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Telangana HC grants govt 12 weeks to clear Rs 51.35 cr land acquisition compensation dues

Hyderabad: Justice N.V. Shravan Kumar of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday granted the State government 12 weeks to clear Rs 51.35 crore towards compensation payable to landowners whose lands were acquired for government projects in Narayanpet district, after Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, personally appeared before the Court and assured that the payments would be taken up on priority and cleared at the earliest.

Punjagutta to be first AI powered police station in India

Punjagutta Police Station is being developed as the country's first AI-powered police station, with Telangana DGP CV Anand expected to launch the pilot project in the first week of December.

Punjagutta Police Station is being transformed into the country's first artificial intelligence (AI)-powered police station, with all its services being integrated with advanced AI technology.The pilot project is expected to be launched in the first week of December by Telangana DGP CV Anand.City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar, who conducted a surprise inspection of the police station on Wednesday, reviewed the ongoing technological arrangements and interacted with complainants to understand their grievances. He also examined the duties and functioning of police personnel.

Congress compounded Telangana's water crisis: KTR

Hyderabad: Amid the deepening agrarian crisis across Telangana, BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded for the immediate release of pending Rythu Bharosa payments along with the current Yasangi instalment, completion of the remaining farm loan waiver and rescheduling of agricultural loans.He also sought Rs 36,000 each for eligible rural job-card holders, representing the promised Rs 1,000 monthly assistance to agricultural labourers over 36 months.Addressing the party's Rythu Garjana public meeting at Nirmal on Wednesday evening, Rama Rao said the agrarian distress was compounded by the Congress government's failure to utilise available irrigation water, with thousands of cusecs flowing downstream even as farmers face drought conditions.

Priyank Kharge unveils logo for 27th All India Police Lawn Tennis Championship

Bengaluru, Nov 11 (IANS) The 27th All India Police Lawn Tennis Championship will begin in Bengaluru on November 16, with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar set to inaugurate the national-level sporting event.

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday unveiled the official logo, T-shirt and cap of the championship at the office of the Director General and Inspector General of Police in Bengaluru.

Speaking on the occasion, Kharge said sports play an important role in helping police personnel maintain physical fitness, mental health and discipline, all of which are crucial for effective functioning in the police department.

He said he too has a keen interest in tennis and has had a long association with the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA).

Khare said he had represented the association during his tenure as Tourism Minister and was subsequently made its Vice-President. He is currently serving as the Senior Vice-President of the association.

Police officers and personnel from various states across the country will participate in the championship. Kharge directed officials to ensure the best possible hospitality and necessary facilities for participants arriving in Bengaluru from other states.

"There should be no shortcomings in hosting police officers and personnel from other states. All necessary arrangements will be made, and preparations for the tournament will be undertaken with the cooperation of the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association," he said.Kharge said Karnataka should use the championship as an opportunity to demonstrate its capability to successfully host major sporting events and expressed hope that more national-level competitions would be organised in the state in the future.Noting that Karnataka has been performing well in various sporting events, the Home Minister suggested that the police department study initiatives taken by other states to promote sports among police personnel and introduce suitable programmes in Karnataka.He said Karnataka Police teams should participate in greater numbers in All India-level sporting events. Officials should submit proposals required to further strengthen sporting activities within the police department, he added, assuring that appropriate action would be taken after examining them.



Rahul Gandhi to present alternative foreign policy vision at Bharat Summit

Hyderabad, Nov 11 (IANS) The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, will present his vision for India and the world and an alternative foreign policy vision at the second Bharat Summit to be held here from November 12 to 14.

The Congress leader will speak at the valedictory session on November 14, where he will pose an inspiring alternative view of India's foreign policy — anchored in principled multilateralism, strategic autonomy, peaceful coexistence and democratic values.

According to the agenda paper, Rahul Gandhi's vision is of an India that speaks with moral clarity and strategic confidence, that partners rather than lectures, and that carries the aspirations of the Global South to every table where the world's future is decided.

Being organised by the Telangana government, Bharat Summit is billed as the first major international gathering of progressive leaders after landmark electoral outcomes in Brazil, Hungary and Serbia, and comes immediately after the US midterm elections.

A flagship Global South gathering, the summit honours the legacy of Afro-Asian solidarity and the Non-Aligned Movement — a tradition India helped shape, and one the world needs again, reads the paper.Over 1,000 delegates from 70 countries, including policymakers, party leaders, thinkers and changemakers, will participate in the three-day event."Even in opposition, the Indian National Congress has brought together key voices from think tanks, progressive parties, multilateral institutions and governments across 70 countries to one table in Hyderabad — a reflection of its institutional depth, its long-standing global partnerships, and a party preparing, with policy rigour, for 2029 and beyond," the agenda paper says.Twelve international sessions and eight Telangana Rising sessions will discuss the reform of multilateral institutions, South–South cooperation, peace in a new world order, a new economic deal for the world, climate justice, AI and the future of media, youth, gender justice and democratic renewal — culminating in a Global South–Global North platform and the launch of the Our World Institute at the valedictory session.



Andhra Pradesh plans Rs 632 crore repairs to restore 789 lift irrigation schemes

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday directed officials to restore 789 defunct lift irrigation schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 632.07 crore and make them operational before the ensuing kharif season.

Reviewing irrigation projects and lift irrigation schemes at his camp office, Naidu instructed officials to complete all repairs by June next year, an official press release said.

These repairs will improve irrigation facilities for 7.4 lakh acres of land, officials informed the Chief Minister. He directed them to inspect the condition of the schemes at the field level, invite tenders immediately and begin repairs without delay.

Naidu proposed entrusting the continuous monitoring and maintenance of these schemes to the Jalaharathi Corporation, asking officials to establish a dedicated division for the purpose. He also suggested appointing a Chief Engineer or Superintending Engineer in every district to supervise the restoration works.

Officials were directed to coordinate with one another to complete the repairs.During the review, officials informed the Chief Minister that 4,171 acres of government irrigation land could be utilised to establish solar power plants with a combined generation capacity of 903.1 MW.

Of the 5,565 acres available under the Water Resources Department, 4,061 acres have been identified for solar installations with a potential capacity of 877.3 MW. Additionally, 110 acres across 84 locations under the Irrigation Development Corporation could generate another 25.8 MW.The Chief Minister asked officials to explore solar and hydropower generation opportunities along canals, besides using available land. He also directed them to prepare a plan to ensure an uninterrupted electricity supply to lift irrigation schemes during the agricultural season and examine the possibility of selling surplus power to the grid.

Power Ministry plans to extend late payment protection to energy storage developers

New Delhi, Nov 11 (IANS) The Ministry of Power on Wednesday proposed extending late payment protections to independent companies that run standalone Energy Storage Systems (ESS).

It has invited stakeholder comments on a draft amendment to the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022 (LPS Rules), according to a letter issued on Tuesday.

The amendment aims to give standalone storage companies the same protection against delayed payment by electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) that has already been provided to power generators, transmission companies and electricity traders.

According to the explanatory note accompanying the draft, Rule 18 of the Electricity Rules, 2005, allows storage to be owned by a generator, a transmission company, a DISCOM, a consumer or an independent storage company.

Storage owned by a generator takes the legal status of the generator and is already covered by the LPS Rules.

However, if a DISCOM delays payments to an independent energy storage service provider, the company gets none of these protections and must rely only on its contract.

According to the note, storage developers and their lenders will get certainty of payment, which will attract more investment, lower the cost of finance and, over time, bring down the cost of storage.

DISCOMs that pay on time are not affected, as the amendment creates no new charge and the surcharge applies only when bills are paid late.

PM Modi hails Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum; Cabinet clears Rs 3,230 crore project to transform North, South Blocks

New Delhi, Nov 11 (IANS) Praising the vision of creating what is set to become the world's largest museum display area, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the proposed Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum would transform the historic North and South Block buildings into a magnificent celebration of India's civilisational journey.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Imagine New Delhi becoming home to the world's largest museum display area. Think scale. Think culture."

He described the museum as a landmark initiative that would bring thousands of years of India's heritage to life through immersive experiences and world-class galleries.

PM Modi said the buildings that once served as centres of governance would now become spaces where millions of people could discover, experience and celebrate the timeless richness of Indian civilisation, calling it "a historic new chapter for India's cultural heritage."

BJP chief Nitin Nabin visits Chitragupta Puja pandals in Patna, offers prayers

Patna, Nov 11 (IANS) BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Wednesday visited several Chitragupta Puja pandals in Patna and offered prayers to Bhagwan Shri Chitragupta, seeking happiness, peace, good health and prosperity for people across the country, particularly in Bihar.

During his visit, Nabin interacted with office-bearers of puja committees, devotees and prominent members of society.

He encouraged the organisers and participated in the celebrations at various locations.

Nabin first attended the puja organised by the Shri Shri Chitragupta Puja Committee at New Colony in Khagaul, Danapur.

He subsequently visited Chitragupta Bhawan on Khagaul Road in Anisabad, organised by Chitragupta Samaj Bihar.

The BJP chief also offered prayers at Shri Chitragupta Puja Samiti in Thakurbari, Gardanibagh and Shri Chitragupta Adi Mandir at Chitragupta Ghat (Naujar Ghat) in Diwan Mohalla, Patna City.

In the afternoon, Nabin attended another ceremony organised by Shri Chitragupta Puja Samiti at Thakurbari Prabandh Nyas Samiti on Road No. 12 in Gardanibagh.

He offered prayers and released a souvenir published by the committee.

Extending greetings on the occasion, the BJP president particularly conveyed his wishes to people associated with the profession of writing.



Congress alone can take on BJP, says Telangana CM

Hyderabad, Nov 11 (IANS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday said that the Congress is the only political party capable of fighting the BJP in the country.

The Chief Minister also accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of being an ally of the saffron party in New Delhi.

Participating in National Education Day and Minority Welfare Day celebrations to mark the birth anniversary of India's first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Chief Minister said that the Congress party has the strength to take on the BJP.

"The car (BRS party symbol) which starts from the local streets of Telangana, turns into Lotus (BJP symbol) the moment it reaches Delhi," he said.

CM Revanth Reddy criticised the BJP for stalling the minority reservation in education and jobs. Which god instructed the BJP to abolish minority scholarships, he asked.He said it was the Congress government providing 4 per cent reservation for minorities. He recalled the BJP's announcement that it would abolish minority reservations. He challenged the BJP to first scrap the minority reservation in Gujarat.

Claiming that the Congress party empowered the poor and minorities with the right to vote, the Chief Minister alleged that the BJP was trying to disenfranchise them.

Stating that the government accorded top priority to the welfare of the minorities, he said that the Metro Rail works were being taken up expeditiously in the Old City. He said the Musi Rejuvenation Project would revive the Old City's glory. The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of creating a night economy along the Musi River.He assured minorities that it is his responsibility to understand their challenges and resolve them.Remembering Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who laid the foundation for ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes) in the country, CM Revanth Reddy said that his government upgraded those ITIs into ATCs (Advanced Training Centres) to upgrade skills for more job opportunities.The Chief Minister warned that jobs in software engineering were on the decline under the impact of AI technology. The government is providing avenues to create more blue-collar jobs which cannot be performed by AI in the future. If one acquires the necessary skills, there will be no shortage of opportunities for blue-collar jobs in the future.

Indian Chronicle
English Daily

LK Advani — a legacy of triumph, irony and unfulfilled ambitions

Lal Krishna Advani, who has entered his 100th year, is perhaps the only politician whose political journey intersected with every important phase of modern India. The original Hindu Hruday Samrat, who scripted the BJP's rise on the crest of the Ram temple movement, Advani's legacy is celebrated as much for bringing nationalism to the centre stage of Indian politics as it is criticised for stoking communal passions. The greatest irony of his chequered career was that he was kept away from the celebrations surrounding the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya in January 2024, the culmination of the nationwide mass movement he had spearheaded more than three and a half decades earlier. Likewise, the Prime Minister's Office remained elusive throughout his political life. He was the eternal number two during the Vajpayee era and was later outmanoeuvred by his own protégé, Narendra Modi. His prime ministerial ambitions were finally extinguished when the BJP chose Modi to lead the party into the 2014 general elections. Soon afterwards, Advani, along with other senior leaders, was relegated to the Margadarshak Mandal, a glorified retirement home with no meaningful role in the party's decision-making. Yet, a decade later, he was conferred the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour. Advani remains the original charioteer who steered the BJP to national prominence during his years at the helm of the organisation, with his nationwide Rath Yatra permanently altering India's political landscape. The legacy of the BJP patriarch is complex, multi-layered, and open to widely differing interpretations.

Advani's brand of politics continues to evoke sharply divergent reactions. Many admire him for inspiring a cultural awakening among Hindus and for blending religious identity with a broader nationalist narrative. In contrast, others hold him responsible for deepening social polarisation and fuelling communal tensions in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition. In the present era of muscular Hindutva, however, Advani's political approach appears to have lost much of its earlier resonance. In a blog post published in 2019 and titled "Nation First, Party Next, Self Last", he cautioned the BJP against pursuing muscular majoritarianism and what he described as faux nationalism. He strongly disapproved of the tendency to brand critics as enemies of the nation.

However impressive his achievements may have been over a political career spanning nearly seven decades, both in the organisation and in government, certain moments exposed its inherent paradoxes. Despite being the face of the party for decades and the natural choice to lead it into the 2014 elections, he lost the internal leadership contest to a more charismatic Modi, who embodied a more aggressive version of Hindutva politics. Then, in 2017, the path to Rashtrapati Bhavan was effectively closed when the Supreme Court restored criminal conspiracy charges against him and other senior BJP leaders in the Babri Masjid demolition case.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's Contributions to Education Remain Everlasting

138th Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Celebrated Grandly""Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's Life is an Inspiration for Today's Youth: District Collector Pratima Singh""Medak: District Collector Pratima Singh stated that the life and contributions of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Union Education Minister and a renowned educationist, continue to inspire today's youth.""The 138th birth anniversary celebrations of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad were organised by the District Minority Welfare Department at the District Integrated Collector Camp Office on Wednesday.""On the occasion, District Collector Pratima Singh attended the programme, lit the ceremonial lamp in front of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's portrait, offered floral tributes, and paid homage to the great leader.""Speaking at the event, the District Collector stated that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was elected as the youngest President of the All India Congress Committee in 1923 at the age of just 35. She noted that his birth anniversary is celebrated as National Education Day across the country."

"She praised his remarkable contributions to the development of education and educational reforms as India's first Education Minister. She stated that he played a significant role in shaping modern educational policies and planning, laying the foundation for a new education system suited to the needs of the nation.""The Collector called upon the youth to draw inspiration from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's ideals, patriotism, and services to the education sector, give priority to education, and contribute to the development of the country.""She further stated that despite possessing a great personality and stature, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad dedicated his entire life to national service without any selfish motives. He actively participated in the freedom movement and fought tirelessly for India's independence despite numerous challenges.""Recognising his outstanding contributions to the nation, the Government of India honoured him with the country's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.""Officials concerned and others participated in the programme.

The Life of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Is an Inspiration - Says Additional Collector Dr P Sreeja.



"Khammam, November 11, Indian Chronicle.""On Wednesday, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Jayanti celebrations were held in a grand manner at the Collectorate Conference Hall. On the occasion, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr P Sreeja, along with Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy, paid floral tributes to the portrait of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Collector Sreeja stated that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's birth anniversary is celebrated across the country as National Education Day and Minority Welfare Day. She praised Azad's contributions to the education sector, his ideals and his fighting spirit, stating that they continue to serve as an inspiration to everyone. Azad played a significant role in India's freedom struggle and laid a strong foundation for the country's education system as the first Education Minister of independent India. She stated that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's contribution to the establishment of prestigious institutions such as the IITs, IISc, UGC and Sahitya Akademi remains unforgettable. The Additional Collector further said that Azad firmly believed that social transformation and comprehensive development could be achieved only through education. District Revenue Officer CH Ramamurthy, District Minority Welfare Officer Mohammed Mujahid, District Animal Husbandry Officer Dr Purandar, various departmental officers and staff members participated in the programme and paid their tributes to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Inspects Development Works at Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu

""RAMANTHAPUR, NOVEMBER 11 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, along with officials from the concerned departments, inspected the ongoing development and beautification works at Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu on Tuesday.During the inspection, the MLA reviewed the progress of the works and enquired about the details of the projects completed so far and those yet to be undertaken. He sought updates from the officials regarding the various development activities being carried out at the lake.Speaking on the occasion, the MLA instructed officials to develop and beautify the surroundings of the lake in a manner that provides a pleasant and attractive environment for local residents. He emphasized that utmost priority must be given to lake conservation and maintaining ecological balance.He further directed the officials to strictly maintain quality standards in every aspect of the development works and ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated deadline without compromising on quality.The MLA stated that efforts were being made in coordination with the government and concerned departmental officials to accelerate development activities aimed at providing better civic amenities and facilities for the benefit of the public.Officials from the concerned departments, staff members, local leaders and others participated in the inspection programme.



Massacre in the Name of Black Magic..!!



"Bhadradri Kothagudem, November 11, Indian Chronicle.""Even as India approaches eight decades of independence, the darkness of superstition continues to prevail in certain tribal areas. While the world is advancing rapidly in technology, innocent people in remote tribal hamlets continue to lose their lives in the name of witchcraft, black magic and sorcery. Whenever someone falls ill or a family faces problems, suspicions arise that someone has performed black magic against them. Such suspicions are eventually leading to murders. The recent brutal killing of two tribal men has shocked society. Police investigations have revealed that the two men were murdered on the suspicion that they were practising black magic, and their bodies were subsequently buried. When will these superstitions come to an end? Who is responsible for creating awareness among tribal communities? What are the government departments responsible for providing education, healthcare and scientific awareness doing? These questions have now become subjects of serious public discussion.""? Two Men Murdered on Suspicion of Practising Black Magic.""The brutal murder of Madakam Bhimaiah, a resident of Bussayigudem village in Allapalli mandal, Manuguru and Padam Masaiah, belonging to Budugula Guttigoya hamlet in Manuguru mandal, has created widespread shock. On the 7th of last month, the two men had gone to a house to participate in a religious ritual. After completing the ceremony, they were returning towards Bhusurayigudem. During their journey, five individuals allegedly attacked them on the suspicion that they were practising black magic, according to the police investigation. The investigation revealed that both men died in the attack. It also came to light that their bodies were subsequently buried underground. The fact that mere suspicion led to the deaths of two people has caused serious concern among local residents. It is unfortunate that the situation has reached a stage where people are willing to take human lives based on baseless superstitious beliefs. Believing that illnesses, financial difficulties and family problems are caused by black magic is a dangerous tendency. Society needs to reflect seriously to prevent such incidents from recurring.""? Who Will Create Awareness in Tribal Hamlets?""Government departments must formulate a comprehensive action plan to eradicate superstitions in remote tribal areas. Officials from the Tribal Welfare, Education and Medical and Health Departments should work in coordination to conduct special awareness programmes. Village meetings should be organised in every tribal hamlet to educate people about the frauds and misconceptions associated with witchcraft, black magic and sorcery. People must be encouraged to consult doctors whenever they face health problems instead of approaching sorcerers or faith healers. Scientific thinking should be cultivated among children from the school level itself. Special programmes should also be organised to improve literacy and social awareness among adults. Strict legal action must be taken against those who harass innocent people in the name of superstitions. No one has the right to punish another person based merely on suspicion. Only when the light of education spreads across tribal regions can such inhuman incidents be prevented. Black magic does not kill people, but superstitious beliefs about it are taking innocent lives.

Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak Provide Financial Support for Girls Marriages



- MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu.""Pinapaka, November 11, Indian Chronicle.""Pinapaka MLA and Chairman of the Telangana Legislative Assembly's ST Welfare Committee, Payam Venkateshwarlu, participated in a cheque distribution programme organised at the Burgampahad Mandal Market Yard for beneficiaries of the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes. On the occasion, he distributed cheques to eligible beneficiaries under the two schemes. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu said that the Telangana Government was extending financial assistance through the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes to ensure that the marriages of daughters do not become a financial burden on poor and middle-class families. He stated that the government was implementing these schemes to support the parents of daughters and ensure that wedding celebrations take place happily in their families. He further said that the state government was implementing several welfare schemes with the objective of public welfare. He urged public representatives and officials to work in coordination to ensure that government benefits reach every eligible person. He also advised the beneficiaries to make proper use of the financial assistance provided by the government. MPDO, MRO, officials from various departments, Mandal President P Sudhakar Reddy, senior district and mandal-level leaders, Sarpanches, Deputy Sarpanches, Ward Members, women leaders, youth leaders, Congress party workers and beneficiaries, among others, participated in the programme.

09207: Drinking Water Wasted on Roads for Two Months:



Official Apathy or Contractor Negligence?"-- Prajavani Voluntary Organization Stages Protest Over Officials' Failure to Respond to Complaints""""UPPAL, NOVEMBER 11 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):At a time when the government is urging people to conserve drinking water amid concerns over possible water shortages due to the impact of El Niño, precious drinking water has reportedly been flowing onto the roads for the past two months in Sriram Colony, under the Uppal Circle limits. Expressing serious concern over the negligence of the concerned officials, representatives of the Prajavani Voluntary Organization staged a protest in the colony, demanding immediate action to resolve the drinking water pipeline leakage."Speaking on the occasion, the organization's representatives stated that the government has been creating awareness among the public about the importance of conserving every drop of water, warning of possible difficulties in drinking water supply in the coming days due to the El Niño effect. However, they expressed dismay that valuable drinking water has been continuously wasted on the roads in Sriram Colony for the past two months due to pipeline leakage.They alleged that despite bringing the issue to the attention of the concerned officials several times, no steps had been taken to resolve the problem. They further warned that pipeline leakage could lead to the contamination of drinking water, posing a serious risk to the health of colony residents."The representatives criticized the officials and contractors for their negligence, stating that a problem that could have been resolved immediately had remained unattended for 10 to 15 days despite repeated complaints. They questioned who would take responsibility and initiate action against the officials and contractors concerned while residents continued to suffer."The Prajavani Voluntary Organization urged senior officials to intervene immediately and resolve the drinking water leakage problem in Sriram Colony on a war footing. It also demanded that water wastage be prevented and a safe and clean drinking water supply be ensured for the residents.The protest was attended by Erram Srinivas, Teddu Ravinder, R.P. Raghu Prakash, Venkat, Goli Krishnaiah, Enmanagandla Srinivas, Vijaya, Saritha, Ammaji and others."

RTI Act is Crucial for Transparency and Accountability



Medak, November 11, 2026""RTI Act is Crucial for Transparency and Accountability: DRO Ambadas Rajeshwar""Medak: District Revenue Officer (DRO) Ambadas Rajeshwar stated that the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency and accountability in government administration.""Speaking at a training programme held at the Collectorate office on Wednesday, he said that the MCRHRD Institute is conducting special training programmes at the district level for Public Information Officers (PIOs) and Assistant Public Information Officers (APIOs) to strengthen the implementation of the RTI Act.""On the occasion, DRO Ambadas Rajeshwar explained that information must be provided within 30 days as prescribed under the Act. He emphasized that the law is essential for promoting transparency and accountability in government functioning.""He also stated that detailed awareness was provided to the participants regarding the provisions of the RTI Act, application procedures, and the rights of citizens to obtain information.""Shankar, Public Information Officers (PIOs), Assistant PIOs, officials, and employees participated in the session.

KANDI SHRAVAN KUMAR REDDY ATTENDS WEDDING CEREMONY AND BLESSES THE NEWLYWEDS

- Habsiguda Division Congress President participates in the wedding ceremony of Youth Congress leader Bhukya Vinod Naik and Rekha""""HABSIGUDA, NOVEMBER 11 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Habsiguda Division Congress Party President Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy attended the wedding ceremony held at KSNR Gardens and Function Hall in Aushapur, Ghatkesar Mandal, on Wednesday as the chief guest."The wedding was that of Bhukya Vinod Naik, son of Bhukya Anand Naik and Swaroopa of Habsiguda Street No. 8, and Rekha, daughter of Tejavath Gamma and Govind Naik of Bhuvanagiri.On the occasion, Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy blessed the newlyweds and wished them a happy, prosperous and blissful married life.Habsiguda Division Youth Congress President Vasu Naik, Suman Naik and others also attended the ceremony and conveyed their best wishes to the newly married couple.



