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Army Public School in Bolarum receives bomb threat mail

Hyderabad: Panic prevailed at the Army Public School (APS) in Bolarum and its surroundings when a bomb threat mail was received by the school authorities on Wednesday. Following information from the management, the Army personnel, local police and bomb squad reached the school and took up checking for presence of any explosive substances. As per available information, the management received a threat email on its official ID from an unidentified person claiming there was explosives planted in the school premises. The teachers and the staff immediately evacuated the school building and shifted the students to safety. The parents were informed about the situation.

Hyderabad man studying in Chicago killed in road accident in USA's Massachusetts

Hyderabad: A Hyderabad NRI, identified as Mohammed Wajid, 28, died in a road accident in the rural Plymouth County of Massachusetts in USA on Wednesday.

According to reports on local news websites, Wajid, a resident of Chicago, was driving a Freightliner near Chatsworth when he failed to stop at the stop sign at an intersection following which he hit a grain trailer. He was rushed to a local hospital where he died later. According to posts of some of his friends on X, Wajid was studying in Chicago. It may also be noted that he was a Youth Congress leader of the Khairatabad division in the city.

Tragic Stampede At Maha Kumbh Claims 10 Lives During Mauni Amavasya Holy Bath

GNS News Agency, Jan 29

A tragic incident unfolded early Wednesday at the Maha Kumbh festival when a stampede claimed an estimated 10 lives during the crucial Mauni Amavasya ritual. The disaster occurred as massive crowds gathered for the holy bath at the Sangam, where devotees found themselves trapped with no exit route after their ritual immersion.

Multiple witnesses described a chaotic scene marked by severe overcrowding. Vinay Kumar Yadav, present during the incident, cited the absence of adequate police arrangements for managing the flow of devotees at the holy site. The situation deteriorated around 12:30 AM when newly opened gates led to an overwhelming surge of people, resulting in the deadly stampede. Personal accounts from survivors paint a picture of the tragedy's scope. A man from Bihar's Aurangabad, accompanied by 12-13 family members, reported being caught in the crush during the Shahi Snan. Sarojini, a pilgrim from Karnataka who traveled with a group of 60 people, described how her party of nine became trapped in the sudden crowd surge, with many falling in the chaos.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attributed the stampede to some devotees breaching barricades.



He assured that the situation was under control and cautioned against spreading rumors. According to his statement, the festival had already hosted nearly six crore devotees for the holy dip, with the stampede occurring between 1 AM and 2 AM. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attributed the incident to barricade breaches and assured the public of the situation's containment. The event, which began on January 13, is expected to host 40 crore pilgrims until its conclusion on February 26, marking it as the world's largest spiritual gathering.

ISRO celebrates 100th successful launch of navigation satellite

GNS News Agency, Jan 29

Sriharikota: ISRO on Wednesday celebrated its 100th mission with the textbook launch of a navigation satellite that would aid in terrestrial, aerial and maritime navigation and precision agriculture, among others, with a GSLV rocket injecting the payload in the desired orbit.

The early morning launch was the first under ISRO Chairman V Narayanan's leadership—he assumed office on January 16—and also the space agency's maiden venture in 2025. A beaming Narayanan was hugged and greeted by fellow scientists post the launch. "I am extremely happy to announce from the spaceport of ISRO, that the first launch of this year, 2025, has been successfully accomplished, with GSLV-F15 launch vehicle precisely injecting the navigation satellite NVS-02 in the intended required (GTO) orbit," he said from the Mission Control Center. "This mission is the 100th launch from our launchpads, which is a very significant milestone of India," the ISRO chief added.

Further, all the vehicles systems have performed as expected in today's mission. Earlier, as the 27.30-hour countdown concluded, the 50.9 metre tall Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) rocket with an indigenous cryogenic upper stage, emanating thick fumes on its tail lifted off majestically from the second launch pad at a prefixed time of 6.23 am on Wednesday. After travelling for about 19 minutes in dark and cloudy skies, the rocket successfully separated its payload into the desired Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The satellite is the second in the series of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) aimed to provide accurate position, velocity and timing to users in the Indian sub-continent as well as to regions about



1,500 km beyond the Indian land mass. Its predecessor, NVS-01, the first of the second generation navigation satellites was launched on May 29, 2023. The key applications of the NVS-02 satellite are terrestrial, aerial and maritime navigation, precision agriculture, fleet management, location based services in mobile devices, orbit determination for satellites, Internet-of-Things (IoT) based applications and emergency and timing services, ISRO said. NavIC comprises five second-generation satellites—NVS-01/02/03/04/05 envisaged to augment NavIC base layer constellation with enhanced features for ensuring continuity of services. The NVS-02 satellite designed and developed by Bengaluru-based U R Rao Satellite Centre weighs about 2,250 kg. It has navigation payload in L1, L5 and S bands and employs a Tri-band antenna. The heart of the navigation payload is the Rubidium Atomic Frequency Standard (RAFS), an atomic clock which acts as a stable frequency reference for the navigation payload.

Telangana farmers agitated over sharp decline in crop prices, switch to protest mode

GNS News Agency, Jan 29

Hyderabad: The plight of farmers, especially those growing groundnut, chilli and red gram crops, in the State highlights the vulnerabilities faced by the agricultural community.

