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SDRF finds body of missing youth while searching for boat in Khammam

Khammam: The SDRF personnel have found a missing youth's body as they were searching for a boat lost in the November 4 floods caused at Bethupalli tank in Sathupalli mandal in the district.

It might be noted that two boats carrying SDRF personnel capsized and were washed away by the heavy floods at the tank while they were searching for a few fishermen stranded in the tank. One of the boats that were washed away in the floods was found and another one was missing.

While the SDRF personnel were searching for the other one with a drone camera on Monday, the body of a young man was found near the bushes near the Versyakanthala Cheruvu weir and informed the police.

Telangana Congress puts 20 media appointments made by MP Chamala on hold

Hyderabad: A new controversy emerged in Telangana Congress over the appointments of media coordinators and other positions.

A day after Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy announced the appointments of 20 leaders as TPCC media panelists, media coordinators and Spokespersons, the Telangana Congress kept the appointments on hold.

The Bhongir MP, who is also TPCC Chairman of Media and Publicity wing, on Monday issued orders appointing 20 persons into different positions. He claimed that these appointments were made as per the directions of TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC Media and Publicity wing Chairman Pawan Khera

15-year-old boy allegedly murdered after witnessing couple together in Khammam

Khammam: Witnessing an alleged illicit affair maintained by a youth at his native village proved costly for a 15-year-old boy as he was murdered by him and a married woman in Kallur mandal in the district.

According to police, the deceased J Ravi (15) was studying tenth standard at SC Gurukul at Sathupalli and came home to Chinnakorukondi for Dasara holidays last month. The woman Aparna, who was separated from her husband, was staying at her grandmother's house at the same village for the past few months.



Telangana govt to formulate action plan to become destination for automobile, EV sectors

Hyderabad, Nov 10 (IANS) The government of Telangana is formulating a strategic action plan to establish the state as a premier investment destination in the country for the automobile and electric vehicle (EV) sectors, with the primary objective of attracting substantial investments into the state.

The state aims to attract major investment in the automobile and EV sectors at the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit - 2026' scheduled to be held next month.

As part of the preparations for the event, the first meeting of the newly constituted executive council for the automobile and EV sectors will be held on Wednesday.

Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar will chair the meeting, which will be held in a hybrid format (both online and offline).

Following outreach to prominent companies, industrial organisations, industry experts, and key stakeholders in the automobile and EV sectors, about 25 entities have agreed to participate in this council, an official release said.

During this meeting, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar will have direct discussions with industrialists and representatives from companies in the automobile and EV sectors.

He will gather insights regarding their interest in investing in Telangana, their investment proposals, ongoing projects, industrial expansion plans, and future development opportunities.

The minister will seek suggestions and advice from these industry leaders on issues like manufacturing of automobiles and electric vehicles, development of EV charging infrastructure, battery technology, clean mobility, and the integration of advanced technologies within the transport sector.

The objective of the meeting is to understand the interest of companies in investing in Telangana's automobile and EV sectors, as well as to review their investment proposals, ongoing projects, and industrial expansion plans.

It will invite the participation of leading companies and industrial organisations in the Investment Expo, which will be held as part of the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit – 2026'.

The meeting will gather insights from industry leaders regarding the policy frameworks, infrastructure, and government support required for the development of the automobile and EV sectors.

It will also identify key topics for discussion during the dedicated session on the automobile and EV sectors at the global summit.

It is also aimed at strengthening coordination between industries and government departments to establish Telangana as a premier investment destination for the automobile and EV sectors.

Gujarat CM meets Guv Devvrat, interacts with citizens and police officers on New Year



Ahmedabad, Nov 10 (IANS) Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Tuesday visited temples in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar and met citizens, political leaders and senior police officers to exchange Gujarati New Year greetings on the first day of 'Vikram Samvat 2083', reiterating his appeal for a developed and drug-free state.

Patel began the day by offering prayers at Panchdev Temple in Gandhinagar, where he prayed for the happiness, prosperity and good health of citizens.

He subsequently visited Trimandir in Adalaj and offered prayers to Simandhar Swami and other deities, besides paying his respects to Pujya Niruma and Dada Bhagwan. Then, he met Governor Acharya Devvrat and extended his greetings.

In Ahmedabad, the Chief Minister visited Maa Bhadrakali Temple and prayed for the well-being of people and the overall development of Gujarat.

He later met prominent personalities, public representatives and citizens at the Annexe Circuit House in Shahibaug, where he exchanged New Year greetings.

State BJP President Jagdish Vishwakarma, Minister of State for Urban Development, Darshna Vaghela, MPs Dinesh Makwana and Hasmukh Patel, Ahmedabad Mayor Hitesh Barot, local MLAs, other political leaders and a large number of citizens were present during the interaction.

Patel also visited the Police Officers' Mess at Dafnala in Shahibaug, where he exchanged Diwali and New Year greetings with senior police officers and their family members.

Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, State Police Chief G.S. Malik, Director General of Prisons K.L.N. Rao, Director General of Police Neerja Gotru and Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gahlaut were among those present.

Earlier, the Chief Minister had also exchanged New Year greetings with citizens, serving and retired senior secretaries, MLAs and office-bearers from Gandhinagar city and district at the Community Hall of the Ministers' Residential Complex in Gandhinagar.

Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sanjeev Kumar, Energy Department Principal Secretary Ashwini Kumar and Roads and Buildings Secretary Patel welcomed him on the occasion.

In his New Year message, Patel urged citizens to work collectively towards building a 'Viksit Gujarat' and a 'Drug-Free Gujarat', contributing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed and drug-free India.

"I extend my heartfelt New Year wishes to everyone on the beginning of Vikram Samvat 2083. I have prayed to God for everyone's good health and for their lives to move forward with happiness, peace and prosperity. With the Prime Minister's vision of a developed India and a drug-free India, I hope we all work together towards a developed Gujarat and a drug-free Gujarat," he said.

In a message on social media platform X, Patel also extended greetings to Gujarati families living across India and abroad, expressing hope that the New Year would bring happiness, peace, prosperity, good health and new opportunities.

He called for strengthening social harmony, supporting local artisans and small industries, and promoting the 'Vocal for Local' initiative to ensure that prosperity reaches the last person in society. He also urged people to contribute towards the goal of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

The New Year celebrations come as the state government continues to emphasise development and its campaign against drug abuse, with Patel calling for public participation in both initiatives.

Telangana urges banks to restructure crop loans in view of drought



Hyderabad, Nov 10 (IANS) Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday urged banks to restructure crop loans of eligible farmers or reschedule them in accordance with RBI guidelines in view of drought conditions, and provide fresh loans required for the Rabi season in a timely manner.

He asked banks to stand by farmers, taking into account the drought conditions in the state caused by the El Nino phenomenon and the financial hardships faced by the farming community.

Addressing the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting, he emphasised that bankers at the field level must take the initiative to ensure there are no delays in the sanctioning of loans to farmers.

The banks were advised to promptly sanction the Rs 38,268 crore crop loans earmarked for the Rabi season. The state government voiced concern that only 53% of the Rs 96,943 crore loan disbursement target—set for the period ending September 2026—has been achieved so far. It was noted that the disbursement of monsoon farming loans has reached only 17% of the target, and banks were urged to accelerate the loan sanctioning process.

The Deputy CM stated that 365 mandals across 31 districts have been declared drought-affected, with 111 of these mandals being severely impacted. Due to a lack of rainfall, farmers' investments and incomes have suffered; under these circumstances, they require immediate support from the banking system. It was emphasised that the failure of the monsoon should not be allowed to damage the relationship between farmers and banks. It was advised that widespread awareness be created regarding the debt relief measures available to farmers.

District Collectors, Agriculture Department officials and Lead District Managers should work in coordination to implement RBI guidelines at the field level.

Emphasis was placed on rescheduling existing loans and ensuring the timely disbursement of fresh crop loans to eligible farmers. Special priority should be given to small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers, and families dependent on agriculture-allied sectors.

It was suggested that financial support be provided for low-water-consuming crops, crop diversification, micro-irrigation, storage, processing, and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). Banks bear the responsibility of providing credit and market support to encourage farmers to shift toward alternative crops, he said.

He urged banks to assist in creating alternative income sources for farming families, rather than having them rely solely on agriculture. It was suggested that, for the current season, efforts be made to provide additional employment opportunities to at least 10 to 15 per cent of these families.

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has urged bankers to take a special initiative to support the farming community, given the rainfall deficit in the state caused by the 'Super El Nino' phenomenon. He advised bankers to stand by the farmers, keeping the current situation in mind—an approach that goes beyond routine banking operations.

The minister emphasised that in drought-affected mandals, crop loans should be immediately rescheduled or restructured in accordance with RBI guidelines.

He further stressed that bankers themselves should take the lead, ensuring that farmers are not forced to make repeated, burdensome visits to bank branches.

Content creator Amir Shokeen brought to Tripura from Delhi over alleged racial abuse of youth

Agartala, Nov 10 (IANS) Social media content creator Amir Shokeen was brought to Tripura from Delhi on Tuesday in connection with a case involving alleged racial abuse and harassment of an indigenous youth from the state.

Shokeen arrived at Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport in Agartala on Tuesday morning and is scheduled to appear in court later that day, police said.

According to the police, a case was registered against Shokeen after a video allegedly showing him making racial slurs and abusive remarks against a youth from Tripura went viral on social media.

The controversial video was reportedly shared in September. Police said Shokeen had allegedly recorded the video around a month before it surfaced publicly.

He was initially arrested by Delhi Police from the Karol Bagh area on October 22. He was subsequently produced before the Tis Hazari Court on October 24, which remanded him to five days of police custody.

Following the completion of the legal formalities, Shokeen was brought to Tripura on transit remand for further investigation into the case.



ED attaches properties worth Rs 18.33 crore in Andhra bank loan fraud case

Visakhapatnam, Nov 10 (IANS) The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 18.33 crore belonging to Kallam Peri Reddy and associates in the case of Kallam Modern Rice Mills Pvt Ltd, in connection with obtaining credit facilities from SBI by submitting fake/forged documents.

ED, Visakhapatnam Sub-Zonal Office in Andhra Pradesh, provisionally attached the immovable properties of Kallam Peri Reddy and his family members/associates under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

The Central agency said in a release on Tuesday that it initiated the investigation of the basis of FIR registered by CBI, EOW, Chennai, on the complaint of State Bank of India (erstwhile State Bank of Hyderabad), Guntur, against Kallam Modern Rice Mills Pvt Ltd, Sri Ramabrahma Modern Rice Mills Pvt Ltd, Sri Vinayaka Traders and others. During 2010-2013, the group obtained credit facilities of Rs 24.57 crore from SBH, Arundelpet Branch, Guntur, by submitting fake/forged title deeds of collateral properties and diverted the funds, causing a loss of Rs 18.33 crore to the bank.

Investigation has revealed that Kallam Peri Reddy operated and managed about 26 entities registered in the names of his relatives, employees, and associates, including the three borrower concerns, namely Kallam Rice Mills Pvt Ltd, Sri Ramabrahma Modern Rice Mills Pvt Ltd and Sri Vinayaka Traders.

Analysis of bank accounts revealed that cash of about Rs 23.81 crore was withdrawn from the cash credit accounts of the three borrower concerns in the names of workers, accountants and Kallam Peri Reddy himself, the ED said.Further investigation revealed that several properties were purchased out of the loan proceeds, partly in cash withdrawn from bank accounts controlled by Kallam Peri Reddy. It is also revealed that Kallam Peri Reddy had transferred some immovable properties to his relatives and associates without receiving any sale consideration. The said properties were only held by them as the namesake owners, while he continued to be the actual beneficial owner.

TG SAFE suspends licences of eight Hyderabad eateries over violations

Hyderabad: The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) has suspended the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licences of eight cloud kitchens and restaurants in Hyderabad after inspections revealed serious food safety violations, including cockroach and rodent infestations, expired food, and unhygienic kitchen conditions.

According to the officials, a total of 24 teams comprising food safety officers and Hyderabad city police personnel inspected 23 cloud kitchens and restaurants in the CURE region on Tuesday.

During the inspections, officials collected 25 food samples on suspicion of adulteration and discarded approximately 700 kg of spoiled and contaminated food articles.The establishments whose licences were suspended include Biryani By Kilo at Gachibowli, Kulcha Kulture at Madhapur, Lucky Multicuisine Restaurant at Somajiguda, Tum Yum Innovisions at Madhapur, Zora 11/2 at Khairatabad, LO Fresh Foods at Madhapur, ITC Aashirwaad Soul Creations cloud kitchen at Gachibowli and Sodexo India Services at Kondapur.Officials found spoiled rice, pest-infested flour, cockroaches, rat droppings, expired food items, dirty equipment, and improper storage of vegetarian and non-vegetarian food at several establishments.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Air Pollution — India's capital chokes

There is a sense of déjà vu in the images of toxic haze enveloping Delhi the day after Diwali celebrations, resembling post-apocalyptic scenes. The response, too, follows a familiar pattern, with politicians resorting to a blame game over deadly pollution. The national capital virtually gasped for breath as the Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 370, almost touching the "severe" mark. The Supreme Court's guidelines regarding certified green crackers and specific timings were more often breached than followed. Adding to the problem was stubble burning by farmers in the neighbouring States of Punjab and Haryana. As a result, air pollution levels went through the roof. The data revealed that the PM2.5 (particulate matter measuring 2.5 micrometre) concentration shot up to about 66.2 times the WHO's recommended guideline of 15 micrograms per cubic metre. Not surprisingly, political parties blamed each other for the situation. The Congress and the AAP accused the BJP government of failing to control pollution despite making lofty claims. They also alleged that it had resorted to data manipulation by shutting down air quality monitoring stations. On the other hand, BJP leader and Delhi Labour Minister Kapil Mishra alleged that there was a conspiracy in AAP-governed Punjab to set stubble on fire in the State before Diwali. It was claimed that over 1,200 stubble-burning incidents were reported in Punjab on Diwali day. It must be pointed out that farm fires are not the only culprits. Transport emissions, road and construction dust, industrial pollution, waste burning and secondary pollutants also foul the air.

The Supreme Court identified vehicular emissions as a contributing factor, flagging bumper-to-bumper traffic in Delhi. It sought immediate, medium- and long-term measures, noting that the AQI was nearing 400, an alarming level, which can cause serious damage to health. Enough research data shows a direct link between air pollution and heart diseases, strokes, autoimmune disorders and neurological problems. Fine particulate matter, particularly PM2.5, can penetrate deep into the lungs and, in some cases, enter the bloodstream. This can trigger inflammation and oxidative stress, affecting not only the lungs but also the heart and blood vessels. Over time, exposure can worsen existing respiratory illnesses, compromise lung function and increase the risk of cardiovascular complications. Across the country, an estimated 1.6 million people die due to air pollution every year. Anti-pollution measures introduced in the past have been unsuccessful. Successive governments have announced action plans, restricted vehicles, halted construction and issued advisories, only for Delhi to find itself back in an emergency. The AAP, which built its political appeal around clean governance, too must answer for its years in office. The city needs an accountable programme, not competing claims over blame. That means reliable public transport, stricter controls on vehicle and industrial emissions, effective dust management, cleaner fuels, proper waste disposal and coordination across the National Capital Region (NCR). Farmers need affordable alternatives to burning, not annual lectures.

65 Lakh Sanctioned for Gandhi Nagar Community Hall Construction



Parameshwar Reddy Felicitated"-- Long-pending dream moves towards reality; Welfare Association expresses gratitude for support towards local development""""RAMANTHAPUR, November 10 (Indian Chronicle):Congress leader Parameshwar Reddy was felicitated by the Gandhi Nagar Welfare Association in recognition of his key role in securing ?65 lakh in funds for the construction of a community hall in Gandhi Nagar, under Ramanthapur Division. The association members honoured him by presenting a shawl and expressed their heartfelt gratitude for his contribution towards the development of the locality.The welfare association members expressed happiness that the construction of the community hall would provide a convenient venue for local residents to conduct meetings and organise various social and cultural programmes.They extended special thanks to Parameshwar Reddy for recognising the long-standing needs of the residents and making efforts to secure the required funds for the project, which had been a long-pending demand of the locality.Gandhi Nagar Welfare Association Honorary President Mohammed Rafiq, President Lagusani Srinivas Goud, General Secretary Edla Siddhiramulu, Treasurer Yerra S. Bikshapathi, Vice-Presidents M.D. Aziz Khan and Jangir Bhai, Advisors Muthyala Narasimha Goud, Naresh Chari, Narasimha and Lingam Yadav, among others, participated in the programme."

Parachute Launches Innovative 'Feel Like a Girl Again' Campaign



"Hyderabad, November 10 (Indian Chronicle) : Parachute Advanced Gold Coconut Hair Oil has launched a special campaign titled 'Feel Like a Girl Again', encouraging women to reconnect with their inner child and rediscover the joys of childhood. In a statement released in the city on Tuesday, Marico Limited India CMO Vikram Karwal said the campaign was specifically designed to connect with women in Andhra Pradesh. The campaign film has been directed by renowned filmmaker Gautham Vasudev Menon and beautifully captures childhood memories, friendship and the freedom of three friends. The film features music composed by Karthik, vocals by Shweta Mohan, lyrics by Anantha Sriram and choreography by Brinda Master. Karwal said the campaign aims to inspire women to embrace happiness, confidence and freedom while reconnecting with the carefree spirit of their childhood.

Peddapalli Collector Expedites Manthani Road Widening Infrastructure Ahead of Godavari Pushkaralu.





""MANTHANI | NOVEMBER 10, 2026"In a decisive move to overhaul urban infrastructure and accommodate incoming pilgrims, Peddapalli District Collector Koya Sri Harsha has directed municipal and engineering authorities to accelerate the ongoing road construction and widening projects across Manthani town."Conducting a comprehensive ground-level inspection on Tuesday, the Collector reviewed progress on key arterial routes, including the crucial Manthani–Godavarihani Highway, the Pushkar Ghat access road, and the Mahalakshmi Temple road corridor."Key Directives & Inspection Highlights" * Inter-Departmental Synchronization: Collector Sri Harsha emphasized seamless inter-agency coordination to eliminate procedural bottlenecks and prevent execution delays." * Rapid Utility Relocation: Electrical department officials were instructed to immediately relocate high-voltage poles and transmission infrastructure obstructing the widening path. Electricity Department Superintending Engineer (SE) Gangadhar was directed to deploy dedicated units to ensure uninterrupted project momentum." * Strict Quality & Timeline Adherence: Standardized construction guidelines and quality benchmarks must be rigidly enforced throughout the paving and expansion process." * Public Convenience First: The administration aims to operationalize the revamped thoroughfares expeditiously to relieve traffic congestion and facilitate smooth transit during the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu."> "Execution delays will not be tolerated. Departments must function in unison to complete utility shifts and structural work within the slated deadline while maintaining uncompromised engineering quality.""> — Koya Sri Harsha, District Collector & Magistrate"> "High-Level Inspection Entourage"The spot inspection was attended by key administrative and municipal leaders:"| Official | Designation |"|---|---|"| Koya Sri Harsha | District Collector, Peddapalli |"| Srinivas | Chairman, Manthani Municipality |"| Sayendar Reddy | Vice-Chairman, Manthani Municipality |"| Gangadhar | Superintending Engineer (SE), Electricity Department |"| Manohar | Municipal Commissioner, Manthani |

High Yields and Maximum Profits with Ayan 2025 Paddy

Farmers' Awareness Camp Conducted by GeneXX Seeds in Nagapelli""



"Manthani (Nagapelli) | November 10"A field-level farmers' awareness program was successfully conducted by GeneXX Seeds on Tuesday in Nagapelli village of Manthani Mandal. Organized at the agricultural field of local farmer Rebbata Srisailam, the event was led by Thurpati Ramu (Distributor Agent, Annadata Fertilizers & Seeds), Ganaveni Rajasekhar (Area Sales Manager, GeneXX), and Kotta Srinivas (Field Officer)."Key Features & Advantages of 'Ayan 2025'"Addressing the gathering, company representatives highlighted the impressive standing crop of the 'Ayan 2025' variety cultivated by Srisailam across 25 acres. Having previously harvested a successful yield using GeneXX's 'Raja Doddu' variety during the last Yasangi season, Srisailam opted for the premium 'Ayan 2025' fine variety this season to leverage bonus incentives offered for fine-grain produce."The representatives detailed the crop's standout agronomic characteristics:" * Robust Growth & High Grain Count: The variety features medium-height plant growth with vigorous tillering. Each panicle yields an impressive 350 to 400 grains." * Pest & Lodging Resistance: The thick, sturdy stem structure prevents crop lodging (falling over) even during severe weather conditions. This structural strength significantly minimizes susceptibility to brown planthopper (BPH/doma potu), insect infestations, and fungal diseases." * Superior Grain Quality & Market Value: Every grain fills completely up to the final stage, yielding robust, well-colored, high-quality grain. Due to low grain breakage (minimal breakdown into broken rice) during milling, this grain fetches premium prices in the market."Promoting High-Yielding Varieties for Better Returns"The team urged farmers to adopt high-yielding fine-grain varieties like Ayan 2025 during the monsoon (Kharif) season to secure better economic returns. Furthermore, they recommended cultivating other high-performing GeneXX varieties—such as Rashmika, Thopu Singh, and Dhanadhan—in the upcoming Yasangi season to maximize farm profitability."The event witnessed active participation from local farmers, agricultural advocates, and company representatives.

LRS applicants get 25% rebate; deadline set for November 30

Collector Chitra Mishra asks officials to reach out to all eligible plot owners; 11,514 applications approved in Karimnagar district.

Karimnagar November 10, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): District Collector Chitra Mishra has directed officials to step up efforts to ensure that all eligible applicants under the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS-2020) avail themselves of the 25% rebate announced by the State government and pay the balance regularisation fee by November 30.The concession, announced through Government Order No. 213, provides relief to thousands of plot owners whose applications have remained pending for years. The Collector urged applicants to utilise the opportunity to regularise their plots at a reduced financial burden and avoid complications in securing building permissions and other statutory clearances in the future.

Reviewing the progress of the scheme, Ms. Mishra directed District Panchayat Officer Jagadeeshwar to examine village-wise details of pending applications and fee payments and take steps to complete the process within the stipulated deadline.A total of 71,454 applications have been received in the district under LRS-2020. According to the details furnished by the District Town and Country Planning Officer (DTCP), 11,514 applications have been approved so far.Of the approved applications, 7,568 fall under the Municipal Corporation limits, 2,031 under municipalities, 1,468 under the Urban Development Authority (UDA) limits and 447 under Gram Panchayats.The Collector instructed



Panchayat Secretaries to focus on the collection of pending regularisation fees by preparing village-wise lists of applicants and informing them individually about the concession and the payment deadline.Field-level staff should proactively create awareness about the rebate, the procedure for payment and the November 30 deadline. Officials concerned were also asked to scrutinise pending applications through their respective online logins and process them expeditiously in accordance with the rules.Pointing out that plots not regularised under the scheme would face restrictions on registration and the grant of building permissions, Ms. Mishra urged eligible applicants to pay the balance fee within the deadline and complete the regularisation process.

ICICI Life Launches BSE 500 Momentum Quality 50 Index Fund

""Hyderabad, November 10 (Indian Chronicle) : ICICI Life Insurance has launched the 'ICICI Life BSE 500 Momentum Quality 50 Index Fund', according to a statement issued by the company's Chief Investment Officer, Manish Kumar, on Tuesday. The fund invests in 50 financially strong companies from the BSE 500 universe that demonstrate consistent share-price growth. Kumar said the fund aims to help investors create long-term wealth. As of September 30, 2026, the index had delivered returns of up to 23.7% over seven years, turning an investment of ?1 lakh into ?4.4 lakh. The portfolio will be reviewed and rebalanced every quarter. The company also reported a claim settlement ratio of 99.3%, with an average turnaround time of 1.1 days for non-investigated claims. The fund will be available under several ULIP plans, including ICICI Life Protect N Gain, Signature Assure, Signature, Platinum and Wealth Elite Pro.

