



Lovlina to fight for gold

Lovlina Borgohain scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals, while debutants Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokharia settled for bronze medals here on Wednesday.

P6

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home

While many things are needed for people to lead happy and contented lives, food, shelter, and clothing are universally accepted as the basic minimum requirements of human beings. There is in fact this adage in Telugu.

P4

Lighter cars get relief under new CAFE norms

The government has notified the third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms for passenger vehicles, giving lighter cars relatively softer efficiency targets while requiring greater improvements from heavier vehicles.

P7

Priyanka Jawalkar grabs attention in sheer pink saree

Priyanka Jawalkar stunned in sheer pink saree. The actress is garnering love for flaunting a pretty traditional look on her social media. Even though she has been seen in cameo roles in many of the web shows that she has been a part.

P8

THE Hans India



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WINDOWS

IIT-B student suicide: Police record statements

MUMBAI: The Mumbai Crime Branch, probing the alleged suicide of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay student Sahil Wakode on September 18, has so far recorded the statements of 40 people, including his parents and fellow pupils, a police official said on Wednesday. Besides Sahil Wakode's parents, who are on a hunger strike at Azad Maidan in south Mumbai, and his fellow students, the Crime Branch has also recorded the statements of IIT hostel staff and others. However, the statement of Professor Suryanarayana Doolla, booked for abetment of suicide, was yet to be recorded, he said. Investigators have sent two mobile phones, a laptop, and a tablet belonging to Sahil Wakode to the Forensic Science Laboratory at Kalina to decode and unlock the electronic devices.

India's monsoon rainfall 4th lowest since 2001: IMD

NEW DELHI: India received 87.4 per cent of the long period average (LPA) rainfall this monsoon season (June-September), the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday. While normal rainfall during the monsoon season is 868.6 mm, this year it was 759.4 mm over India, the IMD said, adding that rainfall over the country during this monsoon season was fourth lowest since 2001. LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given interval, such as a month or season, averaged over a long period of time, typically 30 to 50 years. Currently, the country faces a deficit of about 13 per cent of rainfall between June 1 and September 30.

Indian sailor among 5 killed on hijacked tanker in Somalia

NEW DELHI: An Indian sailor was among five crew members killed by pirates aboard a hijacked fuel tanker in Somalia, authorities said, as the African nation's security forces retook control of the vessel. The Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF) said three Pakistanis, one Indian and one Myanmar national were killed early on Tuesday, before its forces launched an operation to secure the Palau-flagged tanker MT Honour 25, news portal Somalia Today reported.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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INDIA unveils rallies, marches over electoral transparency

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE INDIA bloc on Wednesday announced a joint campaign demanding greater transparency in electoral rolls and the election process, including five rallies in October-November and nationwide demonstrations. The dates and venues will be finalised soon, with a major rally scheduled in Delhi on November 1. The parties also agreed on a common action plan on electoral issues.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded greater transparency in

changes to electoral rolls, including constituency- and booth-level details of additions, deletions and corrections. He also sought notice and an appeal mechanism before voter names are removed.

Kharge and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Kharge also demanded replacing EVM voting with ballot papers and restoring the voter list prepared before the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

"Save Democracy Marches" will be held across the

- Kharge and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

- Rahul said INDIA bloc leaders are committed to accountability over what they described as threats to democracy and constitutional rights

country from October 2 to 8, with district-level protests. Opposition MPs will march to the Election Commission on October 6 and seek an appointment with the President.

Rahul Gandhi said INDIA bloc leaders were committed to accountability over what they described as threats to democracy and

constitutional rights. The meeting followed reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections multiple times over decisions related to the SIR exercise. The Election Commission has maintained that differences during institutional deliberations are normal and that its orders

EC dumps SIR declaration from Form 6 after row

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Election Commission on Wednesday removed the additional Special Intensive Revision (SIR) declaration from online Form 6 in states and Union Territories where the revision exercise has concluded. The change was made on the ECINET portal and comes four days after the full Commission decided that the additional requirement would apply only during the SIR exercise.

Form 6 is the statutory form used by eligible citizens to apply for inclusion in electoral rolls. The additional declaration had required new applicants to indicate whether their names, or those of their parents or grandparents, appeared in electoral rolls prepared during an earlier SIR. Ap-

Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections to the change, arguing that the statutory form could not be modified without amending the relevant rules



plicants could also be asked to provide relevant electoral-roll details.

With the declaration now removed in states where SIR has ended, new applicants

will have to submit only the statutory Form 6 prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The additional SIR-related requirement continues in states and

UTs where the revision is still underway.

The move follows controversy over the alteration of Form 6. The Indian Express had reported that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections to the change, arguing that the statutory form could not be modified without amending the relevant rules.

The report also said the two Commissioners had recorded objections on SIR-related decisions on multiple occasions, raising questions over the decision-making process within the Commission. The ECI subsequently announced that the statutory forms would be used during non-SIR periods and set up an expert panel to review ECINET's compliance with laws and rules.

Pilots fight mid-air; 'passenger' lands Israel-bound flight in Saudi

JEDDAH: A commercial flight, carrying around 180 passengers, headed to Israel made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia Wednesday after an apparent altercation in the cockpit. Some reports said a man pulled a knife and attacked a pilot, but officials have not confirmed that account.

Cluster 2, which operates several airports in Saudi Arabia, said the captain and first officer were both injured and taken to a hospital.

The incident sparked a military response from Israel, which couldn't rule out that the incident was terrorism related. Whether it was terrorism-related remains contested among Israeli officials.

An Indian national was the captain of a Flydubai flight who fought with his co-pilot during a violent cockpit confrontation that forced the aircraft to make an



emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Saudi Arabia had arrested the pilot of a Flydubai flight who stabbed another pilot and apparently tried to crash a plane full of Israelis.

The flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv landed in Saudi Arabia Wednesday after triggering a general emergency alert. That was briefly changed to an unlawful interference alert before reverting to a general emergency.

The flight tracker also reported the plane dropped from 33,000 feet to 17,000 feet in about a minute before circling.

One passenger told The Associated Press her daughter heard screaming and someone she believed was the pilot calling for help.

Other passengers who spoke to The New York Times said two other pilots were on the flight. They took control of the plane and landed it in Saudi Arabia.

Why only girls? CM demands mindset shift on women's safety

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

URGING a fundamental shift in society's approach to women's safety, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta questioned why restrictions are routinely imposed on girls after incidents of harassment while boys are rarely held to equal scrutiny. Addressing students at Maitreyi College during the 'Parampara Se Pragati' event, Gupta highlighted how safety incidents routinely trigger advice instructing daughters on how to behave and where to go. "Why?" "Why?" she asked, referencing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Red Fort address to emphasize that society must counsel boys and ensure the message "no means no" is understood clearly.

Modi, Trump talk on phone, discuss ties

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with US President Donald Trump.

The two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation across trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas of mutual interest, and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and agreed to maintain close engagement to deepen cooperation.

The leaders also exchanged views on regional and international developments and discussed ongoing efforts to promote global



peace and security. Both leaders also agreed to remain in touch. PM Modi said he had a productive conversation with President Trump.

"We reviewed our bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, energy, critical technologies," PM Modi said after talking to President Trump.

He and President Trump have agreed to maintain close engagement to take the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership forward, the prime minister added.



Maha BLOs told to accept voter docu on WhatsApp

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer S Chockalingam has asked poll officials to take voter documents sent via WhatsApp into consideration during the ongoing SIR exercise and directed BLOs to visit households for verification if necessary, an official said on Wednesday.

People can respond to notices generated from the ECINET software by sending their required documents on WhatsApp to BLOs, the official in the state poll body said.

Lashkar terrorist wanted in Pahalgam attack killed

BUDGAM

SECURITY forces on Wednesday recovered the body of a Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, identified as Mohammad Asif alias Hashim Moosa, along with war-like stores during a search operation in the general area of Palmaidan in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district.

The killing of Moosa was confirmed by the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps, which said, "During the search early morning in General Area Palmaidan, body of Pak-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, identified as Mohammad Asif alias Hashim Moosa recovered along with war-like stores." The Army and other



security agencies on Wednesday launched OP KORAG in the Youmarg area based on specific intelligence input. A Joint Search Operation was launched when vigilant troops observed suspicious activity and upon being challenged, terrorists opened fire, prompting a fierce exchange of gunfire during which Hashim Moosa was neutralised.

US leaves last air base in Iraq

TEXAS: US forces have completed their withdrawal from the last airbase in Erbil, Iraq, thus bringing an end to Operation Inherent Resolve.

Operation Inherent Resolve was the US's military mission to defeat ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).

"This milestone reflects the success of a 12-year campaign that defeated ISIS as an organised military threat in Iraq and across the region," said a statement from the US department of war. "The primary responsibility for addressing Iraq's remaining security challenges, including ISIS remnants and Iran-aligned militias that undermine Iraqi sovereignty and regional stability, now rests with the Government of Iraq."

76-year-old man gets 13-yr jail for robbing bank 38 yrs ago

KOLLAM

A 76-year-old man has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and fined Rs 16,000 for his role in a robbery at the Nallurad Service Co-operative Bank in Wayanad in 1988.

