

AIKS to hold 36th national conference in Telangana, join Oct 23 anti-SIR protests

New Delhi: The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) will hold its 36th all-India conference in Telangana's Nalgonda from November 15 to 18, marking 90 years of its formation, the organisation declared Friday, also announcing its participation in nationwide protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise on October 23.

The AIKS, which has demanded scrapping of SIR and removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, said the October 23 protests called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and other groups would be held across the country, with large demonstrations planned at district and local levels.

Two DIG office staff suspended in Warangal

Warangal: Warangal Commissioner of Police N. Swetha, who also serves as the DIG of the Bhadradi Zone, has reportedly suspended two employees working at the Bhadradi Zone DIG office in Warangal.

Allegations had surfaced that a superintendent Yugandhar and a senior assistant Madhusudhan Reddy both working at the DIG office in Subedari, Hanamkonda, had engaged in corruption in connection with the transfer of police personnel within the Bhadradi Zone.

As an inquiry into the allegations confirmed that Yugandhar and Madhusudhan Reddy had indeed engaged in corrupt practices, they were placed under suspension, sources said.

Telangana to prepare draft Rohith Vemula Bill in three months

Hyderabad: Following Karnataka's lead, the Congress government in Telangana is planning to bring in legislation to protect students from caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions. The draft of the proposed Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill is expected to be ready within three months.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday directed officials to prepare the preliminary draft within the deadline and submit it to a senior civil servants' committee for examination. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Adhuri Lakshman Kumar, along with senior officials, attended the review meeting held at the State Secretariat here.



Hyderabad, Oct 15 (IANS) With declining water reserves and soaring demand for electricity, Telangana is heading for a potential crisis due to an unprecedented El Nino situation, warned Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday.

Stating that the next 9-10 months will be very difficult, he urged farmers to defer the 'Yasangi' (Rabi) crop to secure the state's drinking water supply and appealed to people to conserve water.

He also warned that crops across 10 lakh acres are likely to suffer damage during the 'Vanakalam' (Kharif) despite all the efforts to prevent withering of crops, he said.

Addressing a press conference after a meeting with the ministers to review the situation caused by El Nino, Revanth Reddy said reservoirs in the Krishna basin have 72% less water compared to last year. Simi-

Telangana heading for crisis due to unprecedented El Nino situation: CM

larily, the Krishna basin has 40% less water. The state had a 23% rainfall deficit during the monsoon.

"No reservoir has enough water to supply both drinking and farming needs. Usually, at this time in a typical year, we have 462 TMC of water across all reservoirs. Today, we have only 200 TMC. This is an unprecedented moment of crisis for all of us," he said.

As the state needs to supply drinking water to 24,000 villages, he said that available reserves must be used carefully.

The Chief Minister said that water for irrigation must be used judiciously, and electricity should be consumed sparingly.

He stressed the need to ensure drinking water and fodder for livestock. Otherwise, animals could perish in large numbers.

The state is also facing the problem due to a rise in electricity demand. The demand has soared to 20,003 MW against the normal level of around 15,000 MW for October.

There has been an increase in electricity demand of 5,000 MW mainly due to increased use of agriculture pump sets. The electricity consumption by the domestic sector has also gone up as the temperatures typically

seen in March are being experienced in October.

He pointed out that about 30 lakh agriculture pump sets are functioning across the state.

The Chief Minister revealed that the government was purchasing electricity at prevailing market rates to protect standing crops ahead of the monsoon harvest, expected in about 20 days.

He also appealed to avoid wasting water on activities like washing vehicles.

The Chief Minister announced that the government is preparing an action plan to take up repairs to tanks, lakes and ponds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

He called on the Centre to provide financial assistance to farmers affected by crop losses and those who might skip the next season.

He announced Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka would organise an all-party meeting after Dasara to explain the situation to all the parties.

The Chief Minister will lead an all-party delegation to Delhi to meet the Union Home Minister and other central ministers.

He said the Central Government should extend its

support to the State Government

Revanth Reddy also appealed to political parties, the media and citizens to cooperate with the government in tackling the anticipated crisis.

He stated that because of global warming, this El Nino disaster is affecting the entire world. Scientists and other experts have been warning us about El Nino. Unfortunately, their worst predictions have come true.

He noted that the United Nations had noted that El Nino would affect people in 100 countries, affecting nearly a hundred crore people directly and indirectly.

Likening El Niño to COVID, he said the crisis demands that all people work together in unison.

"When a natural disaster strikes us, it is everyone's duty to come together. We have to think beyond politics and join our hands in mission mode, so no one is left behind. So, we can take care of everyone. Save Water, Save Power. This is our magic mantra," he said.

The government will organise cultural troupes (kala jathas) to raise public awareness on tackling the situation, he said. Stating that film actor Vijay Deverakonda has appealed to El Niño, he said the support of other film actors, athletes, and artists will be enlisted in making an appeal to the public.

Telangana govt to prepare draft Rohit Vemula Bill in three months

Hyderabad, Oct 16 (IANS) The draft of the Rohit Vemula Telangana Bill to prevent caste discrimination in institutions of higher education in Telangana will be prepared within three months.

Rohit Vemula Telangana (Prevention of Identity Based Discrimination in Higher Education) Bill, 2026.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday directed officials to draft a comprehensive law aimed at protecting the rights of students in universities and higher educational institutions, ensuring an environment free from discrimination based on caste or social background.

The second meeting of the Senior Civil Servants Committee regarding the Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill took place on Friday at the Telangana Secretariat, chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister.

The meeting featured extensive discussions on the approach to be adopted for drafting the proposed bill, the composition of the committee, legal aspects, and the process for consulting with various sections of society.

He directed that the 'Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill' be prepared and submitted to the Senior Civil Servants Committee within three months.

He emphasised that every stage—from the formation of the committee to consultations with various stakeholders—must be completed within the stipulated timeframe, with no room for delays.



He suggested that the Scheduled Castes Development Department (SCDD) should lead the process of drafting the 'Rohith Vemula Bill.' He emphasised that relevant departments and organisations should be represented on the committee, and that the Law Department must also be included.

He further advised exploring the involvement of the Education Department, the Home Department, the University Grants Commission (UGC), and other such bodies.

He also called for a comprehensive consultation process involving various sections of society. He suggested creating a list of stakeholders—including students, faculty, legal experts, civil society organisations, education sector specialists, and other relevant parties—with whom discussions should be held.

ED completes registration of nine auctioned properties in Heera Group Ponzi case

Hyderabad, Oct 16 (IANS) Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad Zonal Office, has completed the registration of two more immovable properties in Hyderabad for Rs.88.23 crore in connection with the Heera Group Ponzi case.



The agency said registration of two properties, namely Karvy Centre and Naina Towers, situated at Banjara Hills, was completed on Friday.

With the earlier registration of seven properties on October 5, ED has completed the registration of nine properties for an aggregate consideration of Rs. 103.26 crore.

The auctions were conducted pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Nowhera Shaik, Heera Group of Companies and others, intending to reconstitute proceeds to genuine victims and claimants, the agency said in a release.

ED investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 revealed that the accused entities had collected investments exceeding Rs. 5,978 crore from the public by promising annual returns of over 36%, but subsequently defaulted on repayments.

ED has issued five Provisional Attachment Orders

covering properties valued at Rs. 428.83 crore and filed prosecution complaints before the Special Court under PMLA, Hyderabad.

Nowhera Shaik, whose bail was cancelled by the Supreme Court, was apprehended by ED on May 21, 2026 and remains in judicial custody. These auction proceeds shall be transferred to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) for onward disbursement to genuine victims/claimants, in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court. ED will continue with the auction of the remaining attached properties to facilitate restitution to victims. Further investigation is in progress, added the release. ED on October 14 announced that it completed the registration of seven immovable properties, auctioned for Rs 15.03 crore in favour of the successful bidders. The properties comprise six flats at H.S. Royal, Shaikpet Village, Hyderabad, and one house at MLA Colony, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

The auction was conducted on October 6 pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court. In its order dated March 5, 2025, the Supreme Court allowed the application filed by ED seeking permission to auction immovable properties attached in the case of Nowhera Shaik, Heera Group of Companies and others, with a view to maximising realisation from the attached properties for restitution to the genuine claimants/victims.

Retired Army officer shoots self with licensed pistol in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A retired Army officer, Mohammed Aleemuddin, allegedly died by suicide by shooting himself with a licenced pistol at his residence in Hussaini Alam on Friday.

According to preliminary information, family members and neighbours alerted police after hearing a gunshot from the house. When they checked, Aleemuddin was found dead in a pool of blood.

The Hussaini Alam police reached the spot and took up the investigation.

The body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital for a post-mortem examination.

Preliminary findings suggest that personal reasons may have led to the incident. Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding his death.



Top CBIC officials clarify next-gen GST reforms at taxpayers' meet

Hyderabad, Oct 16 (IANS) As part of the government's outreach, Vivek Chaturvedi, Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), along with Sanjay Mangal, Member (GST), interacted with trade and industry representatives here to highlight next-gen GST process reforms aimed at simplifying compliance and easing the burden on honest taxpayers.

Key measures included automated refunds, reduced manual interventions, rationalisation of arrest and prosecution provisions, and intelligence-based vehicle inspections. The officials also sought stakeholder feedback on the proposed centralised administration of GST for taxpayers under Central Government jurisdiction.

The interaction on Thursday witnessed participation of around 250 stakeholders, representing MSMEs, large manufacturers, service providers, traders, exporters, start-ups, e-commerce operators and industry associations.

The top officials addressed participants' queries and welcomed suggestions for further reforms. They clarified the key recommendations of the 57th GST Council Meeting, according to a post by CBIC on X.

Trade and industry representatives appreciated the GST Council's recommendations, emphasising their potential to strengthen trust-based tax administration, improve business cash flows, and enhance ease of doing business.

In a subsequent interaction with CBIC officers, the Chairman and Member (GST) stressed the need for transparent, friction-free and predictable tax administration.

As part of the taxpayer-friendly reforms, the GST Council has removed power of arrest of tax officers, and the Council has raised the threshold for prosecution from one crore rupees to 5 crore rupees. The punishment, whether fine or imprisonment, or both, has been left to judi-



cial discretion in every case.

A taxpayer who files late, makes a mistake or falls behind on payment will face recovery, interest and a proportionate penalty but will not be subject to arrest and criminal proceedings in such cases.

The GST Council has recommended common standards for notices and proceedings, and no notices below the prescribed monetary threshold of Rs 10,000, including withdrawal of pending notices below the said threshold. The notices will not be issued for monetary thresholds of Rs 10,000 or below.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Fresh hope for Naga settlement

The appointment of a new interlocutor raises hopes of reviving the Naga peace process, the longest-running insurgency negotiation in India. The Centre has picked retired IPS officer Ajit Lal, former Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), as its interlocutor and also agreed to include a Union Minister or group of Union Ministers in the negotiation framework — a long-standing demand of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM). More than a quarter century after the NSCN-IM signed a ceasefire agreement with the Centre in 1997, when the peace talks began, the negotiations remain deadlocked. In 2015, the Centre signed a Framework Agreement aimed at resolving the Naga political issue. The crux of the stalemate lies in the twin demands of the Naga representatives: a separate constitution and a flag. Hopefully, the peace process will get the required momentum as the Centre has, for the first time, included Union Ministers in the negotiating team. In October last year, the 92-year-old NSCN (IM) supremo Thuingaleng Muivah had threatened to revive the insurgency if their demands were not met. The Framework Agreement between the Government of India and NSCN-IM recognised the “unique history and situation” of the Nagas, but left core issues unresolved. The Centre has, however, made it clear that it cannot grant the demands for a separate constitution and a flag. As recently as last month, Muivah reiterated that sovereignty, a flag and a constitution remained the group’s key demands. By agreeing to political-level talks and naming a senior intelligence veteran as pointsman, the Centre is signalling its willingness to give political assurances and simultaneously build popular pressure in Nagaland where patience is wearing thin. For people of Nagaland, the ceasefire, in effect since 1997, means that two generations have grown up without conflict but also without any tangible solution. The ceasefire is increasingly being described as an endless waiting room. The NSCN(I-M) has rejected all alternatives, including a cultural flag instead of a national flag and dealing with issues of a constitution after signing the final agreement. This means the issues of the flag and constitution remain unresolved. The other issues on the table include a Naga army, a separate currency, and Nagalim (integration of Naga-inhabited areas into Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur). While the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs), a conglomeration of at least seven different groups, have agreed to accept a political solution and continue the dialogue, the NSCN-IM has been rigid on its demand for a separate flag and constitution. This stand is delaying a final solution to the decades-old negotiations. Central intelligence agencies fear that the residual insurgencies, mainly in Manipur, share an umbilical cord with Nagaland.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Lays Foundation Stone for CC Roads Worth Rs. 2.13 Crore in Venkata Sai Nagar Colony

““RAMANTHAPUR , OCTOBER 16 (Indian Chronicle):Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy on Friday laid the foundation stone for the construction of cement concrete (CC) roads in Venkata Sai Nagar Colony, Ramanthapur, under the Uppal Assembly constituency. The road works are being taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 crore 13 lakh 50 thousand.”The MLA participated in the foundation stone-laying ceremony along with colony president A. Vijayender Reddy, honorary members and committee members.”Speaking on the occasion, Bandari Lakshma Reddy said that the development of the Uppal constituency and the provision of better basic infrastructure to the public remained his priorities. He stated that special emphasis was being laid on improving roads in residential colonies and that the new CC roads would provide better transportation facilities to residents.”He



expressed confidence that the completion of the road works would make daily commuting easier for local residents and improve road infrastructure throughout Venkata Sai Nagar Colony. He also instructed the officials concerned to ensure that the works were carried out in accordance with quality standards and completed within the stipulated time.”BRS senior leaders Gandham Nageswara Rao, Pasula Prabhakar, Chari, M.D. Jangir and Mustaq were present. Colony president Vijayender Reddy, honorary members Ramesh Goud, M. Ravikumar, Gopal Yadav, Sarva Sathayya Yadav, Shivashankar and Sanjeeva also attended.”Colony committee members R. Govind, G. Ashok, Srinivas Goud, K. Naveen Kumar, Bhupathi Ramulu Goud, Dr. Vidyasagar, Ramakrishna, Shivakumar, B. Chalapathi Rao, Ramesh Shetty, Harish, Shekhar, Sai Kumar, Anjaneyulu, Chandram Chari, Siddu Goud, Ganesh, Bala Komaraiah, Chanda Rayudu and other colony members participated in the programme.

Grand Telangana Jagruthi Bathukamma Celebrations in Medak

““October 16.(Indian chronicle) Medak.”- Lively songs and dances, Prize distribution for best



Bathukammas““Under the leadership of Hon'ble Smt. Kalvakuntla Kavithamma, under the auspices of 'Telangana Jagruthi', Bathukamma celebrations were held in a very grand and splendid manner in Medak town, the Medak district headquarters. In this program organized

Rise in Adulteration During the Festive Season

.”“Khammam Staffer, October 16, Indian Chronicle.”“Festive shopping brings a rush of customers to the markets of Khammam. Purchases of new clothes, sweets, fruits, puja items and essential commodities increase significantly during this period. Taking advantage of the festive rush, some traders may resort to selling counterfeit products, substandard goods and adulterated food items. The relevant authorities have a responsibility to prevent such illegal practices, in which public health is put at risk for excessive profits. At the same time, consumers must remain vigilant and check the quality of products before making purchases.”“? Threat of Adulteration Amid Festive Celebrations““During festivals, demand for sweets, milk, ghee, cooking oils, flour-based products, spices and dry fruits rises considerably. Taking advantage of this increased demand, some traders may sell inferior-quality products, market expired goods with new labels, or introduce counterfeit products under fake brand names. Similarly, if food items are prepared, stored or sold in unhygienic conditions, people may face food-related illnesses. Adulterated oils, substandard food products and food containing unsafe colours or other harmful substances can pose serious health risks. However, consumers should not assume that every low-priced product is counterfeit or that every small shop engages in adulteration. When suspicions arise, it is important to lodge complaints with the relevant authorities, supported by appropriate evidence.”“? Counterfeit Products Cause Losses to Consumers.”“During festivals, purchases increase not only of food products but also of clothing, electronic goods, toys, cosmetics and household appliances. Fraudulent practices may include selling products under the names of well-known brands, making false claims about quality, and using counterfeit packaging that resembles original products. Fake cosmetics may cause skin problems, while substandard electrical appliances can lead to accidents.”“? Vigilance Needed, from Sweets to Essential Commodities.”“Authorities must intensify inspections. Selling substandard products not only violates consumer rights but also causes losses to traders who conduct their businesses honestly. Therefore, consumers should carefully check the manufacturer's details, price, manufacturing date, expiry date, required quality certification marks and purchase bill wherever applicable.”“? Authorities Must Strengthen Monitoring.”“People are urging the concerned departments across the erstwhile Khammam district to pay special attention to food safety, weights and measures, consumer rights and the sale of counterfeit brands during the festive season. They have called for necessary inspections at sweet shops, bakeries, hotels, restaurants, food-processing units, warehouses and wholesale markets. Food safety officials should examine the conditions under which food products are prepared, stored and sold. Wherever necessary, samples should be collected and sent for laboratory testing. If violations are confirmed, action must be taken in accordance with the law. Officials from the Weights and Measures Department should verify whether the declared weight, price and other mandatory details on packaged products comply with regulations. The concerned departments should coordinate their efforts to take action against counterfeit brands, misleading labels and sales practices that deceive consumers. Consumers also emphasise that inspections should not be restricted to just a couple of days before festivals but should continue throughout the year. Public confidence would improve if authorities transparently disclosed the action taken against violations identified during inspections.”“? Important Precautions for Consumers.”“Consumers should check the manufacturing date, expiry date, price and manufacturer's details on packaged products before purchasing them. They should avoid buying food items in damaged or leaking packages or those that appear suspicious. Sweets, milk, cooking oils and ghee should be purchased from trustworthy sellers wherever possible. Consumers must remain cautious about products offered at unusually low prices. Price alone, however, is not sufficient evidence that a product is counterfeit or adulterated. Consumers should also examine the packaging, expiry dates, brand authenticity and other relevant details. Where applicable, they should verify the required quality certification marks and licence details on packaged products.”“? Obtain a Bill for Every Purchase.”“Consumers should insist on a bill for every purchase. For online transactions, they should preserve order details and payment receipts. Food items that have an unusual smell, colour or texture should not be consumed. Consumers should retain purchase bills and report suspicious products to the relevant authorities, providing photographs of the products, packaging details and other supporting evidence.

on the occasion of the flower festival, women participated on a large scale and celebrated by dancing and singing around the Bathukammas.”“The celebrations were attended as chief guests by Telangana Jagruthi State Women's President Smt. Rajithakka, and United Medak District Women's Convenor Smt. Rajeshwari Akka.”“On this occasion, they enthused and enthralled all the women with Bathukamma songs and dances. After that, among the Bathukammas beautifully made and brought by the women... the best ones were selected and special prizes were given to five women.”“In the celebrations held in this festive atmosphere, Telangana Rakshana Sena Party Medak Constituency In-charge Sri Batti Ajay, Party Senior Leaders Sri Ippa Ramesh, Student Wing Leaders Sri MD Junaid participated specially.”“Along with them, TRS Party leaders and workers Sri Karate Prem, Sri Guttakindipally Rajasekhara, Sri Choudari Bhanu, Sri Choudari Naveen, Sri Altaf, Sri Ayyan, Sri Jangam Nagaraju, Sri Vepuri Srinivas, Sri Kanchi Vijay Kumar and other party fans and leaders participated in large numbers and made these celebrations a success.”“These Bathukamma celebrations, which reflected the culture and traditions of Telangana, filled the people of Medak town with special enthusiasm.