Mivi Inaugurates Manufacturing Facility in Hyd



Hyderabad, November 10 (Indian Chronicle) : Leading consumer electronics company Mivi has inaugurated a new manufacturing facility in Hyderabad with an investment of ?200 crore. The facility was inaugurated by Telangana Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Mivi Co-founder Mithula Devabhaktuni announced in a statement on Tuesday. Describing the facility as a major milestone in the company's decade-long manufacturing journey, she said that the new unit has a monthly production capacity of five lakh earbuds and 75,000 soundbars. The facility is expected to generate employment opportunities for around 2,500 people. Speaking along with co-founder Viswanadh Kandula, she said the company's objective is to contribute to the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives. She further revealed that Mivi plans to expand into the manufacturing of additional electronic products, including smartphones, as part of its future growth strategy.

ISB Announces 250 Annual Scholarships to Mark Silver Jubilee

"Hyderabad, November 10 (Indian Chronicle) : The Indian School of Business(ISB) has announced 250 scholarships annually, offering tuition fee waivers of up to 100%, as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations. ISB Dean Professor Madan Pillutla announced the initiative under the ISB@25 programme. The institution will also establish the 'India Research Commons', a national platform to support research, and launch a faculty development programme for management institutions across India. Founded in 2001, ISB has campuses in Hyderabad and Mohali, with over 20,000 alumni across more than 65 countries.

Municipal councilors submit petition to Municipal Commissioner to collect garbage through privatization in commercial areas and keep the city clean -

Municipal councilors submit petition to Municipal Commissioner""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- Municipal councilors have submitted a petition to the Municipal Commissioner, requesting him to take appropriate steps to collect garbage through privatization in commercial areas under the Bhuvanagiri Municipal Corporation and keep the city clean."They said that the shortage of personnel would be overcome by collecting garbage from shops located in both directions on the main road from Bhuvanagiri Cheruvu Katta to Rayagiri Common every day through private autos or tractors. They said that due to the lack of personnel on the main road, the staff in the wards are being taken away and put on tractors on the main road, which would hamper sanitation in the ward. They requested that this issue be included in the next council meeting and an appropriate decision be taken. Those who submitted a petition to the commissioner included 18th Ward Councilor - Pasham Amarnath, 30th Ward Councilor - MD. Laik Ahmed, 14th Ward Councilor - Tummeti Pandu, 31st Ward Councilor - Sumayya Tabassum Shafiq Ahmed and others.



Development Works in Chilkanagar Must Follow Government Norms and Regulations



- Senior Congress Leader Mulakallapalli Rajesh Mudiraj submits representation to Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta““CHILKA NAHAR, NOVEMBER 10 (INDIAN CJRONICLE):Senior Congress leader of Chilkanagar Division, Mulakallapalli Rajesh Mudiraj, urged officials to ensure that all ongoing development works and infrastructure projects in the division are carried out strictly in accordance with government regulations and prescribed standards.“As per the directions of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Rajesh Mudiraj met Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta and submitted a representation highlighting various public issues in the division.“Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Mudiraj brought to the Zonal Commissioner's notice that some old graves were allegedly being damaged by the contractor during the ongoing development works at the graveyard in Chilkanagar Division.“Responding to the issue, the Zonal Commissioner reportedly spoke with the concerned officials and instructed both the contractor and officials to ensure that the development works are carried out strictly as per government norms without causing any damage to the old graves.He also stated that the Zonal Commissioner instructed the officials to expedite pending development works in the division and ensure that there is no negligence in providing essential infrastructure facilities to the public.Rajesh Mudiraj assured that he would continue to bring public grievances to the attention of the authorities and work consistently towards resolving them.

2 Crore Sanctioned for Retaining Wall Construction from Nallacheruvu to Shesha Sai Nagar



-- Parameshwar Reddy Directs Officials to Begin Work Immediately Without Delay in Shifting Electricity Poles““UPPAL, November 10 (Indian Chronicle):“An amount of ?2 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of a retaining wall from Mallikarjuna Colony and Shesha Sai Nagar to Nallacheruvu in Uppal Division. Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy stated that the funds were sanctioned following his special initiative. Once completed, the retaining wall will help reduce the threat of flooding and provide better protection to the surrounding colonies.“Although the funds were sanctioned two months ago, the construction work has not commenced due to the presence of electricity poles obstructing the project. Taking serious note of the delay, Parameshwar Reddy, along with Municipal and Electricity Department officials, conducted a field inspection of the concerned areas on Tuesday.During the visit, he explained the obstacles affecting the retaining wall construction to the officials and instructed them to take immediate steps to commence the work. He particularly discussed the need to shift the electricity poles obstructing the construction with the Electricity Department officials.“Responding to his request, Electricity Department Assistant Divisional Engineer (ADE) assured that the pole-shifting work would be completed at the earliest.Parameshwar Reddy urged the officials of the concerned departments to coordinate with one another and begin the retaining wall construction immediately after the electricity poles are shifted, ensuring that the project is completed within the stipulated time. He emphasized that the project must be given top priority in view of public safety and the protection of residential colonies.“During the field inspection, TGSPDCL DE Ravinder, AE Nikhil, DE Venil Goud, AE Raj Kumar, Modugu Mohan Reddy, Ranganath Goud, Shesha Sai Nagar Colony President Achhan Srinivas, Rakesh Naik, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Narsaiah, Srinivas Reddy, Venkateswara Rao, Pujari Hanumanthu, Pavan Kumar, Suresh, Narasimha Reddy, Viplav Reddy, Prashanth, Venugopal Reddy, Hanumanthu, Anil Reddy, Shivashankar, Chari, Somireddy, Jagan Reddy, Venkateshwarlu K., Srinivas G., P.C. Rao, Shyam, Sandeep, Sattireddy, Galaiah, Nagesh, Obul Reddy, Narayana Reddy, Sammaiah, Kondal Reddy, Krishnam Raju, Deepak, Srinivas, Ashok and others participated.

MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Reviews Public Issues with MMC Officials

-- Directs Officials to Expedite Pending Development Works and Respond Promptly to Public Grievances““UPPAL, NOVEMBER 10 (Indian Chronicle):“With the primary objective of addressing public grievances in the Uppal Assembly constituency, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy conducted a review meeting with MMC officials at the Kapra Municipal Office. The meeting was attended by Uppal, Nacharam and Kapra Deputy Commissioners Anand, Nityanand and Ravinder Sagar.During the meeting, the MLA conducted a comprehensive review of various civic issues and the progress of development works across different areas of the constituency.“Key issues discussed included sanitation, roads, drainage systems, street lighting, town planning, mosquito control, food safety, provision of basic infrastructure and pending development works. The MLA directed officials not to neglect public complaints and to respond immediately. He instructed them to conduct field visits, assess the seriousness of problems and take necessary steps to resolve them without delay.“He further instructed officials to complete all sanctioned development works within the stipulated deadlines and prepare a clear action plan for pending projects to ensure faster execution. He emphasized that special attention must be given to issues causing inconvenience to the public and that officials must discharge their duties with a sense of responsibility.“During the meeting, BRS leaders, public representatives and representatives of various



Colony Welfare Associations brought several local issues to the MLA's attention. After personally listening to their grievances, the MLA discussed the concerns with the concerned officials and directed them to take appropriate measures for their speedy resolution.“MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy stated that providing better basic infrastructure and ensuring the development of every locality were among his top priorities. He made it clear that there would be no room for negligence in addressing public grievances.“He also called upon officials and public representatives to work in close coordination and remain accountable to the people to ensure the overall development of the Uppal Assembly constituency.

I Support Interest-Free Microfinance Campaign

Launches SRDF“45 branches, 1.2 lakh members and Over 57,000 Benefit from Interest-Free Loans: “



Vision 2030: The target of 100 additional branches and 5 lakh members.““Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, November 10:““A Collective Step Towards an Interest-Free Society and Financial Independence“With the objective of promoting an interest-free financial system and creating public awareness about ethical, interest-free financial alternatives, Hyderabad-based Sarvat Interest Free Micro Finance has launched a campaign titled “I Support Interest-Free Microfinance.”“The central message of the campaign is:““Our Collective Dream: An Interest-Free Society.”“Under the supervision of SRDF, interest-free microfinance activities are being carried out through various organisations across different states. These include Seva Mutually Aided Cooperative Credit Societies (Seva MACCS) and Khidmat MACCS in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and Karunya in Karnataka.“Currently, these organisations operate through 45 branches, with a combined membership of more than 120,000 people. So far, over 57,000 individuals have benefited from interest-free loans.“The primary objective of these organisations is to provide interest-free financial assistance to families in need, small business owners and hardworking members of the working class. They also aim to promote financial independence, a culture of savings and financial discipline among communities.“As part of its Vision 2030, SRDF has set an ambitious target of establishing 100 additional branches and increasing its membership to 500,000 by 2030. Under this expansion plan, the organisation intends to strengthen its operations further in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh while extending its services to North India as well.“As part of the campaign, various activities are being organised across different branches, including inauguration programmes, public awareness meetings, special addresses during Friday prayers, presentations of success stories and press conferences.“Ulema, mosque imams, community leaders, business groups and members of the general public are being invited to join this collective movement and contribute towards the development of an interest-free financial system.“SRDF has appealed to people from all sections of society to become part of this positive social and economic initiative. It has urged everyone to extend their support in promoting interest-free microfinance as an alternative approach towards financial inclusion and sustainable economic development.““Come, let us join hands to eliminate interest and bring prosperity to every household!”“I SUPPORT INTEREST-FREE MICROFINANCE - Sarvat Interest Free Micro Finance, Hyderabad

Key Meeting of the Mudiraj Community Held at YSR Function Hall in Bhongir Town





– Reported by: Manda Yadagiri and Kolpula Kamalakar, Members of the Mudiraj Coordination Committee““(Yadadri Bhongir District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – November 10): A significant meeting of the Mudiraj community took place at the YSR Function Hall in Bhongir town. Members of the Mudiraj community from all 35 wards of the Bhongir municipality organized a large rally, marching from the Sai Baba Temple to the YSR Function Hall. During the meeting, held under the auspices of the Mudiraj Coordination Committee, a resolution was passed to conduct a membership drive and a family survey across all 35 wards of Bhongir town. It was further resolved that elections for the town committee would be held once the membership registration process is completed.

The meeting was attended by Coordination Committee members Manda Yadagiri, Kolpula Kamalakar, Diddikadi Nursing Rao, Nayini Purnachander, and Valdasu Sudarshan. Also present were Municipal Councilors Gurrala Srinivas Santhosha, Thummala Yasmin Nagesh, Jangiti Vinod, Koora Venkatesh, Yata Venkatesh, Sadu Ramakrishna, and Raj Geesa Anand, along with various association presidents.

Will provide his best support for the development of the Congress party in the state

TPCC state spokesperson Mohammed Atahar ““*It is commendable that senior Congress party leader MD Atahar from Bhuvanagiri town has taken up key responsibilities at the state level.““(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- The newly appointed TPCC state spokesperson Mohammed Atahar said that he will always provide his best support for the development of the Congress party in Telangana state. Several leaders said that they are happy that Congress leader Mohammed Atahar from Bhuvanagiri town has been appointed as the state spokesperson of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC). To this extent, the party high command has given him key responsibilities at the state level, recognizing his commitment to the party, political experience, understanding of public issues and his efforts to strengthen the Congress party and has provided this opportunity, party sources said. Mohammed Atahar, who will be taking charge as the state spokesperson, will explain the party's policies, government programs and public issues to the public through the media platform. Local Congress leaders and activists are expressing joy over the leader from Bhuvanagiri town getting a key post at the state level. On this occasion, Bonagiri Parliamentarian Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy congratulated the appointment of Mohammed Atahar as the TPCC state spokesperson. Many Congress party leaders, fans and friends congratulated Mohammed Atahar on his appointment as the state spokesperson.



Public government to support farmers – We will work towards the development of villages





Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah““(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Sri Beerla Ayilaiah inaugurated the paddy purchase centers set up under the auspices of IKP in Katepalli village, Chada and Kondapur villages of Motakondur mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, and the paddy purchase center set up under the auspices of PACS in Muthireddygudem village.“Similarly, the newly constructed underground drainage, CC road works and water plant in Kondapur village were inaugurated. Speaking on the occasion, Beerla Ayilaiah said that the welfare of farmers is the main objective of the public government and the government is setting up the paddy purchase centers with the intention of providing support price for every grain grown by farmers. Farmers were advised to sell their grain at the purchase centers themselves and get the support price provided by the government without resorting to middlemen. He said that the government is giving high priority to the creation of infrastructure in rural areas and that development works are being carried out with the aim of providing better sanitation facilities, safe drinking water and quality roads to the people. He said that the public government under the leadership of Chief Minister Enumula Revanth Reddy is continuously working for the welfare of farmers, development of villages and improvement of the living standards of the people. Beerla Ayilaiah clarified that the welfare of farmers - development of villages - welfare of the people are the goals of the public government.

Police Commissioner stresses time-bound verification

Gaush Alam reviews Special Branch functioning during surprise inspection; directs officials to expedite passport and police verification.Karimnagar November 10, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): Police Commissioner Gaush Alam on Tuesday conducted a surprise inspection of the Special Branch (SB) office in Karimnagar and reviewed the functioning of its various wings.

During the inspection, the Commissioner examined official records and held a detailed review meeting with officers and staff responsible for different sections. He reviewed the progress of passport verification, job-related verification and the issuance of Police Verification Certificates (PVCs).

Mr. Gaush Alam directed officials to expedite the verification process and ensure that certificates were issued within the stipulated time. He stressed that applications received from the public should be processed without unnecessary delay and that people should not face inconvenience in obtaining verification-related services.He also reviewed



the functioning of the social media wing and the performance of field-level personnel. He instructed field staff to remain vigilant, strengthen information gathering and ensure effective coordination in carrying out their responsibilities.

Emphasising accountability and efficiency, the Commissioner asked the staff to discharge their duties with commitment and respond promptly to public applications. He cautioned against negligence in official work and stressed the need for timely delivery of services.ACP Srinivas,

Tamil Nadu minister alleges library fraud under DMK



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

A Rajmohan, the Tamil Nadu Minister for School Education, Tamil Development, Information and Publicity, on Saturday said his department had lodged a complaint with the anti-corruption police over allegedly fraudulent, "AI-generated" books purchased for public libraries during the previous DMK government regime, widening a controversy at Coimbatore's Periyar Arivulagam into allegations of a statewide procurement scam.Displaying documents that he described as original committee recommendations, purchase orders and payment proceedings, Rajmohan announced a special committee to examine library collections and said the government would seek to recover "every rupee" spent on the disputed books.The department had requested registration of a case, he said.The allegations follow an essay by novelist Perumal Murugan describing expensive books containing elementary errors, questionable historical claims and unfamiliar authors' names at Periyar Arivulagam.Rajmohan said similar books from one Agalvilakku Publishing House had reached other libraries, including Connemara Library and the Kalaignar Library in Madurai. "This is not a scam that is going to end with Coimbatore's Periyar Arivulagam," he said.He also cited procurement for libraries in Tiruchi, Salem, Cuddalore and Tirunelveli, and referred to Rs 5 crore earmarked for e-books. He did not provide a consolidated, documented figure for the alleged loss. At the centre of his account was a chronology intended to establish responsibility across a change of government.Rajmohan said committee meetings took place in November and December last year and again in January. Of approximately 137 committee members, 112 attended the January meeting, he said. Their recommendations subsequently received approval from a higher-level committee.He alleged that approval had been given under pressure from the DMK administration. He did not explain who allegedly applied that pressure or how. An order dated February 14 sought delivery of the books within seven days, he said, while March proceedings authorised the release of treasury funds to the district. Some pending payments were processed after the elections, when books were unpacked and arranged, he acknowledged.Rajmohan held up "Naladiyar: A Guide to Life," which Murugan had criticised for treating a collection of classical Tamil verse as that of an individual poet and philosopher. For a student approaching a library shelf with an examination ahead, the error was hardly academic. Rajmohan asked what would happen if candidates absorbed such claims and reproduced them in their answers."Poverty is not merely about money and material possessions," he said. "Poverty of knowledge is also a great poverty." His anger repeatedly gave way to ridicule as he read names attributed to "prolific authors": Thamarai Murali, Thamarai Ravi, Thamarai Panneer, Kamalambal Karunanidhi and Pavithra Karunanidhi.'Books manufactured under invented identities'He offered a reward for finding one and a medal if Stalin produced another. Beneath the taunts was an allegation requiring investigation — that books had been manufactured under invented identities.Rajmohan compared the operation to printing counterfeit currency, alleging that AI had been used to combine material from different authors into new volumes. He called it "India's first AI scam," a characterisation he did not substantiate with a nationwide comparison.He instructed libraries to place books supplied by Agalvilakku in their respective boxes and preserve them as evidence. The proposed special committee, he said, would identify disputed material across collections.

He also asked Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna to investigate whether irregularities extended to library construction and whether the buildings were structurally sound. He presented that as a request for investigation, without supplying evidence of construction defects.The DMK, meanwhile, has sought an independent inquiry while rejecting the government's political accusations. Former minister and Assembly whip Govi Chezhiyan said the previous administration had introduced a transparent procurement policy and constituted a recommendation committee that included Murugan himself.Chezhiyan questioned whether ulterior motives lay behind the controversy emerging after the change of government, and demanded disclosure of the backgrounds of the books, authors and approved publishers. He said those responsible should face legal action.Rajmohan, meanwhile, demanded an unconditional apology from the DMK to students and readers, and said politicians found responsible would be brought before the law.He also described complaints from established publishers who said the previous government had bought only one library copy of their books. He contrasted their experience with the alleged accumulation of AI-generated volumes.

Ordering food on trains? IRCTC warns passengers against unauthorised apps, websites



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on Saturday warned passengers against ordering food during train journeys through unauthorised websites and mobile apps, citing risks of food safety issues, financial fraud, and data theft. The railway PSU has also intensified its crackdown on unauthorised e-catering platforms and advised passengers to order meals only through its official website, the Food on Track app, or authorised partners."The proliferation of unauthorized e-catering platforms poses serious risks to passenger food safety, hygiene and overall well-being. Such platforms often source meals from unlicensed food outlets that may not comply with the prescribed Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations and hygiene standards," the IRCTC said in a statement.It said these outlets may operate in unhygienic conditions, employ untrained food handlers, and deploy delivery personnel without mandatory medical examinations, compromising food quality and passenger safety.IRCTC also warned that these unauthorised platforms put passengers' personal data and financial security at risk and offer little protection against complaints or fraud."Sharing sensitive information, including Passenger Name Record (PNR) details, email addresses, mobile numbers, and payment credentials (debit/credit card or UPI details), through unverified platforms can leave passengers vulnerable to phishing attacks, identity misuse, and financial fraud," it added.IRCTC further said that passengers risk having their food orders cancelled, delayed, or left undelivered, often without proper customer support or a grievance-redressal mechanism. "In the absence of a formal complaint-handling system, affected passengers may find it difficult to recover their money or pursue appropriate legal remedies," the railway PSU said.IRCTC has advised passengers to order food during train journeys only through its official e-Catering website, Food on Track app or authorised partners. "Using these authorized channels helps ensure food safety and hygiene, transparent and verified billing, and secure payment processing. The updated list of authorized e-catering partners is available on the official IRCTC e-Catering website and mobile application," it added.IRCTC also urged passengers to report unauthorised food vendors or illegal food delivery activities at railway stations or on trains to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) by calling its helpline number 182. It further said that unauthorised e-catering operations also have financial and regulatory implications."While IRCTC contributes GST on its e-catering revenue, unauthorized operators functioning outside the prescribed regulatory framework may evade applicable statutory tax obligations. Such activities not only undermine fair competition and regulatory compliance but also potentially result in substantial losses to the public exchequer," it added.Passengers can order food during train journeys through IRCTC's e-Catering service, which offers a wide range of meals, snacks and other food items. They can choose from different restaurants and place orders for delivery at their selected railway stations.

New twist in Tiger Shroff case: Shooter claims he's a minor. Why it matters



court has remanded three key suspects—Rehan alias Sukka, Ritik Kurmi alias Roshan, and Phool Singh—in police custody until October 31, 2026, in connection with the firing at actor Tiger Shroff's car. Express Photo By Ganesh ShirsekarTiger Shroff (left) after being fired at in Mumbai's Juhu; the accused in custody One of the men arrested for the October 18 shooting at Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff's car in Juhu has told a special court that he is a minor. If the claim holds, his case leaves the regular criminal process. In that case, he would be produced before the Juvenile Justice Board and held in an observation home, not in police custody or jail.The attack took place around 7 pm on October 18 near Pushpa Narsee Park in Juhu, as Shroff was returning from a football match. He escaped unhurt, but his driver and a bystander suffered bullet injuries.

The accused in question was arrested on October 19 with Hrithik Mahto alias Roshan, 22, who allegedly rode the motorcycle during the attack, and Rehan Ansari, 19, the other alleged shooter, after the Rajasthan Police caught them in Kota. Police have arrested 13 people in the case so far.Documents filed by his lawyers put his age at 17 on the day of the attack. The police say he is 19. On Friday, the court ordered the police to inquire into his age and report within 15 days. Until then, it refused to move him to an observation home and remanded him, with four others, to police custody till November 11."When such a claim (of being a minor) is made, it is necessary to direct an inquiry into the matter. The investigation officer is therefore directed to inquire as to whether the accused number 1 was a minor on the date of the incident and report within 15 days," special judge S R Navander said.His lawyers, Sidhanth Mor and Divyam Gaur, filed a plea through his aunt, attaching his birth certificate and an Aadhaar card issued in Haryana. Both give his date of birth as November 30, 2008. That would make him 17 years and 10 months old on October 18, the day of the shooting, and he would turn 18 on November 30.The plea says the police "ought to have ascertained and verified the accused's actual date of birth before treating him as an adult accused and subjecting him to ordinary police custody proceedings". It adds that the police did not check his age with the authorities in Haryana, despite documents showing he was a minor.

Why the court said no for nowThe court refused to send him to an observation home pending the inquiry. It noted that since his arrest on October 19, he had been produced before courts several times without claiming to be a minor, and said there was a possibility that he raised the plea to avoid custodial interrogation. It will consider the plea again after the police report.

Lawrence gang member who targeted Rohit Shetty, Ranveer Singh had taken 'Dunki' route to US

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

A key member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, Harichand Jat alias Hari Boxer, who was wanted in more than 22 criminal cases in Rajasthan, has been detained in the United States, the state police said on Saturday. The arrest was made possible following sustained efforts by Rajasthan police's Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), it added.Police said Boxer, who had taken the "Dunki" route to the US, was arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. Authorities are now working to extradite Boxer to India.According to a press note released by Rajasthan Police, Boxer, 40, a resident of Chatarpura village in Kotputli-Behror district, had been operating the gang's extortion and shooting network in India while staying abroad.He fled India in April 2023 and was involved in criminal activities across Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, they said.Boxer, through a social media post, had claimed responsibility for the firing outside the residence of Bollywood filmmaker Rohit Shetty in Mumbai earlier this year. The Mumbai Crime Branch had also registered an FIR against him in connection with an alleged extortion threat made to actor Ranveer Singh.According to the police, Boxer initially travelled to Dubai and the Dominican Republic before entering the US through Mexico using the illegal migration route, commonly known as the "Dunki route". He was eventually traced to California. The AGTF also sent nine Interpol notices to the US as part of its efforts to secure his detention.

Rajasthan Police said Boxer was detained by ICE following intelligence gathering and coordination with international agencies. The AGTF had been tracking his movements and sharing information with foreign agencies through the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Interpol, they said.'Supplied weapons, coordinated extortion



threats'Rajasthan Police said Boxer played a key role in supplying weapons to gang members and coordinating extortion threats to businessmen through WhatsApp and Signal calls using foreign numbers and VPN services. Those refusing to pay extortion money were allegedly threatened with shootings targeting them or their families, they added.An Interpol Red Corner Notice was issued against him on November 14, 2024. The Rajasthan Police subsequently sent 14 Interpol references through the CBI to authorities in around five countries to trace his location and secure his detention, officials said. A provisional arrest request was sent on February 21, 2025, followed by an updated dossier in August 2026 and fingerprints in October 2026.Boxer has been wanted in several cases, involving attempted murder, extortion, illegal possession of arms, and organised crime.More recently, Bollywood actor Tusshar Kapoor received a threat from an individual claiming to be Hari Boxer, demanding Rs 5 crore. However, police officials have said that a voice comparison with previous threats attributed to Hari Boxer suggested that the caller was not the gangster he claimed to be.

