

# INDIAN CHRONICLE

8 October, 2024 | Tuesday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:205 | Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

## Tea vendor from Peddapalli gets five government jobs

Peddapalli: A tea vendor from Dharmaram mandal, Udan Shiva Mahesh got five government jobs within a span of six months. He managed to get selected for General Junior College lecturer, DSC, Gurukulam JL, Post Graduate Teacher and Trainee Graduate Teacher. He is already working as a Hindi lecturer in Mamada Gurukulam school in Nirmal district. Shiva Mahesh is the second of three children of Udan Laxman and Susheela, who operates a tea stall in Rajarampalli in Jagtial district. Natives of Dharmaram mandal headquarters, the couple migrated to Rajarampalli and opened a tea stall to run the family.

## Nampally Court to Hear Nagarjuna's Petition Tomorrow

Hyderabad: Actor Nagarjuna to Appear in Court for Statement Recording The Nampally Court is set to hear a petition filed by popular actor Akkineni Nagarjuna tomorrow. The court has summoned Nagarjuna to appear for the recording of his official statement in connection with the ongoing case. Along with the actor, statements from key witnesses will also be recorded, as requested by the defense lawyer. The case, which has garnered significant public attention, was initially scheduled for hearing today but has now been postponed to tomorrow. The court aims to gather more information from all parties involved before proceeding with further hearings. Nagarjuna's legal team is expected to provide additional evidence to strengthen their stance.

## PM Modi meets Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu in New Delhi



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

The inauguration of a new runway in the Maldives built under an airport redevelopment project assisted by India and the official launch of the RuPay card in the archipelago nation on Monday (October 7, 2024) are aimed at boosting economic ties and tourism cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu jointly virtually inaugurated the runway at the Hanimadhoo International Airport and also witnessed via weblink a live transaction using a

RuPay payment service card in the Maldives.

The launch took place after the two leaders held extensive talks which Mr. Muizzu in his press statement said were to "chart a new path for the future collaboration". The Maldivian president accompanied by First Lady Madam Sajidha Mohamed and a Maldivian delegation arrived in India on Sunday evening. Though the Maldivian president attended PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony in June, it is his first bilateral visit to India. New Delhi, Oct 07 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu during joint Press Statements, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI Photo) New Delhi, Oct 07 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu during joint Press Statements, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI Photo) | Photo Credit: ANI Prior to the launch of different India-assisted projects in the Maldives, a small official video was played in which details about these projects were shared in the presence of the two leaders at the Hyderabad House.

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

New Delhi: Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, has appealed to Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, to include Hyderabad's Comprehensive Sewerage Master Plan (CSMP) under AMRUT 2.0 or consider it as a special project. The Chief Minister met Union Minister Khattar on Monday in Delhi, explaining that Hyderabad's historic city is still operating with an outdated sewerage system, which is inadequate for present needs. He further brought to the Minister's attention the lack of proper sewerage systems in nearby municipalities. Highlighting the need for Hyderabad and its surrounding municipalities to achieve 100% wastewater treatment to maintain the city's global standards of living, CM Revanth Reddy informed the Union Minister that a DPR (Detailed Project Report) has been prepared for the CSMP, covering Hyderabad and 27 nearby municipalities. The plan spans 7,444 kilometers

## Hyderabad CSMP to be included in AMRUT 2.0 - Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's appeal to Union Minister...



with an estimated cost of ₹17,212.69 crore. The Chief Minister handed over the DPR to Minister Khattar, requesting financial assistance through AMRUT 2.0 or by recognizing it as a special project.

The Chief Minister also emphasized that the Musi River runs for 55 kilo-

meters through Hyderabad, with 110 kilometers of sewage draining into the river. To prevent this, a DPR has been prepared for constructing trunk sewers, large-size box drains, and new sewage treatment plants at a cost of ₹4,000 crore. The Chief Minister submitted this DPR to the Union Minister,

seeking approval and swift permission to commence the work. Regarding the expansion of Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase 2, CM Revanth Reddy informed Minister Khattar that DPRs have been completed for several corridors, including Nagole to Shamshabad Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (36.8 km),

Raidurgam to Kokapet Neopolis (11.6 km), MG Bus Station to Chandrayangutta (7.5 km), Miyapur to Patancheru (13.4 km), and LB Nagar to Hayathnagar (7.1 km), totaling 76.4 kilometers. The estimated cost of the expansion is ₹24,269 crore. CM Revanth Reddy proposed a 50.

## Bhatti asks Singareni management to reduce coal production cost



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka while ensuring all kinds of support to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), asked the company to reduce the cost of coal production to survive the future challenges and competitions. Speaking at a programme organised to distribute bonus cheques to Singareni workers on Monday, Bhatti said there was a need to reduce the cost of coal production to a large extent, only then would the company have a future. The production cost of contract workers was much lower than the production cost of Singareni workers in coal production, and if these differences were corrected, the company could achieve more profits and development, he observed. A percentage of the profits was being used by the company to start new mines and new businesses, he said, adding that the State government was taking measures to protect the interest of both the company and its workers. "The Singareni organization belongs to its workers, and the company's assets are the property of the workers. The government's only responsibility is to sustain and support them," he said.

## KTR slams CM for prioritising Musi project over people's welfare

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for prioritising the Musi Riverfront Development Project over people's welfare and development. He pointed out that the Chief Minister was claiming that the State was drowning in debts while simultaneously initiating grand programmes like the Musi project with Rs 1.5 lakh crore. "Everyday Revanth Reddy keeps crying about the State's mounting debts on one hand, but is undertaking costly initiatives like the Musi Riverfront project which is not necessary for many," he said, questioning the reasoning behind the State government's plans. Taking to X, Rama Rao listed out numerous electoral promises of the Congress government which remain unfulfilled even after 10 months in power.

## Medicine Nobel 2024 awarded to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

"Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun were interested in how different cell types develop. They discovered microRNA, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that play a crucial role in gene regulation." The Nobel Assembly said in a press statement. Both Ambros and Ruvkun are American biologists. Ambros currently works at the Programme in Molecular Medicine at the University of Massachusetts in the U.S. Ruvkun is a professor of genetics at the Harvard Medical School and researches microRNA and RNA interference mechanisms at the Ruvkun Lab at Massachusetts General Hospital. Ambros and Ruvkun's groundbreaking discovery revealed a completely new principle of gene regulation that turned out to be essential for multicellular organisms, includ-



ing humans, the Nobel Assembly said. "Understanding the regulation of gene activity has been an important goal for many decades. If gene regulation goes awry, it can lead to serious diseases such as cancer, diabetes, or autoimmunity," the Nobel Academy said. Photo: The Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine. III. Mattias Karlén "Their surprising discovery revealed an entirely new dimension to gene regulation. MicroRNAs are proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function." MicroRNAs, or

miRNAs, are small, non-coding molecules of RNA. They are typically around 19-24 nucleotides long and play an important role in determining how much messenger RNA (mRNA), which carries genetic information, eventually gets translated into protein. Protein synthesis is a multi-step, complex cellular process that occurs in two stages - transcription and translation. In the transcription phase, the gene's DNA sequence is copied into mRNA in the cell nucleus. The mRNA then enters the cell fluid and attaches itself to the ribosome which is the site of protein synthesis. Translation step is next, where another type of RNA, transfer RNA (tRNA) molecules bring specific amino acids to the ribosome where they are linked together in a particular order as instructed by the mRNA, resulting in the formation of protein.

## Congress to launch four-phase 'Nyay Yatra' in Delhi from Oct 23 targeting BJP, AAP govts



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

New Delhi: The Congress party is set to embark on a 'Nyay Yatra' in Delhi, beginning on October 23 and concluding on November 28. The Yatra will be conducted in four phases to align with the festive season in India, and there is speculation that top leaders of the party like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra might join it. The first phase of the yatra will start on October 23 and it will go on till October 28. The second phase will be held

between November 4 and November 10.

The third and fourth phase of the yatra will also be held in November from November 12 to November 18 and then from November 20 to November 28. The Congress will highlight what it claims are failures of the BJP three-time winning MPs at the Centre in Delhi. The party also plans to compare the present situation in the national Capital with the time of late Sheila Dikshit, under whose leadership as Delhi Chief Minister the city saw significant development. A key theme of the Yatra will be the ongoing clashes between the Modi government at the Centre, the Lieutenant Governor (LG), and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government. The Congress will focus on issues such as liquor policy scandal, corruption and anti-development policies claiming that the AAP government is hindering progress in the national Capital. During the yatra, the Congress plans to hold around a dozen exhibitions highlighting what it says are the failures of the AAP government on key issues. The party will present specific case studies to reinforce its message and make the issues more relatable to the general public.

## AIMIM, Congress workers clash in Hyderabad, 5 injured



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Hyderabad: Five persons were injured when All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and Congress party workers clashed at Nampally constituency on Monday afternoon. The clash took place around afternoon when Congress party leader and Nampally MLA contestant candidate Feroz Khan, was meeting people during the course of a padayatra in the Nampally constituency. The Congress party workers were suddenly confronted by a mob led by AIMIM Nampally MLA, Mohd Majid Hussain who rushed towards the Congress party workers. A free for all ensued with the AIMIM workers attacking the Congress party workers and vice-versa. In the melee, a man snatched away a lathi from a woman constable and attacked a Congress worker on his head. In the videos that were making the rounds in several social media platforms, the Nampally MLA was also heard hurling abuses at the Congress party leaders and workers. A handful of policemen had a tough time in controlling both the groups. On receiving information, senior police officials along with additional forces rushed to the spot and dispersed the gathering. The police presence in and around Bazarghat, Red Hills, AC Guards, Nampally, Mallepally and Humayunnagar was increased following the clash.

## 'Sanjoy Roy raped, murdered Kolkata doctor when she went to sleep': CBI chargesheet in RG Kar Case

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against the prime accused, Sanjay Roy, in the rape and murder case of a trainee doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, officials said on Monday. In its chargesheet filed before a special court in Kolkata, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said Roy, who was working as a civic volunteer with the local police, allegedly committed the crime on August 9 when the victim had gone to sleep in the hospital's seminar room during a break, they said. The agency did not mention the charge of gangrape, indicating that Roy alone committed the crime, according to the officials. Kolkata Police had arrested Roy on August 10 on the basis of CCTV footage which showed him entering the seminar room in the early hours of August 9, they said.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## The Chagos handover

THE UK's decision to cede the sovereignty of Chagos Islands to Mauritius is prompted by geopolitical compulsions rather than diplomatic generosity. Had the UK been truly magnanimous, it would have also handed back the Diego Garcia military base to Mauritius, which it gave to the US as far back as 1966, via an exchange of notes. It's clear now, just in case it wasn't to those wearing rose-tinted glasses, that the US-UK alliance will never give up control of this strategically important island, citing its "commitment to safeguarding global security" and "averting threats to peace" in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

All the rhetoric, however, cannot conceal the fact that the times when Britannia ruled the waves are long gone. According to the World Directory of Modern Military Warships, the British Royal Navy is ranked ninth on the global list of the strongest navies. Even the Indian Navy is placed higher in terms of the fighting strength. The table-topper is the US, with China breathing down its neck. Heavily dependent on America in the seas, the UK just can't afford to upset its close ally by parting with Diego Garcia. Britain's position had become untenable when the International Court of Justice said in 2019 that its continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago constituted 'a wrongful act entailing the international responsibility of that State'. Eager to be seen as a responsible Western power, the UK has come up with an agreement that suits it to a tee. The pact is also aimed at curbing the use of the Indian Ocean as an illegal migration route to the UK. Britain has tactfully put the onus on Mauritius to take responsibility for migrants who may arrive on Diego Garcia and make asylum claims. Wary of the growing Chinese assertiveness in the IOR, the UK is busy wooing Mauritius, which has close trade ties with Beijing.

## In Sangwan Vs Sangwan fight, Charkhi Dadri to choose between ex-jailor & educator



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

One has a PhD in history from Rohtak's Maharshi Dayanand University and the other was in government service for over 22 years. One did her Masters from Delhi's St Stephen's College and ran an NGO and the other is the son of a veteran BJP leader and has served as jail superintendents in many prisons. This is a tale of two Sangwan first timers — Congress' Manisha and BJP's Sunil — from Haryana's Charkhi Dadri assembly constituency. Pitted against each other, the two first-time candidates have had successful careers but took the plunge into politics to prove their mettle.

Forty-one-year-old Manisha, who ran an NGO seven years ago, says, that as part of her campaign to set up libraries in villages, she distributes books of competitive exams. "With an NGO, I could reach only a limited number of people. I decided to join politics so that I could help many others who otherwise I was not being able to reach," says Manisha, who is the general secretary of Haryana Pradesh Mahila Congress. Ignoring the claim of sitting Independent MLA, Sombir Sangwan, who joined the Congress ahead of the assembly polls, the party fielded Manisha and is betting big on her clean, philanthropic image. Fifty-year-old Sunil, son of former minister Satpal Sangwan, sought voluntary retirement from the post of superintendent at the Gurugram district jail. A day later he was inducted in the BJP and was given a ticket to contest from Charkhi Dadri.

The induction of Sunil, whose tenure as Sunaria jail superintendent saw rape and murder convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim released six times on parole and furlough, was followed by sharp criticism by the Congress. Of the 10 occasions in which Ram Rahim Singh was on parole or furlough, six were when Sangwan was superintendent of the jail where the Dera chief was kept in custody.

The Dera chief's temporary releases have mostly come days before state or local body elections in Haryana, the latest being a 20-day parole granted on October 1, just four days before the state goes to polls. With political opponents trying to corner him on the issue, he has claimed that he had rejected his parole plea in 2019 and in 2020. To field Sunil, the BJP too ignored the claim of wrestler Babita Phogat, who was the party candidate from the seat in 2019 but finished third. She could poll on 24,786 votes (19.59 per cent vote share), followed by Satpal Sangwan, who had then contested as a JJP candidate and polled 29,577 votes (23.38 per cent of the vote share). Satpal Sangwan is a prominent face in the constituency. He has contested six elections from here and won twice. He was also a minister during the Hooda government. In April this year, he joined the BJP.

As Charkhi Dadri lies in the southern part of Haryana from where a considerable number of youths join the Army, Manisha has banked on the Agniveer issue to campaign. "Every year nearly 4,000 youths used to join the Army from here before the introduction of the Agniveer scheme but now this number has gone down to around 500. The BJP government has stashed employment from the youths here. If the youth don't get jobs, they may turn to drugs," Manisha says. Understanding the problem of irrigation and drinking water in her area, Manisha is also prompt enough to ensure supply of their rightful clean water within one month of her win. Sunil, whose daughter and son are serving in the Army, highlights the poor sewerage system of Dadri town in his campaigns. He assures the voters that he will improve the sewage system once elected to power. He promises to lay the foundation of a medical college within two months of his win. He also assures four-laning of the Jhajjar-Loharu road.