Additional District and Sessions Court Judge L Jayavanth sentenced Kollam native Abdul Samad in

the case. He will undergo another 10 months in prison if he fails to pay the fine.

According to police, the robbery took place in the early hours of January 8, 1988, when a six-member gang broke into the bank.

The gang arrived in a car, broke the locks and entered the bank.

The robbers took away a safe, nearly one kilogram of



gold ornaments and Rs 5,544 in cash.

According to the pros-

The robbery took place in the early hours of January 8, 1988, when a six-member gang broke into the bank. The gang arrived in a car, broke the locks and entered the bank

ecution, two persons who reached the bank after hearing the noise were attacked

with a crowbar.

Four of the accused -- Subair, Suresh Babu,

Alikkutty and Naseer -- were arrested and sentenced in 1993.

Another accused, O K Babu, who had remained absconding, surrendered before the court in 2017 and was later sentenced.

Police arrested Samad in October 2024. He faced trial while in judicial custody.

The court examined around 40 witnesses in

the case. The prosecution produced 166 documents as evidence and 21 material objects seized under the mahazar before the court.

The initial investigation was conducted by the then Mananthavady police and it was later taken over by District CB-CID.

Public Prosecutor E R Santhosh Kumar appeared for the prosecution.

AAP allowed drug trade to run openly in Pb: Shah

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JALANDHAR

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah launched a scathing attack on the AAP government in Punjab on Wednesday over the drug menace in the state, accusing it of allowing the trade in the contraband to run openly. Seeking support for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Assembly polls due early next year, Shah said the saffron party will

free Punjab from "chitta" (heroin) by December 2029.

"Can AAP make Punjab drugs-free? Only the BJP can make Punjab drugs-free," he said. The senior BJP leader was addressing a rally here to mark the culmination of the party's "Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra", which began on September 18. Hitting out at the AAP government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Shah alleged that it

allowed the "chitta" trade to run openly in Punjab. He said the BJP will fight the Punjab Assembly polls on the issue of "Nasha-Mukt" (addiction-free) Punjab.

Seeking support for the party, Shah said, "I promise Punjab's mothers and youngsters from here that before December 2029, we will free Punjab from chitta." On his arrival at Jalandhar in the afternoon, the home minister paid obeisance at the Shree Devi

Talab temple here.

Later, he met some families affected by the menace of drugs. Before addressing the rally at Paragpur, in a post in Punjabi on X, Shah said Punjab is grappling with a serious drug problem due to the AAP government's poor governance and called the Mann dispensation "aapda" (disaster). He said the people of Punjab are waging a decisive battle against drugs and uniting the state

Can AAP make Punjab drugs-free? Only the BJP can make; BJP will fight the assembly polls on the issue of addiction-free State

in the process.

The BJP's yatra reached every village in Punjab, raising drug awareness while also inspiring youngsters to join the campaign, he added. On the conclusion of the yatra in Jalandhar, Shah said he will meet with the residents

of Punjab face to face and, by interacting with the families suffering from the scourge of drugs, share their pain and sorrow. Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon, party leaders Tarun Chugh, Sunil Jakhar, Ashwani Sharma, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Manpreet



Badal, Iqbal Singh Lal-pura, Preetinder Kaur, Vijay Sampla, Sandeep Pathak, Som Prakash, Manoranjan Kalia, Manjinder Singh

Sirsa, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Raghav Chadha, Harbhajan Singh and Ashok Mittal were also present at the rally.

SP in touch with many MLAs from ruling camp: Akhilesh

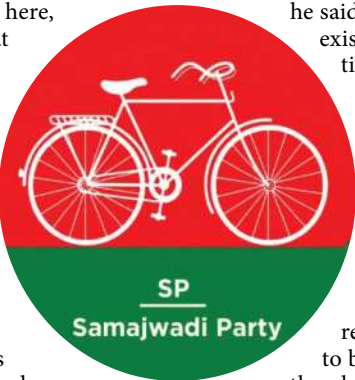
HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

AHEAD of the Rajya Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said several MLAs from the ruling BJP-led coalition are in contact with his party, but asserted that the SP would not make promises that it cannot fulfil. Asked whether MLAs from the ruling camp are in touch with him, Yadav said, "There are many who are in contact. But how do we adjust them? We do not want to make a promise and then go back on it." Addressing a

press conference at the party office here, he said the SP existed earlier, while continuing to a tion on allies for year's sembly. On the Sabha Yadav democratic requires rep- to be elected then lawmakers of the Upper House of Parliament. "Democracy should not have dishonesty. Had the BJP not indulged in dishonesty, the SP would have had three Rajya Sabha MPs," he said, referring to the previous election to the Upper House, in which SP candidate Alok Ranjan lost due to cross-voting in the party. Yadav said the SP is now urging MLAs to use this opportunity to "wash away the past".

"Sometimes one should learn even from his opponents. They appear to be fighting, but remain together internally," he said.

Asked about seat-sharing in an alliance, he said, "The SP has said this earlier and I am saying it again -- winnability is the basis for a seat."



LPU protest: HC seeks status report from govt

The matter came up for hearing before the bench headed by Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra in the High Court on a plea by Lovely Professional University (LPU) B.Tech student, Ravi Raj, seeking a CBI probe into the vandalism and violence at LPU

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

THE Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday sought a status report from the Punjab government on a probe into the violence and vandalism that erupted at Lovely Professional University in Phagwara days ago. The matter came up for hearing before the bench headed by Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra in the High Court on a plea by Lovely Professional University (LPU) B.Tech student, Ravi Raj, seeking a CBI probe into the vandalism and violence at LPU.

Speaking to the media after the hearing, Additional Solicitor Advocate General Satyapal Jain said the High Court has sought a status report on the Punjab Police's investigation. "A complete status report (has been sought), what action has been taken, who are the culprits, what action has



been taken against them, what action is being taken," Jain said.

The next hearing is on October 8. Jain said it was important to identify those behind spreading the misleading information on campus, as he expressed apprehension that a planned conspiracy appears to be behind it. Raj, the petitioner, submitted that an

unverified post was circulated among the students on the night of September 26 claiming that a female student had been raped on the campus and sent home.

Students gathered outside the girls' hostel and later blocked National Highway-44, according to the plea. Later, a large number of outsiders, carrying swords, rods and sickles

with their faces covered, reached the LPU campus and broke open the varsity main gates, destroyed CCTV cameras, looted shops and set several places on fire. In the petition, the LPU student submitted that the relevant rules of the IT Act should have been enforced when the misleading rumours spread on the campus.



Punjab SIT summons Majithia in drug case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

A Punjab Police Special Investigation Team, probing a Rs 6,000 crore drug case, has summoned senior Akali leader and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia to appear before it on October 5, official sources said on Wednesday.

The SIT has also summoned dismissed Punjab Police cop Jagdish Bhola on the same date, they said. The SIT may question both Majithia and Bhola face-to-face for the first time in the multi-crore drug racket case.

Bhola, a former wrestler, was arrested in November 2013 by the Punjab police in connection with the drug racket. In 2014, Bhola had named Majithia in the drug

racket, a charge which was vehemently denied by the senior Akali leader.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) later had also investigated the case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The ED sleuths had questioned Majithia in 2014 in connection with the case when he was the minister in the then Akali government. Majithia was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on December 20, 2021, when the then chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi-led Congress government was in power.

The action was taken on the basis of a 2018 report of the anti-drug Special Task Force (STF) of the Punjab Police.

BJP protests Omar's statehood resolution

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU/SRINAGAR

THE Bharatiya Janata Party staged a protest in Jammu and Srinagar on Wednesday against the National Conference-led Jammu and Kashmir government over the Assembly resolution on statehood, including autonomy. The BJP accused the government of passing the resolution without adequate discussion and failing to fulfil its election promises.

Hundreds of BJP workers, led by party MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and other senior leaders, gathered at Kachi Chawani and marched in the area, raising slogans against the National Conference (NC) and the government. In Srinagar, the BJP protested outside its head office in Jawahar Nagar. Speaking to reporters, BJP J-K spokesperson



Altaf Thakur said the NC government was raising these issues to divert attention from public welfare. The protesters demanded Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's resignation and the dissolution of the government, alleging that the Assembly resolution sought to revive provisions of greater autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir, which the NDA government rejected years

ago. BJP workers also burned the chief minister's effigy during the protest. Police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in large numbers along the protest route. Sharma alleged that BJP legislators were not given adequate opportunity to participate in the discussion on the resolution and were forcibly removed from the Assembly when they raised objections.

Mehraj marshalled out of J-K Assembly

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR

AAP MLA from Jammu and Kashmir's Doda, Mehraj Malik, was on Wednesday marshalled out of the Legislative Assembly here after he went to the well of the House to register his protest for not being allowed to speak. Malik went into the well of the House while the Question Hour was going on, alleging that he was not being allowed to speak on issues in the assembly.

However, as he continued to protest in the well of the House, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather ordered that the MLA be marshalled out. Earlier, Malik arrived on a bike for the assembly proceedings after his



security and driver were allegedly withdrawn. "After taking away my escort, my driver was taken away before assembly session and Today the 2 PSO's i was provided have also been withdrawn from srinagar. i am the only MLA in J&K, without escort, Driver and PSO's (sic)," Malik said in a post on X. The AAP MLA from Doda said J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhakar would be responsible if anything happened to him.

