, he wants his number nine to press aggressively, he demands heavy work off the ball. Ronaldo, at 41, is still a prolific scorer, but he failed to fulfil his off-the-ball shifts in the 67 minutes he played against Wales. Jesus has not shut the door in Ronaldo's face. After beating Norway on Sunday he said: "There are no bad feelings with Cristiano. For the next call-up, if Cristiano is playing and wants to be with the national team, then why not?" There are shades of the Ronaldo-Erik ten Hag skirmish, but with a more brazen edge.Perhaps both of them could look into the mirror and see each other. A coach who believes in ultimate supremacy, built on smouldering ego. It's his burnishing hubris that made Ronaldo, Jose Mourinho would say. It's the flaming ego that made Jesus too. It reflected in the words that explained Ronaldo's benching: "I told him I would take him to the bench and that, if I needed him for 30 minutes, he would play. But I saw the game differently, so he didn't come on. It won't be Cristiano, or any other player, who changes my ideas as a coach. Never. Neither him nor anyone else. Not even a president. Never. Zero."Perhaps Ronaldo's endgame was written the day the federation chose Jesus to succeed Roberto Martinez, who indulged Ronaldo with disastrous results.

India fined 20% of match fees, West Indies 10% as slow over rate in 3rd ODI draws ICC ire

GNS News Agency, Oct 8

India and West Indies were both fined by the International Cricket Council on Monday for maintaining a slow over-rates during the third ODI in New Chandigarh. The match went on for over nine hours and the length of the game was pointed out by notably by former India head coach Ravi Shastri from the commentary box and by former wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik on social media.While India have been fined 20 per cent of their match fee, the West Indies were docked 10 per cent of their earnings after being ruled four and two overs short of their required over-rates respectively, once time allowances were taken into consideration.

Match referee Prakash Bhatt imposed the sanctions after the match on Saturday. "Both captains pleaded guilty to the offences and accepted the proposed sanctions, meaning there was no need for formal hearings," the ICC said in a statement.The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Jayaraman Madanagopal and Sam Nogajski, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Virender Sharma.While India finished with a 2-1 win in the series, the West Indies recorded a famous win in the match itself, re-writing the record for their highest succesfull run chase in ODIs. Captain Shai Hope led the way with an unbeaten 162 as West Indies chased down 352. It was the first time since December 2019 that India had lost an ODI match at home against the West Indies.Earlier, India captain Shubman Gill fell after scoring just one run in his domestic home ground, after having scored centuries in the previous two matches. Virat Kohli was out for a golden duck after that, ending his streak of big scores as well. Rohit Sharma then scored a 92 and that was followed by KL Rahul's unbeaten 162 pushed India to a total of 351/7. The two sides will now turn their attention to the five-match T20I series, which begins on Tuesday in Lucknow.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar to captain star-studded India in 2026 Hong Kong Sixes

Veteran India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar will lead a star-studded Indian side packed with IPL stars in the upcoming Hong Kong Sixes from October 30-November 1. Bhuvneshwar's squad will include Krunal Pandya, Shashank Singh, Rahul Tewatia, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathi and T. Natarajan.Everyone except Shashank and Tewatia have played international cricket for India, although the latter has received a call-up to the national team in the past.First held in 1992, the Hong Kong Sixes features a unique format in which only six players take the field for each team. One bowler can bowl two overs and the remaining six overs are to be sent in by the four remaining players each. All but three editions of the tournament have been held at the Kowloon Cricket Club, with the 1996 and 1997 tournaments being held at nthe Hong Kong Stadium and the 2024 edition being hosted by the Mission Road Ground.

Bhuvneshwar brings years of international and IPL experience and the ability to make an impact with the new ball, while Krunal Pandya provides the versatility of a proven all-rounder. Nitish Rana adds aggressive stroke play and experience at the top of the order, while Shashank Singh and Rahul Tewatia bring proven finishing ability.Rahul Tripathi adds attacking intent, with T. Natarajan providing a specialist left-arm pace option.Anuraag Bhatnagar, Director of Marketing and Commercial, Cricket Hong Kong, China, said: "We are very grateful to the Indian cricket authorities for their support in helping us put together arguably one of the strongest sides that has represented India in the history of the Sixes."This will surely prove to be a quantum leap forward in terms of viewership and further validation for this iconic tournament." Team India will return to the Hong Kong Sixes looking to go deeper into the competition after opening their 2025 campaign with a two-run DLS victory over Pakistan, before exiting the tournament following defeats in their subsequent matches.Pakistan enters the 2026 edition as defending champions, having defeated debutants Kuwait in last year's final to claim a record sixth Hong Kong Sixes title.This edition of the tournament will feature eight major cricketing nations alongside four Associate Members, setting the stage for three days of fast-paced, attacking cricket at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground.