## Why 'Milords' need security: High Court Registrar General seeks X category security cover for all 300 judges of Delhi courts



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

In the wake of several incidents of security breach inside courtrooms, the Registrar General of Delhi High Court has asked Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora to provide X category security cover to 300 judges of Delhi courts to ensure their safety and security. Kanwal Jeet Arora, the registrar general of the High Court, has asked Arora to take a decision in eight weeks. Meanwhile, the security division of the Delhi Police that is facing a staff crunch has forwarded the matter to the Union Home Ministry to take a final decision on providing X category security cover to 300 judges, which means they would need at least 600 police personnel as personal security officer (PSO).

In a letter to Sanjay Arora on September 13, Registrar-General Arora said, "I would once again like to draw your attention to the judgment, passed by the Hon'ble Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on July 19, title as "Court on its motion vs state, where it has been directed that; Since, the judicial officers are also prone to such threat, GNCTD shall consider whether allowance or any alternate arrangements like providing PSO can be made for them or not... Let a decision in this regard be taken within eight weeks from today." As all the judges of Delhi High Court have 'X' category security, now it has been discussed in the meeting to provide security cover of the same 'X' category to these 300 judges, a source said. "But the security division is having staff crunch to send 600 police personnel, so they are planning to send

a proposal to the police chief Arora, asking him to provide 600 police personnel for their security cover," the source said, adding that in the meeting, several incidents that took place in the recent past in the court complex were also discussed.

The Delhi Prosecutors Welfare Association (DPWA) had moved the Delhi High Court seeking intervention for providing them with adequate technological facilities or infrastructure in the light of the scheme of digitalisation of prosecution. The DPWA also asked for special security allowance to Public Prosecutors (PPs). The High Court in its order on July 19 directed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) to consider the request of Public Prosecutors as similar provisions have been made for their colleagues serving in other agencies. "Since, the judicial officers are also prone to such threat, GNCTD shall consider whether allowance or any alternate arrangement like providing PSO can be made for them or not," it said. Kanwal Jeet Arora further stated that the sanctioned strength of judicial officers of Delhi Higher Judicial Service in the scale of district judge (super time scale), equivalent to pay level 15 in Central Government is 149 and while that in the scale of district judge (selection grade, equivalent to pay level 14 in the Central Government is 165. He urged the top police officer to favourably consider the matter of providing PSOs to the judicial officers. "... At least to begin with PSOs be provided to the judicial officers of Delhi Higher Judicial Services. It is further requested that the Delhi Police may otherwise ensure the safety and security of all judicial officers at the court complexes during their transit and at their residences," he stated. After receiving the request from Arora, Special CP (Security Division) Jaspal Singh was asked to look into the matter. In the latest incidents of security breach inside the courtroom, an accused in a murder case allegedly attacked and injured his associate with a sharp piece of a tile during a hearing in a courtroom in Karkardooma Court last month. The incident took place when a special judge Alok Shukla was hearing the case. In another incident, two men posing as advocates allegedly killed a notorious gangster Jitender Maan Gogi inside a courtroom in Rohini Court in 2021.

## Pay Rs 10 lakh to MBBS student denied sports quota, Karnataka HC directs government

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Karnataka HC, MBBS student "Once the court finds that the State's incorrect or unjustifiable stand/decision has caused serious hardship to the petitioner, it is for the court to find a solution to mitigate the hardship, if not to completely remove the same," the court said. (File photo) The Karnataka High Court earlier this week directed the state government to pay Rs 10 lakh to MBBS student Sanjana Raghunath, who represented India in several national and international chess tournaments but was denied a seat under the appropriate sports quota.

Raghunath submitted that she had participated in several chess tournaments, including the Asian Youth Championship where she had won a medal. She argued that on completing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET, she should have been considered a P-I or P-III candidate but was placed under the P-V category. Raghunath then took admission at a private institute. The Karnataka Examination Authority argued that as she had already been admitted to a college, the admission process was complete, and she could not be considered for a sports quota seat now as it would undermine the selection process.

The State argued that as per a circular dated June 23, 2023, medals would only be considered between June 1, 2018, and March 31, 2023. It was also argued that the Asian Youth Championship was a tournament by invitation, thus it could not be considered as representing the nation. The high court bench of Chief Justice N V Anjaria and Justice K V Aravind disagreed. "The AICF [All India Chess Federation] is a member of the Federation Internationale Des Echecs (FIDE), the International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation. .... foreign passport holders cannot play under the Indian banner, and candidates selected for the tournament by the AICF would represent India. The bye-laws further provide basis for selecting candidates for India's tournaments and to represent India....," the bench said on October 1.

## Delhi Police arrest fifth person in Rs 5000 crore drug bust; BJP says one of them is associated with Congress



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Days after the Delhi Police arrested four people in what they said was the largest-ever drug bust in the city, an alleged member of the drug cartel, which supplied the 560 kg cocaine seized, was nabbed on Thursday while he was trying to flee to London. Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused one of the arrested men of being the chairman of Congress's Delhi Youth RTI cell, a charge denied by the Opposition party. On Tuesday night, the Special Cell arrested four people with 560 kg of cocaine and 40 kg of marijuana from South Delhi's Mahipalpur area. According to sources, Jitender Pal Singh, also known as Jassi, 45, whose father used to work in the Indian Navy, delivered instructions to one of the four accused Tushar Goel regarding distributions and clientele on behalf of Dubai-based handlers. "Jassi is directly linked to the Dubai handlers. He is one of the key players in the cartel and has been living in the UK for more than two decades. He planned on leaving India later in October, after ensuring that instructions from Dubai were followed. But after the bust, he tried to flee from Amritsar airport," a

source with the Delhi Police said. The police said Virender Basoya was identified as the Dubai-based kingpin who directed Jassi to come to India to ensure the delivery of his consignment. The police said Goel, a first-time offender who owns two publishing houses, was responsible for selling drugs in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) and was answering to Jassi. During a press conference, BJP national spokesperson and MP Sudhanshu Trivedi also alleged that the neighbouring state of Punjab was already in the grip of drugs. "Was there an arrangement between the drug dealers and the Congress that they would be given a free run in Haryana if the party comes to power?" Trivedi asked. Trivedi read out from Goel's purported appointment letter, dated March 24, 2022, as the head of the Delhi Youth Congress' RTI cell, claiming that it also mentioned the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. "Hateful stuff was already visible in Rahul Gandhi's 'Mohabbat ki Dukan'. Now, drugs are also available," he said. However, the Congress refuted the allegations, calling them baseless. "The Indian Youth Congress strongly condemns the baseless allegations made by Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi during a recent press conference. He falsely claimed that Tushar Goel, the alleged kingpin of a ₹5,600 crore drug bust in Delhi, is the alleged Chairman of Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress RTI Cell," a statement by the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) Media department read. Citing Goel's purported expulsion letter, IYC denied any current links to him. "Tushar Goel was expelled from the organisation on October 17, 2022, due to anti-party activities and has not been associated with us in any capacity since then," IYC said. The police also arrested Goel's driver Auranzeb Siddiqui, 23, Himanshu Kumar, 27, who was in charge of the drug distribution in Delhi-NCR, and Bharat Jain, 48), who was to distribute the drugs in Mumbai.

## Mohali police bust international drug racket, recover 1.5 kg heroin



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

The DGP said that this operation disrupts global narcotic supply chains, dealing a significant blow to international drug cartels & safeguarding Punjab's youth. The DGP said that this operation disrupts global narcotic supply chains, dealing a significant blow to international drug cartels & safeguarding Punjab's youth. The police in Punjab's Mohali on Friday busted an international drug syndicate as they arrested two people and recovered 1.5 kg of heroin from them. The police also identified two Delhi-based Afghan handlers of the accused. Gaurav Yadav, Director General of Police (DGP), Punjab, said on his X handle that the arrested men were identified as Sukhdeep Singh and Krishan, who he said were connected with international drug cartels.

Yadav added Singh was previously involved in a kidnapping case in 2020 and was out on bail since May this year. He said the heroin was found hidden in half-sleeve jackets and was smuggled in vehicles. "This operation disrupts global narcotic supply chains, dealing a significant blow to international drug cartels & safeguarding Punjab's youth," the DGP stated. According to the Punjab Police, they are further investigating the case.

## Teen held for killing Delhi doctor; police say was hired by nurse's husband, promised wedding with daughter

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Delhi Dr Akhtar was found with a gunshot wound on his head in his cabin by the police team that arrived at the hospital. A 16-year-old boy, apprehended for allegedly killing a doctor in Southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj on Thursday, has confessed he shot him on the instructions of the husband of a nurse working in the same hospital, the police have said. Dr Javed Akhtar, 55, a Unani practitioner, was shot dead allegedly by two teenagers at a small nursing home early on Thursday, said the police, adding that the second accused is still at large.

"The husband suspected an affair between the nurse and Dr Akhtar. The accused teen was in love with the nurse's daughter. So, the husband promised he would get his daughter married to him if he killed Dr Akhtar," said a Delhi Police officer. The police are now questioning the nurse and her husband to verify the claims, sources said. Initially, the police said, the accused claimed a monetary dispute with Dr Akhtar but recanted later. Dr Akhtar was found with a gunshot wound on his head in his cabin by the police team that arrived at the hospital. The police said two boys, aged 16 to 17, came to the hospital at around 1 am. They said one of the boys had an injured toe, which had been dressed by Mohammad Kamil, a staff member, the previous night. The two boys then went to Dr Akhtar's cabin for a prescription, and nursing staff Gajala Parveen and Kamil heard a gunshot moments later. When Parveen went to the doctor's cabin, she found Dr Akhtar in a pool of blood and could not see the boys.

## Anti-dust drive: Delhi clears over 6,157 metric tonnes of waste in 10 days



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena in a review meeting held on September 20 directed the authorities to launch an anti-dust drive, which was to be converted into a year-long campaign. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena in a review meeting held on September 20 directed the authorities to launch an anti-dust drive, which was to be converted into a year-long campaign. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has completed the removal of over 6156.94 metric tonnes (MT) of silt and construction and demolition waste from the capital in the last 10 days, according to officials. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena in a review meeting held on September 20 directed the authorities to launch an anti-dust drive, which was to be converted into a year-long campaign. He had advised the road-owning agencies mainly the MCD and Public Works Department (PWD) to clear the dust from roads, take measures to avoid letting it settle and transport it to designated dumping sites. Authorities such as the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Irrigation and Flood Control Department (IFCD), and the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) were directed to coordinate in removing silt. In 12 MCD Zones, 404.65 MT of waste was removed on September 24 and by Wednesday the officials managed to clear 6156.94 MT of waste. As per the officials, the Shahdara South Zone made the most significant progress in the waste removal drive by clearing 1230.76 MT in the last 10 days, followed by Keshavpuram Zone that removed 1019.67 MT of waste. The silt will be transported to designated dumping sites for proper disposal and bioremediation, said the civic body.



## Pak court's registrar office denies NGO's request to hand over judicial records related to Bhagat Singh



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Bhagat Singh Memorial Foundation Pakistan chairman Intiaz Rasheed Qureshi filed an application with the registrar office of Lahore High Court requesting the judicial records of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev from the three-member special tribunal of the LHC dated October 7, 1930. Bhagat Singh Memorial Foundation Pakistan chairman Intiaz Rasheed Qureshi filed an application with the registrar office of Lahore High Court requesting the judicial records of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev from the three-member special tribunal of

the LHC dated October 7, 1930. A Pakistani court's registrar office on Thursday denied a request by a non-profit foundation seeking the judicial records related to the independence war hero Bhagat Singh and his two associates Rajguru and Sukhdev. Bhagat Singh Memorial Foundation Pakistan chairman Intiaz Rasheed Qureshi filed an application with the registrar office of Lahore High Court requesting the judicial records of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev from the three-member special tribunal of the LHC dated October 7, 1930. The Lahore High Court registrar's office refused to entertain the request, saying it can't provide the records to the foundation.

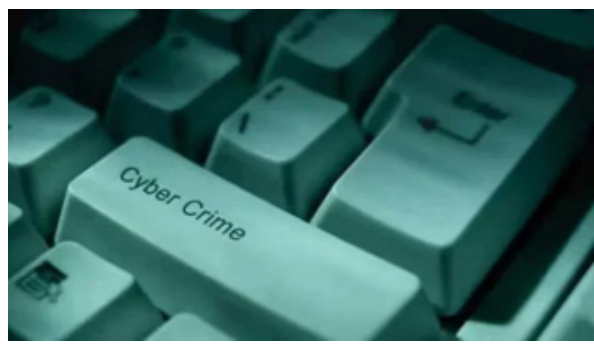
"Lahore High Court Deputy Registrar Tahir Hussain said unless the LHC orders to provide the judicial record of Bhagat Singh and others to the foundation, his office can't do it on its own," Qureshi said, adding that the refusal of the registrar's office to provide the judicial record is a grave injustice. He added that earlier, the British did not give justice to them and now our own countrymen are denying it. He said he would file a petition in the Lahore High Court in this regard. The copy of the form released by Qureshi mentions the case title as "Crown Vs Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh etc" After being convicted in this case on October 7, 1930, Bhagat Singh along with Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged to death on March 23, 1931 at Lahore Central Jail. Qureshi is also fighting a legal battle to get the name of the Chowk in Lahore, where the trio was hanged as "Bhagat Singh Chowk." It is currently called "Shadman Chowk" and was a part of Lahore central jail in 1931.

## Scamsters target retired IAS officer, dupe him of Rs 76 Lakh

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

cyber fraud, IAS officer The complainant, Harjinder Singh Chahal, a retired IAS officer, had lodged a complaint with Amritsar Commissioner of Police on September 6 stating that he received a call on September 3 and September 4 from purported Mumbai Cyber Crime. Cyber scamsters have targeted a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and duped him of Rs 76 lakh by 'digitally arresting' him. The State Cyber Crime Cell has registered a case. The culprits are not identified yet. The culprits had called the complainant by posing as officials of Mumbai Crime Branch and then asked him to deposit money in some bank accounts. The complainant, Harjinder Singh Chahal, a retired IAS officer, had lodged a complaint with Amritsar Commissioner of Police on September 6 stating that he received a call on September 3 and September 4 from purported Mumbai Cyber Crime. The complainant stated that the caller told him that he was conniving with a criminal who is indulging in money laundering.

"He told me that a subpoena had been issued on my name by the Bombay High court. He promised to help me clear from the case if I did everything the way they would instruct me. I was so hypnotised by the caller that I started following his instructions. He gave me addresses of different banks and asked me to deposit different amounts in the said banks to help him verify my accounts in the banks and clear me of the charges after verification of my cash in the banks," the complainant alleged.



