

INDIAN CHRONICLE

27 October, 2024 | Sunday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:221 Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

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Three youngsters drown in Pranahita in Asifabad

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: In a tragic incident, three youngsters drowned in the Pranahita river near Somini village in Bejjur mandal on Saturday. Their bodies were yet to be retrieved. Police said that Zahir Hussain (22), Irshad (20) and Moiz (19) belonging to Bejjur mandal centre drowned while trying to take a dip in the river. Irshad and Moiz were cousins, while Zahir was their friend. Zahir, Irshad, Moiz and Qasim went to the river to have a bath in it at a picnic spot. While the three entered the river, Qasim was sitting on the banks.

MEIL to construct Young India Skills University in Hyderabad



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Hyderabad: Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) has announced funds worth Rs.200 crore under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for construction of the Young India Skills University campus. A team of MEIL representatives led by Managing Director Krishna Reddy met with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the Secretariat here on Saturday.

On the occasion, the University entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Government for the construction of buildings. The MoU was signed

in the presence of Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and University Vice Chancellor VLVSS Subbarao. The Chief Minister had broken the ground for construction of the Skills University on 57 acres of land near Meerkanpet in Kandukur mandal in August this year. Megha Managing Director Krishna Reddy said that the company would also construct hostel buildings along with academic buildings, workshops and classrooms. The Chief Minister directed the officials to finalize the building designs within a week and make arrangements to commence construction from November 8.

CM visits Kodangal, avoids meeting protesting farmers, villagers against pharma village



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Kodangal: A day after farmers and villagers vehemently opposed the establishment of pharma village, with a woman being injured in the ensuing lathi charge, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy visited Kodangal on Saturday. However, he did not meet the protesting farmers and villagers. Tension prevailed in Kodangal, Revanth Reddy's constituency on Friday with farmers and villagers opposing land acquisition for the proposed pharma village. A few residents, including a woman were injured after police resorted to lathi charge to bring the situation under control. A programme was scheduled at Rotibanda thanda under Dudyala mandal in Kodangal constituency by the district administration to seek villagers' opinion on

the establishment of pharma village. However, even before the programme could commence, villagers vociferously raised slogans against the Congress government and resolved that they would not part with their lands for the pharma village. On Saturday, the Chief Minister visited Maddur and Regadimylaram in the constituency to console the family members of Congress leaders who were bereaved recently. At Maddur, he spoke to Shivraj, whose son Naveen died recently. From Maddur, he visited to Regadimylaram in Bomraspetta to console the family members of senior leader Narsi Reddy, who passed away recently.

The Chief Minister's Kodangal visit, which commenced at 11.30 a.m., ended in a couple of hours and he returned to Hyderabad around 2 p.m. Despite visiting Kodangal, the Chief Minister did not speak to villagers of Rotibanda, which was close to Regadimylaram. Vast fertile agricultural lands in the villages of Hakimpet, Polepalli, and Lakacharla in Dudyala mandal are at the risk of being taken away from the farmers for the proposed pharma village project. Opposing the establishment of a pharma village, the farmers have been staging protests against the government for the last few months. On August 28, tension prevailed during the protest in front of the Dudyala MRO office after a woman farmer from Polepally village, Turpu Rajamma, holding a bottle of pesticide, threatened to take her life if her land was taken away. "I will die, but I will not give up my land," she had warned.

KTR expresses concern over cotton growers' plight in Telangana



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Hyderabad: Voicing deep concern over the dire situation faced by cotton farmers in Telangana, BRS working president K T Rama Rao on Saturday came down heavily on the Congress government for its lack of support and broken promises to the farmers. Rama Rao highlighted that cotton, the second-largest crop in the state after paddy, was being neglected. He pointed out that the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has halted procurement, citing various excuses and leaving farmers at the mercy of middlemen. Despite the government's promise of Rs 500 bonus per quintal, there has been no action to fulfill this commitment. He accused the Congress government of failing to take proactive measures in the crucial cotton procurement process. "The government has no initiative, no interest, and no intention to keep its word," Rama Rao stated. He also mentioned that the government had previously cheated farmers by withholding bonuses for coarse rice and imposing conditions on fine rice.

Rama Rao's comments come at a time when cotton farmers are struggling to sell their produce at fair prices. He called the Congress government a "betrayer of farmers" and labeled the farmer declaration as bogus. He added that the political climate in Telangana was reminiscent of the days of the Telangana movement, with the Bharat Rashtra Samithi once again positioning itself as the champion of the people against the Congress. BRS leaders have accused the Congress of betraying farmers with false promises of loan waivers and support schemes, and of failing to deliver on their commitments to government employees.

Funeral of Padma Shri awardee Kanaka Raju held with State honors in Asifabad

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: The funeral of Padma Shri awardee and Gussadi dance maestro Kanaka Raju was held with State honors at Marlavai village in Jainoor mandal on Saturday. MLAs Vedma Bojju and Kova Lakshmi, Collector Venkatesh Dothre and SP DV Srinivas Rao paid homage to Raju by placing a wreath. Four rounds of bullets were fired as a mark of respect. A large number of tribals attended the event and offered homage to the Gussadi dance master. They recalled their accounts with him. Kanaka Raju passed away due to illness at his native place Marlavai in Jainoor mandal on Friday. He was 83.

Cyberabad police crackdown on illegal bike racing, stunting: 40 youngsters booked, 40 bikes seized

Hyderabad: Cracking down on the trend of youngsters racing bikes on the city roads, the Raidurgam police registered five cases against 40 bike racers and seized 40 bikes late on Friday night. On receiving information that some youngsters were bike racing and creating nuisance with loud shouting, the Raidurgam police of Cyberabad Commissionerate, rushed to the spot at T-Hub. The bike racing was found to be taking place near T-Hub, Knowledge City and Raidurgam. The police found some young people doing bike stunts and racing on public roads by obstructing the general public and shouting loudly and causing a nuisance. The bikers' acts, the police said, was endangering to others as that could cause a road accident.

PM Modi to virtually inaugurate three medical colleges in MP on Oct 29

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate three new medical colleges, three nursing colleges and primary health care centres in Madhya Pradesh on October 29, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced on Saturday. During an interaction with the media at the BJP headquarters in Bhopal, Yadav informed that PM Modi will inaugurate three medical colleges in Shivani, Neemach, and Mandsaur districts. He said the development is part of the state government's commitment to strengthen the healthcare system of Madhya Pradesh.

"Besides medical colleges, three newly established nursing colleges and primary care units will also be virtually inaugurated by PM Modi on October 29," Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said. Yadav further stated that he will attend the programme (inauguration) in Mandsaur, while Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel will be present in Shivani. Some other ministers will be attending the programme in Neemach. Notably, it would be the second project PM Modi will be inaugurating in Madhya Pradesh within a span of 10 days. Earlier, on October 20, he had virtually inaugurated newly established Airport in Rewa district of Vindhya region. Joining the launch of the airport in Rewa, CM Mohan Yadav announced that for



the next month, passengers between Rewa and Bhopal will fly at Rs 999 fare only under the PM Narendra Modi's dedicated flight scheme. Yadav further said, "While Rewa will get a series of domestic passenger flights in the coming weeks and months, the new airport will also have cargo flights in the future. As per the plan for the Rewa Airport, big planes will also take off and land here in the coming times." Rewa Airport, the first in the Vindhya region has been developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) -- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) of the Central government and flight operations are expected to begin shortly.

India's development incomplete without tribal community's involvement: Prez Murmu



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Raipur: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday emphasised the essential role of the tribal community in India's progress, highlighting that the nation's development would be incomplete without their active involvement in it. Speaking at the third and fourth joint convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar on Saturday, the President praised the contributions of IIT graduates through their innovative thinking and far-reaching vision, which she said had significantly propelled both India and the world forward. Commending IIT Bhubaneswar for its innovative facilities and use of natural resources, she said, "This is the first convocation at this newly-developed campus with state-of-the-art teaching and research amenities. Its design integrates natural resources in a forward-thinking

way." She stressed the importance of learning from the tribal community's knowledge-rich, nature-centred lifestyle, noting, "Our tribal brothers and sisters are a reservoir of knowledge. Their natural way of life holds invaluable insights for sustainable development, and understanding and it can make significant contributions to India's growth." President Murmu lauded IIT Bhubaneswar's dedication to agri-tech, health-tech, and fintech initiatives for tribal development. She highlighted an innovative mobile health app developed by IIT Bhubaneswar in collaboration with AIIMS-Raipur, which offers health advice to villagers directly in their homes.

Reflecting on the six-decade legacy of IITs, the President noted, "IITians have established a unique identity worldwide, leading major companies and shaping the global technology landscape. With fresh ideas and the latest technologies, IIT Bhubaneswar and its students are poised to enhance India's global standing." In addition to the mobile health initiative, the President praised IIT Bhubaneswar's partnership with Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur, aimed at creating technological solutions to support farmers in optimising their resources. She also mentioned the institute's work with the tribal community involved in the collection of Mahua, a forest produce, to improve their livelihoods. Murmu concluded by stressing that both established and new IITs collectively contribute to a strong ecosystem capable of addressing future challenges, which she believes will be instrumental in creating a developed India.

Black marketing of Diljit Dosanjh, Coldplay tickets; ED lodges money laundering case



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has detected alleged irregularities after it conducted raids in a money laundering case to probe "black marketing" of tickets for two "highly anticipated" music concerts by British rock band Coldplay and actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh. The searches were undertaken on Friday at 13 locations in five states—Delhi, Maharashtra (Mumbai), Rajasthan (Jaipur), Karnataka (Bengaluru) and Punjab (Chandigarh) -- after the federal investigation agency filed a criminal case under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. While the 'Dil-Luminati' concert by Dosanjh is scheduled to be held over the weekend on October 26-27 at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in the national capital, the Coldplay event 'Music of the Spheres World Tour' is slated for January 2025 in Navi Mumbai. The ED said in a statement that it initiated an investigation after numerous reports emerged that individuals and fans were being "deceived/cheated" through "fraudulent" ticket sales after the rapid sell out of entry passes. The agency took cognisance of multiple police FIRs filed in the case across the country, including one

filed by online ticket booking portal BookMyShow, against several suspects "believed to be exploiting concert-goers". The FIR alleges that these individuals engaged in selling counterfeit tickets and drastically inflated prices, taking advantage of the high demand for these coveted concerts, the ED said.

Revolt begins in Congress from Kodangal, time for BRS to work with unity, says KTR

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Hyderabad: Stating that the Congress Party has been facing a revolt from within the organisation in Kodangal, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's constituency, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday called for unity among the BRS cadre to defeat the ruling party in Kodangal, regardless of when the local body elections were held. In a significant development, nearly 100 Congress members from Kodangal joined the BRS at Rama Rao's residence in Nandinagar here. Speaking on the occasion, he said a rebellion against the Congress government had begun in Kodangal, the constituency of Revanth Reddy. He recalled that Revanth Reddy, who had vehemently opposed the Pharma City project while in opposition, was now facilitating the establishment of a pharma village in Kodangal, leading to local discontent. Rama Rao criticized the Congress government for sidelining cost-effective plans to irrigate Kodangal under the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy project, opting instead for the Kodangal Lift Project for commissions. He questioned the motives behind awarding contracts to Megha Engineering and Raghava Company, linked to Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, despite Revanth Reddy's previous criticism of the same entities.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Maharashtra battle

MAHA Vikas Aghadi (MVA) vs Mahayuti — the big battle is between two alliances in poll-bound Maharashtra, but there are some small battles being fought within both camps. The prolonged deliberations on seat-sharing among the MVA constituents — the Congress, the NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) — have seen each of them vigorously seeking a bigger piece of the pie. A compromise formula of 85-85-85 for 255 of the 288 constituencies has been worked out, with some of the remaining seats set to be allocated to smaller allies such as the Samajwadi Party, AAP and Left parties. It is evident that the Congress and Uddhav's Shiv Sena have moderated their ambitions and settled for contesting less than 100 seats each. Their climbdown has helped in resolving the stalemate days ahead of the deadline for the filing of nominations. This augurs well for the MVA, which is looking to upstage the ruling Mahayuti alliance comprising the BJP, the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) and Ajit Pawar-led NCP. The Congress, whose impressive performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra had cemented its position as the MVA's leading player, has lost much of its bargaining power after its shock defeat in Haryana. The lesson drawn by the MVA, which won 31 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra earlier this year, is that overconfidence can be self-destructive when the opponent is quite good at handling rebellion and factionalism. Setting aside their differences, the allies have to put up a united front against the BJP-led front in the Assembly polls. Despite being the senior constituent of Mahayuti, the BJP has allowed the Shinde faction to have the CM's chair. The saffron party is banking heavily on its kingmaker strategy, especially because Ajit Pawar's NCP is considered to be the weak link of the alliance.

International students face sexual exploitation, admits Brampton mayor



During a press conference on Wednesday, Mayor Patrick Brown said this exploitation and trafficking happen "in plain sight." He added that Brampton aims to address this issue, which he called a "cancer within our society."