Tensions are mounting as they intensify their protests over the sharp decline in prices. Enmeshed in a web of severe financial distress, in the absence of support due for them under different heads, including Rythu Bharosa and the prevailing price mechanism far from being remunerative, the farmers are on protest mode organising widespread demonstrations. Telangana CM Revanth Reddy goes back on his word, says farmers to get Rythu Bharosa amount by March 31 only. While market dynamics play their part in determining prices, the crucial support expected from the Telangana government in ensuring fair pricing and efficient procurement is missing. As February unfolds, the fate of farmers growing key crops hangs in the balance, with thousands of them anxiously awaiting solutions to their escalating problems. Dharnas and demonstrations continued for the second day on Wednesday in Mahabubnagar where they ventured to stop even trains on Tuesday. Groundnut farmers are in fact facing a severe crisis as prices have plummeted. Currently trading between Rs 5,600 and Rs 6,050 a quintal, groundnut prices are considerably below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 6,783 per quintal. The surplus production in recent seasons, coupled with declining export demand, has resulted in an oversupply, causing prices to drop drastically.

Farmers who rely on groundnut as a primary source of income are particularly hard-hit, finding it increasingly difficult to cover their rising costs of cultivation. As the cost of seed, fertilizer and labour has soared, the financial strain on groundnut farmers has intensified. Groundnut has been sown in around 22,107 acres in the State as on September 25, 2024. Among the districts, Gadwal stood first in the groundnut-sown area with 10,752 acres, followed by Wanaparthy (7,241 acres), Warangal (1,194 acres), Nagarkurnool (376 acres) and Suryapet (286 acres). The



MSP for groundnut has been increased by Rs 406-6,783 per quintal for the 2024-25 marketing season from Rs 6,377 per quintal in 2023-24. But they continued to fetch much less. Red gram, another staple crop, has not fared any better. The prices of red gram are currently fluctuating between Rs 6,429 and Rs 7,272 per quintal. Market instability and inefficiencies in procurement processes have contributed to the drastic price variations.

AP secures third place in Republic Day Parade, UP and Tripura claim top spots

In a vibrant display of cultural heritage and creativity, Andhra Pradesh secured third place in this year's parade, with Uttar Pradesh and Tripura taking the first and second positions, respectively. The Andhra Pradesh team showcased the Atikoppaka Bommala parade, which captivated audiences and judges alike. The results of the annual parade were announced by the Ministry of Defense. Among various participating groups, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles and the Delhi Police parade groups were recognized as the best marching contingents in the Central Forces category.

GNS News Agency, Jan 29

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as well as Congress party and accused them of ruining two generations of the capital over past 25 years. Addressing a poll rally in North-East Delhi, PM Modi urged the people to vote for a BJP-led double-engine government in the upcoming Assembly elections, scheduled for February 5. Criticising both Congress and AAP, PM Modi said, "You have seen the first 14 years of twenty-first century under Congress, and then you gave 11 years to the 'AAPda' government, yet Delhi's problems remain the same. In 25 years, these two parties have destroyed two generations." He urged voters to give the BJP a chance. "You did not give me the opportunity to work for you in the last 25 years. You have seen Congress and AAPda for 25 years; now, give the lotus a chance. Just like the head of a family takes care of his loved ones, I will take care of you. The BJP's track record shows that we deliver on our promises," he asserted. Assuring swift action on BJP's election promises, PM Modi declared, "After February 8, the BJP government in Delhi will fulfill all its promises in a time-bound manner. This is 'Modi ki Guarantee'. Today, 'Modi ki Guarantee' means the guarantee of completion of all guarantees." He promised to bring relief to Delhi's residents by addressing key issues.

"Delhi wants a government that builds homes for the poor, modernises the city, ensures water supply to every household, and frees them from tanker mafias. That is why the entire Delhi is today saying, 'AAPda jaayegi, BJP aayegi' (AAPda will go, BJP will come)," he added. Highlighting the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat', PM Modi said, "Every citizen is working towards making India a



developed nation. For that, it is crucial that the capital city becomes a model of development. But looking at the condition of Delhi today, do you think it can achieve that? I don't even need to say anything; Delhiites themselves express their suffering every day." Addressing the massive rally in Ghonda constituency, PM Modi also expressed grief over the Maha Kumbh stampede. "We lost some beautiful souls in today's incident, and some were critically injured. I offer my sympathies to the affected families and hope for the speedy recovery of the injured," he said. The Prime Minister assured that he is in constant touch with Uttar Pradesh govt and that the 'Amrit Snan' at the Maha Kumbh has now resumed as normal. In a heartfelt moment at the rally, BJP candidate from Patparganj Assembly, Ravinder Singh Negi, touched PM Modi's feet, and in response, the Prime Minister did the same, winning the crowd's applause. Thanking the massive gathering, PM Modi said, "This sight reflects the mood of Delhi and the message of its mandate. Delhi is changing. Fake promises will no longer work. The loot and lies will not continue. The people of Delhi want a double-engine BJP government that ensures both the welfare of the poor and the development of the city."

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Hails National Praise for State's Social and Economic Census

GNS News Agency, Jan 29

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has announced that the state's comprehensive social, economic, educational, employment, political, and caste enumeration (Integrated Household Survey 2024) has received national acclaim for its success. Speaking at a high-level review meeting, the CM commended the meticulous efforts involved in conducting the caste enumeration in the state. The meeting, held at the Integrated Command Control Center, was attended by Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Damodar Rajanarsimha, Dhanasari Seethakka, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Government Advisor K. Keshav Rao, former Minister Jana Reddy, Chief Secretary Shantikumari, and senior officials from various departments. The CM highlighted that the household survey conducted across the state had captured the attention of the nation. He appreciated the officers involved for successfully completing the survey and confirmed that data entry for the survey had been completed and a draft report is now ready for review.