He stated that he deposited different amounts lying in his three bank accounts one by one as instructed by the caller. The total amount of fraud had come to Rs 76 lakh. The complainant stated, "I have thus fallen victim of a fraud. A complaint has already been registered in the Cyber Crime Branch of your office. Now I implore you to kindly help me retrieve my hard-earned money by taking personal interest in the case so as to save me from this predicament." The complainant urged registration of an FIR. Acting on the complaint, the State Cyber Cell in Phase IV registered an FIR under sections 308(2) (extortion), 318(4) (cheating), 319(2) (cheating by personation), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and sections 66-C and 66-D of the Information Technology (IT) Act against unknown users/operators of alleged bank accounts, WhatsApp account number and mobile numbers.

## From childhood spaceship dreams to Nobel: Inspiring journey of Hooft

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Few names in the world of physics are as respected as that of professor Gerardus 't Hooft, whose groundbreaking work has transformed our understanding of the universe. His journey, which began with a childhood fascination for spaceships, led to his receiving the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1999. But his story is not just one of genius — it is a testament to perseverance, curiosity, and an unrelenting pursuit of knowledge. "I always wanted to build a spaceship," Hooft recalls with a smile, reflecting on his early years. "But to invent something that could fly beyond the stars, I realised I needed to understand the science behind it." This curiosity sparked his lifelong commitment to science, eventually making him one of the world's leading theoretical physicists, delving into the complexities of subatomic particles and the fundamental forces that govern the universe. Hooft's work emphasises the finite nature of everything in the universe, a principle that shapes much of his research.

Raised in a family where intellectual curiosity was encouraged, the physicist found inspiration early on, particularly from his grand uncle, who won the Nobel Prize in 1953. "When he won the Nobel Prize, it was big news in the family. I thought, 'That's what I want to do.' I wanted to discover new things, to understand how the universe works." Even at the age of three, the invention of the wheel fascinated him, sparking a lifelong interest in the deeper questions of theoretical physics. This combination of familial legacy and his own intellectual drive laid the groundwork for his future breakthroughs. One of Hooft's most notable achievements is his development of a mathematical model that helps scientists predict the properties of subatomic particles and the forces that bind them. "There's a beauty in the logic of it all," he explains. "The equations governing these particles are intricate but reveal a deep truth about the universe — nature follows a logical, elegant set of rules."



Despite the successes of his model, the Nobel laureate acknowledges that many mysteries remain, particularly around the role of gravity in quantum mechanics. "There are problems we haven't solved," he admits. His message to the younger generation is clear: "Science doesn't come for free. You have to work hard, and not everything will come easily. But that's where the excitement lies — in the discovery." In a world that increasingly values quick results and instant success, Hooft's career is a reminder that true progress in science requires time and dedication. "People today want things very quickly, but in science, you can't skip steps," he warns. "You need education, patience, and perseverance. Skip the foundation, and you'll never build something that lasts." Even after decades of research, he remains passionate about discovery. His advice to young scientists is simple: don't be afraid to challenge the status quo. "You might be the only one working on something because everyone else thinks it's wrong. But if you're sure, keep at it. That's how real breakthroughs happen."

## BRS leader Dasoju Sravan demands action against Konda Surekha

GNS News Agency, Oct 7 Hyderabad: BRS leader Dasoju Sravan on Thursday condemned Minister Konda Surekha's recent remarks, calling them abhorrent to politics. He said she was insulting the film industry for political gain and demanded that Surekha be removed from the State Cabinet. "Why hasn't Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy responded to Konda Surekha's comments?" Sravan asked, while addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday.

Sravan also raised questions over the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids on the properties of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, asking the investigation agency to disclose the cash and other valuables recovered. He said it was rumoured that around Rs 1,600 crore and a significant amount of gold were found at the Minister's residence during the raids. The BRS leader stated that a secret meeting was held between Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Gautam Adani, and Congress strategist Sunil Kanugolu at a luxury hotel here following the raids. He questioned whether the Minister was attempting to escape ED scrutiny through Adani's influence. He raised suspicions about the connection between Congress leaders and BJP-linked businessmen. Sravan also said Revanth Reddy was trying to damage his own party, specifically criticising his actions related to the HYDRAA Ordinance.

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## Eye on AI firms, Telangana will set up special campus on Hyderabad outskirts



GNS News Agency, Oct 7 Telangana special campus, Hyderabad, Hyderabad outskirts, D Sridhar Babu, AI firms, AI firms special campus, Indian express news, current affairs Telangana contributes 12 per cent of India's GCCs, with Hyderabad emerging as a leading destination due to its 1 million-GCC matured tech workforce and advanced infrastructure. "The state's business-friendly policies and talent pool make it a preferred location for global giants across sectors," Babu said.

The Telangana government will establish a special campus — spread over 200 acres near the international airport on the outskirts of Hyderabad — to attract and encourage companies involved in development of artificial intelligence and disruptive innovation, IT and industries minister D Sridhar Babu has told The Indian Express. Babu said the upcoming AI city will further solidify the state's position in India's deep tech talent ecosystem. Stating that the government wants to change the face of the state and not just restrict it to being an IT

hub, the minister said, "We want other sectors too to look at Hyderabad and Telangana as a destination for setting up their businesses. We want hospitality, insurance, pharma and other sectors to set up their Global Capability Centres (GCC) in the state, and we are creating the infrastructure and ecosystem for that."

Babu said Marriott International's first-ever GCC will be set up in Hyderabad. "This marks the hospitality sector's debut in the GCC space in India, highlighting Hyderabad's growing global significance," said Babu. "I am urging the Marriott leadership team to explore opportunities in opening hotels and establishing tech accelerator centres in Tier-2 cities across Telangana, which would further bolster the state's economic growth and decentralised development. There is so much tech talent available in our Tier-2 cities that we want to encourage corporates and companies wanting to hire, and recruitment agencies to go to the towns and seek out talented youth," Babu said. Telangana contributes 12 per cent of India's GCCs, with Hyderabad emerging as a leading destination due to its 1 million-GCC matured tech workforce and advanced infrastructure. "The state's business-friendly policies and talent pool make it a preferred location for global giants across sectors," Babu said. The Telangana government is also looking at capturing the fast-emerging vehicle battery market, with Amara Raja Group setting up the Rs 9,500 crores lithium-ion battery in Diviti Palli in Mahabubnagar district. "The EV market has a huge potential and we are looking to attract investments from companies which manufacture batteries for two-wheelers and four-wheelers. That is also our priority," Babu said.

## Delhi CM orders audit of power companies: BJP levels corruption charges, AAP calls it baseless

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

The audit, which will be conducted by auditors approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), aims to ensure greater transparency in the pension process of the Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB), it added. The audit, which will be conducted by auditors approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), aims to ensure greater transparency in the pension process of the Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB), it added. Flagging inflated power bills in the city and accusing the AAP Delhi government of corruption in the sector, Union Minister of State and East Delhi MP Harsh Malhotra Thursday termed "laughable" the government's audit of power distribution companies in which it owns a 49% stake. Chief Minister Atishi ordered a special audit of power companies to look into the pension surcharge issue, the Delhi government said. The audit, which will be conducted by auditors approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), aims to ensure greater transparency in the pension process of the Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB), it added. Malhotra said various additional charges are added to electricity bills, making them more expensive, and questioned why the amount for pension of discom employees should be collected from consumers. Terming the BJP MP's allegations baseless, the AAP said the Capital had the cheapest electricity rates in the country and it provided 24x7 power supply only due to its model of honest governance. Malhotra alleged: "A bill that should be Rs 100 based on units consumed ends up being Rs 185 due to extra charges... this is a new corruption scheme worth crores in the name of electricity, and the Atishi government is talking about auditing it themselves."

"Layers of corruption in the Arvind Kejriwal and Atishi



governments are beginning to unravel. Out of fear, they are now saying they will conduct an audit inquiry against the pension cess that has been imposed on the public through electricity bills... this is all just a tactic to fool the public... There is massive corruption involved, and both Chief Minister Atishi and Arvind Kejriwal are implicated," he added. In response, the AAP said the BJP should first think about the "sorry condition of power supply" in states ruled by its governments before pointing fingers at Delhi. "Under AAP, Delhi is the only state in India that gets 24x7 electricity supply. Every resident is provided with 200 units of free electricity and even beyond that, Delhi has the cheapest electricity in the country. This has been made possible only due to Kejriwal's model of honest governance," it said. "On the other hand, all BJP-ruled states face power cuts up to eight hours and beyond. Despite such power cuts, people get huge electricity bills in BJP-ruled states. Uttar Pradesh, for example, even increased cess on power bills despite not being able to give proper supply," it added.

## Jailed for 'assaulting' Dalit man, MLA's son clinches vice-chairman post in cooperative bank elections

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Jyotiradityasinh Jadeja alias Ganesh, son of BJP MLA Geetaba Jadeja, was on Thursday elected vice-chairman of Gondal Nagrik Sahkari Bank (GNSB), a cooperative bank in Gondal town of Rajkot city. Hours later, Ganesh got a major relief as the Gujarat High Court granted him bail in a case of alleged assault and kidnapping of a Dalit man from Junagadh in May this year. A resident of Gondal town, Ganesh and 10 others were booked for allegedly assaulting Sanjay alias Chandu Solanki, the president of Junagadh city unit of the National Students Union of India (NSUI), four months ago.

According to an FIR registered at "A" Division police station in Junagadh, Ganesh and others assaulted Solanki after the Dalit leader asked them to drive their car carefully while they were passing through Kalva Chowk in Junagadh in May end this year. As per the FIR, the accused allegedly kidnapped Solanki in their car, took him to Gondal where they threatened him with a firearm before dropping him back to Junagadh. Police later booked Ganesh and others for attempt-to-murder, kidnapping and under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Ganesh was arrested in this case on June 5 and the next day, a local court in Junagadh sent him to judicial custody while rejecting police's application seeking remand. He has been lodged in Junagadh district jail since. In all, Junagadh police arrested 11 men for allegedly assaulting Solanki and filed a chargesheet against them.

While in jail, Ganesh, 25, contested election to the



board of directors of GNSB and emerged victorious on September 16. "Today, the newly-elected board of directors met to elect a new chairman, vice-chairman and MD (managing director) of the bank. Ashok Pipaliya, Ganesh, and Govind Parmar filed nomination papers for the posts of chairman, vice-chairman and MD respectively. As no one else filed nomination papers, the three were declared winners uncontested," JB Kalaria, GNSB's general manager (legal affairs), told The Indian Express. Hours later, the Gujarat HC granted Ganesh bail in the Junagadh assault and atrocity case. "The court of Justice MR Mengdey granted him bail on the condition that Ganesh will not enter the limits of Junagadh district for six months from the date of his release. We are expecting a detailed order of the court to become available tomorrow (Friday) and after that, we will seek his release from jail," PB Khandheria, Ganesh's advocate, said.

## City's Industrialist elected as Senior VP of All India Plastic Manufacturers Association

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Hyderabad: A city-based industrialist Anil Reddy Vennam, was elected as the Senior Vice-President of the All India Plastic Manufacturer Association (AIPMA) which represents 50,000 plus Plastic manufacturing companies that contribute Rs. 3.5 lakh crore to Indian economy. In a meeting held in Mumbai, Anil Reddy Vennam, former President of The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) was unanimously elected. This is the first time that a South Indian is elected for the body. AIPMA is recognized by the Chemical and Fertilizers Ministry and has representation at various Union





## Right-wing outfit chief held for removing Sai Baba's statues from Varanasi temples



FIRs have been registered against him. He has been sent to jail. "A campaign was started by the Sanatan Rakshak Dal to remove the statues of Sai Baba from the temples of Varanasi, claiming that in Sanatan Dharma there was no space for prayer of the "dead" alongside gods in temples. Sharma, who claims to be raising the issue for the past few years, came to limelight as he started reaching the temples in Varanasi with his team and removing the idols of Sai Baba and uploading the videos of their visits on social media.

In the past few days, his videos on social media showed them removing small statues using hand-held tools and covering large ones with a white cloth. He had also been visiting the temples asking the priests when and why the statue in question was installed and would give them an ultimatum to remove it immediately. Two days back, he uploaded a video claiming to have successfully removed the idol of Sai Baba from the Bhagwan Purushottam Triyambakeswar Darbar Temple and claiming that the shrine was rid of "Chand Miyan alias Sai". In yet another video uploaded three days back, he is seen doing the same thing at the Bara Ganesh Mandir. When contacted, Sharma justified his actions, saying, "Neither in the Bhagwat Gita, nor Purana have any mention of Sai Baba. People have been misled. The efforts have been going on for the past four years to make them aware and now the statues are being removed as there is no mention of any "pret puja" in Sanatan Dharma." "I am not saying that I do not worship him. It is just that the dead are worshiped personally and not along with gods. Those wanting to do it can take the statues from me and worship them at their homes," he added. Sharma had claimed to have removed statues from over 10 temples in Varanasi and appealed to all the followers of 'Sanatan Dharma' to take up the movement further.

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Sanatan Rakshak Dal, Varanasi, Sai Baba, Sai Baba statues, Sai Baba statues Varanasi temples, Lucknow news, Uttar Pradesh news, Indian express, Current affairs A video grab of a member of Sanatan Rakshak Dal covering a statue of Sai Baba at a temple in Varanasi. The head of the Sanatan Rakshak Dal, a right-wing organisation, was arrested on Thursday over alleged removal of the idols of Sai Baba from various temples in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi, police said.

The action came after two FIRs — one at the Chowk police station and another at the Sigra police station of Varanasi — were registered on the complaints of some priests alleging that they were forced to remove statues of Sai Baba. "We have arrested Ajay Sharma for inciting people's sentiments. There were complaints against him by priests that they were being forced to remove the statues of Sai Baba," said Chowk police station in-charge Vimal Kumar Mishra. Varanasi Police Commissioner Mohit Agarwal confirmed Sharma's arrest, saying, "Two

## Election Commission slams Jharkhand govt's letter against Himanta, Shivraj: 'Avoidable narrative'



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Election Commission, Jharkhand Government, Jharkhand govt, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Indian express news, current affairs The EC's directions against Bhajantri came after Godda MP Nishikant Dubey had complained that under Bhajantri, who was the deputy commissioner of Deoghar, the district administration registered five cases against him with "malafide intention" in the backdrop of a byelection held in 2021. The Election Commission of India has termed a letter written to it last month by Jharkhand's Cabinet Secretary as "posturing and promotion of an avoidable narrative". It also reiterated that action must be initiated against Jharkhand-cadre IAS officer Manjunath Bhajantri, who was accused by a BJP leader of registering cases against him with "malafide intention".

The poll body referred to a letter that Cabinet Secretary Vandana Dadel had sent to it on September 2, in which she had complained of a violation of the federal structure, and alleged that Assam Chief Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had a "propensity to foment hatred across different communities" during their appearances in different parts of Jharkhand ahead of the announcement of the upcoming

Assembly elections. Dadel's letter had also alleged that these BJP leaders were dissuading government servants from discharging their duties due to fear of reprisals, and mentioned Bhajantri's case among others. Dadel also asked the EC to ensure impartiality while conducting inquiries against complaints made to them against the state's bureaucrats. The EC wrote that Dadel's letter was "more of a posturing and promotion of an avoidable narrative of violation of federal space", and was written "apparently to avoid compliance of lawful directions of ECI on evidently untenable grounds".