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Canada's Brampton's city council adopted a motion to combat human trafficking on Wednesday. Councillor Rowena Santos, who introduced the motion, called on federal and provincial governments to step in, noting that Brampton alone cannot address the problem. International students studying in Canada are being sexually exploited and trafficked, according to Brampton, Ontario's mayor, Global News Canada reported. During a press conference on Wednesday, Mayor Patrick Brown said this exploitation and trafficking happen "in plain sight." He added that Brampton aims to address this issue, which he called a "cancer within our society."

This is the first formal recognition of the problem by any government level, despite years of warnings from student advocacy groups and social services. Service providers in Brampton have warned that international students, particularly young women, are being exploited by landlords, employers, and romantic partners. These perpetrators often lure students with job offers or reduced rent before coercing them into the sex trade, using threats of violence or deportation to maintain control.

Brampton's city council adopted a motion to combat human trafficking on Wednesday. Councillor Rowena Santos, who introduced the motion, called on federal and provincial governments to step in, noting that Brampton alone cannot address the problem. The federal government controls the number of study permits issued, while provinces oversee post-secondary institutions that rely heavily on international student tuition.

Recent investigations have linked the increasing number of international students to a rise in exploitative recruitment practices. The federal government has faced criticism for allowing the student population to grow while local municipalities struggle to provide adequate housing and services. According to Global News, by the end of 2023, over a million international students were in Canada, with more than half residing in Ontario. Many of these students live in Brampton, a significant number hailing from India.

Last year, Sunder Singh, executive director of the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women, highlighted the financial pressures driving female students into the sex trade. Speaking to The PIE News, she pointed out that the high cost of living in Canada forces many to take desperate measures to cover rent and tuition. Some landlords and employers exploit this vulnerability, offering reduced rent in exchange for sexual favours. Singh said that while Canada's intention of attracting young international students was admirable, the government failed to anticipate the issues that would arise when these students arrived without adequate support systems. Many are left vulnerable to exploitation. The Elspeth Heyworth Centre has been working with local banks and students to address cases where young women have been financially manipulated by supposed romantic partners, who often gain control of their bank accounts. Singh shared one case in which an Indian student was financially exploited, subjected to domestic abuse, and coerced into unwanted pregnancies. According to Singh, male students are also exploited, with many being coerced into transporting drugs under the guise of truck-driving jobs. Social media platforms are increasingly used by traffickers to target vulnerable students seeking companionship.

'Dropping Manipur exam centres': SSC informs Delhi High Court that TCS associates were trapped for 8 days in May 2023



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Giving reasons for the cancellation of Churachandpur and Ukhrul in Manipur as examination centres for government recruitment exams, the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) recently informed the Delhi High Court that the last exam conducted in Ukhrul saw "TCS associates trapped in their hotel for eight days under extremely difficult circumstances." The submission came in a petition by Kuki Students' Organisation, a registered student organisation under the Societies Registration Act, registered at Churachandpur and with chapters in Delhi and the National Capital Region, seeking that Churachandpur and Ukhrul be reinstated as a venue for government recruitment examinations for the remaining academic year. SSC issued a notice on its website on September 4 stating that the Combined Graduate Level Examination (Tier-1), 2024, will not be conducted in Churachandpur and Ukhrul "due to the prevailing law and order situation in Manipur."

In an affidavit filed through undersecretary Ashesh Chaudhary on October 23, SSC submitted that before

'Will monitor situation all night from Nabanna', says Mamata Banerjee as Bengal prepares for cyclone Dana

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

As West Bengal braces itself for severe cyclonic storm Dana, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she would "personally monitor" the situation all night from the state secretariat Nabanna.

"I will stay awake all night at Nabanna and monitor the situation. We do not know the exact time of the landfall of the cyclone. A control room has been opened in Nabanna to monitor the situation 24/7 and take action. I will be personally here throughout the night. Other officials too will monitor the situation," said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a press conference. Dana is expected to cross the coastline of West Bengal and make landfall between Bhitarkanika and Dhamara (Odisha) later tonight. Expected to pack wind speeds of 120/Kmph, it is likely to bring strong winds and heavy rain to West Bengal. Strong winds and heavy rain are expected in parts of Odisha and Bengal, including Kolkata. As it braces for impact, the West Bengal government has evacuated 2,82,863 people from eight districts — Kolkata, Howrah, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Bankura and Hooghly. Twenty-two companies of National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force have been deployed in addition to a large number of police force, district administration officials, while schools and colleges shut down in these districts. District administrations have

Why prolonged use of mobile phones while sitting on the toilet can increase the risk of developing haemorrhoids



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Prolonged use of mobile phones while sitting on the toilet can increase the risk of developing haemorrhoids and a Pune study has flagged concerns over the rising cases of piles and prolapse that are linked to toilet habits. Prolonged use of mobile phones while sitting on the toilet can increase the risk of developing haemorrhoids and a Pune study has flagged concerns over the rising cases of piles and prolapse that are linked to toilet habits. (Representational Image) At 22, Franklin Fernandes found himself being wheeled in for surgery to treat swollen haemorrhoids. "It's uncomfortable even to talk about," he admitted. "The haemorrhoids would protrude, and I often had to push the lumps back," said Fernandes, who works in a digital marketing firm. He was unaware that his poor eating habits, irregular sleep schedule, and spending over an hour on his phone while on the toilet were putting excessive pressure on his rectum. Initially, the bleeding episodes didn't concern him, but when the pain became unbearable, he confided in his parents. "I'm usually a cheerful person, but thinking back on how I was during that time is unsettling. After the surgery, there were a few days of discomfort, but I'm much better now. I drink three to four litres of water a day and limit my phone use in the bathroom," said Fernandes, now 28. Prolonged use of mobile phones while sitting on the toilet can increase the risk of developing haemorrhoids and a Pune study has flagged concerns over the rising cases of piles and prolapse that are linked to toilet habits. "As part of our study spanning 10 years (2013-2023) at a proctology centre in Pune, we have analysed the health data of 14,500 patients, all between the ages of 18 and 45. We found that more than 90 per cent of the patients admitted to using mobile phones while on the toilet, a habit that significantly extended their time on the commode, often without them realising the risks involved," Dr Ashwin Porwal, Pune-based proctologist and anorectal surgeon who led the study. As per the

assigning Ukhrul as an examination centre, an audit of the exam centre is required to be undertaken which could not be done as initially "the network auditor could not reach... Ukhrul" and subsequently, "due to the current developments in Manipur state and the situation with local dynamics; the team members from outside Manipur state have also shown reservation to travel to both Churachandpur and Ukhrul in Manipur." The affidavit mentions that TCS, in an email on July 31, had informed SSC "that the TCS team in Imphal is of Meitei community and they cannot travel to Churachandpur and Ukhrul as there were serious security concerns/threat to life due to disturbances in the state of Manipur." It was also pointed out that when the last exam was conducted in Ukhrul on May 3, 2023, severe violence erupted on the day, leaving TCS associates trapped in their hotel for eight days under extremely difficult circumstances, and since then no exam has been conducted at the venue. After "TCS expressed their inability to conduct examinations at these two centres in Manipur" owing to the "ongoing violence and agitation", the SSC issued a notification on September 4 removing the two as exam centres.

SSC has now submitted that while the security situation in Manipur is "both sensitive and fluid", it is "keen to hold exams at Churachandpur and Ukhrul". A division bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela on Thursday while taking SSC's assurance on record, directed the Commission to carry out an updated assessment and file a fresh status report in this regard by January 8. The Court is due to take up the matter next on January 15. Manipur has witnessed sporadic incidents of violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities since May last year.



been told to be in their offices till morning and monitor the situation, the CM said. Flight and train services have been suspended from Thursday evening to Friday morning. Coastal areas were put on high alert. Helpline numbers have been announced in the districts and in Kolkata for emergencies. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has its own control room and has kept its emergency workers and officials on standby. The Kolkata Police too announced helpline numbers. Among those evacuated pregnant mothers due for delivery. "Pregnant women and would-be mothers who are due for deliveries have been taken to Sagar Gramin Hospital in South 24 Parganas. This is for precaution. In this hospital alone, there are 100 such women brought there using ambulances," Bhabani Maity, a health care worker attached to the hospital,

Gurgaon woman dies after husband pushes wife off roof

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

A 32-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing his wife by pushing her off a roof of an under-construction building and attempting to disguise it as an accident, the police said on Thursday. The murder took place on Tuesday night when Sector-93 Police Post received information about the death of a woman named Geeta, who had succumbed to injuries after falling from a roof. The police arrived at SGT Hospital, Budhera, inspected the body, and sent it to the mortuary for a post-mortem examination. The accused initially told the family that she had slipped from the roof.

"However, the father of the deceased filed a written complaint with the police, stating that his 28-year-old daughter Geeta would be regularly assaulted by her husband. On Tuesday night, her husband pushed her off the roof of an abandoned house in Wazirpur, which led to her death. Based on this complaint, a case was registered under the relevant sections at Sector 10A police station," said ASI Sandeep, a spokesperson for Gurgaon police. During police interrogation, the man revealed that he repairs bikes for a living in Garhi Harsaru. It was also known that he had a history of assaulting his wife. On the night of the incident, the accused was drinking alcohol in the abandoned house when his wife arrived, leading to a confrontation. Following the argument, he assaulted her and pushed her off the roof, causing her death. "Further questioning revealed that after committing the murder, the accused tried to mislead both the victim's family and the police by claiming that Geeta had accidentally slipped and fallen," Sandeep added. The accused, identified as Dharam Singh, was arrested on Wednesday in Garhi Harsaru. Singh, originally from Kheda Kheri in Dausa district, Rajasthan, lives in Shiv Enclave in Garhi Harsaru. The police will present the accused before the court for further legal proceedings. "The investigation is ongoing," Sandeep concluded.

With caste equations and SP's 'PDA' formula in mind, BJP names 8 candidates

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

In the Phulpur Assembly seat, the BJP has chosen former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Deepak Patel as its candidate. In the Phulpur Assembly seat, the BJP has chosen former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Deepak Patel as its candidate. The BJP on Thursday declared its candidates for eight out of nine Assembly seats that will go for bypolls in Uttar Pradesh on November 13, choosing OBC leaders in four seats and a member of Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav's family in another.

With the Congress deciding to stay away, the bypolls to the Sisamau, Katehri, Kundarki, Karhal, Khair, Phulpur, Ghaziabad, Manjhwa and Meerapur seats will be a direct contest between the BJP and the SP. And keeping caste equations and the SP's 'PDA' or 'Pichde (backward classes or OBCs), Dalits, Alpasankhyak (minorities)' formula in mind, the BJP initially named four OBC, one Dalit, one Thakur and one Brahmin leader as its candidates. Even among its OBC candidates, the party has given due space to leaders from the Yadav, Maurya, Kurmi and Nishad communities.

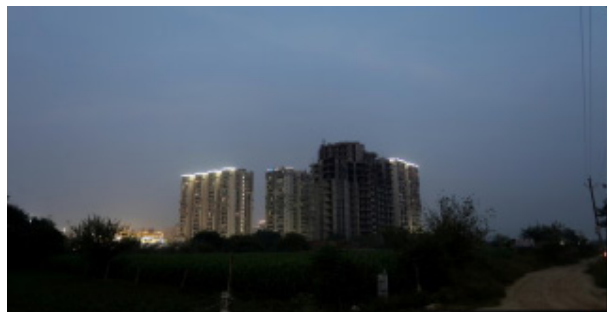
The BJP has named Ramvir Singh Thakur from the Kundarki Assembly seat, Sanjeev Sharma from Ghaziabad, and Sunder Diler from the Khair reserved seat. For four other seats, i.e. Karhal, Phulpur, Katehri and Manjhwa, the BJP has picked OBC candidates Anujesh Yadav, Deepak Patel, Dharmraj Nishad, and Suchismita Maurya, respectively. The Karhal Assembly



seat, which Akhilesh Yadav vacated to retain his parliamentary constituency, will thus witness a contest between two members of his family, Anujesh Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav. Anujesh is the brother-in-law of Akhilesh's cousin and SP MP Dharmendra Yadav. He had parted ways with the SP in 2017 and later joined the BJP. Tej Pratap, the SP's candidate, is Akhilesh's cousin. Former BJP MLA Suchismita Maurya will contest from Manjhwa. Maurya's father-in-law was also a former MLA from the seat. She could not contest in 2022 as the Manjhwa seat was given to alliance partner NISHAD Party. The NISHAD Party was seeking to contest this seat as its sitting MLA Vinod Nishad is now the BJP MP from Bhadohi.