Eight houses gutted in blaze in J-K's Kishtwar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

AT least eight houses and a few cowsheds were gutted in a major fire that broke out in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Wednesday, officials said. No casualties were reported in the blaze.

The fire broke out in a house in Mungli village of Warwan shortly after midnight and quickly spread to adjoining structures despite efforts by local residents to contain the blaze, including the use of earth movers to demolish parts of the affected houses and create a firebreak, the officials said. They said as there is no fire station in the Warwan area, fire tenders were called from Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and the blaze was



brought under control around 4 am.

The affected area remained under monitoring as smouldering continued in parts of the site. Some livestock perished in the fire.

The exact extent of the livestock loss, however, could not be ascertained as a detailed assessment was not possible during the night. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained immediately,

the officials said.

The administration has begun assessing the damage and relief requirements, while a relief vehicle is being arranged from the district headquarters, the officials said.

Fire incidents are relatively common in the remote Warwan region during the winter months, when residents traditionally stock large quantities of dry grass and other fodder for livestock.

5 trekkers go missing in Uttarakhand

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN

A group of five trekkers have gone missing on the Vasukital trek in the high Himalayan region of Rudrapur district in Uttarakhand and efforts have been launched to trace them, officials said on Wednesday. Rudrapur District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said the brother of one of the trekkers in the Kedarnath-Vasukital trekking group informed the District Disaster Management Office about the incident.

The officer said a helicopter attempted to locate the team on Tuesday, but could not find them. He said that a foot search team was also sent to trace the trekkers.

The officer said the trekkers had left on September 25 and usually it takes 10-12 days to complete this trek and return. However, they are being searched as contact has been lost with them. The state experienced heavy rainfall in the lower regions and heavy snowfall in the higher elevations on September 26 and 27, for which the Meteorological Department had issued a warning.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed officials to remain vigilant and urged people to avoid unnecessary travel. Rajwar said the trekking team did not take permission before leaving for the trek, otherwise the administration would have stopped them from going.

Nathwanis' political journey: Father backed by NDA, son fielded by SP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

THE NDA helped send senior Reliance executive Parimal Nathwani back to the Rajya Sabha in June. On Wednesday, the Samajwadi Party chose his son Dhanraj Nathwani for a seat from Uttar Pradesh, extending the family's parliamentary journey across states and rival political camps.

A group president at Reliance Industries and president of the Gujarat Cricket Association, Dhanraj was named alongside veteran leader Ram Gopal Yadav as the SP's candidate for the Upper House.

Elections to 10 Rajya Sabha seats from Uttar Pradesh will be held on October 16, ahead of the state assembly polls due next year. Based on

A group president at Reliance Industries and president of the Gujarat Cricket Association, Dhanraj was named alongside veteran leader Ram Gopal Yadav as the SP's candidate for the Upper House

the present assembly arithmetic, the BJP-led alliance is expected to win eight seats and the Samajwadi Party two. Dhanraj, whose corporate responsibilities span several Reliance businesses, including overseeing the Jamnagar manufacturing divisions, filed his nomination in Lucknow in the presence of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the Honorable National President, Shri Akhilesh Yadav ji, for nominating me as the

Samajwadi Party candidate for the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. Today, in the presence of Honorable Akhilesh Yadav ji in Lucknow, I filed my nomination for the Rajya Sabha, marking a new phase in my public life," he posted on X.

Dhanraj also oversees the Jamnagar manufacturing divisions and exercises strategic oversight over the Jio business in Gujarat. Besides, he leads the engineering, procurement and construction vertical and oversees



Reliance Jio Defence System Limited. He serves as vice chairperson of the Dwarkadhish Temple Administrative Committee and holds memberships of the

Nathdwara Temple Board, and the Gujarat State Board for Wildlife. While Nathwani senior, Reliance Industries' director-corporate affairs, secured a fourth consecu-

tive Rajya Sabha term with BJP-led NDA backing, son Dhanraj is seeking entry through one of the BJP's principal opponents in Uttar Pradesh.

DELHI RIOTS 2020

HC refuses bail to Umar, Sharjeel in UAPA case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in a case under the anti-terror law UAPA on the “larger conspiracy” behind the February 2020 riots in north-east Delhi.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Dinesh Bhatt dismissed the third plea for bail by Khalid and Imam in the case. Asserting that it is bound

by “judicial discipline,” the bench said it cannot modify the Supreme Court’s January 5 order asking the two accused to seek bail either on completion of protected witnesses’ examination or expiry of one year, whichever is earlier.

“We would be modifying this (Supreme Court) order if we allow bail, which we cannot do,” the bench remarked. Khalid and Imam challenged the trial court’s July 4 decision rejecting their bail pleas for the third time since their arrest.

The trial court rejected the bail applications, saying it had “no option but to follow” the Supreme Court’s January 5 order and, therefore, could neither entertain the plea nor grant any relief.

The bench noted that while denying bail to the two accused in January, the top court had said that their roles were distinct from the other co-accused and they were the “ideological drivers” of the alleged conspiracy.

“In view of the above

discussion and the overall facts of the case, specifically the conditions imposed upon the appellants, this court cannot find fault with the decision of the trial court. Accordingly, the appeals are dismissed,” the court concluded.

The senior counsel appearing for Khalid argued that he has spent six years in custody and was entitled to be released on bail in view of a subsequent top court order giving relief to other co-accused.

He added that around

Asserting that it is bound by judicial discipline, the bench said it cannot modify the Supreme Court’s January 5 order asking the two accused to seek bail either on completion of protected witnesses’ examination or expiry of one year, whichever is earlier

ten months have passed since the January 5 order and charges were yet to be framed in the trial court. Imam’s counsel also said

that he has been in custody for six years and he was entitled to bail considering the delay in conclusion of trial. Additional Solicitor



General S V Raju opposed the pleas on behalf of the Delhi Police, asserting that the two are the “master-minds” of the riots and the Supreme Court has already set a timeline for

consideration of any fresh bail pleas by them.

During the hearing, the court also suggested listing the cases for consideration after the second week of January.

Will move court if FIR not lodged against Parvesh: AAP

For the last three days we have been demanding that an FIR be registered against Verma, but Delhi Police is doing the opposite and registering cases against us to intimidate us. We will ultimately go to the courts to get the FIR registered if police fail to do their duty: Saurabh Bharadwaj

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday said that it would approach the court if an FIR is not registered against PWD Minister Parvesh Verma for slapping a civilian three days ago. AAP Delhi unit President Saurabh Bharadwaj also said he and party workers would visit the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) office today demanding the FIR.

“For the last three days we have been demanding that an FIR be registered against Verma, but Delhi Police is doing the opposite and registering cases against



us to intimidate us. We will ultimately go to the courts to get the FIR registered if police fail to do their duty,” Bharadwaj said in a press conference.

The party leader also demanded an independent audit by a road engineering expert agency, like the Central Road Research Institute

(CRRRI), of the road under repair by the PWD in the Tilak Nagar area.

“It is ultimately corruption inside Verma’s department, which our MLA raised. An independent audit should be done of this; we will take up these demands at the ACB office,” Bharadwaj said.

The AAP leader also

alleged that the police misbehaved with the party’s women councillors who were protesting against their inaction. An FIR has been registered against Bharadwaj and AAP’s Tilak Nagar MLA Jarnail Singh, and several party workers, for allegedly assaulting a head constable and obstructing him from discharging his duties, police said on Tuesday.

The police have also filed a non-cognisable report (NCR) against Verma, a BJP leader, for slapping 22-year-old Sahib Singh during a road inspection last week when the latter was recording him visiting the area for road inspection.

City court convicts man for outraging woman’s modesty

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has convicted a man for outraging the modesty of a woman, sexually harassing her and insulting her modesty during a neighbourhood quarrel, while acquitting him of attempting to disrobe her and causing hurt to her mother. Additional Sessions Judge Sachin Jain was hearing a case against Vikas Kumar alias Vicky and convicted him of charges under BNS Sections 74 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 75(3) (sexual harassment via sexually colored remarks) and 79 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman). In an order dated September 24, the court said, “The testimony is not confined to a general allegation that the accused ‘abused’ her but attributed



specific sexually coloured expressions to him which are not reproduced herein for the sake of brevity. The court therefore finds that the evidence goes beyond a mere allegation of ordinary abuse arising from a neighbourhood quarrel.”

The court, however, acquitted him under BNS Sections 76 (assault or use of criminal force on a woman with intent to disrobe) and 115(2) (punishment for voluntarily caus-

ing hurt), giving him the benefit of doubt on the charges of attempting to disrobe the woman and voluntarily causing hurt to her mother respectively. According to the prosecution, on August 3, 2024, the woman and her mother were going to throw garbage when Kumar, their neighbour, objected to it. A quarrel followed, during which he allegedly abused the woman, held her hand and dragged her towards his house.



AAP not part of INDIA bloc, won’t attend meeting: Sanjay

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

AAM Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh on Wednesday said his party is not part of the INDIA bloc and is therefore not attending the meeting called to discuss issues concerning the Election Commission.