The Commission noted that after its order dated December 6, 2021, for disciplinary action against Bhajantri, the officer had approached the Jharkhand High Court with a writ petition challenging the directions of the EC. Bhajantri got relief from a single-judge bench, but the EC appealed and a two-judge bench last month stayed the order that had granted relief to the IAS officer. In its letter, the EC cited the High Court judgment as saying: "...this Court is of the view that such recommendation which has been made by the Election Commission of India dated December 6, 2021 cannot be said to be optional, rather, it is mandatorily to be accepted by the State, otherwise the constitutional spirit of the establishment of Election Commission of India will be frustrated..." The EC said as the High Court has ruled that its recommendation was "binding", "Accordingly, the ECI direction of December 6, 2021 to initiate disciplinary proceedings for major penalty against the said officer (Bhajantri) no longer can be legally eclipsed by the State government." It said its direction "now hold the field" for necessary and immediate compliance by the state government. The EC's directions against Bhajantri came after Godda MP Nishikant Dubey had complained that under Bhajantri, who was the deputy commissioner of Deoghar, the district administration registered five cases against him with "malafide intention" in the backdrop of a byelection held in 2021.

## Laddu adulteration just tip of iceberg, much more to be probed, says Andhra Dy CM Pawan Kalyan



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has said that the laddu adulteration issue is just a tip of the iceberg and there are many more decisions taken during the previous regime that have to be investigated. Addressing a rally here on Thursday, he said he was not blaming the YSRC chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy personally for the laddu adulteration, but the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board, which was constituted during the previous regime. A day before the Supreme Court is expected to hear the case on the allegation of using animal fat in making Tirupati laddu, Kalyan said he wanted to communicate to the judiciary that Jagan was facing several charges including corruption allegations and it has to consider before giving a decision (in laddu adulteration case). "Laddu prasadam adulteration is a tip of the iceberg. We don't know how many crores of rupees they collected during the tenure of (the last) five years. That has to be investigated," the Deputy CM said. "Eminent people of this nation, let me tell you what exactly the previous government and the leader was. The

previous chief minister is trying to act innocent," he added. On CM Chandrababu Naidu's allegation that laddu was made using adulterated ghee, the Deputy CM said the TDP chief was sharing with MLAs and MPs what exactly had happened, citing a "fact". He described the laddu adulteration issue as an attack on "Sanatana Dharma" for the past five years. Referring to the recent comments made by Tamil Nadu Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin, Kalyan in Tamil said, "on't say that Sanatana Dharma is like a virus, and it will destroy." "Whoever said this let me tell you sir. You can not wipe out Sanatana Dharma. If anyone tries to wipe out Santana Dharma let me tell you from the feet of Lord Balaji you will be wiped out." Kalyan also stressed the need to bring in legislation at the national level to protect Sanatana Dharma and establish Sanatana Dharma protection boards with adequate funds at national and state levels. "I am an unapologetic Sanatani Hindu. Let me be very clear," he said, and vowed to safeguard it with his life. The Deputy CM further said Sanatana Dharma is going to stay here. "People like you might come and go, but Sanatana Dharma goes on forever. It would not stop. It is beyond," he said. Observing that Gods should be kept away from politics, the Supreme Court recently questioned Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu's public statement that animal fat was allegedly used in making Tirupati laddus under the previous Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led regime. The apex court had said the laboratory test report was "not clear at all" and prima facie indicated that 'rejected ghee' was subjected to test. Kalyan, who embarked on a three-day visit to Tirumala as part of his 11-day penance to propitiate Lord Venkateswara over the alleged adulteration of Tirupati laddus, offered prayers at the Tirumala temple.

## How a fake SBI branch that came up overnight duped people of lakhs in a Chhattisgarh village



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

fake SBI branch, Chhattisgarh village fake SBI branch, Chhattisgarh fake SBI branch, Indian express news, current affairs "The victims have been cheated of Rs 12 lakh but no village residents have been targeted. Three people, including Pankaj and Sahu, have been booked for cheating on September 27 but no arrests have been made," Malkharoda Police Station in-charge Rajesh Patel said. Every day for 10 days, 25-year-old Pintu Dhurve would diligently report to what he thought was a new branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) in Chhapora village in Chhattisgarh's Sakti district, happy that he landed a job as a cashier. That is, until some real bank officials walked in one day with some policemen to inform him that he had been swindled and that the branch was a fake one.

According to the local police, residents of Chhapora were surprised to see a SBI branch that came up overnight at a commercial complex in the village on September 18. "Upon enquiry, however, they were told that they would have to wait a few more days till the bank was equipped with a server and other banking facilities," said a police official. One of six "employees" at the fake branch, Dhurve, a BA graduate, told The Indian Express that he paid Rs 5.80 lakh to land the job, even receiving an "offer letter" that promised to pay him a salary of "Rs 25,000 to 30,000". "I was desperately in need of a job. I was working at a common service center when my friend's sister, Renuka Sahu, told me she would get me a job here. I arranged for the money asked by borrowing money from some friends," Dhurve said. There were some red flags, such as the lack of an ID card and the absence of any work. Additionally, none of the employees received any kind of training, he said. "They asked us to open the SBI

bank's website and learn things on our own. A college student was employed as a security guard but he didn't have a uniform either," he said. Despite these signs, Dhurve said the SBI logo at the entrance, the 1000 sq. foot "work space" with a large hall and 3-4 other rooms, the glass and wooden furniture with separate cabins and three desks convinced him. "There were 10 computers, and eventually, we also got an internet connection. An alarm bell used to ring for lunch at 1 pm," he said. The employees allegedly knew the man who called himself the bank manager only as "Pankaj sir", who would come to the bank at 10 am and leave by noon. One day, he stopped coming entirely, Dhurve said.

Village residents who came to open bank accounts or ask details of government schemes were allegedly sent away. "We told villagers that we will open their bank accounts in October when we will get our servers," Dhurve said. According to the police, some village residents grew suspicious of the lack of activity at the "branch" and alerted the police, who then raided the place with SBI officials from a nearby branch on September 27. The police are now on the lookout for Pankaj, suspecting he could either be a former bank employee or may have been helped by someone with prior experience working at a bank. "The victims have been cheated of Rs 12 lakh but no village residents have been targeted. Three people, including Pankaj and Sahu, have been booked for cheating on September 27 but no arrests have been made," Malkharoda Police Station in-charge Rajesh Patel said.

## Nellikallu pump house submerges due to flooding from heavy rains

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

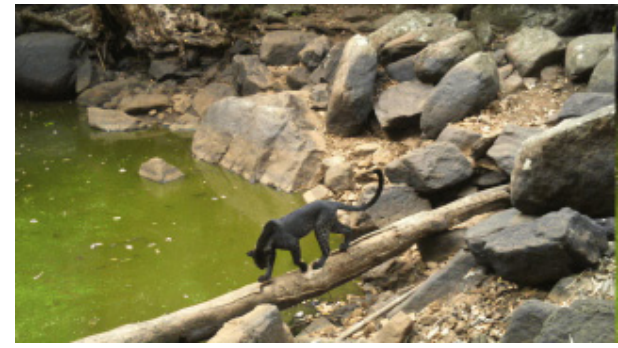
Hyderabad: The pump house of the Nellikallu Lift Irrigation Scheme, a key component of the Rs 664 crore project, was found submerged following recent rains and flooding. This scheme under implementation, intended to draw water from the Nagarjuna Sagar project to irrigate the Krishna Patti area in Nalgonda district. It has received a major setback due to the incident.

## Rare black panthers confirmed in 3 out of Odisha's 47 forest divisions

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Odisha has recorded presence of rare melanistic leopard, popularly known as black panther, in three forest divisions as it released findings of the first All Odisha Leopard Estimation-2024 results conducted across 47 forest divisions across the state. So far, Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) is known as the country's only habitat that has the melanistic Royal Bengal tigers (RBT). The big cats of Similipal represent a unique lineage since they have black as well as yellow stripes interspersed on their bodies. "During the leopard estimation, we have found the presence of black panthers in three forest divisions of the state in western and central Odisha. Since the black panther is a rare species, we are not revealing where they have been spotted as there are chances of poachers targeting them," said a senior official from the forest department.

Poaching of leopards is a major concern. According to data available with the state forest department, as many as 59 leopard skins were seized from smugglers in Odisha between 2018 and 2023. According to the census report, Odisha is home to total 696 leopards, an increase of 128 than the numbers mentioned in a report published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The recent numbers are, however, less than what was found in the NTCA survey in 2018, when the number was estimated at 760. Festive offer black panther Odisha is home to total 696 leopards, an increase of 128 than the numbers mentioned in a report published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). (Photo: Susanta Nanda, PCCF (wildlife), Odisha) The NTCA used only camera traps in limited places to count leopards in Odisha.



Instead of a detailed survey, they only use a statistical model to estimate the numbers. In 2018, NTCA's statistical error was 35%, which was 33% in 2012. Our statistical error is less than 10%," said Susanta Nanda, principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife), Odisha. Unlike the NTCA survey, Odisha forest department used various identifiers to detect leopard presence such as pugmarks, scrapes, scats, rakes, urine spray, vocalizations and livestock depredation. "Sites with confirmed direct or indirect evidence of leopard were monitored using camera traps to estimate the minimum number of unique adult leopards based on their distinctive rosette patterns," said the survey results. Besides being home to the highest number of RBTs, the Similipal Tiger Reserve, spreading over 2,750 square km, also has the largest leopard population in Odisha. The Satkosia landscape turned out to be another promising site for leopards, and boasts the second highest leopard population in the state.

## NIA DSP along with two agents arrested by CBI



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

NIA DSP along with two agents arrested by CBI The arrested persons have been identified as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ajay Pratap Singh, posted with NIA's Patna branch, and two middlemen: Ritik Kumar Singh and one more. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested three persons, including a senior NIA official for allegedly demanding Rs 2.5 crore from a man after threatening to implicate his family members for illegally stocking unlicensed assault weapons.

"The arrested persons have been identified as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ajay Pratap Singh, posted with NIA's Patna branch, and two middlemen: Ritik Kumar Singh and one more. Ajay is an Income Tax official and is on deputation to NIA. Several incriminating documents and digital devices have been recovered so far during the searches in addition to Rs 20 lakh bribe money," a CBI spokesperson said. "The complainant, a resident of Bihar's Gaya, approached CBI alleging that DSP Ajay has been extorting money from him by threatening to fabricate his family in a criminal case and falsely implicating his family for illegally stocking unlicensed assault weapons. It was disclosed that the NIA had registered a case in connection with this matter and searches were conducted on September 19 at the residence and office of the complainant," the spokesperson said.

"Following these searches, DSP Singh issued a notice on September 24, summoning the complainant to appear before the NIA office Patna on September 26. The complainant appeared before the IO on the given date. During interrogation, it was alleged that DSP Singh threatened the complainant with implicating him in the criminal case and to face severe consequences," the

spokesperson added. The CBI spokesperson alleged that in order to help him escape the consequences, DSP Singh allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 2.5 crore from him. "He initially paid Rs 25 lakh and he was again summoned on October 1. He was asked to pay Rs 70 lakh. The entire matter was also brought in the knowledge of senior officials of NIA by the CBI team, who also ensured effective supervision of the matter along with the CBI team," the spokesperson said.

## Telangana Fintech entrepreneur honoured in Dubai



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Jeddah: A Telangana investor banking expert in Gulf has received the UAE Icon Award recently.

Srinivas Goud Rachakonda, native of Godkal village in Nizamabad, a celebrated banking investor known for his expertise in investment banking, was conferred the prestigious Icons of the UAE award for his rising prominence in investment banking and financial technologies. A prominent Indian media house and local media in Dubai, NKN Media aired the success stories of Indian entrepreneurs in the UAE. At the prestigious 'Icons of the UAE' award ceremony, 19 Indian luminaries from various fields were felicitated. Speaking with 'Telangana Today' over the phone about his achievement, Srinivas Goud said that



## Civilians bear brunt in 'catastrophic' Lebanon conflict, UN official says



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Civilians are bearing the brunt of a "truly catastrophic" situation in Lebanon, a senior U.N. official said, urging respect for the rules of war nearly two weeks since Israel launched a major offensive against the armed group Hezbollah. With around 1 million people in Lebanon impacted, Imran Riza, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, said the pace of displacement since September 23 had exceeded worst case scenarios, and too much damage was being done to civilian infrastructure. "What we saw from September 23 on is truly catastrophic," Mr. Riza said in an interview with Reuters on Thursday (October 3, 2024). He was referring to the day when Israel dramatically ramped up airstrikes in Lebanon, killing more than 500 people in a single day, according to Lebanese government figures. "The level of trauma, the level of fear amongst the population, has been extreme," he said.

Israel says its campaign against the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hezbollah aims to secure the return home of Israelis evacuated from areas near the Lebanese border

as a result of nearly a year of Hezbollah fire into northern Israel. The Lebanese government says around 1.2 million people have been displaced by Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley, the southern suburbs of Beirut and other parts of the country. Some have been killed in Israeli strikes after having been displaced. "You've got people being displaced from one place to another, thinking they were going to a safe place, and then that being struck," Mr. Riza said.

Mr. Riza said 97 medical and emergency workers had been killed - the majority of them in the last 10 days. There has been too much damage to civilian infrastructure, and civilians have been "bearing the great brunt of what's been going on", he said. He noted that international humanitarian law requires that humanitarianism be allowed to access people in need, and that civilian infrastructure and water systems be protected. "This is what we call for when we're saying respect the rules of war in this," he said. "Unfortunately, we are seeing a situation where we have to go back to everybody and advocate for these basics in terms of protecting civilians."

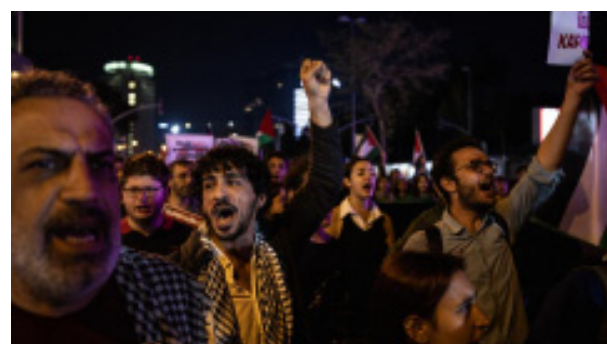
The conflict began a nearly a year ago when Hezbollah opened fire in solidarity with its Palestinian ally Hamas, at the start of the Gaza war. It marks the worst conflict since Hezbollah fought a 34-day war with Israel in 2006. Mr. Riza and Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati on Tuesday (October 1, 2024) launched a \$426 million appeal to mobilise resources for civilians affected by the conflict. Lebanon was already suffering myriad crises before this conflict began. As a result, Mr. Riza said Lebanon was less well placed to deal with conflict now than in 2006: "People don't have buffers the way they had in 2006, on the other hand the institutions that are there to help them are much weaker."