Ireland Head coach on spitting incident during game against Israel: '...not going to comment'

Israel faced Ireland in the UEFA Nations League, and tempers ran high between the two sides yet again. This is the second time both teams have faced each other in a fortnight. The Irish media reported that one of the Israeli players spat on the Ireland coach, Damien Doyle, during the half-time whistle.Asked about the spitting incident at the post-match news conference, Icelandic football manager Heimir Hallgrimsson declined to provide details. "I was there. I'm not going to comment. It's something a disciplinary committee will look at," he told reporters.

Israel coach Ran Ben-Shimon said he had already left the sideline and did not see what happened. "Halftime, I was in the dressing room, in my room with my ?staff; I didn't see anything. When I'm going to see and check, I will get ?back to you with the answer," he told reporters.Ireland had faced calls from some supporters and politicians to boycott the fixtures before beating Israel 3-0 behind closed doors in Hungary in their first meeting ?a week ago.

"I'm absolutely delighted this is finished," Ireland's Hallgrimsson told reporters."It's taken a toll out of us all. I've given so much credit to the players. They have been absolutely amazing in tough times, and I ?wish no national team to go through what we have gone through for the last two weeks."Ireland is one of Europe's most outspoken critics of

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza, and the Football Association of Ireland chose to stage Sunday's match behind closed doors in Serbia amid the pressure to withdraw from the fixtures.The absence of supporters, however, did little to ease the tension on ?the pitch. As in the first meeting, there were no pre-match handshakes or exchange of pennants, while players from each team bowed their heads during the opposing national anthem.Ireland again wore black armbands commemorating all the victims of the conflict in Gaza, with the Israelis sporting black armbands in memory of the victims of the October 7 attack that sparked the war.

Batter who played vital role in Sydney draw during 20/21 BGT says: 'Have to bring Bhuvneshwar Kumar'

In the third ODI during India's game against West Indies in New Chandigarh, the hosts failed to defend 351 runs. In the 2nd ODI at Guwahati, they also conceded over 400 runs. Indian cricketer Hanuma Vihari noted that India should bring back Bhuvneshwar Kumar into the team."I think they have to bring Bhuvneshwar Kumar back. In my opinion, he is still one of the best bowlers in the country. He is proving in the IPL," Vihari said on his YouTube channel.

"Of course. I mean, I've said before as well that I'm not playing to prove anything right now. But it's not like I don't want to play for India. If I get a call, as simple as that," Bhuvneshwar said on his prospects of returning to India on the Jatin Sapru channel.Bhuvneshwar also said he has moved past the phase of anxiety. "I think I've moved past that phase where I used to wait thinking, 'maybe this team, this series.' It's been a few years now; I don't get into that space anymore," he said.Vihari pointed at the injury records of both Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya and said if that happens, they cannot rely on bowlers without experience, suggesting it's better to go for Bhuvneshwar and Shami."You cannot depend on Bumrah and Hardik. You have to have backup in case of such injuries. I will say go with experi-

ence. Get Bhuvneshwar and Shami back," he said. "You will have some security with experience. When you need a breakthrough, you can go to them, and they will do the job for you. You need stability and experience will always count," Vihari said."We could not defend 350. Is this not a wake-up call? I think the team is going backwards. This is a big blow," he said. The West Indies exposed the Indian bowling attack. They are not even part of the World Cup. Imagine top teams like Australia, South Africa, England," Vihari added.