BJP keeps promise, Mormugao MLA Amonkar is now Goa cabinet minister



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

BJP MLA Sankalp Amonkar from Mormugao was sworn in as a minister in the Goa Cabinet on Saturday, months ahead of the Assembly elections in the coastal state.Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju administered the oath of office and secrecy to the BJP legislator at Raj Bhavan in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. One Cabinet berth became vacant after former Goa Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik died in October last year.Amonkar's induction in the Sawant-led Cabinet is seen as fulfilment of a "promise" made when he crossed over to the BJP in 2022. The Assembly election in Goa is likely to be held in early 2027. Amonkar contested the 2022 Assembly elections on a Congress ticket and defeated three-time BJP MLA Milind Naik from Mormugao. He was among the group of eight 'turncoat' MLAs who "defected" and switched over to the BJP from the Congress in September 2022.Amonkar is the third legislator, among the group of eight former Congress MLAs who crossed over, to be inducted in the Sawant-led Cabinet.In November 2023, BJP MLA from Curchorem Nilesh Cabral had resigned to 'accommodate' Nuvem MLA Aleixo Sequeira in the Cabinet. In August last year, Sequeira resigned from the Cabinet, citing personal reasons, paving the way for a Cabinet reshuffle. Former Goa chief minister Digambar Kamat and former Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar were sworn in as ministers in the Cabinet at the time.Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, Amonkar thanked the BJP leaders from the state, his party colleagues and the party high command. "I am grateful to them as well as to the people of Goa. I do not believe that it's late [induction in Cabinet]. The way the party is growing stronger, I believe whatever time is there…no matter how little…I will do what I can for the people of Goa," he told the media.This government has built a bridge in 65 days, so I would say there is a lot of time to do things. Whatever is possible, I will fulfil the responsibilities that I have been assigned," he added.Amonkar, a first-time MLA, was appointed the Chairperson of the Sewerage and Infrastructural Development Corporation of Goa Limited last year and continued to push for a Cabinet berth. He is a graduate of Mormugao Education Society, Zuarinagar. Before joining the BJP, he held several roles in the Congress, including as the deputy leader of the Congress Legislative Party and vice-president of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee.

'NSA invoked on whims and fancies': Kaziranga activist after court quashed detention



After being arrested on July 12 by Golaghat Police in connection with protests against a luxury hotel project near the Kaziranga National Park, Doley was granted bail by a local court on July 29.

After spending nearly four months in custody, prominent land rights activist Pranab Doley walked out of jail around 7 pm on Friday. Speaking to The Indian Express a day later, the 40-year-old said the court decision that paved the way for his release "is a victory for the people who believe in democracy and want to uphold it".Speaking over the phone from his hometown in Kaziranga, Doley said the Gauhati High Court's decision to quash his detention under the National Security Act (NSA) was a ray of hope for people who were concerned about institutions upholding fundamental rights.

"It is alarming that serious acts like the NSA are invoked under the whims and fancies of a few people, that too for voicing concerns of the indigenous community who will lose land. No democracy or state should have the right to curtail fundamental rights just because someone has raised genuine concerns. If this continues and people are scared to voice their concerns, how will India continue being a democracy?" Doley said.

After being arrested on July 12 by Golaghat Police in connection with protests against a luxury hotel project near the Kaziranga National Park, Doley was granted bail by a local court on July 29. However, the Assam government invoked the NSA against Doley a day later, stating that his activities were "prejudicial to the maintenance of public order as well as security of the state".Doley, the convenor of the Greater Kaziranga Land and Human Rights Committee, has been vocal about the potential impact of the project and the displacement of indigenous villagers."We are seeing how the entire machinery is being used to clamp down on those protesting… Police are brought in and people arrested in the dead of night," Doley said.Describing the over 115 days in prison, he said, "It is difficult to describe how inhumane, oppressive and undignifying it is while in custody… You have to keep going through the challenges if you want to stand up for people."Doley said the past four months have shown that the younger generation is ready to take the lead in fighting for rights. "Even when they are constantly threatened, they are not afraid to voice their concerns and fight for rights and truth. It is a positive and hopeful sight," Doley said.Apart from his elderly parents, Doley's neighbours, team members and well-wishers were awaiting his homecoming. "A lot of them came to get me from the prison gates. Many others stayed almost the entire night at home as a protective wall to prevent any untoward incident or state action. Somehow people have lost faith," Doley said.

AQI nears severe mark at 369, several areas cross 400

New Delhi: Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 369, in the 'very poor' category, on Saturday as smog enveloped the city on the eve of Diwali and reduced visibility.Air quality is forecast to turn 'severe' on Sunday, with Diwali celebrations, vehicular emissions and the peak stubble-burning season expected to add to the pollution burden.

Of the 59 monitoring stations that recorded data on Saturday, air quality was in the 'severe' category at 16 stations and in the 'very poor' category at 29. The worst AQI reading of 452 was recorded near IIT Delhi.The city's average AQI improved slightly from 382 on Friday to 369 on Saturday, remaining close to the 'severe' threshold of 400. Several monitoring stations have already crossed this mark, indicating a deterioration in air quality across the national capital.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System (EWS) for Delhi, air quality is likely to remain in the 'severe' category on November 8 and 9. The outlook for the subsequent six days indicates that air quality is likely to fluctuate between the 'severe' and 'very poor' categories.As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), an AQI between 0 and 50 is classified as 'good', 51 and 100 as 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 as 'moderate', 201 and 300 as 'poor', 301 and 400 as 'very poor', and 401 and 500 as 'severe'.Weather and air quality experts have attributed the anticipated deterioration to unfavourable meteorological conditions, the onset of Diwali-related celebrations, vehicular emissions and the peak period of stubble burning in neighbouring states.Unfavourable meteorological conditions are further aggravating the situation. According to the EWS, a ventilation index below 6,000 square metres per second, coupled with an average wind speed of less than 10 kilometres per hour, is unfavourable for the effective dispersion of pollutants.PM10 was the predominant pollutant in the national capital on Saturday.

CJP launches Kochi protest against SIR, Gyanesh Kumar



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Kochi: A protest rally organised by the CJP as part of its 'Jantar Mantar at Kochi' campaign began at Marine Drive here on Saturday, with around 500 activists participating, organisers said.The rally, led by actor Prakash Raj, is being held to demand the withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) state president Chintha Jerome also took part in the march.Participants carried national flags and raised slogans against the CEC.The rally will culminate at Rajendra Maidan, where a protest meeting will be addressed by CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke.Party supporters said Dipke arrived at Cochin International Airport in the afternoon.Police have deployed personnel along the route to regulate traffic and prevent road blockades.The event comes after CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were arrested for allegedly entering Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, which the Delhi Police designated as a protest site last month.Dipke was later detained ahead of a Tiranga March announced by the party in Delhi.CJP leaders were also recently questioned by the Delhi Police Crime Branch in connection with cases related to protests held in the national capital.

BJP chief Nitin Nabin targets Rahul Gandhi over alleged 'foreign toolkit'



New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President, Nitin Nabin, has accused Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, of being used as an instrument to destabilise the country and create unrest, alleging that the Congress leader was acting as part of a "foreign toolkit".In an exclusive interview with IANS, Nitin Nabin referred to remarks made by a Congress Minister, who had claimed that LoP Rahul Gandhi had complete control over the "remote button" and could mobilise 40 lakh people to create anarchy in the country whenever he wanted."You saw how a Congress Minister said that Rahul Gandhi has complete control over the remote button and that, whenever he wants, 40 lakh people are ready to create anarchy in the country. I believe this clearly confirms what we have been saying from the beginning — that Rahul Gandhi is being used as a toolkit to destabilise the country and create anarchy," Nabin said."Now that Congress leaders themselves are saying this, our claims have been clearly vindicated," he added.

The BJP president further alleged that LoP Gandhi did not understand the strength of India's democratic institutions and traditions."Rahul Gandhi does not have a clue that our country is a lot different from other nations. The democratic roots of this nation are strong," he said."If people with such nefarious mindsets, or those who have become instruments of foreign toolkits, think that they can destabilise India or spread chaos, they are mistaken," Nabin said."The democracy of this nation knows how to respond to individuals with such anarchic and Naxalite-leaning mindsets. Rahul Gandhi might have tried to spread anarchy, but this country will give a fitting response to it," he added.Asked why he believed LoP Gandhi was being used as a "foreign toolkit", Nabin said, "Every democracy has its own characteristics and features. He is the LoP; he should come to Parliament and maintain parliamentary traditions. If they are coming out on the streets, they should do it in a proper way to protest."Drawing a comparison with the BJP's own political history, Nabin said his party had participated in street protests as well as raised issues inside Parliament, but had always followed a path of struggle.

"The BJP has also carried out agitations on the streets and fought battles inside Parliament. Our history is one of struggle. But Rahul Gandhi has not come up through struggle. He believes political power should remain within his family. He has started treating India's democracy as his family's rule, and the people of the country can see that," he claimed.When I spoke about a toolkit, I meant that they want to create anarchy in the country. After being rejected by the public and losing elections in state after state, they have started questioning constitutional institutions," he added.The BJP chief also criticised LoP Gandhi for questioning the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process being conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI)."The voter roll revision used to be carried out during their (Congress) tenure also, but questions were not raised back then. Why does Rahul Gandhi have a problem with removing non-existent voters? Does he not want that?" Nabin asked.

He further alleged that the Opposition was attempting to put constitutional institutions under scrutiny through its criticism of the electoral roll revision exercise."It appears that the intention is to put constitutional institutions in the dock. But the people of the country are watching, and they will not allow such a toolkit to succeed," he added.Responding to LoP Gandhi's challenge to debate with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's stand that such a discussion should take place in Parliament, Nabin claimed the Congress leader was trying to imitate others rather than demonstrating his own political achievements."Rahul Gandhi only thinks ahead by copying others. Rahul ji, it takes 25 years of dedicated public service and hard work to earn that position. It does not happen overnight," the BJP National President said.Taking a swipe at LoP Gandhi's political record, Nabin questioned his contribution to the development of the constituencies he has represented in Kerala and Uttar Pradesh."I doubt whether you have even laid a single foundation stone for development in the constituency you represent… Tell us one achievement that can be credited to your name. Today, you have become Leader of Opposition because of the numbers your party has secured. If you want to question Narendra Modi, Parliament has given you the platform to do so. Come to the House and ask your questions," Nabin said.He further asserted that the BJP did not need its senior leadership to respond to LoP Gandhi's statements made outside Parliament, claiming that party workers at various levels were capable of countering his allegations."Every BJP worker can respond to each of your allegations. There is no need for our leader to come forward for that. But if you raise these issues on the floor of Parliament, every one of your questions will be answered properly," he added.

Sonia Gandhi recalls pleading with Rajiv not to become PM after Indira's assassination



New Delhi: "I felt as if a knife had been plunged right into my heart," Sonia Gandhi writes, recalling the moment Rajiv Gandhi told her that he had been asked to take oath as Prime Minister on the day his mother and then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated.When she pleaded with him not to accept the post, fearing it would put his life at risk, Rajiv replied, "They will kill me anyway." This and several other defining moments are recounted in Sonia Gandhi's upcoming memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, published by HarperCollins India and scheduled to be released on November 10.

In an edited extract from the book published by British daily The Guardian, Sonia Gandhi recounts the events of October 31, 1984, when then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her bodyguards at her residence at 1, Safdarjung Road."I return to my room as my mother-in-law leaves for her office in the building adjacent to our home. I am about to start my bath when I hear a series of explosions, as of firecrackers, but different. I freeze."Someone comes pounding frantically on my bathroom door. It is Ongmu, the children's nanny, crying hysterically. I fling open the door, my heart thumping. She is gesticulating wildly, speechlessly, towards the garden," Sonia Gandhi writes."I run along the path leading to Akbar Road. I see the white Ambassador car slowly moving towards the same path. I hesitate. I stop, heart in my mouth. Dread, panic, fear. I feel suffocated. I can't breathe. I am about to collapse. No, no, I can't. I have to walk to the car. I see her being carried into it. I understand; I scream," she writes, according to the extract."I'm in the car now, crouching on the floor, facing her. Blood, blood on her sari, blood on her chest. Her large eyes are wide open; her face wears a surprised expression. She doesn't move. I attempt to speak to her, to call out, 'Mummy, Mummy', but no word comes out. I try again; she doesn't reply," Sonia Gandhi recounts.She says Indira Gandhi's aides were in the front of the car, screaming, while heavy traffic slowed their journey.The car had no siren and encountered one red light after another, she recalls.

"Then the hospital. The gate isn't opening. Chaos. We are stopped; someone looks through the window in a questioning attitude. They let us in. We reach the emergency department, teeming with people. We are stopped again, not allowed in; we have to wait for our turn. Someone calls out to the driver, signals him to move forward. They identify us; she is placed on a trolley. We are led somewhere, an operation theatre? They ask me to follow. I'm taken to a room nearby. No, no, I want to stay by her, I insist. I want to know. I have to see. They don't reply; they are immersed in their emergency procedures," she writes."I feel confused, lost; I don't recognise anyone there. I'm shivering under my dressing gown. I feel scared, my mind is racing. Where is Rajiv? I try to remember. I can't, I can't. The children, yes, they're in school; they must be brought home. Oh God, no, no. Let them be safe, let Rajiv be safe. Whom do I tell, whom do I speak to?" she says.Sonia Gandhi recalls that several hours passed as more people arrived and gathered around her. She signalled a question to a doctor, who shook his head."I understand, yes, I understand. I break into sobs, uncontrollably. Someone tries to calm me. I feel numb, cold. At two in the afternoon of 31 October 1984, Indira Gandhi was declared dead. I was driven home to collect some clothes for her body to be changed into. On the way, a group of men tried to stop our car, banging on its windows. They were angry, shouting something I couldn't understand," she writes, according to the extract.Sonia Gandhi also recalls that, on reaching home, her children, Rahul and Priyanka, rushed into her arms in tears.When they had been abruptly picked up from school by black-uniformed commandos, they sensed a catastrophe. Once home, they saw some of the staff sobbing. They asked question after question. 'Where's Mama?' 'Why have we been brought home?' 'Where's Papa?' 'What's happened?' 'Where's Dadi?' 'You aren't telling us the truth!'" she writes.Her friends Nina and Sterre had been with the children, trying to calm them down, but were unsure what to tell them, according to the book."I wanted to sit with them and hug them, to break the news to them gently, but I was unable to; I had to go back; Rajiv was coming to the hospital," she writes.Sonia Gandhi recalls that Rajiv was in West Bengal attending a political rally when his cavalcade was stopped by a police patrol. He was told that a message had arrived from Delhi asking him to return urgently because a serious accident had taken place.

Rajiv was driven to the helipad, from where he flew to Calcutta and then to Delhi. According to the book, he heard on a BBC bulletin that Indira Gandhi had been wounded and was in a critical condition."Nobody told him directly that his mother was no more, but he understood," Sonia Gandhi writes.Rajiv Gandhi landed in Delhi at 3.30 pm and was driven straight to the hospital, where he walked in alongside other people."I remember longing to be left alone with him for a moment at least. We held each other, and as he spoke to me, it sunk in that he was saying something I didn't want to hear. 'I have been asked; they want me to be sworn in as prime minister.'"I felt as if a knife had been plunged right into my heart. I felt a pounding in my chest, a rage welling up deep inside me. I was about to explode. I attempted to hold it in."'You have been asked to? How dare they ask? How dare they? Who are they? Why you, why does it have to be you? Why did you allow them to ask you? No, it cannot be; this time it's not going to be!' Seized by utter pain and anguish, soaked in perspiration, I felt like throwing up. I wanted to scream, to ask for help. 'Someone please help me put an end to this'," Sonia Gandhi writes in her memoir.She says she burst into tears and pleaded with Rajiv Gandhi, with folded hands, not to accept the post."'No, no, you can't think of it. You have to stop them, you must refuse, you must say no, for the children's sake, for yourself. You can't do this to us. They will kill you; they will kill you, too!' I cried out. He replied, 'They will kill me anyway'," she writes.The memoir recounts her marriage to Rajiv Gandhi and her introduction to her mother-in-law, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It also describes her efforts to adjust to life in India, including learning Hindi, wearing saris and adapting to Indian food and culture.The book covers major tragedies that affected the Gandhi family, including Sanjay Gandhi's death in a plane crash in 1980, Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984 and Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991.

Abhijith Dipke alleges elections under Gyanesh Kumar cannot be trusted

Kochi: CJP founder Abhijith Dipke on Saturday said his party's fight against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar would continue until an independent and impartial electoral system was ensured in the country.

Speaking to reporters after arriving at Cochin International Airport to attend the 'Jantar Mantar at Kochi' protest organised by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and Kumar, Dipke alleged that elections conducted under the present CEC could not be trusted."The fight against Gyanesh Kumar will continue until we get an independent and impartial election system in India. That is very necessary because, under Gyanesh Kumar, elections cannot be trusted. They are being rigged only to help one party, and we have seen plenty of examples of that," he alleged.Dipke said he expected a large turnout of young people at the protest, claiming that Keralam had the highest number of registered CJP members."I am pretty sure the young population of Keralam, the youth of Keralam, will come out in large numbers today. From our database, I can definitely tell you that the largest number of registered CJP members are from Keralam," he said.



Opposition leaders call for pressure on EC over SIR as CJP protests in Kochi



New Delhi: The Congress and the NCP(SP) on Saturday welcomed the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest in Kochi against alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying that every possible effort should be made to put pressure on the Election Commission of India to ensure accountability.Speaking to IANS, Congress leader Udit Raj, commenting on the CJP protest in Kochi, said the demonstration was welcome and that every possible effort should be made to put pressure on the Election Commission.

"It is welcome. As much pressure as possible needs to be put on the Election Commission. It is not as if there is a Congress government there, so nothing can go wrong. Preparing the electoral rolls is the Election Commission's responsibility. This is the work of the Election Commission of India," he said.NCP(SP) national spokesperson Clyde Crasto also defended the protest, questioning the removal of names from electoral rolls and demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

"The 13 crore names removed from the voter lists belong to people across the country, from different states and regions. Therefore, if CJP is protesting against this, it is a legitimate protest, and they can hold it anywhere. Why were 13 crore names removed? Gyanesh Kumar should resign," Crasto said.However, Shiv Sena leader Shaina NC criticised the protest, accusing the CJP of engaging in political theatrics instead of presenting a concrete vision and plan for the country's youth.Speaking in Maharashtra, she said, "CJP is once again staging a drama. Earlier, they were at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, and now they have reached Kochi. They are welcome, but it would be better if they explained their vision and plan. The youth of this country do not like this kind of political drama or performative activism. They want a vision and a concrete plan for jobs so that they can become self-reliant."

The CJP is scheduled to hold a protest march in Kochi, Kerala, on Saturday, demanding the withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.Titled 'Jantar Mantar at Kochi', the demonstration will be held at Rajendra Maidan from 4 pm, the group said in a post on X.CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke and actor-activist Prakash Raj are among those scheduled to attend the protest. The demonstration will also be joined by CJP national leader Afreen Nawaz and its South India in-charge, Vijay Reddy Mallangi.The Kochi march will be the CJP's first major protest since some of its leaders were arrested in Delhi last month while attempting to organise a demonstration at Jantar Mantar against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the SIR exercise.

Clashes outside Abhishek Banerjee's residence on 39th birthday

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Kolkata: Late-night clashes, allegedly between supporters of the BJP and Mamata All India Trinamool Congress (MAITC), broke out in phases on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday in front of the residence of the Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha member from Diamond Harbour Constituency.According to the latest information available, the clashes broke out in phases between 2.30 a.m. and 3.30 a.m., when the Diamond Harbour MP was celebrating his 39th birthday at midnight.

What started with an altercation finally turned into scuffles and stone pelting. Abhishek alleged that there was an attempt on his life and accused the BJP supporters of ransacking a nearby party office of his party.According to police sources, several people from both sides were injured in the incident. Upon learning of the clashes, a large police contingent reached the spot, and they had to resort to baton charges to disperse the members of the two clashing rival groups.Later, Abhishek started a sit-in protest in front of his house on Friday night over the incident. As the on-duty police officers asked them to move away from that place, since it might result in further escalation of tension, the Diamond Harbour MP also entered into an argument with the on-duty cops.Finally on Saturday morning, at around 6:30 a.m, he entered his house after the police intervened.

Saturday is Abhishek's 39th birthday. On that occasion, MAITC workers and supporters gathered in front of the Kalighat residence of the Diamond Harbour MP after midnight on Friday.Allegedly, the BJP workers suddenly appeared there at around 2.30 a.m. and started shouting slogans of "thief, thief".Trinamool supporters alleged that Abhishek's picture, cutouts, and banners hung with birthday wishes were torn by the BJP workers.When Trinamool supporters tried to stop this, an argument started between the two groups. After this, clashes broke out. At that point in time, Abhishek came out of the house and met the injured followers. "There is a plot to attack and kill me," he said.Later he also issued a social media statement, where he launched a scathing attack against the BJP and the police."After two days of continuous recce, this is how BJP hooligans attacked my house at 2 a.m. today. Watch the footage and see for yourself. If this is what can happen to an elected Member of Parliament, imagine the plight of the common man in West Bengal."This is the seventh attempt on my life in the last six months. Yet, there has been no police action and no judicial intervention. Hooligans are running riot across the state because the judiciary continues to turn a blind eye. Thank you, Milords, for remaining mute spectators," Abhishek claimed in his social media statement.He also attached a picture and a video of the clashes to his post.



Woman, two daughters die by suicide at Warangal's Pakhal Lake

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Warangal: A married woman allegedly died by suicide along with her two minor daughters at famous tourist spot, Pakhal Lake in the district on Saturday.According to sources, the deceased woman Mamata (30) of Elukurthi Haveli village in Geesugonda mandal had an inter-caste love marriage with Erelly Suman of the same village. The couple had two daughters.

It was alleged Suman has been having an extramarital affair with another woman for some time. It led to frequent quarrels between the couple. A panchayat was said to have been held in the presence of village elders a week ago in this regard, but yielded no result.

Mamata was upset as the family dispute could not be resolved and her husband's family members were abusing her. She reached Pakhal Lake, 35 km away from her village, took a boating ticket and jumped into it along with her two daughters Harini and Junnu.On receiving the information from the locals, East Zone DCP Ankit Kumar Sankhwar, Duggondi CI Shankaraiah, Khanapuram SI Rammohan along with their staff reached the spot and took up an investigation. The bodies were retrieved and shifted to Narsampet Government Hospital.

US stocks post biggest weekly decline since April 2025 as AI investment fears deepen



New Delhi: US stocks suffered their biggest weekly decline since April 2025 as investor concerns over artificial intelligence-related investments heightened after the Democratic sweep in the US midterm elections due to possible policy shifts.The election result triggered sharp losses for technology shares, and the S&P 500 fell 2.7 per cent for the week despite a 0.3 per cent gain on Friday.

Though the Nasdaq 100 rose 1.35 per cent in the final session of the week, it remained 4.91 per cent down for the week due to the steep selloff a day earlier marking the biggest one-day rout since the Covid pandemic. Markets initially rallied after the election results, with technology megacaps leading gains, but sentiment reversed sharply on Thursday.Technology stocks plunged as worries mounted that opposition to data centres and possible regulatory changes could slow growth prospects for chipmakers and suppliers linked to the AI ecosystem, according to multiple reports.Market volatility surged, with the CBOE Volatility Index posting its largest increase since April 2025 as investors sought protection against further declines.The rout intensified after hedge funds and long-only managers started selling, along with quantitative firms trying to profit from market volatility.The Thursday selloff erased roughly $3 trillion in market value from S&P 500 companies and the weakness spread quickly to Asia where technology-heavy markets recorded some of the region's steepest losses in recent years.South Korea's KOSPI index fell more than 8 per cent which triggered a trading halt before recovering slightly after the market reopened. Similarly, another major index, Japan's Nikkei, dropped around 6 per cent while Taiwan's benchmark index also declined by over 8 per cent.In terms of particular stocks, major semiconductor and AI-linked companies led the losses as Samsung Electronics declined nearly 10 per cent and SK Hynix slid almost 12 per cent.