Increased sales during festivals are natural. However, putting public health at risk for excessive profits is unacceptable. Traders must sell quality products and food businesses must act responsibly. Food items should be prepared in hygienic conditions, with appropriate temperatures and proper storage practices maintained. Expired products must not be sold. Traders should provide genuine bills for products sold under branded names. Any goods whose quality is in doubt should not be sold, and the concerned suppliers should be informed.”“? Report Fraud and Help Curb Malpractices.”“When consumers come across counterfeit or adulterated products, they should not remain silent but should inform the relevant departments. Complaints concerning food products can be reported to local food safety officials or the state food safety department. Consumers can contact the National Consumer Helpline at 1915 to seek assistance with consumer-related grievances. If any serious health problem arises, immediate medical assistance should be sought. Festivals symbolise joy, family gatherings and cultural traditions. People should not have to suffer because of adulterated food or counterfeit products during these special occasions. To prevent such problems, authorities must conduct regular inspections, traders must comply with regulations, and consumers must remain vigilant and check product quality before making purchases.

Power woes under Ramayampet Substation limits - Transformers burning due to Low Voltage!

“Farmers' crop fields drying up due to negligence of Electricity Department““October 16.(Indian chronicle)medak.”“Ramayampet: BJP State Council Member Ragi Ramulu expressed anguish that power supply problems under the Ramayampet substation limits are causing severe hardships to farmers. He said that farmers are facing severe losses as transformers are burning due to low voltage problem in particular.”“He said that as quality power supply is not available at the time required for agriculture, farmers are unable to provide water to their crops, and crops are drying up in many fields. He expressed anguish that farmers who have already invested for cultivation have to bear additional financial burden due to power problems.”“Ragi Ramulu clarified that the Electricity Department has the responsibility to provide uninterrupted power supply with adequate voltage to farmers. He criticized that farmers are facing difficulties as officials are not taking immediate action even though transformers are burning and low voltage problems persist.”“He demanded that the officials of the Electricity Department should immediately recognize the hardships of the farmers and take action. He requested to show a permanent solution to the low voltage problem under the Ramayampet substation limits, to improve the power lines and transformer capacity where necessary, and to replace the burnt transformers immediately. He suggested to monitor the agricultural power supply and take steps to prevent loss to farmers.”“Ragi Ramulu warned that if the problems of farmers are neglected, he will stand by the farmers on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party and fight for their rights.



Tourism Session Begins in VTR

Journalist-Ajay Kr Mishra “BETTIAH/BIHAR, OCTOBER 16(INDIAN CHRONICLE)“ “After rainy season the tourism session is going to start on 17 Oct 2026 in the area of VTR (Valmiki Tiger Reserve) in West Champaran District of Bihar where the arrival of tourists was banned due to rain and breeding season of wildlife as well as the delapidated shape of forest routes in the forest zone.” As the Conservator cum Field Director of VTR -Gaurav Ojha said in a press release that tourists would be able to get a glance of Culinary fat(Vanaspati),and wildlife as Tiger,Leopard, Bear ,Deer,Sambhar, Blue bull ,Himalyan Goral ,Himalyan Lions,Wolf , Fish Cat, Leopard Cat and other herbivores animals as well as a lot of spices of birds.To stay of the tourists the VTR authority has formed three Tourists Centres at Valmikinagar, Manguraha and Goberdhana.At Valmikinagar Tourists Centre the numbers of rooms is 26 and one Dormitory Hall and two Ecco Huts at Kotraha.At Manguraha Tourists Centre the number of rooms is 16 and at Goberdhana Centre four Ecco huts.” As the new route charts for tourists are as follows-From Madanpur Gateway of VTR (Valmiki Tiger Reserve) to Madanpur Devi Asthan and Delhi Camp, From Valmikinagar Tourists Centre to Vultures Conservative Centre of Gonauli forest range, From Valmikinagar Tourists Centre to Manguraha and Goberdhana Tourists Centres via Gonauli ,Chiutaha,Ranghiya forest buffer zone and from Manguraha Tourists Centre to Manpur.” As the area of VTR (Valmiki Tiger Reserve) covers the area of 900 sqr KM where the torists visited in 2023-24- 3,22 071, in 2024-25- 4,80,626, in 2025-26-6,09,159, in 2026-27 till Sept 2026- 1,78,723, Total Number is - 15,90,633.As the rising trend of tourists visit in the area of VTR proves the fact that VTR authority has attracted the tourists to visit in the area of forest zone and get the pleasure of wild life and for this the forest authority has also provided the facilities of Jungle Safari.” As it is noted that VTR ia the alone Tiger Reserve of Bihar where the tiger breeding is suitable.As the number of tigers is about 70 in the forest zone.Recently a tigress was rescued from VTR and sent to Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal .The climate of VTR is favourable for the breeding of wild life.As the north part of VTR touches the National Chitwan Park of Nepal.”Ajay Kr Mishra “Bettiah/Bihar

Logitech Launches Manufacturing Operations Under Make in India Initiative

““Hyderabad, October 16 (Indian Chronicle) : Logitech has commenced local manufacturing and assembly operations in Manesar, in line with the Government of India's Make in India vision, said Logitech Chief Supply Chain Operations Officer Chenincheri in a state-



ment released in the city on Friday. The company will initially manufacture webcams and pointing devices. The initiative is expected to strengthen supply chain efficiency and enable Logitech to respond faster to the needs of Indian consumers. Logitech Personal Work Solutions Vice President and General Manager Delphine Donné, IMEA Regional Director Polina Anokhina, and India Country Head Manoj Sahay also played key roles in the expansion, the statement said.

SANDISK 320 SATA SSD and SANDISK 520 SATA SSD



Hyderabad: As applications, media files and digital workloads continue to demand greater storage and faster access to data, Sandisk's new SATA SSDs offer a practical way to upgrade PC performance and capacity. The new drives combine solid-state performance with 2.5-inch form factors, making them suitable for upgrading existing compatible systems. The SANDISK® 520 SATA SSD and SANDISK® 320 SATA SSD are designed for a range of computing needs. SANDISK® 520 SATA SSD: Designed for IT professionals, content creators and prosumers to support intensive creative and productivity workflows. Key features include: High-speed performance: Sequential read speeds of up to 560MB/s and sequential write speeds of up to 525MB/s on the 4TB model. High capacity: Available in capacities up to 4TB3 in a 2.5-inch form factor, providing additional space for applications, videos, images and personal data. Designed for demanding workloads: Built with SANDISK® 3D NAND, with up to 1,000 TBW and 2.25 million hours2. Designed for demanding workloads: Built with SANDISK® 3D NAND, with up to 1,000 TBW on the 4TB model and an MTTF rating of up to 2.25 million

hours. The SANDISK® 520 SATA SSD also supports Acronis® True Image™ for SANDISK data migration software and SANDISK® Dashboard for monitoring drive performance and storage space. It comes with a 5-year limited warranty. Available through participating ecommerce sites and retail stores at a starting price of INR 8,600. SANDISK® 320 SATA SSD: For everyday computing and PC upgrades; designed without moving parts, it provides a straightforward way to upgrade from an HDD to SSD storage. Key features include: Faster everyday computing: SATA SSD offers speeds of up to 545MB/s1 for everyday computing tasks, including browsing, applications and multimedia. Flexible storage: Available from 250GB to 2TB in a 2.5-inch form factor, allowing users to add capacity for applications, videos, pictures and personal data. Easy PC upgrade: Acronis® True Image™ for SANDISK enables data migration3, while SANDISK® Dashboard4 helps monitor drive performance and storage space. The SANDISK® 320 SATA SSD comes with a 3-year limited warranty7. Available in India retail stores at a starting price INR 5,700.

Introducing the Tata Play Smart App: 500+ Live TV Channels on Smart TVs Without a Set-Top Box or Antenna

Hyderabad: Tata Play has launched Tata Play Smart, a television streaming app designed to bring the familiarity of live television interface on connected TV. Subscribers will get 500+ live channels, without the need for a set-top box, dish antenna or wires. At the heart of Tata Play Smart is Tata Play's much-loved, user-friendly live TV experience, designed for the big screen and delivered seamlessly over home broadband. Tata Play Smart can be downloaded directly from a Smart TV's app store by anyone, irrespective of whether they currently use a DTH service, cable connection, or no pay-TV service at all. It allows viewers to access live channels on their Smart TV, mobile phone, tablet or laptop, using any internet connection. On the big screen, the experience would seem familiar to anyone accustomed to DTH, with channel numbers, a program guide and remote-friendly controls. The app can also be opened on a compatible device to start watching, bringing the familiarity and ease of Tata Play's entertainment experience to a new generation of connected screens. Talking about the launch, Harit Nagpal, MD & CEO, Tata Play, said, "The consumer's core need to watch sports, news and daily soaps live on the big screen as appointment viewing has remained unchanged even as Smart TVs and home broadband have transformed the way content is accessed by connected homes. While DTH continues to deepen its reach across the masses, Tata Play Smart is designed to address the infotainment needs of wired urban homes. Headlining the launch campaign is acclaimed actor Rajkumar



Rao, who takes on a dual role, seamlessly portraying both a father and a daughter in a witty, light-hearted avatar. Their playful exchanges humorously underscore a simple truth: watching live TV can now be smarter and hassle-free. By doing away with the traditional DTH setup of a set-top box, dish antenna and wires, Tata Play's app-based solution offers viewers a simple, flexible and easy way to access live television."/>

Volkswagen's performance community takes centre stage at the inaugural Volkswagen Experiences Track Day

Hyderabad: Volkswagen India successfully concluded the inaugural VWe (Volkswagen Experiences) Track Day at CoASTT, Coimbatore, bringing together owners and enthusiasts for a first-of-its-kind celebration of performance, driving passion and community. Reflecting the strong appeal of Volkswagen's enthusiast culture in India, registrations for the event sold out in just over a day, with customers from across the country signing up to be part of the experience. Bringing together owners of the Golf GTI, Virtus GT, Taigun GT, Polo GT, Tayron R-Line and Tiguan R-Line, VWe Track Day was designed as a celebration of the people, passion and performance heritage that continue to define the Volkswagen brand. Over two days, owners experienced the capabilities of their vehicles in a professionally managed racetrack environment while connecting with fellow enthusiasts who share a common love for driving and the Volkswagen brand. From premium GTI and R-Line model owners to performance GT models, the event brought together a vibrant community united by a passion for performance. Mr. Nitin Kohli, Brand Director, Volkswagen India, said, "For generations of Volkswagen enthusiasts, the GT badge has represented accessible performance, driving excitement and an emotional connection with the road. The overwhelming response reflects the passion that exists for the Volkswagen brand and particularly for the GT legacy in India. The first Track Day was just the beginning, and we look forward to creating many more opportunities for our enthusiasts to come together and experience the thrill of driving." The inaugural event marks the beginning of this initiative for owners and enthusiasts. Bringing customers closer through curated drives, events and experiences. With customers from Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu participating in the event, the response sets a strong foundation for VWe to grow into a wider enthusiast ecosystem built around performance, driving and belonging.



Built Around You: How Customer Voices Are Shaping the Ai+ Smartphone Experience



Ai+
Smartphone

**Real Feedback.
Real Improvements.
A Better Ai+ Experience.**

**BUILT IN INDIA
FOR WHAT'S nxt**

Hyderabad: Ai+ Smartphone is strengthening its customer-first approach by incorporating real user feedback into product and service improvements. Drawing insights from customer reviews, everyday device usage and after-sales interactions, the brand is addressing concerns related to camera stability, connectivity and performance through software updates, enhanced testing and more responsive customer support. This approach reflects Ai+ Smartphone's commitment to building not just for its users, but with them. Across its smartphone portfolio, customers have appreciated Ai+Smartphone for its design, camera capabilities, battery life, performance and value for money. The Nova 2 Neo 5G has received positive feedback for its battery performance and accessibility, while the Nova 2 Power 5G has been appreciated for its overall experience and dual-tone design, particularly the Blue Fusion colour. The Nova 2 Ultra 5G has been recognised for its photography experience, performance and AMOLED display. Similarly, the Nova 2 5G and Nova 2 Pro 5G have received encouraging responses for their overall experience and value, while the Ai+ Pulse 2 has been appreciated for its battery, display and design. Beyond positive reviews, Ai+Smartphone is actively using customer feedback to identify and address areas for improvement. Concerns related to camera stability, connectivity and device performance have been shared with product and technical teams, informing targeted over-the-air (OTA) updates and product refinements. The Nova 2 Ultra 5G, for instance, has received software updates aimed at improving camera stability. These insights are also being considered during product reviews and pre-launch testing to strengthen the experience offered by future devices.

ROLLS-ROYCE MOTOR CARS DEEPENS INDIA COMMITMENT with new luxury showroOm in CHENNAI



Hyderabad: Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Chennai inaugurates its new luxury showroom, bringing the marque's global visual identity to one of India's most dynamic markets. Opening attended by Julian Jenkins, Director of Sales & Brand, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, as part of wider regional visit "New showroom deepens Rolls-Royce Motor Cars' commitment to India, one of its oldest markets. Creates a dedicated environment for Bespoke commissioning for clients in Chennai and across southern India India occupies a unique place in the Rolls-Royce story. For more than a century, Indian patrons have commissioned some of the most remarkable and imaginative motor cars ever created, establishing a legacy of individuality and personal expression that continues to this day. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Chennai has played an important role in serving clients across the region. This new space marks an important step for the marque and our clients, reflecting Rolls-Royce's position as a true House of Luxury and our commitment to India. I am delighted to celebrate this milestone with the team." Julian Jenkins, Director of Sales & Brand, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars "For over a decade, our relationship with Rolls-Royce Motor Cars has been built on trust and a shared pursuit of excellence. This newly redesigned showroom reflects that remarkable journey: a space created around the ambitions of the clients we serve in Chennai and across southern India. We are incredibly proud to welcome them into an environment designed to inspire imagination, celebrate individuality and deliver an exceptional Bespoke client experience." Vasanthi Bhupathi, Dealer Principal, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Chennai (KUN Exclusive)

MP Asaduddin Owaisi Inaugurates Nilufer's Third Store

Hyderabad: Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi Sahab, Member of Parliament, inaugurated the third store of Nilufer, a premium ethnic and bridal fashion boutique, in Road No.1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad on 16th October, 2026. Founded by Ms. Nilofur Sohail and Mr. Mohammed Sohail, Nilufer has established its presence in Hyderabad with existing outlets in Masab Tank and Abids. The new store marks another milestone in the brand's expansion, bringing its collections closer to customers in the city. Nilufer offers a curated range of bridal couture, traditional ethnic wear, Indo-western ensembles and contemporary occasion wear. Its collections include lehengas, shararas, anarkalis, sarees, gowns and salwar suits designed for weddings, receptions, engagements, festive celebrations and other special occasions. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Nilofur Sohail, Founder, said, "The launch of our third store in Hyderabad is an important milestone for us. With our presence in Masab Tank, Abids and now Banjara Hills, we aim to reach more customers with collections that celebrate heritage, craftsmanship and contemporary elegance." Mr. Mohammed Sohail, Founder, said, "Expanding to our third store is an encouraging step in our journey. Our focus remains on quality, intricate detailing, craftsmanship and providing customers with a distinctive and personalised shopping experience."



Narsingi Hospital - A savior for the poor, Experienced and Affectionate Medical Care by Doctor Harshavardhan

October 15.(Indian chronicle) Medak. Narsingi (Medak District): Narsingi Hospital (Chari Hospital) located in Narsingi Mandal headquarters of Medak district stands as a medical assurance for the people of the surrounding areas. People from almost 30 villages around Narsingi, Chegunta, Chinna Shankarampet, Veldurthi mandals, whenever they have any small health problem, the first thing they remember is Chari Hospital in Narsingi. This hospital has been providing medical services for decades and has earned an indelible trust among the people. Son who inherited father's legacy: The legacy of this hospital's founder Dr. Chari is being carried forward by his son Dr. Harshavardhan. Imbibing the medical values and service attitude taught by his father, Dr. Harshavardhan has earned a reputation as a good doctor in a short time. From fever, cough, cold to sugar, BP, typhoid, viral fevers, children's diseases, seasonal diseases, Dr. Harshavardhan has a good recognition among the public as a doctor who can cure any disease with his experience and accurate diagnosis. Affordable Medical Care for People: Affordable medical care for poor and middle-class people- 24-hour emergency medical services- Solution for all types of diseases in one place- Affectionate and comforting way of dealing with patients For these reasons, the rush of patients to Narsingi Hospital is increasing day by day. Not only from Narsingi but also from Chegunta, Chinna Shankarampet, Veldurthi mandals, people are coming and getting treatment here. Local people are expressing happiness over the services provided by Dr. Harshavardhan, who is following in his father's footsteps and considering medicine as a service and not as a business.