Shreyas Iyer looks to go higher and higher

By the time Shreyas Iyer turned to Shivam Dube in the fifth and final T20I against England in Southampton, there was little left to salvage. England were 225/1, with Jos Buttler and Harry Brook in control. Dube didn't bowl until the 19th over. He took two wickets, but gave away 22 runs. It was a snapshot of where Iyer was: he had the resources, but was still figuring out how to use them.England ended with 257/3, and India lost by 56 runs. The defeat completed a 0-4 series loss and was Iyer's sixth defeat in seven matches as India's T20I captain. Southampton felt like the nadir of a difficult start. There was little then to suggest things would turn for the better.Over the next nine matches, all of them wins, Iyer may not have become a master tactician. But there seems to be a clearer identity about his captaincy, especially how he uses his bowlers.The Ireland and England matches hinted at a captain still trying to work out which bowler fitted where. The games since have shown greater role clarity, more trust in young players and, crucially, a willingness to back them after things go wrong.The change is perhaps best seen in how Iyer handles young pacers when things don't go to plan.Mayank Yadav, after taking a first-ball wicket in the third T20I, was hit for a six in his next spell. Iyer still brought him back to break the fifth-wicket partnership between Wessly Madhevere and Ryan Burl and then trusted him with the 20th over.Mayank showed enough in Zimbabwe to suggest that he could become an important cog in the attack. But there is still work to do. His pace is his biggest asset, but the next step is to trust his plans when batsmen attack him, rather than relying on pace to get out of trouble.Prince Yadav's role seems clear: bowl hard lengths to top-order batsmen and keep going even if the ball disappears. He struck with his first ball in the second T20I against Zimbabwe and then removed Sikandar Raza in the same spell, both wickets coming from that approach. After the first game, Prince said the message from Iyer and the coaches was simple – keep bowling the right lengths and don't worry if a good ball gets hit.With Hardik Pandya still unavailable, India are developing Nitish Kumar Reddy in the seam bowling all-rounder role. Against Afghanistan in the third T20I, he conceded 15 in his first over. Iyer did not shelve him. He brought him back in the ninth and then again in the 11th and 13th over. Nitish finished with 3/25 in his four overs.

For Shreyas Iyer, bigger tests lie ahead, starting with the West Indies series in Lucknow. (CREIMAS) For Shreyas Iyer, bigger tests lie ahead, starting with the West Indies series in Lucknow. (CREIMAS)Abhishek Sharma perhaps best captures what Iyer is trying to build. In the first T20I against Afghanistan in Delhi, Iyer gave Abhishek an over despite having regular bowling options and that experimentation continued at the Asian Games, despite the main bowlers having overs left. India have often played with only five frontline bowlers, and Iyer looks keen to develop a sixth bowling resource.Sanjay Manjrekar, who has watched Iyer over the years for India and in the IPL, believed Iyer looked more settled in the role now after the early stutter."One thing, whatever little you can get, you know, the vibe, just being around him – did a couple of tosses with him and just being there – he seems like he's settled into the role.""Suddenly it seems like he has grown, you know, maturity and everything. So he must have realised after the Ireland experience that you just do your best and the results are beyond your control," he said.Despite the nine wins, however, Iyer's captaincy is still developing. It is too early to call him a finished product. Bigger tests lie ahead, starting with the West Indies series in Lucknow on Tuesday.Manjrekar does not see the coming challenge as simply a test of Iyer. "I think the test for this Indian T20 team will be performing in different conditions."That makes the West Indies series important. India have played just one series at home under his captaincy, with all three matches in Delhi.

Alcaraz survives Munar challenge, reaches second straight Tokyo final

Tokyo: World No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz overcame a challenge from fellow Spaniard Jaume Munar to win 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 in the Japan Open semifinal at the Ariake Coliseum here on Monday, reaching the final in Tokyo for the second consecutive year.Alcaraz squandered a 5-3 lead in the opening set and was eventually broken while serving for the set. He responded strongly in the second, breaking Munar three times to level the match before dominating the decider 6-1.

"I don't know what happened in the first set… The first sets in general, to be honest. I don't know. I started the match well, breaking, serving for the set. Don't know what happened. It seems like I'm struggling every first set. But the way I come back every time, I'm just really happy about it," Alcaraz told tournament broadcasters after the win.Alcaraz has had to dig deep in the opening sets throughout the tournament. He needed tiebreaks against Denis Shapovalov in the quarterfinals, Matteo Arnaldi in the round of 16 and Alex Michelsen in the round of 32.

Against Munar, Alcaraz broke early and moved 5-3 ahead before serving for the set. However, Munar broke back, won the next two games and took the opening set 7-5.Alcaraz responded in the second set by breaking for a 2-1 lead and holding for 3-1. He broke again for 4-2 before securing the set 6-3 with another break.