In the Phulpur Assembly seat, the BJP has chosen former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Deepak Patel as its candidate. A former MLA from the Karchana Assembly seat, Patel represents the Kurmi community and comes from a political family as his mother is a former MP from Phulpur. In what is likely to come as a surprise to the NISHAD Party, the BJP has fielded a Nishad leader from Katehri too, another seat that the party was hoping to contest. The BJP chose former BSP MLA Dharmaraj Nishad, who had joined the saffron party before the 2022 Assembly elections, making it clear that instead of banking on regional parties, it is attempting to develop an OBC leadership within the party. In 2022, the BJP had given him a ticket to contest from Akbarpur but he lost the election. He is now hoping to win from Katehri, which has voters from the fishermen and boatman communities. In the lone reserved seat going for bye-election, Khair in Aligarh, the BJP has chosen Surendra Diler, the son of former Hathras MP Rajveer Diler. This will be his first contest. In the two other seats, the BJP has chosen leaders from its cadre. Ramvir Singh, a Thakur leader who had unsuccessfully contested the 2012 and 2017 Assembly elections, has been picked to contest the Kundarki seat, which has significant Thakur and minority votes. In the Ghaziabad Assembly seat, the BJP has fielded Ravi Sharma, who has held several posts in the organisation for over past two decades and is being seen as a Brahmin face in this bye-election. He BJP later declared Suresh Awasthi as its candidate for the Sisamau seat.

Urdu teacher forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram', pushed out of lift in Ghaziabad residential society



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

ghaziabad urdu teacher jai shri ramAlamgir said the accused first looked at him in a "strange manner" when they saw each other on the ground floor around 5 pm and asked him where he was going. The Ghaziabad police on Wednesday arrested a 36-year-old man for allegedly abusing, heckling and forcing an Urdu teacher to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' and ultimately pushing him out from a residential society's elevator while he was there for private tuition on Tuesday. The incident happened at Panchsheel Wellington. "We have arrested the accused, identified as Manoj Kumar, who is a resident of the society," said Lipi Nagaich, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Wave City.

Nagaich said Kumar was booked under sections 126 (2) (punishment for wrongful restraint), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 351 (2) (punishment for criminal intimidation), and 351 (3) (criminal intimidation) of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), based on the complaint of the Urdu teacher, identified as Mohammad Alamgir. Alamgir said the accused first looked at him in a "strange manner" when they saw each other on the ground floor around 5 pm and asked him where he was going. When Alamgir said he taught Urdu to a student at a flat on the 16th floor, Kumar allegedly told him to chant "Jai Shri Ram". Alamgir said when he remained silent and looked away, Kumar became more aggressive. "He forced me out when the elevator stopped on the first floor. Meanwhile, Kumar called another resident and asked him when Muslims had been allowed into the society. They prevented me from going to the 16th floor, and others later asked me to leave the society." "We have initiated the investigation and are exploring all possible angles to identify others involved. The accused is a resident of the same society. During our interrogation, he said he had doubts about the complainant. He said when he asked some questions, the complainant responded in an inappropriate manner, which led to his aggression," said the ACP.

2 held at Mumbai airport for smuggling gold worth over Rs 7.69 crore

GNS News Agency, Oct 26The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) intercepted and arrested two passengers at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Wednesday for allegedly attempting to smuggle gold worth over Rs 7.69 crore. Officials revealed that the two passengers were instructed to deliver 9,487 gram of gold to one of the accused involved in a larger smuggling racket. According to DRI officials, the operation was based on specific intelligence, leading to the interception of the passengers, who were traveling on flight IX 1762 from Jaipur to Mumbai. "Upon examining the passengers' baggage, we recovered three packages containing foreign-origin gold, with a cumulative weight of 9,487 grams and a value of Rs 7.69 crore," a DRI official said. During interrogation, the passengers admitted to attempting to smuggle the gold into the city. "The gold had been brought in via an international flight route. Additionally, it was discovered that both passen-



gers were traveling under fake identities," an officer added. Authorities are now investigating the origin of the smuggled gold and working to identify other individuals connected to the broader smuggling network.

AAP, Delhi LG Saxena fight for credit over reinstatement of civil defence volunteers



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Lieutenant Governor (LG) are seemingly battling it out over cornering the credit for reinstating civil defence volunteers (CDVs) in Delhi. The AAP recently claimed that as promised by former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the AAP government has reinstated the CDVs for a period of four months to mitigate air pollution in the city. While, LG Vinai Kumar Saxena said as chairman of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), he has directed for deployment of CDVs who were removed by Kejriwal.

"In a massive relief to suffering erstwhile CDVs terminated by the then Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal last year in October, Delhi LG, VK Saxena as Chairman of the DDMA, has directed for their deployment for mitigating air pollution in the city over the next four months, begin-

ning 1st November, 2024," said LG office in a press note. LG office said that Saxena has also advised Chief Minister Atishi and the administration to come up with a concrete scheme in the interim, for the CDVs' future engagement after following due process, so that "they are not misled again and face loss of livelihood, in the interim period of four months." Saxena has also directed the government to prepare a scheme for regular engagement of these volunteers. The policy should entail details of their deployment, budgetary provisions, financial approvals, and creation of posts, and take into consideration reservation norms for SC/ST/OBC/EWS, rather than just being another announcement for media consumption, the LG has advised the Chief Minister, said officials from LG office. Meanwhile, Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on X announced that the Delhi Government has decided to deploy the CDVs for four months. "The struggle of bus marshals' has borne fruit, Arvind Kejriwal ji had said that he would get employment back to everyone. "Now they will be given employment to fight against pollution for four months," he said. Bharadwaj added, "Until they are reinstated as bus marshals, we will not let the BJP government at the Centre rest." About 10,000 CDVs were deployed as bus marshals in Delhi Transport Corporation and Cluster buses for the safety of women and children travelling in the buses. But last year, the marshals were removed after the Finance department raised the objection that CDVs are volunteers to be deployed in times of disaster, pandemic, or emergencies with an honorarium and cannot be deployed as full-time employees.

Shiromani Akali Dal not to contest bypolls in Punjab

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

The decision was taken at the party's working committee meeting convened by SAD working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder. The decision was taken at the party's working committee meeting convened by SAD working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder. The Sukhbir Singh Badal-led Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Thursday announced that it would not contest the bypolls to four Assembly seats in Punjab slated to be held next month. The decision was taken at the party's working committee meeting convened by SAD working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder.

Daljeet Singh Cheema, Spokesperson, SAD, told media persons, "After Akal Takht Sahib Jathedar yesterday (Wednesday) said that Sukhbir Singh Badal cannot take part in any political activity till he completes tankha (punishment) we decided to not contest the polls." Notably, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal was declared a tankhaiya (a person guilty of violating Sikh religious code of conduct) on August 30 by the Akal Takht for 'mistakes' committed during the SAD-BJP rule from 2007-2017. The Jathedar had also stated that a meeting in connection to Sukhbir Singh Badal's tankha would be called after Diwali. "The decisions taken by our party president during the SAD-BJP tenure were on behalf of the party and hence we have decided to stand by our president at this time. Though the Akal Takht Sahib's directive is only for Pradhan Sahib (Sukhbir Singh Badal), the entire party stands with our president as the party can't contest the bypolls without the president," Cheema further said. He indicated that many contenders were keen to contest the bypolls and had been working in their constituencies as well but the working committee took a unanimous deci-



Daljeet Singh Cheema, Spokesperson, SAD, told media persons, "After Akal Takht Sahib Jathedar yesterday (Wednesday) said that Sukhbir Singh Badal cannot take part in any political activity till he completes tankha (punishment) we decided to not contest the polls."

sion to not contest the bypolls. Bypolls have been announced for the Gidderbaha, Barnala, Chabbawal, and Dera Baba Nanak Assembly seats that were vacated after their sitting MLAs won the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year. The last date for filing nomination is Friday while polling will be conducted in all four seats on November 13.

Punjab woman cop booked for taking Rs 5 lakh bribe, letting off drug peddlers



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

The Punjab Police on Wednesday booked a woman inspector and two constables for allegedly releasing two drug peddlers arrested with 3 kg of opium after accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh. The FIR registered at the Kot Lse Khan police station in the Moga district identified the accused police personnel as Inspector Arshpreet Kaur Grewal, who was posted as the station house officer, and senior constables Gurpreet Singh and Rajpal Singh.

The FIR stated that on October 1, Grewal and her team apprehended one Amarjit Singh from Datewala Road, recovering 3 kg of opium from him. His brother Manpreet and son Gurpreet were also with him when he was apprehended. However, according to the FIR, the inspector and the constables allegedly struck a deal of Rs 8 lakh via a private person. "After accepting Rs 5 lakh as bribe, the inspector let off Manpreet and Gurpreet and the drug peddling case was registered only against Amarjit Singh," the FIR stated, adding that the recovery in the case was shown as 2 kg opium instead of 3 kg. In the fresh FIR, Manpreet and Gurpreet were also booked along with the police personnel under sections 7 (Offence relating to public servant being bribed) and 13 (2) [criminal miscon-

duct] of the Prevention of Corruption Act; and 18 (punishment for contravention in relation to opium poppy and opium) and 59 (failure of officer in duty or his connivance at the contravention of the provisions) of the Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

While senior constable Gurpreet Singh was posted as head munshi of the police station, Rajpal Singh was posted at Balkhandi police post, and both of them allegedly conspired with the inspector to let off two drug peddlers. Moga Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Gandhi said the inspector and both constables were absconding and were yet to be arrested. "The FIR has been registered based on a tip-off. We are yet to arrest them. More facts will be revealed once they are arrested," said the SSP. In June this year, a family from Bohana village accused the inspector of "covering up" the alleged drug-related death of their 24-year-old son as "heart attack". Grewal, however, had denied the allegations. The AAP MLA, however, is no stranger to controversies. In the recently concluded panchayat polls, he sparked a controversy when he, while endorsing a candidate for sarpanch's post at Dhillwan village of Faridkot, reportedly threatened the opponents saying, "Je kol banda nai banda taan aiki bande banawaange (if someone doesn't fall in line, we will teach them a lesson)." In July last year, the MLA was accused of misbehavior by a Chandigarh Traffic Police personnel after a video of an altercation between the two went viral. In July 2022, he was accused of humiliating Dr Raj Bahadur, the then V-C of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot, after he along with then health minister Chetan Singh Jouramajra allegedly forced the veteran surgeon to lie on dirty bed sheets during an inspection at the prison ward of Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital. The incident had invoked sharp reactions from the medical fraternity. Dr Bahadur had eventually quit.

As Kolkata prepares for Dana, old buildings, trees and street lights causes for concern

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Evacuating old and dilapidated buildings, monitoring electricity lines and setting up a 24-hour control room with emergency teams on standby – as Cyclonic storm Dana continues to barrel towards coastal Odisha and West Bengal, Kolkata braces for its impact. According to officials, the city is keeping in mind the thousands of old and dilapidated houses that line the city while preparing itself. The city also saw over 5,000 trees uprooted during the Cyclone Amphan that hit Bengal in 2020, and is keeping response teams ready.

Dana, a severe cyclonic storm, is expected to cross the coastline of West Bengal and Odisha and make landfall in Bhitarkanika and Dhamara (Odisha) packing wind speeds of 100 to 110 KMPH gusting 120 KMPH. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has also predicted heavy rain in parts of Odisha and Bengal, including Kolkata. "We are already monitoring electricity lines. Special teams will be deployed at every borough office and will clear any fallen trees. The 79 pumping stations in the city have 450 pumps, all of which will stay open the whole of Thursday night. We are fully ready to face this disaster," said Kolkata mayor and West Bengal's urban development minister Firhad Hakim. The KMC has already cancelled the leaves of officials and workers of its emergency departments. They are also monitoring the city using CCTVs. "There are thousands of old and dilapidated



houses in Kolkata, some of which have been declared 'dangerous' by the KMC. People have been evacuated from such houses. We are also co-ordination with the Kolkata Police," said a highly-placed KMC official. Quick response KMC teams are keeping tree-cutting machines ready. To prevent incidents of electrocution, the civic body will keep trident lights turned off, and will also constantly monitor high-mast street lights across the city. "We have seen incidents of electrocution due to short circuits from trident lights during cyclones," a KMC official said. KMC's sewerage and drainage department is also on high alert. Mayor council member Tarak Singh, who's in charge of the department, said additional water pumps have been installed in low-lying areas to clear any water logging.

Govt looks to reduce travel time between Pune and Sambhajinagar by 2 hours with this elevated highway



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

After reducing travel time between Pune and Mumbai via the expressway, the Maharashtra government has initiated the process to reduce travel time between Pune and Aurangabad. The government has decided to undertake the construction of a 53.40 km six-lane elevated highway corridor from Pune city to Shirur, which is part of the proposed six-lane access-controlled Greenfield Expressway. This expressway will connect Pune with Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and further to the Hindu Hruday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi

Mahamarg. The expressway is also known as the 'Greenfield Project'. The Pune-to-Shirur section of the project was recently approved by the state government and will be implemented by the Maharashtra State Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (MSIDCL) at an estimated cost of Rs 5,992 crore, with completion expected in three years. "The expressway will be developed in two parts: from Pune to Shirur, and then from Shirur to Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Work on the Pune-to-Shirur section will begin soon," said an MSIDCL official.