Are BC leaders not fit to be PACS Chairman of Veldurthi Mandal

Is it fair to give the post to only one community for about 25 years?



October 16(Indian chronicle) Medak. In Veldurthi Mandal headquarters of Medak District, a leader has been calling the shots as PACS Chairman for about 25 years. Are BC leaders only limited to being Directors? Are BC leaders not fit to be Chairman? For about 25 years, has the PACS Chairman post been reserved only for upper castes, with the same person ruling? Why are BC leaders in a sleeping system? BCs who are 70 percent as per population proportion, how long should they continue to drink water from under the elbows of upper castes? O

Bahujan leaders, wake up at least now. Only the goats that bow their heads are sacrificed, not the lions that revolt. We who are a basketful percentage are remaining as voting machines and as leaders who receive sops. O BC leaders, wake up at least now, know our share as per population proportion, let us protect the share given to us as per the Constitution. Do not become stooges of the upper castes. Leaders who are most backward and not even five percent are ruling as CMs in legislative bodies, that is why we are cursed. No matter how much BC leaders lament, our system is not changing. If the person who serves is our own, we will get food no matter which corner we sit in. Please understand, do not eulogize upper castes. Today BC youth are living as labourers because of our leaders. The power to change this system lies only in the power of one vote. Baba Saheb Ambedkar said one thing - whether you cast your vote yourself and live as a king, or sell your vote and become a slave, you should know. Please Bahujans wake up, let us bring BC Rajyam, let us protect our rights.

Book on Bathukamma Traditional Songs and Culture Released



Hyderabad, October 16 (Indian Chronicle) : The book Bathukamma : Traditional Songs and Culture, published by the Deccan Heritage Academy Trust, was released by Tirunagari Devakidevi at Oxford Grammar School(OGS) in Himayatnagar on Friday. Authored by noted historian and writer Dr.Satyanarayana Dyavanapalli, the book was published by Trust Chairman Manikonda Vedakumar. Speaking on the occasion, Devakidevi said Bathukamma songs reflect the lives of Telangana women, family relationships, their bond with nature and the region's rich cultural heritage. Vedakumar said the trust aims to preserve and pass on Telangana's history, culture and traditions to future generations. Dr.Satyanarayana Dyavanapalli said Bathukamma songs serve as a testament to women's oral history and collective social memory. The book explores Bathukamma songs, history, rituals and cultural significance. Sulochana Rani, OGS Director Prarthana, Sudarshan of Deccan Press, Bhagya Narender, NRI Navatha, Balaraj, Katta Prabhakar, Sachin, Khaizer and local women attended the programme.

Work Collectively to Ensure Victory in Graduates' MLC Elections: UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY

RAMANTHAPUR , OCTOBER 16 (Indian Chronicle):Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy has called upon Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders and party workers to work collectively with the sole aim of securing victory in the upcoming Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar-Hyderabad Graduates' MLC elections. He attended a preparatory meeting for the Graduates' MLC elections as the chief guest at Poonam Bhavan in Ramanthapur. The meeting was organised under the leadership of former corporator Gandham Jyotsna and BRS state leader Nageshwar Rao. During the meeting, participants discussed election strategies, registration of graduate voters, coordination with voters, and the action plan to be implemented by party cadres in the run-up to the elections. Bandari Lakshma Reddy advised party leaders and workers to coordinate with eligible graduate voters, create awareness about the electoral process, and work diligently to ensure the victory of the party's candidate. He urged all party leaders and cadres to maintain unity, strengthen coordination at the grassroots level, and move forward with a collective commitment to winning the elections. Several BRS leaders and party workers attended the meeting.



Work together to resolve dump yard issue, says former SUDA chief

Narender Reddy calls for four machines to clear accumulated waste within a year.

Karimnagar October 16, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): Former SUDA chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy has called for a coordinated effort to resolve the dump yard problem in Karimnagar, accusing political leaders of indulging in a blame game while resi-

lied and take up the work on a war footing. He said he was ready to extend full support to facilitate the initiative.

He alleged that the Smart City project had earlier offered an opportunity to clear the dump yard completely, but the then Mayor and civic administration had failed to act with the required commitment. He also accused the BJP of attempting to take credit for addressing a problem that had remained unresolved, and alleged that a person holding a key position in the party and the present civic administration enjoyed the backing of the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs

He said the civic administration had failed to ensure the separate collection of wet and dry waste. Effective monitoring and segregation, he added, could reduce the quantity of fresh waste reaching the dump yard.

As an immediate measure to provide relief from smoke, he suggested drilling borewells on all four sides of the dump yard and installing sprinklers, citing recommendations by experts.

Appealing to political leaders to put public welfare ahead of political credit, he said the problem could be resolved only through planned and collective action.

Mr. Narender Reddy alleged that he was being targeted for raising factual issues and questioning the handling of the dump yard problem. Having worked in the same party for 35 years, he said he would continue striving to address public grievances.

Minority Cell district chairman M.D. Taj and corporators Parvatham Malleshram, Varala Narsingam, Gundati Srinivas Reddy, Mamidi Satyanarayana Reddy, M.D. Chand, Dandi Ravinder, Gudipati Ramana Reddy, Basheer and Khaleel, among others, attended the press conference.



dents continue to suffer.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, he said nearly five lakh metric tonnes of waste had accumulated at the dump yard, while another 200 metric tonnes of fresh waste was being added every day. At the current processing capacity of about 500 metric tonnes a day with a single machine, clearing the existing waste would take nearly three years, he said.

Deploying four machines to process 2,000 metric tonnes a day could clear the accumulated waste within a year, he said, stressing the need for a time-bound plan and cooperation among all stakeholders.

Mr. Narender Reddy urged the authorities to secure funds under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) at the ear-

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Takes Initiative to Establish Senior Citizens' Building



CHILKA NAGAR, OCTOBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy met Uppal Mandal Revenue Officer Pool Singh Chauhan on Friday to discuss the establishment of a dedicated building for senior citizens in Chikanagar Division. During the meeting, the MLA discussed the allocation of suitable land at the Chikanagar Graveyard premises and other related issues for the construction of the proposed Senior Citizens' Building. The MLA highlighted that the facility would provide a convenient space for senior citizens to gather, discuss their concerns, conduct meetings and participate in various social activities. Emphasising the welfare and well-being of elderly residents, he urged the concerned officials to take the necessary steps to facilitate the establishment of the building. Representatives of the Telangana All Senior Citizens Association, Chikanagar Division Unit, participated in the meeting. Those present included association president Bommagoni Das Goud, general secretary Boda Vidyasagar and treasurer Shameerpet Chandrayya, among others.

Kallem Navajeevan Reddy Visits Goddess Durga Pandalas

LB Nagar October 16 (Indian Chronicle): On the occasion of the Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations, former Hayathnagar Corporator Kallem Navajeevan Reddy visited the Goddess Durga pandals set up in High Court Colony



and Bhoolakshmi Nagar in the High Court Colony Division and performed special prayers. He prayed to the Goddess for the happiness, prosperity, good health, and well-being of all people. He also congratulated the festival organizers for arranging the celebrations. BJP Hayathnagar Division President Gangani Srinivas, High Court Colony Division President Marri Madhusudhan Reddy, Kallem Varshik Reddy, Govinda Chary, Sridhar Reddy, Ittaboyina Narsimha, Lakshman, Venkat Reddy, Arun, BJYM leaders Reethik, Pranav, and Rohan, along with BJP leaders, party workers, festival organizers, and devotees, participated in the programme.

Lucknow under water: 25,000 affected as Gomti floods homes, landmarks



GNS News Agency, Oct 16

Soni Kashyap walked along a street filled with kneep-deep water in Lucknow’s Faizullahganj, hauling a blanket, an LPG cylinder and ration. She was taking them to a relative’s house, where she and her family are sheltering after their home went under water. “Khet bechkar ghar banaya hai. Kaise chhod dein? (We sold our agricultural land to build this house. How can we leave it?),” she said. For over a week, the swollen Gomti has submerged parts of northern Lucknow, affecting around 5,000 families — nearly 25,000 people — in Faizullahganj, Dawood Nagar, Loharmau and Banarsi Hotel.

The flooding is the worst the city has seen since 2018. Its effects extended beyond the Gomti’s immediate floodplain, with waterlogging reported in parts of southern Lucknow on Wednesday around Phoenix Palassio Mall and Ekana Stadium, along Shaheed Path and in parts of Gomti Nagar Extension. Lucknow floods The Rashtra Prerna Sthal, spread across 65 acres, next to the Gomti river embankment on Hardoi Road on the outskirts of Lucknow, is also flooded. The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) deployed 26 pumping sets to drain floodwater from the affected areas and plugged the point where river water was entering the planned area with a temporary barrier of boulders and soil. The waterlogging had eased considerably by 5 pm on Thursday, the authority said. The flooding has also affected public spaces along the river. The 65-acre Rashtriya Prema Sthal remains inundated, with water submerging parts of its grounds and garden pathways. The complex houses 65-foot bronze statues of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. The riverfront, the CG City Urban Wetland and Nau Sena Shaurya Vatika have been closed to visitors until further orders as a precautionary measure, officials said. Officials expect water levels to begin receding from Friday. Lucknow floods In Faizullahganj, several residents have vacated their homes as the water flooded their homes. (Express Photo by Visahl Srivastav) The trouble began towards the last week of September, around 100 km upstream, after a spell of heavy rain in the Gomti’s upper catchment areas. Speaking to The Indian Express, Anil Garg, Principal Secretary, Irrigation Department, said, “The river’s catchment areas are spread over Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Lakhimpur Kheri and Sitapur districts that witnessed exceptionally heavy rainfall between September 22 and 27. Normally, the rainfall over five days would be around 15 mm. This time it was around 150 mm, with some places receiving nearly 257 mm.”

The water took several days to travel downstream to Lucknow, with officials saying it normally takes around 10-12 days to reach the city from the Pilibhit region, even after rainfall there has stopped. Additional District Magistrate (ADM) (City) M P Singh, the nodal officer overseeing relief operations in the affected area, said the water level had stabilised and was expected to recede over the next two to three days. Lucknow floods On Wednesday, the area around Phoenix Palassio mall and Ekana Stadium was waterlogged.

He added that around 2,250 houses had been affected in one stretch, while nearly 1,600 people had been affected in Barawan Kala and Jaita. Another 1,000 people were affected as water levels rose over the preceding three days. LDA Vice-Chairman Prathamesh Kumar told The Indian Express that while the temporary embankment had helped check the backflow, water would take time to recede from low-lying areas. Parts of Gomti Nagar Extension, including Sector 7, had escaped inundation, he said, even as much of the riverfront and adjoining structures remained under water. The flooding has brought renewed attention to the vulnerability of settlements along the Gomti. Faizullahganj, located on the river’s floodplain, has seen a rise in concrete housing over the past two decades, exposing more homes to the risk of inundation when the river swells, an official said. The LDA Vice-Chairman added that the rise in the Gomti and flooding of the riverfront to this extent had last been seen in 1982.

Residents, however, continued to struggle with immediate problems of displacement, disrupted electricity and access to essentials. For Soni, the flooding has compounded an already precarious life. Originally from Hardoi, she moved to Lucknow a few years ago. Her husband died recently, and she now works as a house cook to support her children and grandchild. Over the past 10 days, she watched in dismay as the water outside her home rose steadily. After the electricity was cut, she moved to a relative’s house. “But how long can relatives keep feeding us?” she

said. Boatmen were also brought in from Ayodhya to help with rescue efforts. Pahari Nishad, from Jamthra Ghat in Ayodhya, who had been in Lucknow for five to six days, said boats were transported by road. “We make as many trips as we can during the day. We have to go inside the village, from house to house,” he added. For some residents, leaving home brought another worry: theft. Archit Tiwari, an accountant at a jewellery shop in Chowk, has been staying with his in-laws in Triveni Nagar but was preparing to return to his three-storey house on Thursday. “Bahut choriyaan hui hain (There have been many thefts),” he said. “Paani se darr kam, ghar lootne ka darr zyada (I am less afraid of the water and more afraid that the house will be looted).” A shelter had been set up nearby, but only a few residents were inside. Officials said many come at night, preferring to remain near their homes during the day to keep watch over their belongings. For 40-year-old Balveer, the priority was his children. He had sent his sons and daughters to their grandmother’s house but stayed back with his wife because of the belongings they had left behind. On Thursday, he walked through the floodwater with a battery strapped inside a backpack. His legs were covered with marks from scratching constantly, a hazard, he said, of walking through the stagnant water. He had bought a bulb so he could keep his house lit using the battery even without electricity. The flooding has also disrupted livelihoods. Satish Pandey, who works at a shop, has been trying to keep working through the flood. “I’ve been on leave for 10 days but can’t afford to stay away much longer with a family of five to support,” he said, carrying a dry set of clothes to change into before work. Access to drinking water remains another concern. Rani Singh, 50, originally from Gorakhpur, moved to Lucknow a few years ago because, she said, work was easier to find in the city. She eventually bought a house in the area because property was comparatively cheaper.

she had left her 14-year-old daughter at home while waiting outside the flooded area to collect drinking water and recharge her phone. Aapda hai, kisi ko dosh nahi denge. Lekin peene ka paani theek se milna chahiye. Ek-do litre ki bottle se pooraa din kaise chalega? (It is a calamity, and we will not blame anyone. But drinking water should be available properly. How can a one- or two-litre bottle last the whole day?),” she said, waiting for the next boat to take her home. Manisha Rawat, 20, was waiting outside a relief camp with her sister. They had not come looking for food or medicine. They had come to charge their phones. “There has been no electricity in our area for the past four days,” they said. For Pritam, a farmer who has lived in Dawood Nagar all his life, the flood brought back memories of earlier inundations — 1971, 1984-85 and 2008. “2008 ke baad aisa paani nahi bhara tha (There had not been flooding like this since 2008),” he said. But he pointed to another change along the river: the growth in the number of people living there. “Pehle paanch aadmi rehte the. Ab 500 aadmi hain. Puri nayi colony bas gayi hai (Earlier, only five people lived here. Now there are 500. An entire new colony has come up).” The prolonged exposure to stagnant water has also raised health concerns. At a health camp in the area, Dr Navdeep said more than 240 people had been examined, most complaining of itching, fever and stomach-related infections. One resident said many people had been unable to bathe for nearly 10 days. Snake-bite cases have also been reported, though no deaths have occurred, officials said. A snake catcher and Forest Department teams have been stationed in the area. Opposition targets government

On the ground, the district administration, municipal corporation, LDA, State and National Disaster Response Force, and police engaged in providing food, drinking water, medicines and other essential services, officials said. ADM (City) Singh said more than 100 boats, including those operated by the SDRF and NDRF, were deployed across the affected areas. Relief boats were also carrying supplies, and more than 25,000 bottles of drinking water had been distributed, he said. Separately, the LDA has prepared a detailed project report for an embankment extending up to Naimish in Sitapur, Kumar said. The proposal has been sent to the state government.

Sharing a video on X showing the waterlogged area around a mall, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav took a dig at the government and said, “Kashi na ban paaya Kyoto, aur na Gorakhpur Spain, Par Lucknow Venice bana, china sab sukh-chain! (Varanasi could not become Kyoto, nor could Gorakhpur become Spain. Lucknow however has turned into Venice, taking away all happiness and peace!),” Yadav posted. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, he alleged that the situation was a failure of the state government: “BJP wants every good thing to be ruined. They are deliberately creating a flood-like situation. They know where the barrage is, they know when it should be opened and how the water should be drained. This is their failure.” He also alleged that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath did not take advice from engineers of departments including irrigation, public works, electricity and the municipal corporation. Congress state president Aradhana Mishra criticised the government over what she described as a lack of long-term planning and flood preparedness. Why was an embankment not planned over the past 10 years? The government was quick to allow construction on low-lying wetlands and floodplains, but failed to ensure proper planning and adequate flood-control measures. When floodwater reaches the heart of Lucknow, including Gomti Nagar, it raises serious questions about urban planning, drainage and years of inadequate preparedness,” she said.

Can’t reach Delhi? Come to Pune, Rohit Pawar tells CJP protesters

Calling it a fight to save democracy and the Constitution, not just the students’ fight, Pawar said, “Through our impenetrable unity, we will not rest until we force this thick-skinned system to yield.” Calling it a fight to save democracy and the Constitution, not just the students’ fight, Pawar said, “Through our impenetrable unity, we will not rest until we force this thick-skinned system to yield.” With trains cancelled and restrictions in place in Delhi ahead of the Cockroach Janata Party’s (CJP) protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Saturday, NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar on Friday asked those unable to reach the capital to join the students’ protest he is leading in Pune instead. The Ministry of Railways has cancelled mail and express trains due to arrive at New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations between 4 am and 2 pm on October 10, calling it a precautionary measure against heavy road traffic near the stations. Two Rajdhani trains from Mumbai Central have been rescheduled by five hours, and the Bandra Terminus-Hazrat Nizamuddin express has been cancelled. Delhi Police has denied permission for the Jantar Mantar protest, and prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS are in force in New Delhi district. “Let’s go to Pune! Even if Delhi is far away, the fight is right at our doorstep!

Lakhs of youth and citizens from across the country have set off for the protest being held tomorrow in Delhi against the dictatorship of the Election Commission. However, scared of this public outrage, the government has cancelled the trains heading to Delhi! Though a fearful government has placed a ban on our travel, they cannot ban our thoughts. Because of this, thousands of citizens from Maharashtra, including Pune, have been stranded,” Pawar said. He said the fight would not stop. “For the past 9 days in Pune, MPSC students have been leading a historic satyagraha against this insensitive government and the MPSC chairperson for their just demands.