## Gaza war fuels Arab support for Palestinians, to little effect

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

A year into the Gaza war, grassroots support for Palestinians has surged across the Arab world, but the groundswell has yet to trigger stronger action against Israel, with governments largely ignoring these calls. As the conflict spills into Lebanon and Iran's missile strike on Israel raises fears of further escalation, Arab governments are walking a careful line. While they routinely condemn Israel's invasion, nations with diplomatic ties to Israel have yet to make major policy changes. "Our government, just like other Arab governments, has ignored the demands of its people, including the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador," said Ahmed, a 27-year-old Bahraini at a September rally in Manama. He asked to be identified by his first name for fear of reprisal. Bahrain, along with Morocco, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, recognised Israel under the US-brokered Abraham Accords of 2020, seeking diplomatic and military support. Egypt and Jordan, which signed the peace deals with Israel in 1979 and 1994 respectively, have not reconsidered those agreements, despite accusing Israel of war crimes in Gaza.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said the agreement was "covered with dust", but questioned whether scrapping it would help the kingdom or Palestinians. Only Saudi Arabia has publicly shifted, halting normalisation talks with Israel unless a Palestinian state is recognised. Protest dilemmas Israel's Gaza offensive has sparked rare protests in a region where autocratic governments usually suppress dissent. "Normalisation is treason," read a sign at a rally in Amman, echoing slogans in Bahrain and Morocco. Rachid Fellouli, of Morocco's National Action Group for Palestine, said 5,000 sit-ins were held in the past year. He finds hope in the pro-Palestinian mobilisation of a "new generation". Arab governments that have moved closer to Israel have "their own reasons... which are all still applicable", said Hussein Ibish, an analyst at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. "None of them are considering reneging on that based on the wars," he said. Riccardo Fabiani, North Africa director at the International Crisis Group, said Arab governments value the security, diplomatic and military gains from ties with Israel. "There's also the question of not giving in to popular pressure, which would set a very dangerous precedent for many of these countries," he told AFP.



The Arab Spring protests still haunt these governments, said Ibish, adding "not one of the major grievances has improved". The Gaza war was sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack, which resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people in Israel, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures that include hostages killed in captivity. Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 41,689 people in Gaza, the majority of them civilians, according to figures provided by the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. The UN has described the figures as reliable. Arab leaders face a delicate balancing act with public demands for action.

Suppressing protests could stoke unrest over issues like mismanagement, unemployment or rising living costs, said Ibish. Allowing demonstrations could "let off steam" safely, he added. In Egypt, the Arab world's most populous nation, the risk of protests is deemed too high. No rallies have been allowed since October 20, 2023 when a state-sanctioned protest veered towards Cairo's Tahrir Square, site of the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime president Hosni Mubarak. Egyptians, long supporters of the Palestinian cause, have instead turned to boycott campaigns against companies seen as pro-Israel.

"Palestine is not the Palestinians' cause alone," reads the description of a mobile phone application with more than a million downloads, which enables users to scan barcodes to know whether products are on boycott lists. Fabiani said these efforts have "no impact" now, but the long-term effect could be significant. "There are generations that came of age after the Arab Spring, who have never known the possibility of free expression... who are having their political awakening through the Palestinian cause," he said.

## UN Security Council backs Guterres after Israel bars him from country



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

The United Nations Security Council on Thursday (October 3, 2024) expressed its full support for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres after Israel's foreign minister said he was barring him from entering the country. The 15-member council said in a statement that "any decision not to engage with the U.N. Secretary-General or the United Nations is counterproductive, especially in the context of escalating tensions in the Middle East."

The statement did not name Israel. Such statements by the council are agreed by consensus. Israel's Foreign Minister said on Wednesday (October 2, 2024) that he was barring U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres from entering the country because he had not "unequivocally" condemned Iran's missile attack on Israel. Mr. Guterres on Tuesday (October 1, 2024) issued a brief statement referencing only the "latest attacks in the Middle East" and condemning the conflict "with escalation after escalation". Earlier on Tuesday (October 1, 2024), Israel had sent troops into south Lebanon. Earlier Wednesday (October 2, 2024) Israel declared Mr. Guterres "persona non grata" as they think he didn't specifically condemn Iran's missile attack when he condemned on Tuesday

the "broadening conflict in the Middle East." UN chief Antonio Guterres called on Wednesday (October 2, 2024) for an end to the "sickening cycle of escalation" in the Middle East, while specifically condemning Iran over its latest missile attack after facing harsh criticism from Israel.

## Israeli warplanes strike Hezbollah bunker in Beirut's Dahyia neighborhood

Beirut: Israeli warplanes launched strikes targeting an underground bunker in the Dahyia neighbourhood of Beirut, where senior Hezbollah leaders were reportedly gathered. Among those believed to be present was Hashem Safieddine, a cousin and potential successor to the recently assassinated Hezbollah chief, Hassan Nasrallah.

The strikes on Thursday generated massive explosions that reverberated throughout the densely populated area, shaking buildings across the Lebanese capital. According to three Israeli officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity, the military had intelligence indicating that a meeting of key Hezbollah leaders was taking place at the location, The New York Times reported.

These airstrikes are part of a broader military campaign by Israel, which has intensified operations on multiple fronts amid ongoing conflicts with both Hezbollah and Hamas.

## North Korea's Kim threatens to destroy South Korea with nuclear strikes if provoked



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to use nuclear weapons and destroy South Korea permanently if provoked, state media reported Friday (October 4, 2024), after the South's leader warned that Mr. Kim's regime would collapse if he attempted to use nuclear arms. The exchange of such rhetoric between the rival Koreas is nothing new, but the latest comments come during heightened animosities over the North's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility and its continuation of missile tests. Next week, observers say North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament is expected to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national borders. During a visit to a special operation forces unit on Wednesday (October 2, 2024), Mr. Kim said his military "would use without hesitation all the offensive forces it possesses, including nuclear weapons," if South Korea attempts to use armed forces encroaching upon the sovereignty of North Korea, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency. "If such a situation comes, the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible," Mr. Kim said, using South Korea's official name.

Mr. Kim's statement was a response to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech at his country's Armed Forces Day on Tuesday (October 1, 2024). Unveiling South Korea's most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile and other conventional weapons that could target North Korea, Mr. Yoon said the day that North Korea tries to use nuclear weapons would be the end of the Kim government because Kim would face "the resolute and overwhelming response" of the South Korean-U.S.

alliance. Mr. Kim responded that Yoon's address fully betrayed his "bellicose temerity" and showed "the security uneasiness and irritating psychology of the puppet forces." In a derisive comment, Mr. Kim called Mr. Yoon "an abnormal man," saying that "the puppet Yoon bragged about an overwhelming counteraction of military muscle at the doorstep of a state that possesses nuclear weapons." On Thursday, Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, also ridiculed South Korea's showcasing of the Hyunmoo-5 missile, saying there's no way for South Korea to counter the North Korea's nuclear forces with conventional weapons. Since adopting an escalatory nuclear doctrine in 2022, Mr. Kim has repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively. But many foreign experts say it's still unlikely that he would use his nuclear arms first because his military is outmatched by the U.S. and its allied forces. In July, South Korea and the U.S. signed a defense guideline on integrating South Korea's conventional capabilities with the U.S. nuclear forces to better deal with North Korea's advancing nuclear program. South Korea has no nuclear weapons.

Animosities between the Koreas are at the worst point in years with Mr. Kim's provocative run of missile tests and the South Korea-U.S. military exercises intensifying in a cycle of tit-for-tat. All communication channels and exchange programs between the rivals remain stalled since 2019, when a broader U.S.-North Korea diplomacy on ending the North's nuclear program collapsed. In January, Mr. Kim called for rewriting North Korea's constitution to eliminate the idea of a peaceful unification between the war-divided countries and to cement the South as an "invariable principal enemy."

He also reiterated that his country does not recognize the Northern Limit Line, a western sea boundary that was drawn by the U.S.-led U.N. Command at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. He called for the new constitution to include a clear definition of the North's territories. North Korea has traditionally insisted upon a boundary that encroaches deeply into waters currently controlled by South Korea. On Friday, South Korea's military said North Korea was again flying balloons likely carrying trash across the border into South Korea. Since late May, North Korea has launched thousands of rubbish-carrying balloons toward South Korea, prompting South Korea to resume anti-Pyongyang propaganda loud-speaker broadcasts at border areas.

## India, U.S. sign MoU on critical minerals supply chains

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo held the 6th Commercial Dialogue here on Thursday (October 4, 2024) during which they reviewed the progress made in semiconductors supply chains, innovation handshake, energy-industry network and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity. A day earlier, the two leaders signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify critical minerals supply chains, with the aim of leveraging the two countries' complementary strengths to ensure greater resilience in the critical minerals sector.

Priority areas of focus include identifying equipment, services, policies and best practices to facilitate the mutually beneficial commercial development of the U.S. and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and refining, recycling and recovery, a media release said. During the commercial dialogue, Mr. Goyal and Ms. Raimondo praised the two sides' continuing efforts to facilitate resilient, secure and sustainable semiconductor supply chains. Since the signing of the MoU establishing a semiconductor supply chain and an innovation partnership under the framework of the US-India Commercial Dialogue, the US Semiconductor Industry Association and the India Electronics Semiconductor Association have completed their private sector "readiness assessment", launched under the US-India initiative on critical and emerging technology to identify near-term industry opportunities and facilitate longer-term strategic development of complementary semiconductor ecosystems.

Mr. Goyal and Ms. Raimondo pledged to continue working under the MoU to facilitate collaboration between US and Indian companies towards mutually beneficial business opportunities, such as investments, joint ventures and technology partnerships, and to promote talent and workforce development to benefit both countries, the Department of Commerce said in a statement. The two leaders welcomed the success of the two roundtables convened in San Francisco in November 2023 and in New Delhi in March 2024, bringing the two countries' startup ecosystems closer together and carrying forward their ambitions under the MoU to enhance innovation ecosystems through an innovation handshake under the framework of the US-India Commercial Dialogue.

They praised the work done on the EIN Roundtable organised during the Clean EDGE and Environmental Technologies Business Development Mission in New Delhi in March. The trade mission brought 12 US companies to India to help grow sustainable and secure clean energy markets and accelerate the adoption of environmental solutions in India. The views exchanged during the EIN Roundtable helped inform the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) ministerial convened by the US secretary of energy and the Indian minister of petroleum and natural gas in Washington on September 16, the media release said. They also commended the significant progress announced at the virtual IPEF ministerial meeting last month, including the work being done to improve supply chain resilience under the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement for the IPEF partners. They highlighted their commitment to collaborate initially in the critical areas of semiconductors, chemicals, and critical minerals with a focus on batteries, and potentially healthcare products, as agreed to by the IPEF Supply Chain Council. Mr. Goyal and Ms. Raimondo reviewed other joint efforts that have been made, including under the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue and the Standards and Conformance Cooperation Program (SCCP). Looking ahead, they discussed several priorities for future collaboration, including critical minerals. The secretary and the minister looked forward to the US Department of Commerce-led Global Diversity Export Initiative Trade Mission to India in early March 2025, with a focus on expanding opportunities in the Indian market for US SMEs that are owned, operated or led by members of underserved communities. The two leaders applauded plans to expand the US Department of Commerce's presence in India to a total of about 70 Foreign Commercial



Service staff across seven cities. In Bengaluru, where the State Department is planning to open a new US consulate, a new position will be created to serve as a one-stop resource for US and Indian startups and SMEs and to help advance the two sides' plans for an SME Presidents' Forum to explore greater SME engagement, sharing of best practices, peer learning, support for women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses, green technology, access to digital market platforms, and integration into global value chains, the media release said.

## China wine industry looks to be climate resilience

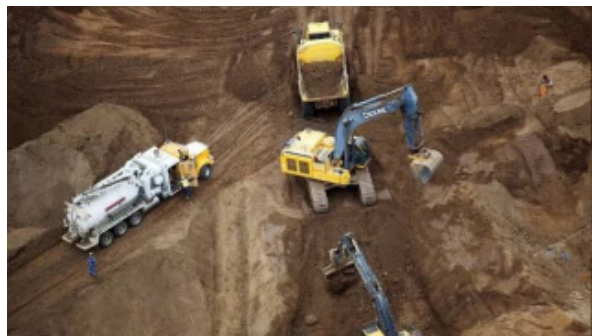
GNS News Agency, Oct 7

At a laboratory in Beijing, purple and green hybrid-species grapes are laid out on a board for testing, part of the strategy China's nascent wine industry is using to try to combat climate challenges. Scientists are using genetics and artificial intelligence to address imperfect weather conditions, as well as anticipate future problems that might be wrought by rising global temperatures.

"In China, since we have a quite young industry, we don't have many clear observations about the effect of climate change," Dai Zhanwu, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), told AFP. "But globally... there are many clearly observed impacts." The world's wine production dropped 10% last year mostly because of "extreme environmental conditions" such as droughts and fires, according to a leading industry body. Scientists say climate change driven by greenhouse gas emissions is making extreme weather more frequent and intense. Global warming is also affecting grape quality, a recent review in science journal Nature said, meaning "the suitability of current winegrowing areas is changing, and there will be winners and losers". Many Chinese wineries are determined to overcome those challenges. "(Producers) are consulting us to see what will happen in the next decades, what they should do to be prepared," said Dai, whose work also involves collaboration with European institutions. Climate instability solutions are sought both in the sterile calm of CAS laboratories and in the dusty fields of wine-producing areas like northern Ningxia. There, temperatures in winter drop so low that vines have to be buried. Producers told AFP they were already seeing the effects of a hotter world. "They really fear it," said Ningxia-based researcher Liang Yuwen. "From the point of view of a cultivator, the most feared thing is instability of climate, like sudden cooling, like hail, like extremely cold weather." Liang and others told AFP harvests were starting earlier because of climate conditions. Award-winning winemaker Zhang Jing said she has noticed the effect of warmer temperatures on her grapes. "When the climate is suddenly hot, the grapes ripen too fast... The accumulation of sugar is too high, but the acidity is too low. This imbalance is a huge challenge," she said. Zhang and others said they were experimenting with cultivation practices, and even considering starting vineyards in cooler locations, such as mountainous Yunnan and Tibet. Dai's team in Beijing are using mathematical and climate modelling to try to predict where future growing regions might be.