The project is expected to provide faster travel between Pune and Sambhajinagar, addressing the current high traffic volumes and congestion on the existing highway, which slow down travel. "It will reduce travel time by at least two hours, as it will be elevated and have limited access points, including one at Ahmednagar," the official added. The current travel time between Pune and Sambhajinagar is a minimum of five and a half hours to cover 250 km. The proposed highway will pass through Pune, Ahmednagar, and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. The construction of the Pune-to-Shirur stretch, starting from Wagholi and connecting to the Pune bypass, is expected to reduce traffic congestion in Yerawada, Kharadi, and Wagholi, while also providing connectivity to Haveli, Bhor, and Shirur talukas. The entire 225 km elevated highway will have access points at Shirur, Ahmednagar, Nevasa, Devgad, Paithan, and Sambhajinagar, and it is proposed to connect to the Balasaheb Thackeray Samruddhi Expressway.

India's prime residential markets see growth, except Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Except Hyderabad, the property prices in India's prime residential markets registered an annual growth in double digits in the third quarter of year 2024. According to a report released by PropTiger.com on Thursday, the price rally across the top eight residential markets continued in Q3 2024 and property prices firmed up further in the past one year amid a spike in the cost of construction. In its report, PropTiger.com, a subsidiary of REA India, which also owns Housing.com, observed that average property prices in most cities analysed experienced double-digit growth in the third quarter of 2024 (Q3CY2024) compared to the same period last year. The report, titled 'Real Insight Residential: July-September 2024,' attributes this price appreciation to rising demand, especially for high-end properties. While Delhi-NCR saw the highest annual jump in rates at 57 per cent, Hyderabad

ranked the lowest with a mere 7 per cent. According to the report, the western cities of Ahmedabad and Mumbai, along with the southern tech hub of Bengaluru, all experienced healthy price appreciation in the 15-21% range whereas Chennai in south and Kolkata in east saw robust growth of 22% compared to the previous year. Pune, often seen as a more affordable alternative to Mumbai, also saw an 18% increase. However, Hyderabad, known for its IT sector, showed the most modest growth at 7%, which the PropTiger said, indicated a more stable and mature market. Vikas Wadhawan, CFO, REA India & Business Head, PropTiger.com, said: "While we've observed significant price increases, especially in the prime localities of metro and mini metros, it's crucial to view these developments through a wider lens of India's economic growth trajectory and urbanisation patterns."

Trump, Harris hit battleground states with nearly 25 million votes already in



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

The vice president also tackled questions about her changing position on policies such as fracking, saying she does not believe in having "pride associated with a position" when the important thing is to build consensus on issues. Kamala Harris held a marginal 46% to 43% lead nationally over the former president in the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll. Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris told a town hall in Pennsylvania on Wednesday her administration would be different from that of President Joe Biden's, as Republican Donald Trump campaigned in Georgia, another battleground state.

Harris's attempt to distance herself from Biden comes as several polls show the president is a drag on her candidacy and that voters are eager for a new direction with less than two weeks to go until the November 5 election. Harris has mostly brushed off questions on the campaign trail over how — and to what extent — she would break from Biden on policy. "My administration will not be a continuation of the Biden administration," Harris said during a televised CNN town hall. "I bring to this role my own ideas and my own experience. I represent a new generation of leadership on a number of issues and believe that we have to actually take new approaches." Harris's town hall in Chester Township was an attempt to persuade the dwindling number of undecided voters to support her in a closely divided race where even a small percentage of votes could be critical. Fielding several questions from attendees, Harris vowed to tackle high grocery prices, said it was time to end the war in the Middle East and called Trump a fascist and a "danger to the well-being and safety of America."

The vice president also tackled questions about her changing position on policies such as fracking, saying she does not believe in having "pride associated with a position" when the important thing is to build consensus on issues. Harris has repeatedly said she wouldn't ban fracking if elected president, a reversal of her position during her first presidential run in 2019. Asked if she was in favour of expanding the Supreme Court to 12 justices from the current nine, Harris said: "I do believe that there should be some kind of reform of the court, and we can

study what that actually looks like. "Nearly 25 million voters have already cast ballots, either through in-person early voting or mail-in ballots, according to tracking data from the Election Lab at the University of Florida. Several states, including the battlegrounds of North Carolina and Georgia, set records on their respective first day of early voting last week. "The votes in Georgia are at record levels," Trump told a religious-themed "ballots and believers" event in Zebulon, Georgia. "The votes in every state, frankly, are at record levels. We're doing really well and, hopefully, we can fix our country." Trump in recent days has sought to rally turnout from Christian evangelicals, hoping they will set aside any concerns about his frequent off-colour commentary like his tale about Arnold Palmer's anatomy. Trump, who made campaign rallies a staple of his political career starting back in 2015, said in Zebulon that "in many ways it's sad" that his time as a political candidate is coming to a close. If he wins on November 5, he would serve his second and final term. "We've been doing this for nine years, and it's down to 12 days," he said. After Zebulon, Trump was speaking in Duluth, Georgia, for a rally with former Fox News star Tucker Carlson and former independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Also, present was country music star Jason Aldean, who encouraged attendees to vote early, a message that Trump is slowly embracing after denouncing the practice for years.

Pennsylvania and Georgia are amongst the seven battleground states that will decide who wins the presidency, and both candidates are likely to spend much of the rest of their campaigns visiting them. Earlier in the day, Harris seized on comments by Trump's former White House chief of staff John Kelly, who told the New York Times that the former president met the "general definition of fascist" and admired dictators. Harris called Trump's remarks as quoted by Kelly "deeply troubling and incredibly dangerous." Trump's campaign has denied Kelly's account, calling them "debunked stories." The vice president tried and failed to push Trump to agree to a second presidential debate on CNN after she was considered to have won the first and only presidential debate between the two candidates, which took place in September on ABC News.

Kamala Harris, Trump lean on star power to drive voter enthusiasm ahead of polls



Popstar Lizzo joined Harris last weekend for an event to mark the first day of early voting in the "About Damn Time" singer's home city of Detroit, while R&B star Usher appeared with the vice president in Atlanta, where he launched his career. Democrats hope that the potent presence of Obama, America's first Black US president, and his popular wife, former first lady Michelle Obama, will shore up support among African American voters, particularly men, in key cities. The former president is also set to hold multiple events with rocker Bruce Springsteen in the coming days, with Harris joining them in Atlanta on Thursday, her campaign said.

Superstar Taylor Swift endorsed Harris minutes after her first and only debate against Trump, in early September, timing which Duncan called "very strategic... to have the most impact." Trump has relatively few celebs in his corner, but a few power hitters are nonetheless working to push him over the finish line. Most notably is the world's richest person, Elon Musk, who has donated at least \$75 million to efforts at electing Trump and other Republicans. The SpaceX and Tesla boss has also used his influential platform on X, which he rebranded from Twitter after buying it, to boost Trump-aligned and often false narratives about immigration and other hot-button issues. In recent days, he has campaigned for Trump in Pennsylvania, telling voters there that the key swing state could decide the "fate of Western civilisation." But the eccentric billionaire has also courted controversy, including by launching a legally dubious \$1 million daily sweepstakes that only registered voters in swing states can win.

While Musk's support could lift enthusiasm among some who view him favourably, particularly young men, it also risks alienating moderate voters weary from almost a decade of Trump's norm-breaking. The Trump campaign's push to expand support among young men has received a boost from Dana White, the CEO of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), who spoke at the Republican National Convention in July and recently on ex-NFL star Robert Griffin III's podcast. Trump's backers also include several financial personalities with large social media followings, including David Sacks and Bill Ackman, and a few prominent Hollywood actors such as Jon Voight and Dennis Quaid. But aside from Kid Rock and country singer Lee Greenwood, who frequently performs his patriotic anthem "God Bless the USA" at rallies, Trump has few star musicians to lean on in the final two weeks. The Republican instead uses on an oft-repeated playlist, which includes the Village People's 1978 hits "YMCA" and "Macho Man." Trump's campaign has seen several musicians or their estates threaten legal action against unapproved uses of their songs. The most recent action came last week, after the 78-year-old played Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," as performed by Rufus Wainwright, at an event in Pennsylvania.

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

As the US presidential election approaches, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are rallying celebrity endorsements to boost voter turnout. While experts say such endorsements rarely sway undecided voters, they can increase enthusiasm and turnout amongst key demographics. Kamala Harris has Bruce Springsteen and Eminem. Donald Trump has the world's richest man. But will it make any difference on Election Day? Celebrity endorsements do little to sway voter opinion, experts say, and polls show only a sliver of the electorate have yet to make up their mind before the November 5 vote. But big names appearing at campaign events help to grab headlines and boost enthusiasm among key groups, which could spur higher turnout or motivate more early voting — as millions have already done. With two weeks to go, "your real goal right now has to be to get your audience, your voters to show up," Megan Duncan, a communications professor at Virginia Tech, told AFP. In an election expected to be decided by razor thin margins in a handful of states, any marginal lift could prove decisive. On Tuesday, Harris got the endorsement of rapper and Detroit icon Eminem at a rally in the city. Also attending was former President Barack Obama, a superstar in the Democratic Party who rapped the opening segments of Eminem's famous hit "Lose Yourself" to cheers from the crowd.

Duncan said celebrities would be used more by campaigns in the final two weeks to tap into a localised "sense

Harris to end campaign at spot Trump addressed crowd before 2020 riots

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Vice President Kamala Harris plans to lay out her campaign's closing argument by returning to the site near the White House where Donald Trump helped incite a mob that attacked the US Capitol in January 2021 — hoping it will crystallise for voters the fight between defending democracy and sowing political chaos. Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks as she attends a campaign event with former Rep. Liz Cheney. Vice President Kamala Harris plans to lay out her campaign's closing argument by returning to the site near the White House where Donald Trump helped incite a mob that attacked the US Capitol in January 2021 — hoping it will crystallise for voters the fight between defending democracy and sowing political chaos.

Her campaign says Harris will give a speech at the Ellipse on Tuesday — one week before Election Day — and will urge the nation to "turn the page" toward a new era and away from Trump. The site is symbolic, since it's where Trump delivered a speech on January 6, 2021, as Congress was convening to certify Joe Biden's victory in the election that past November. In it, Trump lied repeatedly about widespread voter fraud that had not occurred and urged supporters to fight it. Hundreds then stormed the Capitol in a deadly riot. Word of the speech came from a senior Harris campaign official who insisted on anonymity to discuss an address that is still in development. The Harris campaign is betting that her speaking at the Ellipse can provide an opportunity for the vice president to stress that the country no longer wants to be defined by a political combativeness that Trump seems to relish. Trump has promised to pardon those jailed for their role in the Capitol attack should he reclaim the presidency during the election on November 5.

Closing arguments are important opportunities for candidates to sum up their campaigns and make a concise case for why voters should back them. Trump's campaign suggested he'd begin framing his closing argument while addressing a rally last weekend in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Instead, the former president spent more than 10 minutes talking about the genitals of the late, legendary golfer Arnold Palmer, who was born in Latrobe. Her team announced the coming Ellipse address before Harris attended a CNN town hall in suburban Philadelphia on Wednesday night, where she took questions from an audience of undecided voters as part of what was once envisioned as a debate with Trump. Harris had said she would participate in a CNN debate, but the two sides never worked out a formal agreement. CNN said it also invited Trump to a town hall but that it didn't happen. Harris told the audience that Jan. 6 saw a "President of the United States defying the will of the people in a free and fair election and unleashing a violent mob who attacked the United States Capitol." The first audience question was from a self-described "anti-Trump Republican" who was concerned about the Jan. 6 attack. "I believe the American people deserve better, and they deserve a president who is focused on solutions, not sitting in the Oval Office plotting every day," Harris said.

When it comes to Jan. 6, about 4 in 10 likely voters in a CNN poll from September said the economy was their most important issue when deciding how to vote, and



about 2 in 10 said protecting democracy was. That compared to about 1 in 10 who named either immigration or abortion and reproductive rights. Protecting democracy also seems to be more important to Democrats and Harris supporters. Roughly 4 in 10 voters who back Harris call it their top issue, compared to about 2 in 10 who say that about the economy. For Republicans and Trump supporters, about 6 in 10 name the economy as their top voting issue, followed by immigration. Only 5% of Trump supporters said protecting democracy was their top issue. During the town hall, Harris said Trump is "increasingly unstable and unfit to serve." Asked directly if she thought her opponent was a fascist, Harris responded, "Yes, I do." A short time later, Trump spokesperson Karoline Leavitt responded, "Kamala will say anything to distract from her open border invasion and record high inflation."

During the event, Harris was asked how her presidency would be different from Biden's given that she's been a part of his administration for nearly four years — a question she's answered in recent weeks without naming major contrasts. This time, Harris seemed better prepared to talk about how things would be different, saying, "My administration will not be a continuation of the Biden administration" and saying she represented a "new generation of leadership on a number of issues." "I'm pointing out things that haven't been done that need to be done," the vice president said of Biden's policies, also noting, "I'm not going to shy away from saying, 'Hey, these are still problems that we need to fix.'" She pointed specifically to her promises to increase federal grants for small businesses and to expand government funding for home health care to people caring for their elderly parents and children simultaneously. One audience member pressed Harris on key issues where she's flip-flopped. That includes hydraulic fracturing, which she suggested that she'd support banning while running in the 2020 Democratic primary but now says should be allowed to continue. Harris said Wednesday that the U.S. can invest in a greener energy economy without halting fracking, which is key to the economy of parts of Pennsylvania. She added that she sees many key policies differently now: "Frankly I now have the experience and perspective of having been vice president." Asked about the greatest weakness she'd bring to the White House, Harris offered, "I'm kind of a nerd sometimes, I confess" while admitting to making "parental mistakes" with her two stepchildren. The vice president also mentioned praying every day, saying, "I was raised to believe in a loving God, to believe faith is a verb."