Expedite Development Works for Godavari Pushkarams





Endowments Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyer.""Bhadrachalam, November 11, Indian Chronicle.""Keeping the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams in view, Endowments Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyer directed officials of the concerned departments to expedite and complete the development works being undertaken along the Godavari riverbanks in Bhadrachalam. These include the development of bathing ghats, improvements around the temple and other infrastructure facilities. On Wednesday, she inspected the ongoing development works at Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple and the construction of the new Godavari Pushkaram Ghat in Bhadrachalam. Later, along with Endowments Department Commissioner Hanumantha Rao, District Collector Ankit, District SP Rohit Raj and Sub-Collector Mrinal Shrestha, she conducted a review meeting in the Sub-Collector's office with district officials, engineering officials from various departments, consultants, architects, contractors and committee members. During the meeting, she conducted a detailed review of the progress of works department-wise, the works completed so far, pending works, challenges being faced and the measures required for their timely completion. Speaking on the occasion, she said that lakhs of devotees from across the country and abroad would visit Bhadrachalam to have darshan of Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy during the Godavari Pushkarams. She instructed officials to work in coordination to provide devotees with convenient darshan facilities, safe bathing areas and all necessary infrastructure without causing any inconvenience. She stressed the need to ensure proper roads, drinking water supply, electricity, sanitation, drainage, medical facilities, security, transportation and fire safety arrangements. She particularly instructed officials to identify and acquire suitable land for developing a Pushkara Vanam (Pushkaram Park), establish separate parking facilities for VIPs and general devotees, and make dormitory accommodation available for pilgrims."As the State Government has released ?348.59 crore towards temple development works and the construction of Pushkaram ghats, she directed officials of all departments to complete their assigned works within the stipulated deadlines while maintaining quality standards. She instructed them to continuously monitor the implementation of the projects to prevent delays. She also stressed the need for better coordination among departments and immediate resolution of any issues that arise during the execution of works. With the objective of making Bhadrachalam fully prepared for the Godavari Pushkarams, she called upon all officials to work with collective responsibility and complete all development works by Sri Rama Navami. She further instructed officials to immediately bring any inter-departmental issues to the attention of the District Collector and Sub-Collector for resolution, making it clear that the works should not be stopped under any circumstances."Temple Executive Officer Damodhar Rao, R&B Executive Engineer Nageswara Rao, DPO Anusha, Transco Superintending Engineer Mahender, DMHO Tukaram Rathod, DAO Bhagawan Reddy, Tahsildar Ravi Kumar, Bhadrachalam Sarpanch Punem Krishna, and officials and staff from various departments participated in the meeting.

Power Supply Disruption in Chilkanagar Limits Today



-- Power shutdown from 11 AM to 4 PM on November 12 due to shifting of electricity lines onto towers-- Chilkanagar AE Vinay Kumar Reddy""CHILKANAGAR, NOVEMBER 11 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):Electricity supply will be interrupted in several areas under the Chilkanagar limits on Thursday, November 12, due to the shifting of existing power lines onto towers, electricity department officials announced.Chilkanagar Assistant Engineer (Operations) Vinay Kumar Reddy stated in a press release that power supply to areas served by the Hemanagar feeder would remain suspended from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.The affected areas include Sai Bhavani Nagar, Gayatri Hills, Vasavi Nagar, Mallaiah Nagar, Reddy's Colony, Anusree Nagar, Tirumala Meadows, Saanvi Heights, and parts of North Balaji Hills.The electricity department has advised consumers in these areas to take necessary precautions and make alternative arrangements in advance to avoid inconvenience during the scheduled shutdown.AE Vinay Kumar Reddy expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to consumers and appealed to the public to cooperate with electricity department staff during the maintenance and shifting works.

District Collector Holds Meeting with Political Party Representatives on Special Intensive Revision and MLC Voter Registration.





"Khammam, November 11, Indian Chronicle.""Khammam District Collector Divakara TS stated that the preparation of transparent electoral rolls is possible only through the active participation and coordination of all political parties. On Wednesday, the Collector conducted a review meeting with representatives of various recognised political parties at the Collectorate Conference Hall regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR-2026) of electoral rolls and voter registration for the Graduate MLC elections. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the Special Intensive Revision process was progressing rapidly in the district in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. He stated that the Election Commission had provided another opportunity for voters whose names were removed from the draft electoral rolls under the ASD/D category - covering voters found absent, permanently shifted, deceased, duplicate or already registered elsewhere - to get their names included in the final electoral roll. Across the five Assembly constituencies of the district - Khammam, Palair, Madhira, Wyra and Sathupalli - a total of 1,57,854 voters had been identified under the ASD/D category. Of these 1,01,549 voters had permanently shifted to other places. 33,380 voters were deceased. 11,004 voters were already registered in other constituencies. 11,371 voters were found absent. The Collector informed that notices had been issued to all these voters as part of the revision process. Out of the total 1,75,840 notices issued so far, 1,75,753 had been served and enquiries conducted. He stated that the notice enquiry process would be completed by November 26 and the final electoral roll would be published on November 30. The list of deleted voters had been made available on the notice boards of polling stations, Gram Panchayats and Mandal Parishad offices, as well as on the Chief Electoral Officer's website. He said that every eligible voter could apply for inclusion of their name by submitting a special Enumeration Form to the concerned ERO/AERO/BLO within their present residential jurisdiction.""? Graduate MLC Voter Registration Progress.""Reviewing the progress of voter registration (Form-18) for the Warangal–Khammam–Nalgonda Graduate MLC Constituency, the Collector stated that the deadline for receiving applications had ended on November 6. A total of 1,09,942 Form-18 applications had been received across the district. Of these 52,163 applications had been approved. 2,353 applications had been rejected as per the prescribed rules. Field-level verification of the remaining 55,426 applications was being expedited by EROs, AEROs and BLOs. He stated that preparation of the draft electoral roll would be completed by November 20, the draft voter list would be published on November 25, and the final electoral roll for the MLC constituency would be released on December 30. The Collector further said that pending applications relating to new voter registration (Form-6), objections (Form-7) and corrections or modifications (Form-8) were being processed to ensure their disposal within the stipulated time. He informed that proposals had been submitted for establishing new polling stations in accordance with the rules for conducting the MLC elections. If political parties had any objections to these proposals, they were requested to submit them in writing by Saturday. The Collector urged political parties to actively involve their Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in the process and extend cooperation to ensure that not even a single eligible voter was left out of the electoral rolls. Additional Collectors Dr P Sreeja and P Srinivasa Reddy, Kalluru Sub-Collector Ajay Yadav, Khammam RDO N Srinivas, SDC Sadanandam, Collectorate Election Deputy Tahsildar Ansari, Aam Aadmi Party representative Swarna Subba Rao, BSP representative Velpula Ramaiah, TDP representative Paladugu TR Krishna Prasad, BJP representative V Rajesh, BRS representatives B Venugopal and Mankena Ramesh, CPM representative R Prakash, CPI(M) representative A Viplav Kumar, INC representative Annam Gopal Rao, officials and others attended the meeting.

Licences of Nine Restaurants Temporarily Suspended During Food Safety Inspections in Bhadrachalam.





"Bhadrachalam, November 11, Indian Chronicle.""As part of the TG SAFE programme, Food Safety Department officials conducted special inspections in Bhadrachalam town on Friday with the objective of ensuring that safe and quality food is served to the public. During the inspections, the licences of nine restaurants were temporarily suspended for failing to comply with prescribed food safety standards. Action was initiated against the concerned establishments based on the violations and deficiencies identified during the inspections. The restaurants whose licences were temporarily suspended include Sai Durga, Geethanjali, Gouthami Spicy, Raghavendra, Swathi, Annapurna, Naga Satya Biryani Point, SRK and Anil Restaurant. Similarly, improvement notices were issued to Kosala, Chandamama and New Vennela Mess restaurants, directing their managements to rectify the deficiencies identified during the inspections. During the inspections, officials discarded a total of 565 kilograms of raw food materials that were found unfit for consumption and not meeting quality standards. Officials thoroughly examined various aspects of the restaurants, including food storage practices, food preparation methods, cleanliness of the premises and the quality of food items. The officials made it clear that the managements of the concerned restaurants must completely rectify all the deficiencies identified during the inspections. They stated that the licences of the restaurants whose operations were temporarily suspended would be restored only after conducting fresh inspections and confirming that all prescribed food safety standards were being fully complied with. Officials advised all food business operators to strictly follow food safety regulations, maintain proper hygiene and adhere to prescribed quality standards. They warned that strict action would be taken as per the rules against establishments whose practices pose a threat to public health. The officials further stated that inspections under the TG SAFE programme would continue regularly in Bhadrachalam town to ensure the availability of safe and hygienic food for the public.

Yaseer, Mitra John Bunyan Honoured with Maulana Azad Excellence Awards

"Hyderabad, November 11 (Indian Chronicle) : Eminent educationists Dr.Sheikh Yaseer Aiman and Mitra John Bunyan were conferred the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Excellence Awards-2026 on the occasion of National Education Day. Prof. Etikala Purushotham, Vice-Chairman of the Telangana Council of Higher Education, attended the programme as the chief guest and presented the awards. Speaking on the occasion, Dr.Raja Narayana Mudiraj, president of the Telangana Intellectuals Forum, said the awardees were selected in recognition of their 25 years of dedicated service to the field of education. OU Additional Director Dr.Akhtar Ali, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University Professor Shakeela Kannam, Prof. Srirama Venkatesh, G.Venugopal, Bichukari Surya, Meegada Swapna Rajesh, K.Sandep and others attended the programme.



Bhoomi Pooja for Sri Sita Rama Temple Construction in Kishtapur

MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy Performs Bhoomi Pooja""Medak district.kolcharam : Narsapur MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy stated that the construction of temples plays an important role in promoting spirituality and fostering unity among people in villages.""MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy performed Bhoomi Pooja and formally initiated the construction works of Sri Sita Rama Temple in Kishtapur village of Kolcharam Mandal. She appealed to the villagers to extend their cooperation and support for the temple construction with devotion and dedication.""She stated that the construction of a temple in the village is a welcome development, as it will serve as a spiritual centre for devotees and also provide a platform for villagers to come together in unity. She further advised that the temple construction works should be completed in a planned manner while maintaining quality standards.""



Today's Education System Should Be Skill-Based- - Students Must Develop Discipline, Moral Values and Social Responsibility Along with Education



-- Government Degree College Uppal Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar""UPPAL, NOVEMBER 11 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"Government Degree College Uppal Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar emphasized the need to introduce changes in the education system in accordance with present-day requirements and give priority to skill-based education. He advised students not to limit themselves to textbook knowledge but to develop various skills that would help them explore and secure better employment opportunities."National Education Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on November 11 at Government Degree College, Uppal, under the aegis of the Department of Social Sciences, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister and a recipient of the Bharat Ratna. On the occasion, floral tributes were paid to the portrait of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad."Addressing the gathering, Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar praised the invaluable contributions of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to the development of India's education system and described his services as unforgettable. He stated that education is a fundamental right of every individual and plays a vital role in establishing equality and social justice in society, while also contributing to the nation's overall development across various sectors."He urged students to cultivate discipline, moral values and social responsibility alongside academic education."College Vice-Principal Ch. Satyanarayana, Associate Professor G. Tirupathaiah and Political Science Assistant Professor P.V.S. Vijay Kumar highlighted Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's contributions to the education sector and explained his ideals and vision."History Department Guest Faculty Dr. Potharaju Venkateshwarlu, faculty members S. Sravathi, Anusha and others participated in the programme and explained the significance of National Education Day. They expressed their hope that students would make education their greatest weapon and strive to achieve higher goals.A large number of college teaching and non-teaching staff members and students participated in the programme.

Woman dies after jumping from moving bus in Adilabad

GNS News Agency, Nov 11A

dilabad: A 30-year-old woman died after allegedly jumping off a moving TGSRTC bus at Junni in Echoda mandal on Wednesday. The exact reason for her taking the extreme step is yet to be ascertained.

Family members said that Arthi, wife of Ravi from Armoor in Nizamabad district, jumped off the moving bus after it reached Junni village. She was immediately shifted to RIMS-Adilabad, where doctors declared her brought dead. She was travelling with her mother on the bus from Nirmal to Adilabad when the incident occurred.

It was learnt that family disputes could have driven her to take the extreme step. Police said that no complaint had been received by evening. Hailing from Adilabad, she was married to a man from Kinwat in Maharashtra.

4-year-old sexually assaulted in Goa, minister says 90% such crimes by outsiders



GNS News Agency, Nov 11

Two sisters were found dead in Goa. Probe found they had saved money for a funeralThe minor girl was rushed to a hospital for treatment, where her condition is reported to be stable, said police. A four-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted in North Goa on Sunday, police said.Even as the police continue their search for the accused, who remains unidentified so far, Goa Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar said that "90 per cent" of such crimes in the state are committed by "outsiders".

"Such crimes should not happen in Goa or anywhere else in the country. The person who has committed this crime has a demonic mentality. Goa is a tourist state. People from outside the state come here and 90 per cent of people involved in such cases are those who have come to Goa from outside [the state]," Tawadkar said.He said people could not be stopped from coming to Goa to earn their livelihood. "The government is playing its role to control such crimes. Police should also tighten enforcement in the state to prevent such incidents," Tawadkar added.Police said multiple teams were conducting raids to trace the accused

The minor girl was rushed to a hospital for treatment, where her condition is reported to be stable, said police.According to the police, the minor, daughter of a daily-wage labourer, was found crying on Sunday night by a passerby near a taxi stand after which locals informed the police.Officers said preliminary probe suggested that the accused abducted the minor girl and took her to the basement of a dilapidated building next to a lane, which is used as a dumpster, and raped her.Some suspects rounded upRahul Gupta, Superintendent of Police (SP), North Goa, told the media, "Several teams are working to trace the accused person. Some suspects have been rounded up. The minor girl's condition is stable."The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights took suo motu cognizance of the incident and directed the police to conduct a thorough, impartial and time-bound investigation in the case.The Commission said the child must receive all necessary medical assistance, psychological counselling, care and support during treatment and investigation.

Pumped hydro project in Panna-Ranipur tiger corridor gets in-principle forest nod



A Union Environment Ministry panel has recommended an in-principle approval to divert 511 hectares of forest land within the Panna-Ranipur Tiger Corridor to make way for the 1,800 MW Panari Pumped Storage Project.The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) recommended clearance for the project by Sri Siddharth Infratech and Services spanning Satna and Panna districts during its October 23 meeting, chaired by the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, Environment Ministry.The tiger corridor connects the forests of the Panna Tiger Reserve, across the Satna and Panna districts, to the Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh.Incidentally, the Ranipur Tiger Reserve was notified in 2022 to compensate for the forest submergence in Panna's core zone caused by the Ken-Betwa river linking project.

"A total of 211.7 hectares of the proposed area falls under compartment P-132, 133, 135, 136, 137, which is part of NTCA-approved North Eastern Tiger Corridor of Panna Tiger Reserve," the meeting's minutes noted.As per tentative enumeration figures, approximately 1.32 lakh trees are proposed to be felled, including 70,240 in Satna and 62,278 in the North Panna forest divisions.The project was first taken up for appraisal on February 27, but a decision was deferred to await recommendations from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife. Later, the SC-NBWL, chaired by the Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, recommended the project for wildlife clearance with specific conditions during its July 9 meeting.

The project will consist of two reservoirs, which are to be constructed afresh. The upper reservoir is planned in Panari village under Devendra Nagar Range of North Panna Forest division in Panna district, and the lower reservoir is planned on the Baghain river, in Barondha range of the Satna forest division, the FAC minutes noted.A pumped storage project uses the elevation difference between an upper and a lower reservoir. During periods of low electricity demand, water is pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir to store energy. When electricity demand peaks, the stored water is released back down through turbines to generate power.The NBWL had appraised the project as it lies within an "ecological sensitive tiger landscape and supports movement of tigers, leopards, dholes, wolves, sloth bears, gaurs, sambar and chital", with some components overlapping the satellite core areas of the Panna Tiger Reserve.The conditions specified included the construction of three 30-meter-wide wildlife overpasses across the frequently used Baghain River. While recommending the project, the SC-NBWL also noted reservations expressed by field officers regarding the possible fragmentation of the wildlife corridor.Against the diversion of the 511.91 hectares of the forest land, the Madhya Pradesh government has identified 531.84 hectares of non-forest land as compensatory afforestation (CA) land, the FAC minutes noted. "Based on site suitability, plantation is proposed over 527.88 hectares only, and the CA scheme has accordingly been prepared for 527.88 hectares," the minutes stated.

'Despite four fire brigades…': MP collector apologises as blaze wipes out family

GNS News Agency, Nov 11

Six members of a family, including three children and a two-month-old infant, were killed after a massive fire engulfed a three-storey residential-cum-commercial building in Barhi town of Madhya Pradesh's Katni district on Diwali night.The accident raised questions about the local fire brigade's preparedness after the fire tenders pressed into service were allegedly unable to douse the blaze, despite several hours.Faced with angry residents, Katni Collector Ashish Tiwari apologised to the victims' family and residents, acknowledging that the administration could not save the six lives despite deploying four fire tenders. #WATCH | Katni, MP: State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) official Vijayansh Chaudhary says, "The rescue operation has been underway for about five and a half hours; the active phase itself has lasted between three and a half and four hours. The entire rescue operation has been carried out using fire brigade vehicles. No, there is no active fire. However, smoke is still rising, which is causing concern among the people; we are taking continuous measures to address these concerns so that the public does not face any distress... Six bodies have been confirmed as recovered.""Despite four fire brigade vehicles being at the spot, the six lives could not be saved. I apologise for it. Despite the fire tenders and rescue teams being on the ground, due to some reasons, the lives could not be saved," Tiwari said.He assured them that action would be taken to ensure such a situation is not repeated.

'Will send fire personnel to Nagpur for training'The Collector said fire brigade personnel would be "sent for training at the Fire Institute in neighbouring Nagpur." He promised improvements in facilities at the local government hospital after residents complained that no doctor was available there during the emergency.The fire broke out around 12.15 am on Monday at the ground-floor shop of Puran Agrawal – a trader dealing in crockery and plastic goods. The building, which housed the shop on the lower floor and residential premises above it, was stocked with goods for the Diwali season. The blaze spread rapidly through the three-storey structure, trapping family members who were sleeping upstairs.According to police, the administration received information about the blaze around 12.30 am, and the first fire brigade reached the spot by 12.45 am.Additional fire tenders were subsequently requisitioned, with a request reaching the control room around 1.30 am. However, highly inflammable material stored in the shop made it difficult to contain the flames.Preliminary investigation into the incident has zeroed in on the fire originating from earthen diyas left burning during Diwali celebrations at the ground-floor shop. However, an investigation will establish the exact cause.Madhya Pradesh: Katni Collector Ashish Tiwari says, "On the night of Diwali, a tragic incident occurred. A fire broke out in a house, resulting in the loss of six lives, while two people managed to escape safely. Information about the fire was received around 12:30 AM, and the fire brigade arrived at the scene by 12:45 AM. They began their operations, and subsequently, additional fire tenders were called in; a request reached the control room around 1:30 AM, leading to the arrival of further firefighting units. Everyone present—especially the local residents and the youth—made significant efforts to contain the blaze. Unfortunately, the fire could not be brought under control, partly because the crockery



materials stored on the lower floor were highly flammable. Once the fire was partially brought under control, walls were broken through to rescue those trapped inside. By 5:00 AM, the SDRF team also arrived with their full contingent…

The administration has already stepped in… Full support will be provided by the administration, including financial assistance…"Fire tenders were pressed into service from different areas, including Vijayraghavgarh and Kymore besides Katni. The administration is probing allegations that some of the firefighting equipment had malfunctioned at the time.The building's structure also complicated the rescue operation. It reportedly had only one entry and exit point, making it difficult for firefighters and rescue personnel to reach the upper floors. According to Katni Superintendent of Police Abhinay Vishwakarma, the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) team, deployed alongside local personnel, "eventually had to drill a passage through an adjoining building to reach those trapped inside."The rescue operation continued for several hours. Local residents, including several youths, also joined in the efforts to contain the blaze and help the rescue teams.Police said walls were broken through after the fire had been partially brought under control to reach those trapped inside. The SDRF team arrived with its full contingent around 5 am. Eye witnesses also reported the infant was found in the arms of the dead mother. The fire was finally contained after five hours.

The six deceased were identified as Puran Agrawal (77), his wife Chandrakala (75), daughter-in-law Poonam, granddaughters Arya (14) and Anvi (6), and a two-month-old infant. Two members of the family, including Puran Agrawal's son Ritesh, managed to escape.Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the deaths and announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh for the family of each deceased person. This is the second fire incident that has claimed an entire family in the state on the same day.The government will also provide compensation for the families of the six people who died in Seoni district after a fire engulfed a three-storey residential building in Chhapara town.The fire broke out between 4 am and 4.30 am at the residence of goldsmith Kundan Lal Soni. Ten people were inside the house when the blaze erupted, leaving six dead.The family was reportedly asleep when the fire broke out, leaving them with little time to escape.The family lived on the first floor of the building, while a grocery shop operated from the ground floor. Officials suspect the family died due to suffocation after the fire broke out. Fire officials suspect a short circuit may have caused the fire.Those killed have been identified as Kundan Lal Soni (75), his wife Rajkumari Soni (65), and relatives Ritu Soni (42), Smriti Soni (40), Surya Soni (45), and Aditya Soni (16).

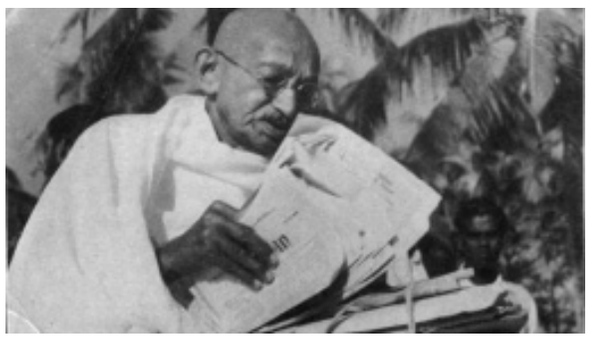
How Gandhiji wanted independent India to mark its first Diwali

Three days before independent India's first Diwali, Mahatma Gandhi responded to a woman who was herself a refugee. Her suggestion was that people should put aside their sorrows and celebrate the festival. Gandhi disagreed.A family overtaken by grief, he argued, would normally refrain from festivities. Why should the suffering of displaced people be treated as someone else's sorrow, not one's own?"Break through the crust of limitation, and India becomes one family. If all limitations vanish, the whole world becomes one family, which it really is," he wrote in a message read out after prayers on November 9, 1947.

Diwali fell on November 12 that year, 89 days after Independence. Partition had uprooted families. Communal violence had driven people into camps. The new government faced the task of providing shelter and relief. Gandhi's messages before, during, and after the festival asked what celebration could mean amid that suffering.Gandhi observed silence on November 9, so his written speech was read out after the prayers. The text, reproduced in Post Prayer Speeches – Part II, refers to a letter from a woman refugee. An editorial note summarises her suggestion: the first Diwali in independent India should be celebrated by setting aside the sorrows of the past.Gandhi admired her spirit but rejected the suggestion. His advice against festivities, he explained, arose from the refugee crisis affecting lakhs of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, as well as shortages of food and clothing.The question of celebrating Diwali was therefore bound up with obligations towards those who had lost their homes. Within days, he would address one of the largest gatherings of displaced people over the radio.Delhi's camps and railway station showed the scale of the crisis.

Contemporary reports estimated that 1.3 lakh refugees from West Pakistan had reached Delhi within a week of Independence. The total number of Hindu and Sikh refugees who came to the city after Partition has been estimated at around five lakh.Muslim residents of Delhi were also being displaced. Families sought safety at Purana Qila, Nizamuddin, Humayun's Tomb and Jama Masjid. In a February 2020 report for The Indian Express, Atikh Rashid drew on administrative records and historian Vazira Zamindar's The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia to describe how violence and the struggle over housing prevented displaced Muslims from returning to their homes.On November 4, eight days before Diwali, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel about refugees arriving in Delhi from East Punjab."The condition of East Punjab refugees in Delhi is also very bad. Some of the small camps, like Wavell Canteen, are full to overflowing and the railway station is in a very bad way," he wrote.Although the government had been anxious not to open another camp, Nehru saw little alternative. "If we do not do this, these people, wandering about Delhi and squatting down at odd places, will do harm to themselves and to us."His correspondence also reflected concern about relations between communities. In a November 1 letter to the Maharaja of Patiala, Nehru referred to growing estrangement between Hindus and Sikhs and reports of Hindus leaving Amritsar and its neighbourhood."We can never build up a strong and stable nation if we encourage communal or separatist tendencies," he wrote.