The CM instructed the Cabinet Subcommittee, led by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and consisting of six ministers, to submit a report by February 2. The Chief Minister emphasized that the statistics gathered through this survey would significantly aid the BC Dedicated Commission established by the government. Revanth Reddy further noted that the caste enumeration would not only support social empowerment but also aid in the development of backward classes, SCs, STs, minorities, and marginalized communities in the future. He reaffirmed that this survey was a demonstration of the government's commitment to the promises made to the people. The survey, which was



launched on November 6 last year, was completed across all districts by the first week of December. The survey was carried out under the supervision of the Planning Department, with nearly 100,000 enumerators, supervisors, and data entry operators involved in this massive undertaking. The survey covered approximately 1.16 crore households, with enumerators visiting each house to collect detailed data. Over 96% of household data was successfully gathered, and the data entry process has been completed. However, officials reported some challenges, including families refusing to participate, homes being locked, or certain families being unavailable, which led to a small number of households not participating in the survey. Following the formation of the new government, the decision to conduct the caste enumeration through the household survey was taken in a meeting chaired by the CM on February 4. On February 16, the government passed a resolution in the state assembly to officially begin the survey.

MLC Election Schedule Announced for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

GNS News Agency, Jan 29

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has announced that the state's comprehensive social, economic, educational, employment, political, and caste enumeration (Integrated Household Survey 2024) has received national acclaim for its success. Speaking at a high-level review meeting, the CM commended the meticulous efforts involved in conducting the caste enumeration in the state. The meeting, held at the Integrated Command Control Center, was attended by Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Damodar Rajanarsimha, Dhanasari Seethakka, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Government Advisor K. Keshav Rao, former Minister Jana Reddy, Chief Secretary Shantikumari, and senior officials from various departments. The CM highlighted that the household survey conducted across the state had captured the attention of the nation. He appreciated the officers involved for successfully completing the survey and confirmed that data entry for the survey had been completed and a draft report is now ready for review. The CM instructed the Cabinet Subcommittee, led by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and consisting of six ministers, to submit a report by February 2. The Chief Minister emphasized that the statistics gathered through this survey would significantly aid the BC Dedicated Commission established by the government. Revanth Reddy further noted that the caste enumeration would not only support social empowerment but also aid in the devel-



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Number of cancer cases being diagnosed in India



GNS News Agency, Jan 29

developed for doing this. Using this tech, one NK cell can grow 600 to 1,000 times over a 15-day period, according to Pai. These cells can then be cryopreserved and thawed when needed without loss of functionality, he says. While developing genetically modified NK cells from healthy donors helps to make the treatment more affordable and off the shelf, Pai admits that there are certain flip-sides to it. A major one is rejection of the cells by the patient's body. "If you are giving back a patient's blood cells to the same body, you don't expect too much rejection. But when you are giving the blood cells of a healthy person, it could be perceived as foreign by the patient's body. You need to see how the body reacts to it, whether the cells are creating any safety issues and so on."

That said, Renjitha Gopurpillai, Chief Scientist at NKure, points out that the side effects like a Cytokine storm (a severe immune reaction in which the body releases too many cytokines - a type of protein - into the blood abruptly) that one may face during the administration of T-cells into the body do not happen with NK cells and hence it's a "safer therapy." What studies indicate

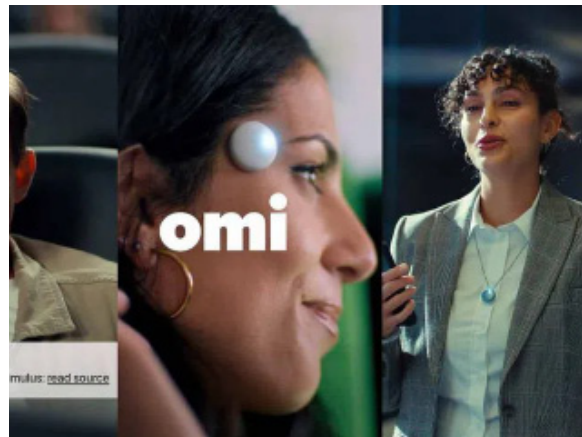
While there are no marketed NK cell therapies by which one could determine the efficiency of the treatment, studies so far point in that direction, says Gopurpillai. "It is shown to be as effective (as CAR-T cell therapy). There's no marketed NK cell therapy anywhere in the world yet. Phase-2 trials have been going on in some places. But there are multiple institutes in the U.S. for example who have conducted credible studies showing the effectiveness of the therapy," she notes.

While the NKure team's current research focuses on developing NK cell therapies that can fight lymphoma, they also have an in-licensed technology to fight colon cancer. The rights for the latter have been purchased from a Taiwanese firm. Gopurpillai explains the difference between the two. "In the in-licensed product, we take the patient's own blood, develop NK cells from it and put it back into the patient every two weeks or three weeks. When it comes to our own product, we are trying to make an allogenic off-the-shelf product from healthy donor and engineer it to put it in the CAR for targeting mechanism." "Our aspiration is to get approval for the phase-two study of the in-licensed technology, which, in two years' time we hope to take to market. And for our own product, we hope to get approval for phase-one study," says Pai.

Founded by regenerative medicine expert Mahendra Rao about two years ago, NKure has tall ambitions and hopes to bring down the cost of immunotherapy to one tenth of what is in the market currently. They believe that with the advancement of technology the price will further reduce. "We also need to scale up without compromising on the function. We don't want to keep on growing NK cells forever or bring it to a number where the cytotoxicity or the functionality is compromised. The ideal expectation would be to develop the least number of cells in in-vitro condition that would efficiently eradicate the tumour. That's what we have been working on," Gopurpillai notes.