## Mining tax dues: Ruling to have large financial impact on mining cos; 'pass-on of costs may be inflationary'



time for payment of tax "shall be staggered in instalments over a period of twelve years commencing from 1 April 2026". The July 25 judgment overruled the 1989 decision of a seven-judge bench in India Cement Ltd vs State of Tamil Nadu, which said royalty is tax and state legislatures lack competence to levy taxes on mineral rights because the subject matter is covered by an act of the Parliament in exercise of powers under the Union List of the Constitution. The verdict has paved the way for states to collect greater revenue from mining operations.

Now, with states empowered to tax royalty on mining production, experts said costs of primary goods, especially iron ore, may go up. "Typically, you need 1.6 to 1.8 tons of iron ore for a ton of steel. If you consider the total cost of steel production and work backwards, royalty is roughly 5 to 8 per cent of the selling price. It's not a small cost at all," said Rakesh Surana, a partner with Deloitte India. "What if the costs go up? If the costs go up, margin is eaten into. If the margin is eaten into, you can either pass it on or if not, it's obviously not good for the company. It impacts expansion plans, the ability to repay debt, etc. Even if you can pass it on, it creates an inflationary impact... there is a risk of that happening if this isn't well calibrated," Surana added. After the July 25 judgment, each state can now decide the quantum of cess on mining operations, as opposed to a relatively more uniform taxation regime prior to the judgement. Surana said this may create a new dynamic of competition among states in terms of attracting mining-related investments. Moving forward, the industry is also bracing for the revival of previously stayed GST demand cases on mining operations, as the court has now clarified that royalty payments are a contractual consideration rather than a tax. "After April 2016, there is a liability under reverse charge mechanism with respect to services provided by the government. Therefore, royalty is something which will be considered as a mining rights service provided by the government to the mining community. Now, all the petitions which are currently pending in high courts and the demands which have been stayed in most of the cases will get revived," said Gopal Mundhra, partner at Economic Laws Practice (ELP). Mundhra noted that the centre has the authority to provide relief on pending GST demands after the insertion of Section 11A in CGST Act at the 53rd GST Council Meeting last month. The amendment gives the central government the powers to forgive non-collection or under-collection of GST in situations where businesses followed a common practice that led to the shortfall in tax collection.

According to a senior official in the Ministry of Mines, the ruling will have a major financial implication on mining companies, especially those mining coal and iron ore. These include both private companies and public sector undertakings (PSUs) that come under the mines ministry, the official said, adding that future investments in the mining sector could also be impacted by the ruling to tax retrospectively.

The ruling will lead to more costs being imposed on a primary sector like mining, which will make it "unviable", stakeholders from the industry said at the sidelines of a mines ministry event on Wednesday. Most metal stocks reflected this sentiment and closed in the red after the SC's ruling. India's largest iron ore miner NMDC Ltd fell 6.02 per cent to Rs 210.94. Coal India, the country's largest coal producer, dropped 3.26 per cent to Rs 504.70. JSW Steel dropped 1.93 per cent to Rs 890.30, Tata Steel 1.82 per cent to Rs 146.17, and Vedanta 0.50 per cent to Rs 420.20. Earlier, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the SC that if the verdict is applied retrospectively, the tax demand on PSUs would be between Rs 70,000 to 80,000 crore. For the entire sector, the cumulative impact could be well around Rs 2 lakh crore, according to industry estimates.

"The burden would eventually go to the common man. Whether directly or indirectly, he will be the person who will bear the burden because no industry can absorb this. For example we made a rough estimate only for the public sector undertakings. This is rough and ready, it is still the process of calculation is going on, but the approximate demand, which the only PSU's are expecting would be somewhere in the vicinity of 70,000 to 80,000 crore," Mehta had said on July 31.

The nine-judge SC bench on Wednesday said the levy of interest and penalty on demands made for the period before July 25, 2024 shall stand waived and the

## Lenders in talks with govt for "amicable resolution" after Karnataka halts transactions with SBI, PNB



universities and other institutions to close accounts at SBI and PNB. The state government has set a September 20 deadline for all departments to comply with the direction, according to a circular issued by P C Jaffer, secretary in the department, on Monday. SBI and PNB in separate statements issued on Thursday said they are committed for amicable resolution of the matter and are in discussion with the Karnataka government. However, both the lenders did not provide any specific comment as the matter is currently sub judice.

The Karnataka government's decision followed two fraudulent transactions reported at these banks. The first is related to PNB's Rajajinagar branch, Bangalore, where the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board had started a fixed deposit of Rs 25 crore on September 14, 2011. However, after the term of the deposit ended, PNB allegedly released only Rs 13 crore, citing fraud by bank officials. The other case was related to a fixed deposit at the erstwhile State Bank of Mysore, which merged with the SBI in 2017. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board had a fixed deposit of Rs 10 crore at the bank's Avenue Road branch, Bangalore. According to the state government, the amount was adjusted to the loans taken by a private company using forged documents. Attempts to recover the amount are said to have suffered the same fate as that of the fixed deposit in PNB.

Karnataka government SBI PNB SBI and PNB in separate statements issued on Thursday said they are committed for amicable resolution of the matter and are in discussion with the Karnataka government. (File) Days after Karnataka government ordered all its departments and public sector units to close all their accounts at State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB), both the lenders on Thursday said they are in talks with the state government for a 'amicable resolution' of the issue.

On August 12, the Karnataka's finance department issued an order asking all state government departments, public sector units, boards, corporations, local bodies,

## 'In India, the chips are never down': PM Modi to global semiconductor companies



per cent of the world's total talent in the world is Indian, a number, which he said, was growing exponentially.

The Prime Minister said that India's aspirational and tech oriented society is "unique". "In India chips don't just mean technology, for us it is a medium to fulfil aspirations of crores of people," Modi said. "During Covid-19, when the world's strongest banking systems suffered, Indian banks were functioning without a problem. Here, UPI, RuPay, Digi locker and Digi Yatra are part of Indian people's daily lives," he added. "There is an old saying - let the chips fall where they may, meaning, let things be the way they are. But, today's young and aspirational India does not follow this motto. We believe in increasing the chips produced in India," the PM said.

From likening India's semiconductor market to a "special diode" which conducts energy in two directions, to calling it an "integrated market" for integrated circuits, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on executives from top global chip companies Wednesday to invest in the semiconductor ecosystem in the country.

"This is the right time to be in India... You are at the right place at the right time," he said. The PM said there was a "three dimensional" power in India. "First, India's reformist government, second, a growing manufacturing base, and third, India's aspirational market. A market which knows the taste of technology... it is hard to find elsewhere... To become a chip powerhouse, India will do everything that is needed," PM Modi said during his address at the Semicon India 2024 summit.

The PM said that more than 85,000 engineers and technicians are getting ready in India to work in the semiconductor sector. "In 21st century India, the chips are never down. Today's India gives the world hope that when the chips are down, you can bet on India," Modi said. "A diode conducts energy in one direction, but India's chip industry has special diodes - energy goes in both directions. You invest, create value, and the government gives you stable policies and ease of doing business. The chip industry is connected to integrated circuits, India too gives you an integrated ecosystem," Modi said. Hailing the large talent pool of chip design engineers in India, Modi said that 20

New Delhi: Driven by the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, Apple has reached around \$5 billion in iPhone exports from India in the April-August period this fiscal. According to industry data, this is a growth of over 50 per cent from the same period of first five months in FY24. With the country set to commence production of the flagship iPhone Pro and Pro Max models, the value of iPhone exports is going to jump further in the festive quarter and months ahead, according to the industry analysts. The new iPhone 16 series will be available in the country from September 20 at attractive financing options and other offers. According to Union Railways and Electronics and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Apple's latest iPhone 16 is being produced and launched globally from the Indian manufacturing plants.

Apple hits \$5 billion in iPhone exports from India due to PLI scheme

Expansion plans of foreign investors in Telangana shrouded in uncertainty

Butter chicken to sambar, macher jhol to vada pav, dishes with deep-rooted significance in India's Independence movement

## Is garlic a vegetable or a spice? This is what the Madhya Pradesh HC says; We asked a dietician to weigh in



The humble garlic clove found itself at the heart of a legal tussle in India. What began as a seemingly simple question - is garlic a vegetable or a spice? - escalated into a full-blown legal battle that reached the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The dispute arose when the state's market board declared garlic a vegetable in 2015, only to be reversed by the agriculture department, which reclassified it as a spice. This bureaucratic ping-pong had significant implications for farmers and traders, affecting where garlic could be sold and taxed.

After years of legal wrangling, the high court finally ruled in favour of garlic's vegetable status, citing its perishable nature. Kanikka Malhotra, a consultant dietician and diabetes educator, explained that botanically, garlic is classified as a vegetable. It belongs to the Allium genus, which includes other vegetables like onions, leeks,

and shallots. The edible part of garlic is the bulb, which grows underground and consists of several cloves wrapped in a thin, papery skin. This bulb structure makes garlic a vegetable, similar to other root and bulb vegetables, she said.

Vegetables are generally defined as the edible parts of plants, such as roots, stems, leaves, flowers, or fruits.

Garlic, being a bulb, fits this definition perfectly. It is cultivated and harvested like other vegetables and provides nutritional value, including vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Despite its botanical classification, garlic is often used as a spice in cooking due to its strong flavour and aroma. Spices are typically derived from seeds, fruits, bark, or other plant parts and are used primarily to season and flavour food rather than for their nutritional content. Garlic is used in small quantities to add depth and complexity to dishes, much like a spice would be. The potent flavor of garlic comes from compounds like allicin, which are released when garlic is chopped or crushed. Malhotra explained. These compounds give garlic its characteristic pungent smell and taste, which can dominate or enhance the flavor of a dish. Malhotra said that while garlic is botanically a vegetable, its culinary use aligns more with that of a spice. This dual role makes garlic a versatile ingredient, capable of providing both flavour and nutritional benefits. Its classification as a vegetable does not diminish its powerful role as a flavouring agent, making it a staple in kitchens worldwide.

## Butter chicken to sambar, macher jhol to vada pav, dishes with deep-rooted significance in India's Independence movement



India's journey to Independence is not only a tale of political struggle but also a story etched in the flavours and aromas of its diverse cuisine. Food, an integral part of India's cultural fabric, mirrors the nation's historical journey, regional diversity, and the spirit of unity that defines its identity. As we celebrate the 78th Independence Day, let's explore the deep connection between food and national identity through insights from Chef Yashraj Dharadar, culinary chef at Academy of Pastry and Culinary Arts (APCA) Mumbai branch, and food historian Manisha Singh, who shed light on how various dishes across India reflect the nation's evolution.

"Each region has its unique culinary traditions that represent local customs, beliefs and practices," Chef Dharadar tells indianexpress.com. Indian cuisine, with its mosaic of flavours and ingredients and dishes like biryani and chhole bhature, not only transcend regional boundaries but also symbolises "unity in diversity". Singh says, "Food (in India) transcends mere sustenance, embodying regional pride, social bonds, and cherished beliefs." Culinary traditions act as a unifying force, strengthening cultural ties and national identity across diverse linguistic and cultural boundaries. North India: Chhole bhature and butter chicken as symbols of resilience and growth. In the context of India's independence, North Indian cuisine reflected the region's resilience and post-independence growth. Chef Dharadar says chhole bhature is a dish that gained immense popularity after Independence. Originating in Punjab, this hearty combination of spicy chickpea curry and fried bread symbolises the region's vibrant spirit. Dharadar notes, "After Independence, as people migrated to the newly-formed country, chhole bhature became a favourite street food." It embodied cultural change and the expression of newfound freedom and solidarity.

Singh adds butter chicken to the list, saying it became synonymous with North Indian cuisine in the 50s. "In the 50s, at Delhi's Moti Mahal restaurant, a culinary accident turned leftover tandoori chicken into this iconic dish, simmered in a creamy tomato gravy enriched with butter," she explains. Its creamy, buttery tomato gravy became a metaphor for India's journey of transformation and growth, mirroring the country's rise on the global culinary stage. Independence day Vada Pav epitomises Mumbai's melting-pot nature, where people from different walks of life converge in a densely populated area (Source: Freepik) South India: Idli and sambar as catalysts for unity

Chef Dharadar explained the role of food in fostering unity during the independence movement, using Idli as a poignant example. These simple steamed rice cakes were vital during the freedom struggle, offering a convenient and nutritious meal for community gatherings and rallies. Freedom fighters and activists often gathered in homes and community centers where idlis were served, he says. The variety of chutneys and sambar made idli a versatile and interesting choice. Idli became a symbol of collective effort, embodying the common purpose necessary for achieving independence. Singh echoes this sentiment with the history of sambar, a lentil-based stew that has become a cornerstone of South Indian cuisine. Originally introduced to Thanjavur by the Marathas, sambar evolved into a dish that transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Eastern India: How macher jhol became a testament to resilience Eastern India's contribution to the culi-

nary narrative of Independence is best captured by macher jhol, says Dharadar. This simple fish curry, rooted in Bengali traditions, embodies the resilience of a region that faced many challenges - from floods to political unrest. She says, "The dish's simplicity, relying on fresh fish, mustard oil, turmeric, and a few essential spices, reflects the ability to create flavourful and nourishing meals even in the face of adversity. Macher Jhol is more than just a dish; it is a symbol of survival, adaptation, and the unwavering spirit of the people of Eastern India." Macher jhol underwent a "transformation in its preparation techniques," post Independence, according to Dharadar. The incorporation of various fish species and spices reflects both economic upliftment and changing tastes. The dish transitioned from a humble, everyday meal to a celebrated staple in both home kitchens and fine-dining restaurants, but while maintaining its traditional roots. Western India: Vada pav and puran poli become symbols of fusion and festivity The culinary evolution of Western India in the post-Independence era is vividly captured through vada pav and puran poli. Chef Dharadar describes vada pav as a symbol of cultural fusion, epitomising Mumbai's melting-pot nature. "Originally a quick lunch for textile mill workers, it has a spicy potato fritter (vada) served in buttered bread rolls (pav). This dish reflects the convergence of diverse communities in Mumbai," he explains. The combination of Portuguese-influenced bread rolls with local spices embodies the spirit of a newly-united nation embracing its multifaceted identity. Similarly, puran poli, a sweet flatbread from Maharashtra, is a symbol of abundance and prosperity, Singh says. With references dating back centuries, it involves the slow cooking of lentils and jaggery to create a rich, fragrant filling. The flatbread, made from whole wheat flour, is rolled thin, stuffed with the sweet filling, and cooked on a griddle until golden brown. Singh notes, "Its preparation during festive occasions reflects the warmth and generosity of the region, uniting families and communities in celebration."

## Expansion plans of foreign investors in Telangana shrouded in uncertainty

Hyderabad: After multinational companies like Corning International Corporation and Kaynes Semicon pulled out of Telangana and the Amara Raja Group having second thoughts on its expansion plans since the Congress government came to power in the State, doubts are now being raised about the future of other industry giants like Foxconn in Telangana. Foxconn had previously announced plans for investment of Rs 4,000 crore in Hyderabad and to create around one lakh jobs. The ground-breaking ceremony for its manufacturing unit in about 200 acres at Kongara Kalan in Rangareddy district was performed in May last year. The facility was expected to commence operations by the end of August this year. A Foxconn delegation had also met Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy after the Congress government was formed in December last year, but there has been no further update. There were reports that the firm had plans to invest an additional \$400 million USD, but there has been no news on the same so far.