On November 12, Gandhi visited Broadcasting House in New Delhi to address refugees at Kurukshetra. Akashvani records this as his first and only visit to the Delhi broadcasting studio. It was not his first radio address. He had also broadcast during his visit to London for the Round Table Conference in 1931.The Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti's



chronology gives the time of the Kurukshetra broadcast as afternoon. Gandhi also attended the Congress Working Committee meeting and addressed the prayer meeting that day.The English text of his broadcast opens: "My suffering brothers and sisters." In the address, subsequently published in Harijan on November 23, 1947, Gandhi said he had been distressed to hear that more than two lakh refugees had reached Kurukshetra, with more arriving.

He had wanted to visit them, but the Congress Working Committee meetings required his presence in Delhi. Ghanshyamdas Birla had suggested a radio message instead."To suffer with the afflicted and try to relieve their suffering has been my life's work," Gandhi said.He acknowledged the hardship of people without shelter as the cold intensified, spoke of the government's relief efforts, and urged the camp's residents to face their suffering with patience. His Diwali message placed responsibilities on those providing relief and on the refugees themselves:Today is Diwali. But there can be no lighting of chirags for you or for anyone. Our Diwali will be best celebrated by service of you, and you will celebrate it by living in your Camp as brothers and looking upon everyone as your own."The address also dealt with the daily work of camp life. Gandhi urged residents to help maintain sanitation, share rations fairly and cooperate with camp officials. His appeal for service included the ways in which displaced people could support one another.At his prayer meeting that evening, Gandhi turned to Diwali's religious meaning. Rama and Ravana, he explained, represented the forces of good and evil. The festival's illuminations had to be accompanied by a change within.But alas! Today there is no Ramarajya in India. So how can we celebrate Diwali?" he asked.Kashmir's suffering also entered his account of the day. Gandhi described Nehru's return after seeing the wounded region. Nehru had brought him flowers from Baramulla, a gift Gandhi cherished, even as he lamented the "loot, arson and bloodshed" that had spoiled its beauty.

Gandhi asked those gathered whether they could regard every sufferer, whether Hindu, Sikh or Muslim, as their own brother or sister. His appeal extended to minorities on both sides of the new border:"Diwali cannot be celebrated till you bring back all the Muslims who have fled in fear. Pakistan also would not survive if it does not do likewise with the Hindus and Sikhs who have run away from there."On November 13, Gandhi returned to speaking about the festival. He referred to Delhi's reputation for elaborate Diwali illuminations, but said he was pleased to hear that this year, people had understood this was no time for such celebrations. Oil lamps were lit in some places; electric lights were few. He said he was relying on information reaching him rather than his own observations.If the atmosphere changed and Hindus and Muslims lived together in amity, he said, they would have the right to celebrate the next Diwali with illuminations.

Ladakh MP questions logic of polls in winters: 'Many migrate to warmer regions'

Ladakh MP Mohmad Haneefa Jan has written to Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, questioning the "logic" of holding panchayat and urban local bodies (ULB) elections in the Union Territory in winter months, when a number of people migrate to warmer regions.Social and religious groups in Kargil, along with Jan, have also called for a complete shutdown in the region on Tuesday citing "bureaucratic overreach."

The MP said that holding the elections in the winter months could deprive many eligible voters of a fair opportunity to participate in the democratic process.In his letter, the MP sought to draw the administration's attention to the critical "geographical, climatic, logistical and administrative considerations" that, he said, must be taken into account before announcing the schedule for the forthcoming elections to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs).The administration had announced that panchayat elections throughout the UT will be held on November 21. The administration had also notified delimitation for 100 constituencies that will form part of the newly formed Autonomous Hill Development Councils, elections to which are yet to be announced although they are speculated to be held in December.

'Many students also remain outside'Jan highlighted that a significant section of Ladakh's population, including senior citizens, traders, businesspersons and other residents, traditionally undertakes seasonal migration to warmer regions during the winter months. A considerable number of students also remain outside Ladakh for higher education, competitive examination preparation, and other academic pursuits.Therefore, the MP said in his letter, "Holding elections during this period, without adequately addressing these circumstances, could deprive many eligible voters of a fair opportunity to participate in the democratic process."He said that democratic elections must not only be conducted within the constitutional and legal framework but must also ensure effective, equitable and meaningful participation of all sections of society. "Any electoral exercise undertaken without adequately considering the prevailing circumstances could lead to avoidable disenfranchisement, public inconvenience and legitimate grievances," he said.On Monday, representatives from various socio-religious groups as well as MP Jan announced a complete shutdown for Tuesday throughout Kargil, barring schools and essential services.

'25% of the population moves out'Addressing the press in Kargil, Kargil Democratic Alliance co-chairman Sajjad Kargili said, "About 25 per cent of our population moves out of Ladakh due to harsh weather conditions, despite that we are hearing that UT administration wants to conduct LAHDC polls in December. This is an unacceptable move."He also accused the administration of forcing its decisions on the people of Ladakh, urging it to ensure democratic representation in the Union Territory in its true form.

Qualcomm begins Bengaluru layoffs, Hyderabad may follow

New Delhi: US technology corporation Qualcomm has started laying off employees in India as part of a broader global workforce restructuring programme.The exercise is expected to affect around 1,000 employees, or nearly 5-6 per cent of its workforce in the country, according to reports.

Layoffs apparently began at Qualcomm's Bengaluru operations and primarily affected senior engineers and employees with several years of experience, reports said.The restructuring is expected to extend to the company's engineering and research centres in Hyderabad, Delhi-NCR and Chennai in the coming days, they added.Affected employees received severance pay equivalent to three months' salary, with additional compensation linked to their tenure, reports said. Employees who sign their exit documents within three days have reportedly been offered an additional month's salary as an incentive, they added.Qualcomm has not publicly confirmed the severance arrangements.Qualcomm chief executive Cristiano Amon had announced a global workforce restructuring on October 20, aimed at reducing headcount following its annual performance review process.The company described the exercise as performance-focused, aimed at strengthening accountability and aligning its workforce with evolving business priorities. However, in India, senior engineers and experienced employees have reportedly been laid off, raising concerns that the exercise may also involve organisational rationalisation and cost-cutting measures.Employees may be selected based on individual performance ratings, team-level assessments and senior management opinions, including those of US-based business leaders, the reports said.

Amid concerns over data gaps, higher AQI on private platforms, CPCB clarifies



GNS News Agency, Nov 11

The Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) air quality monitors could not capture the spike in particulate matter (PM) pollution on Diwali night as the analysers only measure in the range of 0–1,000 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³), and treats hourly readings beyond this calibration as "outside range", the pollution watchdog said on Tuesday in response to criticism of data gaps in pollution monitoring.Delhi recorded its worst Diwali-day air quality since 2021 on Sunday. As it hinted at a review of the system, the watchdog issued the clarification regarding the data gaps after 45 of the 59 monitoring stations had missing hourly readings for at least one pollutant.

The Indian Express on Monday reported that the CPCB portal stations recorded blank hourly particulate concentrations as the load of particulate matter, fine particles emitted through burning and combustion, exceeded 1,000 µg/m³. However, Delhi Pollution Control Committee's continuous monitoring data showed that multiple stations recorded values as high as 5,000 µg/m³ during the same period.In a statement on Tuesday, the pollution watchdog, under the Union Environment Ministry, said, "During extreme episodes, which are occasional like Diwali firecracker bursting, this may appear as a data gap at the particular station concerned, and those hours do not contribute to the 24-hour average of relevant pollutant for concerned station."

While acknowledging that monitoring instruments have advanced considerably, it added that "internal deliberations and consultations with respect to processing of data beyond system design range are underway", hinting at a review of the existing system.The statutory authority issued a two-page unsigned statement and said that concerns were raised in certain media reports on the reporting of AQI by the CPCB during and after Diwali, including capping of AQI at 500, data gaps at some monitoring stations in Delhi and differences with AQI shown by other platforms.It also sought to defend its existing National Air Quality Index (NAQI) in the face of criticism that it caps the upper limit at 500 by stating that similar methodologies are followed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and China. "The capping at 500 is thus a design feature of the index as has been evolved in 2015 methodology of NAQI in line with prevailing international practice including US EPA AQI scale," the CPCB's said in a two-page.It said that the upper limit of 500 represents the highest level of health concern, and therefore AQI above 500 indicates the same health risk and "extrapolation of the index would not alert the assigned health impact category." The CPCB statement, though, did not offer any explanation on the impacts of exposure to high-levels of pollutants in a short-duration. The NAQI was developed in 2015, it said, to communicate air quality status in easy-to-understand terms.

The methodologyExplaining the NAQI's methodology, CPCB said that AQI is generated every hour using sub-indices for eight pollutants – PM 2.5, PM 10, Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Ozone, Ammonia and Lead. Each hour's AQI comes from a running 24-hour average or eight-hours, in the case of ozone and carbon monoxide. However, a station needs at least 16 hours of data in 24 to generate a sub-index and at least three pollutants are required for an AQI, with one of them PM 2.5 or PM 10. The highest sub-index among the eight pollutants is reflected as the AQI.On the perception that private apps show higher AQI, CPCB said that different platforms draw data from government and non-government sources, including monitoring techniques which are not prescribed under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2009. These include low-cost sensors which have calibration and data quality assurance limitations, the CPCB said."Their methodologies may also apply breakpoints different from the NAQI. For example, some platforms derive AQI from instantaneous hourly readings, at times from low-cost sensors and other sources. Such values cannot be directly compared with the NAQI, which is based on 24-hour/8-hour averaged, calibrated and quality-assured data," it added.The higher AQI on other apps, as per the CPCB, may hold during short peaks when values rise sharply, but when concentrations fall, they show a lower AQI than the national index, as the latter reflects exposure of preceding 24 hours, it added.A breakpoint is the specific pollution concentration threshold used in AQI calculations. By comparing the actual, measured concentration of a pollutant against these fixed breakpoints, the methodology determines whether the air quality category is good, satisfactory, moderate, poor, very poor, or severe.

Inside Tamil Nadu's alleged library scam



GNS News Agency, Nov 11

Tamil Nadu's anti-corruption investigators have begun examining an alleged library procurement scam involving books attributed to apparently fictitious authors and at least one researcher who denied writing a volume bearing his name, said A Rajmohan, the Tamil Nadu Minister for School Education, Tamil Development, Information and Publicity. Around 3,000 books suspected to be part of the alleged scam in Coimbatore had been boxed and sealed, he said, while 523 had been identified at Chennai's Connemara Library.Offering a more detailed account of the alleged operation, Rajmohan said investigators had begun inquiries at Anna Centenary Library and steps were being taken to question the owner of Agalvilakku Publishing House. The DVAC began its inquiry the day after receiving the department's complaint, he said.

The controversy centres on novelist Perumal Murugan's account of allegedly expensive, error-filled books at Coimbatore's Periyar Arivulagam, a new public library inaugurated by Chief Minister Joseph Vijay on October 16. In an essay, Murugan, who was among the members of a committee constituted to recommend books on modern literature and literary criticism for the new libraries, alleges serious irregularities in book purchases.Rajmohan, who announced a probe after the allegations surfaced, has alleged a network operating for years, using artificial intelligence, shifting author identities and multiple publishing names to get books into collections across Tamil Nadu. His latest exhibits included dates, stamps and a book whose credits appeared to list several entities involved in its production and distribution.

Its front was named 'Agalvilakku', its cover design was credited to Sigma, and its distribution to Phoenix. Rajmohan said information received by the government indicated that 20 publishing-house names had been used as proxies.The minister also described an apparent case of borrowed authorship. "Renowned economist Jean Dreze denied writing 'Democracy and People's Right in the Contemporary World'," Rajmohan said. According to him, the disputed book entered Madurai's Kalaignar Centenary Library in 2023. He cited a June 25, 2023, reference.When asked why the disputed volumes had come to light only after the TVK took office, he alleged that purchase orders had preceded the change of government, with a February order followed by delivery within seven days. But the Connemara figures require a distinction. Rajmohan explained that the library receives copies deposited by publishers. Their presence establishes receipt, rather than necessarily a government purchase, he said.

On Tuesday, Rajmohan broke down the 523 books received from 'Agalvilakku' during 2025: 40 on January 3, 54 on January 29, two April batches of 90 and 85, and 254 in November. He displayed an April 2 stamp and elsewhere also cited January 26.Nivedha Paulraj's credited subjects included law, economics, gender equality, technology, elderly welfare, women's safety, agriculture and space research. Similar names followed: Nivedha Anbazhagan, associated with scientific development and struggles against caste, and Nivedha Mohan.Rajmohan alleged a pattern of using different names. He cited books attributed to a writer named "Sachin" and authors named Pavithra Karunanidhi, Pounambal Karunanidhi and Kamalambal Karunanidhi. "The Bitter Truth of Caste", credited to "Kamalambal Karunanidhi", bore a January 3, 2025, stamp, he alleged.Then came "Surya Balu", "Vijay Balu", "Vijay Pal" and "Vijay Adithan", whose book he dated to January 3, 2025. Sreelekha Vijay followed, dated January 29. The author of a research book on Naladiyar was "Surya Pal", he alleged. "Even the Scottish police couldn't track down these authors!" he said, referring to books whose authors he described as fictitious.He also named "Kokila Varadhan", "Diyashini Varadhan" and "Harini". When asked about names including "Trisha Vijay", Rajmohan maintained that books bearing such names predated his government. The names alone, however, do not establish wrongdoing.Rajmohan said the ongoing inquiry would establish how purchase orders were obtained, rather than allow a supplier to defend itself merely by citing an order. He said orders for Tiruchi's Kamarajar Library had been cancelled, while his second statement described the cancellation as forthcoming. Books suspected to be part of the alleged scam elsewhere would be boxed, sealed and preserved.A proposed committee of writers, publishers, educationists and retired officials would oversee transparent purchases by December, he said. Rajmohan said the TVK government had purchased no books. Questioned about prejudging DMK responsibility, he said he was identifying where the transactions originated.The DMK has demanded an independent inquiry and legal action, while accusing the government of political exploitation. Rajmohan called the episode both an administrative and ideological failure, invoking the incongruity of alleged deception in institutions named after Periyar and Anna by a party that always flaunted literature and letters.

'Caste loyalty has come at a cost': Prashant Kishor nudges Mithila Brahmins to rethink BJP support



GNS News Agency, Nov 11

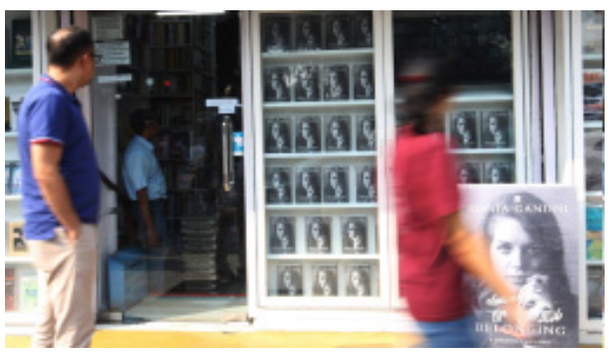
Jan Suraaj founder and Bankipur MLA Prashant Kishor has questioned Brahmins in Mithila over their support for the BJP, arguing that the community has weakened its political influence by alienating Muslim voters who once backed its leaders.Urging the audience to prioritise education over religious mobilisation, he said, "Your strength is the pen. Your strength is Saraswati. You are not people who wield axes."The remarks came during Kishor's event addressing a Brahmin community in Mahinam village in Darbhanga, where he challenged the assumption that electing representatives from one's own caste would improve living conditions. He was responding to questions about his vision for health, education and employment, and a suggestion from locals that a Brahmin should be fielded from the area.

"Your MLA is already a Brahmin," Kishor said, adding that the community had held the seat for about 15 years and that the local MP was also a Brahmin. "If electing a Brahmin alone could solve your problems, you should not have suffered at all."Kishor argued that Brahmin leaders had previously benefited from Muslim support, which, he claimed, had shifted elsewhere after sections of the community aligned with the BJP and abused Muslims on Facebook."You separated from yourself those who were calling you 'guruji' and putting you in office with their votes, by abusing them on Facebook and calling them Pakistani," he said, questioning whether any dispute over land, reservation or local communal violence justified that estrangement.He also recalled ties between Brahmins and Extremely Backward Classes, citing the place accorded to barbers alongside priests in village life.

Invoking Parashuram, Kishor said the reference to wielding an axe belonged to a particular context and should not displace education. "If your child does not study, will wielding an axe fill their stomach?"He argued that the community's historical standing came not merely from caste identity but from learning and concern for others. Its forebears, he said, educated their children even when it meant eating less, and worried about another hungry person after meeting their own needs.Questioning descriptions of Mithila as a land of intellectuals, Kishor said his Padyatra through Darbhanga and Madhubani had revealed widespread dependence on migrant labour. Families with distinguished backgrounds and large parcels of land, he claimed, were seeking jobs paying Rs 20,000 a month for their children. Others depended on money sent home by relatives settled elsewhere.Kishor accused BJP leaders of sending their own children to study in America and England while encouraging others to mobilise against Muslims with flags, bows and swords.

His wider criticism centred on what he called political "bonded labour" – voting along caste or religious lines, or supporting the BJP out of fear of Lalu Prasad and vice versa. He argued that assured support allowed parties to take voters for granted.Kishor also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Bihar's floods and contrasted promises of industry and infrastructure in Gujarat with train services that, he argued, facilitated migration from Bihar. He also attacked Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary's leadership, while holding voters responsible for the representatives they elected.Citing electoral setbacks for the BJP, Kishor argued that the possibility of defeat could pressure leaders to respond. That accountability, he said, must apply equally to him and Jan Suraaj.Ahead of local-body and panchayat elections, he urged voters to choose honest candidates regardless of caste, religion or party, reject inducements and vote for their children's education and employment. He said he could mobilise public pressure but lacked the governmental authority to build schools, hospitals and roads.Kishor also reiterated his opposition to a separate Mithila state, recalling criticism of his position in 2018. Bihar, he said, should not be divided further. He argued that improvement required better electoral choices.

Book courts Babri vote bank, papers over Bofors, family wrongs, says BJP



Criticising Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi's memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, the BJP on Tuesday said the "underlying thinking throughout the book revolves around the Babri (Masjid) vote bank".Accusing her of trying to "justify" the Emergency, being "silent" on the Bofors scam, and making "claims completely contrary to the actual facts" on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the party said the book seeks to "sugar-coat the historical wrongs perpetrated by the Nehru-Gandhi family".

"Sonia Gandhi's book has made it clear that the underlying thinking throughout the book revolves around the Babri vote bank. She has revealed that vote-bank politics associated with Babri is deeply rooted in her thinking," said BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari."She says she cried for Babri Masjid. Did Sonia Gandhi shed even a drop of tear when gurudwaras were targeted and thousands of innocent people were killed during the 1984 Sikh massacre that happened during the Congress rule?Sonia Gandhi cried profusely for the Batla House terrorists, but did she weep for the brave CRPF jawans who were martyred in the line of duty protecting our nation and people," BJP's national spokesperson C R Kesavan said in a post on X.

In an interview to The Guardian before the release of her book, Gandhi had recalled crying as she watched the Babri Masjid demolition on television on December 6, 1992."The Bofors scam is missing from the book. The country witnessed corruption in the Bofors scam, but the Gandhi-Vadra family remains silent on it. Vote-bank politics and corruption are habits of the Gandhi-Vadra family, and they will lose again in 2029," Bhandari said.Sonia Gandhi could have titled her memoir as 'Whitewashing' instead of 'Belonging', because the motive of this book appears to be to sugar-coat the historical wrongs perpetrated by the Nehru-Gandhi family and camouflage the cardinal sins committed by the Congress party," Kesavan said, accusing her of trying to "justify and normalise the notorious Emergency".

BJP leader H S Phoolka questioned Gandhi's account of the anti-Sikh riots. "She claims that on the night of October 31, Rajiv Gandhi asked Army Chief General (A S) Vaidya to call in the Army. However, General Vaidya supposedly decided on his own that the Army personnel stationed around Delhi were Sikhs and that Sikh troops should not be called in. She says that the Army was instead summoned from distant locations such as Dehradun, which delayed its deployment. These claims are completely contrary to the actual facts," he said.Hitting back at the BJP, Congress's Rajya Sabha member Rajeev Shukla said the party was trying to give the book a "political spin". "She is perhaps the first person in the family after (Jawaharlal) Nehru ji who has written an autobiography. She has penned down all her thoughts. So, I think people should respect her thoughts, respect the sentiments that she has expressed. This should not be turned into a controversy," he said."The BJP is trying to give this a political spin. What is the need for this? I saw a statement by a BJP spokesperson who asked if Babar lives in her heart. When Babri Masjid was demolished, Atal ji had criticised it. Did Babar live in his heart? Advani ji had called it a grave mistake. Did Babar live in his heart? Jaswant Singh strongly condemned it. Did Babar live in his heart? A few BJP spokespersons know neither history nor background," said Shukla.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena leader Shaina NC said: "You speak of belonging, we ask who is this belonging for? In 1991, 1984 and 2004, you made the country cry, and now you speak of belonging. Is this belonging about votes? The way you rejected the chair back then, and the way you presented yourself thereafter, was portrayed as an act of sacrifice and penance. We would like answers to several questions. As far as the Ram Temple, Article 370 and Hindutva are concerned, these are not achieved by crying. Your actions are what establish you as a leader."

On Gandhi's account of her decision to not become the Prime Minister in 2004, JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said: "This is a controversial matter as well… what we know is that Mulayam Singh Yadav had refused to support her. Otherwise, there was an attempt to become the PM. But she could not become. It is a different matter what she did or did not do."The AAP, which is up against the Congress in the Punjab elections next year, also raised questions. "Sonia Gandhi has probably now come to realise that deploying the Army into the Golden Temple, an operation that involved the use of cannons and artillery, coupled with the open massacre of Sikhs on the streets of Delhi, casts serious doubt on the Congress party's secular credentials," said AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj."Had Indira Gandhi herself expressed such remorse at the time, it would have carried far greater significance. This sentiment, coming from Sonia Gandhi, is merely hearsay — it cannot be independently verified. It should be viewed as a political statement, tailored to the current political climate," Bharadwaj said.

CRPF plans to acquire UAVs with capacity to strike and surveillance

GNS News Agency, Nov 11

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is planning to acquire kamikaze unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that are capable of striking targets up to 15 km away while livestreaming video of the ground beneath.The Directorate General of CRPF has circulated draft qualitative requirements and trial directives for what it calls OFC+RF-based FPV kamikaze drones — first-person-view UAVs — that fly to a designated objective carrying a high-explosive warhead, transmit surveillance imagery back to the operator, and then destroy themselves on impact.The draft, issued on November 5, has been sent to original equipment manufacturers and vendors for information by November 25. The CRPF has asked the firms to submit product specifications against each parameter, and vendors must furnish an authorisation certificate from the manufacturer they represent.In its requirement note, the CRPF said the drone must be small and light – not more than 7 kg including spool, battery and warhead – with capability to land vertically within a 5X5 metre box.



"It must fly at 150 kmph or more with full payload, operate in winds of 35 km/h or more during take-off, flight and landing, and stay airborne for a minimum of 30 minutes at 1,000 metres AMSL [above mean sea level] without the warhead and spool, or 20 minutes with them, with endurance falling by a tenth for every additional 1,000 metres of altitude," the note said.

Congress to host 'Bharat Summit; with delegates from 70 countries

GNS News Agency, Nov 11

The Congress on Tuesday announced that it will host experts from 70 countries this week in Hyderabad for deliberations on the emergence of a new global order and India's strategic responses to the developments, along with issues like cooperative federalism and electoral integrity.Addressing a press conference at the Congress office in Delhi, party's Foreign Affairs department head Salman Khurshid said the 'Bharat Summit' in Hyderabad on November 13-14 will bring together around 1,000 delegates from across the world, and the areas of focus include the formation of a new think tank — 'Our World'.