Would that pose a challenge to the ambitions of introducing it as an off-the-shelf product? "It's a question of logistics and how we scale the product," answers Pai. "The manufacturing will be centralised. It will take 15 days to make the product from a healthy donor and then we can cryopreserve it. This way, we can build a stock at a central place and distribute it when required. We'll have to do some demand forecasting for various centres and keep stock accordingly." According to him, existing CAR-T cell therapy takes about two weeks of hospitalisation which adds to the expenses. NKure, on the other hand, aims to offer its NK-cell therapy as a day-care procedure involving an IV of about four hours. With more studies pointing to the ability of genetically modified NK cells to treat even other serious conditions such as Parkinson's disease, the team plans to venture into such areas after the completion of the ongoing research. The hope is that, with the skill sets that we are building, we will be able to apply this to other cells and for other genetic modifications," Pai notes.

Key trends to look out for in Data Centres in India



GNS News Agency, Jan 29

India's data centre market continues to grow robustly, with the total capacity projected to rise to 2 GW by 2026. There is nearly 525 MW capacity under various phases of construction across top cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Cloud computing, technology advancements, 5G rollouts and the digitalisation of BFSI continue to be the growth drivers with artificial intelligence (AI) workloads to ramp this demand up further. These growth drivers are projected to push the India data centre market value to USD 11.6 billion by 2032.

Data centres have also emerged as an attractive asset class for institutional investors in the last few years, with a large capital pool being committed and deployed in this sector. The industry has seen advancements on various fronts and will continue growing exponentially in the next 2-3 years. Some of the key trends to look out for in 2025 and beyond:

Data centre operators are increasingly investing in large-scale projects with capacities of over 100MW, specifically in Navi Mumbai. Apart from Mumbai, Chennai is another preferred market for these operators to set up facilities. Hyderabad will also see significant hyperscaler capacity development in the next few years, with two major hyperscalers - each with 100-plus acres of land - having projects in various stages of development. With the increase in cloud computing and large-scale AI-led demand, the industry will see various large campuses to house this growing demand. Creation of New Availability Zones & Micro-markets

Mumbai and Chennai continue to be the preferred markets for data centre operators. However, due to the scarcity of suitable land parcels and the exponential rise in land prices in the existing DC clusters, the focus is on exploring alternatives slightly away from the conventional hubs in these cities. Surge in AI-led Data Centre Demand and Infra Changes as per NASSCOM, India's AI market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 20 per cent between 2023 and 2028. This will strengthen the data centre demand. With rising AI workloads, data centres are becoming increasingly dense and power-consuming. The average rack density is anticipated to increase up to 30 KW/rack compared to the existing 8-10 KW/rack server density. Advanced and Sustainable Cooling Solutions To incorporate AI-led changes in data centre infrastructure, the industry is gearing up for the adoption of newer, more energy-efficient technologies. This includes incorporating cooling techniques like liquid immer-

sion cooling which offer significant power efficiency and substantial cost savings. The upcoming hyperscale and purpose-built AI data centres are expected to adopt this technology. Tie-ups between Chipmakers, Infra Providers

Over the past two years, India's data centre industry has witnessed collaborations between chip developers and infrastructure providers (for instance, the partnerships between NVIDIA and Yotta and Tata Group and Reliance Jio Infocomm on various fronts). These collaborations aim to build sustainable, energy-efficient, future-ready data centres and are expected to take shape in the next two years. Such collaborations align with the government's India AI mission, and the data centre ecosystem will benefit immensely. Edge Data Centre Facilities Development

Another important development in the Indian data centre industry which will witness incremental growth in the next couple of years is the setting up of edge data centre facilities closer to end-users and devices generating data. These facilities are expected to manage the growing data traffic from tier II and tier III cities and support applications like OTT (over-the-top) platforms, IoT (Internet of Things) devices, gaming and Smart Cities with reduced latency and a better consumer experience. Tier II cities like Patna, Jaipur, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar have already started getting commitments from the data centre operators to set up such edge facilities. Migration from On-Premise to Cloud

Many companies increasingly prefer hosting on a hybrid cloud rather than relying on traditional on-premise infrastructure. Cloud computing reduces costs and maintenance needs associated with traditional IT infrastructure. This also offers improved scalability and better security solutions, and will, in turn, accelerate data centre demand from cloud companies. Focus on Green Data Centres

The data centre industry is becoming increasingly committed to its Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) considerations. Operators have started using renewable energy to support a part of their power demand via wind and solar energy through strategic power purchase agreements. Some data centre operators plan on 100% green facilities in the next few years, and continuous efforts are being undertaken to meet this goal. There is backward integration by data centre operators to develop their own sources of green power by investing in renewable energy projects. Efforts related to water and waste management are focused on adopting circular economy principles. The government is also exploring the feasibility of using nuclear energy to power data centres, and 2025 could be the start of this vision.

Enhanced Security Measures The industry continues to improve on the security aspects of data centres to prevent cyber threats and security breaches by integrating advanced security measures like AI-powered security tools, Zero Trust Architecture and multi-factor authentication. Skill Development and Enhancement of Talent Pool

Efforts on training programmes and learning centres for skill development in hardware, software and data centre operations and IT infrastructure management have improved. Both private operators and the government are focusing on creating a talent pool to align with the country's digital growth. Overall, the Indian data centre market is on an exponential growth trajectory, driven by institutional capital, technological innovation, regulatory support and the country's vast digital ecosystem.

