

## Night, holiday duties for TGSWREIS teachers until Sankranti vacation

Hyderabad: Following opposition by teachers, the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWREIS) decided to enforce the recent order mandating night duty for three teachers every day and holiday duty for four teachers in its institutions only until Sankranti vacation.In a statement on Thursday, Telangana Social Welfare Residential Teachers and Employees Association president Ch Bala Raju and general secretary N Dayakar said TGSWREIS Secretary S Krishna Aditya assured to relieve teachers from additional burden of night and holiday duties before Sankranti vacation.

## Telangana Panchayat Elections: First phase concludes, results awaited

Hyderabad, Dec 11

The initial phase of the Panchayat elections in Telangana has successfully concluded. Polling, which commenced at 7 AM, continued until 1 PM, with all individuals in line before the closing time allowed to cast their votes.

Voters participated in the election of 3,834 Sarpanch and 27,628 ward member positions across 37,562 polling stations. The counting of votes is set to begin at 2 PM.

Once the results for the Sarpanch elections are announced, the tallying for ward members will follow.



## Kharge, Priyanka Congratulate CM Reddy on Telangana Vision 2047



NEW DELHI, DEC 11

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi congratulated Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy on the unveiling of the

## HC questions land allotment in Banjara Hills to former MP's kin

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Wednesday heard a PIL challenging the regularisation of prime government land in Banjara Hills in favour of the son and daughter of former MP (Rajya Sabha) Dr K Keshava Rao. A division bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice Ghouse Meera Mohiuddin heard PIL filed by



Gadeela Raghuv eer Reddy of Kondapaka, Siddipet district.

The petitioner questioned the actions of the previous BRS government in issuing and subsequently amending GO 59 (dated December 31, 2014) through GO 22 (dated March 1, 2023) and GO 56 (dated May 23, 2023), allowing the regularisation of encroachments on objectionable government lands, surplus lands and ULC lands on a payment basis.

Petitioner's counsel S Reddy Yalagiri submitted that the amendments were misused to regularise 1,161 square yards in favour of K Venkateswar Rao, son of Kesava Rao, and 425 square yards in favour of Gadwal Vijayalaxmi, Mayor and daughter.

He contended that the land located in NBT Nagar, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, a notified slum area with exceptionally high real estate value, was allotted at nominal rates of Rs 2,500 and Rs 350 per square yard, whereas the market value stood at approximately Rs 60,300 per square yard as of February 2024, translating to a value exceeding Rs 9 crore.

The petitioner alleged that the beneficiaries bypassed the mandatory procedure prescribed in GO 59, which requires applicants to submit requests through Mee Seva and pay 25% of the land's basic value via demand draft to the government. Instead, the counsel stated, both beneficiaries directly represented their cases to the then finance minister and chairman of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Land Regularisation, securing approval in violation of rules and causing substantial loss to the exchequer.

Telangana Rising 2047 Vision Document.

The two AICC leaders praised the Chief Minister for drawing a roadmap for the development of the youngest state of Telangana in the vision document.

During the meeting with Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi at their residences in Delhi today, CM Revanth Reddy briefed them about the successful conduct of two day Telangana Rising Global Summit and the release of the Vision document in the presence of business honchos and global investors.

The two AICC leaders also expressed profound delight over attracting huge investments from local and international companies and entering agreements during the two day global summit.

Minister Vivek Venkataswamy, MPs - Suresh Shetkar, M Anil Kumar, P Balaram Naik, Dr. Mallu Ravi, K Raghuv eer Reddy, and Gaddam Vamshi Krishna were also present .

On 23 July 2024, the then Chief Justice's Bench had issued notices to the Principal Secretaries of Revenue (Land Administration) and MA&UD departments, the CCLA, the Hyderabad District Collector, the Tahsildar of Shaikpet mandal, Venkateswara Rao, Mayor Vijaya Laxmi, seeking their responses.

Appearing for state, Additional Advocate-General Md Imran Khan acknowledged that the land parcels had indeed been regularised in favour of the former MP's son and daughter. He submitted that the beneficiaries had already undergone extensive legal procedures owing to pending litigation over the properties and sought additional time to present a detailed argument.

During the hearing, CJ Singh queried Khan whether the government was uniformly extending the benefits under the regularisation scheme to all applicants or whether the concessions granted to the two beneficiaries were exceptions. The CJ observed that if the government intended to stand by its decision to regularise the land in favour of these individuals, it may need to consider rectifying the impugned GOs.

## Lionel Messi to play in Hyderabad on December 13 at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium

Hyderabad: Football great Lionel Messi, who helped Argentina win the 2022 World Cup, will showcase his skills to the delight of soccer-crazy fans of the twin cities at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on December 13.

Parvathi Reddy, Advisor to the GOAT Tour Hyderabad, informed the media on Thursday that there will be a 20-minute match featuring Singareni RR and Aparna Messi All Stars.

"The Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Messi will join the teams five minutes before the scheduled close of play of the match," she said.

"Then, Messi will conduct a football clinic for local underprivileged children (he is also a UNICEF Ambassador) and young talent, followed by a parade by the great footballer," Parvathi Reddy added.

"After that, the Chief Minister will felicitate Messi, and what is deemed as a magical event of the entire show can be the penalty shoot-out, given the famed skills of the great footballer," she said.