US Mideast minority weigh punishing Kamala Harris in polls for Israel's support

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

As the Middle East conflict escalates, Lebanese-Americans in Detroit grapple with political choices, questioning their support for Democrats over US stance on Israel. Community leaders voice concerns about the impact on upcoming elections. Iman Beydoun El-sayed is among the thousands of Lebanese-Americans living in and around Detroit, watching with horror the unfolding devastation of the war in the Middle East. "I've always voted more Democrat. I've always been a Democrat, but with what's going on, I'm not sure how I feel about that anymore," she said.

Like many in her community, she is contemplating denying the Democratic contender for president Kamala Harris her vote to punish her administration for its support of Israel. El-sayed, 37, a native of Michigan with Lebanese roots, left her deli in Dearborn Heights to raise donations for the situation in Lebanon. Since mid-October, Israel's intensifying campaign against Hezbollah militants has claimed 1,500 lives, including civilians, and displaced more than 800,000 people, the United Nations says. "We all have relatives, friends, family victims, back home," said El-sayed, who wore a sweatshirt emblazoned with Lebanon's cedar tree emblem. "The fact that no candidate is speaking of a ceasefire or an arms embargo is pretty disheartening," she added, suggesting she would probably vote for Green party candidate Jill Stein. In 2020, Wayne County, which includes Detroit and its suburbs, voted 68 per cent for Joe Biden, contrib-



uting to his 150,000-vote victory over Donald Trump in the important swing state. Ronald Stockton, a retired professor of political science at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and an expert on the Middle East, said Americans with roots in Arab countries number around 300,000 in Michigan and were instrumental in Biden's win. Former president Donald Trump "had angered Arab Americans with his anti-Muslim and pro-Israeli policies. And so they voted very strongly for Biden in 2020," Stockton said. Dearborn's history is inextricably linked to the motor industry and the waves of immigration that accompanied its expansion in the 20th century. Henry Ford's hometown elected its first Muslim mayor in 2022, and the automaker's factories stand alongside America's largest mosque. With two weeks to go before the November 5 vote, there is palpable anger with the Biden administration, accused of blindly backing Israel with financial and military aid, as well as with vetoes at the United Nations against calls for a ceasefire in Gaza. For Marwan Faraj, a 51-year-old entrepreneur who arrived from Lebanon

35 years ago, Democrats have ignored the February primary, when more than 100,000 voters cast blank ballots to protest Washington's Middle East policy. "It's a slap in the face, and we should return that," he said as he sat in Qahwah House, a Yemeni chain cafe. "They have been supporting this ethnic cleansing and genocide since day one, with our tax dollars, and that's wrong," Faraj added. Unlike in 2020, when it supported Joe Biden, the Arab American Political Action Committee, an influential local political organisation, called for a vote "for neither Harris nor Trump." The organisation said that both Harris and Trump "blindly support the criminal Israeli government led by far-right extremists, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu." Stockton said anger with the war goes far beyond the Arab-American community, touching many young people and making the conflict a "dangerous" issue for the Democrats. Some in the community nonetheless have sounded the alarm on the dangers of Trump, who instated a "Muslim ban" on travellers from several Muslim-majority countries

and moved Washington's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. "We have no choice but to vote for Kamala Harris," Ismael Ahmed, a veteran of the Democratic Party and a vocal advocate on Arab-American issues, wrote in the Detroit Free Press. "Kamala Harris is calling for a cease fire and a two-state solution" while Donald Trump "refuses to acknowledge the occupation of Palestinian lands, opposes an independent Palestinian state and steadfastly supports Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu," he said. For one Dearborn Heights-based imam, Mohammad Ali Elahi, voters are "so frustrated and so heartbroken that they are not thinking about that calculation, they think 'what would be worse (than what) you already see.'" Voters question how the situation in Gaza and Lebanon could be worse, said the cleric, who is originally from Iran. Lebanon-born activist Micho Assi, a Democratic community activist, said local people have become disillusioned. "Normally, I would be mobilising and knocking doors and trying to get out the vote. Right now,

We cannot risk another bout of inflation: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das



At the current juncture of the economic cycle, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cannot risk 'another bout of inflation' and so there is a need to wait for more evidence of inflation aligning durably with the 4 per cent target, Governor Shaktikanta Das wrote in the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held from October 7-9. The newly constituted six-member MPC left the repo rate – the key policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for 20 consecutive months due to worries over higher inflation in the October policy. The decision to keep the policy rate steady was taken in a 5:1 majority, with MPC member Nagesh Kumar voting for a 25 basis points (bps) cut. The MPC changed the monetary policy stance to 'neutral', after keeping it as 'withdrawal of accommodation' for 28 straight months.

"At this stage of the economic cycle, having come so far, we cannot risk another bout of inflation. The best approach now would be to remain flexible and wait for more evidence of inflation aligning durably with the target," Das, who voted for keeping the repo rate steady and changing policy stance to 'neutral' wrote in the minutes, released on Wednesday. Consumer price-based inflation (CPI), or retail inflation, surged to a nine-month high of 5.49 per cent in September from 3.65 per cent in August. It is expected to remain elevated in October. Beyond the short-term, however, the outlook for food inflation is becoming more favourable with improvement in kharif and rabi season prospects.

"Despite the near-term uptick in inflation, the outlook for headline inflation towards the later part of the year and early next year points to further alignment with the 4 per cent target," he said, adding that the conditions were appropriate for a change in monetary policy stance

to neutral from withdrawal of accommodation. The newly appointed external MPC member, Nagesh Kumar, wrote that it was an opportune time for the RBI to start the process of normalising the monetary policy. "Given that inflationary expectations have been successfully anchored, and industrial demand in both domestic as well as export markets is flagging, a rate cut could help to revive demand and help boost private investment," Kumar wrote. He said that the Indian industry was clearly suffering from demand deficits in both domestic and external markets. Demand deficits may be the reason private investment has not picked up momentum despite the companies' healthy balance sheets and all the reforms and incentives extended by the government.

RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said, "A gradual wait-and-see approach to removing policy restraint in terms of the policy rate remains appropriate as long as inflation is not lastingly close to its target." Patra, who voted for a status-quo on the policy rate and shift in stance to neutral, wrote, "...it is possible to envisage that the persistence of inflationary pressures experienced so far could dissipate with a less restrictive stance of monetary policy". The MPC's newly inducted external member, Saugata Bhattacharya, said, "The arduous battle against inflation is far from won, but we are more confident of eventual success in bringing CPI inflation durably closer to the target". Bhattacharya voted for a change in stance to neutral while keeping the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent. "It needs to be emphasized, given the current heightened uncertainty, both global and domestic, that a very cautious and calibrated approach to easing is called for; the costs of a 'policy error' are likely to be large," he wrote. Another external MPC member, Ram Singh, wrote that food inflation was an important source of uncertainty, which has increased in August from the preceding month. "Going forward, the moderation in headline inflation can be unsteady in the near term due to adverse base effects," he said. MPC member Rajiv Ranjan said that considering the uncertainties still prevailing on the global front, a cautious data dependent approach with regard to further course of monetary policy actions was called for. "Between now and December, we will have greater clarity on some of the uncertainties – US elections, geopolitical risks and Chinese fiscal stimulus and its impact on global commodity prices," he said. He voted for a status quo on rates and change of stance to neutral.

Boeing factory workers vote to reject contract and continue 6-week strike

Boeing factory workers voted Wednesday to reject the company's latest contract offer and to continue a six-week strike that has halted production of the aerospace giant's bestselling jetliners. Local union leaders in Seattle said 64% of members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers who cast ballots voted against accepting the proposal. "After 10 years of sacrifices, we still have ground to make up, and we're required to do so by resuming negotiations promptly," Jon Holden, the head of the IAM District 751 union, said in a statement Wednesday evening. "This is workplace democracy — and also clear evidence that there are consequences when a company mistreats its workers year after year." The labor standoff comes during an already challenging year for Boeing, which became the focus of multiple federal investigations after a door panel blew off a 737 Max plane during an Alaska Airlines flight in January. The strike has deprived the company of much-needed cash that it gets from delivering new planes to airlines. On Wednesday, the company reported a third-quarter loss of more than \$6 billion. Union machinists assemble the 737 Max, Boeing's best-selling airliner, along with the 777 or "triple-seven" jet and the 767 cargo plane at factories in Renton and Everett, Washington.

The offer rejected Wednesday included pay raises of 35% over four years. The version that union members rejected when they voted to strike last month featured a 25% increase over four years. The union, which initially demanded 40% pay boosts over three years, said the annual raises in the revised offer would total 39.8%, when compounded. Boeing workers told Associated Press reporters that a sticking point was the company's refusal to restore a traditional pension plan that was frozen a decade ago.

"The pension should have been the top priority. We all said that was our top priority, along with wage," Larry Best, a customer-quality coordinator with 38 years at Boeing, said on a picket line outside a Boeing factory in Everett, Washington. "Now is the prime opportunity in a prime time to get our pension back, and we all need to stay out and dig our heels in." Theresa Pound, a 16-year Boeing veteran, also voted against the deal. She said the health plan has gotten worse, with higher premiums and more out-of-pocket expenses, and her expected pension benefits would not be enough, even when combined with



a 401(k) retirement account. "I have put more time in this place than I was ever required to. I have literally blood, sweat and tears from working at this company," the 37-year-old said. "I'm looking at working until I'm 70 because I have this possibility that I might not get to retire based on what's happening in the market." Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg told staff in a memo this month that about 10% of the company's worldwide workforce of 170,000 would be laid off in coming months if the strike did not end.

He said the company also would further delay the rollout of a new plane, the 777X, to 2026 instead of 2025, and would stop building the cargo version of its 767 jet in 2027 after finishing current orders. Before the third-quarter results were announced Wednesday, Boeing had reported losing more than \$25 billion since the start of 2019. Boeing has said that average annual pay for machinists is currently \$75,608. Early in the strike, Boeing made what it termed its "best and final" offer. The proposal included pay raises of 30% over four years, and angered union leaders because the company announced it to the striking workers through the media and set a short ratification deadline. Boeing backed down and gave the union more time. However, many workers maintained the offer still wasn't good enough. The company withdrew the proposed contract on Oct. 9 after negotiations broke down, and the two sides announced the latest proposal on Saturday. The last Boeing strike, in 2008, lasted eight weeks and cost the company about \$100 million daily in deferred revenue. A 1995 strike lasted 10 weeks.

For product consistency, Air India plans to minimise overlap with Vistara aircraft on common routes

Air India plans to minimise the overlap between its older aircraft and Vistara planes at the individual route level after the carriers' impending merger in a bid to provide certainty to flyers regarding the quality of product they are likely to experience, according to sources in the know. Vistara's 70 aircraft—63 narrow-body and seven wide-body jets—offer a superior passenger experience than most of Air India's fleet, which still has a number of old legacy aircraft from its government ownership days.

Air India has already announced that after the merger, which will take effect on November 12, the Vistara product will continue as it is for a few months at least and customers will be able to identify flights operated by the Vistara aircraft and crew easily as they will have a four-digit flight number starting with 2, against Air India's three-digit flight numbers. Sources indicated that the product differentiation is likely to continue at least till June, when the retrofit programme for Air India's legacy narrow-body fleet is scheduled to be completed. With new aircraft coming in and older aircraft undergoing refurbishment, Air India will eventually be able to offer a uniform product across its fleet and the planes will largely become fungible.

In the interim, the Tata group airline will try and ensure that each route has consistency in its product offering, which would mean that the carrier will look to deploy

Vistara's aircraft and its own new aircraft on certain priority routes like those connecting metropolitan cities with one another, and deploy Air India's older aircraft on certain other routes, per sources. The idea is to set the customer's expectations right and offer a consistent product on that route irrespective of the flight booked. The rejig will not be limited to just the domestic network of the enlarged Air India, and would include international routes as well where currently both Air India and Vistara operate. Slots at certain international airports are also being adjusted accordingly. "Vistara aircraft and Air India's new aircraft will most likely be used to operate metro-to-metro routes, while the older planes will be deployed on some other routes. The overlap will be minimised on international routes as well, like Delhi-Frankfurt flights are likely to be operated by the Vistara aircraft, while Delhi-Paris may be served only by Air India aircraft... Of course, a few overlaps here and there cannot be avoided," said a source with direct knowledge of the matter. In its nearly 10 years of operations, Vistara had made a mark for itself as the premier full-service carrier in India that offered a superior product in a market dominated by budget carriers. With the Tata group deciding to merge Vistara into the group's flagship airline Air India—which the Tatas acquired from the government in January 2022—there were concerns about Vistara's product and service quality after the merger.