The AAP leader also said his party supported the impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and was fighting against what he described as shortcomings of the Election Commission “from the streets to Parliament”. The AAP announced its exit from the opposition INDIA bloc on July 18, 2025, with Singh saying the alliance was formed specifically for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. “There is no question of joining the meeting. Aam Aadmi Party is not part of the INDIA bloc,” Singh said in response to a question. Top leaders of the INDIA bloc are meeting here to finalise an action plan for a joint agitation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision.

Among those at the meeting are Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, the TMC’s Mamata Banerjee, and leaders from parties such as the SP, CPI, CPI(M), NCP(SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT).

According to Singh, 27 lakh voters in West Bengal had been deprived of their voting rights. He also questioned the time being taken to complete hearings before the tribunals. He claimed that 93 per cent of people among the 1.26 lakh cases heard so far were found eligible, and alleged that completing the entire process could take 12 years. Singh also questioned the deletion of names from electoral rolls and alleged that 13.37 crore names had been removed across the country.

Attempt to murder charge for ‘defacing’ CEC’s house

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A case of attempt to murder and causing grievous hurt and rioting has been registered against around 20 Congress workers, including six of them who have been arrested, for the alleged defacement of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar’s residence here during a party protest, sources said on Wednesday. The action followed Monday’s protest outside Kumar’s residence in the Vijay Nagar area, where Congress workers allegedly wrote slogans with black paint on the gate and wall of the house before leaving the spot.

The six arrested accused -- Congress leaders Anil Yadav, Mukesh Dhangar, Manoj Gaur, Rajesh Kumar, Raja Gautam and Pankaj Chaudhary -- were sent to jail on Tuesday, police said.

The case was registered at the Hariparvat police station on the basis of a written complaint by Sub-Inspector Gaurav Gupta against eight



named persons and 15-20 unidentified Congress workers. The accused have been booked under Sections 109 (attempt to murder), 121 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter a public servant from performing his duty), 126 (wrongful restraint), 132 (assault or criminal force against a public servant), 191 (rioting by an unlawful assembly using force or violence), 333 (house-trespass after preparation to cause hurt, assault or wrongful restraint), 351(2) (criminal intimidation) and 352 (intentional insult intended to provoke breach of peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL CALL CENTRE BUSTED, 5 HELD



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

FIVE people were arrested for allegedly running an illegal international call centre in southwest Delhi’s Uttam Nagar and targeting foreign nationals by impersonating Amazon and Apple technical support executives, police said on Wednesday.

Following specific inputs, a team raided the call centre in Vipin Garden on the intervening night of September 28 and 29, arrested the accused, and recovered 10

laptops, four mobile phones and multiple calling accessories.

Police said the accused used multiple voice modulation applications to contact foreign nationals while posing as technical support agents. After gaining the victims’ confidence, they allegedly induced them to install remote-access software such as AnyDesk and then deceived them into making payments or sharing sensitive financial information.

“The arrested accused have been identified as Sim-

ranjeet, 33, a resident of Luddhiana, Mark Martin, 47, a resident of Gurugram, Elton John Salters, 43, a resident of Kolkata, and Abhishek S Abraham, 30, a resident of Delhi. Anita, 34, a resident of Odisha, was also apprehended and served a notice,” a senior police officer said.

The officer further said that Simranjeet allegedly handled the operational infrastructure of the call centre, including assigning user IDs, passwords and other login credentials to callers.

‘Delhi govt promoting mechanical sweeping’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government is promoting mechanical sweeping and garbage collection by giving funds to the MCD for procuring 1,000 litter-picking machines, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Wednesday. Addressing a gathering of sanitation workers at ‘Safai Mitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivir’, the chief minister said after the 1,000 litter-picker machines are suitably deployed, the government will increase their numbers.

She further said the government has provided funds to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for procuring mechanical sweeping machines, including 70 large ones.

The Delhi government on Tuesday decided to provide funds to the MCD for procuring 30 small-sized mechanical sweepers

to ensure cleaning and dust removal in narrow lanes and streets of the city, the chief minister said.

Lauding the sanitation workers for their hard work to keep the city clean, Gupta said her government is providing them with machines and tools and also ensuring their welfare through schemes related to health and education.

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar and Union Minister of State BL Verma also attended the programme held at the MCD headquarters.

The camp brought care and welfare closer to our ‘safai mitras’, ‘swachhagrahis’ (sanitation workers) and their families through preventive health check-ups, access to welfare schemes of the Centre and Delhi government, and distribution of PPE (personal protective equipment) and safety kits, Delhi CMO said in a post on X.

Delhi bus gang-rape: DNA of accused found on girl’s clothes

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI Police have filed a chargesheet against two men accused of allegedly gang-raping a minor inside a moving sleeper bus that travelled from Greater Noida to Delhi in August. Forensic evidence, including DNA samples, forms a key part of the prosecution case.

The accused have been identified as a bus driver and conductor. The chargesheet has been filed before the Tis Hazari Court under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya

Police have invoked provisions of the BNS relating to gang rape of a woman below 18 years of age, kidnapping, wrongful confinement and common intention, along with provisions of the POCSO Act relating to penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault

Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to the chargesheet, DNA profiles of the two accused matched biological samples recov-

ered from the survivor’s clothes and from the bus. Police said the forensic evidence, including semen and hair strands, was sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for examination and the report



has been annexed with the chargesheet.

The chargesheet, filed on September 18, runs into 398 pages and contains statements of 51 prosecution witnesses, according to reports. The court took cognisance of the chargesheet on September 24. The matter has been listed for arguments on charges on October 7.

Police have invoked provisions of the BNS relating to gang rape of a woman below 18 years of age, kidnapping, wrongful confinement and common intention, along with provisions of the POCSO

Act relating to penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

According to the police investigation, the incident took place on the night of August 4 after the minor, who had travelled from Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh, boarded the sleeper bus near Pari Chowk in Greater Noida.

Police said the girl was attempting to reach a relative’s residence in Noida’s Sector 63 and was unfamiliar with the area. The bus allegedly stopped near her while she was waiting at Pari Chowk.

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India cautions US against Pak’s role in promoting terror

INDIA has rightly warned the United States against its growing bonhomie with Pakistan. Speaking at the Asia Society Policy Institute, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, “There are very few countries which have been subjected to the kind of terrorism that we have from a neighbour as part of a deliberate, conscious policy over many, many decades.” Though he didn’t name Pakistan, as such, the reference was obvious, especially because the US itself has suffered because of Pakistan’s dalliance with jihadist terror. It is a well-known fact that Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the political and military capitals of Pakistan, have played both sides of terror; they aided, armed, and abetted jihadists on both its eastern and

western fronts, while feigning to help the American efforts to fight Islamists like Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. “Now, if something which matters so deeply to us, there isn’t enough understanding or appreciation or empathy of that, I think that creates a problem too. That you know if... one of my primary concerns is not fully appreciated by my partner, then clearly there is an impact of that on the relationship,” Jaishankar said, alluding to India-US ties.

He has a point. Washington has been claiming, and rightly so, that Tehran has been promoting jihad in the region; in fact, this is one of the factors resulting in the US-Israel alliance’s attack on Iran. At the same time, President Donald Trump was

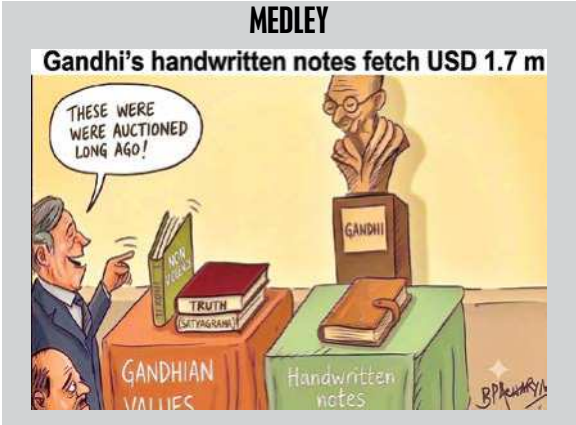
cosying up with Pakistan, especially its Field Marshal Asim Munir, who is the jihadist-in-chief of the notorious ‘terroristan’. Unfortunately, Pakistani leaders’ flattery and shenanigans fooled the world’s most powerful man. The dealings between Trump’s family members and the Pakistani establishment also reportedly cast their shadow on the US-Pakistan ties. While we have unambiguously conveyed our displeasure over the improving US-Pakistan relations, we must not go overboard, which we sometimes do—the recently concluded BRICS Summit in New Delhi being a case in point. Diplomacy is an exercise in balancing interests, not in expressing emotions. The US will pursue its own strategic, economic,

and geopolitical interests, just as India must pursue its own. Washington’s engagement with Islamabad may be uncomfortable for New Delhi, but it does not automatically follow that New Delhi should allow this discomfort to define the entire India-US relationship.

The two countries have substantial convergences in the Indo-Pacific, defence, technology, trade, energy security, and counterterrorism. These interests cannot be wished away because of fluctuations in America’s Pakistan policy. New Delhi should continue to remind Washington of Pakistan’s record of supporting and sheltering terrorist organisations, while avoiding the temptation to view every American-Pakistan in-

teraction as a diplomatic setback for India. At any rate, Americans are not so ignorant as to be unaware of Pakistan’s duplicity. India should also resist the urge to turn every multilateral forum into an arena for settling bilateral scores.