The international conference will see the participation of leaders of Opposition in both Houses of Parliament, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, global policymakers, and prominent figures from progressive movements, said Khurshid.Discussions at the summit will primarily focus on the "political vision" of Rahul Gandhi, evolving national and international political landscapes, the emergence of a new global order, and India's strategic responses to these developments, he said.The intention is to reflect the vision of Rahul Gandhi for India and the world of tomorrow, and the emergence of a new global order. We will have 12 international sessions and eight important sessions on Telangana," said Khurshid.The summit coincides with two important occasions — the 137th birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who "continues to be an inspiration for foreign policy formulation and thinking in our party" and the 80th year of India's Independence.The event's focus would also be on a joint statement and the formation of a new think tank, 'Our World'.Telangana IT Minister Sridhar Babu told reporters that deliberations by hundreds of delegates from different countries will give a boost to Telangana's governance and its people."

China denies spying on Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, calls allegations baseless



New Delhi: China on Monday dismissed claims that it had spied on Jensen Huang, chief executive of US chip giant Nvidia, calling such claims "baseless," according to media reports from Beijing."We have responded to this matter previously. The narrative of a so-called Chinese spy is entirely baseless vilification and smearing," Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a press conference.The statement was issued after the board of US tech giant Nvidia announced that it had opened an investigation into reports alleging that its "founder and CEO Jensen Huang has been the target of a foreign intelligence effort."

Singapore-based AI data centre company Megaspeed, for which the alleged Chinese spy worked, also denied allegations that it was involved in illegally shipping Nvidia chips to China, saying inspections by US and Malaysian authorities, as well as Nvidia, found no evidence of wrongdoing.The operations of Megaspeed came into focus after a US probe found last year that a Chinese businesswoman named Alice Huang was targeting Jensen Huang as a spy, according to the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. At the time, Alice Huang was said to be a top executive at Megaspeed International, which rents out computing power to other companies to train and run AI.According to Megaspeed, it's "a core business partner of Nvidia's computing power cloud business in the Asia-Pacific region". On LinkedIn, it says it has offices in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, with around two to 10 employees and 25 "associated members".The firm was previously called 7Road International, according to the Singapore government's website, suggesting links to the Chinese gaming company 7Road.The company issued an official statement in response to a Bloomberg article that raised questions about its operations. It said the report contained "misleading information and incorrect insinuations"."We are aware of the recent article published by Bloomberg which has raised concerns regarding our operations. We would like to clarify that the article contains misleading information and incorrect insinuations, including suggestions that we may have been involved in illegal chip transfers," the company said in its statement.

How Hubble learns galactic history from stars



Recently NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope provided an image, which is a lesson in galactic history. The sparkling collection of stars is named Messier 30 (M30) after the French astronomer, Charles Messier, who cataloged M30 and other diffuse objects that might be mistaken for comets in the early telescopes of Messier's time.M30 is a globular cluster: a roughly spherical grouping of stars containing anywhere from tens of thousands to millions of stars. These clusters generally reside on the outskirts of galaxies, orbiting within a vast, diffuse region called the halo like a swarm of moths around a lightbulb. Our Milky Way galaxy has at least 150 globular clusters, the nearest of which is about 6,000 light-years away. These clusters are impressively ancient: astronomers estimate their ages are between 11.5 to 13.5 billion years, making certain globular clusters nearly as old as the universe itself.

Globular clusters have long played an important role in helping us learn about our galaxy. More than a century ago, astronomer Harlow Shapley used observations of a particular type of variable star to measure the locations of and distances to dozens of globular clusters within our galaxy. His work showed that the Sun is not in the center of our galaxy, and that the galactic center lies toward the constellation Sagittarius. (His distance measurements were incorrect, however, and he concluded that our galaxy is about twice as large as it really is.)

Today, astronomers continue to learn about our galaxy by observing globular clusters. Because globular clusters are so ancient, they can give us clues about how our galaxy developed long ago. Globular clusters that formed within our galaxy can act as time capsules, preserving the original chemistry of our young galaxy.However, it's possible that not all globular clusters that orbit within our galaxy today formed there. Researchers have discovered that M30 and many other globular clusters orbit in the direction opposite from the way our galaxy spins. This may mean that these clusters did not form within our galaxy at all. Instead, our Milky Way galaxy may have captured them in the distant past!

Hubble has observed M30 multiple times. A previously released image of M30 featured data from Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) and was part of an observing program (#10775; PI: Sarajedini) that surveyed dozens of Milky Way globular clusters in red and near-infrared light, revealing stars down to just 20% of the mass of the Sun.A more recent program (#13297; PI: Piotto) returned to M30 and other globular clusters in our galaxy, this time observing the clusters with Hubble's Wide Field Camera 3 and using three filters that captured bluer light. This program collected data that was critical for studying exotic objects like "blue straggler" stars as well as for investigating the multiple populations of stars that can inhabit a single globular cluster.More recently, Hubble's ACS viewed many of these globular clusters again. Those observations were part of a program (#16298, PI: Libralato) that looked at how different populations of stars in globular clusters moved over the 15 years since Hubble first observed them — a feat made possible by Hubble's longevity and ability to discern fantastically small details in distant objects.

Elon Musk, Bill Ackman back NVIDIA chief Huang amid controversy

GNS News Agency, Nov 11New Delhi: Tesla CEO Elon Musk and billionaire investor Bill Ackman on Monday backed NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang amid a controversy, urging people to support the technology leader and his family and endorsing a defence of Huang's importance to US artificial intelligence leadership.Taking to the social media platform X, Ackman, CEO of Pershing Square Capital Management, said Huang was human and that even exceptional individuals could make mistakes.Ackman said Huang had taken responsibility for his actions and urged people to stand by him and his family. "An alert: @JensenHuang is human. And he is an incredible human. Even incredible humans make mistakes. He takes full responsibility as he should. We should all support him and his family. Onward," Ackman wrote.In another post, Ackman clarified that he was not suggesting Huang should receive a "free pass", adding that the nature of the controversy would determine its seriousness. "I like the guy. He has done a lot of good for the world and I hope the damage here is minimal," he said, adding that he hoped the issue was limited to a personal affair rather than a national security risk.

Separately, Sequoia Capital partner Shaun Maguire described Huang as "one of the greatest entrepreneurs of this generation", while acknowledging that the NVIDIA chief had made a serious mistake. Maguire listed five points in his post, saying Huang had done something "incredibly dumb" and that it was "bad for America".

However, he added that he believed there was probably no malicious intention behind the actions. "Two mistakes don't make a right, and I believe Jensen is irreplaceable for America's AI leadership," Maguire wrote. Musk responded to Maguire's post with a brief endorsement, saying, "I agree."Meanwhile, NVIDIA's board of directors announced that it was launching an independent investigation following reports that Huang had been targeted by a Chi-



nese espionage operation. The board said in a statement that it was initiating an independent investigation in light of recent reports that the company's founder and CEO had been the target of a foreign intelligence effort.The reports came after Huang acknowledged having an affair with a former executive at a Singapore-based chip company. US policymakers have alleged that the woman involved had been recruited by China's Ministry of State Security to spy on NVIDIA's CEO.Meanwhile, Huang sent an email to NVIDIA employees, apologising to his family and the company's staff. "I was unfaithful to my wife. My actions hurt her and our children. There is no excuse for what I did. I am deeply sorry. Throughout my life, my family has given me love and support. They deserve my honesty and loyalty. Instead, I let them down and damaged the life we built together. I take full responsibility for what I did and the hurt I caused, and I accept the criticism that comes with it," Huang wrote.The developments come amid a broader debate over Huang's role in maintaining US leadership in artificial intelligence, given NVIDIA's central position in the global AI chip industry.

Trump says renewed strikes on Iran 'highly unlikely' if talks progress

Washington: US President Donald Trump said that renewed military strikes on Iran were "highly unlikely" as long as negotiations made progress, but did not rule out further military actions. In a phone interview with CNN, Trump claimed on Sunday that the United States had already dealt a severe blow to Iran and that further military action was "highly unlikely" to be necessary."It depends on whether or not they sign a very strong agreement," Trump noted, referring to Iran's nuclear program and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. The president also claimed that the United States had identified potential infrastructure targets in Iran, including power plants and bridges, and could destroy 38 bridges in an hour, Xinhua news agency reported."Most likely it will not be necessary," Trump reiterated. "They want to make a deal so badly."



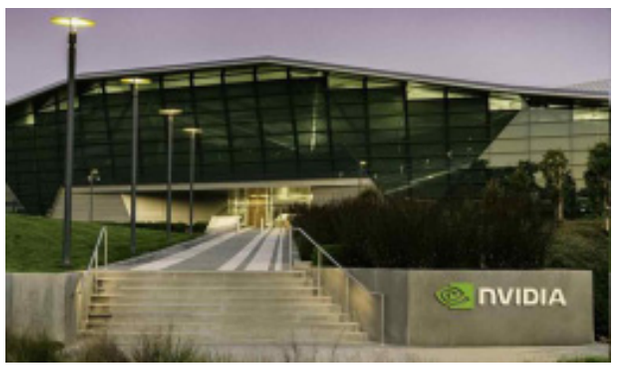
Earlier Trump said that Washington was talking to Iran, as his administration imposed sanctions on eight Canadian businesses accused of helping Tehran move money through cryptocurrency networks. "We're talking to Iran. We have been," Trump told reporters before departing the White House.The president portrayed the military situation as favourable to the United States and said the Strait of Hormuz was opening. "We've beaten Iran. We are doing very well with Iran," he said.Asked for his message to Iran, Trump combined his claim of military success with an indication that diplomatic contacts were continuing. His comments came on the same day that the Treasury Department announced sanctions against eight Canada-based money services businesses under Operation Economic Outcast.Treasury accused the companies of exchanging Iranian rials and other currencies for digital assets to facilitate international transactions involving Iran. It said many had dealt with sanctioned Iranian cryptocurrency exchanges or addresses associated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.More than eight months after the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran, Trump has repeatedly sent mixed signals about his willingness to end the conflict. Washington and Tehran remain at a stalemate, with little significant progress in diplomatic efforts.

NVIDIA to probe CEO Jensen Huang's relationship with possible Chinese spy

New Delhi: NVIDIA's board of directors has announced that they are launching an independent investigation following reports that CEO Jensen Huang was targeted by a Chinese spy operation, after Huang admitted he had an affair with a former executive at Singapore-based chip company.US policymakers claim that the women in question had been recruited by China's Ministry of State Security to spy on NVIDIA's CEO. The Nvidia Board said in a statement it is initiating an independent investigation in light of recent reporting that founder and CEO Jensen Huang has been the target of a foreign intelligence effort.

"A committee of independent directors, assisted by outside independent counsel, will oversee the investigation. The Board prioritises US national and economic security, which is paramount to the interests of NVIDIA and its shareholders," the chip company noted.While the Board has no reason to believe that either national security or NVIDIA secrets were compromised, the Board's inquiry will examine all available information, it added."Jensen fully supports the review and has committed to cooperating with it. The Board has confidence in Jensen and his leadership team and will provide further updates as appropriate," the Board said.

Huang sent an email to NVIDIA employees, owing his family and "all of you an apology". "I was unfaithful to my wife. My actions hurt her and our children. There is no ex-



cuse for what I did. I am deeply sorry. Throughout my life, my family has given me love and support. They deserve my honesty and loyalty. Instead, I let them down and damaged the life we built together. I take full responsibility for what I did and the hurt I caused, and I accept the criticism that comes with it," Huang wrote.Regarding the national security concerns raised in news reports, NVIDIA's Board of Directors has initiated an independent investigation. "I support the investigation and will cooperate fully. I love our country and our company. I am committed to protecting NVIDIA and supporting America's national security. I am proud and grateful to be an American. My family bears no responsibility for my choices. I do. Please give them privacy," he said.

Israel President Herzog taps Gadi Eisenkot to form government in setback for Netanyahu

Jerusalem: Israeli President Isaac Herzog has tasked opposition leader and former military chief Gadi Eisenkot with forming the country's next government, dealing a significant setback to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts to retain power following the October 27 general election.Eisenkot, leader of the Yashar party, secured the backing of 67 lawmakers in consultations with parliamentary factions, compared with 46 who recommended Netanyahu. Seven lawmakers declined to endorse either candidate.Herzog announced his decision on Saturday, November 7, following consultations with political leaders, including Netanyahu and Eisenkot. The formal handover of the mandate is scheduled for Sunday, November 8, at 5 pm local time, at the President's Residence in Jerusalem.Eisenkot will have 28 days to form a coalition, with a possible 14-day extension if required. The development gives him the first opportunity to replace Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister.The recommendations reflect the changing political balance in Israel's 120-member Knesset, where 61 seats are required for a parliamentary majority.

Eisenkot received support from 48 lawmakers belonging to the Change Bloc, seven from the Arab party Ra'am and 12 from the Joint List. Netanyahu secured 46 recommendations from his right-wing and religious allies, while the seven members of United Torah Judaism (UTJ) chose not to recommend either candidate.However, the 67 recommendations do not automatically guarantee Eisenkot a governing majority. The political differences among the supporting parties could make coalition negotiations difficult.The Arab-led factions have indicated their willingness to support an alternative to Netanyahu from outside the government rather than necessarily joining the coalition. Their involvement remains politically sensitive, with some parties in Eisenkot's camp reluctant to depend on their support.

Eisenkot is a former chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) who entered politics in 2022. His Yashar party secured 21 seats in the October 27 election, while the wider Change Bloc won 48 seats.He emerged as Netanyahu's principal challenger by bringing together political groups from the centre-left to the right, largely united by their opposition to the incumbent prime minister.Eisenkot briefly served in Netanyahu's wartime cabinet following Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack before returning to the opposition. He has since criticised the government's handling of the Gaza war and ruled out joining an administration led by Netanyahu.Despite the setback, Netanyahu has not conceded defeat and continues to advocate a national unity government.He has strongly opposed any government dependent on Arab-led parties, describing them as supporters of terrorism. Eisenkot's party has criticised these remarks and urged

Likud members to reconsider their alliance with far-right partners.The negotiations are also complicated by disagreements over the Gaza war, national security, military conscription and Netanyahu's leadership.Eisenkot has several possible options, including forming a minority government with external support from Arab lawmakers, negotiating with ultra-Orthodox parties or attempting to establish a broader national unity government.However, each option presents significant challenges. Disagreements over military service exemptions for ultra-Orthodox men could particularly complicate negotiations with religious parties.If Eisenkot fails to form a government within 28 days, Herzog can grant him an additional 14 days. If the attempt fails, another candidate could receive the mandate, potentially giving Netanyahu another opportunity. Continued failure to form a coalition could eventually lead to fresh elections.For Netanyahu, Herzog's decision represents a major challenge to his long political dominance.

Iran's Army says 'violating' oil tanker hit mines in Hormuz Strait

Iran's navy said an oil tanker caught fire after striking naval mines near the Strait of Hormuz, warning that the waterway would remain closed. Meanwhile, US forces disabled a commercial vessel in the Gulf of Oman for allegedly violating its naval blockade

Tehran: The navy of Iran's Army announced that a "violating" oil tanker caught fire after hitting naval mines east of the Strait of Hormuz. In a statement on the army's website, the navy said on Sunday the oil tanker had turned off its identification systems and was transiting the "forbidden" region east of the strait when it hit the mines.It warned that the Strait of Hormuz will remain closed to vessels unless all threats are lifted, Xinhua news agency reported.

Earlier in the day, the navy of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said an oil tanker caught fire within the preceding hours after colliding with naval mines in the "unauthorized" route of the Strait of Hormuz. In a statement on the IRGC's official news outlet Sepah News, the navy said the explosion caused a massive fire on the vessel, which was the third oil tanker to hit naval mines in the strait's "unauthorized" route since the beginning of the day.Meanwhile, US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on social media platform X that its forces had disabled a commercial vessel in the Gulf of Oman after its civilian crew "ignored repeated warnings and attempted to violate the naval blockade against Iran multiple times."A US military aircraft fired precision munitions at the stern of St. Kitts-flagged M/V Huda, disabling the ship after CENTCOM forces directed the crew to abandon targeted spaces. The cargo vessel tried to depart regional waters after visiting an Iranian port," it added.Since July, US forces have redirected 147 commercial vessels and disabled five merchant ships that refused to comply with the blockade, CENTCOM said. Iran tightened its grip on the strait on February 28, barring safe passage of vessels belonging to or affiliated with Israel and the United States following their joint strikes on Iranian territory. The United States has also imposed a naval blockade against the country.

Kia TPL announces dates for 2026 Race to Gold Masters

Hyderabad: The Kia Tennis Premier League (TPL) has announced the dates for the 2026 Race to Gold (RTG) Masters, a grassroots initiative under which 36 promising junior tennis players from six regions — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and the North Zone — will receive scholarships.Two Under-14 champions will also get the opportunity to travel to the Australian Open 2027 through the newly introduced Kia TPL Road to the Australian Open initiative.In its first year of association with TPL, Kia India is supporting the league's vision of strengthening grassroots tennis in India and creating meaningful opportunities for young athletes to develop their game and pursue their ambitions on the international stage.

Home interiors and real estate in 2026: India's transformative year

As 2025 draws to a close and we enter 2026, it is significant to note that the housing and real estate sector has been one of the most standout and transformative sectors of the past year. From a burgeoning growth in the luxury housing segment and Tier 2 cities such as Lucknow and Indore displaying record growth to an increased focus on sustainable and innovative building materials, 2025 was definitely the year when the real estate sector showed unprecedented investment. The interior design space too witnessed the emergence of trends such as colour drenching, flexible layouts, as well as vintage and retro influences."Premiumisation is one of the strongest trends we have observed, but it is no longer about opulence for the sake of it," says Ganesen Viswanathan, vice president of Bengaluru-based MagickHome India. "Homeowners are choosing premium where it adds real value. Think better finishes, smarter storage, superior hardware and cleaner detailing. Interiors are increasingly being planned around individual needs and routines rather than following a fixed or generic design template. The focus is on longevity and performance rather than visual drama alone. This reflects a maturing market where customers understand the difference between surface-level luxury and well-designed, high-performing homes that age gracefully."India's luxury housing segment is experiencing a notable boom, with branded residences growing rapidly, outpacing the other luxury formats. "According to Knight Frank's Residence Report, India ranks sixth globally in ongoing branded residential projects, contributing about 4% of the world's supply. The number of branded residential developments is forecast to increase by nearly 60% by 2027, reflecting rising demand from affluent buyers seeking curated, experience-led homes that blend convenience with quality living," says Mitu Mathur, director of New Delhi-based GPM Architects and Planners. "These residences also emphasise thoughtful design that embodies brand values and creates spaces fostering community and shared experiences. This shift marks a broader change in India's urban housing market, where luxury is increasingly defined by experience, service, design, and a sense of belonging."Purchases are being driven by high net-worth individual (HNWIs), ultra-HNWIs, and non-resident Indian (NRIs). "Even as some phases saw moderation in volumes, value growth remained strong, supported by demand for larger, lifestyle-enhancing homes. Mumbai also reflected robust market health with a 20% year-on-year rise in property registrations in November 2025," adds Manan Shah, managing director, MICL Group, based in Mumbai.There has been a growing preference for integrated townships, which mirrors a broader desire for certainty in Indian cities. "Buyers are increasingly choosing environments where infrastructure, mobility, green spaces, and daily conveniences are planned as a whole," says Monika Choudhary, co-founder and chief development officer of Habitat Architects, based in New Delhi and Ludhiana. "Large township developments across Pune, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, and Hyderabad underscore this shift. The home's value is no longer contained within its walls; it is reinforced by the ecosystem around it. Community is essential infrastructure."Such townships are an opportunity for architecture to operate at an urban scale. "We have introduced elements like large 'urban windows', shared courtyards, and intergenerational parks that allow residents to balance privacy with vibrant community life. The approach is all about designing spaces where a sense of belonging and resilience can flourish," says Khushboo Bansal, principal architect of Sthapati, based in Lucknow and New Delhi.While traditional materials such as cement, steel, and bricks remained essential, there was a clear move towards low-carbon, high-efficiency systems like precast construction, AAC blocks, fly ash bricks, and green cement alternatives. India's green building materials sector is projected to grow at over 10% compound annual growth rate, reflecting a market-wide transition rather than a niche preference. "Sustainable construction has moved into the mainstream in 2025. Low-carbon cement alternatives, carbon-reduced concrete, and recycled materials are being adopted at scale to meet cost and environmental objectives," says S.B. Sarveshaa, chairman and MD of Bengaluru-based Bhadra Group. Industrialised building systems are also gaining momentum, improving speed, precision, and quality control. "Prefabricated and modular components accelerated construction, reduced waste, and improved precision. Enhanced materials for waterproofing, insulation, and energy efficiency became mainstream, reflecting the growing demand for durable, comfortable, and green buildings," says C. Rakesh Reddy, director of Hyderabad-based Aparna Constructions.

"This includes the use of heavy thermal curtains, strategic placement of reflective surfaces to bounce natural light deeper into rooms, and zoned ventilation," adds Mueen Haris, founder of DS2 Architecture, a multi-disciplinary practice based in Bengaluru, Kochi and Mangaluru. "A major trend is the return of natural stone and terracotta floors for their 'thermal mass' properties, absorbing heat during the day and releasing it at night to stabilise indoor temperatures."Material choices in 2025 were driven by performance and not novelty. "Natural stone, due to its inherent beauty, durability and versatility, has remained a go-to material. From statement marble countertops to understated limestone flooring, this versatile material works across styles, blending seamlessly into both traditional and modern homes. It is also an ideal choice for outdoor spaces, including pool decks, patios, terraces, and balconies," says Harkaran Singh Boparai, founder and principal architect of Harkaran Boparai Studio (HBS), located in New Delhi. "While access to international styles and materials has expanded, it is essential to design in a way that responds to place through materiality, craft, and narrative, without becoming pastiche. The use of stone helps in balancing these layers while still creating something emotionally compelling and functionally seamless."