'I would pinch him': Riddhima Kapoor Sahni admits to being jealous of brother Ranbir as a child



During an episode of the Netflix show *Fabulous Wives vs Bollywood Wives*, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni opened up about how her daughter, Samara, feels jealous of her younger cousin, Raha. In a candid conversation with her mother, Neetu Kapoor, she and her husband Bharat Sahni shared how Samara's jealousy has even prevented them from holding Raha. In the clip, Neetu asked Bharat, "When Samara was born, Riddhima stopped going out with you, remember? And later on, I said, 'Riddhima have another child.' She said, 'Bharat will leave me.'"

Bharat replied, "No, no, no! I was ready." He revealed, "Samara doesn't want. I have not held my own brother's kids ever since Samara was born." Neetu pointed out, "You didn't hold Raha, remember?" Riddhima disclosed that she "could not" do that in the presence of her daughter. "She's so jealous," she said. Reflecting on her childhood, Riddhima acknowledged that she, too, was a jealous sibling when her brother, Ranbir Kapoor, was born. Neetu Kapoor humorously recalled, "She would throw him off the cradle... and then she would pinch him." Riddhima agreed that she was indeed a jealous kid. "I would pinch him and all," she said. This insight into sibling jealousy across generations raises questions about how such emotions develop and how parents can manage them effectively to maintain healthy family relationships.

Common causes of sibling jealousy and how to spot them. Neha Parashar, senior psychologist at Cadabams Mental Health and Rehabilitation Hospital, tells indianexpress.com, "Sibling jealousy often arises from resource competition for parental attention, affection, or approval. According to sibling rivalry theory, children feel

threatened by a new sibling, fearing a loss of parental investment." Early signs include regression, where older children may revert to infantile behaviours, as well as aggression, irritability, or social withdrawal. "Studies have shown that the arrival of a sibling can disrupt attachment security, leading to these behaviours as coping mechanisms," notes Parashar. Parents serve as mediators in sibling conflicts. Parents serve as mediators in sibling conflicts (Source: Freepik)

Does such jealousy deter couples from having another child?

Parashar states that while sibling jealousy may cause concern, it's typically not a significant factor influencing decisions about family planning. "Studies on family dynamics suggest that sibling jealousy is a natural developmental process. However, some parents may experience anxiety about managing multiple children's emotional needs," she remarks. Parashar adds, "Family therapy research indicates that couples who have seen intense sibling rivalry may opt for a more spaced-out approach to having children, allowing the older child more time to adjust."

Role of parents in managing sibling dynamics. Parents serve as mediators in sibling conflicts, says Parashar, and their behavioural modelling influences how children resolve conflicts. "Research shows that authoritative parenting, which balances warmth with structured boundaries, is most effective in managing sibling rivalry." However, if jealousy escalates into physical aggression or severe emotional distress, professional intervention may be needed. Cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) can help children develop emotional regulation skills and process feelings of inadequacy or jealousy.

Strategies parents can use to help a child cope with feelings of jealousy. Parashar recommends that active participation in family activities and fostering sibling cooperation can mitigate rivalry. "One effective strategy is emotion coaching, where parents guide children through understanding their feelings of jealousy, reinforcing the idea that love is not a limited resource. Structured playtime, where the older child is involved in caregiving tasks, can also reduce competitive behaviours and promote bonding."

Breakdancing alert: Man develops scalp tumour after performing head spins for nearly two decades

Breakdancing, an art form celebrated for its creativity and athleticism, has gained immense global recognition, especially with its debut at the 2024 Paris Olympics. However, a recent case report from Danish researchers reveals a lesser-known risk associated with one of breakdancing's most iconic moves: the headspin. The study, published in the *BMJ*, highlights the case of a man in his early 30s who developed a benign scalp tumour after performing headspins for nearly two decades. Known colloquially as "headspin hole" in the breakdancing community, this condition has raised questions about the long-term physical effects of repetitive scalp trauma.

While the link between breakdancing headspins and scalp tumours remains inconclusive, the report opens a crucial discussion about the potential risks. Dr Rashmi Sriram, Consultant-Dermatology, Fortis Hospital, Rajaji Nagar, explains, "Researchers have yet to definitively prove that headspins directly cause scalp tumours. However, the repeated trauma associated with this move could increase the risk of certain scalp conditions like seboreic keratosis or cysts." It's important to note that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has not classified breakdancing as a carcinogenic activity, which means more research is necessary to determine whether breakdancing poses any cancer risks. Types of scalp tumours: What to watch for

Scalp tumours can vary widely in appearance and severity. According to Dr Sriram, benign tumours like lipomas or cysts are often painless, movable, and not life-threatening. These growths are typically easy to manage and can be surgically removed without complications. However, malignant tumours, such as squamous cell carcinoma or melanoma, present more severe challenges. "Malignant tumors may bleed, ulcerate, or change colour, which are signs that shouldn't be ignored," says Dr Sriram. The prognosis for scalp tumours depends mainly on the type of tumor, its size, and how early it is detected and treated. Brain tumour Scalp tumours can vary



widely in their appearance and severity. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Who is most at risk?

While anyone can develop a scalp tumor, certain groups are more vulnerable. "People with a genetic predisposition to tumors, those with fair skin, and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk," explains Dr Sriram. Additional risk factors include excessive sun exposure, a history of skin cancer, and radiation therapy. For breakdancers, repetitive scalp trauma from moves like the headspin could be an emerging risk factor. While this connection has yet to be fully confirmed, the repetitive friction and pressure on the scalp certainly warrant further investigation. Treatment and prognosis. The good news is that scalp tumours, both benign and malignant, can often be treated effectively if caught early. "Benign tumors are usually easy to remove surgically, and malignant tumors, if detected early, can be treated with surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy," Dr Sriram explains. Early detection significantly improves treatment outcomes, making regular monitoring essential for those at higher risk, including breakdancers. In some cases, less invasive treatments such as topical medications or periodic check-ups may be sufficient for managing the condition.

Idli may not be very high in protein; two easy ways you can make it

Idlis, a popular South Indian dish, are often considered a healthy choice due to their inclusion of urad dal. Many assume that this makes them a good source of protein. However, author and content creator Krish Ashok refutes this stating that the traditional idli batter is made with a higher proportion of rice compared to urad dal, leading to a lower protein content per serving. In his video on Instagram, he states, "In most homes and restaurants, the ratio of rice to urad dal in the idli batter is three parts rice to one part urad dal. In restaurants, it's much worse because urad dal is expensive. Secondly, dal by themselves are not primarily protein sources." To consume idlis that are truly high in protein, Ashok suggests adjusting the ratio. "For example, a Kanchipuram idli uses a 2:1 or sometimes 1:1 ratio of urad to rice." Another way to do this is by replacing urad dal with soybean.

Kanikka Malhotra, consultant dietician and certified diabetes educator, agrees, "Rice and urad dal (black gram) are usually combined to make the batter used to make idlis. Although urad dal has a high protein content (approximately 25g per 100g), the batter used to make idlis mostly consists of rice, which lowers the overall protein content of the dish. For example, the amount of protein in a typical idli varies from 1 to 2 grams, depending on the recipe and serving size. "Nutritional advantages of increasing the amount of urad dal or replacing it with soybean. Malhotra mentions, "Increasing the proportion of urad dal in the idli batter can significantly boost the protein content. Urad dal is an excellent source of plant-based protein, containing about 25g of protein per 100g. By using a higher ratio of dal to rice, such as 1:1 or 2:1, the protein content per idli can be enhanced to 2-3 grams. This makes idlis a more balanced and protein-rich meal option." Substituting urad dal with soybean in idli batter is



another way to increase the protein content, she states. Soybean is an even richer source of protein, providing about 36g of protein per 100g. Using soybean in place of urad dal, while maintaining the same rice-to-dal ratio, can boost the protein content of idlis even further. This protein boost makes idlis suitable for those looking to increase their protein intake, such as athletes or individuals following a plant-based diet. Potential impact on the texture or flavour of idlis when altering the traditional proportion of urad dal or using soybean. Altering the traditional proportion of urad dal or using soybean in idli preparation can have notable impacts on both the texture and flavour of the final product. The urad dal in the batter adds a lot of sponginess and softness to the idli. This is because urad dal produces more gas during fermentation, which results in a texture that is fluffier and lighter. Idlis produced with a higher proportion of urad dal tend to be more delicate and fluffy than those made with a lesser dal ratio to rice.

with ACP Pradyuman aka Shivaji Satam; promo to release on October 26.



Pradyuman stepping out of a police car in the pouring rain, holding an umbrella. He is seen rushing towards a bomb site, with the camera zooming in on Abhijeet's (Aditya Srivastava) intense eyes. The tension builds as the iconic whistle of the show's theme plays in the background, evoking nostalgia among the show's dedicated fans. Sony TV's official Instagram shared the promo with the caption, "Mark your calendars - 26th October ko hoga ek dhamakedar promo drop."

Fans were thrilled to hear that CID is making a comeback to TV screens. One fan commented, "Hamara favourite show cid??????" Another fan wrote, "I am so excited ??????" A fan also expressed hopes that the new series would bring back the entire original cast. He wrote, "FINALLY!!! Just want the whole cast in it ??." One more fan wrote, "Finally Goosebumps. We Are Super Duper Excited For CID Season 2 thedayashetty."

CID began airing in 1998 and its last episode aired in 2018. Earlier, in an interaction with Friday Talkies, Shivaji Satam suggested that CID went off air after a successful 20-year run, possibly due to a rift between the show's producer and the channel. "We used to ask the channel why they were shutting it down. We were neck-to-neck with KBC. Yes, the show experienced a slight decline in TRPs, but what show doesn't? Before discontinuing the show, they tampered with its schedule. Originally, it aired at 10 pm, but they started airing it at 10:30 pm or sometimes even at 10:45 pm. This weaned the audience away, or at least they tried to. They likely had a problem with the producer and wanted to replace him. But for us, it wasn't just about loyalty; it was about friendship. We rose up together. We were a team," he said.

CID fans, assemble! The makers of one of India's longest-running television series have decided to revive the show, and they announced this exciting news with a clip on Friday. Sony TV shared the clip on social media, featuring the show's beloved stars Shivaji Satam, Aditya Srivastava, and Daya Shetty.

The promo begins with Shivaji Satam's ACP

Pani movie review: Joju George's directorial debut falls flat due to subpar writing

Pani movie review: Actor Joju George's debut directorial begins in a slightly Tarantinoesque manner, following two youngsters — Don Sebastian (Sagar Surya) and Siju KT (Junaiz VP) — as they go through a day in their seemingly uneventful lives. They work at a motorcycle repair shop run by an elderly man in Thrissur, Kerala, and both appear quite naive and laid-back. On this particular day, after spending some time at the shop, working, they head out to begin their 15-day 'vacation'. With a carefree attitude, they wander around the city. Meanwhile, Pani (which literally means "work," but is also used to refer to an action or event that is orchestrated to harm someone) also lets the setting grow progressively bigger, reminiscent of Anurag Kashyap's Gangs of Wasseypur movies (2012) and Lijo Jose Pellissery's Angamaly Diaries (2017), with more characters entering the stage, all building towards a pivotal incident that will forever change the characters' lives.

Through dialogues, Joju also introduces the viewers to the city and those who call the shots there. As Don and Siju traverse the crowded streets, they encounter a man and immediately strike up a conversation with him regarding a land deal. When the man refuses to cooperate, they murder him in broad daylight on a crowded footpath, yet ensuring no passersby notices. They then leave his body in an abandoned ATM kiosk, revealing that the murder was premeditated and that Don and Siju carried out the killing in exchange for money, marking this as the first pani (a term also used to describe crimes carried out by quotation gangs) in the narrative. "Fear is a reaction; courage is a decision," Pani begins by displaying this quote, widely attributed to Winston Churchill. The decision to feature these words, believed to have been spoken by the notorious (late) Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, as the film's intro is intriguing as soon, we realise that the quote doesn't refer to the protagonists alone — it reflects the common mindset of all the characters in the narrative, including the villains. Thrissur is ruled by Giri (Joju George) and his three friends (played by Prashanth Alexander, Sujith Shankar and Bobby Kurian). Having forged their friendship in college, the group continues to share a close relationship in both their personal and professional lives. Despite numerous cases against them, they remain untouchable and carry on with their daily lives in plain sight, unconcerned with the police or their rivals. In the first scene featuring Giri himself, Joju establishes his character in two ways — first, by displaying his overwhelming love for his wife Gauri (Abhinaya) and the strong bond they share; and second, by showcasing his influence in the city, as he receives a call from a friend seeking a favour, just like Don Vito Corleone's (Marlon Brando) intro scene in The Godfather (1972). Joju's narrative approach, which contrasts with the usual style of presenting the drama before the crime (the murder by Don and Siju), sets a distinctive tone for the film, allowing the writer-director to gradually build the world of Pani and introduce the key players, setting the stage for a do-or-die battle. While the world-building and character introductions in the first act are solid, suggesting that Joju and team are on track to deliver an outstanding actioner, Pani's script falters very soon and begins bombarding viewers with stale moments, incidents and dialogues, ultimately diminishing the impact, leaving the film unimpressive.