The Spaniard was back to his best in the decider, breaking Munar twice to race to a 4-0 lead. Although Munar held serve to get on the scoreboard, Alcaraz closed out the match with another hold to win 6-1.The seven-time Grand Slam champion will face either Jiri Lehecka or Valentin Vacherot in the final. The two were scheduled to play their semifinal later on Monday.Alcaraz chose to compete at the Japan Open while several other stars are featuring at the China Open. He is the defending champion in Tokyo, having defeated Taylor Fritz in last year's final.

Carlos Alcaraz rallied from a set down to beat fellow Spaniard Jaume Munar 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 in the Japan Open semifinal. The seven-time Grand Slam champion reached the Tokyo final for the second consecutive year after another comeback victory

Shekhar Suman defends Sanjay Dutt over 'no peace in India' remark: 'He loves his country'

Shekhar Suman has come out in support of Sanjay Dutt after the actor recently found himself embroiled in a controversy over his comments on the talk show Shekhar Tonite. Sanjay Dutt's remarks on Shekhar Suman's YouTube show sparked criticism after he said that he could no longer feel peace in India. The backlash eventually prompted the actor to issue a clarification over his comments. Now, the show's host Shekhar Suman has reacted to the controversy, defending Sanjay Dutt and insisting that his comments were taken out of context.

Speaking to NDTV, the actor said, "Sanjay Dutt has huge respect for our country and fellow countrymen, and what he said was completely innocuous and in a very positive way. He should not be penalised and maligned for what he never said or meant. I know him for years; he is a good man who loves his country and has utmost regard for it."Sanjay Dutt appeared on the Gandhi Jayanti special episode of Shekhar Tonite on Friday, where he combined humour with references to Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

During the conversation, Sanjay said, "The people of this country are so lovely. There should be peace here. I can't feel that peace in our country anymore. We Indians are large-hearted people and we are hospitable. We have given so much, and we should always remain that way. I pray to Shivji that those days come back soon."Towards the end of the episode, Sanjay Dutt was asked to imagine himself as the Prime Minister for five minutes and address the people of the country. The actor immediately slipped into the language and mannerisms associated with his iconic Munna Bhai character.Speaking in Hindi, he said, "My dear countrymen, today I am very happy to have become your PM. There is a strange kind of energy running through my body. This is such a huge country, there are so many people, and now the responsibility of all of them is on me."

He added, "But you people don't have to worry at all. I am not going abroad to celebrate this happiness. I will stay right here, among all of you. Otherwise, how will there be a connection between the PM and the people?"The comments soon went viral, with several social media users criticising the actor. Amid the backlash, Sanjay Dutt issued a clarification on his social media handles.

I want to clarify that it has never been my intention to hurt the feelings of any individual, community, or institution, to insult them, or to disrespect them," he said.He further explained, "My comments were made in the context of a scripted conversation, the purpose of which was to engage in lighthearted and humorous dialogue. The sentiment behind it was akin to the style of humor and satire depicted in films like Munnabhai, particularly inspired by the concept of 'Gandhigiri', which aimed to convey a message of love, unity, and goodwill. Unfortunately, my words were interpreted differently, detached from that original context."

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

Mumbai: Actress Shriya Saran has opened up about her nervousness ahead of the release of 'Drishyam 3', saying she could not sleep the night before as she kept thinking about how audiences would receive the film.In an exclusive interview with IANS, Shriya said she found herself emotionally and mentally revisiting every scene she had performed in the film."I couldn't sleep last night. I was thinking what will happen, what kind of a film it will be. And you know, it's a sense of nervousness. Every scene that I have done in the film, I was revisiting it emotionally and mentally. I was thinking how it will be," she said.Shriya also spoke about the evolution of dubbing and sound technology in filmmaking. She noted that actors earlier spent considerable time watching films during the dubbing process, while sound technology has now become much more sophisticated.

"Because earlier when the film was made, we used to watch a lot of films in dubbing. But now dubbing has become so sophisticated. The sound system is so amazing," she said.Shriya praised the film's sound team and revealed that the team did not have to rely extensively on dubbing as the film was shot with sync sound."And in conclusion, Abhishek has got such an amazing sound system, sound director. It's amazingly sync sound that we didn't have to dub it at all. So, we are very lucky," she added.Describing 'Drishyam 3', Shriya said the film carries a sense of responsibility because of its emotional and dramatic nature. She explained that the film is rooted in family drama and mystery rather than being a larger-than-life visual spectacle.