Real estate, by definition, is always racing against the clock — with deadlines, approvals, handovers, and more. This year saw technology and AI begin to meaningfully compress those timelines. "The more transformative change is inside the delivery pipeline. From feasibility to floor area ratio (FAR) modelling, test-fits, and massing options, to coordinated building information modelling (BIM), automated checks, clash detection, documentation, and finally the last-mile detailing that used to consume weeks of human bandwidth, AI is accelerating the entire arc," says Manish Gulati, principal architect and founder of MOFA Studio.GST rationalisation in 2025 addressed long-standing concerns around the inverted tax structure in real estate, where input taxes were higher than output taxes. "Rates on essential materials such as cement were rationalised from 28% to 18%, while tiles, bricks, and several construction inputs were aligned to a 5% slab, thus simplifying the tax structure," shares Reddy. "This correction improved input tax credit efficiency, reduced working-capital blockages, and enhanced cash-flow predictability for developers."Equally important is the alignment of GST rates for government and private contracts. "Simplified registrations, faster refunds and clearer rate structures also reduce working capital stress and planning ambiguities," says Bharat Bahl, joint managing director of New-Delhi based Krishna Build Estate Pvt. Ltd.Speaking of home décor and interior design, 2025 has been a year of experimentation and bold choices. "Homeowners have become far more open to exploring new ideas; they are more intentional and deeply personal about what they want in their homes. At the same time, they have been open to understanding what design can offer beyond the obvious," says Disha Subramanium, founder and principal designer of New Delhi-based Design by Disha Subramanium. Here's what ruled in 2025.The year definitely brought in the use of bold colours and colour-drenched spaces. "2025 embraced emotion-driven colour stories, where entire rooms were drenched in one dominant hue, including walls, furniture, ceilings, and décor. From deep plums and forest greens to burnt oranges and midnight blues, saturated palettes were used to evoke mood and identity," says Harshita Nookula, lead-visual merchandising of Bengaluru-based Livspace India. "This trend worked especially well in bedrooms, lounges, and powder rooms, turning spaces into immersive, sensorial experiences rather than neutral backdrops."The focus on muted, dusty shades akin to colourful extensions of neutrals was also popular. "Sage green, soft grey, and light coral colours that evoke a sense of calm were favourites. Sage green, in particular, has emerged as a go-to for cabinetry and walls, providing a soothing link to the outdoors without overwhelming the senses," says Smita Vijaykumar, founder of ReNNovate Interiors, Mumbai.The year saw an increasing number of homeowners gravitating towards wooden floors. "Walnut, mahogany, and dark oak are being used to add warmth, depth, and a sense of quiet luxury to interiors. What stands out this year is the mixing of multiple wood tones within the same space, combining light and dark finishes to create visual balance and character. Wood is no longer limited to one element; it appears across cabinetry, wall panelling, flooring, ceilings, and custom furniture, giving spaces a cohesive yet layered look," says Manav Dangg, founder and principal designer at Studiio Dangg, New Delhi.Hard



lines softened in 2025 as curves dominated furniture, architecture, and décor. "Arched doorways, rounded sofas, sculptural coffee tables, and fluid silhouettes took over the interior world. These forms add a sense of calm, movement, and approachability while still feeling refined," states Nookula. According to Dangg, more homeowners were open to having unique furniture shapes in their houses, creating a space filled with fluidity, comfort, and spatial harmony.The year saw the ample use of handcrafted ceramics, carved wood, woven textiles and lime-plastered walls. "Our interest in micro concrete and limewash comes less from their popularity and more from their discipline. It is robust, economical, and quietly expressive," says Aditya Tognatta, co-founder of Custom Design Stories in Gurugram. Stone has been featured as a focal point. "Whether it is statement island countertops, floor-to-ceiling fireplace walls, or richly veined coffee tables, stones bring a dramatic and luxurious feel to the interiors. This is because the variations in veining and tone make each application feel unique," adds Subramanium.Retro patterns such as geometrics, psychedelic prints, and classic motifs like paisley and florals made a comeback. "Woven rugs, embroidered fabrics, and vintage quilts are being used to add texture, while reclaimed wood, distressed finishes, and classic designs add character to modern spaces, says Poonam Mehta, co-founder of Pune-based Poonam Akash (formerly known as AMPM Designs). "Further, vintage lighting like mid-century modern chandeliers and antique lanterns were popular statement piece ideas."Maximalism with intention was another key trend of 2025. "There was a conscious move away from greys and beige towards layered, expressive spaces that are curated and not overwhelming," says Pratyusha Kethinedi, principal designer and founder of Bengaluru-based House of Katha."There is a clear demand for integrated study units, flexible storage, reading corners and layouts that can adapt as children grow. Safety and comfort also play a larger role, with preferences for softer finishes, rounded edges and practical materials that are easy to maintain," says Viswanathan."At the same time, these spaces are being designed to blend seamlessly with the overall aesthetic of the home rather than feeling separate or overly themed. This reflects a more mindful approach to family living, where children's needs are addressed without compromising on design quality or longevity."

The long road to a water-secure future in Hyderabad



Every January, just after the Sankranthi cheer ebbs, residents of the Czech Colony in Sanathnagar, Hyderabad, brace for an annual test, watching their water taps a little more closely. The borewell serving their 40-flat apartment still runs twice a day, but not for long. Its yield starts thinning, and within a month, there is nothing left to draw. What follows is a familiar routine: they must depend on water tankers, repeatedly checking the HMWS&SB app, tracking a slow crawl up the waiting list.That ritual, however, has quietly ended. T. Srinivas, a member of the apartment association, says the turning point came with the construction of an injection borewell. The change was immediate. "Our borewell improved and a few nearby apartments that opted for percolation pits saw a difference too."

He details the consultations that went into the project, the pit collection system, annual rainwater estimates and how the intervention eased everyday life in the building.Experiences such as this are shaping a broader rethink of water use and conservation across Hyderabad. At Kavuri Hills, in the upscale Kakatiya Hills residential colony, a 16-flat apartment complex built on a 1,000-square yard plot also constructed an injection borewell with technical assistance from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) and WaterAid, an NGO facilitating such projects through corporate social responsibility funds in select localities.Suneel, an IT professional and resident of the apartment, recalls how the building's mandated rainwater harvesting structure was once ignored. "We were blessed with water. During monsoon, the borewell would overflow, and we would flush excess water out of the cellar through a hose," he says.

That sense of abundance, however, faded rapidly as construction activity surged in the neighbourhood. Between January and May this year, the apartment complex purchased two 10-kilolitre water tankers a day for the first time, paying about ?1,000 per load, often with some waiting period. "We got about 100 tankers," says Suneel, his eyebrows raised.The response came in the form of a 200-foot injection borewell. Built with a contribution of just ?20,000 from residents, it has the capacity to harvest around 509 cubic metres, or 5.09 lakh litres, of rainwater annually.According to HMWS&SB managing director K. Ashok Reddy, building injection borewells and harvesting pits is a key focus area for the Board. He recently grabbed headlines by stating, "If every house has a rainwater harvesting (RWH) pit, the city may not even need Krishna Phase IV for the 5 tmcft additional water supply".Yet, success stories like Czech Colony and Kavuri Hills remain exceptions in a city as large as Hyderabad. They offer a glimpse of the possibilities but do not capture the full picture.A city that cannot hold its rainHyderabad receives an annual rainfall of 700-900 mm. But in 2025, it recorded around 1,060 mm between June and December alone, nearly 40% above normal, according to the Telangana State Development Planning Society.But the city sits on crystalline formations such as granite, gneiss and compact basalt, which have very low permeability. As a result, groundwater storage depends entirely on fractures, joints, and weathered zones within these rocks. Even in a year of excess rainfall, Hyderabad failed to retain much of it. The absence of harvesting pits and collection systems meant runoff rushed into drains, flowed into the Musi river, and eventually discharged into the Krishna river via Nalgonda district.The result? Growing dependence on water tankers and deep borewells. Hyderabad is now the most groundwater-extracting district in the State. With extraction exceeding 100% of recharge, the city is classified as both 'overexploited' and 'critical'. The pressure extends to Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, which together form the contiguous Greater Hyderabad region, as well as neighbouring Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri. By contrast, Telangana as a whole is in a relatively better position, with an annual groundwater recharge of 20.4 billion cubic metres and average extraction of 45.91%, according to the Central Ground Water Board's Groundwater Resource Assessment 2024.

To understand why only 42,784 residents in Hyderabad, those in households measuring more than 300 sq. metres, frequently book water tankers, HMWS&SB conducted a citywide survey in 2024. It found that 17,382 of these households either lacked an RWH pit or had borewells that had dried up. Others had pits but did not use them. Advisory notices were issued, but compliance remained limited. Broadly, Hyderabad's water stress can be traced to these tens of thousands of properties, compounded by rapid urban expansion that stretches the Board's reach.Parallelly, HMWS&SB launched another survey of borewells installed by the Board and other civic authorities in public offices and community spaces. Eighteen NGOs advocating water conservation were roped in for the exercise. So far, 3,435 surveys have identified 8,285 borewells, of which 4,569 are non-functional. These would now be converted into injection borewells.Separately, a survey under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, an initiative aimed at constructing one million recharge structures nationwide, began on December 7 this year. Preliminary findings show 7,043 users already have rainwater harvesting structures. These will be linked to the Board's unique Customer Account Number (CAN). The survey is ongoing.When water becomes a commodity

If sustainability is a long-term pursuit, tanker supply is an immediate race against time. From February to May, the gap between booking and delivery often determines whether Hyderabad edges towards a water emergency.The summer of 2024 was a turning point. HMWS&SB expanded its tanker fleet from 604 to 1,000 almost overnight as bookings surged to an average of 2,000 a day. Demand was concentrated in western and north-western growth corridors — Manikonda, Gachibowli, Kondapur, Madhapur, Kukatpally, Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills.In April 2024, Principal Secretary (Municipal Administration and Urban Development) M.Dana Kishore acknowledged a sudden drying up of borewells in western Hyderabad and a shortage of tankers, drivers and filling points, while maintaining that the city was not in the grip of a water crisis.Under the Board's service level agreement, tankers are to be delivered within 24 hours. But in peak summers, the target was reduced to 12 hours or less, with round-the-clock deliveries. Filling stations and points were expanded, and even tanker-filling designs were improvised such as single filler-to-T-joint pipes that could load two tankers simultaneously. Currently, the Board operates 1,150 tankers, supported by 90 filling stations and 150 filling points across the city.Data on tanker deliveries between January and July over five years, from 2021 to 2025, shows a steady year-on-year increase, mirroring falling groundwater levels and the pace of Hyderabad's urban expansion.The escalation is stark. Peak deliveries in April rose from 85,880 tanker trips in 2021 to 2,90,180 in 2025, an exponential 238% jump. Even January, once considered a relatively stable month, saw a 127% rise, from 52,778 trips in 2021 to 1,19,752 this year.The contrast is visible year-on-year. Between 2024 and 2025, tanker trips in February and March climbed by a steady 58%. April registered a further 22% increase, marking the highest monthly tanker movement in the Board's history — 2,90,180 trips — followed by 2,77,415 in June.In this context, HMWS&SB's recent announcement marks a decisive shift in Hyderabad's groundwater conservation strategy. As part of its 100-day action plan, the Board plans to construct 15,000 RWH pits across Greater Hyderabad, extending up to the Outer Ring Road.While rainwater harvesting structures are mandated for all houses measuring 200 square yards, the requirement will now be enforced strictly for properties of 300 square yards and above.

The Board has also secured approval from the School Education Department to build rainwater harvesting structures in 1,200 government school premises across Hyderabad and neighbouring districts.Reiterating the larger ambition, Mr.Ashok Reddy says the city could do without Krishna Phase IV if it creates 50,000 rainwater harvesting structures over the next three years. "Yes, that's my slogan. Why should Hyderabad's water flood into the Musi and Krishna rivers, only to be pumped back into the city," he argues.He explains that the proposed project would require an outlay of ?3,000 crore, with recurring annual operations and maintenance expenses of ?20 crore. By comparison, investing ?100 crore in rainwater harvesting structures would be far more efficient and sustainable, and could even help check urban flooding.A key component of the plan is converting dried-up borewells in public spaces across the city into injection borewells. For the immediate construction of 700 RWH pits, the Board has already floated a tender.HMWS&SB's push for rainwater conservation is not new. Over the past decade, it has taken multiple forms, with mixed outcomes. A similar 100-day action plan was rolled out in May 2016, during which 2,200 rainwater harvesting structures were built in common public spaces. The effort, however, fell short over time as resident welfare associations failed to maintain the structures.This was followed by the launch of Jalabhagyam in 2017 and Jala Jeevam in 2018. These programmes empanelled NGOs to educate residents on rainwater harvesting, maintenance practices and technical aspects. Jala Jeevam went further by making RWH structures mandatory for all households, expanding NGO involvement and constituting an expert committee on rainwater conservation.Moreover, 1,600 Jalavaarasathvam clubs were formed, involving grandparents and children, along with resident welfare associations and self-help groups, to revive a culture of water conservation. That same year, the Board developed a Rainwater Harvesting Theme Park on Road No. 51 in Jubilee Hills, showcasing around 40 water conservation interventions. The facility remains operational and is free for public use.Another initiative, Water Leadership and Conservation, was launched in 2019 as a Sanathnagar-specific programme aimed at driving behavioural change and reducing water wastage.Government policy and intent, however, have not fully translated into active public participation. The data reflects this gap. In 2025, average demand for water tankers rose by 36.37% over 2024, while year-on-year projections estimate a further 22% increase. On rainwater harvesting, the Board continues to issue advisory notices to non-compliant properties under provisions of the Water, Land and Trees (WALTA) Act.

The missing link?

What stands in the way, officials argue, is mindset. "The attitude is: I can pay for water, use influence to get a tanker even in summer, and wash my luxury car with piped water. This is 100% literacy with ignorance and lack of common sense to use a limited resource wisely," says T. Sharath Reddy, Deputy General Manager (Engineering), HMWS&SB, one of the two senior officers supervising Durgam Cheruvu, a high water tanker-dependent division.Jala Satyanarayana, Assistant Director (Rainwater Harvesting), HMWS&SB, whose phone number features on notices issued to households without RWH structures, recounts the responses he receives. "Some even threatened me, thinking it was a legal notice. I explain, visit their premises, and help design the structure. They do understand and want to build one. But, in general, people value water only when they experience scarcity."For Kalpana Ramesh, designer-environmentalist and founder of The Rainwater Project, the missing piece is community ownership. Even well-crafted policies, she argues, fail without local engagement and upkeep."How many can say they collect rainwater and are not contributing to urban flooding? How many would prioritise an RWH pit over interior design? How many speak of duties, not just rights? The key is collective stewardship, where everyone is responsible and collaborative," she says.According to officials, where resident welfare associations and NGOs are active, a mix of awareness, community involvement, and what Kalpana Ramesh calls "penalties and harsher action" can act as effective deterrents.However, social fault lines complicate conservation efforts. In Malkajgiri, V. Sushmitha, a schoolteacher living in a 16-unit apartment complex, points to a common obstacle. "There is a lack of unity among residents," she says. "Tenants don't want to get involved, owners live elsewhere and nobody wants to bother. The space meant for RWH gets converted to parking. Any discussion leads to petty quarrels — and personal egos."

Japan's new flagship H3 rocket fails to put geolocation satellite into orbit

Tokyo: Japan's space agency said its H3 rocket carrying a navigation satellite failed to put the payload into a planned orbit, a setback for the country's new flagship rocket and its space launch program.Monday's failure is the second for Japan's new flagship rocket after its botched 2023 debut flight and six successful flights.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said the H3 rocket carrying the Michibiki 5 satellite took off from the Tanegashima Space Center on a southwestern Japanese island Monday as part of Japan's plans to have a more precise location positioning system of its own.The rocket's second-stage engine burn unexpectedly had a premature cutoff and a subsequent separation of the satellite from the rocket could not be confirmed, Masashi Okada, a JAXA executive and launch director, told a news conference.Whether the satellite was released into space or where it ended up is unknown, and that JAXA is investigating the data to determine the cause and other details, Okada said.Jun Kondo, an official at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, told reporters that the failure was "extremely regrettable" and that the government set up a task force to investigate the cause and take necessary measures as soon as possible to "regain credibility."Monday's failure is a setback for Japan's new flagship that replaced the earlier mainstay H-2A which had near-perfect success record. It also delays Japan's satellite launch plans, including one to have a more independent geolocation system for smartphones, maritime navigation and drones without relying on the U.S.

The H3 rocket is designed to be more cost-competitive in the global space market. Japan sees a stable, commercially competitive space transport capability as key to its space program and national security.JAXA's H3 project manager, Makoto Arita, said the new flagship is still in the early stages of operation but can be globally competitive. "We will pull ourselves together so that we won't fall behind rivals. We'll fully investigate the cause and put H3 back on track."

A complex turn in India's FDI story



Foreign direct investment (FDI) has remained a major contributory factor in India's economic landscape since the first wave of investments began in the wake of the 1991 reforms. FDI has played a crucial part in the modernisation of India's industrial base, leading to technological innovation and linking the country more deeply with global markets. E-commerce and the computer hardware and software sectors are two areas that saw a massive influx of FDI, changing these sectors profoundly. However, recent trends suggest a complex turn as investments go downhill. While India is still able to attract foreign capital, the central part of these investments has been aimed at short-term profit gains rather than long-term industrial development. At the same time, Indian firms are investing heavily abroad, raising questions about the health of the domestic investment climate.Recent numbers may seem encouraging. Gross FDI inflows reached $81 billion in FY 2024-25, up 13.7% from the previous year. Between 2011 and 2021, FDI climbed from $46.6 billion to $84.8 billion, highlighting India's investor appeal. After peaking in FY 2021-22, FDI inflows fell to $71 billion in FY 2023-24 before recovering slightly. In the four years after the COVID-19 pandemic, gross inflows recovered at an annual rate of 0.3%, while disinvestments and repatriations by foreign investors grew at 18.9% annually.This divergence between inflows and outflows is profound. Though India saw $308.5 billion in gross FDI inflows during the post-pandemic period, foreign investors also withdrew or repatriated $153.9 billion. More telling is the decline in FDI net inflows — gross inflows minus repatriations and loan repayments — which sharply declined from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25. After adjusting for outward FDI by Indian companies, the net retained capital within India fell to an alarming $0.4 billion. Thus, a large outflow limits FDI's long term development impact. These figures indicate that the capital does not stay long enough, limiting its long-term developmental impact.The sharp rise in disinvestments has significantly contributed to this deterioration. In FY 2023-24, this surged by 51% to $44.4 billion and rose again in FY 2024-25 to $51.4 billion. They now represent over 63%, signalling a marked shift in investor behaviour — from long-term strategic commitments to short-term profit-seeking, often through tax arbitrage and treaty-based routing. Short-term investments aimed at rapid financial returns replace those contributing to sustained industrial or technological development. For instance, what was once a primary sector to attract FDI, the manufacturing sector saw incredible outflows, with its share dropping to a meagre 12% of total FDI.

The declining FDI net inflow suggests that capital is not staying long enough to contribute meaningfully to the country's economic landscape. A lack of sustained investment in manufacturing, infrastructure and innovation hampers India's growth trajectory. The surge in outward investment by Indian firms is another cause for concern. FDI outflows have grown from $13 billion in FY 2011-12 to $29.2 billion in FY 2024-25. Many firms blame regulatory inefficiencies, infrastructure gaps and unpredictable policy frameworks for looking beyond India's borders. This outflow of capital weakens the domestic economy, hampering job creation, arresting innovation and stifling industrial growth.Despite improving rankings and government reforms, structural barriers such as regulatory opacity, legal unpredictability and inconsistent governance continue to discourage foreign and domestic investors. The growing parity in behaviour between foreign firms withdrawing funds and Indian firms investing abroad highlights deeper systemic lacunae that must be addressed if India hopes to reverse the trend.The long term is what matters

Short-term capital inflows lack potential to support long-term growth. India must prioritise reforms that reward long-term commitments to build a more resilient investment ecosystem. This includes simplifying regulations, ensuring policy consistency, investing in infrastructure, and expanding educational and skill-building initiatives to meet evolving industry demands. India needs to proactively work to attract and retain investment aligned with its developmental goals in a global economic environment, especially those that help technological change.The gross FDI figures may appear promising but they seem to hide more than they reveal. Rising disinvestments, shifting investment patterns and growing capital outflows reflect a deeper erosion of confidence in India's economic outlook. Further, the dominance of financial centres such as Singapore and Mauritius in India's FDI inflows suggests that much of this capital may be driven by tax strategies rather than productive investment. Moreover, traditional sources of industrial FDI such as the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom have pulled back on their involvement.Services and rent-seeking sectors such as financial services, energy distribution and hospitality saw increased capital flow. Despite their contribution to GDP, such investments lack the broader multiplier effects typically associated with manufacturing, infrastructure or advanced technology. This shift is contributing to weaker long-term growth potential and reduced economic resilience.India's macroeconomic stability is also closely tied to the health of its FDI ecosystem. FDI inflows serve as a source of capital, support the balance of payments and provide a cushion for the currency. As FDI net inflows decline, the implications for external account management and monetary policy flexibility become more concerning. The Reserve Bank of India has acknowledged this trend, noting that while rising outflows are in line with trends in other emerging economies, they also present risks that need to be managed carefully. Around half of India's FDI outflows are directed toward developed economies, attracted by favourable tax regimes, market stability, and access to strategic resources.What needs to be doneIf India seeks to lead as a global investment hub, it must look beyond headline FDI figures and focus on the quality, durability and strategic alignment of capital inflows. An overemphasis on gross figures neglecting their origin or economic impact risks masking deeper vulnerabilities. What the country truly needs is committed capital investment that builds domestic capability and furthers national priorities. Streamlined regulations, infrastructure upgrades, policy stability and renewed trust in institutions may help fulfil these priorities. Equally crucial is investing in human capital to attract high-value sectors such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and technology. India stands at the crossroads in the FDI conundrum.

The making of an ecological disaster in the Nicobar



There has been no shortage of half-baked and ill-conceived policymaking in the last 11 years. The latest in this series of planned misadventures is the Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure project. The totally misplaced ?72,000 crore expenditure poses an existential danger to the island's indigenous tribal communities, threatens one of the world's most unique flora and fauna ecosystems, and is highly susceptible to natural disasters. Nevertheless, it is being insensitively pushed through, making a mockery of all legal and deliberative processes.The Great Nicobar Island is home to two indigenous communities, the Nicobarese tribe and the Shompen tribe (a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group). The ancestral villages of the Nicobarese tribals fall in the project's proposed land area. The Nicobarese were forced to evacuate their villages during the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. This project will now permanently displace this community, ending its dream of returning to its ancestral villages.

The Shompen face an even greater threat. The Island's Shompen Policy, notified by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, specifically requires the authorities to prioritise the tribe's welfare and "integrity", when considering "large scale development proposals." Instead, the project denotifies a significant part of the Shompen tribal reserve, destroys the forest ecosystems where the Shompen live, and will cause a large-scale influx of people and tourists on the island. Ultimately, the Shompen will find themselves cut off from their ancestral lands and unable to sustain their social and economic existence. Yet, the Government is stubbornly adamant and shockingly insistent.The Constitutional and statutory bodies set up to preserve tribal rights have been sidestepped throughout this process. As in Article 338-A of the Constitution, the Government should have consulted the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. It has failed to do so. The Government should have consulted the Tribal Council of Great Nicobar and Little Nicobar Island. Instead, the Council Chairman's plea that the Nicobarese tribals be allowed to return to their ancestral villages has been neglected. A Letter of No Objection was secured from the Council, but it has since been revoked, with the Council noting that the authorities had "rushed them" into signing the letter.What is the scale of environmental risks and biodiversity losses linked to the Great Nicobar mega-project? | In Focus podcastDue process and regulatory safeguards set up to protect local communities have been evaded. The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) conducted as per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 should have considered the Nicobarese and Shompen as stakeholders of the process and evaluated the project's impact on them. Instead, it omits any reference to them altogether. The Forest Rights Act (2006), which empowers the Shompen as the authority to protect, preserve, regulate and manage the forests, should have underpinned any policy action. Instead, the Shompen have not been consulted on this issue — a fact which the Tribal Council has now confirmed. The country's laws are being mocked wholesale. Unconscionably, one of the country's most vulnerable groups may have to pay the ultimate price for it.The farce of compensatory afforestation

Ecologically, this project is nothing short of an environmental and humanitarian catastrophe. The project will require the cutting down of trees on an estimated 15% of the island's land, decimating a nationally and globally unique rainforest ecosystem. The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change estimates that 8.5 lakh trees may be cut. This is a depressing figure, but it may also be a gross underestimate — independent estimates have suggested that 32 lakh trees to 58 lakh trees may eventually be cut.The Government's solution to this indiscriminate tree feeling is that of 'compensatory afforestation', a rather poor substitute for the loss of natural, old-growth forests. Inexplicably, the planned afforestation is in Haryana, a State that is thousands of kilometres away, and in a decidedly different ecology. In a tragedy bordering on farce, a quarter of this land planned for afforestation has now been auctioned off by the Haryana Government for mining. In any case, compensatory afforestation may help assuage a guilty conscience but is simply no substitute for the destruction of multi-species, biodiversity-rich natural forests. The planned port site is also controversial with some of it falling under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 1A. Port construction is prohibited in CRZ 1A areas due to the presence of turtle nesting sites and coral reefs.Despite abundant evidence confirming the same, which includes a National Green Tribunal order, the Government has contrived ways to manipulate this truth through a high-powered committee (HPC). The report of this HPC and the ground-truthing exercise it conducted to reclassify the port site out of CRZ 1A has not been made public.From a wildlife standpoint too, the project raises serious concerns. Primatologists have written to the Government expressing grave concerns about the project's impact on the Nicobar long-tailed macaque. These concerns have been ignored. The biodiversity assessments for the projects have come under questioning for critical methodological flaws. The assessment of sea turtle nesting sites was conducted in the off-season for nesting. Drones were employed to gauge the project's impact on dugongs, but these drones have limited capacity and can only assess shallow areas. Evidence has emerged that the institutes were made to conduct these assessments under highly unusual conditions, bordering on duress.Finally, the project — including the port — is coming up in a seismically sensitive earthquake prone zone. The tsunami of December 2004 saw a permanent land subsidence of about 15 feet. The 6.2 magnitude earthquake in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in July 2025 only reminds us of this ever-present threat. Locating such a massive project here deliberately jeopardises investment, infrastructure, people, and the ecology.Our collective conscience cannot, and must not, stay silent when the very survival of the Shompen and Nicobarese tribes is at stake. Our commitment to future generations cannot permit this large-scale destruction of a most unique ecosystem. We must raise our voice against this travesty of justice and this betrayal of our national values.