## Manvat Murders review: Ashutosh Gowariker show is a trudge



Tamhankar) make and sell illegal hooch. Early on, it is established that Rukmini cannot bear children, and she will do anything to 'cure' her barrenness. Somewhat later, there are murmurs of an ancient treasure under the tree in the Barahate house. As the body count rises, accusing fingers are pointing everywhere. A microcosm of rural Maharashtra of the time, with the class divide, abject poverty and the hold of superstition over everyone rises to the surface: the series has a distinctive colour palette, a landscape of mud mounds, bracken-ish water, and fields. A local tantrik is found lurking near Kulkarni's guest house, and a voodoo doll is found in his room. Could this be an occult thing?

The advantage of mixing known and unknown faces is evident in the way it makes us see. Gowariker keeps his cool even in the most trying circumstances and you wonder what will make him to yell. He's solid, even when he meanders about sleuthing which goes everywhere before it reaches somewhere. As is Kulkarni, who seems to be in everything these days. The one who leaves the most impact is Tamhankar, who pulls off a tough combination of gullibility and watchfulness. The show takes its time to come to its conclusions, and by the fifth episode, you can feel the stretch, even if the duration of each episode is around 35 minutes or so on an average. The intrigue is lost when the show decides to take recourse in explanation, and this is especially so in the final episode, when we are given a wholly extraneous flashback with Kulkarni adding two and two and making it four. And five. And six. The decision to keep it lowkey, which comes off fine to begin with, leads to leadenness. Post the mid-way mark, 'Manvat Murders' becomes a trudge. The real-life case was a tangle of wires, old wives tales, evil spirits who live in trees, hidden treasures, the power of menstruating women. When you unravel it so that everything becomes explicable, some of the power is leached away. Why not leave something to our imaginations? Manvat Murders cast: Ashutosh Gowariker, Sonali Kulkarni, Makrand Anaspure, Sai Tamhankar, Mayur Khandge, Umesh Jagtap, Shardul Saraf, Ketan Karande, Vitthal Kale, Kishor Kadam

## Nagarjuna confirms defamation case against Konda Surekha to continue despite retraction: 'The slander has gone far beyond just me and my family'

Nagarjuna has taken a legal action against Telangana Minister Konda Surekha for her insensitive comments about his son Naga Chaitanya's divorce from Samantha Ruth Prabhu. In a move to protect his family's reputation and stand up against exploitation, Nagarjuna has filed a criminal defamation case and is pursuing another Rs 100-crore defamation lawsuit against Konda Surekha.

In an interview with Times Now, Nagarjuna said, "The slander has gone far beyond just me and my family." He also explained why he's taking this stance. "We in the entertainment industry won't be soft targets anymore. It's as simple as that." He stressed that politicians cannot use celebrities' names for their own gain without consequences. Nagarjuna rejects Konda Surekha's apology to Samantha Ruth Prabhu as insufficient, citing its failure to address or apologise to him and his family for the hurtful comments.

Nagarjuna made it clear that he will not withdraw the complaint, despite Konda Surekha's attempted apology. "No, not at all," he stated firmly. "This is no longer personal." He added that the support he and his family has received from the Telugu industry has made him realise that they are in the "process of stemming the rot



that has seeped into the core of our system". He stated that the defamation case and lawsuit aim to caution other politicians against using celebrities' names in a slanderous manner. He said, "You cannot use our names for political gains." He also stated that the entertainment industry won't be "soft targets" anymore, and added, "I am hoping that our legal action against the lady will caution other politicians from using our names in a slanderous way." Nagarjuna's move has garnered widespread support from the Telugu film industry and fans alike. Filmmaker SS Rajamouli, Superstars Allu Arjun, Jr NTR are among those who have come in support of Samantha and the Akkineni family.

## Govinda return homewife Sunita gives health update: 'Doctors have prescribed six weeks bed-rest,



Bollywood actor Govinda is finally on the road to recovery after accidentally shooting himself in the leg. After undergoing treatment at Criti Care Hospital in Juhu, Mumbai, Govinda is now ready to return home, much to the relief of his family and fans. According to his wife, Sunita Ahuja, Govinda's discharge from the hospital is imminent. "Govinda will be given a discharge around 1 pm today, we'll be taking him home from here," she confirmed while speaking to the media outside the hospital.

Sunita also shared an update on Govinda's recovery, stating, "Doctors have said that Govinda will need bed-rest for the next six weeks and keep a check on his diet as he cannot exercise right now. We will not be allowing too many visitors as he can get an infection. He needs to rest now." She humorously added, "He has danced for so many years, now he needs to rest. Khaa pee ke nachwayenge unhe (We'll make him dance once he fully recovers). But he is otherwise doing well."

Highlighting Govinda's eagerness to return home, Sunita said, "I am with him for 10-12 hours every day, I

only go home for Navratri Puja, he is looking forward to going home. Despite the prolonged recovery period, Govinda's spirits remain high." She also revealed that the incident had left her and the family worried. She said, "Darr toh lag gaya tha (We were scared)," but I was sure he'll be ok as I trust in my Mata Rani (goddess). He is Hero number one, he has come out of this incident successfully. We can't wait to take him home," she added with a smile. Sources close to the actor have confirmed that the necessary paperwork has begun, paving the way for Govinda's discharge. The actor will soon be taken home, where he will continue his recovery under the care of his loved ones. In his first public statement since the accident, Govinda had opened up about the incident. In an audio statement released to the media by Shiv Sena leader Krishna Hegde, Govinda had said, "Namaste, pranam. I am Govinda. Due to your blessings, my parents' blessings, and the grace of my guru... I was shot, but the bullet has been removed. I thank the doctors here, especially Dr. Agarwal. Thank you all for your prayers and support."

## Sadhguru chided Samantha Ruth Prabhu for asking a 'schoolgirl question' and expecting life to be fair to her



Both the spiritual leader Sadhguru, aka Jaggi Vasudev, and actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu have been in the news lately, for different reasons. While Sadhguru's Isha Foundation premises were raided by a battalion of

150 police officers recently, Samantha was forced to issue a condemnation after a politician made disparaging comments about her separation from ex-husband Naga Chaitanya. Incidentally, Samantha shares a relationship with Sadhguru, and even posted about the Isha Foundation being her home away from home in the immediate aftermath of the controversy. They'd also shared the stage a couple of years ago, speaking about topics such as spirituality and karma. The video of the interaction, which took place in Hyderabad in 2022, was shared on Sadhguru's YouTube channel. A curious Samantha asked, "Another question that has been on my mind lately is that how much of one's life is a result of their past karma? Are the injustices and unfairness that one faces in one's life a result of their past karma, and if so, do you accept these injustices and find solace in the fact that the karma is being cleared, even though it might seem detrimental to our lives in so many ways...?"

## Inside Ayushmann Khurrana-Tahira Kashyap's home: Tahira recalls seeing a Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham-like poster of Khurrana family in their house



Ayushmann Khurrana and Tahira Kashyap moved to Mumbai from Chandigarh many years ago and in a recent interview, Tahira said that they have fully embraced the city as their own. Tahira recently gave a tour of her house in Andheri, Mumbai and spoke about her life with her kids and her husband. Tahira, who recently directed the Prime Video film Sharma Ji Ki Beti, said that she was always into performing arts and it took her seven years to direct her first feature film. Tahira shared that she first fell for Ayushmann when they met over a family dinner but she had noticed him during their Physics tuition. Tahira confessed that for a while she thought that his name might be Abhishek but she never bothered to find his name as they never had any interaction with each other. She shared that Ayushmann's father had called the Kashyaps over for dinner as their fathers knew each other socially and this is where she heard him sing for the first time.

"We entered and we saw this Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham kind of poster with his mom, dad and both the brothers are standing in a very royal way. Because we didn't know his name, I called him Coolio. I was like 'yeh toh Coolio hai'," she recalled with a laugh. "I still wouldn't have spoken to him but that night, he sang," she said and added, "That day, that boy sang and he won my heart." Inside Ayushmann Khurrana and Tahira Kashyap's home in Mumbai

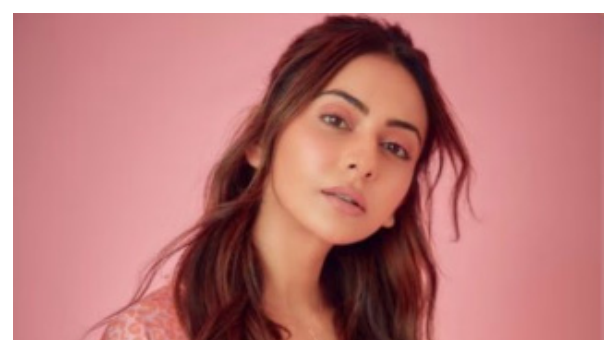
Inside Ayushmann Khurrana and Tahira Kashyap's home. (Photo: Curly Tales/YouTube) Ayushmann and Tahira live in Andheri, Mumbai. (Photo: Curly Tales/YouTube) Tahira recently made her directorial debut with Sharma Ji Ki Beti. (Photo: Curly Tales/YouTube) Tahira recently made her feature film directorial

debut with Sharma Ji Ki Beti. (Photo: Curly Tales/YouTube) Ayushmann was last seen in Dream Girl 2. (Photo: Curly Tales/YouTube) Ayushmann will also be seen in Dinesh Vijan's horror-verse in the film Thamba. (Photo: Curly Tales/YouTube) Ayushmann and Tahira are parents to son Virajveer and daughter Varushka. (Photo: Curly Tales/YouTube) Ayushmann made his debut in the movies with Vicky Donor. (Photo: Curly Tales/YouTube) Ayushmann made his debut in the movies with Vicky Donor.

During the chat, Tahira also opened up about her journey with her mental and her physical health. Tahira opened up about getting introduced to Buddhism and how she was in a vulnerable place in her life at that time. "I was pretty much trashed out at that point in terms of my mental health. I was not in a good space. Like I told you, it took me seven years to like Bombay. I was really really lost. And each time, I would come, I would end up getting pregnant and then again go back and deliver a kid and again come back. No sense of mission, very very lost, identity crisis sort of a situation. When you are so ambitious and suddenly you have an identity crisis, everything is sort of shaken up. I was just seeking out for a branch floating in an ocean and I am like drowning. I just wanted to reach out to that branch and sort of float, forget swim," she shared. Tahira shared that she was in a much better place in her life when she found out about her cancer diagnosis and shared that her outlook helped her overcome it.

## Rakul Preet dismisses Konda Surekha's claims about her marriage, criticises politician for involving her in 'political slug fest'; SS Rajamouli comments

After Samantha Ruth Prabhu, actor Rakul Preet Singh has responded to Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Konda Surekha's controversial remarks against her and actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu. Earlier Samantha was joined by leading faces of the film industry, including SS Rajamouli, as they criticised the insensitive statements. "Telugu Film Industry is known worldwide for its creativity and professionalism. I've had a great journey in this beautiful industry and still very much connected. It pains to hear such baseless and vicious rumours being spread about the women of this fraternity. What's more disheartening is the fact that this is being done by another woman who's supposedly in a very responsible position," Rakul wrote on X. Telugu Film Industry is known worldwide for its creativity and professionalism. I've had a great journey in this beautiful industry and still very much connected. It pains to hear such baseless and vicious rumours being spread about the women of this fraternity. What's more... "For the sake of dignity, we choose to remain silent but it is misconstrued as our weakness. I am absolutely apolitical and have nothing to do with any person/political party, whatsoever. I urge to stop using my name in a malicious way to gain political mileage. Artists and creative personalities should be kept out of political slug fest and their names should not be used to grab headlines by linking them with fictitious stories," she wrote. Recently, Telangana Forest and Environment Minister Konda Surekha sparked controversy alleging BRS leader KTR's involvement in drug-related parties and claiming he was responsible for Naga Chaitanya and Samantha Ruth Prabhu's divorce. Her remarks, made during a media interaction, targeted KTR, the Akkineni



family, and Samantha, with derogatory statements that have since drawn widespread criticism. She also claimed KTR was involved in drug-fuelled parties and was tapping phones of female actors and blackmailing them. Surekha alleged this forced Rakul Preet to get married. Rajamouli also came to the defence of Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya, slamming Konda Surekha's insensitive remarks about their divorce. Rajamouli, known for directing blockbuster films like Baahubali and RRR, took to social media to express his displeasure. He stated that individuals like Konda Surekha should refrain from making thoughtless comments about personal matters. The filmmaker has worked with Samantha on Eega (2012). The acclaimed filmmaker vehemently condemned Telangana Minister Konda Surekha's controversial remarks linking the divorce of actors Naga Chaitanya and Samantha Ruth Prabhu to a political issue. Joining the growing chorus of criticism, Rajamouli emphasised the importance of respecting personal boundaries and upholding dignity.



## Hockey India League returns: 8 men's teams, 6 women's; player auctions from October 13 to 15



Charles Group (Chennai), Yadu Sports (Lucknow), JSW Sports (Punjab and Haryana), Shracchi Sports (Kolkata), SG Sports and Entertainment (Delhi), Vedanta Limited (Odisha), Resolute Sports (Hyderabad), Navoyam Sports (Ranchi).

The four confirmed women's teams owners (and corresponding cities) are JSW Sports (Punjab and Haryana), Shracchi Sports (Kolkata), SG Sports and Entertainment (Delhi), Navoyam Sports (Odisha). Two more franchises will be confirmed soon, before the auction that will take place this month. Turkey, highlighting the achievements of Indian hockey in recent years, said players from around 15 nations could be in contention to play in the two leagues over a dedicated window for the tournament. The player auctions will take place on October 13, 14 and 15 in New Delhi, HI's general secretary Bholanath Singh announced. He also informed that a window between last week of December and first week of February has been blocked for the HIL for at least the next five years in discussion with the international federation FIH. The last time the league took place was in 2017, which features six teams playing in a home-away format. Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Ranchi and Lucknow were the cities that had teams with Kalinga Lancers clinching the title. The previous version of HIL ran for five editions from 2013 onwards.