Delhi HC ponders if CAG reports can be made public before tabling in the House; say such a step 'may violate Constitution'

GNS News Agency, Jan 29

The Delhi High Court Friday orally enquired that unless CAG reports are tabled, how can they be brought out in the public domain with a court direction. The court also mulled that directing to make Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports public before their tabling may violate Article 151 of the Constitution. Article 151 prescribes the powers of the President and the Governor/Lieutenant Governor for tabling audit reports in Parliament and Assembly, respectively. The division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela made the observation while dealing with a public interest litigation by one retired civil servant Brij Mohan seeking the court's directions to make public 14 audit reports of CAG on the Delhi Government's functioning. CJ Upadhyaya orally enquired from the petitioner's counsel senior advocate Geeta Luthra as to under what provisions of law she was pressing for the petition.

After she responded that she was relying on the "fundamental right to know, as a citizen, as a voter," which flows from Article 19, CJ Upadhyaya orally remarked, "These generalised arguments will not do... we are dealing with reports prepared by a constitutional body, we have to be conscious."

CJ Upadhyaya pointed out, "Article 151 (of the Constitution) does not say that reports once placed before the house, whether they shall be made public or not... they have provided in some circular/manual that they can be made public once it has been laid. Since you're saying circulars are not sacrosanct we want to know under what provision (you are seeking the direction in the PIL)... Unless we comply with Article 151, how can it be brought out in the public domain... we want to know on what premise is your prayer based... Article 19 is subject to certain limitations... and right to know is a statutory right flowing from Right to Information Act... you have to establish that there is a public duty on the authority... where's that authority?... Public has a right to know but not in violation of any constitutional provision... if your prayer is granted, Article 151 will be violated... we are just trying to understand the whole gamut in which you've filed the petition." Justice Gedela, too, orally remarked, "It has to fall within RTI Act, for that it has to be information first... we don't think it is information before (being tabled in the house)."

The petitioner, Mohan, who retired as a Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) officer in 2013 from the Indian Audit & Accounts Department (IA&AD), has submitted that the 14 CAG reports "should be made public urgently and they should be discussed and debated before Delhi goes to polls before Vidhan Sabha elections are held." Mohan, in his PIL, has also contended that the PIL is filed for the "benefit of the voters in Delhi", as they "must be aware of the state of affairs in Delhi and financial health of Delhi before they cast their votes in the forthcoming elections in Delhi." CJ Upadhyaya further enquired from Luthra, "Why do you want this info before elections? Are you interested in knowing



the information for the purpose of choosing the government?" Luthra responded in the affirmative, to which CJ Upadhyaya responded orally, "Sorry. You should be concerned with the information contained in the report, you should be concerned with the report... we ourselves feel that it is very important... but (we are) confronted by constitutional provision... it is a constitutional requirement (to table the report)... you're before a court of law, your arguments should be legal."

2 Bangladeshi 'infiltrators' arrested in Chinchwad, Aadhaar cards seized

GNS News Agency, Jan 29

Pimpri Chinchwad police have arrested two alleged Bangladeshi citizens residing illegally in India and seized their Aadhaar cards. The accused were identified as Shohag Sukumar Majumdar, 20, and Suman Gopal Tikadar, 35. Police Constable Mohsin Shaikh of the Anti-Terrorist Cell at Pimpri station lodged the first information report (FIR) in this regard. As per the FIR, Majumdar and Tikadar are natives of Khulna in Bangladesh. P D Salunkhe, the Police Sub-Inspector investigating the case, said the accused were working at a construction site in Chinchwad. Acting on a tip-off, the police nabbed the two on Thursday and seized documents from them, including Aadhaar cards. The police probe revealed that Majumdar entered India illegally with his parents a few years ago. They stayed at a family member's house in North 24 Parganas. Later, his parents returned to Bangladesh while Majumdar worked at a local shop, managed to procure an Aadhaar card - which said he hailed from North 24 Parganas in West Bengal - and arrived Pune in February 2024 in search of a job. Investigators found that he regularly spoke to family members in Bangladesh over the phone.

Thought-reading tech revolution priced at Rs 8000, now available for pre-order



GNS News Agency, Jan 29

Hyderabad: Omi artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled wearable, demonstrated by CES 2025, is being marketed as a breakthrough device that will help enhance productivity and automate everyday activity. Priced at Rs 7,640 (approximately \$89), the device is available for pre-order and is set to ship in Q2 of 2025. The wearable is designed by San Francisco based startup Based Hardware and can be worn in several forms. It can be worn as a necklace (which reacts to the voice command such as "Hey Omi" or attached to the back of your head with medical tape (providing an "brain interface" reading the brain waves and analyzing information without verbalization and speech).

The product can be used as an augmentation to smartphones with content applicable to the user's context, thus where it can increase the efficiency of the user. It is supported in both Android and iOS devices where it continuously listens to the user's environment and provides appropriate answers via a companion app. Omi works on the open-source platform, where each developer builds his custom apps or integrates his models in without a hitch. Power-packed AI processes conversations, retains context controls, and provides a personalized answer for help. Whether it is answering questions, summarizing conversations, creating to-do lists, or tracking your meetings, the

wearable is what you use every day. Besides its remarkable AI power, Omi also tackles the issue of privacy by allowing users to have control of their data. The open-source platform enables the user to track whether and where the data is sent, or to retain the data locally. Even though the technology in Omi's "brain interface" is still in its infancy, it shows a potential. The device uses a single electrode to detect brain activity, distinguishing user interaction from unrelated thoughts, and processes this data to provide relevant responses. Initially a project on Kickstarter called "Friend," Omi was rechristened following a change in ownership of the domain name by a different company. Even with competition from other AI devices, Omi will try to differentiate itself by positioning itself as a tool to augment rather than replace throughout.