Nilgiris tea and the brewing of a crisis

At the start of the current millennium, the Nilgiris saw a turn of events that were most unlikely in its glorious history. Plantation farmers, most of them Badagas, revolted against the government as the price for Green Tea Leaves (GTL) had dwindled. Initially restrained, the protest soon turned violent when three public buses were set on fire. The centenary celebrations of the famed Ooty Flower show (1999) was also cancelled following growing resentment by local planters. The situation was in danger of spiralling out of control.To address the crisis, a one-day seminar, called the "Future of Tea in the Nilgiris", was organised on September 4, 2000, by the 'Save Nilgiris Campaign', after a signal from the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Every stakeholder across the industry came together to draw attention to the plight of the industry and discuss paths to take. It is unfortunate that a quarter of a century later, the remedy remains elusive.

Participants flagged the reasons for the price decline and highlighted the need for reforms. The facts were there for all to see: an over-reliance on Russian exports, poor quality management, auction gimmicks, adulteration and local market negligence had together resulted in a crisis. From the late 1970s, Nilgiris tea had overwhelming market support in the erstwhile USSR. The land cover of this plantation crop in the Nilgiris rose by 36% between 1985 and 1995 and small tea growers welcomed the flow of unprecedented wealth and income.Then things changed. The collapse of the USSR and the devaluation of the rouble by 30% worsened the existing situation for small growers. They were reeling under high production costs, which were proportional to the quality of the product. An excess of factories in weak feeder areas reduced GTL quality. The total capacity of tea factories in the Nilgiris was more than double that of crop production. Though tea experts endorsed the well-oiled functioning of the auction system, unhealthy practices began to disrupt operations at the Coonoor auction centre. Some producers had taken money in advance from brokers, pushing them to supply made tea at fixed rates. From 1990, sales at Coonoor rose while those at other centres across India declined. Yet average prices stayed the lowest. This disparity highlighted the need to streamline quality and trading.

According to the Tea Board of India, the Nilgiris tea industry covers about 46,481 small tea growers with an assessed plantation area of 34,408.85 hectares. The main demands of these growers include a minimum GTL price, a base auction price, and recognition of this plantation crop as an essential commodity under the Ministry of Agriculture. Currently, tea remains under the ambit of the Ministry of Commerce. Though the health benefits of tea are well known, trade interests have ensured that tea is treated as an item under commerce. Government schemes and subsidies have failed to deliver the goods. The call by the United Planters' Association of Southern India, the apex body, to go in for intercropping has not gained ground. The situation demands renewed trust among battered growers.To overcome this persistent cost price crisis, growers and producers must implement strategies that result in a win-win situation. Progressive small tea growers must look at innovation and mechanisation during the phases of plucking and pruning. They must look at self-employment to avoid heavy labour costs. Most bought leaf factories have been successful in branding and direct trade, in-line with the outcomes of the seminar. However, they should also explore tea exports to CIS countries and encourage sales in untapped domestic markets.Of late, second- and third-generation planters have begun to move to the IT sector, and are hiring labour. The



reluctance of next-generation producers to target CIS markets is a result of apathy or due to a lack of global marketing competence.The government-run INDCOSERVE and TANTEA could also lead the way by becoming price leaders, as they have access to one-fourth of GTL procurements among bought leaf factories. There is great potential for value-added products as the Nilgiris is capable of producing some of the best tea in the world — the "champagne among teas".Yukesh Saravanan is a member of the Nilgiri Documentation Centre, The Nilgiris. His work focuses on the environment, indigenous communities and local history

Why lithium-ion batteries need to be recycled

The next in the column featuring conversations with entrepreneurs, technologists and researchers about emerging technologies and what students need to know about these fieldsWhat do you do?

I am the co-founder and CTO of MiniMines Cleantech Solutions, a lithium-ion battery (LIB) resource recovery company. Using our patented Hybrid Hydrometallurgy process, we recover high-purity lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite and copper from all types of end-of-life (EoL) LIBs at one-tenth the carbon footprint of other technologies. I have a PG degree in Nanotechnology and Biotechnology. I have worked on drug development and diagnostics at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, developed and delivered anti-corrosion coating for naval warships (US Navy - ONRG Singapore), and developed technologies for energy storage devices like LIBs, Supercapacitors and Aluminium-air Batteries.Why is your work important?

As the world is moving towards sustainability, the demand for EVs and energy storage devices like LIBs is increasing exponentially. The heavy metals in LIBs are an environmental risk and a fire hazard after their EoL. Our work enables sustainable LIB recycling and achieves high recovery rates (>96%) and purity (>99%) with minimal discharge. By recovering critical minerals responsibly, we reduce e-waste, mining dependence, and support a global circular economy essential for the clean energy transition.What is exciting about your work?The opportunity to solve a pressing global challenge — lithium-ion battery waste and limited domestic critical mineral supply while building a true and sustainable circular economy.

Is it possible to mint money from one's hobbies?

What if I told you that you could make money through hobbies? Interesting right? Yes, it's possible to grow money, if hobbies also become investments.If you are an avid numismatist who collects rare coins, a bibliophile who collects books or comics, a philatelist collecting stamps, a connoisseur of art, or a music buff, you can easily turn that hobby into a source of income.Even wine and whiskey enthusiasts can earn money by investing in fine vintages. These drinks have also become alternative investments and potential sources of income."But wait. Even if you don't collect, you can still invest in them, provided you learn and explore. Investing platforms don't care whether you're truly passionate about these hobbies or merely interested in them as assets.Hobby investmentsThe world of hobby-style investments is wide and varied – collectibles such as coins, stamps, comics, trading cards, physical or digital art, paintings, fine wines, whiskeys, music royalties, watches, jewellery, vintage cars, motorcycles, memorabilia, autographs and much more.In India, many such investments are gradually gaining traction.Making moneyHobbies turn into investments when the items you collect gain value over a period. The worth and value of a collectible depends on its rarity and demand among collectors. A rare coin, first-edition comic or a limited-edition wine bottle could considerably rise in price after a couple of years. Including hobby-style assets in portfolio gives you emotional gratification, financial potential and serves as a good way of diversification.How to invest?

If you are investing hard-earned money in a post-office scheme, you don't need to worry about learning



Entering the terrains of hobby-investments is a different ball game altogether. Such a foray requires careful understanding, research and patience before it starts yielding gains

complicated jargon. Just do some math and see which scheme yields more interest. But entering hobby-investments is a different ball game altogether. It needs careful understanding, research, and patience. You need to observe the market trends keenly, verify the authenticity and consider storage and preservation. At times, you may need to build connections with fellow collectors or communities. Even a small mistake will cost painfully. However, the rewards, financial and emotional, can make the learning and effort worthwhile.Do research

o not invest in any hobby-style asset without homework. You need to put in the effort to learn about the assets' rarity, authenticity and demand. Check for certified dealers of coins and stamps; explore galleries and online platforms for art; understand vintages, storage and preservation techniques for wine or whiskey. No broker, agent or a friend can do this for you. Only knowledge can reduce your risk, prevent you from making poor or losing choices, and help you invest smartly.The platforms you choose must be trustworthy. Though online auction-houses and online marketplaces make the buying and selling easier and safer, you need to exercise caution. Read reviews, try to talk to other collectors or hobby-style investors. For wine, whiskey, or music royalties, you need to ensure whether the international platform you have zeroed in on accepts Indian residents. If it does, check currency rates, forex charges, taxes or shipping and other factors before investing. For physical assets such as coins, art, wine and other collectibles, storage and preservation are crucial. Improper care can significantly reduce value over time. Therefore, it is essential to invest in safe storage solutions before investing in them.Begin smallBegin small. Invest only what you can comfortably afford to lose. For instance, in India, some collectibles such as vintage cars or rare wines need huge investment, so starting with affordable options such as coins or stamps is advisable. Once you get the hang of hobby-style assets, you can gradually move on to other higher-value hobby assets. Patience is key, as these assets do not yield significant profits in the short- or medium term. Diversification is crucial. Spread investments across coins, comics, art, or wine, and other collectibles.Caution: These investments carry high risk and volatility. Prices may fluctuate wildly and liquidity can be limited. Only invest money you can afford to lose. Make informed decisions based on thorough research and verification. Treat these investments as a combination of passion and long-term strategy, not a shortcut to quick profits.

Role of fortified rice in India's nutritional strategy



India has made remarkable progress in addressing food insecurity, transitioning from severe food shortages to becoming a major food producer. The country now stands as a leading producer of cereals and for the first time in decades, the gross value added from fruits and vegetables has surpassed that of cereals, indicating a diversification in agricultural production. Additionally, India is the largest producer of milk and ranks among the biggest producers of poultry. These achievements, coupled with well-designed and implemented social safety net programs such as the National Food Security Act, which guarantees subsidised cereals to 67% of the population, have significantly reduced food insecurity.However, the focus has now shifted from simply ensuring food availability to improving the quality of the diet consumed. Poor diets lead to both undernutrition and overnutrition. India faces the 'double burden of malnutrition', where both undernutrition and over-nutrition coexist. This is further exacerbated by widespread micronutrient deficiencies, often referred to as 'hidden hunger,' which affect both undernourished and overweight or obese individuals. Achieving optimal nutrition requires addressing various factors such as access, affordability, and behaviour changes, ensuring that the population consumes a diverse and nutrient-rich diet.Micronutrients are essential vitamins and minerals (e.g., iron, iodine, vitamin A, and zinc etc) which are crucial for growth and development. Since the human body cannot produce most micronutrients, these must be obtained through the food we eat. Deficiency of these micronutrients, largely due to unbalanced diets, has become a global health issue, affecting nearly five billion people worldwide. In India, micronutrient deficiencies are a major public health concern - with high prevalence of anaemia among women and children being one example. Promoting a diverse, nutrient-rich diet is vital for overall health and well-being

A recent working paper from the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, titled Changes in India's Food Consumption and Policy Implications, analysed Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022-23 and 2011-12. The findings reveal rising per capita household expenditure nationwide, though disparities remain. Notably, for the first time, food expenditure has fallen below 50% of total spending across states and consumption classes, including the bottom 20%. Consumption of fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meat, eggs, and fish has increased across all states, including among the bottom 20%. However, intake levels remain below recommended amounts for most people. Cereal consumption has decreased across rural and urban areas and among all consumption classes. Despite this, an improvement in the diversity of food consumption was seen, indicating better availability, access, and affordability, likely due to food security programmes that have enabled households to save on cereals and spend more on other food items.The study underlined that despite increased intake of essential vitamins and minerals, the consumption of micronutrients remains inadequate compared to 2011-12. Iron deficiency is particularly concerning, as intake in most states is less than the average requirement. This is worrying because cereals, the major iron source for most of the population, especially the bottom 20%, are consumed less. This downward trend in cereal intake could further reduce dietary iron intake in these households. Anaemia, largely caused by iron deficiency, is also linked to other nutrient deficiencies, such as folate and vitamin B12. The study found inadequate consumption of these nutrients contributes to the high prevalence of nutritional anaemia in the country.

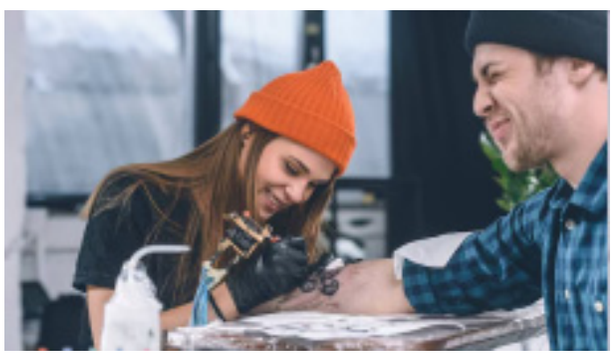
Addressing micronutrient deficiencies requires a clear strategy, including dietary diversification, supplementation for high-risk groups, and fortification of staple foods. These strategies are complementary and often used together. As shown in the HCES, dietary diversity is improving, but reaching the required level may take time. Addressing anaemia has always been a high priority in India. The revamped Anaemia Mukt Bharat programme is comprehensive and includes iron and folic acid supplementation for high-risk groups, behaviour change communication, and fortified foods in social safety-net programmes.As part of the comprehensive strategy to address anaemia, the Government of India has decided to fortify rice with iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12. This decision was made after careful consideration of available options. Rice was chosen as the vehicle for fortification because it is consumed by about 65% of the population and is the dominant cereal distributed through the public distribution system (PDS). Although the efficacy and effectiveness of rice fortification are proven, the government implemented the programme in phases. Large pilots were conducted in 15 districts across 15 states as a learning exercise to ensure the feasibility of integrating fortified rice into the PDS. The cost-effectiveness and evaluation of these pilots was documented. Encouraged by the positive results, the government proceeded to scale-up the distribution of fortified rice nationwide. In addition to fortified rice, nutrient-rich foods like pulses and millets have been included in the PDS in many states as part of efforts to diversify and improve dietary intake.Fortification is not a new concept in India – we have a long history of food fortification, starting in 1953 with the fortification of vanaspati ghee with vitamin A. One of independent India's significant achievements is salt iodisation, which has nearly eliminated goitre and cretinism. Studies on iron, folate, and vitamin B12-fortified rice have shown positive results in addressing anaemia. For example, a United Nations World Food Programme study in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh demonstrated a decrease in anaemia among children and women who received fortified rice through the PDS and school meals. Similarly, a study in Gujarat noted improved haemoglobin levels, reduced anaemia prevalence, and better cognitive performance among schoolchildren who consumed fortified rice. These studies not only show the biological impact but also prove that fortified rice can be easily integrated into the existing public distribution system.While a diversified diet should ideally provide necessary nutrients, unfortunately, this is not always the case due to factors, like availability, access, affordability, and food habits. Despite efforts to encourage people to diversify their diets, it is essential to ensure that they consume optimal levels of micronutrients. Public health authorities have formulated a combination of strategies to meet the nutrient requirements of the population, including rice fortification programme. The strategy should be viewed as part of a broader strategy to address dietary gaps in iron, folate, and vitamin B12, rather than a standalone solution. These measures, combined with disease control efforts such as improved water, hygiene, and sanitation, are likely to result in a much faster reduction in anaemia among women and children.

How to choose a tattoo you'll never regret

Many people compare getting their first tattoo to having their first cup of coffee—once you try it, there's no turning back, and soon you'll want more. But unlike a cup of coffee, a tattoo is permanent, and that brings with it a significant commitment. You'll see that ink on your body every single day, so you need to make sure you truly love it.For some, though, that connection fades. What once felt deeply personal can quickly turn into a source of regret. A tattoo that was once a symbol of a moment or a trend can start to feel like a burden, and over time, the charm can wear off. When that happens, the only option seems to be to remove it, and even that process can be painful.So, is it possible to get a tattoo you'll never regret? The answer might be more complex than you think, but it's worth considering before you make that permanent decision.

Why do people get inked?

"The psychology behind getting a tattoo varies widely from person to person and is also influenced by cultural, emotional or individual preferences. Most people get tattoos for the aesthetic appeal or for the love of art or culture. But there are also individuals who get tattoos based on self-expression, which can be emotional expression, social connection and belonging, an impulsive decision, or even a symbol of transformation," Lokesh Verma, founder of Devil'z Tattooz, tells India Today.Adding to this, Prashant Yaduvanshi, founder of Shaman Ink, mentions that for some, tattoos serve as a coping mechanism or a symbolic representation of personal growth, healing, or significant life events."Ultimately, tattoos reflect a person's unique journey, with their meaning and purpose as individual as the person wearing them," he says.The right spotAccording to Verma, people usually prefer the forearm and side of the wrist for a tattoo because these areas are less painful and offer a smaller surface area for smaller tattoos.Meanwhile, Yaduvanshi feels that tattoo placement and design are highly subjective, but some areas are more popular than others. Common placements include the forearm, upper sleeve, and



back, as these offer ample space and relatively low pain levels.As for designs, many people opt for minimalist symbols, floral motifs, meaningful quotes, or geometric patterns. He states that the choice ultimately depends on personal style, body shape, and the significance of the tattoo.

Choosing the right placement for your tattoo is crucial (Photo: Getty Images)

Should it be visible to you?

"The idea that people should get tattoos in places they can't see often is subjective and depends on personal preference and psychological reasoning," shares Lokesh Verma.While many prefer tattoos in open areas, some people do not, and the reason may be to avoid overexposure, which could lead to boredom or reduce emotional intensity, or even for reasons related to professional and social acceptance.Yaduvanshi agrees and says that the idea that tattoos should be placed where they aren't visible often comes from the belief that one might grow bored with them over time.However, this couldn't be further from the truth for most individuals, as tattoos often serve as cherished reminders, symbols of self-expression, or personal stories that bring joy each time they're seen.

Sewer gas deaths: the science behind fatalities and protective gear

the Government informed the Rajya Sabha that 377 people had died between 2019 and 2023, while they were involved in the hazardous task of cleaning sewer and septic tanks. Just a few years ago in Chennai, at a prominent mall, a worker lost his life while cleaning a septic tank -- and this is despite manual scavenging being banned in the country. Ironically, two national surveys (in 2013 and 2018) claimed that manual scavenging no longer existed in India. The challenge therefore, lies in identifying manual scavengers, as their work is often informal employment or outsourced contracts. While there is undeniable sociopathic negligence with regard to this practice, the conversation often focuses solely on its sociological aspects. It is also critical however, to understand how sewer gases are formed, their impact on the human body, and the mechanisms of fatality and consequences of exposure to these gases.

What is sewer gas?

Sewer gas is a generic name for a mixture of toxic and non-toxic gases. Sewer gases are formed through the microbial decomposition of organic matter in anaerobic or oxygen-deprived environments. Organic waste serves as the fuel for bacterial activity, breaking down into harmful gases such as hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), methane (CH_4), ammonia (NH_3), carbon dioxide (CO_2), and carbon monoxide (CO). H_2S is produced when sulphate-reducing bacteria break down sulphates in organic matter. Methanogenic bacteria generate methane and are odourless but highly flammable, posing a risk of explosions. Ammonia is formed from nitrogenous waste and can cause severe irritation to the respiratory system. Carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide arise from organic matter degradation and incomplete combustion.H_2S is the most hazardous sewer gas. In nature, it originates from volcanic eruptions, hot springs, and the decay of organic matter in environments like swamps, marshes, and coal pits. Industrially, H_2S is prevalent in sectors such as oil and gas refining, mining, tanning, pulp and paper processing, rayon manufacturing, and wastewater treatment. The formation of sewer gases, especially H_2S, depends on a high concentration of organic waste, long and thick sewer pipes with little airflow, stagnant water, acidic environments and warm temperatures. H_2S is infamous for its distinct rotten egg odour, a warning signal at low concentrations (<0.03 ppm). However, this warning mechanism fails due to olfactory fatigue at dangerously high levels (>100 ppm). When a human being is exposed to elevated concentrations of H_2S, the gas paralyses the olfactory nerve, disabling a person's ability to detect its smell. This is why workers, even if initially alerted by the odour, may suddenly stop noticing it as they inhale more of the gas.

The effect of H_2S on humansIn sewer pipelines, the H_2S concentration can vary depending on the conditions. However, levels capable of causing death are common in poorly-ventilated and stagnant systems. H_2S concentrations in such environments can range from 100 ppm to over 1000 ppm. At concentrations above 100 ppm, the gas, apart from paralysing the olfactory nerve, can cause severe eye and respiratory irritation. When levels exceed 500 ppm, exposure can result in rapid loss of consciousness and respiratory distress within minutes. At concentrations greater than 1000 ppm, H_2S can lead to immediate respiratory arrest and death due to its ability to block cellular oxygen utilisation. At high concentrations, the gas disrupts cellular respiration by inhibiting enzymes in the cytochrome oxidase pathway, depriving cells of oxygen despite the body's ability to breathe.



This can lead to dizziness, loss of consciousness, and collapse within moments. For workers exposed to such high levels, the progression from alertness to unconsciousness is rapid, resulting in death. Imagine your body as a car, with oxygen as the petrol powering its engine. Inside the car, the fuel system is self-contained—the tank (lungs) have the petrol and pipelines (blood vessels) deliver it. The engine (cells) use it to produce energy through an ignition system. The cytochrome oxidase pathway acts like this ignition, helping cells use oxygen effectively. When hydrogen sulfide enters the body, it clogs this ignition system, preventing the engine from burning the fuel. Even though the car has petrol, it can't run. Hydrogen sulfide stops cells from using oxygen, causing the body to "stall" and shut down.

At low concentrations, hydrogen sulfide and ammonia irritate the respiratory system, causing symptoms like coughing, wheezing, and strained breathing. Prolonged exposure, even at low levels, can lead to long-term lung damage, putting workers at risk of chronic respiratory illnesses. H_2S and carbon monoxide also affect the nervous system, causing headaches, dizziness, confusion, and, over time, issues like memory loss and cognitive decline. Ammonia and other acidic substances in sewer gases irritate the eyes, leading to redness, watering, and discomfort. Meanwhile, prolonged skin contact with contaminated sewer water often causes rashes and dermatitis. The importance of safety gearMany sanitation workers in South Asia enter poorly-ventilated sewer systems without adequate training or protective equipment. In developed nations, stringent safety measures protect sewer workers from exposure to toxic gases. Advanced ventilation systems ensure fresh air circulation, minimising the buildup of hazardous gases. Portable multi-gas detectors monitor air quality in real-time, alerting workers to unsafe conditions. Workers are equipped with self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) and chemical-resistant suits to protect them against gas exposure. Robotics and automation have further transformed sewer maintenance.In the movie The Shawshank Redemption, Andy Dufresne crawled through 500 yards of sewage to escape from a U.S. prison in the 1940s. That scene set nearly 80 years ago, portrayed the triumph of resilience and hope as Andy emerged alive, unscathed, and free to rebuild his life. In the United States, even then, sewer systems weren't the deadly gas chambers they could have been. Fast forward to 2024, and the reality in South Asia is depressing. Even today, sewer lines in this part of the world remain death traps, filled with lethal gases like hydrogen sulfide, turning them into execution chambers. Workers sent into these pipelines don't crawl toward freedom like Dufresne did, but are pulled out as lifeless bodies, victims of an inhumane system that has failed them.

Rising to the challenge: what we need to do for a future without AIDS

In 1986, when Suniti Solomon diagnosed the first cases of HIV in India, the nation was unprepared for the scale of the crisis to come. Her groundbreaking work not only placed India on the global HIV map but also inspired a generation of caregivers, researchers, and policymakers. Solomon's vision materialised as YRGCARE in Chennai, an organisation that blended compassion with cutting-edge science to address the HIV epidemic. Today, YRGCARE is still engaged in tackling the changing landscape of HIV in India.There continue to be many challenges, though treatment modalities have come a long way. Some of the key challenges are:

Stigma continues to deter many from seeking diagnosis and treatment. In rural and urban India alike, misconceptions about HIV, exacerbated by social and cultural biases, lead to delayed care. The rise of digital misinformation further complicates efforts, requiring robust awareness campaigns tailored to counter these challenges.Access to healthcare remains a challenge, again. While India's ART program is one of the largest globally, disparities in access persist. Rural populations, marginalised communities, and women often face logistical and financial barriers to accessing healthcare. Expanding differentiated care models like community-based ART delivery and telemedicine can help close these gaps.

As the very important task of spreading awareness continues, traditional awareness campaigns must be reimagined to reach younger populations and high-risk groups. Introducing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) offers new possibilities, but widespread adoption in the country requires increased awareness, affordability, and accessibility. Virtual interventions are the big game changers in this area, due to their reach across the younger population in the current internet era. This has to be fully leveraged through innovative approaches specific to HIV care continuum.It is also very important to integrate HIV and broader health systems. As HIV increasingly intersects with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, integrating HIV care into primary healthcare systems is crucial. This holistic approach ensures comprehensive care and long-term sustainability, addressing co-morbidities while advancing the fight against HIV.