Post-midterms, focus now on 2028 presidential race



Washington: After the midterm elections, focus has now shifted to the 2028 US presidential polls, with allies of Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna trying to whip up support for his candidacy and reports projecting Secretary of State Marco Rubio making a bid for the top executive post.A section of the media reported on Thursday that Rubio may resign from the Trump Administration for a possible presidential bid. However, Rubio dismissed the reports, asserting that he would be part of the Trump administration until the end of his term.Working for President Trump until the end of his term has "always been my plan," he said in an interview with The New York Times."I don't know where these things come from, to be honest with you," Rubio said, responding to reports of his imminent exit from the Trump cabinet.

For Khanna, former Congressman Jamaal Bowman and progressive strategist Nomiki Konst launched the groupÂ – "Run Ro" – which can raise money from donors and begin building support for a Khanna candidacy while he continues to weigh a 2028 bid."By launching now, we are trying to ensure that the presidential primary debate is framed from a progressive populist perspective," Konst told NBC News.The challenges facing a possible Khanna candidacy are immense. Only one person was ever elected to the presidency directly from the House: James Garfield in 1880.Khanna, a fifth-term lawmaker, has made headlines with bipartisan efforts to force the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files and to end the war in Iran."We need America's Next New Deal. Whether I run or support someone else is something I will decide with my family after the holidays," Khanna said in a statement to NBC News.Khanna was a co-chair of Bernie Sanders' 2020 campaign and is also a favourite of progressives around the country.Philadelphia-born Khanna has been travelling to early primary states for months.Khanna and his fellow party leaders, Senators Cory Booker and Chris Van Hollen, are joining a gathering of prominent Democrats in Denver next week to chart the future course of the party.The meeting will take place from November 12 to 14 and is being hosted by Majority Democrats, a group formed last year by largely moderate elected officials and other high-profile Democrats who say they are "committed to reshaping and growing the Democratic Party." Other possible presidential candidates such as former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Senators Raphael Warnock of Georgia, Ruben Gallego of Arizona and Chris Murphy of Connecticut are also attending the meeting.

Trump offers Democrats talks on immigration and taxes



Washington: US President Donald Trump opened the door to working with Democrats on immigration and taxes after Republican midterm losses, identifying economic development as another area for cooperation.Asked which Democratic initiatives he could support, Trump said there were several possibilities."I think a lot. I mean, I said before, immigration's one, tax cuts, or maybe certain things having to do with taxes to make it more convenient and better," he told reporters during an evening airport gaggle in Florida."A lot of economic development initiatives we can do. I think we can do a lot of things together."

Trump said some newly elected politicians wanted to meet him to discuss issues affecting their States. He mentioned Texas and South Carolina but did not identify the politicians or announce meetings.His comments signalled a willingness to negotiate without setting out the immigration changes or tax measures he would support. He did not endorse a particular Democratic Bill.There was no specific pledge on H-1B visas, employment-based green cards or other provisions affecting Indian professionals and families.The President's conciliatory remarks came alongside criticism of Congress over stalled legislation. Asked what he wanted accomplished before the new Congress took office, Trump urged senators from both parties to act.He accused Democrats of voting as a bloc and some Republicans of obstructing legislation, while calling on Senate Republican leader John Thune to get measures moving.

Trump also pointed to judges and other nominees awaiting confirmation. He offered no legislative timetable for the immigration, tax or economic-development discussions.The President acknowledged that Republicans had suffered a bad election, blaming Senate inaction and higher oil prices, among other factors. He sought to distance himself from the outcome by noting that he had not been on the ballot.His offer to discuss policy with Democrats came on the day he named Stephen Miller as his next White House chief of staff. During the gaggle, Trump praised Miller's loyalty and dismissed suggestions that the change reflected dissatisfaction with his team over the election results.The November 3 midterm elections determined the membership of the next Congress, which takes office in January. Until then, the outgoing Congress remains responsible for legislation and Senate consideration of presidential nominations.

Russia launched 36 missiles, 172 drones targeting energy facilities in Kyiv, says Zelensky

One person was reportedly killed, while eight, including a child, were left injured in the attack on Ukrainian capital region.The strikes that targeted Kyiv and surrounding areas damaged Ukrainian energy infrastructure and a major bridge across the Dnipro River, officials were quoted as saying. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the strikes rocked the city as Russia fired multiple waves of ballistic missiles, several of them hitting the Northern Bridge.Authorities said the strikes damaged homes and non-residential buildings, authorities said.Russia says it targeted military infrastructure

Russia said that it carried out a massive strike on 'targets in Ukraine's military-industrial sector', as well as energy and transport infrastructure in and around Kyiv.Over the past few weeks, Russia has intensified its air attacks on Ukraine while the ground offensive has been largely stalled. Energy infrastructure in major cities have been targeted with difficult-to-intercept missiles and drones nearly five years into its full-scale invasion.The Kremlin has expanded its campaign in recent weeks to target Kyiv's bridges, snarling traffic in the city of more than 3 million.Russian defence ministry said the latest strikes also damaged energy infrastructure in the central Zhytomyr regionRussia-Ukraine-US talks scheduled in Abu DhabiThey come days before a new round of three-way talks in Abu Dhabi between Ukrainian and Russian officials, as part of a US-backed peace push that has so far yielded few results.Amid the escalation in the conflict, European nations want Russia to halt its war against Ukraine



before entertaining any talk of the Kremlin's concerns about the continent's broader security architecture, Bloomberg reported quoting sources. The report also added that the European officials are adamant that Russian President Vladimir Putin's pre-war demands that would effectively roll back NATO's presence in Eastern Europe are still unacceptable.Meanwhile, a trilateral meeting between Russia, Ukraine and United States are scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi from November 10-11 for talks to end the war that has been going on since February 2022.The new round of negotiations would be the fourth brokered by the Trump administration, following the most recent round in Geneva in February.

Kerala-born urban planner Nithya Raman set to become Los Angeles Mayor

Washington: Nithya Raman entered politics with a focus on housing and homelessness. On Thursday, that journey took the Kerala-born urban planner to the mayor's office in America's second-largest city, Los Angeles.Mayor Karen Bass conceded defeat after NBC News projected Raman the winner. Results late Thursday showed Raman with about 53 per cent of the vote against Bass' 47 per cent, with roughly 874,000 ballots counted. The result remains unofficial."I have called Councilmember Nithya Raman to congratulate her on her victory, and I have committed to ensuring a smooth and seamless transition," Bass said in a statement.Raman, 45, will take office in December. She is the city's first Asian American mayor.Speaking at the Original Farmers Market on Thursday, Raman placed her victory within the city's immigrant story."And the idea that Angelenos voted for an immigrant to be their next mayor at this moment in American history is so deeply moving to me," she said.

Raman was born in 1981 in Thrissur and briefly lived in Thiruvananthapuram, where her father, Venkitaraman, worked at KELTRON and her mother, Sudha Kechery, worked in banking. She left India at about six. She became a naturalised American citizen at 22, taking the oath in Boston.At Harvard, she studied Social Studies and joined a programme providing interest-free loans to tenants facing eviction, The Harvard Crimson reported. Her freshman-year roommate, Stephanie Stallings, recalled her sleeping outside in freezing weather to draw attention to homelessness."The Housing Opportunities Programme was a big influence for me in thinking about insecurity for people, and what can we do to help stabilise people during difficult moments in their lives," Raman told The Crimson.Her undergraduate research also took her into the workings of government in India. The Crimson recounted an encounter at a rural Tamil Nadu office where an official told her: "You must leave your shoes and your politics at the door."She walked out without removing her shoes. The official subsequently offered to open his office for her questions. This featured in her senior thesis.India also shaped her choice of profession. In a 2020 interview with an Indian newspaper, Raman recalled working with slum-based organisations in Delhi against evictions and for basic services."Seeing how the government decisions negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of so many made me realise how important urban governance was. That pushed me to study urban planning," she said.She earned a graduate degree in urban planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her thesis adviser, Balakrishnan Rajagopal, told The Crimson that her subsequent political career followed a "straight line" rooted in housing and the lives of marginalised people.After MIT, she returned to India to build Transparent Chennai, a civic-data project."We also found that the location of the toilets had very little relationship to slums in the area, residents of which would be most likely to use them," Raman, then the project lead, told the newspaper.She moved to Los Angeles in 2013. Her husband, Vali Chandrasekaran, whom she met at Harvard, is a television writer with credits including "Modern Family" and "30 Rock", ABC7 reported.Working in the City Administrative Officer's office, she examined homelessness spending and found that much of about $100 million went towards arrests rather than housing, outreach or services.She co-founded the SELAH Neighbourhood Homeless Coalition in 2017 and later led Time's Up



Entertainment.Her defeat of Councilman David Ryu in 2020 made her the first challenger in 17 years to unseat a Los Angeles council incumbent, the Los Angeles Times reported.Campaigning also meant managing family life. Raman told an Indian publication that her four-year-old twins would interrupt speeches to ask for snacks or run around her."I had to learn how to stay focused," she said.On the council, Raman backed stronger renter protections. Legislation she supported extended protections against eviction without specific cause to about 400,000 additional rental units, according to city figures reported by the Times.In November 2025, the council approved her proposal to lower the annual rent-increase limits for rent-stabilised apartments from 3–8 per cent to 1–4 per cent, depending on inflation."The city has not done enough to protect renters," she said before the vote.Her politics have sometimes unsettled allies. A candidate repeatedly endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America, she also identified with the pro-housing "Yes in My Backyard" movement."But I feel like I have demonstrated over and over again that my decision-making has been independent," she told the Times in February.Her mayoral bid began with a break from Bass, whom she had endorsed. According to the Times, Raman decided to challenge her the night before the February 7 filing deadline. Nine council colleagues reaffirmed their support for Bass.Raman finished second in the June primary, securing a place in the runoff.Her record on homelessness became a central campaign dispute. In August, Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, a Bass ally, split the housing and homelessness committee Raman had chaired since 2023, the Times reported."The committee is behind in excess of more than 100 issues," he told the newspaper.Raman defended her scrutiny of city programmes as "oversight and accountability".There were shortcomings in delivery. Her rental-voucher programme aimed to house 600 households by July 1, but only three had moved in by then, rising to 54 by August 13, the Times reported.Raman cited a 49 per cent decline in street homelessness in her district. Bass attributed the improvement to her own Inside Safe programme, the newspaper reported.The contest grew bruising. The Los Angeles police union spent more than $5 million opposing Raman, The 19th reported, citing campaign finance records.Yet her candidacy drew support from younger voters. Democratic consultant Mike Trujillo, who backed Bass, told the Times: "This is not a geographic coalition or racial coalition; this is a when-you-were-born coalition."At her election-night gathering at the Greek Theatre plaza, Raman brought her parents, brother, husband and 10-year-old twins on stage, Times columnist Gustavo Arellano reported."

From senators to mayors, US leaders join Diwali bash in six states and over 20 cities

Diwali celebrations brought together members of the Indian-American community and elected representatives across the United States, with governors, senators, mayors and House representatives joining the festivities.According to the Consulate General of India in Seattle, celebrations were held across six US states and more than 20 cities, drawing participation from local leaders, including mayors, senators and House representatives.Several city officials also issued proclamations recognising the festival, with Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Tacoma Mayor Anders Ibsen and Lynnwood Mayor George Hurst among those marking November 8 for Diwali celebrations.Washington governor Bob Ferguson celebrated Diwali at the state capitol legislative building in Olympia on November 4, marking the first celebration in the city.The governor praised the contributions of the state's Indian American community while officially commemorating the festival. "We are proud to be home to one of the largest shares of Indian Americans in the country, and we have seen this community contribute so much to our state. We're so proud of these contributions." he said in a video of the gathering shared by Consulate General of India.Ferguson further said that he was "proud to sign a proclamation declaring November 8, 2026, as Diwali, the Festival of Lights Day" in Washington state.Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen hosted Diwali festivities at the governor's mansion in Lincoln and acknowledged the contributions of the Indian community, calling it an "incredibly vital piece" of the state's identity. He welcomed the guests with the words, "Welcome to your house".Drawing a connection between Diwali and Nebraska's values, he said the festival's spirit reflects the idea of "neighbours just simply helping neighbours".Pillen highlighted Diwali's emphasis on family, gratitude, and reflection, urging the community to keep its traditions alive across generations. "Never, ever, ever let the light go out," he said, extending his greetings.First lady Suzanne Pillen, lieutenant governor Joe Kelly, mayor of Lincoln Leirion Gaylor Baird, secretary of state Robert Evnen, and congressman Don Bacon also joined the celebrations."We're called the melting pot. Over 200 ethnicities make up our country, and it is very clear to me that the Indian community in America makes us stronger and better" news agency ANI quoted Bacon as saying.Diwali was celebrated for the first time at the North Dakota governor's residence in Bismarck on October 29.Governor Kelly Armstrong, First Lady Kjersti Armstrong and agriculture commissioner Doug Goehring joined in the traditional Diya lighting ceremony.Speaking at the event, the governor praised the work of India-Americans and said, "What a novel concept. What a fantastic concept. What a great way. We're going to eat some great food, we're going to hang out with old friends and new friends, and we're going to continue this relationship because it's a fantastic one at an international level, at a trade level, at a state-to-state level, at a diplomatic level, but most importantly, at a human level. We have people who have done great things from India in North Dakota."Idaho celebrated Diwali early on October 16, for the first time, at the state capitol Rotunda in Boise. Governor Brad Little and US senator Jim Risch, chair of senate foreign relations committee joined the festivities.Speaking at the gathering, Little celebrated the Indian diaspora and said, "Here in Idaho, we're proud to have a vibrant Indian community that contributes very much to our state. Through their



businesses, professions, service and civic involvement, Indian Americans help strengthen Idaho's economy and help our communities be better places to live, work and raise a family."The event was attended by governor Greg Gianforte, first lady Susan Gianforte and the mayor of Helena, Emily Dean. "The First Lady and I welcome you to our home, and we love bringing people together from many different cultures and backgrounds. We're here to start a discussion, to continue relationships that already exist and build on those so that we can have long-term, mutually beneficial and profitable relationships", the governor said while welcoming guests.In a lighthearted video shared on X, guests were seen dancing to bollywood songs during the celebrations.

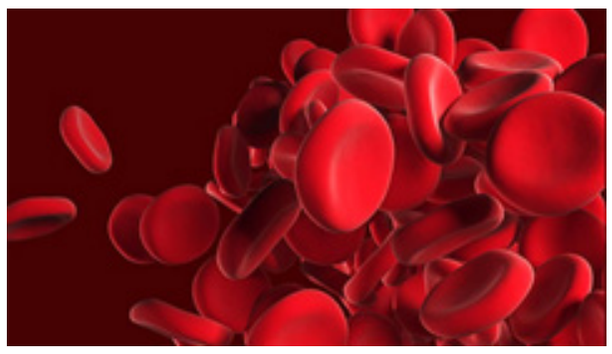
Global shares skid as technology stocks face mounting selling pressure

Tokyo: Global shares tumbled on Friday following a broad sell-off on Wall Street in shares of companies related to artificial intelligence.

France's CAC 40 shed 1.1 per cent in early trading to 8,117.65, while Germany's DAX lost 1.5 per cent to 25,919.48. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1.4 per cent to 10,635.51. US shares were set to open mixed, with Dow futures down 0.8 per cent at 51,192.00. S&P 500 futures rose nearly 0.3 per cent to 7,402.50.Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 slipped 6.0 per cent to finish at 57,434.77, falling below 60,000 points for the first time in nearly half a year. Japanese technology shares were among the biggest losers, including those of SoftBank Group Corp. and Advantest Corp.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.5 per cent to 9,020.80. South Korea's Kospi dropped 6.0 per cent to 5,059.69, as shares of Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix plunged. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.3 per cent to 24,481.86, while the Shanghai Composite dipped 1.1 per cent to 3,649.18.Stock markets around the world have been under pressure amid continued declines in companies that benefited from the boom in the artificial intelligence industry. Critics also say AI stock prices have risen too high and are in a bubble. What might come next remains uncertain, they say.

What your child's platelet count and haemoglobin levels could be telling you



Platelets are blood cells essential for blood clotting, while haemoglobin is the iron-containing molecule that helps carry oxygen. Platelets are small, colourless cells normally found in your child's bloodstream. They spring into action when there is an injury to blood vessels, helping to stop bleeding and forming clots. Haemoglobin, on the other hand, is an iron-containing protein in the red blood cells that gives them their colour. It circulates in the bloodstream, carrying oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body.The normal range of platelets and haemoglobin in blood varies with age, and can also fluctuate slightly from day to day. A normal platelet count for children is generally between 1,50,000 and 4,50,000 platelets per microliter of blood. Normal haemoglobin (HGB) levels in children vary significantly by age. Newborns have the highest levels, but these gradually decrease in the first months of life before stabilising with minor variations until puberty.Low haemoglobin levels cause a condition known as anaemia and reduce the amount of oxygen delivered to tissues. Common symptoms include unusual tiredness, weakness, and reduced activity levels. Causes of anaemia include nutritional deficiencies (iron, vitamin B12, folic acid), chronic diseases such as liver or kidney disorders, blood loss, and genetic mutations affecting the haemoglobin.

High haemoglobin levels cause a condition called polycythaemia, which can also be harmful. This condition may be asymptomatic or may cause symptoms such as headaches, fatigue, dizziness, blurred vision, itchy skin (especially after warm baths), facial redness, or an enlarged spleen leading to discomfort in the upper left abdomen. Other signs include numbness or tingling in the extremities, bone pain, nosebleeds, shortness of breath, or even blood clots, such as deep vein thrombosis or stroke. Common causes include heart and lung disease or a genetic condition called Polycythaemia Vera.low platelet count, known as thrombocytopenia, can become life-threatening if the platelet level drops below a critical range, as internal bleeding may occur. Symptoms include easy bruising, frequent nosebleeds, or small red/purple dots (petechiae) on the skin. Causes include viral infections (such as dengue), certain medications, autoimmune conditions, and blood cancers such as leukaemia. If you notice reddish spots or excessive bruising in your child, consult a paediatrician immediately.A high platelet count, known as thrombocytosis, usually results from an underlying condition. It often has no symptoms and is detected incidentally during routine health checks. The most common cause in children is recovery from a recent viral infection, which typically resolves within a few weeks. Other causes include infections, inflammation, or iron-deficiency anaemia.If your child has nosebleeds, frequent bruising, persistent headaches, fatigue, lethargy, or blood in the stool or urine, consult your paediatrician. A doctor can interpret a complete blood count (CBC) to identify the cause of abnormalities and decide whether further tests or treatment are necessary.

Why eco-restoration alone won't help residents of the heavily industrialised Manali-Ennore region in North Chennai



For decades, residents of Ennore and Manali in North Chennai have lived under the shadow of fertiliser plants, oil refineries, and coal-powered thermal plants along the coast. The presence of these "red-category" industries makes Tiruvallur district the State's most polluted industrial cluster, which has left locals there to endure recurring gas leaks, oil spills, and layers of toxic dust settling over fishing hamlets and working-class neighbourhoods.

The crisis deepened in December 2023, when two major industrial accidents — an oil spill and a gas leak — once again exposed the vulnerability of residents. In response, the Tamil Nadu government set up the Manali Ennore Rejuvenation and Restoration Council (MERRC), which was recently launched by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change. As per a government order issued in September 2024, the Council has been tasked with greening projects, desilting, waste management, mangrove restoration, and pollution control. But residents and experts say these efforts fall short. Without addressing the severe health problems that already plague communities, they warn, restoration will remain incomplete.Toxic everyday exposure

For P. Vijayashanthi, a mother of two kids, who moved to Sathyavani Muthu Nagar in Ennore just over a year back, the effects have been stark. "It is terrible for newcomers like me. I developed a continuous cough that doctors linked to asthma. When I leave this area, it improves. When I return, the throat and cough problems start again," she says.She avoids letting her children play outside and shuts windows whenever the air turns pungent. "If we leave our footwear outside overnight, by morning, a layer of black dust covers them," she adds.A recent report from the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA) flagged Ennore-Manali as a stark example of how fossil fuel operations devastate public health. The Cradle to Grave report warns that pollution affects human health from foetal development to old age. "Our waters are the heart of our culture," said fisherman R. L. Srinivasan from Kattukuppam in the report. "But coal and oil refinery pollution has poisoned them. Fishing is no longer viable, and many of us are leaving behind generations of tradition."Residents say water sources are badly contaminated. "When we dug borewells, the water looked pale whitish, so we had to close them," says Ms. Vijayashanthi. In Valluvar Nagar, Vadivukkarasi says, "Children under five have breathing troubles. Doctors say it's because we live in an industrial area. Effluents in the water cause diarrhoea."According to the GCHA report, fossil fuel pollution is linked to asthma, cardiovascular disease, neurological disorders, cancer, and complications in childbirth. Many harms remain understudied, often surfacing decades later. At a public hearing in January 2024, residents raised concerns about fertility and cancer. Lalitha from V.O.C. Nagar said: "I spent ?3.5 lakhs on treatment. You'll find many families here without children or with cancer patients." No doubt these claims will have to be investigated thoroughly by State agencies.Demands for a health survey intensified after dust samples collected by locals in May 2025 in Sathyavani Muthunagar showed dangerously high levels of lead, uranium, cadmium, and fluoride. However, no plans have been floated by the State government to carry out a health survey.For older residents in the area, decline has been long and visible. "In the 1970s we fetched clean water two kilometres away. Even then my children's teeth turned yellow from fluoride. Now there are respiratory problems too," says 69-year-old K. Devaki.Without immediate systemic interventions, including health surveys, medical access, and environmental clean-up, Ennore risks remaining a "sacrifice zone" where livelihoods and dignity are traded for industrial growth.Shweta Narayan of the GCHA, co-author of the Cradle to Grave report, stresses that health must be addressed alongside the environment."Environmental restoration prevents future health problems. But what about the people already affected?" she asks. She calls for parallel, robust health infrastructure in heavily industrialised regions, citing how residents in Cuddalore district have had to pay out of pocket for treatment of allergies and respiratory illnesses caused by untreated industrial effluents.Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and former chief scientist of the World Health Organization, says interventions must be multipronged. "A quick assessment of health needs is essential to understand the kinds of diseases and issues people face, and to make access to specific health services easier. Psychological support must also be given, and residents should be consulted on how things can be improved," she adds.

Can an ivermectin pill keep malaria from being transmitted?



Between 2000 and 2015, the world's fight against malaria made remarkable progress, with millions of lives saved through better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Of late, however, that momentum has slowed. In 2023 alone, malaria claimed nearly 6 lakh lives, with 95% of those deaths occurring in the African region.India has made dramatic progress too, with malaria cases dropping by over 80% in the last decade, especially in urban and semi-urban areas. However, some districts in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and the Northeastern States continue to struggle with persistent transmission.This lingering threat has drawn renewed attention to the mass drug administration (MDA) of endectocides, systemic insecticides that work from inside the human body, as a promising tool to reduce malaria transmission. Among these, ivermectin reportedly stands out as the most promising candidate.

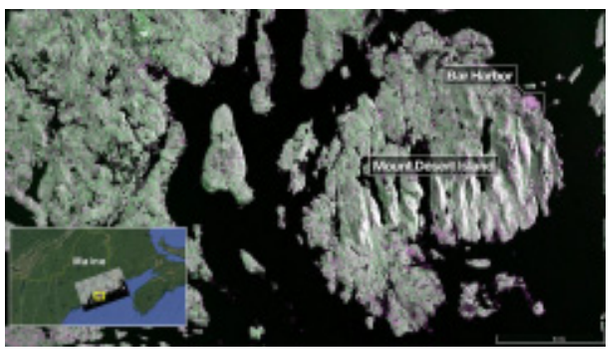
Ivermectin has been around since the 1970s. Originally developed to treat parasitic worms, it has been safely given to more than four billion people and is a cornerstone of global campaigns against river blindness and lymphatic filariasis. Dubbed a "wonder drug," it earned its discoverers the Nobel Prize.However, a surprising discovery later expanded its potential: mosquitoes that bit people recently treated with ivermectin often died or didn't live long enough to spread malaria.This finding sparked renewed interest in using ivermectin as a vector control tool in malaria-endemic regions. Subsequent modelling and pilot studies suggested that mass drug administration with ivermectin, especially when timed to seasonal transmission peaks, could help bring down infection rates by shrinking the mosquito population.In malaria control, mass drug administration aims to eliminate the parasite from both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, reducing the human reservoir and interrupting transmission.