The BRICS Summit demonstrated the pitfalls of allowing geopolitical disagreements to overshadow larger economic and developmental objectives. India’s growing global stature demands strategic composure. One need to react to every move by another power; it must assess that move passionately, protect its core interests, and keep its diplomatic options open. That is the approach New Delhi should adopt towards the renewed US-Pakistan bonhomie.



LETTERS

Mining policy should think of affected communities

With reference to “Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states” (THI, Sept 30). Mining can generate investment, employment and revenue, but the benefits should not come at the cost of communities living around mineral deposits. States hosting these resources face displacement, environmental degradation and pressure on local infrastructure. Any new mining framework should therefore include stronger safeguards for the affected communities. A defined share of mining-related revenue could be directed towards local health, education, roads and rehabilitation. Environmental clearances must remain rigorous and should not become a mere formality in the interest of faster extraction. The Centre and states should jointly monitor compliance and publish regular reports. A development model that combines mineral extraction with environmental responsibility and local welfare would make mining more sustainable and socially acceptable.

A Myilsami, Coimbatore-641402

Govt must spell out future mining arrangements

THIS refers to “Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states” (THI, Sept 30). The disagreement over the proposed mining law also highlights the importance of policy certainty. Investors need clear rules, and governments must ensure that states are not suddenly deprived of legitimate revenue or decision-making space. Frequent changes in taxation, royalties or regulatory arrangements can create uncertainty for both industry and governments. The Centre should publish a clear framework explaining how existing and future mining arrangements will be treated. A formal consultation mechanism with mineral-producing states could prevent disputes before they reach the courts. Any retrospective financial implications should be handled carefully and transparently. Predictability, fair revenue-sharing and institutional dialogue can provide industry with confidence while respecting the constitutional position of states.

Swathi Senthilkumar, Coimbatore

Protect economic interests first

Regarding “Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states” (THI, Sept 30), the proposed changes deserve examination from the standpoint of cooperative federalism. Natural resources may have national economic significance, but the states where minerals are extracted deal directly with the consequences of mining. Their participation in policy formulation is therefore essential. The Centre should convene a structured dialogue with mineral-rich states, industry representatives, local bodies and affected communities before implementing major changes. Differences over the law should be resolved through negotiation rather than prolonged political confrontation or litigation. At the same time, states should provide predictable approvals and ensure that regulatory processes remain efficient. A mutually agreed framework can protect national economic interests while giving states adequate fiscal space and communities a fair share of the benefits generated from their natural resources.

B A Neboba, Perundurai-638 052

Tech firms must adopt energy-efficient systems

THIS is further to the column “Creativity is destroying the environment” (THI Sept 30). Artificial intelligence is celebrated for the convenience it provides, but its environmental cost remains largely unexamined. Training GPT-3 alone is estimated to have evaporated about seven lakh litres of fresh water, and by 2027 global AI demand could equal the annual water use of 30 to 47 million people. In a country where nearly 60 crore people face severe water shortage, this cannot be ignored. Policymakers and technology companies must adopt energy-efficient systems, responsible water use and transparent disclosure.

Divyanshu Dhakad, Dhenkanal

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Congress launches Bharat Jodo 2.0 padyatra from Shikaripura

SHIVAMOGGA: The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Wednesday launched its ‘Bharat Jodo 2.0’ padyatra from Shikaripura in Shivamogga district, targeting 84 Assembly constituencies where the Congress was defeated in the 2023 Karnataka elections. The padyatra is being led by KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad and is planned as an 84-day programme covering 29 districts. Congress leaders said the initiative is aimed at strengthening the party organisation and increasing direct interaction with people in constituencies where the party lost in the previous Assembly election. The programme was launched from Kittadahalli in Shikaripura taluk. The march proceeded through Mattikote, Hosanagar Cross and Nelavagilu before heading towards Shikaripura town. According to Minister Madhu Bangarappa, around 10 km will be covered during the first day’s padyatra.

Read more at <https://epaper.thehansindia.com>



TALKING OF MANY THINGS

DR MOHAN KANDA

WHILE many things are needed for people to lead happy and contented lives, food, shelter, and clothing are universally accepted as the basic minimum requirements of human beings. There is in fact this adage in Telugu, which says that to have a home of one’s own and to perform a marriage in the family are the most important challenges in an individual’s life. In what follows, an attempt has been made to understand the role played by a shelter.

A shelter protects living beings from rain, strong winds, extreme climatic conditions, predators, and environmental dangers.

A home, on the other hand, is much more than a mere shelter. It is vital because it provides physical safety, emotional comfort, and a stable foundation for personal and family life. It is also a place of love, acceptance, and deep emotional support and offers a secure environment for all living beings. A home also serves as a central gathering place that binds family members together.

Organisations like Habitat for Humanity work globally to help families secure all lasting benefits in one’s house.

Primitive shelters have

evolved into modern homes through major shifts in materials, permanence, and technology driven by human civilization. Prehistoric humans used natural geological formations, while nomadic groups built lightweight temporary huts using wood branches, animal hides, bones, and grass that were easy to assemble and dismantle. Once humans mastered the art of creating fire, some 400,000 years ago internal hearths transformed shelters into social hubs for cooking, warmth, and art.

After farming led to permanent settlements around 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, communities began to use sunbaked mud bricks, clay, and stone to build stronger walls, multi-room layouts, and courtyards for privacy.

In the medieval ages, engineering led to innovations and complex multi-storied concrete structures came up with piped water, and civic planning. Housing later diversified into peasant cottages, urban timber-framed townhouses, and fortified stone castles.

The advent of the industrial and modern eras, marked by industrial mass production, steel, iron, mass-produced brick, and glass was marked by high-density urban housing and skyscrapers.

Functional planning led to the contemporary smart and sustainable homes.

Modern residences use smart technology and green architecture, informed by climate automation, energy management, and high-speed connectivity, with eco-friendly designs using solar power, sustainable composite materials, and green roofs to fight climate change.

Providing concessional

Homemakers are people who manage a household and care for a family as their main daily occupation instead of working for external income. Their responsibilities include raising children, supporting family members, and acting as primary care givers. They also take care of cooking meals, cleaning, organizing spaces, and handling day-to-day operations.

housing loans from banking and financial institutions besides providing subsidised homes for the poor are now important socio-economic priorities for the central and state governments.

The word ‘home’, by itself, or in conjunction with other words, is also used to stand for several other things in different contexts and situations. For example, the stadium where a local, or ‘home’, team plays its matches is known as the ‘home-ground’. Also, idiomatically, an area, environment, or topic that people know very well is called the ‘home’ ground, as they feel secure and in control because they understand the surroundings or the topic. A ‘home run’ in softball is another similar term.

An ‘At Home’ invitation stands for a highly traditional, formal style of invitation used to indicate that the host is holding a social gathering. Historically popular in 19th and 20th century high society, the format has evolved over time. The President of India and the Governors of States traditionally host an At Home, every year on Republic Day.

That expression, incidentally, triggers a somewhat unhappy though amusing memory. It was the 1976 Republic Day, and I was the Secretary to the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sharda Mukherjee. She was very protocol conscious and fastidious about things needing to look absolutely spic and span on such occasions. Elaborate arrangements were in place for the garden party.

It was time for the Chief Minister to arrive and be received by the Governor, a sudden downpour happened, bringing with it absolute disaster. All the invitees had to rush into Raj Bhavan’s Durbars Hall. Alternative arrangements were made hastily, which, by no means, were up to the standards the Governor had expected. And, the Chief Minister, a person given to wry satire and known never to lose an opportunity to have a dig at others, sarcastically complimented me for lacking the quality of anticipation!

In a similar manner, to be ‘homely’ means to look plain or unattractive in the United States, although it refers to being cozy, comfortable, and unpretentious in the UK. The expression ‘homing instinct’ stands for an animal’s natural, built-in ability to find its way back to its home, nest, or

breeding ground after traveling a long distance away.

Animals do not need a map or prior training, as they possess the innate ability to know how to return to their homes, using natural tools such as the sun, stars, the Earth’s magnetic field, smells, and visual memory, to navigate. Pigeons, for instance, are famous for flying hundreds of miles back to their exact loft, as are salmon fish, which swim across vast oceans and find the exact freshwater stream where they were born. Domesticated cats and dogs are also known to travel considerable distances across unfamiliar places to return to their owners. Yet another example is that of migratory birds, such as swallows and geese, which return to the same nests year after year.

An example of the word ‘home’ being used in conjunction with other words is ‘homework’, which is a set of academic tasks assigned to students by their teachers to be completed outside of regular class hours. And ‘homemade’ refers to anything made at home, on the premises, or through your own personal efforts rather than being mass-produced in a factory or bought from a store.

Homemakers are people who manage a household and care for a family as their main daily occupation instead of working for external income. Their responsibilities include raising children, supporting family members, and acting as primary caregivers. They also take care of cooking meals, cleaning, organizing spaces, and handling day-to-day operations. In addition, they attend to housekeeping chores, such

as shopping for household needs, budgeting, and maintaining the home environment.

In India, the Union ‘Home’ Ministry is a government department responsible for a country’s internal security, domestic law and order, and public safety.