Therefore, I make a heartfelt appeal to all citizens and today’s revolutionaries who could not go to the Delhi protest: no matter which field you belong to, consider this satyagraha of MPSC students in Pune as ‘Delhi’ itself for the next two days—tomorrow, Saturday (10th), and the day after, Sunday (11th)—and step into the movement with full force,” he said. Calling it a fight to save democracy and the Constitution, not just the students’ fight, Pawar said, “Through our impenetrable unity, we will not rest until we force this thick-skinned system to yield.”

25% of daily ridership at stake: Why SC’s Delhi Metro directive offers relief to lakhs of commuters



GNS News Agency, Oct 16

The Pink Line accounts for about 10% of network ridership, or roughly 7 lakh passenger journeys out of a daily total of 70 lakh, based on the figures cited. The Pink Line accounts for about 10% of network ridership, or roughly 7 lakh passenger journeys out of a daily total of 70 lakh, based on the figures cited. Hours after Delhi Police asked the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to close entry and exit gates at 57 stations ahead of the October 10 CJP protest, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to ensure that metro services to Delhi were not completely halted and that stations were not shut indiscriminately.

The court called for “proportionate” measures, underscoring the potential impact of widespread closures on a transport network that carries millions of passenger journeys every day. The scale of the proposed restrictions highlights the disruption at stake. The 57 stations account for a substantial share of Delhi Metro’s network, with closures potentially affecting commuters across several of its busiest corridors. The impact would extend beyond access to individual stations, disrupting interchanges and travel between Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida and Ghaziabad. The Yellow Line, which connects Samaypur Badli in north Delhi to Millennium City Centre in Gurgaon, would face the most extensive impact, with 17 stations proposed for closure. These

include central Delhi stations such as Patel Chowk, New Delhi and Central Secretariat, as well as stations farther north, including Adarsh Nagar, Jahangirpuri and Haiderpur Badli Mor.

The line accounts for a significant share of network traffic. Delhi Metro’s ridership figures for last year show that it recorded more than 18 lakh passenger journeys out of a network-wide total of about 70 lakh, or roughly a quarter of the total. The Blue Line, which connects Delhi with Noida and other parts of the National Capital Region, would also be affected. Nine stations have been listed for closure, including Rajiv Chowk, Mandi House, Barakhamba Road, R.K. Ashram Marg, Jhandewalan, Supreme Court, Indraprastha, Karol Bagh and Rajendra Place. The corridor accounts for about 21% of the network’s passenger traffic, making restrictions on the line particularly consequential for daily commuters. On the Red Line, which runs between Rithala in northwest Delhi and Shaheed Sthal in Ghaziabad, nine stations have been identified for closure. These include Inderlok, Kanhaiya Nagar, Netaji Subhash Place, Seelampur, Welcome, Shahdara, Rithala, Rohini East and Rohini West. The line accounts for around 10% of Delhi Metro’s passenger journeys, according to last year’s ridership data. The Pink Line, the network’s orbital corridor, would face additional restrictions at stations including Sarai Kale Khan-Nizamuddin, Lajpat Nagar, Ashram, Majlis Park, Shalimar Bagh, Yamuna Vihar and Khazuri Khas. Some stations overlap with those on other affected corridors, making it important to distinguish between the number of station closures and the number of unique stations affected. The Pink Line accounts for about 10% of network ridership, or roughly 7 lakh passenger journeys out of a daily total of 70 lakh, based on the figures cited. The proposed closures would therefore have affected multiple high-rider-ship corridors simultaneously, potentially limiting commuters’ ability to switch lines even where services continued to operate elsewhere on the network.

Cockroach Janta Party’s anti-Gyanesh Kumar protest in Delhi: Full coverage



The collective protest targets Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged severe irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls. Led by CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke and Opposition MPs like Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge,

Abhishek Banerjee, Derek O’Brien, and Akhilesh Yadav, the protest demands Gyanesh Kumar’s immediate resignation over alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise and stopping the Election Commission’s voter roll revision. Rahul Gandhi and Opposition leaders have also called for the protest following prior demonstrations that ended in widespread police detentions. The Opposition says arbitrary voter deletions threaten democracy, while the Election Commission denies wrongdoing. Anticipating major disruptions, Delhi authorities in Delhi have imposed heavy security measures across the region. Over 23,000 security personnel are have been deployed; 57 Metro stations in the NCR have been shut; the New Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations have been shut and all trains to and from the stations have been closed; barricades have been put up to ward off protesters. Additionally, restrictions against large gatherings have been put across New Delhi district under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, Section 163. The police said that the curbs have been put in place to prevent large-scale disruption of law & order.

‘Hospital ransack a conspiracy’: Suvendu Adhikari accuses Mamata Banerjee in RG Kar case



Two months after the West Bengal government ordered a fresh probe into the alleged RG Kar rape-murder of a trainee doctor in 2024, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari launched a scathing attack on the previous Trinamool regime, stating that miscreants ransacked the hospital a few days after the crime at the behest of the then chief minister Mamata Banerjee to sabotage the investigation. He also claimed that the then local MLA Atin Ghosh was involved in

the August 14, 2024 incident, when the miscreants attacked the emergency building of the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. “The incident happened when people across the state were busy protesting at different places seeking justice for the junior doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered on August 9, 2024, inside the emergency building of the hospital. Police made way for them and the local MLA (Atin Ghosh). All these incidents happened at the behest of the then Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. It was a conspiracy,” Adhikari said on Friday during a convention of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The chief minister alleged that the miscreants’ attempt to enter the crime scene was somehow thwarted. Ratna Devnath, the rape victim’s mother and BJP MLA, who was present in the meeting, said, “They not only tried to suppress the incident but also destroyed the evidence.” However, during his speech, Suvendu Adhikari also said, “Investigation is going on, and nobody will be spared.” In a separate proceeding, former civic volunteer Sanjay Roy was convicted by a Sealдах court and sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of his life for the rape and murder.

She refused abortion. Police say husband, lover strangled her with handkerchief

An affair that began in a library took a tragic turn in Gujarat’s Gandhinagar, ending in the murder of a pregnant woman. The police on Friday booked Rohitiji Rameshji Thakor, a 33-year-old father-of-four, for allegedly strangling his pregnant wife, Sangeeta, using a handkerchief. Officials said Thakor fell in love with another woman while still studying for competitive exams at a library and was angry with his wife for refusing to terminate her pregnancy. The police also booked the woman with whom Thakor was allegedly in a relationship with, Varsha Narsingh Pargi, accusing her of abetting the crime. Thakor allegedly tried to pass off Sangeeta’s death as an adverse drug reaction. However, her relatives noticed marks on her neck at the hospital, prompting suspicion.

“From the neck marks, it came to light that it was not a hanging but a possible strangulation. The accused was detained and told investigators that he already has four children and that Sangeeta had become pregnant once again. He wanted to go for abortion but Sangeeta declined it, leading to a fight and the murder,” Ravi Teja Vasamsetty, Superintendent of Police, Gandhinagar, told The Indian Express. Married since 2012 According to the FIR based on a complaint by Sangeeta’s cousin, Meru Bachu Vasaniya, Thakor and Sangeeta married in 2012 and have four children, three daughters and a son. At 6 am on Thursday, Vasaniya said he received a call from Sangeeta’s father-in-law, asking him to reach Gandhinagar Civil Hospital as she had been admitted there following an “adverse drug reac-



tion”. Her condition was serious, he was allegedly told. When Vasaniya and other family members reached the hospital at about 11 am, they found that Sangeeta had already been declared dead, the FIR states. It was then that Vasaniya allegedly he noticed the strangulation marks on his cousin’s neck. According to the FIR, Thakor allegedly confessed to the murder before the complainant, stating that he fell in love with Pargi, a Dahod resident, after meeting her in a library they frequented. Subsequently, Thakor and Pargi allegedly began living together. When Sangeeta came to Gandhinagar and saw him speak to Pargi over the phone, the allegedly argued. According to the FIR, this Thakor and Pargi decided to murder Sangeeta. “Both of us strangled Sangeeta with a handkerchief and killed her,” the FIR claims, quoting Thakor’s purported confession.

Shut by Mundhe's FDA in July, BMC's HQ canteen to now show what's in your food



GNS News Agency, Oct 16The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will put up posters listing the ingredients and nutritional values of food served at its headquarters canteen in Fort, in a pilot initiative to encourage healthy eating, officials said. The decision comes after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sealed the canteen in July. According to officials, the pilot will be launched by this month and the BMC plans to replicate it at canteens in its 26 ward offices and civic-run hospitals soon.

The canteen, on the first floor of the headquarters annex building, serves hundreds, including civic staff, citizens,

contractors, politicians, pensioners and labourers who visit the office daily. It was shut on July 23 after the FDA suspended the operator's licence when an inspection found glaring violations of food safety norms. The operator, M/s Kamal Caterers Private Limited, was served an FDA notice on July 22. It reopened in August after the FDA's re-inspection noted improvement and rated the premises 94 per cent compliant. Sources said the BMC's canteen committee made a preliminary visit to collect data on the canteen's snacks and meals and prepare a list of nutritious items. "The list prepared by the canteen committee has been submitted to the BMC's in-house nutritionist who is now preparing a detailed list of nutritional values of select items served at the canteen," a government official told.

Once the nutritionist gives final approval, small posters across the canteen will list the ingredients of the food items, along with a sentence on the most prominent nutritional value. The Fort canteen posters are likely to be up by October-end, sources said, adding that similar posters will gradually come up at all BMC-run canteens in the city, including at Nair and JJ hospitals. The initiative follows a September 2 order by the government's Public Health Department mandating balanced and healthy meals at government and semi-government meetings, as well as snacks in canteens.

Canada PR pathway for Indians: Who benefits from new immigration rules?

GNS News Agency, Oct 16

Canada Visa permitsTwo one-time initiatives, along with changes to the Express Entry system and provincial programmes, are creating opportunities for some temporary workers and professionals in Canada. Indians, including Punjabis employed in key sectors, stand to benefit. For Indians hoping to settle in Canada, the question is increasingly not how to get there, but how to stay. In Brampton and Surrey, and at truck stops and farms in smaller Ontario and Prairie towns, conversations in Punjabi communities are increasingly centred on who will qualify for permanent residence as Canada tightens its immigration policies.

The country is moving away from high-volume immigration towards a more selective approach that favours those already living and working there. Two one-time initiatives, along with changes to the Express Entry system and provincial programmes, are creating opportunities for some temporary workers and professionals. Indians, including Punjabis employed in key sectors, stand to benefit. The most significant measure is the In-Canada Workers Initiative, under which up to 33,000 temporary skilled workers are to be transitioned to permanent residence over 2026 and 2027. At least 20,000 admissions are targeted for 2026, with the rest to follow in 2027. These are additional to the regular annual permanent resident target of 3.8 lakh. The initiative does not open a fresh application stream. Instead, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is accelerating existing applications under specified regional and occupation-based programmes, including the Provincial Nominee Program, Atlantic Immigration Program, Rural Community Immigration Pilot, caregiver pilots and Agri-Food Pilot. The focus is on workers who have lived for at least two years in smaller communities, outside Canada's 41 major Census Metropolitan Areas, and are employed in sectors facing labour shortages, including agriculture, transportation, healthcare, caregiving and skilled trades. The criteria fit many Punjabi workers, who have a strong presence in trucking, farming, food processing and other occupations sustaining rural economies. Those who moved beyond major cities, paid taxes and already applied for permanent residence through qualifying regional programmes could see their applications move faster. Canada has also recalibrated its Express Entry system for 2026. New category-based draws target physicians, researchers and senior managers with Canadian work experience, transport occupations such as



pilots and aircraft mechanics, and skilled military recruits. These operate alongside categories covering healthcare and social services, trades, education and French-language proficiency. Recent rounds have included provincial nominee and Canadian Experience Class draws, a trades draw offering 3,500 invitations at a Comprehensive Ranking System cut-off of 476 in early October, and physician draws with comparatively low cut-offs. Indian professionals already working in Canada could benefit from the emphasis on Canadian experience. Ontario, meanwhile, has increased the points awarded under its Workforce Priority Stream to candidates who earned at least \$80,000 in a single year. Verified through a Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment issued within the past five years, these earnings now fetch 10 points, up from the previous top bracket of eight points for earnings of \$70,000 or more. The change was applied automatically to existing profiles in early October.

For many Indians, the shift offers hope, but also underlines how much the immigration route has changed. Truck drivers, farm workers, caregivers and tradespeople settled in smaller towns may find a clearer route to permanent residence. Higher-earning professionals in Ontario could improve their provincial rankings. At the same time, permanent resident admissions for Indian citizens fell nearly 25 per cent in the early months of 2026, according to figures cited in recent reports. Study permits and other temporary pathways have tightened, making the once-familiar route from education to work and permanent residence far less certain. The immigration levels plan for 2027-29, expected by early November, is being closely watched by families in India seeking clues about whether Canada will widen access again.

Fake boss, Rs 1.40 crore gone: 4 held in Bengaluru university fraud

GNS News Agency, Oct 16

Bengaluru university WhatsApp scam, WhatsApp boss scam, Bengaluru university fraud, Karnataka Cyber Command, fake WhatsApp profile scam, WhatsApp money transfer fraud, mule bank accounts, cybercrime arrests Bengaluru, Bengaluru online financial fraud, Karnataka cybercrime helpline 1930, Bengaluru crime news, Indian Express news, Bengaluru cyber crime, Bengaluru cyber crime news. The police said they seized Rs 8.50 lakh in cash and four mobile phones during the operation. (AI-Generated Image) A WhatsApp message bearing the photograph of a university president, a seemingly routine query about the bank balance, and an instruction to transfer money ended with a Bengaluru-based deemed-to-be university losing Rs 1.40 crore.

The Karnataka Cyber Command said Thursday it busted a "boss scam" and arrested four people for allegedly orchestrating the fraud, in which investigators say the accused monitored the institution's financial transactions before executing the transfer. The police said they arrested Annayya, 25, Buspalli Ravikumar Reddy, 26, Ambaraya, 39, and Syed Wajihuddin Quadri, 25. While Annayya was arrested from K R Puram in Bengaluru, Andhra Pradesh residents Reddy and Ambaraya were arrested from Hyderabad during a raid by the team. Quadri, a Hyderabad resident, was caught when he arrived to collect the money. A fifth accused, identified as Sunny alias David, is absconding. The police produced the four accused before a court, and efforts are underway to trace Sunny. The police said they seized Rs 8.50 lakh in cash and four mobile phones during the operation. The case came to light after Santosh A S, a university employee, filed a complaint on September 9. According to the complaint, an unidentified person created a fake WhatsApp profile using the photograph of university president Dr Chenraj Roychand.

On September 8, at around 10.03 am, the accused allegedly contacted university accountant Vinay Bhushan, posing as the president, and enquired about the balance in the institution's bank account. At around 11.34 am, the person instructed him to transfer Rs 1.40 crore. Believing the message to be genuine, the accountant transferred the amount, the police said. They registered a case at the South Division Cyber Crime Police Station under sections of the Information Technology Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Investigators found that the accused allegedly sent a ZIP file to staff members of the institution

and accessed institutional data through their systems by logging into WhatsApp Web using Chrome. They then monitored the university's financial transactions for 15 to 20 days before carrying out the transfer. The police said they also detected foreign IP addresses during the transactions. "The accused allegedly circulated a ZIP file containing Trojan malware through WhatsApp. The file was presented as an important document, and the recipient opened it. According to our investigation, the accused subsequently gained access to institutional data and monitored the university's financial transactions for 15 to 20 days before carrying out the fraud," a senior police official part of the investigation said. According to investigators, Sunny instructed Annayya to persuade friends and acquaintances to open bank accounts and obtain cheque books in exchange for money. The gang allegedly then received the account details. Reddy and Ambaraya were allegedly stationed in Hyderabad, while Quadri was summoned to withdraw the funds through cheques and hand over the cash to Ambaraya.

"The investigation is examining how the money was routed through bank accounts and the role of the account holders in withdrawing or transferring the funds," the officer said. The police said the Rs 8.50 lakh seized during the operation was allegedly linked to another online fraud case in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. According to the police, the accused used more than 60 mule bank accounts in 22 online fraud cases across several states. The Cyber Command advised people to independently verify WhatsApp messages that request urgent financial transfers, even if the sender's profile shows a senior official or employer. The police have also warned against opening unknown ZIP files or suspicious links and allowing others to use bank accounts in exchange for commissions. People should not trust a message or file simply because it comes from a known contact. Fraudsters can use compromised accounts to impersonate senior officials or colleagues. Any request for an urgent financial trans-

Four BJP members launch temporary 'NaMo Mall' offering Puja outfits for Rs 10 in Bengal's Panihati



With Durga puja around the corner, four BJP members in Panihati have set up a temporary "NaMo Mall", where economically weaker residents can buy new clothes for Rs 10. The initiative was launched in Panihati near HB town in North 24-Parganas district on Thursday and was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar. The organisers said the mall stocked around 10,000 new garments, including sarees, shirts, trousers and children's clothes and drew around 2,500 visitors on its first day. Amit Das, a member of BJP's Panihati social media cell and a businessman, said the idea came from watching children outside shopping malls during Puja. "Durga Puja is the biggest festival of Bengalis and we all buy new clothes. Whenever I bought clothes from malls for my family I always saw children outside standing and watching. I used to

feel bad. Then an idea came that why not have a temporary set-up and offer clothes for just Rs 10 for those who are from the economically backward class," Das told The Indian Express. Das said the initiative was named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the party was celebrating his birthday and 25 years in public office.

The mall will remain open till October 11, from 10 am to 4 pm, with a one-hour lunch break, organisers said. Each person can purchase one item of clothing against a coupon. "The stock also includes new clothes bought by us and donated by other people," Das said. BJP sources said this was the first temporary "NaMo Mall" in the state and similar stalls will be set up in other districts during the Puja season. The initiative has been linked by the party to its "Seva Sankalp Abhiyan". State Industry Minister Tapas Roy said the malls were intended as a Puja gift for ordinary people. Majumdar said the initiative was aimed at allowing economically weaker people to buy clothes rather than receive them as donations. "Other parties are vote-centric. They are seen before votes and then they are not seen, but we are not vote-centric. There is no vote here but we are running initiatives. We want to see smiles on everyone's face, including the downtrodden, while also keeping their self-respect that they are not taking any donation but buying it themselves," the union minister said. BJP sources also said the initiative could serve as an outreach programme ahead of the municipal elections across the state.