To test this idea in the real world, scientists launched the BOHEMIA trial in Kenya and Mozambique and the findings were published on July 23 in The New England Journal of Medicine.In Kenya, the trial was conducted in Kwale County, a coastal region with year-round malaria transmission despite 85% bed net coverage. The villagers were randomly given either ivermectin or albendazole (an anti-parasitic drug that doesn't affect mosquitoes) once a month for more than three months, starting in October 2023. Children aged 5 to 15, who are among the most vulnerable, were then monitored for six months.The result: malaria cases dropped by 26% in the ivermectin group. This figure exceeded the World Health Organisation's threshold of a 20% reduction to be considered a valuable public health tool. Notably, children living farther from untreated areas had even greater protection, suggesting a strong community-level impact.More than 56,000 doses were administered during the study and the participants reported no serious side effects. However, the trial excluded pregnant women and children under 15 kg of body weight, which may limit the drug's broader applicability.The Mozambique trial could not yield conclusive results as the research term's operations were severely disrupted by Cyclone Gombe and a subsequent cholera outbreak.In November 2024, a study in Guinea-Bissau called the MATAMAL trial involved more than 25,000 people in 24 villages. It tested whether adding the drug ivermectin to an already strong malaria treatment program — which used the drug dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine, or DP — could make the program work better.Contrary to expectations, there was no significant difference in malaria prevalence between villages that received ivermectin and those that received a placebo. In fact, there were slightly more malaria cases in the ivermectin group, with no clear impact on mosquito survival or infection rates.Researchers concluded that the timing and dosing used in this trial may not have been sufficient to add value to existing interventions.

Ivermectin still mattersDespite mixed results, both trials reaffirmed ivermectin's safety in large-scale campaigns. Side effects were mild and temporary, mostly headaches and dizziness, with no serious adverse events reported.Ivermectin also offered a distinct advantage over traditional malaria control tools. Bed nets, indoor spraying, and larvicides target mosquitoes that bite indoors and at night. But mosquitoes evolve: some now bite earlier, outdoors or even feed on livestock. This makes it harder to keep them at bay with conventional tools.On the other hand, ivermectin kills mosquitoes from the inside after they bite humans, regardless of time or location. It can also be delivered through existing deworming or parasitic disease campaigns, making it a practical dual-use tool, particularly in remote or underserved areas.The BOHEMIA team also found significant collateral benefits. In Mozambique, people who took ivermectin had fewer skin problems like scabies and head lice. In Kenya, many noticed a dramatic drop in bed bugs.As with all widespread interventions, resistance is a looming concern. A 2024 review in Parasitology Research highlighted the growing resistance to ivermectin in ectoparasites like ticks, lice, and scabies mites, mostly due to overuse in veterinary medicine.

While resistance among human parasites is still rare, there's little data on its impact on Anopheles mosquitoes. Only two out of 18 reviewed studies examined ivermectin's impact on mosquito populations, highlighting a critical gap in surveillance.Should resistance emerge, the drug's value as a malaria control tool could diminish rapidly. And the drug's widespread use for scabies, lice, and livestock parasites may make resistance develop faster.Researchers have also warned that as ivermectin's mass drug administration expands, resistance in non-target organisms must be closely monitored as this risk is often overlooked. Ivermectin affects many parasites, so targeting one species may accelerate resistance in others. In regions with multiple parasites, the chosen doses might favour the target but harm broader control efforts.To stay ahead, researchers are exploring longer-lasting formulations, higher doses, and combining ivermectin with malaria vaccines or genetically modified mosquitoes. Upcoming trial data and resistance tracking will shape its future role in malaria control programs.

NISAR satellite sends first radar images of Earth's surface



The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Earth-observing radar satellite has sent the first images of Earth's surface as the joint mission between NASA and ISRO approaches full science operations later this year.NASA said that the images from the spacecraft, which was launched by ISRO on July 30, display the level of detail with which NISAR scans Earth to provide unique, actionable information to decision-makers in a diverse range of areas, including disaster response, infrastructure monitoring, and agricultural management."By understanding how our home planet works, we can produce models and analysis of how other planets in our solar system and beyond work as we prepare to send humanity on an epic journey back to the Moon and onward to Mars," said NASA Associate Administrator Amit Kshatriya.Fruits of collaboration

He added that the successful capture of these first images from NISAR is a remarkable example of how partnership and collaboration between two nations, on opposite sides of the world, can achieve great things together for the benefit of allNASA said that on August 21, the satellite's L-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, which was provided by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California, captured Mount Desert Island on the Maine coast.

"Dark areas represent water, while green areas are forest, and magenta areas are hard or regular surfaces, such as bare ground and buildings. The L-band radar system can resolve objects as small as 15 feet (five metres), enabling the image to display narrow waterways cutting across the island, as well as the islets dotting the waters around it," NASA said.It added that on August 23, the L-band SAR captured data of a portion of northeastern North Dakota straddling Grand Forks and Walsh counties."The image shows forests and wetlands on the banks of the Forest River passing through the centre of the frame from west to east and farmland to the north and south. The dark agricultural plots show fallow fields, while the lighter colors represent the presence of pasture or crops, such as soybean and corn. Circular patterns indicate the use of centre-pivot irrigation," it added.The U.S. space agency further said that the images demonstrate how the L-band SAR can discern what type of land cover — low-lying vegetation, trees, and human structures — is present in each area."This capability is vital both for monitoring the gain and loss of forest and wetland ecosystems, as well as for tracking the progress of crops through growing seasons around the world," it said.

'Confined field trials' on GM maize to begin soon at Punjab Agricultural University

The field trials of two kinds of genetically modified (GM) maize are expected to begin in the ongoing kharif (summer) season at the Punjab Agricultural University, days after the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, the country's top regulator for the sector, gave the nod for the trials, after receiving consent from the Punjab government.In its meeting in June, the committee recommended a proposal by Bayer Crop Science Limited for the conduct of confined field trials on herbicide-tolerant transgenic maize, and insect-resistant transgenic maize at the Ludhiana-based university for this year's kharif season.

The trials will study weed-control efficacy in herbicide-tolerant maize hybrids with the application of Glyphosate-K salt, and the efficacy of insect-protected maize hybrids against targeted lepidopteran pests."The field trials will begin soon as this is the right time for sowing maize," Punjab Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Satbir Singh Gosal told The Hindu.The university had no involvement in decisions related to the commercialisation of the crop; its mandate was limited to conducting research, under which the field trials would be conducted on GM maize, Mr. Gosal said, dismissing concerns over genetic modification."At the Punjab Agricultural University, we have the necessary infrastructure, facilities and experts, so we are going ahead with the trials. We need to understand that, unless we study the matter, we will not know whether it's good or bad. The trials are for research purposes only, and we are not going to recommend that it (GM maize) should be grown commercially or not. It's for the Central government to take a call. We would be conducting the trials adhering to the guidelines of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and established standards of procedures. It's a research institute, and it's our mandate to conduct research," Mr. Gosal said.The Coalition for a GM-Free India, a platform advocating safe and sustainable agriculture, has urged the Punjab government to withdraw its No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the trials.In a letter to Punjab Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian, Kavitha Kuruganti, co-convenor of the coalition, said that the State government had an issued order prohibiting the usage of glyphosate, a deadly herbicide with a large body of scientific literature pointing to its negative impacts on human health and the environment....How can the university experiment with herbicide-tolerant maize that has been modified to withstand the application of glyphosate, which is in itself against the legally-approved label claim for glyphosate in India's pesticides regulatory regime?" Ms. Kuruganti said.In 2018, the Punjab government banned the sale of glyphosate, a herbicide used extensively in the State to control a wide variety of weeds in almost all crops.Pointing out that the State government's NOC would result in national repercussions, Ms. Kuruganti urged the State to prioritise an inquiry into the scientific basis on which such NOCs were being issued, and to immediately withdraw the NOC that has been issued for confined field trials on GM maize.



New species of finless snake eel named after Kanniyakumari

Researchers from National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Kochi functioning under Indian Council of Agricultural Research, have discovered a new species of finless snake eel and named it after Kanniyakumari as Apterichtus kanniyakumari. The discovery has been published in the latest issue of international peer-reviewed journal, Zootaxa.The species belonging to the genus Apterichtus was discovered off the Colachel coast and has been named after Kanniyakumari to honour the district's cultural, linguistic, historical and geographical significance, said T. T. Ajith Kumar, Principal Scientist and Head, Regional Centre of NBFGR, Kochi.

He added that the researchers from NBFGR have used two specimens collected from Colachel, where fishermen have reported catching them at a depth of 100 metres, during deep-sea trawling.Researchers and scientists have conducted extensive morphological analysis, vertebral counts and DNA based molecular analysis, which confirmed that the eel represents a species which is previously unknown to science.According to the discovery published in Zootaxa, the new species is distinguished from its congeners by the following characteristics such as head length 9.6-9.7% of total length (TL), tail length 1.8-1.9% of TL and body depth at gill openings 42.1-54.8% of TL. Other features include three preopercular and 9 supratemporal pores, conical uniserial teeth on jaws and vomer, distinct golden-yellow body colouration, ventral side of head pale white with yellow lines along the lower jaw, and three black blotches including one behind the eyes followed by one in rictus and other behind the origin of rictus.

The species also has a mean vertebral formula of 52-131.In addition, molecular analysis based on mitochondrial CO1 gene exhibits that this new species forms a distinct clade with its sympatric species, Apterichtus nanjilnaduensis.Mr. Ajith Kumar highlighted species Kanniyakumari as the 16th species discovered from the Indian coast by the NBFGR team. "Kanniyakuamri has a rich biodiversity that needs to be explored further to strengthen the India's biodiversity catalogue," he said.

Will AI help fix India's energy demand or will its own needs surge?



As artificial intelligence (AI) and its attendant data demand continue to expand in India and worldwide, a curious dilemma has arisen: will AI help transform energy delivery for the better or will the data centres crucial to its operations impose a new burden on the world's power grid?

In a 2024 report, the International Energy Agency (IEA) highlighted the growing interconnections between energy and AI worldwideIt projected that demand from data centres would more than double by 2030 to around 945 TWh and that AI would be the principal driver. The demand from AI-optimised data centres was projected to more than quadruple by 2030.A McKinsey report has also estimated that the annual global demand for data centre capacity could rise at 19-22% from 2023 to 2030, reaching 171-219 GW, against the total current demand of 60 GW. To avoid a deficit, at least twice as much data centre capacity built since 2000 will have to be in place in less than a quarter of the time.Given AI's significant hunger for computing power, energy demand is naturally increasing, Ms. Anwesha Sen, an assistant programme manager at Takshashila University studying the impact of technology policy and AI on society, said. She is however optimistic that it's "not as drastic when compared to other energy-intensive industries".Worldwide, data centres consume 1-2% of total power and that's expected to increase to 3-4% by 2030. To compare, the steel industry consumes around 7% of total power, Sen said.Pressure, and potentialAccording to McKinsey, India's data centre demand is projected to increase from 1.2 GW in 2024 to 4.5 GW by 2030, driven largely by AI and digital adoption across sectors. Mumbai accounts for 41% of the data centre capacity, followed by Chennai (23%) and the National Capital Region (14%).AI-driven data centres in India are projected to consume an additional 40-50 TWh of electricity annually by 2030, according to Raghu Raman, professor and Dean at the School of Business at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.The increasing adoption of AI and digital technologies in India is contributing to a significant rise in energy demand, especially in already energy-intensive sectors like real estate, Vimal Nadar, national director of research at the Mumbai-based India office of Colliers, a global investment company, said. India is the third-largest energy consumer worldwide, after China and the US, with coal, crude oil, and natural gas comprising the bulk of its energy mix.

The energy consumption of data centres is imposing huge pressure on energy systems worldwide, Anish De, global head for Energy, Natural Resources, and Chemicals at KPMG, said, adding: "India will not be any different."According to Sen, an equal concern is the correspondingly increasing demand for freshwater required to cool the servers in these data centres.That said, there is scope to press AI to the service of smarter energy management as well."AI is playing a pivotal role in transforming how energy is delivered, utilised, and managed, both globally and within India," Mr. Nadar said.On the one hand, AI could help develop energy transition technologies and as well as new materials that mitigate India's dependence on critical minerals it currently has to import from abroad, Dr. De said by way of example."It will also aid faster project development. This is already playing out in the main geographies and will propagate to others quickly," he added. "We will see energy efficiency and resource efficiency gains that will also be substantial, though not enough to offset the demand. AI itself will support the gains in expansion of clean energy."On the flip side, carbon emissions will also increase. "Despite best efforts it is practically impossible to meet this demand from renewables, both from quality and quantity standpoints," according to Dr. De.The IEA also noted in its report that AI "could intensify some energy security strains" as "cyberattacks on energy utilities have tripled in the past four years and become more sophisticated because of AI" even as AI tools are becoming critical for energy companies to defend against such attacks.Renewables rescue

As energy demand intensifies, real estate stakeholders are increasingly prioritising energy efficiency, sustainability, and emission reduction in both new developments and retrofitting of existing assets, Mr. Nadar said."Concurrently, there is a growing emphasis on renewable energy adoption. Real estate developers are increasingly incorporating rooftop solar solutions and solar-integrated building systems, further reducing the sector's reliance on conventional energy sources."The IEA has also said a range of energy sources will be tapped to meet data centres' rising electricity needs although, according to its report, "renewables and natural gas are set to take the lead due to their cost-competitiveness and availability in key markets."India and many other countries are taking advantage of AI to enhance energy efficiency and promote sustainable real estate practices, per Mr. Nadar. In India, the Energy Conservation Building Code and the Roadmap of Sustainable and Holistic Approach to National Energy Efficiency schemeaim to integrate AI and data analytics into smart metering, renewable energy management, and sustainable building design.Also within the real-estate sector, AI-driven solutions like smart lighting systems, predictive HVAC optimisation, and automated building controls promise to reduce energy consumption by up to 25%. Green certifications such as GRIHA and LEED further encourage AI-based monitoring of energy and resource usage.Data centres are also adopting AI to optimise cooling systems and server utilisation. As of April 2025, nearly one-fourth of the country's total data centre capacity in major cities had been green-certified, reflecting an explicit focus on creating sustainable infrastructure. Almost 67% of the Grade A office stock across India's top seven cities is also green-certified.'Need some nudging'Under the National Smart Grid Mission, AI-enabled systems manage demand and integrate renewables, enhancing grid reliability while reducing wastage, according to Raman. The Nxtra (Airtel) Data Centres uses AI-powered cooling and predictive analytics to cut energy use, paired with renewable power purchase agreements to run green data centres. BrightNight's PowerAlpha AI deployed in India to forecast and optimise hybrid solar-wind-battery plants and ensure 24/7 access to renewable energy while minimising grid stress.

Tata Power ReNew Power and Hindustan Zinc both use AI for real-time load forecasting, reducing outages and optimising power supply in Mumbai, Dr. Raman added. BESCOM in Karnataka has also started using AI to detect faults and 'heal' grid sections and thus mitigate downtime. Similarly, smart meters in Uttar Pradesh have been using AI to detect power theft as well as manage demand-side issues."A digital energy grid approach aims to build a unified and interoperable power infrastructure, and its potential can be amplified using AI," Ms. Sen said.She added that companies are also working to develop "sustainable AI" that uses recycled water and has higher power use efficiency."As the race to build the most capable AI systems has got companies investing in massive data centres, a transition of the energy grid itself to use more sustainable power sources is required and might need some nudging by governments," Ms. Sen said.

Well-oiled connections

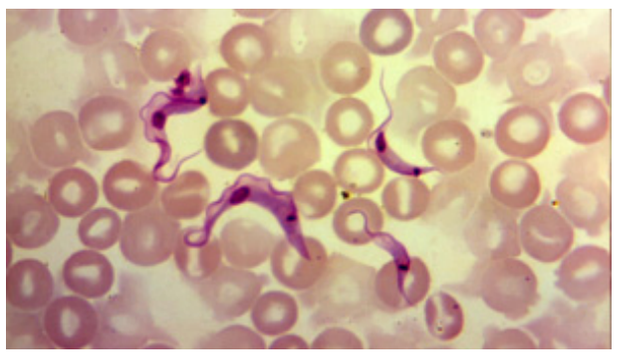


They say the squeak of a machine is a whisper of warning — ignore it, and you court calamity. I learnt this lesson not from a monk's manuscript or a mystic's mantra, but from my own rusting bicycle on a fog-frosted winter dawn. The mist swirled like spilled milk around the lamp posts, and the breath of the morning hung in soft silver clouds. The chain had been groaning for weeks, gritting its metallic teeth with every turn of the pedal, yet I silenced it with smug procrastination.That day, halfway through my morning round — past the sleepy tea stall where steam curled like incense from brass kettles — it snapped. I stood still for a moment, the sudden silence making the street feel like a paused prayer. Then I walked. Each step felt like an unspoken reprimand for negligence.

Years later, the lesson returned, this time dressed in the delicate disguise of friendship. A friend and I had once been inseparable — two spirited schoolgirls soldered by shared secrets, stolen mangoes, and Sunday hopscotch. But as our worlds widened with work, weddings, and weary deadlines, the calls thinned, the visits vanished. I told myself friendship didn't need daily oiling — it was a monument, not a machine.One afternoon, at a bustling bazaar where bangles clinked like temple bells, I saw her. She stood across the street, her laughter spilling over like a monsoon sluice, but for someone else. I raised my hand, a hesitant semaphore across years, but it felt like tapping on a dusty, locked door. She didn't see me — or perhaps the hinges of our bond had rusted shut.It isn't just bikes and bonds that demand tending — it's everything that breathes, even in silence. My grandmother's courtyard taught me that truth. There, a neem tree stood like a sentinel of seasons. Every summer, she watered it in the amber light of dawn, her wrinkled hands moving with unwavering rhythm. "If you forget to water what you love," she would say, "you'll stand in its shadow one day and find no shade." She wasn't speaking only of trees — she meant promises, partnerships, even the brass prayer lamp she lit each evening without fail, its flame flickering like a faithful heartbeat.

In our cities, I see houses sagging under soot, shuttered workshops with machines swaddled in cobwebs, and relationships collapsing under the weight of words left unsaid. We polish impatience and parade it as progress. We replace quicker than we repair, forgetting that maintenance — of objects or oaths — is an act of quiet reverence, a declaration that what exists is worth more than what can be bought anew.I imagine society as a sprawling loom, threads of trust, toil, and tenderness weaving the shared cloth of our lives. Every unattended tear widens if left alone; every loose stitch ignored eventually unravels. And when the cloth comes apart, we shake our heads and blame the times, never our own idle hands.Now, whether it's my bicycle, my friendships, my scattered letters, or the potted tulsi in my courtyard I pause to check, clean, and cherish. I oil the chain before it groans, call before the silence becomes a canyon, water before the soil turns to dust. I send the message before misunderstanding festers, and tighten the screw before the structure sags.For I have learnt — from metal, from memories, from the murmurs of my own heart — that neglect is never a sudden collapse. It is a slow, sly decay, a corrosion that begins quietly and ends catastrophically. And when the crack finally shows or the bond finally breaks, the squeak or the silence will not be your first loss.It will be the moment you realise, with the weight of a stone in your chest, that you didn't just lose the thing. You let it slip away, one unwound second at a time. And so, I choose to tend, to touch, to treasure — before the hinges rust.

All you need to know about: the 'kissing bug' disease



A potentially fatal illness known as the 'kissing bug' disease or Chagas disease, which has affected more than seven million people worldwide -- mostly in Latin America -- may now be endemic to the United States, according to new research published in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) journal.The study, published in September 2025, states that though Chagas disease -- caused by a parasite called Trypanosoma cruzi, predominantly transmitted through 'kissing bugs' or triatomine insects -- is generally considered endemic to 21 countries in the Americas, excluding the U.S., increasing evidence of the parasite in the U.S. suggests this may no longer be the case.When a disease is endemic to a region, it means that it is consistently present in that region's population.Chagas disease has both acute and chronic phases, with the latter potentially being fatal. It causes approximately 10,000 deaths each year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).But what exactly is Chagas disease? How does it spread? Can it be cured? Here's all you need to know.Chagas disease spreadChagas disease, also known as American trypanosomiasis, is commonly spread through vector, oral, and congenital routes.

A person in endemic regions typically contracts Chagas disease when the Trypanosoma cruzi parasite is transmitted through the urine or faeces of triatomine bugs. These insects, commonly known as 'kissing bugs' or 'vampire bugs', bite people on the face and feed on their blood. They are usually found in small spaces, such as cracks in walls, or roofs of homes, chicken coops, warehouses, and similar structures, and are mostly active during the night. After biting an exposed area, often the face, they defecate or urinate near the wound, allowing the parasite to enter the body.Trypanosoma cruzi can also spread through other means: by consuming food or beverages contaminated with the parasite (oral) or from mother to child during pregnancy or childbirth (congenital). Though rare, it can also be transmitted through blood transfusions or via organ transplants. The disease can infect animals too, especially captive and companion animals.The illness came to be known as Chagas disease as it was first diagnosed in a human being by Brazilian physician and researcher Carlos Chagas on April 14, 1909.What are the symptoms?

In the acute phase, which lasts a couple of months or so after a person is infected, symptoms are absent or mild. They may include fever, headache, enlarged lymph glands, muscle ache, breathing difficulties, swelling of eyelids, and abdominal or chest pain.The parasite primarily affects the heart and digestive muscles in the chronic phase and hence, early detection and treatment are vital. About 10 to 30 years after infection, individuals may develop cardiac or digestive disorders, as well as neurological complications. Over time, damage to the nervous system and the muscles of the heart and digestive tract can lead to cardiac arrhythmias, progressive heart failure, and even sudden death, according to the WHO.Is there a cure?Medications such as benznidazole and nifurtimox are completely effective in the early stages of the disease; however, their efficacy decreases as the disease progresses. There is also no vaccine against Chagas disease. Delaying the disease progression by getting treatment on time is, therefore, imperative.An infection such as this cannot be fully eradicated, says WHO, due to the continued presence of both the triatomine insects and the parasite in endemic regions. However, controlling the spread of the disease, ensuring early detection, and providing life-long follow-up care may help prevent deaths. Reducing human contact with the insects, along with blood screening before transfusions and organ transplantation are also essential measures.Researchers say the classification of Chagas disease as endemic to the U.S. may improve surveillance and encourage adequate public health responses.

Artificial Intelligence and exam shibboleths



Once, in an exam, I got the least marks in a question that I thought I answered the best. The topic was dear to me, and I had prepared two pages of notes after going through more than a hundred pages. One friend of mine came to me on the examination eve and asked for help as the topic was vast and not much time was left. I gave him my notes, assuring him of decent marks. The friend got more marks than I got!In the same paper, I got the highest marks in a question that I had no idea about. I wrote rubbish with jargon, and the teacher wrote a remark along with full marks, "Very well explained." I wondered for days about the marking and evaluation schemes of our education system. If marks are awarded on a random basis, what is the point of working hard? Of course, the evaluation is subjective, more so in social sciences. But I believe there must be a line between subjectivity and randomness.

Evaluating somebody's performance is a multi-dimensional task, but our credentialism- dominated system does not do so. In the words of Stephen Hawking, "Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change." In today's times, we need to differentiate the parameters to judge human and machines. Accuracy or efficiency is not the only criterion to judge a human. We judge machines based on such criteria.Such questions have become more important than ever in the wake of artificial intelligence. Well, innovation is the only thing that can separate us from the technology. But our education system is not ready to deal with the AI onslaught. The system, which deems memory as merit and doing mundane tasks as skills, is bound to scare us citing layoffs. With AI becoming more capable day by day, we surely must catch up.

Technology is like a horse. If you race against it, you lose; if you ride it, you win. This is not to say that dependence on technology is something to be proud of. Technology is not a one-stop solution for all our problems. The purpose of technology is to enable us, not to disable us further. But the panic caused by AI is partially to be blamed upon the education system as well. Individuals must not be blamed for the systemic failures and vice versa.Humans were never the strongest but still survived against the strongest predators because we innovated. Today, AI has raised several important questions. One of them is, how can our education system help us become the masters and not slaves of our times?