The virtues of a home have often been a favourite subject matter for authors and composers. ‘Home Sweet Home’, for example, is an expression used when someone returns home after being away to show that they are happy to be back. The expression “Be it ever so humble, there’s no place like home”, is another example, which originates from the song “Home, Sweet Home!”, written for an opera.

The reference I made earlier in this article to the homing instinct, makes me recall an incident which caused me acute embarrassment when I was on a visit to the wonderful city of Kiel in Germany years ago, in connection with a lecture to be delivered in the University there. I have been blessed with the great virtue of being able to lose my way home, even within the colony where we reside in Hyderabad. And the city of Kiel afforded me a great opportunity to test the power of that trait of mine. In the four days that I spent there, not even on one occasion, out of a hundred or so, did I fail to break out into a nervous sweat, out of fear that I would never find my way back to the hotel where I was staying.

Each time, invariably, I just managed to return to it, having desperately sought directions from at least a dozen passersby!

(The writer was formerly Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

The architecture of inclusion: How Sukumar Sen built a republic of voters

NOMULA SRINIVAS RAO

“Democracy begins not with the politician. It begins with the voter.”

In 1950, a newly sovereign nation embarked on the most ambitious democratic experiment in human history. India was a vast, deeply diverse landscape recovering from the trauma of Partition, where nearly 85 per cent of the population was illiterate and infrastructure was virtually non-existent. There were no digital databases, no standardised identification cards, no automated networks, and no modern technology.

Into this monumental void stepped Sukumar Sen, an ICS officer appointed as India’s first Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

Tasked with executing the inaugural general election, Sen did not merely manage a bureaucratic process; he helped build the foundational instinct of Indian democracy. His mission was as radical in its simplicity as it was staggering in its scope: find every citizen, register them,

and give them a voice. Today, as contemporary political discourse grows increasingly obsessed with lists, exclusions, and deletions, returning to Sen’s original vision offers a vital reminder of what it truly takes to sustain a government of the people.

The enrolment epic

The logistics facing Sen and his team were unprecedented. India’s electorate in 1950 spanned over 17 crore voters—a demographic larger than the combined populations of the United States and western Europe at the time. To enroll them, thousands of election workers traveled on foot, by bullock cart, on horseback, and aboard boats. They trekked across the snow-bound valleys of Himachal Pradesh, crossed the arid expanses of Rajasthan, and navigated the dense forests of the Northeast.

They went door to door and village to village to compile the electoral rolls from scratch. When social stigmas prevented many women in northern states from giving

Technology is a powerful amplifier, but it must serve the original ethos established in 1950. A database should be a bridge to participation, never a barrier. When administrative systems prioritise procedural rigidity over universal access, they risk eroding the trust that Sen worked so tirelessly to forge.



Sukumar Sen

of formal education, could cast a secret ballot with dignity and confidence.

Building vs. maintaining- The founding instinct:

Sukumar Sen and the architects of early India did not inherit a functional democracy; they had to construct one out of hope, determination, and civic faith. Because they built it from the ground up, they understood a fundamental truth that often gets lost in modern administration: the strength of a republic is measured by its capacity to include, not its efficiency at weeding out.

The state seeks out the voter

In recent decades, admin-

their individual names to male officials—offering only their relations as “mother of X” or “wife of Y”—Sen refused to accept the compromise. He insisted that every citizen must be recognized in their own right, and delayed registration drive timelines until millions of women were properly named and cataloged on the rolls.

To overcome widespread illiteracy, Sen’s team devised an intuitive visual language. They introduced distinct symbols for political parties—a pair of bullocks, a tree, an elephant—and color-coded ballot boxes so that every individual, regardless



This is my first Asian Games and I won mixed and team medals. I could not have asked for more. I did not have much time between the women's team gold and the mixed final. I was in a rush and we just got time to sit there and prepare ourselves

-Chikitha Taniparthi, Telangana archer

Sports Nation

Asian Games 2026

Golden hat-trick in compound archery

Indian mixed, women's and men's teams claim top finish; cherry on top was the mixed combination of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav, also securing an Olympic quota place for the country

NAGOYA: India's compound archers displayed admirable poise under pressure to complete a golden sweep in the Asian Games team competitions, successfully defending their crowns in men's, women's and mixed events here on Wednesday with performances that ranged from domineering to gritty.

Cherry on top was the mixed combination of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav also securing an Olympic quota place for the country following their top finish.

India thus became the first country to qualify for the 2028 Olympics in the compound mixed team event, which will mark the disci-



The Indian women's compound team celebrate with their gold medals



pline's debut in the Los Angeles Games.

The women's trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Chikitha and Prithika Pradeep kicked off the gold rush that culminated with the men's combination of Kushal Dalal, Sahil Jadhav and Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru rally-

ing to outwit the Chinese trio of Jiahao Liao, Jinyi Liu and Jingyu Shi in the finals 238-237. For Chikitha and Sahil, the day brought two gold medals as they had earlier showed nerves of steel to prevail over Korea's Jungyoon Park and Choi Eun Gyu in a thrilling mixed team final, winning 158-157 after a shoot-off.

The Indian duo had entered the gold-medal match after beating Thailand 156-155 in the semifinals.

This was after the Indian women's compound team produced a sensational performance to outclass the Chinese trio of Wunier, Yue Wang and Fangyao Wei 238-234 and retain its gold with a world record-equaling score. Jyothi, Chikitha and Prithika dominated the women's summit clash to secure the top spot on the podium. Of these, Jyothi was a part of the gold-winning women's team in Hangzhou as well.

The Indians equalled the world record held by South Korea in achieving the feat. Korea had secured the record total during the Incheon Asian Games in 2014.

Sunil wins second bronze

NAGOYA: Sunil Kumar became the first Indian Greco Roman wrestler to win two Asian Games medal after clinching a bronze in the men's 87kg event but Nisha Dahiya endured a medal-less campaign on the opening day of the wrestling competition here Wednesday. Sunil assured his podium place with a technical superiority win (9-0) over Philippines' Roberts Callum Johnston, who



was no match to the strength and technical skill of the Indian. Locking his rival's right arm, Sunil effected two take downs to quickly open up a 4-0 lead. A defensive

Johnston was put on ground in 'Par Terre' position from where Sunil made more scoring moves to finish the bout in the first period itself. Sunil had won a bronze in Hangzhou 2023 Games, ending a 13-year wait for India for medal in the Greco Roman style.

Indian women in hockey final

NAGOYA: The in-



form Indian women's hockey team placed itself on the verge of ending a 44-year wait for an Asian Games gold, beating South Korea 2-0 to enter the final of the continental showpiece here on Wednesday. Ishika Chaudhary (44th minute) and skipper Salima Tete (48th) were the goal scorers for India. India are now just a victory away from securing its only second Asian Games women's hockey gold medal. The previous triumph came way back in the 1982 New Delhi games. India will take on defending champions China in the final on Friday. China beat Japan 4-2 in a shoot-out after both sides failed to break the deadlock in the entire 60 minutes of the first semifinal. South Korea will face Japan in the bronze medal match.



Squash: India assured of medals

NAGOYA: The Indian men's and women's teams eased into the Asian Games semifinals with convincing wins over Kuwait and Singapore respectively, assuring themselves of a medal here on Wednesday. The Indian men, top seed and defending champions, collected a 2-0 win over Kuwait in the quarterfinals. Among the two singles, Veer Chotrani had to dig deep against Bader Almoghrebi before prevailing 12-10, 8-11, 11-0, 11-5 in a 34-minute contest. Abhay Singh, India's highest ranked players and silver medalist in the singles competition, sealed the tie 11-3, 11-4, 11-8 win over Ammar Altamimi. In the women's singles, the Anahat Singh-led team tamed Singapore 2-0 in its quarterfinal.

India renew hockey rivalry against Pak

KAKAMIGAHARA: Defending champions India will renew the fiercest rivalry in men's international hockey when they take on Pakistan in a mouth-watering semifinal of the Asian Games here on Thursday, with eyes firmly set on securing a direct ticket to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.



Campbell, Hope, Jangoo tons power WI to record 405/7

TAPAN MOHANTA GUWAHATI

CENTURIES from John Campbell, Shai Hope and Amir Jangoo powered the West Indies to their first 400-plus total in the 50-over format, a mammoth 405 for seven against India in the second ODI here on Wednesday.

After being sent into bat, Campbell set the tone with a 65-ball hundred as the West Indies' batters ruthlessly exposed India's inexperienced pace attack. A self-confessed admirer of Chris Gayle, Campbell channelled the inner Universe Boss perfectly, playing the Indian attack with brute power and freedom in his 101 off 68 balls (9x4, 5x6).

Hope and Jangoo then kept the West Indies in complete control through the middle and late overs, maintaining a scoring rate around eight an over. Hope was the anchor and accelerator in one, building his innings carefully before stepping on the gas to make full use of the reprieve he got when he was dropped on 27 by Virat Kohli, with the ball bursting through his hands at short midwicket.

The skipper brought up a superb 104 off 94 balls, with eight fours and three sixes, keeping the tempo high rather than allowing India to claw their way back. Jangoo complemented Hope perfectly, mixing calculated stroke-play with aggression and reached his second ODI century off just 69 balls, finishing on 114 with 13 fours and three sixes as the Windies brought up three centuries in an ODI for the first time. The total surpassed their previous best of 389 against England in 2019.