At 85, Pune father's biggest worry: Who will care for daughter with schizophrenia?

At 85, Amrit Bakhshy is racing against time. The Pune resident's biggest concern is the future of his daughter, Richa, 53, who has been living with schizophrenia for more than three decades. "My time has come, and I may not be there tomorrow. What will happen to Richa?" asks Bakhshy, her primary caregiver. A former president of the Schizophrenia Awareness Association (SAA) in Pune, Bakhshy has moved a district court seeking limited guardianship "with complete care" for his daughter. Ahead of World Mental Health Day on October 10, Bakhshy's story highlights the struggles of families caring for relatives with chronic mental illnesses.

"When one person develops a severe mental illness, the whole family is affected. Family members often become caregivers, advocates and silent supporters. They face emotional, social and financial challenges while continuing to stand beside their loved one," Dr Nishikant Thorat, Head of Department of Psychiatry, B J Government Medical College and Sassoon General Hospital, Decades of living with schizophrenia Richa was first diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1991. School authorities in Dehradun called Bakhshy and his wife after noticing that she was frequently getting into altercations and experiencing what appeared to be nervous breakdowns at school. After her diagnosis, the Bakhshys brought Richa back to Mumbai, where the family was then based. One doctor, he recalled, said that Richa's condition could be a one-time episode and discouraged the use of antipsychotic medication. "But that was a mistake, and we soon realised that her symptoms had not disappeared," he says. Richa was studying at Baroda University at the time. "We soon learned that her symptoms had flared up again. Her friends told us that she would leave Rs 100 notes at a temple," says Bakhshy. Eventually, Richa returned home and the family moved to Pune. Bakhshy began researching schizophrenia and exploring ways to help his daughter cope. His wife, meanwhile, sought solace in prayer.

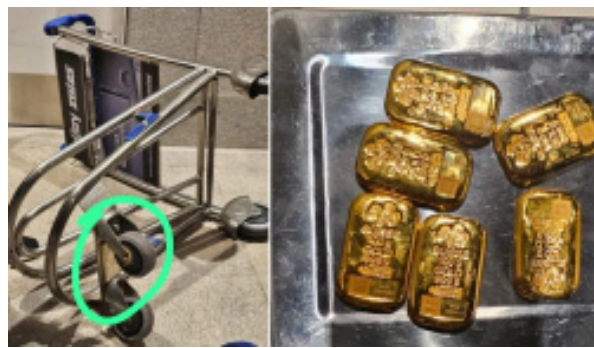
Dealing with crises In 2007, the family connected with SAA, a community-based organisation supporting people with mental illness and their families. By then, Bakhshy had dedicated himself to supporting both his daughter and his wife, who was battling ovarian cancer. He began researching practical approaches to caregiving, learning more about schizophrenia, and exploring ways to manage the stress, uncertainty and other challenges that come with caring for a family member with a serious mental health condition. He also supported his ailing wife, who passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bakhshy and Richa stayed within the SAA campus. Though there were harrowing moments where



she endured seizures, involving trips to the hospital, Bakhshy says he learned to face these crises with quiet resilience. "I don't mind that she checks on me every five minutes, whether I am in a meeting or sitting quietly in another room," he says, adding that he wants to ensure that Richa has the care and support she needs to live with dignity, even when he is no longer around. To understand mental illness, we must listen. World mental health day pune man Pune's Sassoon General Hospital has set up a 'Mental Health Wall' where people have shared how healing takes time and asking for help is courageous. (Photo: Special arrangement) Mental health problems are increasingly affecting individuals, families and communities. Disorders such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder can be chronic and may require long-term treatment, rehabilitation and continuing support. But living with a mental illness is about much more than the illness itself," Dr Thorat, the president of the Indian Psychiatry Society's Pune branch, said.

Around 150-200 patients visit the psychiatry outpatient department at Sassoon General Hospital every day. At least 20 of these are new cases. As per hospital data from January to September this year, 31,655 new and follow-up patients with mental health conditions have undergone treatment. "To understand mental illness, we must listen," Dr Thorat said, adding that people with mental illness often struggle with stigma, discrimination, lack of recognition and understanding, inadequate family or social support, financial dependence, etc. Sassoon General Hospital has set up a 'Mental Health Wall' where people have shared their thoughts. Several have said how healing takes time and asking for help is a courageous step while others have made a strong case for keeping hope alive.

Gold smuggling bid using baggage trolleys: 2 travellers held at Bengaluru airport



In a novel modus operandi to bypass customs checks, two travellers who arrived from Kuala Lumpur at the Bengaluru International Airport this week attempted to smuggle 1.2 kg of gold biscuits by secretly attaching the packs to the underside of passenger baggage trolleys, officials said. Acting on specific intelligence, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) monitored the two passengers on their arrival and later arrested them. The gold, concealment material, and the baggage trolleys used for concealment were seized, the agency said.

"During the course of surveillance, the passengers were observed sticking packets containing gold to the underside of baggage trolleys and thereafter moving away from the trolleys," DRI said in a statement. According to DRI, once the airport baggage trolleys with gold biscuits valued at Rs 1.78 crore were used by unsuspecting passengers to transport their luggage out of the airport, the smugglers would follow them to retrieve the hidden gold from the trolleys. "This is a new and unique modus operandi that has been unearthed. It avoids carrying the smuggled gold through customs checks themselves," DRI sources said. The DRI, however, did not disclose the names of the passengers involved in the case, citing further investigations to identify the network involved in the racket. The passengers who had concealed the gold were observed following and monitoring the movement of such unsuspecting passengers and the trol-

leys, apparently with the intention of allowing the trolleys to move beyond the customs area and thereafter retrieving the concealed gold," the DRI said. Twelve gold biscuits, concealed in two packets, were recovered during inspection. "The recovered gold was found to be of 999.9 fineness (24-karat) and weighed 1,200.40 grams, valued at Rs 1,78,88,360," the DRI said.

Telangana govt gives collectors a month to resolve pending GO 59 applications for plots up to 500 sq yards

Hyderabad: The State government directed district collectors to resolve pending applications under GO 59 involving plots measuring up to 500 square yards within a month. The government issued Memo No. 48030, instructing collectors to process the applications in accordance with prescribed rules and prevent irregularities in the implementation of the scheme. Cases in which conveyance deeds have already been issued will also be examined comprehensively. The government is seeking to fast-track the resolution of 10 to 12 categories of issues associated with Section 22-A. The latest directive is part of the government's measures to address issues relating to lands placed under Section 22-A, which restricted the registration of specified properties. The government issued seven orders so far to address various issues linked to the provision. Earlier, the government issued clarifications under GO 118 and GO 76 to facilitate the registration of houses, plots and flats included in the 22-A list but having approvals from the GHMC, HMDA, DTCP or municipal authorities.

What is the International Criminal Court?



THE HAGUE,- South African judge Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, who was awarded the Nobel peace prize on Friday, has been a judge on several international courts, including the International Criminal Court. Here are some facts about this court:

WHEN WAS THE ICC SET UP AND WHY?

The court was established in 2002 to prosecute individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression when member states are "unwilling or unable to do so themselves. It can prosecute crimes committed by nationals of member states or on the territory of member states by other actors. It has 125 member states. The court's budget for 2026 is about \$196 million euros (\$2220 million)The Misinformation Monitor newsletter rounds up international misinformation narratives, with a "Real or Fake?" quiz in every edition. Sign up here.

WHAT IS THE ICC INVESTIGATING?

The ICC is conducting investigations in the Palestinian territories, Ukraine, African states such as Sudan, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo, Venezuela, Myanmar and the Philippines. It says there have been 34 cases before the court, some with more than one defendant. ICC judges have issued 68 arrest warrants.

WHO IS ON THE COURT'S ARREST LIST?

Notable ICC suspects are Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accused of being criminally responsible for acts including murder, persecution and using starvation as a weapon of war in the Gaza conflict, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, accused of the war crime of illegally deporting hundreds of children from Ukraine.Israel and Russia, neither a member of the court, have repeatedly denied committing atrocities in Gaza and Ukraine respectively and have argued that the ICC has no jurisdiction over them.When it issued the warrant for Netanyahu, the ICC also issued a warrant for Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif, whose death was confirmed after the warrant was issued.The court has also issued arrest warrants for two senior Afghan Taliban leaders, accusing them of persecuting women, an allegation that the Taliban reject.Prosecutors have requested warrants for Myanmar's military leader Min Aung Hlaing for crimes against humanity in the alleged persecution of the Rohingya, a mainly Muslim minority. The outcome of that request has not been made public.

WHAT TRIALS ARE PENDING?

Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte is due to go on trial on November 30 to face charges of murder and attempted murder as crimes against humanity related to his war on drugs, accusations he denies.A Libyan accused of overseeing a notorious prison is also awaiting trial.

Ukraine expands drone strikes on data centres owned by Russia's Yandex



GNS News Agency, Oct 16Ukraine struck and partly disabled a major data centre operated by Russian technology company Yandex on Friday, a day after it hit a similar facility, widening the scope of its attacks against Russia after Moscow targeted data hubs inside Ukraine.Yandex, which is heavily involved in Russia's AI development and is sometimes called Russia's Google, said its data centre in the Kaluga region southwest of Moscow had been struck by Ukrainian drones and partly put out of action.Get a look at the day ahead in European and global markets with the Morning Bid Europe newsletter. Sign up here.Ukrainian arms maker Firepoint said Kyiv had used its FP-1 one-way attack drones to mount the attack against what it called Yandex's biggest data centre and said that several of its modules had been completely knocked out of action.

A day earlier, a Ukrainian attack shut down Yandex's data hub in Sasovo in the Ryazan region, where two of the three supercomputers used to develop the company's AI model are housed. Yandex has said it is assessing the damage from that strike and cannot confirm whether the equipment can be restored.Locked in an escalating and deadly war of attrition after more than four years of fighting, both Russia and Ukraine have expanded drone attacks this year on infrastructure targets, from energy facilities and refineries to ports and vessels carrying oil and grain, e-commerce warehouses and, most recently, data centres.Yandex, whose apps have become an indispensable part of many Russians' lives, said the attacks had struck at the core of its operations and that it was trying to keep its services going.

"Data centers are the iron heart of Yandex. Their operation is critical for services that have become part of people's everyday lives. Millions of users check traffic and plan routes, listen to music, watch movies, order groceries and get answers to their questions," it said in a statement."Our technology helps hundreds of thousands of companies run their businesses. They use it to take orders, serve customers and work with partners," it said, adding that it had struck a deal with other cloud providers to enable Yandex Cloud clients to swiftly move their data and services.Yandex shares fell sharply on the Moscow exchange, down 4.5%."The risks involve not only the poten-

WHY DOES THE UNITED STATES OPPOSE THE COURT?

While a US delegation was present for the negotiations that produced the court's founding Rome Statute in 1998, it never became a member and always opposed ICC jurisdiction over US nationals. In 2002, Washington even adopted a bill nicknamed the Hague Invasion Act, which authorises the president "to use "all means necessary" to ensure the release of any US citizen or US ally held by the ICC.In the years that followed, the US supported some ICC investigations, notably into atrocities in Darfur and Uganda, but remained firmly opposed to the court looking into alleged crimes by US troops on the territory of ICC member states.During the first Trump administration, in 2020, Washington imposed sanctions on the court's then-chief prosecutor and another official over an investigation into whether American forces had committed war crimes in Afghanistan. That ban was lifted by the Biden administration a year later.

In early 2025, after the ICC announced arrest warrants for US ally Netanyahu and his former defence minister Yoav Gallant, Trump authorised economic and travel sanctions against ICC officials targeting the US and its allies who are not members of the court. Washington has since imposed sanctions on 13 ICC officials including nine judges.At the UN General Assembly last month, Trump called the ICC a "rogue institution" and "an evil group of people" and urged its members to resign.

WHY DOES THE ICC CLAIM JURISDICTION OVER SOME NATIONALS OF NON-MEMBER STATES?

Although the court is supported by many United Nations members and the European Union, other countries such as the United States, China and Russia are not members, arguing the ICC could be used for politically motivated prosecutions.Israel is not a member and does not recognise its jurisdiction, but the Palestinian territories were admitted as an ICC member state in 2015. This, together with a ruling by judges, means the court can look at potential war crimes carried out by Hamas fighters in Israel and by Israelis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.The reasoning for the warrants for Israeli officials is the same as for warrants against Russian officials for crimes allegedly committed in Ukraine: they concern alleged criminal acts that took place on the territory of an ICC member state.Myanmar is not a member of the ICC but, in 2018 and 2019, judges ruled that the court had jurisdiction over alleged cross-border crimes that partially took place in neighbouring ICC member Bangladesh, such as deportation and persecution, and said prosecutors could open a formal investigation.The Philippines is not currently a member but was between 2011 and 2019, when the unilateral withdrawal by Duterte became final. Under the Rome Statute, if a state withdraws, the ICC retains jurisdiction there for crimes committed during the membership period.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS THE COURT CONVICTED?

ICC judges have issued 15 convictions and four acquittals. Twenty-three people have been held in the ICC detention centre in The Hague and appeared before the court, and 34 wanted suspects remain at large. Warrants have been withdrawn for nine suspects who died.Of the 15 convictions, 10 have been for the court's core offences of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The others were for crimes such as witness tampering. Those 10 defendants were all African militia leaders from Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Sudan, Central African Republic and Uganda. Terms ranged from nine to 30 years in prison. The maximum possible sentence is life imprisonment.

tial temporary unavailability of Yandex services and lost revenue in specific segments but also the company's extensive base of B2B clients," said Maryana Lazaricheva, head of equity research at T-Investments.She said the company could redistribute some of the load to its other data centres. "However, if the chain of attacks continues, this possibility vanishes, which could lead to even more severe consequences."The full scale of the disruption caused by the attacks was not immediately clear, although messages appeared on at least one Yandex app warning of potential problems in its operation.Yandex said it was working around the clock to try to restore services which had been disrupted."Right now this is our most important task, but unfortunately it is not an easy one," it said in the same statement.TIT-FOR-TAT STRIKESRussia has struck Ukrainian data centres and telecommunications infrastructure over the past month, including targets in central Kyiv."We always respond in mirror-like fashion," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday. "You all know, they have been hitting and continue to hit our data centres. We are responding." He confirmed on Friday that his drones had struck the Kaluga data centre in what he called "our tit-for-tat response."

Vladislav Shapsha, the regional governor, said Ukraine had struck unnamed infrastructure in the city and that nine people had been injured, five of whom were being treated in hospital.Ukraine has previously targeted the warehouses of specific companies inside Russia which it deems central to Russia's economy, including e-commerce giants Wildberries and Ozon, which then prompted Russia to strike their Ukrainian equivalents.Yandex operates five data centres, two of which have already been hit. Two of the other three are in the Moscow region, and another is in the Vladimir region, according to publicly available information.Yandex said in 2021 that the Sasovo data hub, which was struck on Thursday, hosted two of its three supercomputers built around Nvidia A100 chips, which it uses to train its YandexGPT large AI model. Yandex has declined to say whether the supercomputers were affected by the attack.Multiple online services in Russia reported technical issues on Thursday, including real estate aggregator Cian, a book portal called Litmarket, and the websites of Russian Railways and professional football club Spartak Moscow.Previous Ukrainian attacks on Russia have led to fuel shortages and queues at petrol stations, losses for tens of thousands of small businesses involved in e-commerce, and higher inflation as rising fuel costs feed through to consumer prices.Russian attacks on Ukrainian data centres have forced some of them to suspend operations after sustaining damage, while 100,000 households suffered temporary internet outages after one attack.Ukraine's digital minister told Reuters last month that the country was moving digital infrastructure underground in response to Russian attacks.

India objects to JD Vance's 'foreign indentured servants' remark amid US green-card restrictions



GNS News Agency, Oct 16

New Delhi: India has strongly objected to United States Vice President JD Vance's description of foreign workers as "foreign indentured servants" amid the Trump administration's decision to suspend the Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme.In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "We believe that such descriptions are unwarranted and ignore the fact that Indian professionals in the United States are highly educated and skilled contributors to its economy and innovation ecosystem."Indeed, the history of the United States itself has been shaped by generations of immigrants whose labour, enterprise and innovation have contributed to its growth and prosperity. Resorting to terminology that carries painful historical and colonial legacy connotations is deeply offensive," the MEA said in a release.

Israel to honour Indian pilot Smit Machchhar for averting aircraft disaster

GNS News Agency, Oct 16

Jerusalem: Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, who fought against the attacking co-pilot in a Flydubai aircraft and helped save 174 people onboard last week, will receive Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism, the country's highest bravery award for civilians.Israeli President Isaac Herzog announced that Captain Machchhar would be presented with the award once he recovers.

"Alongside the Israeli heroes whom we honour today, we send our heartfelt wishes for the full and speedy recovery of Captain Smit Machchhar of India. Captain Machchhar's sheer courage and bravery and sound professionalism helped avert a catastrophe. Once he regains his strength, it will be my honour and privilege to award him, on behalf of the people of Israel, the State of Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism," Herzog said.According to the United Arab Emirates probe, Hamam Al-Hammami, the co-pilot of the Dubai-Tel Aviv flydubai flight, attacked Indian pilot Captain Machchhar with the cockpit's crash axe in what the UAE authorities have described as a "terrorist attack".

Al-Hammami tried to take control of the flydubai aircraft, carrying over 170 people, after attacking Captain Machchhar, who tried to stop him. Despite being injured, the Indian pilot managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers to intervene and overpower the attacker.Israeli President Herzog also presented the Presidential Award

The Indian government's response comes after Vance accused Microsoft of replacing American workers with non-Americans, arguing that the company should prioritise hiring US citizens rather than foreign workers.Vance cited the company's workforce reductions alongside its use of H-1B visas and green cards to support his allegations."In the last year, Microsoft laid off 6,000 American workers. At the same time, the company benefited from 6,300 H-1B visas and almost 3,000 green cards. In other words, if you do the math, for every worker that Microsoft laid off, they replaced that worker with one and a half foreign indentured servants," Vance claimed.