School maths and street maths



A recent study led by Nobel laureates Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee exposes a stark disconnect in India's mathematics education between "street maths" and "school maths". The study reveals that when child vendors can mentally calculate complex market transactions at ease, they cannot solve simpler abstract mathematical equations taught in schools. On the other hand, their school-going counterparts who excel in academic maths very often fail at basic real-world calculations.There are so many instances I have come across to support the observation of the study. More than five decades ago when we were little children in vernacular schools, the dropout rate was very high due to extreme poverty. A large number of children would be destined to work as child labour. Another reason behind such a high dropout rate was of course corporal and inhuman punishment perpetrated by the then teachers who believed in the adage "spare the rod and spoil the child".

One of my dropout friends worked as an assistant in an obscure grocery store owned by his father. He left school mainly because of the corporal punishment which he had to endure almost every day. As a student, he could hardly do simple additions and subtractions. He failed to remember the number tables above five. He played truant frequently. Very often, the "catching squad" comprising a group of students meant to fetch absentees to the classrooms forcibly would be deployed to place him before the class.

I used to go to that grocery where my dropout friend worked to buy goods. For the first few months, he worked as an aide whose duty was to fetch grocery goods to his father. Besides, he brought down the containers from the high shelves with the help of a small ladder and put them properly to their niche. But after not more than a year of apprenticeship, he was found running the shop even in the absence of his father. He could calculate the prices of a variety of goods with ease applying the methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. As our locality was predominantly inhabited by poverty-stricken people, they could not afford to buy a rounding amount of goods. But he could calculate and settle accounts of the prices of long lists of goods proficiently. What surprised me most was that a boy who failed to memorise the number tables and work out simple additions could easily keep in his mind the rates of more than a hundred grocery items and add long lists of the prices of goods perfectly and swiftly.Now he owns the largest retail grocery counter in the heart of the town market. Half a dozen persons are always ready to serve the customers with alacrity. Customers have to slide the thick, toughened glass door to enter the air-conditioned spacious room. Bright lights and neon glow signs give the store an illusive look in the evening. Now his store is accessible only to the well-off and so-called standard customers of the town.

After going through the research study of the Nobel laureate couples, I felt inquisitive to know the reason for my friend's sudden proficiency in simple mathematical calculations. He confessed frankly that he was so reluctant in the classroom study and the teachers seemed so formidable to him that the school was nothing but a compulsory purgatory to him.

It is heartening to note that modern schools have started recognising the value of relating mathematical concepts to real-world situations, or "street maths". This approach enables students to understand practical applications of what they learn in "school maths". There is a growing popularity of connecting abstract mathematical ideas taught in schools to everyday contexts such as shopping, cooking, baking, gardening, and sewing.

Daughters are not children of a lesser god

When my father-in-law passed away last week, my wife and her sister decided to perform the last rites. Eyebrows were raised, but soon it gave way to appreciation, even from unexpected quarters. The priest reassured her that the departed soul would be happy with her performing the rituals, and that it was true love that mattered.

I have heard some people lament, "I don't have any sons in my lineage to perform my last rites". Traditionally, in families where there are only daughters, distant male relatives are entrusted with the responsibility. My wife always maintained that it is gross injustice. A daughter loves her father and mother just as deeply as a son does -- sometimes even more. So, what is the point in denying her the right?

Of late, many daughters have performed the last rites of their parents, which made news headlines. In 2018, when India's former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee passed away, his adopted daughter Namita Kaul Bhattacharya lit the funeral pyre. She not only made a powerful statement about gender equality, but also inspired many daughters in the coming years. However, while daughters in progressive families may find it easy to step into this role, those in more orthodox households face greater resistance.It's appalling that at an age when daughters reach the space as astronauts, beat opponents as chess champions, and rule nations as prime ministers, there are still those who feel blessed to have a son -- if only to carry out the last rites. Such thinking may well have played a part in the dark history of female foeticide which was rampant till a few years ago.Social acceptance for daughters performing the ceremonies will take us one step closer to gender equality. Citing reasons like 'impurity' to forbid a daughter from performing the last rites reflects the patriarchal mindset which needs to change. India's daughters are not the children of a lesser god; they are the harbingers of a bright future.

Data show seas rising faster around Maldives, Lakshadweep than believed



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Rising seas are a major consequence of global warming, with many implications for low-lying coastal areas. Coral reefs, which are highly sensitive to their environment, are also particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in sea level. When the sea level rises, sunlight may no longer penetrate the water to reach a coral reef that it could reach before. This can lead to coral bleaching.Changes in tide patterns and increasing coastal erosion can further stress reef ecosystems already bearing the brunt of warmer waters and ocean acidification.

Monitoring sea-level rise across ocean basins has been an ongoing scientific priority. In the Indian Ocean, long-term efforts began during the Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere programme in the Western Indian Ocean (1985-1994). These efforts were later incorporated into the Global Sea Level Observing System, which continues to support research in the region.According to India's Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian Ocean's levels have been rising at around 3.3 mm/year on average, which is higher than the global average. The Ocean is also experiencing above-average warming, which can amplify changes in ocean dynamics and atmospheric circulation that in turn affect coral bleaching episodes.This said, there are still significant gaps in sea-level records, especially in the central tropical Indian Ocean. A new study has now extended sea-level records in this region by 90 years, indicating water levels here may have started accelerating as early as the late 1950s, significantly earlier than data collected by conventional tide gauge records indicate.

In the study, a team led by Paul Kench, professor at the National University of Singapore, along with researchers from Nanyang Technological University turned to coral microatolls, a natural structure that they found could provide high-resolution, long-term sea-level records.Coral microatolls are disk-shaped colonies that grow sideways once their upward growth has become constrained by the height of the lowest tide. Because of this limitation, the upper surface of a microatoll closely reflects the lowest water levels in the area over time. These corals can survive for decades or even centuries, growing slowly in response to changing sea levels.

The study was conducted on Mahutigalaa, a reef platform located in the Huvadhoo Atoll in the Maldives. The team studied a Porites microatoll, measuring and sampling its structure to extract a sea-level history from 1930 to 2019.The researchers painstakingly surveyed the coral's outer edge and surface elevation. Then they cut a slab from the outer edge to the centre of the microatoll, and X-rayed the slab to reveal annual growth bands — much like tree rings. These bands provided a precise timeline of the coral's growth, including when it reached sea level and when it died.The team also used uranium-thorium dating to determine its historical elevation relative to the sea level.Assumption challengedThe data the team reconstructed in this way showed that sea levels had risen by around 0.3 metres over the 90-year period. The rate of rise increased markedly over time: 1-1.84 mm/year in 1930-1959, 2.76-4.12 mm/year in 1960-1992, and 3.91-4.87 mm/year in 1990-2019.Also according to the team, sea-level rise in the region began in the late 1950s, decades earlier than previously believed.This means the Maldives, Lakshadweep, and the Chagos archipelago have been experiencing significant rise for at least 60 years, with a total increase of 30-40 cm over the last half-century. This data challenges the common assumption in climate change and adaptation work that significant sea-level rise only began around 1990.Since 1959, sea level in these areas has risen by about 3.2 mm/year, and over the last 20 to 30 years at around 4 mm/year.

The coral microatoll also preserved environmental signals related to regional climate variability. Periods of slowed or interrupted growth were found to correspond with major El Niño and negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) events — climatic phenomena known to stress corals and lead to bleaching.The data also revealed the influence of the 18.6-year lunar nodal cycle, where long-term oscillations in the moon's orbit affect the sizes of tides and sea levels.The researchers noted that a critical factor in the success of its reconstruction exercise was that the study site was tectonically stable. This stability ensures changes in the microatolls' elevation can be safely attributed to fluctuations in sea level rather than to vertical land movement.According to Kench,

while coral microatolls are not a substitute for tide gauges or satellite observations, they offer a valuable complementary approach. In remote or data-sparse regions, microatolls can provide historical context and improve understanding of regional variability in sea-level behaviour.The study also highlighted notable differences in sea-level rise patterns across the Indian Ocean basin. While coastal locations have shown more recent acceleration, the central Ocean appeared to have experienced an earlier, more pronounced rise. This variation is thought to be driven by regional oceanic and atmospheric changes, including intensified Southern Hemisphere westerlies, increased ocean heat uptake, and potential shifts in the Intertropical Convergence Zone.As research continues, coral microatolls are expected to play a growing role in helping scientists rebuild sea-level histories across tropical waters. Their potential to fill critical gaps in observational records is particularly relevant for the central Indian Ocean, "which remains one of the least-monitored basins despite its strategic and ecological importance," Kench said.The new findings add to efforts aimed at refining projections of sea-level rise and improving preparedness in regions most at risk. For island nations, where communities and infrastructure are concentrated just above sea level, understanding the timing and magnitude of historic sea-level changes is essential for authorities to develop effective adaptation strategies.

Inside the APK scam: how fake apps are used for financial fraud



Thousands of Indians with cell phones are losing money after answering a call or clicking on a message. Sometimes it begins with a phone call — calm, polite, and urgent. The voice at the other end warns of a blocked bank account, a missed government subsidy, or a pending electricity bill. Moments later, a message follows with a link to an app that promises a quick fix. The app looks official, bears the logo of a trusted institution, and installs without issue. The user grants a few routine permissions — contacts, SMS, notifications — not realising that, in that instant, their phone had become an open vault.

What happens after users install the app?

In less than 10 minutes, money begins disappearing from bank accounts. Fixed deposits are prematurely closed, and OTPs intercepted. The app, which now runs in the background, monitors, mirrors and mines everything, right from locations to private messages. The user is unaware until it is too late. And by the time help is sought, the funds have travelled through layers of digital laundering, impossible to retrieve.APK fraud is one of the fastest-growing cybercrime threats in the country today. The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal has logged 12,47,393 different types of cases in the last six months. Parliament has been informed that there has been a 900% jump in cyber crimes between 2021 and 2025. Data from the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) revealed that a total of 2,188 such cases were reported between January and July of 2025, leading to losses of ?779.06 crore. Officials said that 20 to 30 such cases are reported every single day, with daily financial losses between ?10 and ?15 lakh. In high-stake scams like investment and business, losses can go up to ?30 to ?40 lakh. These scams, driven by malicious Android Package Kit (APK) files, exploit public trust in digital systems while using sophisticated technical tools to stay undetected and operational across State lines.

How does the fraud work?

APK files on Android devices are much like .exe files on Windows computers; both are used to install apps, and both can be exploited by fraudsters to spread malware.Fraudsters build or source these apps to mimic the appearance and language of official portals, including government subsidy schemes like PM-Kisan, tax refund platforms, electricity boards, or banks asking for KYC updates. These fake apps are often circulated through social media platforms like WhatsApp, accompanied by convincing messages that urge users to act immediately.Developers use encryption techniques that hide malicious code from detection tools. By remaining dormant during installation, these APKs sidestep scans through antivirus software. Once downloaded, the app seeks multiple permissions, including access to contacts, messages, call logs, location, microphone, and notifications.The app gains access to the phone's program files, harvests data in real-time, and transmits it in encrypted bits to external servers operated by fraudsters. These bits, while unreadable to ordinary users, are decoded to extract valuable information, including banking credentials, OTPs, contacts, and location coordinates, among others.

Who operates these apps?

The fraudsters who circulate these APKs are rarely the ones who build them. Instead, these apps are part of a well-structured underground economy. Cybercrime officials estimate that 60 to 70% of malicious APKs used in India are developed locally by tech savvy masterminds in Delhi NCR, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, Jamtara, and parts of Jharkhand. The remaining 30-40% originate internationally, with traces leading to the U.S., U.K., and China. Telegram channels and dark web marketplaces serve as prime distribution channels, offering pre-built APK kits and modules for a fee.Once in circulation, the same APK file is reused with minor modifications in the interface (name, logo and URL or web address of the file), allowing it to bypass detection even after earlier versions are blacklisted.Cybercrime officers say that across hundreds of scam cases each month, only about 10 distinct APK files are found, pointing to the widespread reuse of a few malicious apps.

How are users targeted?

The choice of victim is anything but random. Much like a recce before a physical crime, cyber fraudsters carry out extensive digital surveillance before striking."Fraudsters purchase leaked databases, sourced from customer directories of malls, hospitals, or service portals, readily available on the dark web, Telegram, or even local search engines like Just Dial," said an official from the TGCSB. "These datasets include names, phone numbers, email IDs, addresses, and at times even income or professional details, which help criminals customise their approach," the official explained.High-earning professionals, including doctors, bank staff, teachers, and real estate agents, are often in the crosshairs. Using partial information already known about the target, fraudsters craft convincing, urgent messages designed to manipulate trust and prompt action.

How are investigators tackling the problem?

When a fraudulent app is seized, cyber forensics teams decrypt it to trace server origins or identify developer signatures. But the results are mixed. Only 2-3 out of every 10 APKs are decrypted successfully. Most reveal only the server addresses, or general code structures. Rarely do the files contain identifiable developer signatures.Even when financial trails are followed, they usually end in mule accounts, temporary bank or wallet accounts used to receive stolen funds, which are quickly converted into cryptocurrency. Arrests do happen, particularly of local accomplices managing these mule accounts or distributing the APKs. But the masterminds and coders, especially those offshore, remain elusive.Google has removed nearly 50 malicious apps in recent months based on reports from investigators. "Google or any other intermediary does not scrutinise every application that is being hosted on their server. Fraudsters also use mule accounts and shell identities to pay for hosting and publishing on search engines," explained the official.

Why NRIs are choosing India for medical tourism



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Healthcare decisions, perhaps more than any other, show the complex equation of trust, access and value for money. Add to that the factor of geographical distance for NRIs, and the decision becomes even more nuanced. For millions of NRIs, this decision is now shaped by the realities of rising healthcare costs abroad and the assurance of timely, high-quality care back home in India.When people think of medical tourism, they often imagine a trade-off between affordability and quality. India has rewritten the equation by proving one doesn't need to compromise on either.

The numbers speak for themselves. A complex surgery in the U.S. can easily cost more than $1,00,000. The same procedure at a top hospital in India may cost just $10,000 to $20,000.Also, our data suggests NRIs can save anywhere from 60-90% on major surgeries in India.With relaxed norms, affordable policies and ease of claims, growth has trickled down to health insurance too. Over the last year, the adoption of health cover among NRIs has risen by more than 150%. Young NRIs under 35 led the way with a 148% rise, while women buyers climbed 125%. Notably, 60% of NRIs are buying health cover for elderly parents living in India. Here's what makes India the top choice for medical tourismValue for money

Undeniably, the most important factor driving this adoption is affordability. For instance, a heart bypass surgery costs only $5,000-$8,000 in India compared with $70,000-$1,50,000 in the U.S. Similarly, a knee replacement surgery in the U.S. costs up to $50,000 compared with only $4,000-$6,000 in India. More importantly, this affordability doesn't come at the cost of quality.From liver and kidney transplants to dental procedures and other major surgeries, the cost gap is huge. Even routine treatments show similar gaps, with India offering care at less than a third of international prices. Medicines, too, are up to 90% cheaper compared with global markets. So, the financial logic is undeniable. India offers world-class care at a fraction of the price, making it an increasingly compelling choice for NRIs.Coming to health insurance premiums, in India, they are often 25-40 times cheaper than in the U.S. or GCC countries like Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. For NRIs, this means getting comprehensive protection without the financial strain.

Financial ripple effectWhat's fascinating is that the benefits of medical tourism are no longer restricted only to big cities. In fact, almost half of NRI health insurance claims now come from Tier-3 towns and cities. It is true that metros like Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram continue to remain trusted choices. But what is encouraging is that smaller hubs such as Thrissur, Kollam, and Thane are quickly gaining ground as well. Access to quality care in these regions has been made possible by better infrastructure and the rise of digital platforms.Savings from choosing treatment in India aren't just figures on a hospital bill. They directly impact a family's financial security. For NRIs already balancing mortgages, children's education and retirement goals, this difference could be life-changing.

Another finding is that most claims by NRIs are tied to respiratory diseases, infectious ailments, cancer, and heart conditions. What these ailments have in common is that they are not one-time occurrences but recurring health needs demanding long-term planning. By having insurance in India, families of the NRI can plan ahead without draining savings each time a health emergency strikes.This shift also shows NRIs are becoming more health-conscious. Instead of waiting for a crisis to strike, they're taking charge early and protecting themselves against risks they know could come their way.Policy pull, digital pushGovernment initiatives like Heal in India and the growth of digital-first platforms have further simplified the process. NRIs can explore, compare and buy policies remotely. Cashless claims across hospitals have bridged the distance, ensuring seamless access even when NRIs are thousands of miles away. The convenience of digital access, coupled with the affordability of premiums, has turned insurance into a natural extension of the medical tourism story.India's medical tourism market is on track to cross $13 billion, and that growth opens a clear opportunity for the industry. With the right approach, India can strengthen its place as a global hub where healthcare and financial protection go hand in hand.

The importance of India's federal design | Explained

The story so far: The Supreme Court has recently sought a detailed response from the Centre on the issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Considering the significance of the principle of the separation of powers, the top court rightly said that it did not possess all the expertise and that there are some decisions to be made by the government. The court is hearing the plea in Zahoor Ahmed Bhat versus UT of Jammu and Kashmir. It has been argued that the failure to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is affecting the rights of the citizens there. Another argument in this context is that it is also violating the essential features of federalism and thereby the basic structure of the Constitution.



How are States created?

There are three processes enshrined in the Constitution of India for creating States — admission, establishment and formation. For admission of a new State into the territory of India, the entity should have its own organised political unit. It is also required that admission through acquisition shall be guided by international law. This was the process by which Jammu and Kashmir was admitted into India's territory through the Instrument of Accession in 1947. By executing this Instrument under the provisions of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the then ruler of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh agreed to accede his State to India.For establishing a new State, territory shall be acquired as per the definition of acquisition in international law. India acquired Goa and Sikkim and established them as States.

The process of forming a new State has been, in fact, the reorganisation of an existing State which led India to take its number of 14 States in 1956 to 29 States before the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Article 3 of the Constitution provides for this process of reorganisation wherein Parliament may by law — form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State; increase the area of any State; diminish the area of any State; alter the boundaries of any State; or alter the name of any State. However, while the Union may diminish the area of a State, it cannot take it away by making it a Union Territory. This would be a step against the federal features of India. Therefore, it is mandatory for the Union to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir. It may wait for sometime depending upon the situation at the ground level.

Mind your reinvestment risk in government bonds

Many appear to be interested in buying government bonds. You can buy such bonds by placing bids through your brokerage account. The intention to invest in such bonds is not surprising, given that they are credit-risk-free. In this article, we discuss the factors you must consider when investing in such bonds.

Picture this. You have lump-sum money, which, if invested at 6.5% per annum, can help you achieve a 10-year goal. So, you buy a 10-year government bond paying 6.50% per annum. The bond pays you interest every half year. The issue is that you must reinvest the interest received at 6.50% per annum for the remaining period of the goal. Otherwise, you are unlikely to accumulate the wealth required to achieve the goal. Why?The required return of 6.5% is a (post-tax) compounded annual return, referred to as minimum acceptable return or MAR.That means you must reinvest the interest every year at 6.5% per annum over the life of the goal to accumulate the required wealth. Government bonds do not compound interest income. You must find avenues to reinvestment the interest income. The risk is that the interest rate could dip in any period through the life of the bond (viz., reinvestment risk). That means you could fail to achieve the goal. Also, it is optimal to match the



maturity of the bond with the time horizon for the life goal; you may not get the maturity appropriate for the life goal at the time you invest.

If you have a 10-year goal, there must be an auction of a 10-year bond at the time you invest. This makes investing for, say, 6, 7 or 8-year life goals difficult, as RBI may not auction bonds for such maturities. Note that interest income on government bonds is taxed at your marginal tax rate.

Xiaomi faces Apple, Samsung legal pushback for mocking iPhone, Galaxy in ads

New Delhi: Tech giants Apple and Samsung have sent legal notices to Xiaomi after the Chinese smartphone maker ran advertisements directly comparing its latest flagship with their premium devices.

According to people familiar with the matter, both companies have issued cease-and-desist notices, objecting to what they see as 'disparaging content' in Xiaomi's campaign. A cease-and-desist notice is a formal legal document that asks a company to immediately stop a certain activity considered unlawful or damaging."Comparing specifications is fine," said person aware of the development. "But you should not directly name a specific competitor. Instead of that, you simply say 'rivals'." However, Xiaomi has not commented on the matter yet.

The controversy began in April this year when Xiaomi rolled out full-page newspaper ads that mocked Apple's iPhone 16 Pro Max on April Fools' Day, claiming its camera was no match for Xiaomi's newly launched 15 Ultra.Earlier in March, during the India launch of the Xiaomi 15 series, the company ran another ad calling the iPhone 16 Pro Max's camera "cute" while highlighting its own photography strengths. Similar campaigns also took aim at Samsung.

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.

One in three adults in rural Maharashtra study has hypertension, most remain undiagnosed



Nearly one in three adults in a sample population from rural Maharashtra had high blood pressure, but fewer than one in five were aware of their condition, according to research published in npj Cardiovascular Health.The study, titled Prevalence, diagnosis, treatment and control of hypertension among adults in rural India: results from the Indian Study of Healthy Ageing (ISHA) in Barshi, highlights major gaps in the detection, treatment and control of hypertension.Researchers from the Centre for Cancer Epidemiology at Tata Memorial Centre, an aided institution under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, analysed data from nearly 40,000 adults aged 30-69 years.

Participants were part of the Indian Study of Healthy Ageing in Barshi, Maharashtra, conducted between 2015 and 2020. Their blood pressure was measured, and they provided information about previous hypertension diagnoses and the use of blood pressure-lowering medication. Hypertension was defined as systolic blood pressure of at least 140 mmHg, diastolic blood pressure of at least 90 mmHg, or self-reported use of blood pressure-lowering medication.

One in three participants had hypertensionThe researchers found that 31% of participants had hypertension, with prevalence increasing with age. After accounting for age and sex, the condition was also more common among people with higher levels of education. It affected half of participants with previously diagnosed cardiovascular disease.Overall, 25% of participants had undiagnosed hypertension, while 6% had previously diagnosed hypertension. Awareness was particularly low. Only 14% of men and 21% of women with hypertension reported having previously received a diagnosis.Treatment did not always mean controlAmong participants who had been diagnosed, nearly three-quarters (73%) reported taking blood pressure-lowering medication. However, blood pressure was adequately controlled in only 39% of those receiving treatment.The findings indicate that many people remain at increased risk of cardiovascular disease despite taking medication, highlighting the importance of regular monitoring and effective treatment.

Researchers call for better screeningThe researchers said the findings underline the need to improve access to blood pressure screening and diagnosis in rural communities, alongside effective treatment and long-term follow-up. Earlier detection is particularly important among younger adults, who may otherwise live with untreated hypertension for many years.Pankaj Chaturvedi, Director of the Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer at Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, and a senior author of the study, said: "This is an important study highlighting the need to screen rural populations and improve hypertension control. This is essential to reduce deaths from chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, stroke and chronic kidney disease."Bastian Bohrmann, HDR UK Early Career Research Fellow at Oxford Population Health and co-first author, said: "The high proportion of undiagnosed hypertension, particularly at younger ages, highlights the need to improve blood pressure screening and early detection. This is especially important for younger adults, who may live with undiagnosed and untreated hypertension for many years, increasing their lifetime risk of cardiovascular disease."Rajesh Dikshit, Professor of Epidemiology at the Centre for Cancer Epidemiology at Tata Memorial Centre and a senior author, emphasises that the study emphasises the importance of properly managing hypertension, as high blood pressure "remains common even among people taking antihypertensive medication."The study also highlights the importance of generating large-scale evidence from rural populations, where data on hypertension prevalence, awareness and management remain limited.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman: 'Whatever policy we formulate, we must trust business, industry and the taxpayer. That will remain our charter'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in a fireside chat with Shyamal Majumdar at the FE Leadership Awards on Monday, discussed the challenges facing the economy, the need to attract foreign capital, job creation, skill gap, and the consumption outlook. She also responded to concerns over corporate concentration, regulatory arbitrage and the pace of private investment. Excerpts from the conversation:You've presented nine consecutive Budgets and are about to present your 10th. When you look back at the person who presented her first Budget, how different is the person who is going to present her 10th?