In the absence of Jasprit Bumrah, who is on the Asian Games duty, and Mohammed Siraj, who is still sitting out, India continue to expose youngsters ahead of the 2027 World Cup in South Africa. But the pace attack threw more questions than answers. With proven campaigners such as Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami still being overlooked, India's search for options beyond the established names hardly looked convincing. Auqib Nabi, who became the third cricketer from the Valley to represent India, endured a forgettable outing, conceding 84 runs in his 8.5 overs.

Operating at military-medium pace, Nabi struggled to contain the West Indies on a flat surface. Gurnoor Brar, used as the second-change bowler, was the best among the three returning 2/96, while Prasadish Krishna finished with 1/45 in five overs.

There was further concern for India as batting all-rounder Naman Dhir, who also bowls off-spin, twisted his ankle and had to leave the field in the 36th over after bowling 6.1 overs. The only bright spots were the two spinners as Kuldeep Yadav claimed 2/65 to get into the 200-wicket club in ODIs, while Ravindra Jadeja who finished with 2/75.

Neeru-Kynan pair wins trap mixed team gold

NAGOYA: The Indian pair of Neeru Dhandu and Kynan Chenai clinched the Asian Games trap mixed team gold on Wednesday, smashing the continental record in the process and ensuring that the last leg of country's shooting campaign here makes up for the early disappointments to an extent.

The Indian team shot a score of 34 in the final after qualifying in the fourth position. Qatar's Mohammed Al-Rumaihi and Ray Bassil took the silver with a score of 32.



The medal marks a remarkable end to the Asian Games campaign of the 26-year-old Neeru, who became India's first woman shooter to claim an individual trap medal at the showpiece with her gold that came on the back of an Asian record-shattering score on Tuesday.

LOVLINA TO FIGHT FOR GOLD

NISHIO: Lovlina Borgohain scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals, while debutants Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokhariya settled for bronze medals here on Wednesday. Last edition's silver-medallist Lovlina edged reigning 70kg world champion Natalya Bogdanova of Kazakhstan 3-2 in a closely fought 75kg semifinal to assure herself of at least a silver.

However, 20-year-old Priya, making her Asian Games debut, went down 1-4 to former world champion Yang Chengyu of China in a bruising 60kg semifinal.

Another Indian debutant, Kapil suffered a similar 1-4 defeat against reigning world champion Turabek Khabibullaev of Uzbekistan in the 90kg semifinal to settle for bronze.

India will thus have three boxers -- Lovlina, Parveen Hooda (65kg) and Ankush Panghal (80kg) fighting for gold in Friday.



Nagal moves to last eight

NAGOYA: Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal advanced to the men's singles quarterfinals at the Asian Games with a fluent 6-3 6-2 win over Uzbekistan's Sergey Fomin here on Wednesday, while Dhakshinewar Suresh bowed out after losing his third-round match. The 249th-ranked Nagal, seeded seventh, controlled the contest against Fomin and moved into the last eight with a straight-set victory.

Family preserves man's body in freezer for 4 yrs, spends Rs 50 lakh

MUMBAI

THE family of an 80-year-old Mumbai man who died four years ago has preserved his body due to 'deep emotional attachment', spending over Rs 50 lakh in the process, police said on Wednesday.

Ruling out any foul play, the

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cancer, kidney failure and other age-related ailments.

The family initially kept the body in a freezer in their home in Mumbai's Malad area, said an official from Kurar police station.

According to the police, the man's wife and two children, one of whom is a lawyer, decided against performing the last rites due to 'deep emotional

attachment'.

When their residential building underwent redevelopment, the family moved the body to a local dispensary, which closed down about a month ago, they said.

"The family has spent more than Rs 50 lakh to keep the body preserved and was explor-

ing options to send it to a facility in the United States offering long-term cryopreservation services," a police official said.

Cryopreservation broadly refers to storing cells, tissues or organs at extremely low temperatures.

Police uncovered the unusual case after receiving a tip-off.



One chapter has ended: Pahalgam victim's daughter on Moosa death

MUMBAI: Asavari Jagdale, daughter of Pahalgam terror attack victim Santosh Jagdale, on Wednesday expressed gratitude to the Indian Army and security agencies following the killing of Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Hashim Moosa in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam.

Speaking to ANI, Jagdale said she considered the day one of the happiest for her, recalling the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

"Today, I will consider it the happiest day for me. On April 22, 2025, the way our people were killed in the Baisaran Valley, 26 lives were lost. They were killed after asking about their religion. The way they brutally killed our people, today I came to know that the mastermind behind it has been eliminated in an encounter. I would say this should be the happiest day for the country," she said. Expressing her gratitude



towards the security forces, she said, "I want to thank the Army and all the intelligence forces working on this. I request you to continue this operation and eliminate all the terrorists in this country until the last terrorist is eliminated." Jagdale recalled that she had performed her father's shradh (death anniversary ritual) the previous day and had spoken to

his photograph about the ongoing operations against terrorism. "Yesterday was my father's shradh, and I was talking to him. I told him that whatever operations are happening against terrorism are because of the sacrifice of all of you. The 26 people who were killed, the sacrifice of those 26 people is the reason these operations are taking place," she said.

Maha govt orders banks not to visit farmers for loan recovery

PUNE: Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule directed banks not to visit farmers' homes for loan recovery due to the prevailing drought situation and asked officials to explore whether the RBI could issue a circular suspending such recovery proceedings.

During a meeting of the Bawankule-headed drought relief cabinet sub-committee on Tuesday, directives were also issued for implementing a 10 per cent water cut in urban areas and to maintain the conserved water as a buffer until June next year, according to an official release.

At present, water is being supplied through 560 tankers in the state, it stated, as the panel members suggested proper planning to preserve drinking water supplies for 10 months, before the next monsoon.

The Maharashtra government has declared drought in 265 of its 358 talukas, or 74 per cent of the state, amid rainfall deficit, and announced relief measures,



including crop loan restructuring, land revenue concessions, and power bill subsidies.

It has activated 'Trigger-1' under its manual for drought management 2016 (updated in 2020) and Drought Management Code to declare drought conditions and initiate relief.

Trigger-1 is the first stage in the state's drought framework, activated by a rainfall deficit of more than 25 per cent combined with a prolonged dry spell of 21 days.

According to Principal Secretary Vinita Ved Singh, scarcity conditions have been reported in 265 talukas of the state based on information received from divisional commissioners. Drought conditions have become evident under the 'Trigger-1' criteria, while 43 talukas have qualified under 'Trigger-2'.

'Jail Bharo Andolan' on Oct 2 from Shivaji Park

MUMBAI: Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Wednesday announced that a "Jail Bharo Andolan" will begin from Mumbai's Shivaji Park on Gandhi Jayanti, alleging that the Election Commission's functioning was not in the interest of the country.

After reaching Mumbai, Dipke said that the protest movement would start from Shivaji Park on October 2 and appealed to all political parties to participate in the agitation.

He alleged that the "dictatorship" of the Election Commission was a matter of concern and claimed that collective efforts were needed to bring change in the country.

Supporting the remarks made by NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar regarding alleged misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) in elections, Deepak said that everyone should come together to address concerns related to the electoral process.

Eiffel Tower chief to quit after exclusion of female staff

PARIS: The head of the company that operates the Eiffel Tower is to leave his post at the end of the year after female employees were excluded from a visit by a Hindu religious group at the Paris landmark.

Patrick Branco Ruivo, director general of the Société d'Exploitation de la Tour Eiffel (SETE), will step down following an investigation by an independent firm into operational failures surrounding the group's visit on September 5.

The investigation found that the failures had led to female members of staff being kept away from the delegation, which SETE described in a statement as an "unacceptable situation". Ruivo has headed the company since the end of 2018.

The 330-metre (1,083-foot) tower, one of Paris's most recognisable landmarks and a major tourist attraction that draws around seven million visitors each year, was closed on



September 7 after staff went on strike. A union official described the management instructions surrounding the visit as "unacceptable".

Tensions had risen among employees after management instructed female workers not to come into contact with members of the delegation from Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha.

Known as BAPS, the organisation is a global religious and civic group within the Swaminarayan tradition of Hinduism. Its members had been in Paris for celebrations marking the inauguration of a traditional Hindu stone temple.

BAPS did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the announcement.



OTT crisis in Tollywood

SHRINKING STREAMING DEALS THREATEN BIG-BUDGET FILMS

SUHAS SISTU

For years, online video platforms have taken up a crucial role in the economics of Tollywood, with post-theatrical streaming deals serving as an important source of recovery for producers. But the way in which the streaming market is evolving is now compelling the Telugu film industry to reevaluate its reliance on digital revenues.

It especially has ramifications for medium-budget films, which previously relied

on lucrative OTT deals to offset the costs of production. The notion that streaming agreements could cushion weak box-office performances has also led to the criticism that filmmakers were taking fewer risks with theatrical prospects.

That assumption seems to be proving out. Streaming platforms are becoming more reluctant to spend large amounts of money on acquiring films, and OTT budgets reportedly are being trimmed and deals increasingly tied to a film's theatrical

performance and commercial viability.