The Trump administration's action suspends the participation of major IT outsourcing companies in the PERM programme, which enables employers to seek permanent labour certification for foreign workers as part of the employment-based green card process.The move prevents the companies from filing new permanent labour certification applications and halts the processing of pending applications under the programme.US Labour Secretary Keith Sonderling announced the decision at a press conference led by Vance, linking the action to ongoing criminal and federal investigations."Due to ongoing criminal investigations led by the Department of Labour's Inspector General Anthony DiEsposito, who will get into this shortly, I am hereby suspending from the Permanent Labour Certification Program some of the largest IT outsourcing firms in the world, Cognizant, Infosys, Tata, Wipro, HCL, and Capgemini," Sonderling said.



for Civilian Heroism to six Israeli civilians for their courageous intervention in overpowering the flydubai co-pilot and preventing him from crashing the aircraft, as per local media reports.The award was presented to Tali Manes, Zvika Manes, Yaniv Hayoun, Dr Shota Musayev, Asaf Rajuan and Or Pardilov during a ceremony at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, recognising their role in averting a potential disaster.Earlier on Saturday, Captain Machchhar recounted the terrifying moments inside the cockpit when he realised that his co-pilot was attacking him.He described the ordeal while speaking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who invited the pilot and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to light a celebratory flame at Israel's next Independence Day ceremony.

Trump honours Microsoft's CEO after Vance drops H-1B visa hammer on company



President Donald Trump honoured Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and other technology leaders, while Vice President JD Vance announced Microsoft's suspension from a green-card sponsorship programme over alleged visa abuse. The move highlights tensions between immigration restrictions and America's technology ambitions

Washington: President Donald Trump celebrated tech billionaires such as Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella on Thursday, only to get upstaged hours earlier when Vice President JD Vance announced that Microsoft was being suspended from a programme that allows companies to apply for green cards for skilled foreign workers with H-1B visas.The crackdown on Microsoft came under Vance's purview as the head of a fraud task force, but the targeting revealed the tension between the companies powering US economic growth and the administration's efforts to reduce immigration that it says has come at the expense of American workers.

"Our message to Microsoft is: You're a great American company, but you've got to hire great American workers," Vance told a news conference. He said the company had abused the visa system. "You cannot lay off American workers and then replace them with foreign indentured servants." Vance said Microsoft last year fired 6,000 US workers but also obtained 6,300 H-1B visas and almost 3,000 green cards. The tech company based in Redmond, Washington, has 223,000 employees worldwide. Microsoft has not commented on the allegations.In presenting National Medal of Technology and Innovation to Nadella, the president took a more flattering approach that praised his work at Microsoft and made no statements about the company's hiring of foreign workers.

"For more than three decades, Satya Nadella has been a key figure in the transformation of Microsoft, revolutionizing the company and empowering businesses, students and consumers from all over the world with some of the most capable software ever built," Trump said.Of the six tech leaders who received an award for scientific and technological achievement from the president, five are

immigrants.The president gave the National Medal of Science to SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, Google co-founder Sergey Brin, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, and Lisa Su, CEO of the semiconductor company Advanced Micro Devices.Each of them was born overseas – South Africa for Musk, Russia for Brin and Taiwan for Huang and Su.

In addition to Nadella, Trump also gave the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to Dell Technologies CEO Michael Dell, who has sponsored the government's special investment accounts for children known as Trump Accounts. Dell was born in Texas, while Nadella immigrated from India.Trump called the group of billionaires "national treasures," comparing them to his uncle, John Trump, an electrical engineer and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who received the National Medal of Science in 1983."Such a big day in the world of science and the world of technology – this is the biggest day there is," Trump said. "You're going to go down in the annals of history as being great." The honours – part of a summit celebrating a new "golden age" of science – build on Trump's already lavish praise toward the entrepreneurs for their work accelerating the development of artificial intelligence technology, which he refers to as super intelligence.

He has increasingly counted on the technology to deliver on his economic agenda and pushed for the US to lead its development while resisting calls for guardrails that he worries will stifle growth."We have an extremely high IQ audience, for a change," Trump joked to the event's attendees.Past winners of the National Medal of Science, which was established in 1959, have mainly been academics and research scientists rather than business leaders. The ceremony honouring the business leaders overlaps with the awarding this week, separately, of Nobel Prizes.The tech leaders have been frequent visitors to the White House in recent weeks. Musk, Huang and Su sat at the head table with Trump at the lavish state dinner for China's leader, Xi Jinping. Also attending were Brin, Nadella and Dell, who on Wednesday was in the Oval Office to talk about Trump Accounts.Last week, Huang and Musk were among the tech leaders at the White House to sign a voluntary agreement on developing AI after recent models raised national security and safety concerns.With November's midterm elections less than a month away, Trump has also sought to drive home to voters how investment in AI data centres and related computer equipment has helped to boost a record-high stock market, swelling the net worth of wealthier Americans. But the message hasn't always landed.Polls show bipartisan concerns about AI developing too quickly, and high costs for everyday items like gas and groceries are dampening the economic outlook for many Americans.Vance also said that several universities including Stanford and MIT should be investigated for visa fraud. Huang and Brin have degrees from Stanford and Su has multiple degrees from MIT.The White House praised the contributions of Thursday's honourees."These recipients are helping ensure America keeps leading the world in innovation," said Liz Huston, a White House spokesperson.

Service sector to working capital – key gains from GST process reforms

Sree Vishnu’s Comrade Kalyan trailer promises a fun-filled, yet revolutionary period drama



The push for process reforms by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council's recommendations on Thursday are set to have a wide-ranging impact on a number of segments of the economy, with the service sector key amongst them. Companies beyond the service sector will also benefit from quicker availability of input tax credit and refunds, which will help unlock working capital for them. The Council recommended amendments to Section 54(3) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act to provide for refund of accumulated input tax credit (ITC) on account of capital goods in case of refund pertaining to zero-rate supplies and for input services and capital goods under inverted duty structure. The ITC refund on capital goods, such as plant and machinery, will be spread over 60 months. While the change for capital goods will come into effect from April next year, that for input services can be availed from November 1, 2026, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

“Including input services in inverted duty refunds from 1 November 2026, and plant and machinery from 1 April 2027, is a big step, and it will help fully achieve the objective of the recent rate rationalisation, which benefited consumers but left many businesses with accumulated credit,” Abhishek Jain, Indirect Tax National Head and Partner, KPMG in India, said. “Major sectors including FMCG, pharma and food will now be able to monetise this credit and free up working capital.”

Another major change for the services sector was the relief given for the export of services, by aligning the tax treatment under GST laws with the practice on ground. This recommendation of the Council will help when billing is done through an overseas branch of a company. For instance, an Indian firm that serves a foreign client through its own branch abroad will get export benefits. The condition in the

law that stood in the way is being removed, even though foreign exchange is received in the normal course, an official said. Analytics firms, design studios, engineering consultancies and the offices of global companies run from India will be covered under this. For contract manufacturing and processing, India is now placed on the same tax footing as competing locations, the official added. Citing the example of a testing laboratory which receives a prototype from a foreign client, tests it, sends back the report, and is paid in foreign exchange, an official explained that the place of supply followed where the work was performed. “It will now follow the location of the customer, and such work therefore qualifies as an export. This opens the whole field of testing, certification, repair, calibration, research, and analysis to export treatment, and India has substantial capacity in all of them.” With services exports a key contributor to India’s foreign exchange – India had a services trade surplus of almost \$17 billion in August compared to a merchandise trade deficit of \$27 billion – Thursday’s decisions are significant for the services sector.

While the GST Council’s meeting on Thursday did not discuss tax rate, it issued an important rate clarification for e-commerce operators, noting that the GST rate on delivery services provided by unregistered riders through e-commerce platforms will be 5%. “Platforms built on different commercial models have been reading the same provision differently, so the same delivery to the same customer has carried tax differently depending on how the platform arranges its contracts. The tax on a booking will turn on the service that is actually delivered. The same delivery will bear the same tax, whichever way it is routed,” an official explained. Meanwhile, the GST Council also recommended that when a good is supplied to an overseas buyer – although the delivery is made in a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) or Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) – and the payment is received in a convertible foreign currency or rupees as permitted by the Reserve Bank of India, then the good in question will qualify as having been supplied to an SEZ or FTWZ. “This will provide certainty regarding zero rating benefit to Indian manufacturers making supply of goods for overseas buyers by making delivery to them in an SEZ/FTWZ for warehousing or further processing,” the finance ministry said in a statement. Further, the Council has recommended that a circular be issued to clarify various issues related to the receipt of payment in foreign exchange or Indian rupees, as permissible, for the export of goods and services.

More RBI rate hikes coming, SBI wants ‘jumbo’ 50 bps increase by December

RBI repo rate hike Given that global conditions are likely to turn volatile soon, the window of opportunity of RBI rate hike in small increments must be avoided, said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, State Bank of India’s Group Chief Economic Adviser. The Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee is widely expected to keep increasing interest rates in the coming months after kicking off the tightening cycle on Wednesday, with Soumya Kanti Ghosh, State Bank of India’s Group Chief Economic Adviser, calling for a 50-basis-point hike either in the December 2–4 meeting or even before that.

“Given the steepening inflation trajectory currently underway, we believe that the December policy cycle could mostly deliver a jumbo 50 bps rate hike depending on the global conditions,” Ghosh said in a report. “Given that global conditions are likely to turn volatile soon, the window of opportunity of RBI rate hike in small increments must be avoided. A 6% repo rate by December could be the best possible option.” According to SBI’s estimates, headline retail inflation may peak at 6.8% in November, data for which will be released around a week after the MPC announces its next interest rate decision. Rate cuts ‘off the table’ On Wednesday, the MPC raised the repo rate for the first time in over three-and-a-half years, with its 25-bps increase taking the policy rate to 5.5%. The committee also made its ‘stance’ more restrictive, changing it to ‘calibrated tightening’ from ‘neutral’, which means ‘rate cuts are off the table in the near term and policy action ahead can only be a rate hike or a pause, depending on the evolving conditions and the outlook’. The central bank also raised its inflation forecast for the current fiscal to 5.2% from 5%, peaking at an average of 6% in the October–December quarter. The MPC also noted that there is “some evidence of elevated inflation expectations and generalisation of inflation”, marking a departure from its assessment in August that there were “little signs of generalisation of price pressures so far”.

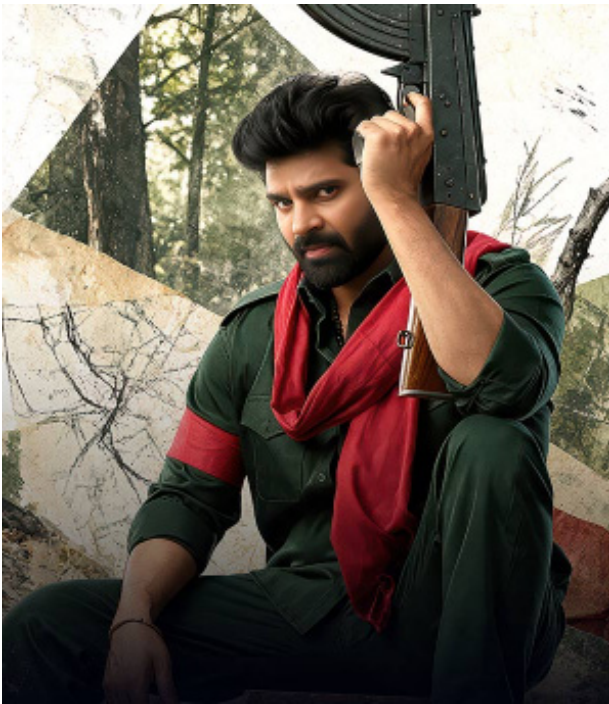
25 bps hike in December? SBI’s Ghosh is in the minority with his call to increase the repo rate by 50 bps on December 4 or even before that. A snap poll of 15 economists showed the consensus view is for two more rate hikes of 25 bps each – amounting to a 50 bps rise in the repo rate – over the next six months or



so. Economists widely expect the MPC to raise the repo rate by another 25 bps to 5.75% in December. Some, such as HSBC economists led by Pranjal Bhandari, continue to predict only one more rate hike of 25 bps later this year.

“Yes, there is risk of another, especially if growth remains resilient despite a strengthening El Niño. But for now, we don’t see this as a deep rate hiking cycle,” they said. “Implicit in this is our belief that interest rate hikes are not being prioritised to shore up the INR. Instead, they are being used for lowering inflation (which in turn, may have a positive impact on the INR).” The rupee took a turn for the worse on Wednesday, closing at 96.78-per-dollar after having fallen as low as 96.86 – not far from its all-time low of 96.96. Responding to a query on the exchange rate at a press conference, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said financial markets could be “irrational” in the short term, with some indicators suggesting the rupee was undervalued.

More than 2 rate hikes? A small number of economists also see the repo rate being raised by another 75–100 bps. According to Suyash Choudhary, Bandhan Mutual Fund’s Chief Investment Officer of Fixed Income, the current global macro environment is “exceptionally hawkish” for a country such as India that imports energy, maintains a current account deficit, and needs its “fair share” of dollar inflows. “In the present case higher global real yields and broad-basing commodity pressures provide limited degrees of freedom for RBI. Our view is of total rate hikes of 100–125 bps including the one done today,” Choudhary added.



Hyderabad: The makers of director Janakiram Marella’s upcoming Telugu action entertainer ‘Comrade Kalyan’, featuring actors Sree Vishnu and Mahima Nambiar in the lead, have now released a fun-filled and engaging trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Directed by Janakiram Marella and presented by Kona Venkat, the film has been produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati under Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. The film, which is slated to hit screens on October 9, has already been cleared for release by the Censor Board with a U/A

IVF specialist answers questions new mothers have about milk production, cancer recurrence and more

In a conversation with HT Lifestyle, Dr Bhavna Sharma – longevity and IVF specialist and founder of The Longevity Centre – explains that breastfeeding after breast cancer treatment may be possible for some women, while others may struggle to produce enough milk or may be unable to breastfeed from the treated breast.

Can you breastfeed after breast cancer treatment? The outcome depends on several factors, including the type of surgery, whether radiation was part of the treatment and whether the woman is still taking cancer medication. For many women, however, the question is about more than milk supply. It is about whether their body can still do something they had always imagined doing as a mother. According to Dr Sharma, “After treatment, women have many questions about a healthy pregnancy and breastfeeding baby. These concerns are understandable. The important thing is to discuss them early with the treatment team and understand what is medically safe in each case.”

Can breastfeeding increase the risk of cancer recurrence?

This is probably one of the biggest fears for a woman who has survived breast cancer. According to Dr Sharma, available evidence does not show that pregnancy or breastfeeding after successful breast cancer treatment increases the risk of the cancer returning. The American Cancer Society states that breastfeeding after treatment, when it is possible, is not thought to increase the risk of breast cancer recurrence. But fear of recurrence can remain even after treatment has ended. The IVF specialist highlights, “Breastfeeding itself can cause changes such as fullness, tenderness and discomfort, which can sometimes make a woman worry that something is wrong. This is why regular follow-up with the cancer care team remains important.”

Can breast milk harm the baby? Another question that some mothers may be afraid to ask is whether their previous cancer could somehow affect the baby through breast milk. Dr Sharma explains, “The main concern is whether medicines the mother is currently taking can enter the milk and affect the baby. This is why a woman’s treatment history is important. If treatment has ended and she is not taking medicines that are unsafe dur-

certificate. The trailer that has now been released shows that Kalyan owns a local theatre in the film, while his mother is a die-hard fan of Nandamuri Balakrishna. His otherwise simple and cheerful life takes an interesting turn when he falls in love with an Odia girl. However, the language barrier becomes a major hurdle in their relationship. The biggest twist arrives when the police start hunting for Kalyan, who we get to know is a wanted naxal. In a daring move, Kalyan and his gang kidnap a powerful politician, seeking the release of their naxal comrades from prison. This unexpected turn gives the story a serious and intriguing dimension, especially considering its otherwise light-hearted setup. The period setting adds authenticity to the narrative, which unfolds along the Andhra-Odisha border in 1992.

Director Janakiram Marella seems to have attempted to strike an interesting balance between humour, romance and the action surrounding the Naxalite-police conflict in his film. The first half of the trailer is packed with fun-filled and light-hearted moments, while the narrative gradually takes a serious turn in the latter half. However, the trailer concludes on a humorous note, with Kalyan hilariously shooting at a wrong bird after his intended target gets away. Sources say that Sree Vishnu, who has carved a niche for himself with unconventional stories and entertaining performances, is looking to enthrall audiences with ‘Comrade Kalyan’. Apart from Sree Vishnu and Mahima Nambiar, the film will also feature Tamil actress Radhika Sarathkumar, Malayalam actor Shine Tom Chacko, and Upendra Limaye in pivotal roles. It may be recalled that only in June this year, the makers had released the first single from the film titled ‘Oriya Pilla’, which when translated in English means ‘Oriya girl’. The song had offered a glimpse into the romantic world of ‘Comrade Kalyan’ and had indicated the presence of a tender love story within the film. On the technical front, the film has cinematography by Sai Sriram and music by Vijay Bulganin. Chota K Prasad is handling the editing duties of the film, which is now slated to hit screens on October 9.



ing breastfeeding, her doctors can assess whether she can breastfeed.”