Soon, Don and Siju are thrust into the same tired tropes that have been overused by makers to conveniently portray villains as pure evil — by depicting them as perverts and molesters. The plot takes a turn when Don gropes Gauri, leading Giri to beat them up. Humiliated and enraged over being beaten up, Don and Siju decide to seek revenge. And what do they do? Yep, you guessed it right: they rape the woman. Because, what else can easily ensure that the viewers' blood also boils as much as the characters'? Thus, what began as a crime actioner quickly turns into a stereotypical revenge tale, where men battle over a woman's 'lost dignity.' While the depiction of sexual violence isn't as extreme or insensitive as in films like Vettaiyan or Christopher, writer-director Joju uses it to conveniently justify the plot and distract from its lack of depth. As the movie progresses, Don and Siju go on the run, while Giri and his team — backed by almost the entire city of Thrissur — go on the hunt for them. Along the way, several characters overstay their welcome, while others — such as Giri's mother Devaki (Seema), his cousin and police officer Kalyani (Chandini Sreedharan) and the wife (Abhaya Hiranmayi) of Bobby Kurian's character — are discarded or forgotten, despite their importance to the narrative, further highlighting the aimlessness in the script. The poorly written dialogues make matters worse and often come across as silly. From Devaki's 'advice' to Gauri after the rape to the conversation between the characters played by Prashanth Alexander and Sujith



Shankar at the hospital, following the death of one of their friends — many moments that should have elevated the film fall flat due to subpar writing. At the same time, Joju also conveniently sidesteps providing answers in many situations, which highlights the lack of research and effort put into the script. For instance, how did Don and Siju manage to enter Giri and Gauri's house, where they committed the crime? How did they escape after falling into a river with strong currents? Despite showing no remorse and having committed heinous acts, including rape and shooting someone dead at point blank, why did they spare the characters played by Prashanth Alexander and Seema after attacking them? How did someone, with a sniper, enter a court complex and shoot Don and Siju? How were they kidnapped from the hospital? While a film doesn't have to spoon-feed its audiences and should leave enough dots for viewers to connect, the omission of such key details can only be dubbed as lazy writing.

Nonetheless, what partially redeems Pani is Joju's impressive directorial skills, complemented by the contributions of the technical crew. While Pani may not rank among "some of the best Korean new wave films," as Anurag Kashyap claimed prior to its release, it certainly delivers some jaw-dropping moments with its stunning visuals and high-octane energy. Unlike typical crime actioners, including many recent ones, which tend to follow a similar style — except for films like Amal Neerad's Big B (2007) and Bachelor Party (2012) — Joju approaches Pani in a distinctive, unique way. His directorial talents shine in scenes featuring large crowds, particularly during the moments leading up to Don and Siju's kidnapping from the hospital and the shooting in the court. The encounters between Giri and the villain duo are also striking, thanks to Joju's skillful tension-building and portrayal of their friction without showing them locking horns physically. Had the writing been stronger, Pani could have been a significant addition to Malayalam cinema and might have been mentioned alongside classic gangster films like Kauravar (1992), Rajavinte Makan (1986), Black (2004) and Samrajyam (1990). Joju's commanding screen presence has saved yet another film. It's doubtful if any other actors, aside from superstars Mammootty and Mohanlal, possess such a commanding screen presence and vocal impact as Joju does. His portrayal of Giri also stands out as it diverges from his recent typecast as a grey-shaded middle-aged man with deep-seated traumas. Abhinaya seamlessly brings Gauri to life, skillfully conveying the character's varied emotions with great finesse. Joju and Abhinaya's moments together are also heartwarming. The chemistry between Sagar and Junaiz, which gained much recognition in Bigg Boss Malayalam Season 5, enhances their characters without needing explanations for their bond, as their shared nature of cold-blooded criminals is enough. While Sagar delivers a strong performance as the perverted and manipulative antagonist, Junaiz's portrayal of the inexpressive psycho falls short in several areas, relying heavily on their chemistry for impact. Abhaya Hiranmayi and Bobby Kurian also shine in their roles, while Prashanth Alexander makes an impression, even though his character lacks depth. Pani, pani review, pani movie review, Joju George, pani malayalam movie, pani movie rating, pani movie joju, pani malayalam movie review, pani malayalam movie rating, pani malayalam movie cast, pani movie Malayalam, pani movie 2024, joju george movies, joju george new movie, joju george pani, joju george new movie 2024, joju george latest movie, malayalam movies, malayalam movies 2024 Joju George and Abhinaya's moments together are also heartwarming. (Image: Joju/Facebook) Vishnu Vijay and Sam CS's music deserves commendation, as does Manu Antony's editing.

Jayam Ravi opens up on people commenting on his divorce with Aarti: 'There is no point judging them...'



After years of being mostly controversy-free, Jayam Ravi finds himself at the centre of one of the biggest issues he has faced in his personal life. In September, a day before his birthday, Ravi issued a statement that he was dissolving his marriage with wife Aarti, and has been proceeding legally to get separated. A day after his birthday, Aarti, in a statement, revealed that she was blindsided by Ravi's decision to divorce. In between all this, there were reports that speculated that Ravi's purported rela-

tionship with singer Kenishaa Francis was the reason behind this decision. While Ravi and Kenishaa have categorically denied these allegations, they seem to circle around the actor, who is currently busy with the promotional drive of his upcoming Diwali release, Brother. In a recent interview with Galatta Plus, Jayam Ravi opened up about being a celebrity in today's digital age, and how to deal with the stigma of divorce. Acknowledging that a sense of privacy is a tough ask for cinema stars, Ravi said, "Anything I do gets highlighted. People like cinema, and they like talking about actors. So, there is no point judging them for it. We can only let things be."

But Ravi asserted that the only way to move forward as a society from such behaviour is to develop a sense of individual responsibility. "Some people have the maturity to not spread rumours. Some don't care about the intensity of the matter, and want to breach privacy. Why should I bother about all this when I know what I am." On the movie front, Jayam Ravi, who is awaiting the release of Brother, his maiden collaboration with director M Rajesh known for his comedy entertainers, is set to turn director next year. He also has a few acting assignments lined up, and is in talks to star in a direct Hindi film. However, there have been no official announcements about these projects.

Kartik Aaryan recalls standing outside Mannat with a huge crowd to catch a glimpse of Shah Rukh Khan: 'I've been on the other side'

Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan, who is awaiting the release of his highly anticipated film Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, recently spoke about being a huge fan of Shah Rukh Khan. The actor recalled that before becoming a star, he visited Mumbai's Bandstand and stood outside Shah Rukh's residence, Mannat, with a massive crowd, hoping to catch a glimpse of the superstar. Speaking to Bollywood Hungama, Kartik said, "I have been a big fan of Shah Rukh. When I came to Mumbai for the first time, I went to Bandstand and stood in front of Mannat on a Sunday to get a glimpse of Shah Rukh." Kartik shared that, at this point in his life, he hadn't seen any celebrities except Shah Rukh outside Mannat. "At that time, I had only seen Shah Rukh in his car because he would come out of his house on a Sunday, and that's when I saw him for the first time," he added.

Kartik Aaryan is known for being approachable and humble, often engaging with fans. Videos of him readily fulfilling fans' requests for handshakes and photographs have frequently surfaced on the internet. Talking about his fans and why he sees a part of himself in them, Kartik explained, "I've been on the other side, where I was a fan of people, and I tried to get a glimpse of them or just get a photograph with them. So I can understand when fans have that reaction. I try to make as many people happy as possible." In an earlier interaction, Kartik spoke about his loyal fan base and how he had to build it over time. "I am lucky enough to have earned a loyal fanbase that I don't



want to lose ever. I love my fans immensely. And my fan base is something that nobody can snatch away from me. It is not something that I have acquired overnight. It has taken me a lot of time to reach here," he said.

Shoojit Sircar reveals why he dropped Kishore Kumar biopic after four years of work: 'When I learnt about...'



Filmmaker Shoojit Sircar, who on Wednesday announced his upcoming film I Want To Talk with Abhishek Bachchan, recently revealed that he had been working on a biopic of legendary singer and actor Kishore Kumar. During an interaction with Scroll, Shoojit shared that he had been researching Kishore Kumar's life for the last

four years but decided to drop the project after discovering that another filmmaker, Anurag Basu, was working on the same subject. He explained, "I had been working on a script on the life of Kishore Kumar. I did almost three to four years of research with the family, but there were a couple of other scripts being worked on at the same time, including by Anurag Basu."

Shoojit also discussed how it's difficult for him to return to a project once he has decided to drop it due to unforeseen circumstances. During the conversation, he mentioned that he had even developed a draft for the film before deciding to move on. "I had developed a draft, but when I learnt about Anurag, I didn't think there was any point in two people doing the same thing. So that went on ice. Once you lose the momentum, it's a big challenge to go back to it," he said. Interestingly, Shoojit's last film, Sardar Udham, was also a biopic, based on the life of Udham Singh, who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer in London to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar. Rumours are swirling that Anurag Basu has approached Aamir Khan to portray Kishore Kumar in his biopic. A report in Pinkvilla had earlier quoted a source close to the production as saying, "The Kishore Kumar biopic is a subject close to the heart of Anurag Basu and Bhushan Kumar. Aamir is also a big admirer of Kishore Kumar and loved the vision that Basu has. The filmmaker has treated it very differently, and that's what has fascinated Aamir the most." Despite the reports, neither Anurag nor Aamir has made any official statement on the matter. Meanwhile, Aamir is gearing up for the release of his next film, Sitaare Zameen Par.

Pooja Hegde stuns in shimmering golden saree ahead of 'Deva' release

Mumbai: Actress Pooja Hegde, who is awaiting the release of her film 'Deva', shared a series of her stunning photos in an elegant, shimmering golden saree. Hegde was among the many attendees at Manish Malhotra's star-studded Diwali party. On October 22, the ace fashion designer hosted a lavish Diwali bash at his home in Mumbai, and it was a glamorous night. Giving fans a glimpse of her outfit, Pooja shared her stunning photos on Instagram. Alongside the images, she wrote, "Diwali season starts early this year." In the glamorous photos, the 'Radhe Shyam' star is seen wearing an ivory gold-embellished saree with intricate embroidery along the border. She paired the saree with a stylish glittery blouse and accessorized her look with a statement necklace and chunky bangles. Hegde opted for minimal glam makeup and soft, wavy hair.



Other celebrities spotted at Manish's Diwali bash included Sidharth Malhotra, Kiara Advani, Shahid Kapoor, Mira Rajput, Varun Dhawan, Natasha Dalal, Karan Johar, Shraddha Kapoor, Vedang Raina, Khushi Kapoor, Janhvi

Kapoor, Tripti Dimri, Tamannaah Bhatia, and Arjun Kapoor. On the work front, Pooja Hegde will be seen sharing the screen with Shahid Kapoor in Rosshan Andrews' upcoming action thriller 'Deva'. The first look of the film was unveiled in July this year. Sharing the poster, the makers wrote,

Rani Rampal announces retirement:

‘Parents saw lot of poverty, but their thinking was progressive, they let me pursue hockey’



A 7-year-old Rani Rampal never thought she'd go on to play for the Indian women's hockey team for more than a decade. On Thursday, at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi, she brought down the curtains on a glittering career — with its share of highs and lows — as she announced her retirement. And so, the 29-year-old finished her playing career with 254 matches, including the honour of leading India back to the Olympic Games in Rio, and a famous yet heartbreaking fourth-placed finish in Tokyo.

Rani rose from Shahabad, Haryana and made her international debut as a 14-year-old. But her journey to that point was one filled with obstacles. “There was a lot of struggle because my childhood was not that good, but the passion never ended,” the former India captain, who was born to a cart-puller, said. “I just wanted to represent the country. My parents saw a lot of poverty. Mujhe lagta hai waise toh woh gareeb the, par soch unki ameer thi (their thinking was very rich). Because they gave me the chance to go out and play.” Rani considers playing multiple Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games as the high points of her career but there were lows too. Injuries often hampered her, most significantly the one post-Tokyo 2020 that saw her miss a year of

action. She did make a comeback at the 2022 Pro League, where she earned a landmark 250th cap. But towards the back of coach Janneke Schopman's reign, she couldn't get back into the side despite stating on multiple occasions she was ready to extend her playing career. She'd last play for India in January 2023.

“I had a wonderful career for 15-16 years and everybody has ups and downs in life. I don't want to say much about that point of time, but from my end I don't have any regrets about it. At that time also my aim was that whatever I had to do, I had to do it 100%. I even fought for it. I am still so happy, to play 250 times for the country is not easy,” Rani said. Rani was moulded into a star forward who would go on to score many a memorable goal in India colours, by coach Baldev Singh. “I consider myself lucky that I got a coach like Baldev Sir who guided me in life, apart from being a hockey player, he taught me such things which are still with me in life. Discipline, punctuality, humility. My first hockey stick was given to me by Baldev Sir because our family could not afford any equipment. And senior players too who went on to play for India from Shahabad Markanda — who were my inspiration — also used to help me sometimes. ‘This kid is playing well, let's give her shoes and sticks.’ Rani had already taken up the role of mentor of Soorma Hockey Club in the upcoming inaugural women's edition of Hockey India League. During the auction, she had mentioned how there was still a “keeda” (itch) to continue playing but when the JSW Sport-owned franchise offered her a role on the sidelines to mould younger players, she couldn't say no. Even before that, she had started her coaching career at the sub-junior level. “I'd just tell the girls that I mentor to believe in themselves, that's the most important thing at this level,” she said of her coaching style. And if she is able to pass on the “junoon” she had for hockey, she'd be moulding many young stars. But, with Hockey India officially retiring her jersey No 28, there'd be only one Rani Rampal.