"So, I was thinking what it is. But I know for a fact it's a beautiful film. Yes, I know there is a lot of responsibility. Because it's not like, it's a drama. Family drama, mystery. And it plays with your emotions," she said.The actress added that the film's strength lies in its emotional connection with the audience."But it's not like a visual spectacle, spectacularly. It's not like, it's a larger than life kind of a film. It's a film that connects to your heart. So, it's that. And there is a lot of responsibility. But I know that Abhishek is on a great job," Shriya said.Shriya Saran has returned as Nandini Salgaonkar, the wife of Vijay Salgaonkar, portrayed by Ajay Devgn, in the concluding chapter, 'Drishyam 3: The Conclusion'. The film hit theatres on October 2, 2026, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.

Rs 2.5 cr film Premada Ooralli beats Yash's Toxic to emerge as most profitable Kannada movie

Another small-budget film is becoming the talk of the town. This time, Kannada romantic drama Premada Ooralli has witnessed a remarkable jump at the box office. After opening at just Rs 9 lakh, the film earned Rs 3.5 crore on its tenth day, taking its total India net collection to Rs 16.96 crore. Made on a modest budget of just Rs 2.5 crore, Premada Ooralli is being touted as one of the most profitable films in Kannada cinema, alongside Love Mocktail 3 and Karavali. The film continues to draw audiences, with multiple shows in Bengaluru filling up even on a Monday, according to BookMyShow.According to industry tracker Sacnilk, the film opened to just Rs 9 lakh across 60 shows, partly because it did not feature a major Kannada star. However, word-of-mouth helped the film gain momentum almost immediately. On day two, Premada Ooralli saw its earnings rise by Rs 14 lakh, while the number of shows increased by 21. On day three, it earned Rs 55 lakh across 155 shows, recording a 55% occupancy.

The film continued to grow even on weekdays, earning Rs 65 lakh on its first Monday and Rs 95 lakh on Tuesday. On its second Sunday, it collected Rs 3.85 crore, taking its India net total to Rs 14.57 crore at that point.Within 10 days, the film had crossed the one-million footfall mark in theatres. On its 11th day, Premada Ooralli had already crossed the Rs 1 crore mark, with the film running across 311 shows.Premada Ooralli to become the most profitable Kannada film

While Toxic was one of the biggest Kannada releases of the year, the film failed to make an impact at the box office and reportedly could not recover its massive budget of over Rs 500 crore.Meanwhile, Love Mocktail 3, made on a reported budget of Rs 2 crore, earned Rs 18.55 crore at the box office, delivering nearly 10 times its investment. It was subsequently regarded as one of the most profitable Kannada films of the 21st century. Premada Ooralli, however, is now threatening to surpass that record, having already come close to its lifetime collection within just 10 days.Featuring a cast of relatively new faces, the film is directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Manoj Kumar. He won the National Award for Best Feature Film in Kannada for his debut film Akshi, which was made on a budget of just Rs 23 lakh and shot over 55 days.Produced by Vannila Entertainment, Janakamma Productions and Mukul Gowda Productions, the film stars Rangayana Raghu, Shree Raam, Thapaswini Poonacha and Ramika Shivu.The film's trailer has garnered over 2.3 million views, while its songs have also found an audience online. Several tracks have clocked millions of views, with "Eru Peru Hrudaya" alone garnering 4.5 million views on YouTube.But the film's journey to the big screen was far from easy.By the time the shoot wrapped up, the makers had virtually no budget left for marketing. Their solution was unconventional: they printed wedding-style invitation cards, boarded buses and trains, handed them to commuters and "begged" people to give the film a chance.Speaking to Cinema Express, Manoj Kumar recalled how the film initially struggled to find an audience."They plastered posters on autorickshaws; we truly owe those drivers. At 10:30 AM that Friday, not a whisper. By 1:30 PM, complete silence. Then came the 6:30 PM show, and word-of-mouth caught fire. What started across roughly 60 centres surged to 450 by Sunday. Jayanna Combines rolled in like a JCB to clear the path. Distributor Jayanna told us, 'Every single show through Sunday is houseful till October 4, even you won't get a ticket.'"