It's always an overwhelming feeling of responsibility to deliver a proper Budget, which means a lot to the people, supports growth and addresses challenges. Since July 2019, when I presented my first Budget, every year has brought new challenges.I'm grateful for the policies we have come up with every year. The people of India have responded beautifully. They've understood the policy direction and embraced it. Despite the odds, the stability provided by the Prime Minister's leadership has been recognised. Consistency has been his virtue. He listens to people and acts on suggestions. The Budget is prepared with considerable input; it is not just the pre-Budget consultation. A lot of work happens at different levels.The responsibility to deliver something that makes a difference to people's lives is always foremost in my mind. The experiences from 2019 to today have enriched me. The messages I receive during and after the Budget, and the way the year unfolds, have been immense lessons. Each Budget benefits from the experience I've gained.

FM open to investor concerns, weighs case for foreign capital Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the Financial Express Leadership Awards in Mumbai, Monday. (Express photo by Amit Chakravarty)

The Opposition has made several allegations and we have seen a series of protests, including over the right to vote, the Tata issue and IDBI Bank privatisation. Would these developments put the government on the defensive?Unfortunately for the Opposition, it picks up issues that it does not want to pursue beyond a point. When you take issues through the judicial process, right up to the Supreme Court, and simultaneously take them to the streets, the resonance of your position among the public has to be constantly measured.I find that the Congress, in particular, goes all out both in the courts and on the streets. Even when the Supreme Court says it is unfortunate that matters have reached this point and that an apology may be warranted, they don't learn lessons.It is absolutely right for the Opposition to put the government on the mat and demand answers. I'm not against that. I would, however, want more of it to happen in Parliament rather than in mock parliaments outside. Here is an Opposition party with about 100 MPs. They don't sit through debates. They make allegations, but when people stand up to answer, they walk away. When the government responds, they shout it down. I recognise the Tata brand's global standing and the Parsi community's contribution to building it. The Tatas are critical to the Indian economy. Given the maturity expected of their leadership, such issues should not enter the public domain." Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister

People have voted for you to come to Parliament and perform that function. What's the point of doing it through a mock parliament outside?

Your (Congress party's) statements periodically place greater emphasis on street protests than parliamentary debate. This gives the impression that you want regime change. Regime change happens every five years through the electoral process. Don't you believe in that process? How, then, did governments in Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh get elected?

The illogicality and inconsistency with which the Opposition is being led are questionable in the eyes of the people. There is no conviction. Above all, projecting an image of chaos in India undermines the people who are struggling and contributing to the economy's growth. You are undermining them by sending messages of instability.FM open to investor concerns, weighs case for foreign capital Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the Financial Express Leadership Awards in Mumbai, Monday. (Express photo by Amit Chakravarty)

On the friction within the Tata Group, Rahul Gandhi has made some serious allegations. Does the government need to intervene in the matter?

These are very delicate matters, requiring considerable commercial and business acumen, as well as cordiality. I would not readily say there is a need for intervention, however serious the issue may be. The PLIs are a positive way of extending support. They have shown success, although some sectors haven't performed as well. We will have to examine what went wrong thereI know the brand value of Tata and the contribution of the Parsi community in making it a huge global brand. I also know the range of activities in which the Tatas are invested. This is a very critical component of the Indian economy, and therefore, the matter must be settled amicably among the parties. They should talk it out and ensure a return to normalcy quickly. It cannot spill out into the public domain like this. Given the maturity expected of that leadership, we would like to see the issue settled soon.

Could you bring the two sides to the table to work out a compromise?

That's why I said it is a sensitive issue. It is not something I would want to comment on hastily.Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman open to investor concerns, weighs case for foreign capitalThe frustration among the youth boils down to one word: jobs. There are concerns not just about the availability of jobs but also their quality. Corporate profits have risen, but wage growth has not kept pace. Could India's consumption story take a hit?

I still think India's consumption story will remain intact. You saw the GST figures for October, (when the mop-up grew 23% year-on-year). The government will also do a great deal to promote skilling and bridge the gap between the expectations of entrepreneurs, businesses and industry, and the capabilities of young people entering the job market.I've repeatedly heard industry leaders say that the skill sets with which people graduate from colleges are insufficient. As a result, companies may have to spend six to eight months providing additional training before deploying them in jobs.We want to train young people and equip them with the skills that make them job-ready. We have already started doing this over the last two Budgets. More needs to be done, and we will continue with these efforts.It is also important to realise that, while we need AI in industry to improve productivity across large companies and MSMEs, we also need people who can work with AI. Our schools, colleges and professional curricula need that additional input to ensure that young people enter the workforce job-ready.India needs capital and foreign investment. Will the Budget roll out the red carpet for the dollar and FPIs? Taxation is only one part of the issue. Is there a concerted effort to address their concerns?Thank you for saying that taxation is only one part of it. I appreciate and recognise the sensitivity and anxiety among retail investors and equity market participants.But the taxation structure was the same in 2023-24, when we saw good investment inflows into the country. That year recorded the highest inflows. Nothing different was done to attract investments, but the situation is very different now. Circumstances have changed, challenges have grown and net FII outflows have increased. They have, however, started coming back now.I appreciate that voices of concern are louder. I will consider all these issues because growth is very important. We need to sustain growth of over 7%. To maintain that momentum, we need capital and equity, particularly at this stage.The last few years have seen considerable emphasis on the bond market, deepening and widening it. Now we also have voices saying that equity needs similar support. I wouldn't want to say more at this stage, but I recognise the concern.

Can we say that the Budget is going to roll out a red carpet for the dollar?

If you say the finance minister has promised a red carpet for the dollar, Indian investors might feel there is already a bias towards foreign investors. You didn't want a red carpet for the Indian rupee…With US Treasuries offering risk-free returns of over 5%, how do you bring FPIs back to India? The way the rupee is behaving is also creating a serious problem.Listening to all stakeholders is what the government can do, and we will do that. First, we will hear them and then see what action we can take. Industry may be selective, choosing particular sectors rather than investing in areas where it is already present. But I am seeing private investment picking upWe celebrate our national champions, but there are concerns in some sectors that India is developing an economy dominated by a relatively small number of very large business groups. How do you respond?That may have been the case a decade or two ago. Even today, there are a small number of large companies, no doubt. I'm happy for them; they should be there and grow.But that is not the complete picture. MSMEs are flourishing today. We wanted micro enterprises not to remain dwarfs, but to grow into small enterprises, small into medium, and medium into large. That is why the change in the definition of MSMEs has been appreciated: it allows them to grow while continuing to enjoy the benefits.

Mumbai engineering student suicide: How to help a young person during an emotional crisis



The death of a second-year engineering student at Mumbai's Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) has once again drawn attention to the mental health challenges faced by young people and the importance of timely intervention. According to reports, the student, Siddhesh Patil, was found dead in his hostel room. He had reportedly been receiving treatment for depression and had messaged his doctor about his distress, including suicidal thoughts, before his death. His doctor alerted his family, who contacted his hostel friends in an attempt to reach him. Police investigation is on.The tragedy underscores the need to take signs of emotional distress seriously, particularly when a young person appears overwhelmed or unable to cope. While every individual's circumstances are different, the incident raises important questions about how families, friends, educational institutions and healthcare professionals can recognise distress and help young people access support.

Academic and professional expectations, personal difficulties and the challenges of navigating early adulthood can sometimes compound emotional strain. Yet distress is not always easy to recognise, and those experiencing it may struggle to articulate what they are going through. "In such moments, the response of people around them can matter. Listening without judgement, taking expressions of hopelessness seriously and helping someone seek professional assistance can be important steps towards support," says Dr Monica Chib, Senior Consultant, Psychiatry, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi. "When emotional distress becomes overwhelming, a person may begin to feel trapped, hopeless or unable to see a way forward. In such moments, the way people around them respond can make a difference. The priority is not to find an immediate solution to every problem, but to help the person feel heard, supported and safe enough to seek help," she adds. Excerpts:

Listen without judgementPeople experiencing severe emotional distress may find it difficult to explain what they are going through. Some may withdraw, while others may express frustration, hopelessness or a sense of being a burden. These changes should not be dismissed as temporary mood swings or attention-seeking behaviour.Often, people in distress do not need someone to solve their problems immediately; they need someone who will listen. Being able to talk openly, express pent-up emotions and put difficult feelings into words can ease some of the emotional burden and help a person feel better. A calm conversation can create that space.Rather than offering quick solutions or saying things like, "You have so much to be grateful for," it is better to acknowledge their feelings. Statements such as "I can see that things feel difficult right now" or "I am here to listen" can help them feel less alone.Listening without interrupting, judging or comparing their experiences with those of others is particularly important. If someone expresses a desire to give up, says that life is not worth living or appears deeply hopeless, it is important to ask whether they are thinking about self-harm. A direct, compassionate question does not encourage suicidal thoughts; it can help a person speak about them rather than conceal them.If they disclose suicidal thoughts, the response should be calm and supportive. Avoid challenging their feelings, making them feel guilty or asking them to think about the impact on their family. If there is an immediate risk, they should not be left alone, provided it is safe to stay with them. Contacting a mental health professional, involving a trusted person and seeking emergency assistance may be necessary.

Help them focus on the next stepDuring a crisis, asking someone to solve their academic, professional or personal difficulties may add to the pressure they already feel. Instead, focus on what can help them remain safe in the immediate moment. This could mean sitting with them, helping them contact a mental health professional or accompanying them to receive urgent care. Professional support is essential, but reaching out early can make it easier to access that care.Sometimes, the most important response is not having all the answers, but listening without judgement, staying present and helping the person take the next step towards support.

Make it easier to accept helpEven when someone acknowledges that they are struggling, taking the first step towards professional care can feel daunting. They may worry about stigma, being judged or burdening their family. Instead of simply telling them to seek help, offer practical assistance: help them arrange an appointment, accompany them to a consultation or connect them with a trusted person who can support them. Small, concrete steps can make seeking care feel more manageable.A person appearing calmer after a difficult conversation does not necessarily mean their distress has passed. Continued contact, checking in without pressure and helping them stay connected with professional care can provide an important layer of support. Where appropriate, encourage them to work with a mental health professional on a safety plan that identifies personal warning signs, coping strategies, supportive contacts and steps to take if suicidal thoughts return.If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out. These lines are staffed by trained volunteers or professionals and calls are typically confidential.

ITC Hotels unveils Ritvah Diwali festive hampers at ITC Kohenur

Hyderabad: Ritvah – Diwali Festive Curation by ITC Hotels brings together an exquisite collection of handcrafted Indian mithai, gourmet treats, artisanal desserts and thoughtfully curated festive hampers. Blending traditional Indian flavours with contemporary creations and premium lifestyle accessories, the collection offers gifting options for families, friends and corporate associates.

At the centre of the collection is Ritvah's Signature Mithai Box of 24, featuring Hazelnut Besan Laddoo, Badaam Jowar Laddoo, Pista Pumpkin Seed Burfi, Badaam Khajur Barfi, Kaju Cranberry Sheer, Aam Kesar Sheer, Khubani Ramdana Laddoo and Moongphalli Dodha Barfi. The box is priced at Rs 2,399.The premium gifting range includes The Legacy Collection at Rs 23,999, The Majestic Collection at Rs 14,999, The Grandeur Collection at Rs 10,999, The Grand Curation at Rs 8,199 and The Festive Reserve at Rs 3,299. The hampers combine selected mithai and confectionery with gourmet products and lifestyle gifts.

Other offerings include the Diwali Delights Hamper, priced at Rs 2,399, along with individual selections of fudge brownies, nankhatai, festive tea cakes, nut and seed clusters and assorted jar treats. The brownie selection features Almond Thandai, Peanut Milk Chocolate and Hazelnut Dark Chocolate variants, while the nankhatai range includes Amaranth Lavender and Orange, Pistachio Rose and Saffron, and Almond, Chocolate and Sorghum Flour varieties.The collection also features roasted cashews, peri peri spiced almonds, chocolate-coated blueberry dragées, dark chocolate-coated almond dragées and dark chocolate muesli. Festive tea cakes include Almond Chocolate and Orange Bishopnut Cake and Cashew Apricot and Amaranth Cake.Complementing the food selections are lifestyle gifts such as candles, glass diya sets, tea-light holders, festive torans and special tea blends.The hampers are available exclusively on a pre-order basis. Takeaway and delivery services operate between 11 am and 9 pm. Free delivery is offered within 15 km for orders worth Rs 999 and above, excluding taxes. Delivery charges apply to orders below this value and to deliveries beyond 15 km, subject to the brand's distance-based pricing policy. Bulk orders and certain products may require additional preparation time. Ritvah's festive hampers are available for pickup at ITC Kohenur, Hyderabad, through pre-orders.

Rahul shepherds India to win a low-scoring semi-thriller vs New Zealand



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

KL Rahul would have had his heart in his mouth for a moment off the fifth ball of the 23rd over. Until then, he had been in supreme control of the short ball during his stay in the middle. He had struck Nathan Smith for a boundary and a six off consecutive deliveries in the 16th over. But this time, a top edge off Jacob Duffy sailed over deep square leg for six.With India precariously placed at 103/5 in their chase of 135, Rahul had to be there at the end. Had that delivery gone to hand instead of over the boundary, India may have fallen short.Eventually, they did not. Rahul, first with Shreyas Iyer and later with the lower order, helped India secure a four-run win by the DLS method and take a 2-0 lead in the series.ODI cricket has increasingly become a batsman-dominated game over the last decade. Flat pitches, heavier bats and shorter boundaries have tilted the balance in their favour, making it harder for bowlers to contain the scoring and create chances.

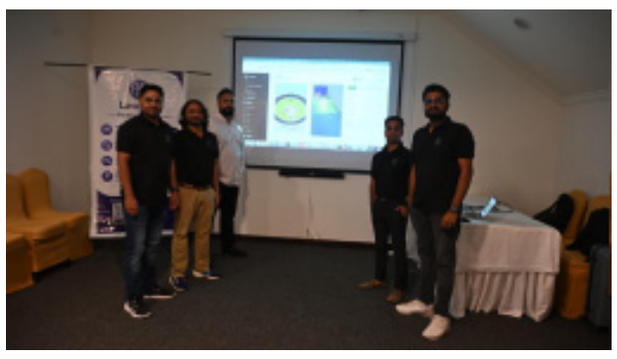
Just over a month ago, India comfortably chased down 406 against the West Indies in Guwahati. On Saturday, they found themselves on the other side of the equation, chasing a modest target of 135 in the second ODI against New Zealand in Wellington.The pitch offered considerable assistance to the seamers, with the ball holding its line, moving both ways and generating steep bounce, making batting a difficult proposition throughout the contest.The New Zealand quicks made the most of the conditions to put India on the back foot early. Jacob Duffy set the tone with the new ball, dismissing Shubman Gill off the first delivery of his innings. The Indian captain edged a length ball outside off to second slip, where Henry Nicholls took a low catch. Duffy struck again in his second over, getting Virat Kohli to play early at a delivery that held up on the surface and sending him back for seven, caught at cover by Will Young.Rohit Sharma briefly counter-attacked, pulling Kyle Jamieson for six and whipping him over square leg for another maximum. But the New Zealand pacer eventually got his reward. Rohit went hard at a pitched-up delivery outside off and edged it to Nicholls at second slip for 23. At 47/4, the middle order had not faced a test like this in a long time.

Cautious startRahul began cautiously, taking nine legal deliveries to get off the mark as New Zealand's seamers kept probing away. Nathan Smith and Matthew Fisher kept him quiet with disciplined lines and lengths, and he even survived a review for a possible edge off Smith. He finally broke free in the 16th over, pulling Smith for successive boundaries — a four rolled off the wrists and a six swatted over deep midwicket. He continued to pick off runs, including a pull for four off Fisher. By the time Shreyas Iyer fell in the 20th over, Rahul had found a measure of the pitch.Iyer, who had only one fifty in his previous 10 innings, struggled for fluency early on, constantly beaten by the bounce and movement generated by New Zealand's quicks. He survived a close call while attempting a ramp against Duffy but gradually found his rhythm, using the width on offer to cut and drive. Iyer reached 30 off 46 balls and, alongside Rahul, looked set to take India home.

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)But Jamieson, who had found excellent rhythm through much of the evening, returned to dismiss him with a 136 kmph short ball that jagged back and caught Iyer in a tangle. The ball ballooned off the top edge to Tom Latham, ending the 39-run stand and putting the match in balance again.

His dismissal left Rahul with the task of taking India home alongside an inexperienced lower order. He took on Duffy with a top-edged six and kept the scoreboard moving. Naman Dhir and Anshul Kamboj also fell along the way to heighten the pressure on him.At 113/7 in 26 overs, with Jamieson bowled out, the match could have gone either way. But with India 22 runs away from the target and New Zealand three wickets away from victory, the heavens opened. India were four runs ahead of the DLS par score of 109. The drizzle persisted, and the umpires eventually called off the match.Earlier, Gurnoor Brar's career-best figures of 4/30 helped India skittle New Zealand out for 134 runs in 41 overs. The pacer was supported by Anshul Kamboj, who took 2/25, and Auqib Nabi, who took 2/31. Axar Patel also took a couple of wickets in his nine overs.

Mumbai Cricket Association, under Ajinkya Naik, turns to AI for coaching



The MCA has tied up with Level Up Sportslytics, a Singapore-based AI company, which will work with its coaches at the Sharad Pawar Indoor Cricket Academy in BKC. (Photo by special arrangement)The MCA has tied up with Level Up Sportslytics, a Singapore-based AI company, which will work with its coaches at the Sharad Pawar Indoor Cricket Academy in BKC. (Photo by special arrangement)THE Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has decided to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its coaching methods. The MCA has tied up with Level Up Sportslytics, a Singapore-based AI company, which will work with its coaches at the Sharad Pawar Indoor Cricket Academy in BKC. The MCA is the first association to use AI in its coaching.

"We need to change as per the time. Technology has played an important role behind the scene and it's showing us what it can do to reach any goal. We are trying to adopt AI in our daily nets session and we will see how it benefits our coaches and players to excel. It's just a pilot project now. We will be taking feedback from coaches and players on how it has helped them," MCA president Ajinkya Naik said.Each pitch will have four cameras installed at various angles, capturing every frame of a batsman. Coaches can do the same for bowlers. If a coach needs to analyse a player's back-foot shot, he will type the name in the app provided by the AI company and get complete data on the individual.Level Up Sportslytics made a detailed presentation to the MCA in August and ran a pilot project too. (Photo by special arrangement) MCA president Ajinkya Naik inaugurated the pilot project on Friday. (Photo by special arrangement)The company made a detailed presentation to the MCA in August and ran a pilot project too."Across India and around the world, everyone in cricket is interested in AI. Far fewer are willing to put their weight behind a technology and say: we will implement it, and we will take our coaching to the next level," said Sitanshu Dash, founder and CEO of Level Up Sportslytics. "With this technology, we believe a coach's reach can grow anywhere from 20 to 100 times. This AI will assist coaches virtually. It is a tool in the coach's hands, so they can do more with less of their time. The questions the MCA coaches asked today, about the technology and about coaching, show why the Mumbai Cricket Association is one of the crown jewels of Indian cricket. They are a level up above everybody else."

'Thought it'll be an easy target but..': Gill on chasing New Zealand's 135

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

India skipper Shubman Gill said that while he thought skittling out New Zealand for just 135 would lead to a textbook-easy chase, the surface at the Hnry Stadium in Wellington was anything but. India were reeling at 86/5 at one point before KL Rahul's 26 kept them in the match before the game was called off due to rain, and the Men in Blue won by 4 wickets via the DLS method."As long as we get the win. It wasn't easy batting. Getting them out at 134, I thought it'll be an easy target, but it wasn't. Happy we got there in the end. The pitch was challenging, but we lost two extra wickets than we'd have liked in the end," Gill said in the post-match presentation ceremony.The skipper was also pleased with bowler Gurnoor Brar's progress, saying the young pacer had the necessary attributes to succeed at the highest level but needed more experience to develop consistency. Brar played a major role in wiping out New Zealand for just 135 with his four-wicket haul."In the last match, Gurnoor bowled really well too. As he gets more experience, he'll get more consistent. He already has the pace and bounce. Most of the seamers have all the qualities. International cricket is about performing under pressure," Gill said.Meanwhile, India defeated New Zealand by four runs



under the Duckworth/Lewis method following a rain stoppage.India were 113/7 in 26 overs with Rohit Sharma, Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel all back in the pavilion, and needed 22 runs from 66 balls when play was called off. Batting first, New Zealand were bowled out for 134 following a disastrous outing in rainy Wellington, with Gurnoor Brar picking four wickets for 30 runs in 10 overs. Daryl Mitchell top-scored for New Zealand with a sedate 55 off 104 balls. India won the first ODI of the five-match series by five wickets, and now leads the rubber 2-0.

Virat Kohli's go-to man at home and a second innings specialist

Running was as instinctive for Mohammad Shami as bowling wonder balls. He could sprint barefoot in the mud and bolt past nagging ankle and knee injuries with the same vigour. Running was his release, which assured him he was fit for a final Test comeback after a year out of the game with a chronic heel injury.The Test recall never came, and exactly 13 years after he first sizzled for India in whites, Shami called time on the longest format. His laid-back, staggered run-ups occasionally held him back. The 36-year-old had more in him than his eventual haul suggests: 64 Tests and 229 wickets – the sixth-most for an India pacer.Yet he makes a real case for a spot in an all-time India Test XI, arguably ranking among the three best pacers the country has ever produced.When most of his fast-bowling peers took a backseat on unyielding sub-continent strips where India championed its spin artillery, Shami soared as a seam virtuoso.

Asian forceA singular achievement captures his home dominance. Shami played 21 Tests at home in a decade without a defeat. He remains one of two specialist bowlers (alongside Pakistan's Sarfaraz Nawaz) to play at least 20 home Tests without a loss.Six pacers played more Tests than him at home for India. None match Shami's 22.1 average and 42.6 strike rate for 76 wickets. Only Jasprit Bumrah, who played his first home Test in 2021, trumps Shami's aggregates.Shami took a wicket every 41.8 deliveries in Asia, bettered only by Pakistan legend Waqar Younis (37.8) among seamers with at least 75 wickets in the continent. Despite the immaculate command of seam and contrast swing, Shami's desi and overseas versions picture a curious dichotomy. Nothing really stopped him from ensuring greater shares away from home, except occasional flutters in a spell or a session.Shami's deviation on average was the highest among India's top five pacers abroad. The away-home deviation stands at 8.39. He conceded more per dismissal away from India. It took him more deliveries to take a wicket away from home, costing nearly two overs (11.4 balls) in excess on average.His popular nickname, 'Second-Innings Shami,' wasn't an apocryphal analysis after all. Shami got better over the breadth of a Test match, sharper with each passing innings and deadly at the back end.Even in the first innings (innings 1 and 2 of a Test), only Bumrah (striking every 43.2 balls) eclipses Shami's (55 SR) wicket-taking efficacy among Indian pacers. Of the four Indian quicks to record at least 100 wickets in the second innings (3 and 4), Shami's strike rate (44.1) outshines his compatriots. Since his Test debut, only Kagiso Rabada has effected more wick-



ets with a better strike rate (35.6) than Shami in the second innings.Before Bumrah came on the Test radar, Shami was the seam prototype on whom India relied. His peak coincided with Virat Kohli's captaincy tenure, when a combative seam attack progressively took shape. Between December 2014 and January 2022, when India became the most dominant Test unit, Shami emerged as Kohli's strike weapon.Shami was the highest wicket-taker (123) among all pacers in away conditions in the period. His 47.7 strike rate for 173 wickets led the Indian charts, ahead of Ishant Sharma (55.9 for 133 wickets), Umesh Yadav (53.2 for 124), and Bumrah (52.2 for 107).Shami racked up 50 wickets in the Ranji Trophy since last season, only bettered by J&K's Auqib Nabi and Sunil Kumar among pacers. He ran through the West Indies in Kolkata with boundless energy on his Test debut, his 9/118 match figures remaining the benchmark for the rest of his career.The knees may have given in a touch, the run-up trimmed even further, but Shami ran in just as well this week, capping four wickets in his final red-ball appearance for Bengal at his beloved Eden.