Govt whip greeted by protests in Yadadri Bhongir dist



GNS News Agency, Jan 29

Bhongir: Residents of Vangala village in Gundala Mandal staged a protest against government Whip Beerla Ilaiah. The protestors displayed placards and raised slogans against the government and the Whip during the foundation stone laying ceremony for CC road works. The police intervened and dispersed the protesters.

The villagers alleged that a majority of the residents were not considered for the sanction of the Indiramma houses. The beneficiary lists were filled with names of the Congress workers. The names read out at grama sabha recently disappointed many. They demanded the inclusion of their names in the housing list, free power supply and the implementation of welfare schemes.

Sky Force movie review: Veer Pahariya should have been the lead of this film, not Akshay Kumar



Sky Force Movie Review: Veer Pahariya is efficient, Akshay Kumar appears distinctly older in the parts where everyone is young. Sky Force Movie Review: Veer Pahariya is efficient, Akshay Kumar appears distinctly older in the parts where everyone is young.

Sky Force Movie Review, Rating and Release: Last year Bollywood's Republic-Day gift was Fighter, which zoomed in, checking several patriotic-movie boxes: brave Indian fighter pilots, going up against favourite enemy Pakistan, displaying valour and camaraderie. This year, it is Sky Force, coasting on the same elements, except this one is a thinly-disguised account of a real life incident during the 1965 Indo-Pak conflict, in which a squadron decimated a fleet of modern American jets housed at Pakistani base Sargodha, in an operation the film calls Sky Force.

The story (which the film is based on), about a pilot on stand-by during that crucial operation, who disobeys his leader's direct orders and takes off in a plane that's not air-worthy, his skill and derring-do instrumental in saving his brother pilots' lives, is worthy of dropped jaws. The film, however, doesn't do enough justice to this tale of unwavering courage in the face of certain death. Chiefly because the brave pilot T Vijaya (real name AB Devayya) played by debutant Veer Pahariya, who should rightfully have led this tale, consistently plays second fiddle to the film's lead, which

is, of course, Akshay Kumar.

Right through, the effort at keeping Akshay's character, who plays Wing Commander KO Ahuja (his real-life counterpart being OP Taneja), front and centre skews the balance, with the plot bending over backwards to accommodate Ahuja's untiring efforts to find his long-lost teammate, in the face of bureaucratic stone-walling from his superiors (Chaudhri, Badola). The film goes into flashback mode from its opening in 1971, in which a captured Pakistani pilot's (Sharad Kelkar) interrogation yields a clue to the mystery of the missing pilot. The 1965 portions have the usual war-room strategic pointy-heads, with handsome airmen, kitted out in uniform and sharp shades, striding across the runway, and planes zig-zagging across the sky. Post-interval, large tracts are devoted to Ahuja's dogged search.

What's nice is that crude jingoism is kept to a minimum, even though it's now almost impossible to make a film like this without a reference to 'ghar mein ghus ke maarna'. Kelkar's character is given a hint of nobility: he may be an enemy but he understands the importance of family values. Speaking of which, the ladies here stay confined to their roles as wives: Nimrat as Akshay's and Sara Ali Khan as Pahariya's, constituting the idea of family and domesticity, nothing more, nothing less. And while the background score swells and booms, especially during the aerial dogfights, the melodrama is kept mostly muted. Pahariya is efficient; Akshay appears distinctly older in the parts where everyone is young; grey-and-grizzled is a better look on him, which occurs briefly. The most moving part of the film belongs to neither of these gents: one of their compatriots, to whom a jokey situation is assigned in the beginning, is a reminder of 'not leaving anyone behind'. That should tell you everything about the way things roll in this sky force. Sky Force Movie cast: Akshay Kumar, Veer Pahariya, Sara Ali Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Sharad Kelkar, Manish Chaudhri, Varun Badola

Anupam Mittal refuses to invest in smart ring after investing big in smart locket on Shark Tank India

Shark Tank India Season 4, which is currently streaming on SonyLIV, recently saw a wearable product that allows its users to make payments via a ring. The ring works on UPI transactions, and can soon be used for metro rides, bus rides and train rides as well. Aman Gupta, whose company deals in wearable technology, was quite surprised when he saw the product and said that he was hearing of this technology "for the first time."

The entrepreneurs from Mumbai, Vijay Khubchandani, Maek Savla, Karthik Menon, presented their company named Seven that sells these smart rings which process single tap payments. The ring is not connected to one's bank account but operated via a wallet that can be topped up using UPI. They also said that the special feature of their product is that it does not require charging. The pitchers said that the technology will soon be available for metro rides as well and were expecting to see a boost in sales after that feature is introduced. The pitchers asked for Rs 75 lakh for 1 per cent of the company, valuing at Rs 75 crore.