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

The long-awaited return of Hockey India League was officially confirmed on Friday in Delhi, with Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey announcing the franchisees and owners for eight men's and six women's teams. While HIL in its previous iteration was only played by men's teams, this time around a women's edition will also be played and the number of teams have gone up to six from the originally proposed count of four. The leagues will take place simultaneously, but not in a home-away format, at least in 2024. Ranchi and Rourkela have been identified as the two venues for the upcoming HIL. The eight men's teams owners (and corresponding cities) are

## Smriti Mandhana's rise from Sangli to cricket's elite: Cricket obsessed family, hitting 1000s of hanging balls, a love for cover drives



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Smriti Mandhana remembers growing up in a cricket-obsessed household, thanks to her father's love for the sport. Her elder brother too harboured ambitions for playing for the country and it was following him to practice sessions that she considers to be her earliest memories. But Mandhana was slightly different... her obsession in the early days wasn't about cricket itself. It was just about batting. All she wanted to do was hold a cricket bat and hit balls as much as she could. Today, that batting-obsessed kid is India's biggest hope for ending the long wait for an ICC title, at the T20 World Cup in UAE. Still only 28 and already playing in this tournament for the 6th time, Mandhana has come a long way in her career. From Sangli, Maharashtra to the biggest stages of the world, where she - often uncomfortably - is under the spotlight. "I used to joke at my home that I picked up cricket when I was in my mother's stomach," Mandhana told the RCB podcast this year. "For me, more than cricket, it was an obsession with batting. The whole thing about cricket being a career kicked in only much later, when I was around 9-10 or so but all I remember growing up is loving batting."

Mandhana belongs to the list of international batters who make left-handed batting sometimes look like elevated art. But a natural right-hander, Mandhana knew only how to pick up a bat and wield it because of her brother being a left-handed batter. It was just a practical choice for her and it stuck. Once her brother moved on from cricket though, Mandhana felt it was on her to fulfill her father's dream of having an Indian cricketer in the household. While her father and brother were big cricketing influences, it was Mandhana's mother who gave her the direction. "Do whatever you want to do... but do it all the way, put in the most hard work possible." While conventional wisdom - and multiple stories we have heard in Indian cricket - dictates that there are better chances of succeeding if you move to a bigger cricketing center early, Mandhana's perspective is different. "The infrastructure is for sure much better in metro

cities like Mumbai and Pune, but the kind of attention I got in Sangli played a big role in my growth," she said. "The number of balls I could play in practice, the personalised coaching... it felt to me like the whole of Sangli cricketing fraternity wanted me to play for India."

In her early days, Mandhana wanted to just play the cover drive all day. Her game has grown in the last few years, but that remains her signature. There were times she watched Kumar Sangakkara's videos on loop, just to feel better after a bad day. And there was a bat signed by Dravid that was originally meant to be a souvenir but ended up being a source of a bagful of runs on the domestic circuit before she had to eventually move on from it when it broke. Mandhana's prolific batting got the attention it deserved and she soon found herself playing as a kid in much higher age-groups, often with players 3-4 years older than there. "I used to just play very few shots. Maybe flick and cover drive. I don't think I used to even play a pull shot." Mandhana of the present, however, is a more evolved version. The touch and elegance of her offside play have stayed on, but there was an epiphany in 2017 that she had to improve. Seeing the number of sixes hit at the 2017 World Cup, and in general the higher scores that were becoming the norm, it dawned on Mandhana that she needed more weapons. "I remember the only thing I told my coach then was that I needed to get the power game and lofted shots going. In the two months after that, we placed markers from 50m to 80m, gradually developed that, and last few years I have been able to improve," she said. Her strike rates reflect that too, as she has opened up her leg-side game more. She always had a good pull shot (even if sometimes it leads to her downfall) but the aerial shots through long on and midwicket regions are more prevalent now. Even with the pull, in her recent international outings, she has been able to access the region in front of square over midwicket. Her weakness against spin remains a concern but bowlers can't just target her outside off stump constantly anymore, when she moves across to go the other way. Off the field, the inaugural season of WPL was also a wake-up call for her, as a batter and leader. Struggling with her form like we have rarely seen in recent years, Mandhana had to reevaluate how she went about expressing herself better to her teammates as well. And in 2024, a more confident, self-aware version not just found her batting form back, but also stepped up as the captain to finally help Royal Challengers Bengaluru win a title they had been craving for. But even during the presentation ceremony that night, Mandhana was asked where the WPL title ranked in her list of achievements. She took a couple of seconds to gather her thoughts, made sure she conveyed how important the title was for RCB as a franchise but signed off saying, the World Cup is still the ultimate goal.

## How a mother's failed dream spurred rise of Wayanad as nursery for women's cricket



GNS News Agency, Oct 7

It all started on a train trip from Kochi to Kozhikode in early 2000, after K M Elsamma's daughter Anumol Baby failed a selection trial. On that journey, Elsamma, a physical education teacher in Wayanad, decided to turn the disappointment of the trials into an opportunity, helping shape the district, Kerala's popular tourist destination, into an unlikely nursery for women's cricket. Two of Kerala's three women cricketers to have represented the country are from this remote district and one of them, all-rounder Sajana Sajeevan, is in the India squad for the Women's World Cup. As for the state's women's team, at any point in time, Wayanad players account for half the team.

"When my daughter failed the trials, Wayanad did not have a district team. My daughter was a wanderer of sorts, turning up for different districts, and thus never got a real opportunity to express her skills. So we decided to form a team for our district," recalls Elsamma, a just-retired physical education teacher from the Mananthavady Government Vocational Higher Secondary School in Wayanad who once represented her college cricket team. "I called up the association secretary, Nazam Machan, who readily acknowledged the need for a team. But the bigger challenge was to constitute one. There was just my daughter and her friend. Suddenly I thought, why not do a selection trial among the children in school, even though I knew they rarely played cricket," says Elsamma. Wayanad then didn't possess a decent ground, let alone a turf wicket. Half the year, the district, comprising largely tribals and migrants from Central Kerala, battled floods and landslides. "Here, people have no time to play sports. The boys play a little bit of volleyball or football. But the primary ambition is to build a livelihood, business, farming or a government job," she says. Women are usually married off when they turn 18. Even the last Census of 2011 puts the female literacy rate in the district at 80.80%, far lower than the state average of 92.07%. It was to this milieu that Elsamma introduced cricket. There were doubters, but she paid them little at-

tention. She stifles her laughter when she recalls the first trials in the school's kitchen garden. "Some of them were holding the bat for the first time, some of them had never seen a cricket ball, or even watched a game of cricket. Many didn't know the rules. I was just looking for physical traits, whether they had hand-eye coordination, good reach and height, a strong physique. Somehow, I chose 14-15 players," she recounts.

Needless to say, the team lost all the games in the first inter-district tournament. But the kitchen garden of the school was repurposed into a small cricket ground, Elsamma and her daughter bought a couple of cricketing gears for the school, and evenings in the backyard of the Mananthavady school were filled with squeaky appeals and frantic thuds of leather on wood. "Still, parents had to be cajoled to send their daughters for tournaments in distant places. But I made them aware of the game's potential to change their lives. In the early days, we used to meet all their expenses, including buying clothes, as most of them came from humble backgrounds," she says.

But gradually, as they started winning the odd games - and getting grace marks for exams - more girls came streaming in. Elsamma kept her eyes open for fresh talent. Minnu Mani, the first woman from Kerala to play for the country, considers Elsamma a mother-like figure (Sportspics) Minnu Mani, the first woman from Kerala to play for the country, considers Elsamma a mother-like figure (Sportspics) It was then that Minnu Mani, the first cricketer from the state to play for the country, walked in. "When I first saw her, she was 12 or 13. She was fully into athletics, like sprinting and throwing. But the moment I saw her, I thought she had the goods to be a cricketer. She was open to it and her parents even more so," she says. Minnu considers Elsamma a mother-like figure. "I remember how she literally dragged me to my first selection trials. I was a shy girl then, but she gave me a lot of courage. She took care of me like a mother would," the cricketer says. Sajana, too, credits Elsamma for altering her career path. "In my teenage years, I used to play a lot of games and wanted to pursue athletics. But then she saw some spark in me and convinced me to pursue cricket," she once told this newspaper. Before Sajana left for the World Cup, she had called Elsamma to seek her blessings. "She asked me if I would watch her games. I told her I have never missed a single game of my students, even if it is telecast on the most random streaming site," she says. Last year, she went to Bengaluru to watch Minnu and Sajana playing on opposite sides. Like a mother, she says, she gets tense and nervous. "That's how mothers are. And to me, every player that I have coached is not a player, but my daughter. That is perhaps the reason parents didn't hesitate to send them with me to different places," she says.

## Women's T20 World Cup: Harmanpreet Kaur set for No 3 role as India take on New Zealand in opener

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

IND W vs SA W Test match: Harmanpreet Kaur on Chennai Test Chennai: India Women's captain Harmanpreet Kaur addresses a press conference ahead of a one-off test cricket match between India Women and South Africa Women, at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai. Without using as many words, head coach Amol Muzumdar all but confirmed that captain Harmanpreet Kaur will begin the T20 World Cup in a role she hasn't played often in her long career: batting at No 3.

While there was some suspense created before the team departed for Dubai, Harmanpreet played both the warmup matches in that slot (despite no significant return). And in the pre-match press conference on Thursday ahead of their opener against New Zealand, Muzumdar said it was a call that was taken even before the team left for the World Cup and the warmup matches just confirmed that. Harmanpreet has played every edition of the tournament so far, and now at 35, is taking up a new challenge, one that is tricky for the skill-set she has. Not the fastest of starters, Harmanpreet has played a majority of her career in T20s at No 4, where she could afford to take a little time to settle before upping the ante in the end. The No 3 will however be called upon often to negotiate the powerplay, and dot balls in the first six overs are not ideal. Now that onus to switch quick gears is likely to fall on the likes of Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh and revitalised Deepti Sharma, at least to start off India's campaign against two-time finalists New Zealand. Muzumdar hinted at a five-batter, five-bowler, one-wicketkeeper combination for India's final balance and that means the fit-again Yastika Bhatia could get a look in as well in the middle order. Sophie Devine's side,



while traditionally strong in the women's game, have struggled for results off late. A 0-3 defeat against Australia can be brushed aside, but a winless tour of England just before that raised concerns. In Devine, Amelia Kerr and Suzie Bates, the White Ferns have bonafide match-winners on their day, and with the captain saying they have worked hard on their batting strike rates, India's bowling unit will have to be on their guard. Conditions in Dubai will be a challenge for more sides, but the toss could prove vital if dew sets in and NZ have the batting firepower if they are chasing a par score. Bangladesh, Pakistan register wins The tournament kicked off on Thursday in Sharjah with Bangladesh and Pakistan registering wins on a track where boundary-hitting proved difficult through the day. Nigar Sultana was overcome with emotion as Bangladesh won their first ever T20 World Cup match away from home, ending a 10-year wait as well in the process by defeating tournament debutants Scotland. In the second match, there was an upset of sorts as newly-crowned Asian champions Sri Lanka were outbowled on a slow track by Pakistan's spinners.

## Mary Kom: As an athlete, weight management is my responsibility

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

Mary Kom Vinesh Phogat weight management "I do not want to say this in her case. I am saying this in my case only. If I do not cut the weight properly then how will I play? I am there to win a medal and that is what I think," Mary Kom said. Six time world champion boxer Mary Kom weighed in on the Vinesh Phogat Olympics controversy and said that weight management was the individual responsibility of an athlete. However, the boxer stressed that the statement was to do with her case only and not Vinesh. "I felt so disappointed in the sense that I have also done the same (weight management) for the last so many years. Weight is important, that is my responsibility. I cannot blame anyone," she said. "I do not want to say this in her case. I am saying this in my case only. If I do not cut the weight properly then how will I play? I am there to win a medal and that is what I think," she continued. In the Paris Olympics, Phogat was heartbreakingly disqualified from competing in the final of the 50kg weight class for being 100 grams over the permissible limit and subsequently announced her retirement from sport. She also decided to fight for her medal, this time in the court: assisted by the Indian Olympic Association, Vinesh Phogat knocked on the doors of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to be awarded a shared silver medal. But the CAS



ultimately dismissed the petition.

In a 24-page detailed order, Annabelle Bennett, the Australian arbitrator who presided over the case, underlined that although there was "no wrongdoing" on Vinesh Phogat's part, the "formation or validity" of the United World Wrestling's (UWW) competition policy was not "subject to challenge." In her order, Bennett said she saw "logic in a rule" that would ensure the results of Vinesh Phogat's first-day bouts would be upheld and that "limits the consequences to the round for which the wrestler is not eligible".

## Abhimanyu Easwaran strikes third 150+ score in last one month, as Rest of India reach 289/4 post Mumbai's 537

GNS News Agency, Oct 7

A crisp push to the long-on fence, a strolled single, a warm wave of the bat and a content smile. Abhimanyu Easwaran kept his celebrations as modest as his personality, after compiling his fourth hundred in seven innings this domestic season. It's his third score in excess of 150, for Rest of India against Mumbai on the third day of the Irani Cup fixture at the Ekana stadium in Lucknow. It's not that he has become tired of scoring hundreds, or resigned to the fate of piling runs without rewards, but just that Abhimanyu has a sense of emotional equilibrium, a passion for the game that exceeds materialistic gains. Definitely, it is the dream of playing Test cricket that fuels every cricketer on the domestic field, but Abhimanyu has trained himself to relish the moments rather than wallow over misfortunes. "I just love batting, scoring big runs, and winning games for my team," he had said after his Duleep Trophy hundred against India D in Anantapur. It's how he has battled all his life, from the academy his chartered-accountant-turned-cricketer-coach father had set up in balmy Dehradun, a year before his birth, to the countless days under the hot domestic sun of the country. Another action-packed day! Rest of India move to 289/4 on the back of a splendid 151\* from Abhimanyu Easwaran.

The latest hundred, an unconquered 151, embodied his career in a nutshell, his status as a domestic powerhouse and the virtues that make him. From the moment

he strode in with Rol responding to Mumbai's 537, he exuded firmness of technique and mind, that nothing would come between him and another century. The pitch was flat, the bowlers probing than penetrative, and in conditions as these, he just bedded in and piled on the runs, maintaining a control percentage of 88, offering just one life, a difficult catch when he was on 125, a few edges that fell short and putting another display of classical first-class batting. He bats without fuss and ragged edges, he is all neat straight lines and fluid movement of the feet, with joy and time at his disposal, and a minimalism of movements. He might not thrill like modern-day all-format youngsters, but exudes peace like seasoned red-ball batsmen do. He is not caught up in the rat-race to impress IPL scouts—though he has confessed his short-term ambitions. He bats in the same way as he had perhaps a decade ago—a risk-free game, but not overtly defensive. He took Rol to 289/4, trailing by 248 runs. For red-ball connoisseurs, he makes for an enjoyable watch. He drives gracefully on the front-foot, punches emphatically on the back-foot. He cuts and pulls, sweeps the spinners, uses his feet nimbly to loft them down the ground. Against Mumbai, like heyday Cheteshwar Pujara, he often sashayed down the track and drilled them through the leg-side with a whirl of the wrists. His powers of concentration were admirable. Even after completing his hundred on a flat pitch and against tired bowlers, he didn't feel the need to accelerate, fleece some quick runs and make an impression on the selectors.