Ravi Shastri on Shami: 'What more do you want him to prove?'

Mohammed Shami retired from Test cricket with 64 Tests against his name, where he picked up 229 wickets.Mohammed Shami retired from Test cricket with 64 Tests against his name, where he picked up 229 wickets.After Mohammed Shami called time on his Test career, former India coach Ravi Shastri has said that he believes that the pacer had another 30-40 wickets in him for India.The 36-year-old Shami played his last Test match for India in the 2023 World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval. He ended his 13-year career in whites with 64 Tests against his name, where he picked up 229 wickets, the sixth-most for an India pacer. He made his Test debut against the West Indies at Eden Gardens on November 6, 2013."Safed jersey se vida le raha hoon, lekin usse judi yaadon se kabhi nahi… (I am saying goodbye to the white jersey, but never to the memories associated with it)," Shami wrote while announcing his retirement.Former India coach Shastri believed he could have continued and lashed out at reports that he was unfit."All these reports I heard that his fitness is not good… he was playing every game for Bengal. He was bowling 15-20 overs. What else do you want for a player to prove his fitness? He's winning the Duleep Trophy for East Zone. He's bowling his heart out for Bengal, taking wickets and you want to test his fitness? What's the point in being fit in the gym if you can't bowl 10 or 12 overs in a game? Here you've got a workhorse who's bowling for you. So I'm a little disappointed that he didn't get another year," Shastri said on Sony LIV's Extraaa Innings while speaking during India's tour of New Zealand."It's sad when someone who's played so well for the country has to go. I definitely thought he had another 30-40 wickets in him. Shami should have played in the last 12 months, maybe he should have been on this tour (of New Zealand) as a Test match bowler. Unfortunately, it's his call. He's made up his mind because I think he still had something to offer."To illustrate his point, Shastri pointed out that two of the best cricketers of his era, Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar, would never be in the gym."I never saw Kapil Dev in the gym. 131 Test matches on the trot, he missed one. Would just run and bowl. Played that length of time. The other one was our best batsman, Gavaskar. He would run one or maybe two rounds (in training). But who would run between the wickets? Sunny! First man to 10,000 runs and he could bat for a day and a half. When your backs are against the wall, you have to save the



> The 36-year-old Shami played his last Test match for India in the 2023 World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval. He ended his 13-year career in whites with 64 Tests against his name, where he picked up 229 wickets, the sixth-most for an India pacer. He made his Test debut against the West Indies at Eden Gardens on November 6, 2013.

Test match. That man would bat. So, what has the gym got to do with it when he's getting 10,000 runs before anybody else?" Shastri argued."I was lucky when I was the coach when he was part of it. He was instrumental in India doing extremely well. A lot of the other fast bowlers have got the accolades but without him the fast bowling unit wouldn't have functioned. I say that about Ishant (Sharma) as well. Shami was the catalyst because no one presented the seam better than him in world cricket. You could say Jimmy Anderson, but with Shami, it came out time after time. If he didn't get the wickets, one thing's for certain, he was keeping the pressure on the opposition because you know at any given stage he could run through the opposition as he's done time and time again."

Harita Bhadra: how a girl from Ghatkopar's traffic snarls learned to fly

In Mumbai's cheese-whiz county Ghatkopar, butter has run quicker through Achija pav bhaji, than water out of a tap. But how did Harita Bhadra, the suburb's running champion, realise she could sprint all the way to an Asian Games 200m bronze amid that concentrated urban bustle?The story of Mumbai's unexpected sprinter medallist is even more circuitous. It started at Kanjur Marg, and in the traffic snarls on the way to Udayachal school at Vikhroli, where PT teacher Bala Sir noticed her prodigious speed and told her parents (father a businessman) that she needed to run track."Nobody had done sport in my home, but my father ran marathons, mom did yoga, and sister was a classical dancer," Harita recalls. She grew up waking up to strains of classical music, and the whole year was mapped out around the Tennis Grand Slams, with Rafael Nadal the family favourite. "We watched him a lot and I grew up admiring his strong approach to training hard," says the 22-year-old double medallist from Nagoya, who took 200m bronze in 23.20s and a mixed relay bronze.The Mumbaikar became the first Indian after Dutee Chand to medal in sprints.

MSSA, that age-old Mumbai inter-school institution that dates back to 1893 and gave India Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli in Harris Shield, had given Harita her first athletics medal, in long jump. She remembers competing at University ground, Priyadarshini Park and Kandivali SAI tracks, after starting in the 100 and long jump. These are sub-optimal tracks in a city that is not athletics-friendly. "I mean," she laughs kindly, "they can definitely get better."

Harita comes from privilege, but no funding purse can gloss over a false start. "My biggest memory of Junior competitions was a false start. Now, we travel with teams," she explains. Back then, only her parents consoled her. "They were always there cheering for me." They even moved residence to Ghatkopar as she moved to Somaiya University, Vidyavihar, a facility where she is still welcome to train anytime.She preferred the Nationals to state meets. "Because only two from Maharashtra would be there. Winning a state meet in sprints is tougher than Nationals. Competition is insane in Maharashtra, always neck to neck" she explains. In Class 10, she made up her mind to pursue sports, and at the first opportunity headed to Loughborough University in the UK. "I didn't win much in juniors and in my last year at 19, I was injured," she recalls.Back in Mumbai, she reached out to Reliance's Jio HPC at Navi Mumbai, where she formed a partnership with coach Rohit Mane. "The facility had everything needed. I'm grateful because coach knows how my body reacts to every session. But it's not just him planning my schedule. It's decided mutually so even I feel equally accountable for my training," she says.

Prior to the Asian Games, her off-season preparation had been near-perfect. "Conditioning, increasing strength, explosivity in the building phase besides speed sessions," she says.At Nagoya, they were comfortably housed in a hotel and coordinating bus schedules was the only thing not to mess up. Still, it was her first international event. "Nobody knew me before my Indoor wins. But more than others, I had more expectations from myself so I had to mentally prepare," she says.She qualified in heats, leaving something to spare for finals. "It's not exactly a risk to hold back, though you decide during the race. But yes, never get overconfident," she stresses about taking a Q for granted.Harita makes good time because her technique on the curve of the 200 is solid. "The curve is my favourite part. The last 100 you just go all out ensuring the form is maintained. Just keep going," she simplifies.It had been a tight finish, and Harita had been staring at the wrong big screen awaiting the results. Her best buddy and close competitor, Unnati, yelled for her to turn around as her name was announced for bronze."Felt unreal. It was the whole goal of the season. At the victory ceremony I was so emotional. Even if it was third place, to see the flag go up…."

Unnati Aiyappa, daughter of former heptathlete Pramila, trains at the same facility. "Even if we do same events, we are friends. Both of us are good on the track, so we push each other and are happy for the other's success," she says.Besides creating jewellery that complements her sister's fashion-design business, Harita crochets and paints. On the track though, her choice of music is "upbeat," even as she trains to qualify for the 2027 World Championships.

In the telling of Yash's Ravana, Ramayana finds its footing



Cinema is an inherently political medium. Its politics resides as much in the stories one chooses to tell as in the manner in which one chooses to tell them. And so, to take on a mythological epic as revered as the Ramayana in 2026 is, inevitably, a political undertaking. The intent may be devotional, but its implications are dictated by the moment it inhabits. Perhaps that is why one walks out with the curious feeling of having witnessed not so much a creative engagement with an epic as a rather straightforward exercise in storytelling. The Ramayana has lived many lives across centuries, its stories accommodating interpretations, contradictions and imaginations. To approach such a text without the appetite for creative risk feels like a missed opportunity. What remains is a safe, largely by-the-book retelling, content with the modest ambition of entertaining. Just because it doesn't seek to offend, it relishes in its sincerity. Perhaps elsewhere that would have been the bare minimum. In 2026, it passes for the most one can ask. Nobody wins, but nobody loses either.

But credit where it is due: Nitesh Tiwari's epic does find moments of genuine intrigue in the screenplay, (adapted by Shridhar Raghavan alongside Tiwari), particularly in its attempt to understand its antagonist, Ravana (Yash). The popular imagination has long preserved him as the asura who terrorised the three worlds, allowing his villainy to subsume almost every other dimension of his existence. Here, however, the epic chooses to begin with him. For a good first fifty minutes, we inhabit his world, are drawn into his past and taken right into the heart of his origin story. We encounter a child more enamoured of music than anything else; a son who makes a promise to his mother and traverses extraordinary lengths to honour it; a man deeply wounded by the oppression of his people, who takes up arms for their survival, for their dignity and for the land they have been denied. We also see him at his most vulnerable: broken, helpless, turning to the divine for deliverance.There is something particularly interesting about Yash inhabiting an antagonist of such mythic proportions. Having fashioned an entire screen persona around Rocky Bhai, the rags-to-riches gangster from Prashanth Neel's two-part crime saga KGF, Yash is no stranger to the grammar of larger-than-life masculinity, nor to the art of eliciting empathy for men who exist beyond the boundaries of conventional morality. He draws upon the vocabulary of power, swagger and machismo, only to puncture it with flashes of vulnerability and self-doubt. Say, like when Ravana ascends the throne of Lanka, one expects the familiar descent into vanity and absolute power (a transformation the epic eventually does embrace in its latter half). Instead, his first impulse is to promise his subjects a kingdom founded on equality. Tellingly, his rage also appears most combustible when he is publicly humiliated and made to confront the indignities of his former lowly existence.As the film progresses, Ravana begins to emerge as a man perpetually at war with the impulses that reside within him. In a particularly ingenious interpretation of his ten heads, the film visualises the tumult of competing thoughts that assail him at a crucial juncture, when he finds himself torn between the temptation of revenge and the discipline of restraint. Evil and reason, vengeance and remorse, coexist within him. The film is equally willing to confront the less flattering dimensions of his character.

A man who once professed respect for women is also revealed to have committed transgressions against them. An immortal who has conquered the fear of death remains, paradoxically, haunted by the possibility of his own mortality. These contradictions lend Ravana a moral and emotional complexity that a straightforward tale of good against evil would ordinarily have little patience for. Perhaps that is the most worthwhile thing an adaptation of the Ramayana can attempt in our times: it can invite us to understand the making of the man before witnessing the mythology of the monster. Nobody wins, nobody loses; but storytelling, at least, gets to breathe.

The Cat in the Hat movie review: A dizzying cornucopia of action and colours



It's hard to believe that this is only the second feature-length film on the beloved Dr Seuss character, and the first animation. It also means that Warner Bros Pictures and directors Alessandro Carloni and Erica Rivinoja have to work doubly hard to make The Cat in the Hat stand out from the current deluge.The effort shows, with the film a dizzying cornucopia of action and colours, with little of the unworldliness of the book and all the worldliness of a studio-backed venture, which also lets it be known that it is hoping to spin at least one more movie out of a character.

In the breathless action on screen, there are very few scenes that are truly moving, laugh-out-loud funny, or even those that evoke a smile. This is despite the fact that the voice work is impressive, particularly Bill Hader as the titular Cat and Matt Berry as Waffles, the pet goldfish that survives the leap from the book to the screen.The basic storyline is the same, about a brother and sister needing some cheer, a mother out at work, and The Cat in the Hat stepping in to fill the gap. However, in this film, the Cat is an employee of a corporation that takes on "clients" which could do with some happiness, he has landed in the doghouse because of how he is prone to creating a mess, and he has got one last chance – provided he can work his magic on Gabby (Xochitl Gomez) and her brother Seb (Tiago Martinez).Gabby is sulking as their mother Carmen (America Ferrera) has made them move town due to her new job. Keeping a watch on them is a nosy landlady (Paula Pell), who underlines that her tenants can't keep pets, make noise, party etc etc.

The Cat zeroes in on the children as his new customers, after first taking from the corporation's supply store a "dangerous" watch that can help one time travel. It is called Go-Backer.That is not the extent of how literal The Cat in the Hat gets, with jokes such as "a fish being seasick" being underlined – just in case one didn't get it the first time."The Things", the Cat's help mates, who also make the transition from the book, are the film's one real creative spark, especially in how they communicate with each other, clapping and slapping, cheeks to butts.To enter different worlds via cardboard boxes, belonging to Mom, Gabby and Seb, respectively, is also a clever narrative device. "Cardboard boxes hold some of life's most unexplored mysteries," says the Cat.Or, as Calvin of Calvin and Hobbes would say, an empty cardboard box is a "transmogrifier"; it "turns you into whoever you'd like to be".The Cat in the Hat movie director: Alessandro Carloni, Erica RivinojaThe Cat in the Hat movie cast: Bill Hader, Xochitl Gomez, Tiago Martinez, Matt Berry, America Ferrera, Quinta Brunson, Paula Pell, Giancarlo EspositoThe Cat in the Hat movie star rating: 2.5 stars

Divya Dutta on Bollywood's 'herd mentality': 'Similar roles trickle in after a success'

With OTT platforms changing the entertainment landscape, actors are increasingly getting opportunities to headline stories that revolve around complex characters and subjects that may not necessarily find space in mainstream cinema. Divya Dutta, who recently received considerable appreciation for leading the social drama Chiraiya (2026), believes that while the industry is moving in the right direction, there is still a long way to go. In an exclusive conversation with SCREEN, the actor spoke about the changing nature of scripts, the success of Chiraiya, the kind of roles coming her way and why she continues to be selective about her projects.Talking about the changing entertainment landscape and the increasing number of character-driven stories, Divya said, "With OTTs coming in, the layers are really changing. There are more story-led, character-oriented things coming in, people are ready to experiment. Having said that, there's still a long way to go."

The actor cited her experience with Chiraiya as an example of how stories led by strong characters can find an audience and make a difference. The series dealt with the sensitive subject of marital rape and challenged the deeply ingrained misconception that marriage implies unconditional consent.Speaking about the response to the show, she said, "I was very fortunate where Chiraiya came by where you lead the show and shoulder it. It has been an unprecedented success. People have been like, 'It has been the biggest success around.' And, the kind of reach it has had, it impacted people's lives; that's the power of visual medium, and that is what I feel even this film (The Last Man In Tower) is going to do."Divya added, "It will shake people up, and I am glad that such stories are being made. The kinds that make you stop, pause and make a difference and change or tweak a little about yourselves where you voluntarily take up to better the situations that need our attention. Yes, these roles are being made but I wish the volume of these roles is a little more."On being asked whether the kind of conversations she is having with filmmakers and the roles being offered to her have changed following the success of Chiraiya, Divya said, "I have been one of those actors, who has done theatre and OTT simultaneously. In that context, mine and Manoj's things have gone very similar. We've just not done cinema, we've just not done OTT, we are doing both. Earlier, too, I was choosy about what I take on because I wanted to just not repeat myself by doing what I was already doing. The discussions happened earlier and are happening now. The only difference is that now I get to hear more scripts."However, the actor also acknowledged that a successful project often results in filmmakers typecasting an actor, and approaching them with similar or same roles. "Yes, there is a herd mentality when you have a successful project, and similar roles come trickling in, and you have to say a lot of No-s to get the 'Yes-es you want. So, that's always the case. That's how it is," she added.



Divya Dutta on reuniting with Manoj Bajpayee in The Last Man in TowerDivya's film The Last Man in Tower brings her together with Manoj Bajpayee, and their pairing is particularly interesting because the two actors have been part of several films together without actually sharing screen space. They featured in LOC: Kargil (2003), Veer-Zaara (2004), Special 26 (2013) and Traffic (2016), but their characters never appeared together onscreen. They've finally come across with this Ben Rekhi-film. The two were also seen together in the Netflix crime drama Gajab Raat.

In The Last Man in Tower, Divya plays Sangeeta Puri, while Manoj essays Yogesh Mishra, a retired teacher who refuses to give up his home despite the rest of his housing society agreeing to a lucrative redevelopment deal. Boman Irani also plays a pivotal role in the film.Divya explores another layered character that tests human relationships, greed, morality and the changing dynamics of urban communities.

The Last Man in Tower: Release date, cast and storyDirected by Ben Rekhi, The Last Man in Tower is based on Booker Prize-winning author Aravind Adiga's novel of the same name. The film revolves around a Mumbai housing society where a redevelopment proposal divides residents. While most of the residents agree to accept the developer's lucrative offer, retired school teacher Yogesh Mishra refuses to vacate his home. His decision puts him at odds with his neighbours, turning a seemingly straightforward property deal into a larger conflict involving ambition, greed, friendship and morality.The film features Manoj Bajpayee, Divya Dutta, Boman Irani, among others. Produced by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media, the film was released in theatres on September 11, 2026, and began streaming on ZEE5 on November 6, 2026.

Farah Khan Ali shares mother Zarine's letters on death anniversary: 'Not Diwali of celebration'

Farah Khan Ali shared an emotional post remembering her mother, Zarine Khan, on her first death anniversary. She posted several handwritten letters penned by Zarine over the years, including some dating back to 1992, in which she offered words of encouragement to her children and shared personal reflections. Farah also shared pictures and videos capturing Zarine's lively personality, including moments from parties where she was often the centre of attention.

Remembering her mother, Farah Khan Ali wrote, "As the world prepares to celebrate the festival of lights, I am reminded of the light my mother brought into our lives, and into the lives of so many others." She added, "Today, 7th November 2026, marks one year since we lost my dearest mother, Zarine Sanjay Khan. One year since the light of our lives passed on. And this year, her first death anniversary falls on the eve of Diwali."Farah recalled how much her mother loved celebrating Diwali and dressing up for the occasion. "The laughter, the gatherings and the excitement of it all. She celebrated every occasion wholeheartedly. She loved life and she loved people," she wrote.Farah went on to describe her mother as not just a beautiful woman but also someone whose wisdom and warmth made everyone around her feel seen, loved and valued.

"Today I am sharing some of her handwritten notes, and a letter she wrote to me many years ago. In those pages is so much of who she was. She wrote about kindness, the power of words, believing in yourself and never taking the people you love for granted. She called her three daughters her best friends. In one letter, she told me how much she missed my 'mad chatter' at home. Reading it now, I can almost hear her voice," she wrote.Reflecting on celebrating Diwali without her mother, Farah added, "This is not a Diwali



of celebration for me. It is a day to remember and honour the extraordinary woman we were blessed to call our mother, and the many hearts she touched simply by being herself."Expressing how deeply she continues to miss her mother, Farah concluded, "Your light lives through us, and through everyone whose life you touched with your kindness, warmth and love. You loved life, Mom. And life loved you right back."Zarine Khan passed away in November last year. Her son, actor Zayed Khan, performed her last rites according to Hindu cremation traditions, in keeping with her wishes. Zarine was born into a Parsi family and married actor Sanjay Khan. She was an interior designer as well as the author of the cookbook Family Secrets: The Khan Family Cookbook.

Salman Khan defends Maatrubhumi's 'Teri Sexy Beauty': 'Soldiers also praise their wives'

Salman Khan's patriotic film, Maatrubhumi: May War Rest In Peace experienced several hurdles before acquiring December 4 as its final release date. Citing visual effects as the primary reason for the film's delay, the actor, at the film's trailer launch on Friday, said that he wants the audience to have a great viewing experience, and not for them to complain about the quality of the VFX. A few days ago, the song, "Teri Sexy Beauty" from the film was released, and the netizens questioned its placement in a "patriotic" film.At the trailer launch of Maatrubhumi, when Chitrangda Singh appeared on the stage, Salman addressed her as "She's my sexy beauty," referring to the song, and dived right into answering those questioning the song. He said, "I know a lot of people are wondering that Maatrubhumi mein "Teri Sexy Beauty" kaise fit hota hai? (How does this song fit in the movie?) Hai na? (Right?) Sabka sawaal yehi hai, na? (That's everyone's question, right?) When you see the film is when you'll find out how this song fits into the narrative. I play a jawan (soldier) and so do these actors (Pointing out at the actors standing alongside on the stage with him) Yeh sab apni wife ki taareef karte hain (They all praise their wives). And that's where this song plays."'Till now, we have shown you many songs of the film. Jab aap picture dekhoge, yeh visuals bahut hi kam hone waale hain (When you see the film, these visuals will be very less). You might feel that we have released some 1,400 songs of the film to date! There's a reason for it. Woh wajah aap jaante honge (You'll may be aware of the reason). That reason will be clarified today. We couldn't have shown you the situations in our film before. Once you see the film, you'll know 'Yeh gaana kahan pe aata hai' (This song appears where) aur (and) 'Woh gaana kahan pe aata hai' (That song appears where)," added Salman Khan.

On a lighter note, the superstar also said that the music channels and other platforms repurpose their films' songs and earn subscribers and viewers. He also added that once the audience watches the songs prior to the film's release, they get bored during the screening, and prefer utilising that time in taking a cigarette or a pee break. Salman joked that he doesn't want to give that chance to the audience. The 60-year-old shared, "There are music channels that put the whole song of the film on their page to increase their subscribers and for views. Then when you go to see the film in cinemas, you feel, 'Arre yeh gaana toh dekh liya hain. Let's go to pee or to smoke'! I don't want you to give the chance to take these breaks. Samjhe? (Understood?) Control karke baitho aap (Control, and sit)."At the event, Salman Khan praised Chitrangda's performance and credited her with shouldering the film's last 25 minutes. The Tiger Zinda Hai actor also surprised the audience and Chitrangda by announcing her as the heroine of his next film. He said, "The reason why we wanted to cast her is that the last 25 minutes are all helmed by her performance. We wanted somebody to feel it and not perform it. Aur iss jodi ke baare main aap sab ko kuch batana chahunga. Yeh jodi phir se aayegi. (And, I would like to tell you'll something about this pairing. This pairing will return)."



Amitabh Bachchan's KBC 18 airs old episodes due to actor's schedule issues, to resume on Nov 16

The makers of Kaun Banega Crorepati 18 have temporarily halted the airing of new episodes. While the makers have not disclosed the reason behind the break, several reports suggest that it could be due to Amitabh Bachchan's health. However, a source close to the show told SCREEN that the break has nothing to do with the 84-year-old actor's health but is instead due to the unavailability of his dates. The channel's X handle shared that the new episodes of KBC 18 will resume from November 16.According to the source, Amitabh Bachchan will be available for the shoot only after November 11, following which filming for the show will resume. In the absence of fresh episodes, the makers have been broadcasting some older episodes on the television channel. However, on the Sony LIV app, the latest available episode is from October 30, featuring the cast of Ramayana.

Amitabh Bachchan shares update on his blogMeanwhile, Amitabh Bachchan, who regularly connects with his fans through his personal blog, shared an update on November 7, offering a glimpse into his gradual return to work. He wrote, "The gentle but slow return to routine and the controlled life of work", seemingly hinting that he is gradually settling back into his professional routine after a break.He further reflected on how stepping away from one's regular schedule can make even familiar habits feel unfamiliar, writing, "When in routine you remember the routine… even routine develops a temperament."The veteran actor also opened up about his occasional forgetfulness, sharing how he sometimes struggles to remember where he left his glasses or mobile phone, or what he was supposed to do next. However, he pointed out that memories from his school days remain vivid, adding that what Class 8 was like in 1960 is still at his fingertips.He further wrote, "But never a searching for the connect on Blog. Nor the well wishers of each Sunday nor, the KBC audience, who extend love, affection and the sincerity of their warmth and endearing presence."Meanwhile, with new episodes of the show, which first premiered in July 2000, temporarily unavailable, a fan on X tagged Sony LIV seeking an update on its return. Responding to the query, Sony LIV assured the viewer, writing, "Hello! Please note that KBC will be back with new episodes from 16th November."In another response to a viewer who raised a similar question, the streaming platform wrote, "Please be informed that new episodes of Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) Season 18 are currently unavailable on Sony LIV. We request you to stay tuned to Sony LIV for further updates regarding the availability of upcoming episodes."Previously, Amitabh Bachchan had spoken about hurting his knee during KBC shoot and even a break from social media as the doctor has advised complete rest. Taking to X, the actor wrote, "Apologies. I seek forgiveness. I have been advised to take a few days off to rest and recover, so I am unable to write anything at the moment."However, he returned just a day later with a fresh post on X, along with a new blog entry.

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