As the investors started asking questions about the product and the company, Anupam Mittal raised an obvious question as he asked, "Do we even need it?" The pitchers said that they were of the belief that they have a unique product that will surely pick up as it eases the process of payment. After asking the most amount of questions, Anupam got out of the deal. Aman Gupta was quite hesitant in showing his appreciation as he said, "Payment via ring... I am hearing this for the first time." The pitchers shared



that they started their business in 2017 but could not launch the product due to many delays that were beyond their control. They finally launched the product in 2023 but have only managed to sell 3000 rings in one year. Aman Gupta got out of the deal as he declared, "Milte hain fir market mein (See you in the market)" to his possible competitors. Vineeta Singh, Varun Dua and Peyush Bansal decided to invest in the company as Peyush said that this had the potential to become the "tap equivalent of UPI." After some negotiation, the deal was ultimately closed at Rs 75 lakh for 1.5 per cent equity and 1.5 per cent advisory shares.

The Girl with the Needle, The Night Agent, Hisaab Barabar and more



Oscar-nominated The Girl with the Needle — directed by Magnus von Horn and co-written by Line Langebek Knudsen and von Horn — is streaming from January 24. The movie, which had its world premiere under the competition section during the Cannes Film Festival 2024, follows a young factory worker Karoline (Vic Carmen Sonne), who is struggling to survive in post-WWI Copenhagen. When she ends up unemployed, abandoned and pregnant, the charismatic Dagmar (Trine Dyholm) takes her in as a wet-nurse at an underground adoption agency which finds foster homes for unwanted children. A deep connection forms between them, until a shocking discovery suddenly shatters Karoline's world. Inspired by a true story, The Girl With The Needle is a haunting and profound look at one woman's search for love and morality.

This story of a resilient father told with wry humour showcases one of Abhishek Bachchan's career-best performances. Directed by filmmaker Shoojit Sircar, I Want To Talk follows the transformative journey of Arjun Sen, a chatty and shrewd Bengali man living the quintessential 'American Dream'. Arjun's life is upended when he learns he has only 100 days to live. This forces him to re-evaluate his priorities and reassess what truly matters in his life. His journey becomes a quest to reconnect with his estranged seven-year-old daughter and to make every remaining moment count. The film's cast also features Ahilya Bamroo,

Jayant Kriplani, Johnny Lever, Pearle Dey, and Kristin Goddard in pivotal roles.

The new episodes of this popular series, based on the novel by Matthew Quirk, pick up after the high-octane events of Season 1. After Peter Sutherland (Gabriel Basso) managed to save the president, he earned the opportunity to become a Night Agent. Working in the secretive organization Night Action in Season 2 will push Peter into a world where danger is everywhere and trust is in short supply. The just-released trailer offers a glimpse of all the thrills ahead as Peter finds himself fully immersed in the mysterious world of Night Action, a top-secret organization rife with deadly threats. As Peter says in the trailer, the dangers ahead include everything from a possible mole in Night Action to experimental weapons in the wrong hands — and he can't trust anyone in these dire new circumstances. Based on the 1997 novel by the same name written by Jay Bonansinga, The Killer's Game follows veteran assassin Joe Flood, who is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness and authorises a kill on himself to avoid the pain that is destined to follow. After ordering the kill, he finds out that he was misdiagnosed and must then fend off the army of former colleagues trying to kill him. Directed by J.J. Perry and written by Rand Ravich, Bonansinga and James Coyne. The action comedy film's cast features Sofia Boutella, David Bautista, Lucy Cork and Pom Klementieff in lead roles. The film is streaming with dubs in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. Directed by Ashwini Dhir, the film promises to unravel a gripping narrative of financial fraud, corruption, and the relentless pursuit of justice. In Hisaab Barabar, R Madhavan essays the character of Radhe Mohan Sharma, a railway ticket checker who uncovers a small discrepancy in his bank account. What begins as a simple financial error quickly unravels into a dangerous journey filled with fraud, deceit, and corruption. As Radhe delves deeper, he finds himself entangled in a high-stakes battle with Micky Mehta (played by Neil Nitin Mukesh), a suave yet ruthless banker with significant influence. As Radhe's quest for justice intensifies, the film poses a profound question: can one ordinary man take on systemic corruption? And will his perseverance and resilience be enough to secure his victory? Directed by Nandha Periyasamy, this Tamil-language film explores the journey of a man who, in spite of facing stiff opposition for doing good, shows how humanity ultimately wins. The film revolves around Manickam (Samuthirakani), a good-hearted man who runs a lottery shop at the Kumily bus stand, to support his family and his wife, Sumathi (Ananya), who prepares food for local workers. The emotionally charged film exults honesty and righteousness as extraordinary human qualities.

Junaid Khan says he 'sat outside' during sister Ira's wedding because their family thinks he's 'useless': 'Dad said...'



Amir Khan's son, actor Junaid Khan, is preparing for his first theatrical release, Loveyapa, which he is promoting extensively. In a recent interview, Junaid shared that after the wedding of his sister, Ira Khan, his father said that Junaid should elope if he plans on getting married. He also shared that he doesn't enjoy parties, and even at sister Ira's wedding, he spent most of his time outside. In a chat with Siddharth Kannan, Junaid said that he doesn't enjoy parties with lots of people and loud music and said that "marriage is basically that." "After my sister's wedding, even my father was like, 'If you plan to get married, please run away and do it,'" he shared with a laugh. Ira got married to Nupur Shikhar in 2024. Junaid also shared that he wasn't consulted or given any tasks for his sister's wedding and described himself as "useless."

He said, "Ira knew very well that no one should expect anything from Junaid, he is very useless in all these things. So no one consulted me for anything, I was just told the date and time and was asked to reach then. They were like if we give him anything to do..." When asked if he participates in family decisions or is "useless" at those as well, he said, "I am useless actually. They try a lot to get me involved but I am so useless..." Junaid said that he does not enjoy gatherings, and prefers to stay outside during parties. "Even at Ira's wedding, I was outside most of the time," he said, and when asked how he spent his time outside, he shared, "I sit outside with few people, a few like-minded individuals. Ira has given up on me when it comes to all this." He shared that even when there is a party at his father's house, he sits in the balcony.