Achieving viral suppression remains the ultimate goal. This involves ensuring treatment adherence, monitoring viral load effectively, and providing mental health support to people living with HIV. Empowering individuals with consistent care and community-driven solutions can reduce transmission rates and improve their quality of life. YRGCARE, in observance of World AIDS Day 2024, and to remind people that HIV continues to be an infection that should not be ignored, has displayed the red ribbon in three prominent locations in Chennai.This initiative is a powerful awareness symbol, encouraging citizens to reflect on the epidemic and its ongoing impact. Suniti Solomon believed in the power of hope and humanity to drive progress. She once said, "Hope is our greatest ally in the fight against HIV." YRGCARE continues to build partnerships with governments, civil society, and global organisations to end the AIDS epidemic.Despite the many health crises the world has faced across timelines, including the recent COVID-19 pandemic, HIV continues to be a relentless challenge. Having claimed over 40 million lives globally, HIV remains not only a public health issue but



also a profoundly personal burden for the individuals infected and those in their lives who are affected. Its impact resonates through families, communities, and systems, demanding persistent focus and innovation.

Socio-economic factors influence dementia risk and recovery, study finds

New Delhi: Not just genes, a new study has found that socio-economic factors such as education, occupation and wealth can also impact the likelihood of developing cognitive impairment or dementia in later life and whether a person is likely to recover.By estimating the time spent in each cognitive state and the likelihood of transitions to neuro-cognitive disorders such as cognitive impairment and dementia, the researchers from University College London (UCL) were able to gain a comprehensive understanding of how socioeconomic factors impact the progression of a person's disorder, as well as the duration spent within each cognitive state over time.Lead author Aswathikutty Gireesh from UCL Epidemiology and Health Care said that it is possible that education and intellectually demanding jobs provide more mental stimulation and help to build a stronger brain reserve to help protect individuals against cognitive impairment and dementia.The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, highlights the critical role of wealth, education, and occupation not only in reducing the risk of transitioning from mild cognitive impairment to dementia but also in increasing the likelihood of reversing cognitive impairment to a healthy cognitive state, which is promising, said senior author Dr Dorina Cadar from UCL Department of Behavioural Science and Health and Brighton and Sussex Medical School.The researchers tracked how people moved between various states: healthy, mild cognitive impairment and dementia. They also considered the possibility of reversals, where individuals improved from a mild cognitive impairment state to a healthy one.



Videocon's Venugopal Dhoot declared bankrupt over Rs 12,668 crore SBI default



The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has declared Venugopal Nandlal Dhoot, the former promoter and director of Videocon Industries, bankrupt over the default of Rs 12,668 crore loans from the State Bank of India (SBI). The Mumbai bench of the tribunal, in an order passed on Thursday, directed that Dhoot's estate be vested in bankruptcy trustee Ashish Narayan and distributed among the creditors. The creditors had earlier rejected the Rs 600 crore repayment plan from Dhoot.The case relates to the personal guarantees furnished by Venugopal Dhoot for credit facilities or loans granted to Videocon Industries limited and Videocon Telecommunications Limited during 2010 and 2012. The companies had availed rupee term loans and working capital facilities from SBI and its associated banks, who were merged in April 2017, where Dhoot had unconditionally guaranteed the due repayment and discharge of all sums of money and liabilities.

FROM THE ARCHIVES | How did Videocon' Chairman Venugopal Dhoot, one of India's biggest industrialists, end up in jail?

However, Videocon Industries defaulted on loan and was admitted into the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in June 2018. That process was consolidated with those of 12 other Videocon group companies by an NCLT order in August 2019. Before the companies went into insolvency, the SBI had issued demand notices to Venugopal Dhoot in February 2018 seeking the repayment of loans.Later, the SBI got a separate personal insolvency resolution process initiated against Dhoot in April 2026 for not presenting any repayment plan of its dues. After two months, the personal guarantor submitted a Combined Repayment Plan with a Detailed Project Report for a proposed development at Siliguri, offering Rs 600 crores over 36 months, which the Petition states to be just 0.42% of the admitted dues.The resolution professional in the case opined that the proposed repayment mechanism was substantially contingent on future development, approvals and cash flows that could not be verified, and offers nothing upfront and any realisation. Due to these uncertainties in the repayment, the creditors agreed to close the personal insolvency and initiate bankruptcy process against Dhoot.In July 2026, the NCLT rejected Dhoot's repayment plan and initiated the bankruptcy process for the default of Rs 12,668 crore loans (including interest and penalties), as submitted by SBI.The tribunal has directed Venugopal Dhoot to submit details of his financial position to the Bankruptcy trustee. The Bankruptcy Trustee shall issue a public notice inviting claims from the creditors and conduct the administration and distribution of the estate of the bankrupt in accordance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Air pollution may be ageing bone marrow faster in people with diabetes, study finds



Air pollution may affect more than the lungs and heart. A study in mice has found that exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) can accelerate ageing in bone marrow stem cells, weaken their ability to regenerate and shift the balance between bone and fat formation.These effects were more pronounced in mice with Type 2 diabetes, suggesting that people with existing metabolic conditions could be particularly vulnerable. However, the findings have not yet been established in humans. Published in the Journal of Hazardous Materials, the study by researchers at South Korea's Jeonbuk National University examined PM2.5 exposure in diabetic and non-diabetic mice. The researchers found increased oxidative stress, DNA damage and cellular ageing in two types of bone marrow stem cells. Oxidative stress occurs when harmful molecules damage cells, while cellular senescence is a state in which cells stop dividing normally. The damage was greater in diabetic mice.The findings come amid worsening air quality in India's metros, including Mumbai, which recorded higher AQI readings than Delhi on several days in October. High pollution levels, driven by vehicular emissions, construction dust and weather conditions that trap pollutants, pose growing risks to public health.

What did the researchers find?

For the experiment, male mice were exposed to artificially generated PM2.5 in a simulation chamber. The average concentration was 50.6 micrograms per cubic metre. The animals were exposed for two hours a day over five days and assessed after four weeks of exposure.The researchers examined two types of stem cells: mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), which can develop into bone and fat cells, and haematopoietic stem and progenitor cells (HSCs/HPCs), which produce blood cells. PM2.5 reduced the ability of cells to form colonies, an indicator of their capacity to multiply and develop into different cell types. Transplantation experiments also showed that exposed bone marrow cells were less capable of replenishing blood-forming cells in recipient mice.The researchers found changes in the bone marrow environment as well. MSCs can develop into bone-forming cells or fat cells. In exposed mice, this balance shifted towards fat formation and away from bone formation. Diabetic mice showed increased fat accumulation in their bone marrow and lower bone mineral density in their femurs (thigh bones). Lower bone mineral density can make bones weaker and more vulnerable to fractures.However, not all measures of bone health changed. Certain parameters relating to the spongy tissue inside bones remained unaffected.

What about implications for India?

The findings are relevant to India, which has an estimated 89.8 million adults living with diabetes, according to the International Diabetes Federation.Dr Shashank R Joshi, an endocrinologist, diabetologist and medical researcher practising at Lilavati Hospital, said pollution-related oxidative stress could add to complications faced by people with diabetes. "Pollution damages cells because of oxidative stress. In the animal world, not in the human world, there is complete data to show that air pollution has an effect on bones beyond respiratory and heart diseases. Both on the bone per se, that is osteoporosis, as well as on the bone marrow," he said.However, he cautioned that Indian clinical evidence linking long-term pollution exposure to these outcomes remained limited. "Indian data is still lukewarm. So, we need to do that scientific data in a very scientific way," he said, adding that the available evidence was scattered and not yet part of standard clinical practice. He called for stronger measures to control vehicular emissions and construction dust, as well as particulate matter monitoring around construction sites.

Were other organs affected?

The study also found stronger lung inflammation in diabetic mice, along with liver injury and fat accumulation. Changes were observed in pancreatic islets, clusters of cells that regulate blood sugar, including reduced insulin expression and increased glucagon expression. Despite the reduced function of blood-forming stem cells, the researchers found no significant changes in blood counts or haemoglobin levels.

Could the damage be prevented?

The researchers identified activation of a group of proteins involved in triggering inflammation, as one possible mechanism behind the damage. They also tested an experimental inhibitor, which reduced several markers of inflammation, oxidative stress, DNA damage and cellular senescence in the mice. However, this does not establish it as a treatment for pollution-related damage in humans.Professor Sung-Ho Kook of Jeonbuk National University, who led the research team, said, "Our findings show that the harmful effects of air pollution may extend beyond the respiratory system to affect bone marrow stem cell function, and that people with pre-existing metabolic diseases may be particularly vulnerable. Ultimately, we hope this work will encourage a more integrated approach to disease prevention that considers environmental exposures alongside underlying health conditions."

Amid global AI meltdown, stocks jump 9% in a week, best run in 6 years



The stock market gained another 2% on Friday and extended its winning run to the seventh session on its way to posting a 9% rise in one week — its best in six years — amid a global artificial intelligence-led driven meltdown that extended from the US to Japan.While some of these markets are on the verge of entering bear territory, Indian markets look rejuvenated after a disappointing year — the Nifty is now down only 2% in the past one year and is at an eight-month high, while the Sensex is at a nine-month high — as foreign investors have come rushing in recent days. As a result, the rupee has also strengthened markedly, closing at 93.91 per dollar on Friday, up 2.7% in the last month.

Foreign investors bought $1.1 billion worth shares on a net basis on Friday — their largest single-day purchase in nearly six years — taking the total for the week to $4.6 billion. This marks a big departure from what has prevailed for the better part of three years: from January 2024 to October this year, foreign investors have dumped $50 billion worth of Indian shares.The Sensex added 1,718.01 points to close 2.2% higher on Friday at 81,028.02, while the Nifty 50 ended 493.75 points, or 2%, higher at 25,030.35, crossing the psychologically-crucial 25,000-mark for the first time since February. Most sectors were in the green, with banking, financial services, and pharmaceuticals being the top gainers.

In an interaction with The Indian Express, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said, AI is not the only story that will determine the optimism or the continued increase in the financial asset prices in the Indian stock market. "It is also true that in the last few days, the oil price came down quite significantly. Brent was trading at near $115 per barrel. Now it came down to $94. Of course, today it is $98 as we speak. Also, the Indian 10-year bond yield approaching 7.5 has also rallied to 7.2%. So all these factors played their part as well. But the most dominant influence was India's status as a non-AI play is definitely weighing positively on the Indian market sentiment and also drawing in FII investors in the near term."'…the AI frenzy has sucked capital into a narrow sector and a few, selected economies. Returns, at least for a while, have been stunning. But, given recent jitters, it's worth to widen the perspective again. That's where India comes in, bypassed by much of global capital in recent quarters," said HSBC economists led by Frederic Neumann, Chief Asia Economist and Co-head Global Research Asia, on Friday.

In the US, shares of key AI companies have been hammered in recent days, with the likes of chipmaker Micron down 26% since October 30, while Nvidia has fallen 11%. On Thursday, the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite fell 5.5% — the biggest single-day fall in 19 months — as a resounding win for the Democrats in the US midterm elections deepened fears of tighter AI regulations and potential roadblocks to construction of crucial data centres.Asian markets on Friday took cues from Thursday's overnight selloff on Wall Street, with South Korea's Kospi, Taiwan's Taiex, and Japan's Nikkei 225 indices dropping 5-6%. In South Korea, chipmakers SK Hynix and Samsung have plunged 20% and 16%, respectively, since October 30.The initial relief following the Democratic sweep of (the US) Congress has faded sharply amid concerns over tighter scrutiny of AI infrastructure investment," noted analysts at MUFG Bank on Friday.India's 'anti-AI play'According to Tanvi Kanchan, Associate Director at Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers, global investors are "reallocating within emerging markets"."For most of this year, North Asia's AI-heavy markets pulled money away from India, which was seen as having little exposure to the AI trade. Now that trade is unwinding sharply. So yes, part of this is an anti-AI play. Indian IT services companies are being treated as a relative safe haven, since they sell enterprise services rather than the AI hardware and data centres now in question," she added.A knock-on effect of the Democrats taking control of the US Congress has been hopes of an end to the war in West Asia, which should help cool global energy prices. This is a key consideration for India, as it imports a vast majority of its energy needs."AI or no AI, India's macro could look a lot better with lower oil prices," said analysts at Kotak Institutional Equities. "We expect India's macroeconomic position to improve dramatically over the next few months, as crude prices come down to 'normal' levels on likely improved supply-demand balance," the report noted.On Thursday, the price of India's crude oil basket had fallen to $94.52 per barrel, down sharply from October's average of $119.91 per barrel.Robust earningsWhile India's lack of AI exposure has been a drawback for domestic stocks over the last year or so, expensive valuations have also played a role for longer. But the decline seen until the last few days in conjunction with robust company earnings in July-September are seemingly tilting the balance in India's favour."The 2QFY27 earnings season is off to a good start, after a strong 1Q," noted Nomura analysts on Monday. "Normalised PAT grew 34% — an 18% beat versus consensus. Ex-oil & gas, normalised profit after tax grew 29%, still a 5% beat to consensus expectations.""With the kind of earnings that have come, and we would like to believe that earnings are going to remain better in the next 1-2 quarters, then the current levels are quite good, given that the P/E (price-to-earnings) levels are attractive," said Pankaj Pandey, head of research at ICICI Securities.The robust earnings can be attributed to sectors such as financial services, while fuel-sensitive sectors have largely passed on the higher costs due to the West Asia war.The increased listing activity seen last month, which sucked away cash from the secondary stock market, has also cooled after Reliance Jio's IPO.

Protein laddoos to party plates: How I manage the festive season



At a recent wedding, the hosts were serving protein laddoos, nothing but upgraded besan ones which guests often perceive as a healthy, guilt-free alternative to traditional sweets. However, I always remind people that a protein laddoo is not automatically low in calories or sugar. Ingredients such as dates, jaggery, honey, nuts, seeds, peanut butter and ghee may offer nutritional benefits, but they also add to the overall calorie content.Similarly, adding protein powder does not necessarily make a laddoo weight-loss-friendly. I recommend looking beyond the "high-protein" label and checking the ingredient list, portion size and nutritional composition. If I am enjoying protein laddoos during a festive gathering, I prefer to have one mindfully rather than treating it as a free pass to eat several. Protein requirements should primarily be met through a balanced diet that includes dals, legumes, dairy, eggs, nuts and other protein-rich foods.When it comes to managing my diet during party and festival season, I believe in balance rather than restriction. I do not believe that enjoying celebrations means giving up on health goals. My approach is to plan my meals sensibly, make mindful food choices and enjoy my favourite dishes without overindulging.

I never go to a party on an empty stomach. Skipping breakfast, lunch or an evening snack to save calories for a party can backfire, as excessive hunger often leads to overeating. Before leaving home, I prefer having a light snack containing protein and fibre, such as sprouts, yoghurt, fruit with nuts or a small portion of roasted chana. This helps me manage my appetite and make more conscious choices when I reach the venue.At the party, I focus on selecting foods I genuinely enjoy instead of sampling everything on the menu. When choosing starters, I generally prefer grilled, roasted or baked preparations over deep-fried options. However, I also keep portion sizes in mind because even healthier preparations can contribute to excess calorie intake when consumed in large quantities. My philosophy is not to avoid favourite foods but to enjoy them in moderation.For the main course, I follow the balanced-plate principle. I try to fill half my plate with salads and vegetables, one-fourth with protein-rich foods such as paneer, dal, legumes, soy or lean non-vegetarian preparations, and the remaining one-fourth with cereals or carbohydrate-rich foods, preferably whole grains. This simple approach helps me maintain nutritional balance while keeping my overall food intake under control.Beverages are another area where I exercise caution. Many party mocktails and festive drinks contain sugar syrups, which can significantly increase calorie intake without providing much nutritional value. I generally prefer fresh lemonade without added sugar, jaljeera or soda-based drinks without added sugar. If I choose a mocktail, I try to limit myself to one glass and enjoy it slowly rather than consuming multiple servings.

Desserts are an important part of celebrations, and I do not believe in completely avoiding them. Instead, I choose the sweet I enjoy the most, take a small portion and savour it mindfully. Whether it is a traditional mithai, cake or a festive dessert, I focus on enjoying the taste rather than eating several varieties simply because they are available.Finally, I make sure that one indulgent meal does not turn into an entire day or week of overeating. I return to my regular eating routine at the next meal, stay adequately hydrated and maintain my usual physical activity. I avoid compensatory fasting or skipping meals after a party.For me, the secret to navigating the party and festival season is simple: plan ahead, prioritise balanced nutrition, practise portion control and enjoy celebrations without guilt. A healthy lifestyle is not about being restrictive every time there is a social occasion; it is about maintaining consistency and making sensible choices over the long term.

60% of Diwali passenger outflow from Delhi, Mumbai hubs: Railways



According to the data, Delhi and Mumbai together saw an average of nearly 5.8 lakh passengers boarding trains every day.According to the data, Delhi and Mumbai together saw an average of nearly 5.8 lakh passengers boarding trains every day.In the run-up to Diwali, five major railway departure hubs — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Surat — emerged as the biggest centres of outward passenger movement, according to the Indian Railways data.Officials said that over 56 lakh passengers travelled from the 16 stations of these regions between November 1 and 6 — around 20 lakh more than the traffic in the preceding months of September and October (around 37 lakh).Delhi and Mumbai accounted for the largest share of this festive outflow – 34.77 lakh passengers (61% of the total departures).

Of the 56 lakh, around 30 lakh were reserved passengers (52.5%), while 27 lakh (47.5%) travelled unreserved or in general class.While reserved-class passengers, i.e. travelling in sleeper and AC classes, were higher than unreserved from Delhi and Mumbai, the unreserved class accounted for a larger share of passenger movement from Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Surat regions.

Anticipating the festive rush, the Railways had stepped up crowd-control and security arrangements.Elaborating on them at a press conference on Saturday, Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "Holding areas have been created at around 20 stations to manage the crowd and efficient entry and exit of passengers. The ticket counters have also been set up in these areas. Many more scanning counters were set up so that there are no long queues for passenger security checks."On security, he said, "Around 700 AI cameras were installed at different stations. At the war room here, we monitor 24 stations, of which 16 stations are on the top priority.Vaishnaw also said that more special trains are running than last year, and that the maximum rush was observed on Dhanteras (November 6).

With 3 doctors winning, can US healthcare gain a stronger voice?

The election of three Democrats with medical backgrounds in the US midterm elections could bring a distinctive perspective to debates over healthcare access, affordability and public health. While two have won seats in the US Senate, a third has been elected governor of Ohio — giving doctors a voice at both the federal and state levels.

Dr Annie Andrews, a paediatrician from South Carolina, and Dr Abdul El-Sayed, a physician-trained epidemiologist from Michigan, have won Senate seats. Dr Amy Acton, a physician and former Ohio health director, has defeated Republican Vivek Ramaswamy to become Ohio's next governor. Their victories are significant not simply because of their medical backgrounds, but because each brings experience from a different part of the healthcare system.A practising paediatrician, Andrews made healthcare access and affordability central to her campaign. Her clinical experience could inform discussions on childhood health, vaccination, preventive care, maternal and child health, and the difficulties families face in accessing affordable medical services.El-Sayed brings a public-health perspective to the Senate. A physician-trained epidemiologist and former director of Detroit's health department, he has focused on health disparities, healthcare costs and the influence of corporate interests in healthcare. His campaign included support for Medicare for All, a proposal to expand publicly funded health coverage.Their presence in the Senate could matter as lawmakers debate the future of health insurance, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, prescription drug costs and federal funding for medical research. Senators can scrutinise legislation, question administration officials, influence budget decisions and oversee federal health agencies. Their medical and public-health experience could help bring clinical evidence and the realities of patient care into these discussions.Acton's victory gives the story a further dimension. As Ohio's next governor, she will have direct responsibility for state-level healthcare priorities and administration. She previously served as Ohio's health director during the Covid-19 pandemic, when she became a prominent public face of the state's public-health response. Her experience could shape decisions on public-health preparedness, Medicaid administration, healthcare access and the state's response to future health emergencies.Unlike the two senators, Acton will have executive authority over state agencies and the implementation of policies in Ohio.

KL Rahul is the calm in India's ODI middle order



KL Rahul walked in at 47/4 in Wellington on Saturday, with Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma gone and the chase slipping away. He did not try to rescue it with one big over. He put away the loose deliveries when they came, watched Shreyas Iyer, Naman Dhir and Anshul Kamboj depart, and was unbeaten on 26 off 38 balls when rain stopped play. India had won by four runs on DLS.While the spotlight is on Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, Rahul has quietly held the fort in India's middle order, batting between numbers four and seven. It was not a headline innings. He does not have a 360-degree game or the shots that make highlight reels. But he brings something India need just as much: the ability to walk in when the innings is in trouble, handle the pressure, rebuild and make up for lost time.

That composure when wickets fall has long been a feature of his batting. The proof goes back years. Three years ago, with India reduced to 2/3 in their ODI World Cup opener against Australia in Chennai, Rahul helped see off the difficult phase, rotated the strike and built a 165-run partnership with Kohli. As the pressure eased, he began finding the boundaries more regularly, finishing unbeaten on 97 and guiding India to a six-wicket win.KL Rahul of India plays a shot during the 2nd ODI match between New Zealand and India at the Hnry Stadium, Wellington, New Zealand on November 7, 2026. KL Rahul of India plays a shot during the 2nd ODI match between New Zealand and India at the Hnry Stadium, Wellington, New Zealand on November 7, 2026. (CREIMAS)

Earlier that year, in another chase against Australia in Mumbai, India were 16/3 while chasing 189 before slipping to 39/4. Rahul first steadied the innings with Hardik Pandya and then joined Ravindra Jadeja after Pandya's dismissal. The pair began cautiously before opening up. Rahul remained unbeaten on 75 off 91 balls, guiding India to a five-wicket win.It is not only about chases. He showed it while batting first against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui in 2020. India were 62/3 when Rahul joined Iyer, and the pair added 100 runs for the fourth wicket. After Iyer's dismissal, Rahul shared another 107-run stand with Manish Pandey and eventually finished with 112, helping India recover and post 296.There is a method in it. He does not try to hit his way out of trouble. Instead, he looks to arrest the slide, build a partnership and bring the innings back on track before increasing the scoring rate. His first instinct is to give the innings stability, but there is an understanding that every situation calls for a different approach. In Wellington, staying at the crease was the priority. In the other three innings, once India had stability, he shifted gears.His ability to slot into different roles is another strength. He has opened in red-ball cricket and batted at numbers five and six in ODIs, and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak pointed to that flexibility before the third ODI in Hamilton.

"I think KL Rahul's biggest advantage is, I have said this before also, he can open in red-ball, he can play in the middle-order in the ODIs, and whenever required he goes at No. 5. He is so good at No. 6 also. He plays according to the needs of the team," Kotak said on Monday."And since I have joined, I think, I can't remember many matches where he's batted and not contributed. He has played some unbelievable innings and, under pressure, he never looks under pressure. I have never seen KL Rahul under pressure. You always see him very stable. It is brilliant to have someone like him who has that experience and temperament," he added.Kotak also pointed to his range: "Someone who can rotate, who can hit boundaries when required. He can easily hit a few sixes."The numbers back him. Across 77 matches, batting between four and seven, he has 2578 runs at an average of 57.28, with six hundreds and 14 fifties. Since January 2023, he has scored 1461 runs in 39 innings at numbers five and six, averaging 63.52 at a strike rate of 98.98 with three hundreds and six fifties. Since the start of 2025, he has amassed 719 runs in 21 innings at an average of 65.36 and a strike rate of 115.96, with two hundreds and two fifties.KL Rahul of India during the 2nd ODI match between New Zealand and India at the Hnry Stadium, Wellington, New Zealand on November 7, 2026. KL Rahul of India during the 2nd ODI match between New Zealand and India at the Hnry Stadium, Wellington, New Zealand on November 7, 2026. (CREIMAS)While Rohit and Kohli continue to hog the attention, Rahul has emerged as India's man for a crisis. He may not always grab the headlines, but on the helpful surfaces at the ODI World Cup in South Africa next year, his ability to absorb pressure, rebuild an innings and keep the scoreboard moving could prove invaluable.In Wellington, he was still there when the rain came.

India A vs New Zealand A matches helped Test specialists, says Sitanshu Kotak



Sitanshu Kotak Batting Coach of India and Gautam Gambhir Head Coach of India during a training session at the Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand on November 3, 2026.Sitanshu Kotak Batting Coach of India and Gautam Gambhir Head Coach of India during a training session at the Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand on)India assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak said that the three unofficial Tests between India A and New Zealand A have helped the Test specialists to understand the nature of the tracks for the upcoming 2-match series, right after the ODIs. Yashasvi Jaiswal, Devdutt Padikkal, Sai Sudharsan, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, and Prasidh Krishna are some of the Test regulars who have taken part in the A series.