Despite National Award win, director had no workManoj Kumar's return to filmmaking comes five years after his debut, but the gap was not by choice. Despite winning a National Award for Akshi, he struggled to find work."After winning the National Award for Akshi, I couldn't even find work; people assumed backing an art-house director meant losing money. Devendra, our co-writer and producer, stepped up with his savings," he said.The financial constraints during the making of Premada Ooralli were so severe that, on one occasion, Kumar even asked his mother to pawn her mangalsutra, or thaali in Kannada, to help complete the shoot.When the director had to pawn his mother's mangalsutraThapaswini Poonacha, one of the film's leads, recalled the emotional incident."It was 6:30 PM, fading daylight, and our artificial rain water ran completely dry. Local villagers pumped water from their borewell to help us. Just then, Manoj sir stepped aside to call his mother, which Shree Ram and I overheard. 'Keep your thaali ready to pawn tomorrow; today's budget is over, and if we don't get the shot now, we must extend the shoot.' That broke us emotionally."Sir had told me Rukmini's tears must never spill carelessly, they had to brim right in the eye. In that one single take, the rain, camera angles, and our emotions locked into place. When he yelled cut, hugged us, and told his mother, 'Keep your thaali, we finished in one take,' I simply broke down."Premada Ooralli's success is part of a larger trend in 2026, which has seen several small-budget films make an outsized impact at the box office across regional industries, including Hindi's Hanuman Ansh, Marathi's Deool Band 2 and Malayalam's Bethlehem Kuduma Unit. In 2025, Gujarati film Laalo was all over the news for earning over Rs 120 crore after being made on a budget of just Rs 1.2 crore.

Arijit Singh marks 20 years in music with stadium-scale India tour

Mumbai:Playback singer Arijit Singh, who has completed two decades in the music industry, has announced a nine-city, stadium-scale India tour from January to May 2027 to celebrate his 20 years in music.The tour will cover Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Mumbai, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Pune, Indore and Hyderabad.

Talking about the tour, Arijit said in a statement, "20 years of music is a journey I feel very grateful for. The greatest part of it has always been the people, the listeners who have given these songs a life of their own."He added, "I'm really looking forward to travelling across India and experiencing that love together, live on stage. There are so many songs, so many memories and so many people to meet. I can't wait."The experience will feature 360-degree spatial audio, kinetic LED fixtures, panoramic screens, laser arrays and stadium-scale pyrotechnics, with a live production designed to immerse fans in the experience.Mohit Bijlani, Founder, Team Innovation, said, "We take immense pride in presenting a nationwide tour of this magnitude to audiences across the country. Bringing India's most loved voice to so many cities is a deeply meaningful milestone for our team. It is a genuine tribute to an extraordinary musical legacy, and we are thrilled to create an unprecedented live event. Every single detail of this journey is being designed to world-class standards, offering fans a live experience at a scale never seen before in his home country."The tour is presented by Kotak Solitaire and produced and promoted by Team Innovation.Varun Khare, CEO, thumpN, said, "There are very few artists whose announcement can make an entire country stop and ask one question: When do the tickets go on sale? Arijit Singh is one of them. His music has an extraordinary ability to bring people together, and we expect these shows to be exactly that. Thousands of people singing the same words, at the same time, in the same place. For thumpN, being the ticketing platform for this tour is a privilege.""Our job is to make sure that getting from 'I need to be there' to actually being there in the moment is as seamless as possible. We're incredibly excited to bring this experience to fans across all nine cities," he added.

Arijit Singh announces first India tour since retirement, to perform in nine cities

Arijit Singh has announced a nine-city India tour, which will kick off in January 2027 and conclude in May the same year. The playback singer will travel to Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Mumbai, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Pune, Indore and Hyderabad as part of a tour celebrating his two-decade-long musical journey. The upcoming tour marks Arijit's first major India tour since he announced his decision to stop taking on new playback singing assignments earlier this year.Talking about the tour, Arijit said in a statement, "20 years of music is a journey I feel very grateful for. The greatest part of it has always been the people, the listeners who have given these songs a life of their own."He added, "I am really looking forward to travelling across India and experiencing that love together, live on stage. There are so many songs, so many memories and so many people to meet. I can't wait."According to reports, the concert experience will feature 360-degree spatial audio, kinetic LED fixtures, panoramic screens, laser arrays and stadium-scale pyrotechnics. The live production is being designed to create an immersive experience for fans.The tour is presented by Kotal Solitaire and produced and promoted by Team Innovation.Mohit Bijlani, Founder of Team Innovation, said in a statement, "Every single detail of this journey is being designed to world-class standards, offering fans a live experience at a scale never seen before in his home country."Arijit Singh's last India tour was One Night Only – India Tour, which concluded in Delhi in March 2023. The tour covered Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Delhi.Previously, announcing his retirement, Arijit Singh wrote on Instagram, "Hello. Happy New Year to all. I want to thank you all for giving me so much love all these years as listeners. I am happy to announce that I am not going to take any new assignments as a playback vocalist from now on. I am calling it quits. It was a wonderful journey."Despite his announcement, several of Arijit's songs have continued to feature in films as part of prior commitments. These include "Phir Se" from Dhurandhar: The Revenge, "Ghar Kab Aaoge" from Border 2, all five songs from the Junaid Khan-starrer Ek Din, and "Tujhko" from Cocktail 2. He has also lent his voice to Salman Khan's Matrubhoomi.