Can you breastfeed after a lumpectomy? A lumpectomy removes the tumour while keeping most of the breast. Dr Sharma highlights that breastfeeding may still be possible after this type of surgery, but the treated breast may not produce the same amount of milk as before. “Radiation treatment can also affect the treated breast. Some women may produce less milk or no milk from that breast. Radiation can also cause changes in breast tissue that may make breastfeeding more difficult or uncomfortable. The unaffected breast may continue to produce milk normally,” she adds. The expert advises speaking to a lactation specialist before or soon after delivery – which can help a woman understand what to expect and find ways to feed her baby comfortably. “If there are any concerns, their oncologist can explain when breastfeeding may be safe and whether a particular medicine needs to be stopped or changed,” concludes Dr Sharma. Note to readers: This article is for informational purposes only and not a substitute for professional medical advice. Always seek the advice of your doctor with any questions about a medical condition. Dr Bhavana Sharma is the founder of The Longevity Centre and a specialist in reproductive medicine, preventive healthcare and longevity medicine. With over 20 years of clinical experience, she has been associated with more than 8,500 successful IVF treatments and advocates a personalised, evidence-based approach to long-term health.

India’s mobile network traffic to grow 17pc annually by 2030, says KPMG

New Delhi: Mobile network traffic in India is expected to grow at approximately 17 per cent annually between 2025 and 2030, while operator revenues are projected to grow at 2.7 per cent annually, highlighting a widening gap between demand growth and value capture, a report said on Friday. The telecom equipment market is projected to nearly double from \$25 billion in FY25 to \$50 billion by FY32, growing at almost twice the pace of the global market, according to the report by KPMG in India.

India has established manufacturing scale, with handset production reaching Rs 6,270 billion in FY26, while telecom equipment import substitution has reached approximately 60 per cent, demonstrating growing domestic manufacturing capabilities, said the report.

“The convergence of telecommunications, AI, semiconductors, cloud and digital infrastructure is redefining how value is created in the global technology ecosystem. As the foundation of the digital economy evolves from connectivity to intelligence, India has a unique opportunity to emerge as a creator of globally relevant technologies, platforms and intellectual property,” said Akhilesh Tuteja, Partner & National Leader – Clients and Markets and Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) KPMG in India. Realising this potential will require sustained investments in innovation, advanced manufacturing and ecosystem collaboration to strengthen India’s position as a technology leader in the



years ahead, he mentioned. As the telecommunications industry evolves beyond connectivity into an intelligent digital infrastructure ecosystem, India stands at a pivotal juncture to strengthen its role across the global technology value chain. The convergence of artificial intelligence (AI), telecom networks, semiconductors, cloud infrastructure, digital services and supportive policy initiatives is creating unprecedented opportunities for innovation, value creation and technology leadership, said the report. The report said telecom is entering a new era in which connectivity, AI infrastructure and industrial capability are becoming increasingly interdependent.

What benefits does cardiovascular exercise offer your body? Here's how you can choose the perfect cardio machine for your home gym

Tavishi Dogra is a Deputy Chief Content Producer, Health & Wellness, at Hindustan Times. She has over 9 years of experience writing about fitness, nutrition, and mental well-being, translating medical research and expert insights into practical advice readers can trust. Tavishi began her health journalism journey in 2017, and has since reported for RSTV, Financial Express, Jagran, HT Media Labs and Zee. She joined Hindustan Times to simplify wellness subjects by cutting through jargon. From decoding health trends and interviewing doctors to testing fitness routines herself, Tavishi always approaches content with one filter: “Will this help someone make a better decision today?” With 9+ years tracking India’s health conversations, Tavishi knows the gap between clinical advice and daily life. She knows facts from fundamentals and curates science-backed, expert-recommended solutions.

In fitness, she breaks down bodyweight training, recovery, and posture fixes for desk-bound readers. In nutrition, she translates guidelines into affordable, desi meal tweaks. In mental well-being, she focuses on stigma-free, actionable tools — all backed by research, expert input, and lived context. Education and professional background

Tavishi holds a Master’s degree in Journalism and Mass Communication and began her career reporting on public affairs for broadcast. Those early years in policy and TV shaped how she writes today: fast, factual, and human-first. I write with one single goal: To simplify health in a world full of noise by finding what’s actually doable, safe, and evidence-based for my readers. I test claims against research and user experiences. When all else fails, I speak to the expert who sees 50 patients a day, not the one with the most followers. Finding time to go to the gym can be tough. Solve it by bringing effective cardio machines home. These ma-

chines can help you lose weight and reach your fitness goals. With the right cardio equipment at home, you can burn calories, improve your heart health, and boost your overall well-being. Adding cardio exercises to your routine can enhance your daily life. These exercises strengthen your heart and lungs, increasing blood and oxygen flow to your muscles. To get the most benefit from cardio workouts while staying comfortable, consider using top fitness equipment.

Benefits of cardio exercises Cardio exercises offer many benefits beyond weight loss. Learning more about them can boost your overall health. It helps your heart stay healthy: Exercising helps your heart and lungs work better. It lowers blood pressure and reduces the chances of heart disease. Reduces stress: Regular cardio workouts can lower stress, boost your energy, and help you sleep better. Weight management: These exercises help you burn calories and lose excess fat. Enhances stamina: Cardiovascular exercises improve your stamina. They help you work out longer, which improves fitness. To choose the best cardio machine, consider your fitness goals, available space, and personal preferences. Consider the type of exercise you enjoy. Check the machine’s features, size, and durability. Choose equipment that offers a variety of workout programs. Pick one that accurately tracks your heart rate, distance, speed, and calories burned. Look at the benefits of each product listed here. Choose the one that best meets your fitness needs. Best cardio machines for home gym We have listed essential cardio machines for a home gym. These top recommendations will help you stay healthy and fit at home. Exercise bikes offer safe, low-impact workouts that are easy on your joints. They help build leg muscle, improve heart health, and support weight loss.

Man City coach Maresca on if club's achievements felt tainted



As the Premier League prepares to restart after the international break, all the noise surrounding the resumption has been about Manchester City and their financial-rule breaches. On Sunday, Manchester City will take on Liverpool in their first game since being found guilty of more than 100 serious breaches of the Premier League's financial rules. City have denied all wrongdoing and are appealing. Ahead of their high profile match at Anfield, coach Enzo Maresca also had to face questions and he stood by the club. "The last time I was here was the treble season (2022-23). I know the

effort from the players, from the club, from the manager in that time, that was Pep. So I know exactly the effort that the club put to achieve that kind of target. So I don't have any doubt about that." Asked directly whether those achievements felt tainted, the Italian replied: "Absolutely not."

The Italian said he would "absolutely" still have taken the job had he known exactly what lay ahead, and turned the tables several times when the prospect of City losing their appeal was raised. "I would like to speak about this situation when we win the appeal. Now is no sense to speak about anything because I don't have any information, but I understand the reason why most of you are here, because most of you want to hear something. But no," he said. Last month, in a 1,500-word statement, the Premier League had said that City, the eight-time champions of England's top-flight football league, "systemically broke" more than a hundred financial regulations between the 2009-10 and 2017-18 seasons. The allegations, essentially, are that City artificially inflated its revenue through "sham" sponsorship deals to disguise its losses, and sought to cover this up. This has cast a cloud over the achievements of the Abu Dhabi royal family-owned club and sparked calls for severe penalties.

'India are inconsistent under Gambhir': Australia legend slams head coach



India head coach Gautam Gambhir's efficiency across formats has been questioned again, with former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson calling the Indian side inconsistent under him. Since taking over as head coach in mid-2024, Gambhir has overseen India's Champions Trophy and T20 World Cup victories. However, India's Test record has nosedived at home, with series defeats against New Zealand and South Africa. This year, India also lost a home ODI series to the Kiwis and suffered defeats to Australia and England in the last 12 months. In July this year, India also endured T20I series defeats against Ireland and England.

"The thing that you continue to see and the reason India have been inconsistent under Gambhir is the chopping and changing around the batting order all the time. Players are coming in and out always, and when the team is unsettled, be it the batting order or players coming in and out, that just makes it more difficult for the team to be consistent. That's why India have been so inconsistent," Watson said on the Prime Video's YouTube channel. However, Watson also acknowledged Gambhir for backing players. The two-time World Cup winner cited the example of wicket-keeper Sanju Samson, who repaid the management's faith during the T20 World Cup knockouts this year. "There are a lot of incredible things that Gambhir has brought to the Indian setup. There is no question about that. With the backing of players like Sanju Samson, Gambhir has done wonders for Samson. Samson repaid him and did some amazing things in the backend of the T20 World Cup. So there are a lot of great things Gambhir has brought," Watson added. "My belief is there is too much chopping and changing around the players under Gambhir. There needs to be a little more continuity there, and for world cricket, if they do that, they are going to be ridiculously hard to beat," said Watson. India are currently facing West Indies in five T20Is. It will be followed by an extensive all-format tour of New Zealand where Gambhir and Co. will play two Tests, five ODIs and as many T20Is.

Haaland calls for unity at Manchester City amid furore over Premier League charges



Manchester City's star striker Erling Haaland has called for unity at the club ahead of their first match since they were found guilty of a majority of the 115 charges brought against them by the Premier League. City will face Liverpool at Anfield and are expected to be greeted with an extremely hostile atmosphere, with the club continuing to claim innocence and even referring to the charges as "opinion of the Premier League Commission".

"We have to stick together and we have to spread the love to each other. So yeah, stick together, enjoy the ride

and smile," said Haaland. Asked what his message would be to City fans traveling to Anfield, where a potentially hostile reception awaits the team, Haaland said: "We have to stick together, we have to stay with each other and we have to stay positive. No matter what happens in life, we have always have to have a smile. So we have to stay positive, look ahead and try to win football games and then try to enjoy the situation and the game." City later published an in-house interview with head coach Enzo Maresca, who gave his first remarks on the matter with domestic soccer having been on hold for the past three weeks because of an extended international break.

"Personally I'm very calm to be honest," he said of City's situation. "The club has been quite clear. We trust completely the club. We understand the noise but the focus for us is just what we can control and we can control just the football side." The league's investigatory panel ruled that City artificially inflated its revenue by more than \$1 billion from 2009-18 to circumvent financial fair-play rules that restricted rival clubs in that period. City was found guilty by the panel of all 80 of the serious financial charges brought by the Premier League and could be hit with severe sanctions – including being expelled from the top flight. City has lodged an appeal against the findings.

What makes the Hyderabad event different?

Hyderabad: As the Archery Premier League (APL) returns for its second edition, excitement is building around the event, which features India's Asian Games medallists, veteran stars and some of the world's leading archers. APL Season 2 runs from October 8 to 18 at People's Plaza on Necklace Road in Hyderabad. So, what sets the Archery Premier League apart from major international competitions such as the Asian Games and World Cups? Here is an explainer of the APL rules, including its 15-second shot clock and thrilling hit-or-miss shoot-off. What is unique about APL? One of the league's distinctive features is that recurve and compound archers compete together in a mixed-team format. On the international circuit, team events are organised separately for men and women in both disciplines, alongside mixed-team events in recurve and compound. In the APL, however, some of the world's best recurve and compound archers compete side by side. Another major attraction is the 15-second shot clock. Each archer has roughly 15 seconds to shoot an arrow, adding pace and pressure to the contest. The league also features a hit-or-miss shoot-off to decide matches that remain tied after the regular sets. The distances and target sizes remain the same as those used in international competitions. Recurve archers shoot at a target 70 metres away, with a diameter of 122 cm, while compound archers shoot at a target 50 metres away, with a diameter of 80 cm. Each of the six franchises has an eight-member squad comprising four men and four women. Six archers are Indian, while two are international competitors. The squad is divided equally between the two bow disciplines: two male and two female recurve archers, and two male and two female compound archers. The six franchises are Mighty Marathas, Rajputana Royals, Prithviraj Yodhas, Kakatiya Knights, Chero Archers and Chola Chiefs. Together, they feature 36 Indian and 12 international archers. The six teams compete in a double round-

robin format, with each franchise facing the other five teams twice. Every team plays 10 league matches, resulting in 30 matches during the league stage. The top four teams advance to the semi-finals, with the winners progressing to the final. Three matches are scheduled for each evening. A team earns two league points for a win and none for a loss. If teams are tied in the standings, the tie-breakers are set-point difference (total set points earned minus total set points lost), head-to-head results and, if necessary, average arrow score. How does a match play out? Each team fields four archers at the start of a match: one male and one female archer in each of the recurve and compound disciplines. At least one international archer must be in the lineup at all times. The toss determines which team shoots first or which targets a team chooses to shoot at. In each set, every archer shoots two arrows, giving each team a total of eight arrows. Each team has 120 seconds to shoot its eight arrows, with the archers shooting alternately between the two teams. The team with the higher combined score out of 80 wins the set and earns two set points. If both teams score equally, each receives one set point, while the losing team gets none. The first team to reach five or more set points wins the match. If the score is tied 4-4 after a maximum of four sets, the match is decided by the APL hit-or-miss shoot-off. The time allocation differs from that of conventional international team events: World Archery team event: 120 seconds for six arrows, averaging 20 seconds per arrow. World Archery mixed-team event: 80 seconds for four arrows, averaging 20 seconds per arrow. Archery Premier League: 120 seconds for eight arrows per team, averaging 15 seconds per arrow. Each team has 120 seconds to shoot eight arrows in a set. The teams alternate shots until all 16 arrows — eight per team — have been shot. When the first team's clock starts counting down from 120 seconds, an archer enters the shooting area, crosses the one-metre line and shoots an arrow.

'Behave like a champion': Dhiraj's message motivates Kumkum to Asian Games glory



GNS News Agency, Oct 16

New Delhi: Indian recurve archer Kumkum Anil Mohod, who won a historic gold-medal double on her Asian Games debut in Japan, has revealed how fellow archer and her idol, Dhiraj Bommadevara, motivated her with a message before her crucial individual gold-medal match. The 17-year-old became the first Indian to win gold in the women's recurve individual event at the Asian Games, also securing a quota place for the LA28 Olympic Games. Her individual triumph came a day after she teamed up with Ankita Bhakat and Kirti to win India's first-ever women's recurve team gold at the continental event, ending South Korea's run of seven consecutive titles.

Responding to an IANS query during a media interaction facilitated by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Kumkum said she did not get an opportunity to speak to Dhiraj before her individual and team gold-medal matches. However, the 25-year-old sent her an encouraging text to keep her motivated. "Dhiraj bhaiya came over after my match, but he texted me, 'Focus on yourself, don't think about who the opponent in front of you is, and behave like a champion,'" she said. India's victories in the women's individual and team

events ended South Korea's dominance. For the first time in the 48-year history of archery at the Asian Games, South Korean women returned without a gold medal. Kumkum also teamed up with Dhiraj, with whom she had won gold at the third stage of the World Cup, to claim silver in the mixed team event. The Indian pair lost 5-3 to China in the final.

Speaking about partnering with the Olympian, Kumkum said the experience helped her compete with a relaxed mindset. "Dhiraj bhaiya is my idol. That day, I felt we could have won gold in the mixed team event. It wasn't that difficult; we just had a slight issue with our aiming. Partnering with Dhiraj for the mixed team was great because he motivates me a lot," she said. "He had told me that whether we win or lose, we have to enjoy the entire match and play. He also said, 'If you make a mistake, that's my fault, and if I make a mistake, that's the coach's fault.' Don't take any pressure at all; just shoot your best shot. When I was playing alongside him, there was no tension whatsoever," she added. Kumkum had earlier expressed a desire to meet Indian batting star Virat Kohli. Asked what she would say to him if she got the opportunity, she told IANS that she admired his discipline and grounded nature. "I admire his discipline. Despite being such a huge star, I really like how he is so grounded. As of now, I haven't thought about what I would ask him when I meet him," she said. Currently competing in the Archery Premier League (APL), Kumkum said she had no major international events remaining this year. After the APL, she will take part in the Senior National Archery Championships, scheduled to be held in Shillong, Meghalaya, from November 11 to 18. The teenager said she planned to use the break to work on her technique, physical strength and mental conditioning. "Right now, the plan is to work on a few technical aspects and focus on my physical strength. I need to go to the gym daily and simultaneously work on mental conditioning to stay mentally strong during tournaments," she said.

HCA announces ticket prices from Rs 750 to Rs 20,000

GNS News Agency, Oct 16

Hyderabad: A total of 12,000 tickets for the India-West Indies T20 International to be played at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal on October 14 had been sold by Friday, according to Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) Secretary M Jeevan Reddy. Speaking to the media on Friday, Reddy said ticket sales had begun on the Ticketgenie app on Wednesday. Ticket prices range from Rs 750 to Rs 20,000.

"A total of 34,000 tickets will be on sale. Each person can buy a maximum of four tickets. We are ensuring that at least 12,000 tickets will be available for sale in the 24 hours preceding the scheduled commencement of the match," he said. Reddy said the HCA had been making efforts to ensure spectator-friendly conditions for the international match. "The pitch has been dug up, and a new one is being put in place for the match," he said. Addressing the media in the presence of HCA spokesperson and former secretary T Seshnarayan and CEO Imtiaz Khan, Reddy said 2,500 tickets would be given free of cost to Army personnel. Another 2,500 tickets would be allocated to school students from schools to be selected by the HCA. The respective school managements would be responsible for arranging transport



and ensuring the students' safe return after the match. Reddy also said this would be the first instance of a state cricket association hosting an international match under the Green Cricket initiative, in association with the United Nations Environment Programme. The HCA secretary appealed to fans to avoid travelling to the stadium in four-wheelers on match day to minimise parking and traffic congestion. He also advised spectators to reach the venue at least two hours before the match to avoid inconvenience.

AIFF sets focus on match management and assessment standards for ISL officials

Hyderabad: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) conducted the MG India Indian Super League (MG ISL) 2026-27 match officials workshop at Football House in New Delhi on October 7 and 8, 2026. The two-day workshop brought together 52 officials, comprising 19 referees, 21 assistant referees and 12 referee assessors. AFC-accredited technical instructors and referee assessors Purushothaman Baskar and Sankar Komaleeswaran, along with instructor Rizwan ul Haq, led the sessions.

The programme focused on key aspects of match officiating, including penalty-area incidents, handball, tactical fouls, offside, disciplinary offences, player and technical-area management, positioning and movement, and reading and anticipating play. Video analysis and case studies were used to examine match situations and decision-making. Incidents and performances from the previous edition of the MG Indian Super League were also reviewed to identify key learning points. Participants worked on improving communication, coordination and teamwork between referees and assistant referees. The initiative was part of the AIFF Referees



Department's efforts to establish standardised assessment and feedback guidelines for referee assessors. Discussions focused primarily on maintaining consistency in decision-making and match management across the MG ISL panel.