Washington Sundar's 7/59 had a magical ball and followed ‘God’s plan’

LAST WEEK, when India slid to a shock defeat in the first Test against New Zealand in Bengaluru, all-rounder Washington Sundar was playing a Ranji Trophy game for Tamil Nadu in Delhi. He scored a hundred there and suddenly things began to stir in his life. Not only did he get a call from the national selectors for the second Test, but he also leapfrogged frontline spinner Kuldeep Yadav to make it to the playing XI for the game. And on Day 1 of the Test, when New Zealand were coasting at 197/3, with the celebrated pairing of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja unable to get past the bat of the last game's “player of the match” Rachin Ravindra, off-spinner Washington imposed himself on the game. More known for his batting in his short career of five Tests — averaging close to 50, he had made a stellar contribution with the bat in the famous Gabba win of 2021 — the 25-year-old proved to be India's secret weapon with the ball. His 7/59 helped India bounce back in the three-Test series; they are trailing 0-1. With the senior off-spinner in the side, Ashwin taking 3/64, the two Chennai boys accounted for all 10 Kiwi wickets.

“It was God's plan,” Washington said about the turn of events in his favour, from the anonymity of domestic cricket to potentially a series-saving spell. And it was a heavenly ball that got rid of Rachin and shot out New Zealand for 259. In reply, India were 16/1 at stumps. He forked out a ball designed in a spin laboratory to castle Rachin. The ball drifted in but the movement was subtle. It didn't move too much for Rachin's long levers to smother the spin or too less for him to block. It dropped, a couple of centimetres shorter than the batsman expected, and spun across the bat-face. Rachin thought he had covered the line, but he hadn't. The turn was minimal, it just shaped rather than spat away. Had the ball turned more lavishly, it would have evaded the off-stump. Washington crouched and shrieked in delight before his teammates huddled around him. The dream ball would begin a dream day for him. He snaffed six more, in one of the greatest spells by an Indian spinner at home.

Through the day, the cricketer with an unusual name was trending on social media. There is an interesting backstory to the name. It is a tale that stems from the gratitude of his father. Washington is named after P D Washington, an ex-Army man who used to be a godfather of sorts for his father, Sundar, helping him buy cricket gear during his playing days. He died just before the birth of the India all-rounder. In gratitude, Sundar named his son after the man. Washington had to wait for his hour of glory. During overs in the second session, the unassuming all-rounder tried to draw Rohit Sharma's atten-



tion, doing warm-up routines in front of the captain, running and whispering in his ear, and appealing for nothing. His first 13 overs were fruitless — the wicket column refused to reflect his perspiration. Then, when he was brushing his studs, removing the clipped grass, at the fag end of the session, he heard Rohit's call. He smiled and waited for Jadeja to finish his over. Then he strolled in, waiting at the top of his run-up even before Rachin had realigned his guard. The New Zealand batsman made him wait, tying his shoelaces and scanning the field. The next ball, Washington's wait ended with that dreamy delivery. “It was a dream ball... it means a lot. It was magical for sure,” he would say later.

The Rachin wicket was just the start. On both sides of the tea break, he ejected Tom Blundell and Daryll Mitchell. As his day got brighter than the Pune sun, Washington displayed the sharper layers of his bowling, stemming from acute self-awareness. He knows he is no Ashwin, with a large spread of variations in his tool box. He doesn't possess a carrom ball; neither is he a prodigious turner of the ball. Once in a while, he slips in the under-cutter that fizzles along with the angle, like the one that burst through Tim Southee's defence. But he purchases bounce from the surface, aided by his height, higher release point and the over-spin he imparts. His point of impact was thus higher than both his spin peers. Resultantly, the ball often hit the higher part of the bat. He comes across as one-dimensional, but is not. He shrewdly modulates his pace, not a wild fluctuation, but gentle switches. Depending on the batsman's height and reach, he adapts his lengths. The deviations were minuscule. But that often suffices. He is like a taller, right-handed version of Jadeja. In the span of 10 overs, he has bypassed the hierarchy, going past Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel. He is a comfortably better batsman than both, and illustrated on Thursday that he is not a tie-an-end-up workhorse. It was the day he came of age, from a diligent sidekick to the lead act.

Gukesh suffers 1st defeat in 38 classical games one month before World Chess Championship showdown with Ding Liren

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

File image of World Chess Championship contender Gukesh at the Tat Steel India Chess Tournament in Kolkata in 2023. (Express Photo by Partha Paul) File image of World Chess Championship contender Gukesh at the Tat Steel India Chess Tournament in Kolkata in 2023. Almost exactly one month before his World Chess Championship duel with reigning world champion Ding Liren, 18-year-old Gukesh experienced his first loss in classical format at the European Club Cup 2024 against 34-year-old Russian grandmaster Dmitry Andreikin. This is Gukesh's first defeat in the classical format in 38 games.

The European Club Cup is one of the last tune up events for Gukesh as he plots his quest to become the youngest ever world champion in the sport. Gukesh has been edging closer to achieving the hallowed 2800 rat-

ing mark in classical chess along with compatriot Arjun Erigaisi. Earlier this month, Gukesh had reached 2794, which is his peak rating. The defeat for Gukesh against Andreikin means that the Indian teenager's live rating is now at 2788.5 in the live ratings which are updated in real-time. Also playing in Gukesh's team SuperChess at the tournament is Praggnanandhaa, who also experienced defeat against M Amin Tabatabaei. Gukesh had been unbeaten at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest last month, where he won the individual gold medal while playing on the top board for India with eight wins and two draws. China had avoided Ding Liren facing Gukesh at the Olympiad by resting the world champion. Gukesh has only been playing in classical events ever since he qualified for the World Chess Championship by winning the cut-throat Candidates tournament earlier this year in Toronto.

‘Was great opportunity for me to play Tamil Nadu-Delhi game’: Washington Sundar highlights significance of Ranji game for recent success



GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Washington Sundar India New Zealand India's Washington Sundar, left, and India's Ravichandran Ashwin celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand's Glenn Phillips during the day one of the second cricket test match between India and New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, in Pune, India, Washington Sundar, India cricket's latest man of the moment after his antics wiped out New Zealand on Thursday, attributed his success to playing red-ball matches at the domestic level.

“It was a great opportunity for me to play Tamil Nadu-Delhi game because it's good to be playing (with the) red-ball every now and then and keep getting the rhythm in red-ball (cricket) going — both with the bat and ball —

and be consistent with it,” the allrounder said in a press conference after Day 1 of the 2nd India vs New Zealand Test. “The fact that I also got to bowl a lot of overs in that game definitely helped. I am really grateful for this day, I don't think I will ever forget this day, (it was) very special,” he added. Before getting a call-up in the Indian squad for the second Test, Sundar was representing Tamil Nadu in a Ranji Trophy match against Delhi. His performance in that match where he scored 152 runs while batting at No.3 and took 6 wickets, convinced the selectors to call him up for the Pune Test. “That has always been a self-talk for me because I have always wanted to figure out things that would help me to get better, help me to keep evolving as a cricketer. That is the only thing I have been focusing on in the last few years and I am really grateful to (the) god for me to be able to experience these kinds of situations,” Sundar said. The wily allrounder on Thursday took 7/59 against New Zealand which replicates the career-best figures of veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who he bowled alongside in the match. “We communicated a lot and they brought in a lot of qualities, skill sets and experience. That really helps for someone who is playing along with them. It definitely helped me today and it is special to be playing in the game in which both of them are part of as well. I hope we will get to play a lot more games together,” Sundar said on Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.

The story behind Washington Sundar's name

Washington Sundar name India's Washington Sundar, left, celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand's Glenn Phillips during the day one of the second cricket test match between India and New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, in Pune, India. There is an interesting story of gratitude behind Washington Sundar's name. India's hero on Day 1 of the Test against New Zealand in Pune got his unusual name thanks to his father for whom this was a tribute to his benefactor. This is from the time the India all-rounder's father was trying to make it to the Tamil Nadu Ranji Trophy team.



During his days of struggle, father Sundar was helped by his aged neighbour, a sports enthusiast who had retired from the Army. He was PD Washington, who had taken a special liking to him while watching him play at the Marina ground. With Sundar coming from a humble background, Washington would help him by buying him cricket gear and even ensure he got a good education while growing up. “He came to see me play and would always encourage me. Because I came from a humble background, he ensured that I didn't miss out on cricket and bought me the whites and helped in whatever way

he could. He was so fond of cricket that he wanted me to pursue my dream,” Sundar had said. In 1999, Washington passed away. A few months later, Sundar's wife gave birth to a baby boy in a complicated delivery. “My wife had a difficult delivery. But the baby survived. As per Hindu custom, I whispered a God's name, ‘Srinivasan,’ in his ear. But I decided to name him Washington in memory of the man who had done so much for me,” he would recall.

Former India hockey captain Rani Rampal announces retirement

GNS News Agency, Oct 26

Former India women's team captain Rani Rampal on Thursday announced her retirement, marking an end of a 16-year-old career. Hailing from a small town in Haryana, the 29-year-old hockey player had led the women's team to their best ever finish at an Olympics, coming fourth in the Tokyo Games in 2021. She has also helped the team win a Junior World Cup medal, Asian Cup, and was one of the key reasons why India could qualify for the back-to-back Olympics for the first time. “It's been an outstanding journey. I never thought I will play for so long for India. I have seen a lot of poverty from childhood but focus was always to do something, represent the country,” she told reporters here. Hockey India (HI) decided to retire Rani's jersey number 28 to honour her glorious career. She was also given Rs 10 lakh by HI. She made her international debut in 2008 and has scored 205 goals for India in 254 appearances. She was also honoured the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2020 and was also a recipient of the Padma Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian award, in the same year.

“An era of excellence comes to an end! Today, we bid farewell to the one and only Rani Rampal, an icon who has defined Indian hockey for over a decade. From leading India to countless victories to being an inspiration for aspiring athletes across the country, Rani's legacy will forever shine. Thank you, Rani, for your unmatched



dedication, leadership, and passion. You've paved the way for the next generation, and your impact on Indian hockey will be felt for years to come,” Hockey India posted on X. Since early 2023, however, she hasn't played for the country after she was sidelined by the then coach Janneke Schopman back in 2022. The coach has said that the decision was taken for the team as a whole while Rani had expressed her disappointment for not being given a clear reason for her exclusion. “Whatever happened with me in the last two years wasn't right. I came back from an injury, was the top scorer at the National Games but wasn't picked. The best person who can answer this is the Chief Coach or the selectors because I don't know the answer,” the player had said.

WFI withdraws India from World Ch'ship, writes to UWW about govt interference

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Wednesday withdrew the Indian team from the World Championship, conveying to world governing body, UWW, that the sports ministry is interfering with its autonomy. The senior World Championship in 12 non-Olympic categories is scheduled to be held in Tirana, Albania from October 28. The WFI had recently announced selection trials for the U23 and World Championship, which was challenged as contempt of court by the protesting wrestlers who questioned the legality of the selection by the suspended federation. WFI withdrew the selection trials notice and the court, on October 4, decided not to proceed with the contempt petition. “Satyawart Kadian, the husband of Sakshi Malik, approached the court recently saying that the WFI should be charged with contempt of court. We won't be able to send the Indian team for the World Championship now, we have conveyed this to the UWW,” a WFI source told PTI.

“This is all happening because of the ministry's suspension. There are no grounds to keep the suspension. If the ministry lifts the suspension, all these issues won't crop up. It's just pathetic that wrestlers have to suffer because of a few wrestlers and the ministry is not lifting the

suspension,” the source added. The WFI was suspended by the Sports Ministry on December 24 soon after the polls were conducted to elect the new office-bearers. “Unfortunately, the MYAS (ministry) continues to interfere in the autonomy of the WFI. The MYAS has ordered on 24th December 2023 to the WFI to cease and desist from discharging the day to day administration of WFI and had directed the Indian Olympic Association (NOC of India) to make an Ad-Hoc Committee for governance of WFI,” WFI President Sanjay Singh wrote in his letter to UWW President Nenad Lalovic. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA), though, had disbanded the ad-hoc panel managing the Federation in March this year after UWW lifted the ban on WFI in February. “Though the IOA through its President Ms. PT Usha had supported the WFI in the case, it is the MYAS that is the problem creator because of their letter of 24th December 2023 which is being used as a tool to interfere in the administration of the WFI by the wrestlers.” The WFI began to function but wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and her husband Satyawart filed a plea before the court for appointing an administrator to manage the sports body in an interim order.