For example, Yash's Toxic OTT valuation has reportedly dropped significantly from an initial pre-release offer of Rs150 Cr down to around Rs30 Cr following its underwhelming theatrical run.

The ramifications go beyond mid-range productions. Even big-budget Telugu films are being threatened as producers expect substantially higher digital valuations than what streaming platforms are willing to offer. Such a disparity could leave films

that are mounted on ambitious budgets in financial distress. Speaking on it, '1948 Akhanda Bharat' director Eswar said, "The OTT market is definitely going through a correction. Earlier, filmmakers could factor in a strong digital deal while planning their budgets, but that safety net is becoming smaller. For young directors like us, this is actually a reminder to focus on the script and make films within realistic budgets. A film should first work for the audience in theatres, and OTT should be seen as an

additional revenue stream rather than the foundation of the entire business model."

If the trend persists, theatrical revenue could again become the default priority for producers looking to recoup their investments. It would also compel filmmakers to be more disciplined with their budgets and give more thought to content and theatrical appeal.

For Telugu cinema, the shifting OTT landscape could thus be a major turning point in how films are planned, financed and marketed.



'Ranabaali: The History We Forgot' episode highlights untold stories of British India

The second episode of the Ranabaali – Never Forget the Truth documentary series, The History We Forgot, is out on the YouTube platform. Starring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, the episode uncovers lesser-known facts about India's history under the British rule.

In the episode, the lead actors discuss the exploitation of India's agriculture produce and take a close look at the railway network laid down during the colonial period. While Vijay Deverakonda talks about the narrative around the introduction of railways in the country, the documentary reveals the other side of the coin. The



actress plays an essential role in the documentary film. Rashmika Mandanna shares her research for the role in Ranabaali and

states that sifting through the annals of history and getting into the events that occurred long ago made her more empathetic to the

struggles of people from long ago.

Ranabaali's four-episode documentary aims to uncover forgotten tales

of the bygone era that are intrinsically linked to the movie's universe. Apart from The History We Forgot, the third episode titled The Men We Forgot will be out on October 2. The release date of the finale, The Last Load, will be announced soon.

The film is directed by Rahul Sankrityan. It stars Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna who share their insights about the country's history via a prism of pertinent questions. The film is produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, presented by T-Series and will be released worldwide on October 16, on the day of Vijayadashami.

'Tatvam' director Arjun Kola promises a thrilling murder mystery

Director Arjun Kola is confident that the suspense and mystery in Tatvam will keep the audience on tenterhooks. The murder mystery stars Dinesh Tej and Dashwika K. jointly produced by Vamsi Seemakurthi and Swetha Pashupate under their Trayathi Ishani Creations and S.K. Productions.

In the run-up to the October 2 release, Arjun Kola unveiled that their initial plan was to make a rural drama centered on a village panchayat. They later added murder, mystery, and courtroom thriller elements as they worked on a story based on a case in a village context.

The director explained the meaning of the title Tatvam,



saying that it stood for the conflict between truth and lies. He observed that the protagonist unravels the truth in the narrative, which exposes a person's true na-

ture, besides delving into the minds of the characters.

Arjun further revealed that they encountered several obstacles during the production. The cast and crew involved in a car crash while promoting the film caused another postponement. However, the team resumed promotional campaigns and set October 2 for the release.

The director also praised Chetan Bharadwaj's background score, which plays a critical role in the second half of the film as the mystery deepens.

Arjun, who gave up a career in software to pursue movies, announced plans to make Dwarapudi Days, a melodrama set in the Godavari region.

Priyanka Jawalkar grabs attention in sheer pink saree

Priyanka Jawalkar stunned in sheer pink saree. The actress is garnering love for flaunting a pretty traditional look on her social media. Even though she has been seen in cameo roles in many of the web shows that she has been a part of, this picture has definitely got a lot of attention and likes! For the pictures, Priyanka went with a sheer hot-pink saree and paired it with a sleeveless ikat-style blouse that had pretty straps. She was seen posing elegantly in front of a window, where the camera captured the soft lighting on the actress. For styling, the actress kept her looks minimal but still stood out in the pictures. She accessorized with colourful glass bangles in teal, mustard and pink. A touch of makeup, including a minimal black bindi, subtle eye shadow and nude lip balm, completed the beauty's look, while soft and loose wavy hair gave her a pretty finishing touch. The pretty traditional attire along with minimal styling has surely helped Priyanka Jawalkar get a lot of appreciation for her latest photo-shoot.



Satya, Yogi Babu team up for comedy entertainer 'Golden Bhagyam'

Golden Bhagyam stars Telugu comedian Satya and Tamil comedy star Yogi Babu, in a unique comedy entertainer directed by Rangabali fame Pawan Basamsetti. Recently, the makers unveiled the title reveal glimpse, showcasing the film's special Telugu-Tamil concept. Produced by Nagarjuna Reddy and Pawan Basamsetti under Dream Movie Makers and Nayavayu Chitralu, it is the maiden production venture of both the banners. The film is described as 'Telumil' which combines the Telugu and Tamil language and stars the popu-

lar stars from both the industries.

The glimpse starts with a funny conversation between a Telugu man who enjoyed biryani and a Tamil man having idli with sambar, who claim that their respective cuisine is the best. Later, they argue which one is the best cuisine and eventually the funny introduction of Satya and Yogi Babu in white dress starts. Interestingly, in the video, Satya speaks Tamil while Yogi Babu speaks Telugu. It is said that the film has a love, crime and action track with a comedic take on it. Jayashree and Athiraj play the female leads



while Vennela Kishore, Sudharshan, Kishore Tirumala, Rohini, Tanikella Bharani and Sunil Reddy play pivotal roles. Bablu Aju has been roped in for cinematography while the music has been composed by Pawan CH.

'Impure' producer Varahi backs her film with her mother's wedding savings

Impure marks Varahi Mallipamula's debut as a producer, actor and writer, with the film being born from an unusual source of funding - her mother's wedding savings.

Set for a limited Pan-India theatrical release on October 2, the independent film delves into gender, social expectations and the struggles of women. Born in Kakinada and raised in Pennsylvania, Varahi currently splits her time between New York and holds a double major in Engineering and Journalism from Penn State. Despite working in the technology sector in New York, Los Angeles and London,

she continued to pursue filmmaking, penning the first draft of Impure six years ago.

The film follows a woman whose wedding is cancelled after her in-laws discover that she is not a virgin. Varahi said she spent years pitching the women-centric story before deciding to produce it herself.

She also starred Telugu actor Yasha Muthuluri in the lead role.

Impure features music by Grammy-nominated artists Raja Kumari and Karan Pandav, with cinematographer Gnana-sekhar VS capturing Telugu locations in an artistic visual approach. Nishanthi Evani makes her directorial debut with the film. The movie premiered at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles before an



East Coast premiere at Cinema Village in New York.

'Chakkora - Lunar Love Bird' clears censor with U/A certificate

Chakkora - Lunar Love Bird, the upcoming romantic musical entertainer, has cleared its censor formalities and bagged a U/A certificate. Written and directed by Manga Srinivas, the film is produced by Dr. Chintada Hemarao under High Joy Commercials and made under the VIP - Vintage Iconic Pictures banner.

The censor board members reportedly appreciated the team for coming up with a youthful family entertainer without any cuts. The film has a crisp runtime of 2 hours, 17 minutes and 58 seconds while its screenplay was appreciated for keeping the narrative engaging. Starring Sravan and

Malaika T Vasupal in the lead roles, Chakkora - Lunar Love Bird has Anushka Luhar, Yamini, LB Sriram, Suman, Brahmaji, Indraj, Mani Chandana, Nellore Sudarshan, Prabhavathi, Madhavi Prasad, Janardhan and others in pivotal roles.

The film is slated to have a worldwide theatrical release on October 9 through Sri Lakshmi Pictures. In the meanwhile, the movie's audio rights have been acquired by T-Series Music.

After the previous promotional material, the censor clearance adds to the anticipation over the film that promises to blend romance, music and family-oriented entertainment.



'Anakapalli' interval and climax will surprise audience: Lagadapati Sridhar

The upcoming Telugu film Anakapalli is all set for the worldwide theatrical release on October 2, as the makers assure to present an entertainment-filled drama of love, family, action, and suspense. In this regard, the team of the film interacted with the media and shared glimpses of the film.

Lagadapati Sridhar appreciated the team's hard work and assured that the film has a good commercial value. He revealed



that the film was initially planned to release this August,

but it underwent several improvements after the screening

and the audience's response. He further added that the interval and climax of the film will surely amaze the viewers.

The film, which will hit the screens in October, is produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina, Bhavya Sri Movie Makers, and Nakkina Narratives. It stars Vikram Sahidev, Sandhya Vasishta, and Tarak Ponnappa in leading roles. Directed by Khagesh Tammineni, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina

has written the script.

Thrinadha Rao Nakkina described the film as a love drama with an intriguing family mystery and emotions. He further praised Vikram's hard work and assured that the film will make the actor famous. He also shared that the film has got good pre-shows bookings.

Producer Kandregula Naidu and Sandhya Vasishta also shared that they expect the film to be a hit among the audience.