Rozlyn Khan accuses Hina Khan of using cancer treatment for publicity: 'Hunger for limelight can take you anywhere'

Rozlyn Khan, who is a stage 4 cancer survivor, has accused Hina Khan of spreading misinformation and using her cancer treatment as a publicity stunt. On Thursday, Rozlyn shared a long note on her Instagram, suggesting it was all planned well for Hina's releases. Taking to Instagram, Rozlyn said, "Hunger for limelight can take you anywhere I heard and it's proven by few so called celebs..! Things were planned around your new releases quite well..! Congratulations Hina Khan." To prove there is no mischief, Rozlyn challenged Hina to share details of her cancer treatment. She added, "Please share details of treatment you have gone through for fellow cancer patients/survivor and oncologist to discuss in future. I'm sorry your PR activities are not getting you any sympathy bcos you were showing off too much during your treatment, better luck next time with such PR activities..!"

Rozlyn Khan accused Hina Khan of spreading misinformation and slammed her for misguiding her 20 million followers. She wrote, "Its okay if you don't have sympathy for cancer patients, but at least don't spread misinformation like Karma, Ayurvedic nуска, and jaadu toona. All this is getting too much." Rozlyn further said that she might not have 20 million followers like Hina, but her 2 million followers are enough for her to spread cancer awareness.

The actor said she can't break people's trust by making some sensational statements about cancer. Being



someone who has experienced cancer so closely, Rozlyn said she won't let anybody play with the feelings of cancer patients. In the video, Rozlyn Khan can be heard saying that Hina Khan is often seen visiting expensive restaurants and hotels after her treatments, whereas cancer patients have many dos and donts in terms of diet and lifestyle. She slammed the actor for showing off her privileged life, while there are many cancer patients who struggle to afford even a wig and often lose the battle against cancer. She even accused Hina of not sharing the reality of cancer on her social media handles, and only choosing to share glamorous posts.

Allu Arjun's blockbuster breaks Baahubali 2's record, trails Dangal by Rs 200 crore



Pushpa 2 box office collection Day 50: Pushpa 2: The Rule has been ruling at the box office for nearly two months. Starring Allu Arjun, the film has broken innumerable records during its phenomenal run. During its time in theatres, the film has also fended off competition from films both big and small. And it'll soon be released on streaming having passed its biggest milestone yet. Pushpa 2 has overtaken the lifetime global collections of SS Rajamouli's Baahubali 2: The Conclusion. According to estimates by Sacnilk, Pushpa 2: The Rule — Part had an overall 8.05% Hindi Occupancy on Thursday, collecting Rs 50 lakh. Thus, Pushpa 2's grand total stands at Rs 1230.55 crore India nett.

On the global level, Pushpa 2 has passed the Rs 1800 crore mark. Celebrating the success, Pushpa 2's production house, Mythri Movie Makers, took to social media to post, "50 iconic days of Pushpa 2: The Rule in theatres. Indian cinema's industry hit rewrote many records and set new benchmarks at the box office. Book your tickets today to enjoy the reloaded version." At the worldwide box office, Pushpa 2 is now the second-highest grossing Indian film of all time. The film makers shared earlier, "THE WILDFIRE BLOCKBUSTER crosses a gross of 1831 CRORES in 32 days worldwide." The film still trails Akshay Khan's Dangal, which made over Rs 2000 crore globally in 2016. The majority of Dangal's revenue, however, came from China. Pushpa 2 was released in cinemas on December 5, and despite facing competition from Baby John, Game Changer, Azaad, and Emergency during its run, the film is still successfully playing across the country, with about 1000

shows. In a recent interview with Firstpost, director Madhur Bhandarkar spoke about Pushpa 2's success, and shared, "Pushpa 2 is a dub film. People are watching. They gave Rs 850 crores in business in the Hindi dubbed version. It's phenomenal. Pushpa 2 record will take another one decade to break it. I doubt anybody will come closer to it also. So I feel filmmakers should go for more real subjects." Pushpa 2 is also set to make its OTT debut soon. According to reports, the film's streaming rights have been sold for a substantial price.

Ajith wanted to wrap up films fast as in race, anything could happen: Magizh Thirumeni

Chennai: Director Magizh Thirumeni, who is directing actor Ajith Kumar's eagerly-awaited film 'vidaa Muiarchi', has now disclosed that actor Ajith Kumar, who is now on the racing circuit competing in International racing tournaments, had told him that he wanted to wrap up all his film commitments before he went to race because so many people were dependent on him, including his producers who had invested money on his films.

In an interview to a channel, Magizh Thirumeni said, "A couple of weeks before he was to head to the race, we were beginning to wrap up the film. Ajith had gone for practice sessions then. He showed us some videos of his practice laps. Ajith had met with two accidents during the practice laps. When we saw the footage, all our hearts skipped a beat. The first accident was one big massive crash. Then there was another one."

Director Magizh then went on to say that he will never forget what Ajith said after that. "He (Ajith) said, 'Magizh, when I go to participate in this race, anything can happen.'" Magizh recalled, making sure that the listeners understood what Ajith meant by that statement. Then he went on to say, "When I go to participate in a race, anything can happen which is why I want to wrap up all my film commitments. So many people are dependent on me. There are two producers who have invested heavily on my films."