Hyderabad register rain-affected win over Assam in women's U-19 cricket



GNS News Agency, Oct 16 Hyderabad: Hyderabad registered an 18-run win over Assam under the VJD method in the BCCI Women's Under-19 T20 Cricket Championship in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. Batting first, Hyderabad scored 121 for nine in 20 overs, with K Pratika top-scoring with 34. In reply, Assam were restricted to 64 for five in 15 overs before rain stopped play. Scores: BCCI Women's Under-19 T20 Championship At Thiruvananthapuram: Hyderabad 121/9 in 20 overs (K Pratika 34; Kaku Barman 3/24) beat Assam 64/5 in 15 overs by 18 runs under the VJD method. Jammu and Kashmir 90/4 in 14.4 overs beat Pondicherry 88 all out in 17.1 overs. Delhi 157/4 in 20 overs

(Purva Siwach 44 not out, Samaira Raghav 42 not out) beat Saurashtra 124/7 in 20 overs (Deetya Singhvi 43; Purva Siwach 3/23). Haryana 155/4 in 20 overs (Pari Tanwar 39, Ritika Sharma 42, Kanak Bhati 32 not out) beat Bengal 143/7 in 20 overs (Ishtiaq Mondal 58; Nitya Malik 3/18).

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‘Memories of some wonderful time’: Ashish Vidyarthi pays tribute to Nana Patekar



Mumbai: Actor Ashish Vidyarthi has revisited fond memories with late veteran actor Nana Patekar by sharing a throwback video of the latter showcasing his culinary

skills. Taking to Instagram, the Bichhoo actor shared the video, offering a glimpse of the time they spent together. Alongside the clip, he penned a heartfelt note recalling their moments together. “Memories of some wonderful time spent together...Nana,” he wrote. The video shows Nana Patekar preparing an omelette in a relaxed setting, offering a glimpse of the veteran actor away from the screen. It also captures Ashish Vidyarthi enjoying the omelette and French toast prepared by Nana.

“Nana made this, and it is amazing. Wow!” Ashish says in the video. In another candid moment, Nana takes out some medicine and offers it to Ashish, providing a glimpse of their warm camaraderie. The two actors shared screen space in several films over the years, including Mahesh Manjrekar’s Yeshwant, Partho Ghosh’s Yugpurush and Manoj Kumar’s ensemble drama Jai Hind. They were also associated with the crime drama The Confession of Mary. Their bond extended beyond their professional association, as reflected in the video. Several Bollywood celebrities, including Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Hema Malini, paid tribute to Nana following his death on October 8. Raj Babbar, Anupam Kher, Rohit Shetty, Sanjay Dutt, Akshay Kumar and Pankaj Tripathi also remembered the actor and his contribution to Indian cinema. The Padma Shri recipient died at the age of 75 after being found unconscious at his residence in Goa on October 8, 2026.

‘The story of many Govinds from Uyare’: Director Manu Ashokan dissects his web series Eyes



Even though over six years have passed since the release of his last directorial venture, Kaanekkaane (2021), Manu Ashokan’s vision as a filmmaker remains the same: “Art is a responsibility. It shouldn’t just be for entertainment.” While he has no issues with those who create just entertainers — and he enjoys watching such movies himself — that’s not his calling as a director. That’s why his latest streaming series, Eyes, also tackles relevant and sensitive topics. At the same time, neither he nor the show’s scenarists, veteran screenwriter duo Bobby-Sanjay, have confined themselves to a superficial exploration of Eyes’ themes, which Manu says have global relevance. Instead, they also attempt to offer solutions to the problems the series addresses. Although Eyes’ trailer suggests it focuses on stalking, Manu Ashokan tells SCREEN that the show can’t be reduced to one word. Must Read | Bethlehem Kudumba Unit effect: Arvind Swamy-Sridevi’s shelved film to be revived after decades The trailer for Eyes highlights four words: love, obsession, control, and madness. How would you describe the significance of these four words to the series? The current socio-political scenario was the first thing we thought of during the discussions of Eyes. In Uyare (the 2019 movie that marked Manu’s directorial debut), relationships were the main theme. While Uyare focused on one toxic relationship, Eyes becomes more global and expands the circle significantly. It is about relationships, but it moves beyond simply labelling what is right or wrong. It discusses how to address mistakes. It’s easy to crucify people, but we must explore different ways to tackle these issues. We delve into the idea of moving forward while holding both the victims and the accused close to us. We aim to offer solutions as well, not just highlight the problems. We often dream of change. In Uyare, Bobby, Sanjay, and I envisioned an acid-attack victim becoming an air hostess. That was our tangible dream, but it didn’t come to fruition in reality. Similarly, Eyes also has a dream that we hope will come true and receive the attention it deserves. Uyare’s Govind displayed extremely controlling behaviour and resorted to stalking and harassment before eventually attacking his ex-girlfriend with acid. Would you say Eyes explores the stories of many such Govinds and their criminal behaviour more broadly, while also exposing how society un/knowingly becomes complicit in enabling their growth? Definitely. Govind (played by Asif Ali) could be described as a small circle, while Eyes deals with these issues on a global level. The themes it discusses exist across all levels of society. Unlike Govind, whose circle was confined to love, this show explores those themes in all aspects of life. It shows the many Govinds we encounter in different areas of our lives.

So, unlike Uyare, where the stalking and attack were triggered by “heartbreak,” Eyes will discuss stalking across various life situations, am I right? Stalking is a major topic, and the show explores various forms of it, not just one kind. Yes, stalking is central, but the stories of these characters involve much more than that. You’ll see as it unfolds. It can’t be defined by just one term. In an interview last year, while discussing your acting workshop platform, Chhaaya With Manu Ashokan, you said, “acting cannot be taught, and Chhaaya is a platform to polish talent.” How has your experience with Chhaaya influenced you as a director? Chhaaya started after Eyes, but the experience of managing a cast of about 100 in Eyes inspired the workshop. Dealing with so many characters during pre-shoot and then their casting was a massive undertaking. About 80 per cent of the cast, mainly those playing minor roles, were newcomers. During the process, I realised that many people aspire to be in the lime-light before focusing on the craft of acting or internalising and effectively reproducing a character. However, these newcomers bring a fresh energy and spirit. In Eyes — beyond the main characters played by Nikhila Vimal, Shruthi

Ramachandran, Kani Kusruti, Saniya Iyyappan, and Dev Mohan — new actors have also shouldered key plot moments and circumstances. They showed incredible commitment. They needed just guidance, since they already displayed impressive dedication. I really enjoyed working with them. Eyes is now streaming on Sony LIV. Nikhila Vimal and Shruthi Ramachandran in the latest Malayalam streaming series, Eyes. At Chhaaya, I don’t “teach” acting. I simply create an environment where they can perform freely. This environment allows them to express themselves openly, both on and off-camera. For me, Chhaaya and Eyes are complementary. Uyare, Kaanekkaane, and Eyes handle heavy themes and explore complex emotions. What is the process like when collaborating with Bobby and Sanjay, given that all three of your directorial ventures have been penned by them? Our relationship goes back a long way. Our friendship began through the late director Rajesh Pillai (Manu was once Rajesh’s associate). He was our common link, and his death brought us closer. We connected by talking about life beyond cinema. The vibe we share transcends the creative and technical space. Hence, we have an unspoken understanding when discussing ideas. Sanjay and I even live nearby. The three of us are very close, both mentally and physically. For us, making cinema is almost a byproduct of our friendship. Stories don’t feel forced; they evolve naturally.

Director Manu Ashokan’s Eyes tackles relevant and sensitive topics. Shruthi Ramachandran in the Malayalam streaming series, Eyes. I step in as a director once an idea they are developing reaches a certain stage, at which point my vision also comes into play. We’ve discarded many stories that we felt weren’t working. Our friendship allows us the freedom to discard ideas, providing a massive creative space for us to work in. Do films just reflect society, or can they actually influence the audience? I believe it’s a bit of both. Some people are influenced, while others aren’t. Take the ongoing protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), for instance. There are people who are deeply affected and those who are not — some care deeply, while others don’t. Coming to cinema, after Uyare, many people, including celebrities, contacted me saying they were like Govind. Some also related to Alan (Tovino Thomas) or Paul (Suraj Venjaramoodu) from Kaanekkaane. However, there were also people who didn’t experience any of that. For them, cinema is just entertainment, much like watching cricket. SCREEN Exclusive | ‘Chased only one kind of success’: Parvathy Thiruvothu on Pradhana Drishtya Kuttakkar hitting Rs 25 cr However, to me, art is a responsibility. It shouldn’t just be for entertainment. If a film makes someone think for a couple of days, it has succeeded. Art is more than just numbers. I’m not saying that entertainers aren’t needed; of course, cinema is an industry with business goals. However, I feel it shouldn’t be just about entertainment. I want my films to help Govinds recognise themselves, or help other people spot the Govinds around them. I believe Eyes will be able to do that in a larger way. Is it difficult to be such a responsible filmmaker?

It’s very difficult. Survival is also very important, right? We not only want people to see our work, but we also want them to think and respond actively. Achieving that is difficult. That’s why I have significant gaps between my consecutive projects. I don’t want to just move on to the next thing; I want to create something reflective, which is always a challenge. Lastly, what’s the status on Junior, the campus-based film you announced last year as your next directorial venture after Kaanekkaane? Honestly, we are tackling some challenges that have come up in the story. We are working through some [creative] blocks. Even though it’s touted as a campus film, we want it to be more than just superficial. Finding that “something extra” is the challenging part we are currently addressing. However, we haven’t given up on it yet.

Sonali Bendre says she has always been a Madhuri Dixit fan

Mumbai: Actress Sonali Bendre, who will be seen as a guest in the premiere episode of “Kon Honar Crorepati,” professed that she has always been a fan of actress Madhuri Dixit.

The show will bring Madhuri and Sonali together for the first time on screen. With the promise of “Aata Khel Badalnaar” (Now, the game will change), the special episode will have Sonali playing in support of for a foundation supporting animals and shares insights into her work for animal welfare and her very own “Happy Podcast.” On Sonali appearing as a guest, Madhuri said in a statement: “Sonali and I have never done a film together. But it’s never too late! Today, we’re finally together on the sets of Kon Honar Crorepati. It’s a celebration, and I’m glad that I am starting this new chapter with you. Sharing the screen with you feels like such a special occasion. It is a celebration for me.”

Indian fans take stand for Bollywood, make Thai actors apologise for stereotyping



Thai actors Fourth Nattawat and Gemini Norawit appeared on the Thai late-night talk show Katanyu Tonight on October 8. During the episode, Fourth, who was blindfolded, had to enact a prompt that read “Bollywood Hero” while the others guessed what he was portraying. However, his exaggerated head movements and dramatic hand gestures drew criticism from viewers who felt the portrayal was mocking Indian mannerisms. The controversy prompted both actors and the show’s production team to issue apologies.

“I really confirm that it was just playing a game. However, I want to sincerely apologise from the bottom of my heart if there was any behaviour that hurt anyone’s feelings, no matter who it may be. Especially if Indian fans, it will be an important lesson for self-improvement going forward,” the actor wrote. Gemini Norawit also took to X to apologise for the incident and the hurt it caused. “I apologise for the incident that occurred and the negative feelings that arose from my actions. I understand that the image that was shared

may have made many people feel uncomfortable or misunderstood,” he wrote. Gemini further clarified that he had no intention of mocking the issue being discussed or belittling any country, culture or community. “I want to clarify that I had no intention of mocking the issue currently being discussed, nor did I intend to belittle, disparage, or demean any country, culture, or people in any way. However, I understand that my actions may have been perceived as inappropriate, and I sincerely apologise to everyone affected by this incident,” he added. The Celebrities, the production team behind Katanyu Tonight hosted by Katanyu Sawangsrri, also issued an apology to the actors and viewers whose sentiments were hurt by the segment. In its statement, the team said, “Our team never intended to mock or disrespect any race, culture, or group of people.” The team added that it had taken the feedback seriously and would learn from the experience to be “more thoughtful and careful” while creating content. It also apologised to Fourth Nattawat Jirochtikul and Gemini Norawit Titicharoenrak, along with everyone else involved, for what transpired during the game segment. As part of its response, the production team promised to remove the segment from the show, calling it a step towards taking responsibility for the incident.

What sparked the controversy? During the episode, Fourth Nattawat was blindfolded and asked to act out the prompt “Bollywood Hero” through gestures. His exaggerated head bobbing and dramatic hand movements drew laughter from the audience, with Gemini Norawit also seen laughing at the performance. While the segment appeared to amuse those present in the studio, clips circulating on social media prompted criticism from Indian viewers, who felt the portrayal reinforced stereotypes about Indians and Bollywood actors. One social media user wrote, “Racism gets ignored so easily if it’s directed towards Indians.” Another commented, “What Fourth, Pond and Gemini did was racist and disgusting,” while a third questioned the humour behind the performance, writing, “I don’t understand what’s so funny here.” The backlash led to calls for accountability, with viewers criticising the segment and questioning why the portrayal was considered entertaining. Following the online criticism, the actors and the production team issued apologies, and the makers said the segment would be removed.

Nana Patekar was to appear on Kon Honar Crorepati, host Madhuri Dixit pays tribute



Nana Patekar was to appear on Kon Honar Crorepati, host Madhuri Dixit pays tribute Nana Patekar was to appear on Kon Honar Crorepati, host Madhuri Dixit pays tribute Nana Patekar’s death has left his fans and the entire film industry in shock. The veteran actor died at 75 on October 8 after suffering from a cardiac arrest. On Friday, makers revealed that Patekar was set to appear in the premiere episode of host Madhuri Dixit’s Marathi version of Amitabh Bachchan’s Kaun Banega Crorepati — Kon Honar Crorepati. The duo would have reunited decades after their last outing Wajood (1998), but following Nana Patekar’s death, actor Sonali Bendre will be stepping in as the celebrity guest for the opening episode.

Kon Honar Crorepati will air on Monday, October 12, at 9 PM, with Madhuri Dixit as its host. The new season would be a huge change for the Marathi quiz show, because it is being taken over by a female host for the first time. Its premiere bring Madhuri and Sonali together on-screen, for the first time ever, as the two actors have never worked together in any movie. Nana Patekar was supposed to shoot for the show’s episode on Thursday and was expected to

become among its initial guests. His death led to a change in the plans of shooting the first episode, with Sonali joining Madhuri for the shoot instead. Among other celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, veteran actress Madhuri Dixit also paid an emotional tribute to Nana Patekar. Remembering her Wajood co-star following his death yesterday, Madhuri wrote in an Instagram post. “A great artist, a powerful personality and an unforgettable voice... With Nana Patekar’s passing, the film industry has lost a treasured and legendary actor. My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. A heartfelt tribute.”

Meanwhile, Sonali Bendre will be on the hot seat in the opening episode, playing for the Happy Pet Foundation. The actor has been a supporter about animal welfare. Madhuri Dixit spoke about her first collaboration with Sonali in a media statement, and said, “Sonali and I have never done a film together. But it’s never too late. Today, we’re finally together on the sets of Kon Honar Crorepati. It’s a celebration, and I’m glad that I am starting this new chapter with you. Sharing the screen with you feels like such a special occasion. It is a celebration for me.” “I’m not surprised at all about Madhuri as a host because she’s such a warm person. Having known that warmth in her, I always knew she would be a very good host. She’s a fantastic actress—there are no two ways about it. I have always admired her fabulous dancing, and I did get to see her dance here on the set. So that was fantastic for me. If someone out there is watching or listening, please write something for the two of us. I would love it,” Sonali Bendre said. Veteran actor Nana Patekar died at 75 in Goa, due to a cardiac arrest. He was given continuous CPR for 45 minutes, but was declared dead at 5:20 am. His son, Malhar, had confirmed the death to The Indian Express. “Yes, the information is true. I am in Pune right now and reaching Goa. I will come up with detailed statement. He died due to natural reasons,” he said. The late actor was accorded a state funeral to recognise his contribution to theatre and Indian cinema.

Dulquer Salmaan’s female fans break security to meet him on Sri Sri set in Vizag,

Dulquer Salmaan has a massive female fan following, and a recent incident from the sets of his upcoming Telugu film Sri Sri is proof of the same. The actor is currently shooting for the film with Pooja Hegde in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Videos shared by fans on social media show a crowd waiting to catch a glimpse of Dulquer, with one female fan even breaking past security to get a picture with him.

In a video shared on Instagram, Dulquer Salmaan is seen arriving at the outdoor shooting location in his luxury car. A sizeable security team was present to manage the crowd. However, as Dulquer made his way towards his vanity van, a female fan managed to get past security and shouted, “Please, one photo.” The actor’s team appeared visibly annoyed as they formed a human chain to help him reach his vanity van. Amid this, another fan is repeatedly heard calling out, “Sir, sir, sir,” to get his attention. While Dulquer did not stop to interact with the fans at that moment, other videos from the location show him obliging them later. The actor was seen greeting fans near his vanity van and posing for selfies and videos with them. One fan even presented him with a shawl, in the traditional Andhra style. Videos from the shoot have also surfaced online, showing Dulquer and Pooja shooting a scene on the beach, with crew members surrounding them.

The actors arrived in Visakhapatnam earlier this week to shoot for the film. It is not yet known how long the team will remain in the city. Speaking about Dulquer’s recent projects, after the disappointment of King of Kotha in 2023,



Dulquer returned to Malayalam cinema this year with I’m Game. However, the Onam release received mixed reviews and collected Rs 47.94 crore worldwide. The actor found greater success as a producer with Lokah: Chapter 1 — Chandra, which released last year. The film became the highest-grossing Malayalam movie before Bethlehem Kudumba Unit surpassed its record this year. Dulquer was last seen in the Tamil-Telugu bilingual Kaanatha, apart from I’m Game. He also has two Telugu films lined up, including Sri Sri.