"A lot of India A-related matches have also involved our red-ball players. That is a big advantage for the batters as well as the bowlers. The bowlers get an idea of where to bowl, what lengths to target, how much to hit the deck and how much assistance they can expect from the surface," Kotak said ahead of the third ODI match between the two sides in Hamilton.Kotak also said that the Test specialists will start their preparations from November 11, with skipper Shubman Gill, senior opener KL Rahul, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, and pacer Anshul Kamboj leaving for Wellington after the third ODI. Also, the white-ball pace trio of Auqib Nabi, Gurnoor Brar, and Arshdeep Singh will stay back to help the Indian Test squad prepare."I think three bowlers are going to stay back anyway. Gurnoor, maybe Nabi, and I think Arsh is also staying back," Kotak said."All in all, I think the preparation has been very good. On top of that, the Test players will go for a camp from the 11th, where we will get five or six sessions. Fingers crossed, we should be ready for the Test series as well," he added.The coaching team will also split, with head coach Gautam Gambhir staying back for the fourth and fifth ODIs scheduled on November 13 and 15 at Mount Maunganui in Tauranga."As far as I understand, Gautam will obviously have to be here because of the upcoming World Cup. So, he will stay here. Probably, Sairaj (Bahutule) will also stay here," Kotak said. "Morne (Morkel) and some other members of the staff will go to Wellington. These are the current plans, but as I said, the final decision is up to Gautam. So, things can change. We will just try to ensure that the players get the required workload, fitness and practice. They should get enough preparation, depending on the conditions available to us," he added.

'What justice is it to send Rahul at No.6 after Axar Patel?': Kris Srikkanth

GNS News Agency, Nov 11While KL Rahul waited in the dugout, Axar Patel came in to bat for India when the side was at 39/3 on Saturday in Wellington. Though Axar had managed well in those crises before on that pitch against the quality Kiwi attack, he did look uncomfortable. The bouncers troubled him, and the pitch was two-paced; eventually the southpaw played a tame shot to third man and lost his wicket.Then KL Rahul walked into the middle and looked comfortable on a pitch most batters from both sides did not. The question among pundits and former players was why Rahul came in ahead of Axar. "But what justice is it to send Rahul at No.6 after Axar Patel?" questioned former Indian selector Krishnamachari Srikkanth on his YouTube channel.



"Gautam Gambhir needs to understand Rahul is a marquee player. He has scored centuries at No.3 and 4 for India. Yet, he is being reduced to such a role. It's gross injustice," said Srikkanth."He's the only one who looked comfortable in the second ODI. Once the conditions are difficult, only two players step up – Virat Kohli and KL Rahul. If Rahul got out early in the last match, India were finished. How can you justify Axar batting ahead of him?" Srikkanth said.Contrary to Srikkanth another former Indian cricketer, Sunil Gavaskar agreed with the tactic of sending a left-hander up the order to break the sequence of right-handers."The bowlers have slight difficulty if a left-handed batter comes because you have to change the line and length you would have for a right-hander. In trying to do that, your line can change slightly even to the right-hander, where more chances of getting runs are created," Gavaskar explained, speaking on Sony Sports Network after the game.Axar scored only seven runs from seventeen deliveries. "There was nothing wrong with that thought process. If Axar had scored runs, you would have said how good the captaincy was. Such moves work at times and don't work on other occasions, and it didn't work this time. You also knew there was a solid player like Rahul after him. That's why you experiment at times," Gavaskar observed.

What is a limitation to Auqib Nabi's bowling? Former cricketer decodes



GNS News Agency, Nov 11Auqib Nabi bowled well in the second ODI in conditions which were seaming a bit; he picked up 2/31. The seamer looked lethal in the conditions; however, Daryl Mitchell tried to charge down the track and counter the moment during his innings, as Nabi isn't as fast as some of the Indian bowlers. Former Indian cricketer Aakash Chopra pointed out the same issue, suggesting it might be a limitation in his game.

"Well, if there is help in the surface, Auqib Nabi is best suited to extract something out of it. He's a seam bowler, swing bowler. He's a hit-the-deck hard bowler. There was enough help in the surface after the game was delayed because of rain. The pitch was also under the covers for a fairly long period of time. So surface moisture was still existing. And he was just putting the ball in the right area," Chopra said on Cricinfo."The only issue arrives a little later when Daryl Mitchell starts walking down the pitch and the keeper has to be brought up. Mitchell starts smashing him down the ground. It has happened on two or three occasions. The lack of pace is something that will have to be worked on and he should have a plan when batters start charging down. The moment the keeper is standing up, Nabi looks half the bowler," Chopra added.It was not just Nabi; Arshdeep Singh also bowled quite miserly, conceding 16 runs from seven overs. Speaking on his performance, Chopra said:"Yeah, sometimes it happens. Last game, he conceded 70, but had four wickets to show for his efforts. On Saturday, he bowled a lot better than what he did at Auckland. But then had no wickets to show for it in the opening burst. If you give him the conditions, he is one of the ideal new ball bowlers who has mastered his skills in the shortest format where batters tend to go after you."

Australia drop Marnus Labuschagne from Test series vs New Zealand

Marnus Labuschagne of Australia walks from the field after being dismissed by Taijul Islam of Bangladesh during play on day three of the first cricket test in Darwin, Australia, Saturday, Aug.15, 2026, (James Ross/AAPImage via AP)Marnus Labuschagne of Australia walks from the field after being dismissed by Taijul Islam of Bangladesh during play on day three of the first cricket test in Darwin, Australia,



The out-of-form Marnus Labuschagne was dropped from the Australian Test team for next month's 4-match home series against New Zealand, selector George Bailey said on Monday. "At this ?stage we won't be considering Marnus for selection for certainly that first test, but for the New Zealand series," Bailey told reporters."There's been a lot of speculation around his place in the team, and so I think ?this gives ?him a little bit of space and clears up a bit of conjecture," he added.The 32-year-old Labuschagne has been enduring a less-than-stellar run, with his last century for the Baggy Greens coming way back in 2023. Since then, he has gone 49 innings without a test ton. He also had a torrid series vs South Africa where he scored just 131 runs in six innings. The Aussies ultimately lost the series 2-1. The Australian selectors have made a call on Marnus Labuschagne ahead of the #AUSvNZ first Test: https://t.co/sVDyikkbgU https://t.co/HYxkMml9YPLabuschagne has averaged 23.66 and managed only 2 half-centuries in 10 tests since being ?dropped for Australia's three-test series against the West Indies in the Caribbean last year. He will return to captain Queensland in the Sheffield Shield while selectors weigh replacements.

Bailey said Labuschagne could still force his way back into the team for next year's tours of India and England. "It's still possible, absolutely," Bailey said. "And I think we all know how good and how effective Marnus can be at his best. But that performance hasn't been there."Labuschagne's omission means another shake-up for an ?Australian top order which has been in almost constant ?flux since opener David Warner retired nearly three ?years ago. Steve Smith, who is expected to return for the New Zealand opener in Perth on December 9 after missing ?the Cape Town test ?with a ?neck injury, ?could bat at number three but has been reluctant to budge from his favoured number four slot since ?an ill-fated spell as an opener.All-rounder Cameron Green has previously batted at three at test level, while Matt Renshaw could also be considered, though it would mean bringing in another opener. Australia will ?finalise their squad following the next round of Shield matches, which begins on Wednesday. Former test batters Kurtis Patterson and Sam ?Konstas are among Australia's best top-order performers early in the Shield season.

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Manchester United play out 4-4 draw vs Aston Villa, stay in relegation zone

Manchester United's Patrick Dorgu, left, celebrates after scoring his side's fourth goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Aston Villa in Manchester, England, Photo/Ian Hodgson)Manchester United's Patrick Dorgu, left, celebrates after scoring his side's fourth goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Aston Villa in Manchester, England, Sunday,



Manchester United rose from the dead as they clawed their way back from 2 goals down twice in the same match, playing out a 4-4 draw at Old Trafford in an 8-goal thriller. In the first half, United fell 2-0 behind after just 3 minutes and 40 seconds against Aston Villa, the earliest the Red Devils have ever gone 2 goals down in the Premier League.Alysson Edward opened the scoring in the 2nd minute before Nicolas Jackson doubled the lead within 4 minutes, as two errors by Senne Lammens and a sleeping United defence left the team 0-2 down at Old Trafford.

But United levelled things up with a Bruno Fernandes penalty in the 16th minute and a Youri Tielemans strike in the 44th minute. Things followed a familiar pattern in the second half as United went down 4-2 due to individual errors from Diogo Dalot and Leny Yoro. The Portuguese defender gave away a penalty, which John McGinn duly converted in the 48th minute.5 minutes after that, Yoro, who was trying to clear the ball, headed it straight into his own goal's crossbar, and the ball landed to Jackson, who fed Leon Goretzka to make it 4-2 in the 53rd minute.

Still, United would not go quietly into the night as substitute Joshua Zirkzee gave the Red Devils a lifeline with a 90+2-minute strike before Old Trafford was sent into a frenzy as Patrick Dorgu headed in a Fernandes corner in the 90+6 minutes to make it all square.United might have escaped with what will be a famous draw, but they finished the week, lodged at the bottom half of the table, in the relegation zone at 18th position. After the international break, things won't get easier as they travel to Anfield to take on arch-rivals Liverpool.Elsewhere, High flying Brighton moved up second in the Premier League with a 2-0 win against Brentford. Liverpool is back to winning ways, beating Crystal Palace 3-1, while Chelsea fell to a surprise 1-0 defeat to relegation-fighting Sunderland.

‘A good thing’: Samantha reveals how the failure of first business venture shaped her



Actor and entrepreneur Samantha Ruth Prabhu has revealed that her first business venture ended in failure, and that the experience shaped her approach to every investment and business decision she has made since.Speaking on The Masoom Minawala Show, Samantha addressed the topic of failure. “I think my first business partnership, I do not want to get into too many details, but it failed. It didn’t work out. And sometimes, the first project you invest in that fails can actually be a good thing. In fact, it can teach you more than success does. I think my life has been about learning from my failures, not my successes. Success hasn’t taught me much,” said the actor who has been associated with multiple ventures over the yearsIn the same conversation, Samantha Ruth Prabhu also tied the conversation about failure to a broader point about women in business. She said the fear of starting is “way more” pronounced in women, describing it as layers of fear. “That’s why I love working with women founders. I’ve invested in maybe eight to ten businesses, and eight of them have women founders, so for me, it’s also a learning experience working so closely with women. I usually come from a mostly male-dominated industry, so this is a whole new learning curve for me,” the actor explained.

Secret Alchemist, the clean perfumery brand that Samantha co-founded alongside Ankita Thadani and Akash Valia, has reportedly crossed Rs 120 crore in revenue after recording an eightfold increase in sales over a period of eight months, according to Fashion Network.

Beyond Secret Alchemist, Samantha’s business interests span several sectors. She co-founded the contemporary Indian womenswear label Saaki and is associated with Mile Collective, an activewear and lifestyle brand, and Gataca, a supplement brand.Also Read: Maa Inti Bangaaram movie review: Samantha delivers career-best performance in a rare Telugu actionerOn the film side, her most recent release was the BV Nandini Reddy-directed Maa Inti Bangaaram, which became her biggest solo box office success, crossing Rs 100 crore worldwide and establishing her as a commercially viable lead in a market that rarely gives female-led Telugu films that kind of number.

Adnan Sami recalls ordeal at Mumbai airport: ‘Extremely arrogant, infinitely annoying’



Singer Adnan Sami recently lashed out at the airport assistance services at Mumbai airport’s Terminal 2. In a lengthy post on X, he shared his experience at the airport, revealing that his Air India flight was delayed by five hours and that the premium Pranaam service, which assists passengers with airport formalities, failed to deliver what was promised. Sami also accused the airport staff of being rude.

Taking to X, Adnan Sami wrote, “?Shame on Pranaam Services at Mumbai Airport T2! As a long-time client, I have to share that my last experience…Well…it was NOT good! To begin with, upon arrival, no one was actively waiting to receive us, even though they had called my staff’s phone to confirm our arrival, and not to speak of the fact that I am one of their earliest clients ever since this service began. Our flight was delayed by Air India for five hours (which in itself was appalling!), a fact that Pranaam knew, but they only informed us after we had gone through the entrance security. Had they informed us beforehand, we would have easily avoided coming earlier to the airport & been sitting comfortably at home. Instead, because of their negligence and carelessness, we had to endure this long, tiring wait at the airport. ”

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Then, the female staff member assigned to us was completely rude! First, she was consistently on her mobile phone. When it was time to escort us from the lounge to the departure gate, she failed to show up. Instead she sent the porter. When asked where she was, the porter had no clue! We were take by buggy and when we arrived at the gate, the porter had to search for her, and he found her sitting in a corner, AGAIN, engrossed in her mobile phone chatting away! Only when she was reprimanded, did she hang up! There was a huge crowd lined up and she had no clue where to take us to fast track us through to the First/Business class section which was actually empty but she had no clue! We had to navigate ourselves through it all! Due to this huge crowd at this gate which was difficult to handle, there was chaos simply because this girl didn’t bother to do her homework. When she was reprimanded again, instead of being apologetic, she tried to snap back, for which she was immediately shut down. Extremely bad conduct and disappointingly unprofessional! This is the 2nd time Pranaam has misbehaved. You charge for these services and have a monopolistic attitude which is extremely arrogant, infinitely annoying & egregiously disrespectful! I’m once again extremely disappointed in the staff for this incident!Slamming the staff, the composer-singer wrote, “Then, the female staff member assigned to us was completely rude! First, she was consistently on her mobile phone. When it was time to escort us from the lounge to the departure gate, she failed to show up. Instead, she sent the porter. When asked where she was, the porter had no clue! We were taken by buggy, and when we arrived at the gate, the porter had to search for her, and he found her sitting in a corner, AGAIN, engrossed in her mobile phone, chatting away! Only when she was reprimanded did she hang up! There was a huge crowd lined up, and she had no clue where to take us to fast-track us through to the First/Business class section, which was actually empty, but she had no clue! We had to navigate through it all ourselves! Due to this huge crowd at this gate, which was difficult to handle, there was chaos simply because this girl didn’t bother to do her homework. When she was reprimanded again, instead of being apologetic, she tried to snap back, for which she was immediately shut down.”“Extremely bad conduct and disappointingly unprofessional! This is the 2nd time Pranaam has misbehaved. You charge for these services and have a monopolistic attitude, which is extremely arrogant, infinitely annoying & egregiously disrespectful! I’m once again extremely disappointed in the staff for this incident!,” added Sami. ‘Kuch Tameez aur Tehzeeb seekhiyay’When the airport authorities promptly responded to Adnan Sami’s post, he once again called them out. Responding to their message, the composer-singer wrote, “Nothing more annoying than to get a standard template & ‘patronising’ response to a complaint that one has filed, from a BOT! That adds insult to injury!! Also, if you lack manners, then at least program some manners into your BOTS to address clients formally – We’re on a first-name basis? Really??” Nothing more annoying than to get a standard template & ‘patronising’ response to a complaint that one has filed, from a BOT! That adds insult to injury!! Also, if you lack the manners, then atleast program some manners into your BOTS how to address clients formally – We’re on first name basis? Really?? If you can use a computer to reply me, then use it to figure out when I was flying too! Laziness personified!“Kuch Tameez aur Tehzeeb seekhiyay..Hadd hai!!”— Adnan Sami (@AdnanSamiLive) November 8, 2026

Neetu Kapoor recalls owning five properties and a Mercedes at 15, reveals why she quit at 21

Neetu Singh began her career at the age of eight and, by 15, she had become one of the leading actors in the Hindi film industry. By then, she had earned enough to own multiple properties and even buy herself a Mercedes. However, at 21, she decided to walk away from her flourishing career to marry Rishi Kapoor. In a recent interview with The Curly Tales, Neetu opened up about what prompted her to make that decision.“By the age of 15, I owned about five properties and a Mercedes,” she recalled in disbelief. Neetu revealed that she was in Class 8 when she began receiving offers to play leading roles. “I could never go back to school,” she said.

The actor also credited her dance training under the iconic Vyjayanthimala for helping her establish herself as a leading actor. “I had started my career as a child actor in Do Kanya and Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani. I never went to any acting school, but there was no camera shyness. I guess that helped,” she said.In the same interview, Neetu Kapoor reflected on her decision to leave the film industry at 21 to marry Rishi Kapoor. Clarifying that her decision was not necessarily premature, she explained that although 21 might seem very young, she had already worked extensively by then and was looking forward to a simpler life.

After her marriage and the birth of her children, Riddhima Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor, Neetu said she was content with her life away from the limelight. However, following the loss of her husband Rishi Kapoor, loneliness eventually brought her back to acting.Despite being among the most celebrated actors of their generation, Neetu Kapoor and Rishi Kapoor were particular about giving their children



a relatively normal upbringing, away from the privileges associated with growing up in a film family.Speaking to Soha Ali Khan on her podcast All About Her, their daughter Riddhima recalled, “We grew up in a very loving home. Of course, there was discipline, but it was a very normal upbringing. We did everything ourselves. It wasn’t like we came from a star family.”Neetu also revealed that neither of her children had a private driver and that they would carpool to school instead.“They only got a fixed amount of money to spend. Even when they travelled overseas, they flew economy class, stayed with friends, and shared apartments. My husband was very particular that they should understand the value of money,” she said.

How YouTube helped Archana Puran Singh’s son build his dream home



Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi’s son Aaryamann Sethi has finally turned his dream house into a reality. The actor-singer recently gave a tour of his newly renovated home alongside his fiancee Yogita Bihani. While the house was a gift from Aaryamann’s parents, he credited his success on YouTube for helping him earn enough to fund its renovation, including customised luxury furniture, interiors and several other additions that cost the couple lakhs.During the house tour, an excited and emotional Aaryamann pointed towards a piano in his newly renovated home and revealed that it was a gift he had bought for himself. He said, “This is my gift to myself for turning my life around and making something happen for myself. This is one of the things I always wanted when I made my own money.”

Inside Aaryamann Sethi's new house. An overall look of their living room. (Photo: Aary Vlogs/YouTube)He further clarified that the renovation was entirely funded by the couple. “I want to confess that every single penny that we spent in the renovation of this house, including the furniture and interiors, is solely Yogi and my money.”Thanking his viewers for their support, Aaryamann added, “YouTube has been a huge change in my life. It has led to brand deals, and me being able to have a career. My life has gone beyond music. There is so much more to do. Thank you, because this house wouldn’t have been possible without each and every one of you guys.”He even thanked his haters for criticising him, pointing out that negative comments also contribute to engagement and views, ultimately helping him earn through his YouTube vlogs.Yogita Bihani and Aaryamann Sethi spent over a year transforming their Madh Island bungalow into their dream home. The house features a beautiful brick-red main door that opens into a thoughtfully designed space, with several viewers in the comments section describing its aesthetic as a perfect blend of 90s sitcom interiors and modern design.The living room, painted in off-white and complemented by wooden flooring, features a table tennis table that doubles up as a dining table, making it ideal for gatherings. Another corner has been transformed into an entertainment zone, complete with a 100-inch Art Mode television that doubles as a personal theatre when switched on and a beautiful art piece when turned off.The couch was also something Yogita had always wanted. Bought through Instagram, the customised sofa transforms into a comfortable recliner, with a tray that pops up in the middle to hold food and drinks. On an ordinary day, it can comfortably accommodate up to five people.

The couple have also made clever use of their windows, converting the space into an additional cosy seating area with mattresses and cushions, creating more room for guests to gather.Inside Aaryamann Sethi's new house. Their dream couch that converts to recliner. (Photo: Aary Vlogs/YouTube)While much of the furniture has been custom-made, some pieces have been sourced from IKEA. However, getting everything right was not an easy process. Aaryamann admitted that the experience was particularly challenging for the couple, saying, “It is a tedious process and really hard on me and Yogi to figure out. It took us a lot of time because of that. Most of these custom-made things were broken.”Even the electrical distribution boards have been cleverly concealed behind aesthetic window-like panels, turning otherwise functional corners into selfie spots.

The house also features a dedicated space for the couple’s future podcast. A handmade Ardhanarishvara painting serves as the entrance to a small puja corner, while the space beneath it has been transformed into a fireplace-inspired bookshelf with additional lighting.Inside Aaryamann Sethi's new house. Aary and Yogita are planning to start a cooking series from their new kitchen. (Photo: Aary Vlogs/YouTube)Aaryamann has decorated his house with multiple paintings he made over the years.Spread across two floors, the house has been designed by the couple, with almost every piece of furniture and decor handpicked by them.Reflecting on the experience of building their home together, Aaryamann confessed, “In the process of making our home, Yogi and I have gotten even closer. It is the awesome thing.” He added that while he would recommend the experience to couples, he would also caution them against it, as the process can lead to several disagreements and fights. However, he believes that overcoming those differences ultimately brings people closer.Inside Aaryamann Sethi's new house. Their bedroom area. (Photo: Aary Vlogs/YouTube)Their bedroom, too, has been designed keeping both their individual needs in mind. It features a dedicated vanity corner with ample storage for Yogita, along with a walk-in wardrobe.

From Deepika Padukone to Kareena Kapoor, Kiara Advani: Inside celebrities’ Diwali 2026 celebrations



Several Bollywood celebrities took to social media to share pictures and videos from their Diwali celebrations. From Deepika Padukone’s viral selfie from a restaurant in Bengaluru to Kareena Kapoor Khan posting heartwarming family pictures with her sister Karisma Kapoor and parents Randhir Kapoor and Babita, the stars’ festive posts caught the attention of their fans.Soon-to-be second-time parents Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra shared a picture together, offering fans a glimpse of their Diwali celebrations. Kiara posted the photograph with a heartfelt caption: “A little more love, a little more light and a lot to be grateful for???? Happy Diwali to all of you??.”

Akshay Kumar celebrated Diwali with a puja at his home, remembering his late parents during the festivities. The actor took to Instagram to share a video in which he is seen performing aarti in a yellow kurta, with photographs of his parents placed beside the deities. His son Aarav Bhatia also joined him in the celebrations. Sharing the video, Akshay wished his fans a happy Diwali and hoped the festival would bring happiness, good health and prosperity to every home.Kareena Kapoor shared heartwarming family pictures with sister Karisma Kapoor and parents Randhir and Babita Kapoor. She captioned the photos, (To live here, to die here, Where else would I go, except to my mother and father? Happy Diwali, everyone… It’s always all about loving your parents… always.”Sara Ali Khan celebrated Diwali with her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan and mother Amrita Singh, sharing glimpses of their family festivities. Soha Ali Khan gave fans a peek into her peaceful Diwali getaway with husband Kunal Kemmu and daughter Inaaya. Sonam Kapoor shared festive pictures with husband Anand Ahuja.Varun Dhawan offered a glimpse of his celebrations with wife Natasha Dalal and daughter Lara. Sonakshi Sinha also shared pictures from her Diwali festivities with husband Zaheer Iqbal. Meanwhile, Riteish Deshmukh posted pictures and a video of his family performing aarti as they celebrated the festival together.Priyanka Chopra also gave fans a glimpse of her Diwali celebrations with husband Nick Jonas and daughter Malti Marie.

Nithiin’s ‘Alias Rukmini’ completes filming ahead of December 4 release

Hyderabad: The makers of director Murali Kanth Devasoth’s upcoming Telugu entertainer ‘Alias Rukmini’, featuring actor Nithiin in the lead role, on Monday announced that the film’s shooting had been wrapped up.Taking to Instagram, Unanimous Productions, the production house behind the film, wrote, “It’s a shoot wrap for #AliasRukmini. In 25days, let’s celebrate a beautiful film with unspoken emotions in theatres. In cinemas worldwide December 4th. Natural Star @nameisnani presents @actor_nithiin in #AliasRukmini. Written & Directed by @murali_kanth449.”A day before Deepavali, the makers had released a video clip showing actor Nithiin’s look as young Krishna in the film.Taking to X, Nithiin shared the video clip, which showed him appearing as a younger version of the character. He wrote, “Every love story has a ‘before’. Young Krishna. A dreamer. A whole new me. Reintroducing Krishna from #AliasRukmini. In cinemas worldwide December 4th.”

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