Sameera Reddy shares candid mother-son moment from Goa

Mumbai: Actress Sameera Reddy gave her followers a glimpse of a candid mother-son moment as she shared a video of herself driving through Goa.Taking to her social media account, Sameera posted a shot by her little son, Hans, and praised him for capturing her in his own stylish way. Sharing the clip, she wrote, "My son takes the coolest videos of his mama."

In the video, Sameera can be seen behind the wheel of her car, wearing a colourful, multi-coloured printed outfit.She completed her look with sunglasses and kept her hair open as she drove, with her seatbelt fastened.For the uninitiated, Sameera and her husband Akshai Varde moved from Mumbai to Goa in 2020, during the pandemic.What was initially intended as a temporary escape from Mumbai eventually turned into a permanent setup. Sameera has often spoken about how the slower pace and proximity to nature in Goa have helped her find greater balance and made her a calmer mother and human.Sameera continues to travel to Mumbai and other cities for professional commitments.Sameera, who made her Bollywood debut in the early 2000s, has featured in films including Darna Mana Hai, Musafir, Taxi No. 9211, Race and De Dana Dan.In recent years, she has carved out a different identity for herself on social media and has embraced an approach to discussing motherhood, parenting, body image and mental health.Her own experience with postpartum struggles played a major role in shaping this social media chapter. Sameera has spoken openly about postpartum depression, weight gain, loneliness and the pressure she felt to "bounce back" after motherhood.Her popular "Messy Mama" persona has further helped her connect with women who relate to the realities of motherhood rather than its often-perfect portrayal online.Her social media presence also became particularly popular during the lockdown, when she began sharing candid family content, including videos with her mother-in-law Manjari Varde. The duo's "Sassy Saasu and Messy Mama" videos became a favourite among her followers.The actress is a mother of 2 kids, Hans and a daughter, Nyra.

Rakul Preet Singh denies link to income tax searches, calls reports 'false'

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh has addressed reports that linked her name to recent income tax searches.

Taking to social media, the 'Yaariyan' actress on Monday clarified that she was not connected to the matter and sought to set the record straight. Rakul shared a note that read, "It's heartbreaking to see that There's a growing trend amongst the self styled online reporters & some main stream media journalists to sensationalise the news without verifying facts. Let's therefore set the record straight once for all. The search was not pertaining to me.""Let it be known that I am from the Armed Forces background & had no Godfather in the Industry. I have come up through sheer hardwork & as a responsible law abiding citizen have been paying my due taxes since the age of 20 years."The actress added, "I am not involved in any kind of illegal Foreign remittance in personal capacity or on behalf of any Production house. I would also add here that I do not hold any Benami property on behalf of anyone anywhere in the country or abroad. Neither anyone has ever gifted me any property at anytime nor do I accept such expensive gifts as a principle.""I urge all those who published these false, malicious and speculative reports to retract them and clarify the facts. I understand that everyone running a media business however big has their own commercial pressures. But it cannot come at the cost of facts. And certainly not at the cost of someone's reputation and livelihood."The Income Tax Department had conducted searches at multiple locations reportedly linked to Rakul Preet Singh, her father-in-law and film producer Vashu Bhagnani, and Panorama Studios in Mumbai.

Printed and Published by V. Srinivas Reddy on behalf of M/s SAI KRISHNA PUBLICATIONS, Owned by M/s SAI KRISHNA PUBLICATIONS, Printed at – Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.98/1, Co-operative Industrial Estate Phase II, Gandhinagar, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana-500037. Published at Plot No.3, Flat No.13, Surya Saroj Apartment, HUDA complex, Saroornagar, Rangareddy District, Telangana-500035. Editor: VADDI SRINIVAS REDDY, RNI No. APENG/2013/49469. Ph.No. 9440231967