## Govt doctors flag delays in salaries, administrative breakdown in TVVP

Hyderabad: The Telangana Government Doctors Association (TGGDA), representing government doctors in the State, on Thursday expressed serious concern over lack of timely release of salaries to doctors and staff and growing administrative breakdown in the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP).For months, doctors and staff of TVVP have not been receiving their salaries on time. Even on Thursday, salaries were not released. Regular District Coordinators of Hospital Services (DCHS) are yet to be appointed in districts.

## PM Modi reprimands Telangana BJP MPs, calls for stronger grassroots effort

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is learnt to have pulled up BJP MPs from Telangana during a review meeting in New Delhi on Thursday, expressing displeasure over the State unit's performance and the lack of coordination among senior leaders.

Modi met MPs from Telangana and other southern States to assess the political situation and review the party's organisational preparedness. He reportedly told the Telangana MPs that despite considerable scope for growth, the party was failing to capitalise on opportunities due to poor coordination and ineffective outreach. He is said to have reminded the MPs that the party's action plan required cohesive efforts in approaching people and strengthening ground-level visibility, according to reports.

Modi also instructed the MPs to actively highlight the welfare schemes and development assistance being extended to Telangana. He directed that constituency-wise meetings with party workers be conducted regularly, with clear briefings on the financial support being



party leaders to take steps to ensure BJP flags were hoisted in future elections.

"Instructions were issued to expose the government's failures at mandal and village level. And, to fight on behalf of the people and get their issues addressed," she said.

## PM, Trump discuss trade ties, days after Putin visit

NEW DELHI, DEC 11

In their first contact in two months, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump spoke over phone on Thursday, discussing expansion of cooperation in trade, critical technologies, energy, defence and security.

The call came less than a week after India hosted Russian President Vladimir Putin for the annual leaders' summit on December 4-5, an event that drew global attention.

"Had a very warm and engaging conversation with President Trump. We reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations, and discussed regional and international developments. India and the US will continue to work together for global peace, stability and prosperity," PM Modi posted on X.

The two leaders, who last spoke on October 9, reviewed the progress of the "India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership". They expressed satisfaction at the steady strengthening of bilateral cooperation across all domains and agreed to work closely to address shared challenges and advance common interests.

The conversation also came amid the US Congress' Senate Foreign Affairs committee hearing where lawmakers questioned Trump's policy of alienating India and imposing tariffs. A carpooling picture of Modi and Putin also figured during the Congress discussion. "This poster is worth a thousand words," said US representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove, pointing towards the image as she slammed the Trump administration's foreign policy towards India.

The India-US relationship has been strained since Trump slapped 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods in August 2025, followed by another 25 per cent punitive tariffs for the purchase of Russian crude oil.

The PM and President Trump today underlined the

## NBW issued against Minister Surekha in defamation case

Hyderabad: A city court on Thursday issued a non-bailable warrant against Telangana's Endowments and Forests Minister Konda Surekha in a defamation case filed by BRS working president K T Rama Rao for certain remarks made by the minister.

The Special Judicial First Class Magistrate (JFCM) for Excise cases issued the Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) against the minister after she failed to attend the hearing.

The court posted the matter for hearing on February 5, 2026.

Rama Rao filed the private complaint under Section 222, read with Section 223 of BNS, in October 2024 after Konda Surekha made certain remarks blaming him for the divorce of actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya.

The court in August this year took cognisance of the criminal defamation complaint filed by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)

The court had directed the police to register a criminal case against Konda Surekha.

After reviewing preliminary evidence submitted by the complainant, the court observed that there is prima facie material to proceed under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and corresponding procedural provisions under the BNS Sections 222, read with 223.

The minister had made the alleged defamatory statement on October 2 last year, K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), regarding the divorce between Nagarjuna's actor son, Naga Chaitanya and actress Samantha.

Nagarjuna had also filed a defamation case against the minister, saying her remarks harmed the dignity and reputation of his family.

Last month, Nagarjuna withdrew the defamation case



importance of "sustaining momentum in shared efforts to enhance bilateral trade". The two leaders also discussed various regional and global developments, and agreed to work closely to address shared challenges and advance common interests.

Already, a US trade delegation is in New Delhi on a three-day visit (December 10-12) for talks to finalise a bilateral trade agreement (BTA). The agreement was first discussed during Modi's visit to Washington in February and both sides had then set September target to finalise the deal.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met US Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer in New Delhi on Wednesday. They discussed economic and technology partnership, ongoing trade negotiations, and opportunities to boost two-way trade and resilient supply chains.

Both sides have kept the dialogue open, continuing with several rounds of negotiations. India remained hopeful that the first tranche of the agreement would be finalised within the next few months, despite delays, said an official.



after the minister expressed regret over her statement.

The court dismissed the case as withdrawn after Nagarjuna filed a petition under Section 280 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and virtually informed that he was withdrawing the case.

This came after Surekha took to X to clarify that the statement she made was not intended to hurt Nagarjuna or his family member.

"I would wish to clarify that the statement I had made in relation to Nagarjuna Garu was not intended to hurt Nagarjuna Garu or his family members. I had no intention of hurting or defaming Akkineni Nagarjuna Garu or his family members," the Minister said.

"I regret any unintended impression given in my statements in relation to them and withdraw the same," she added.

Though KTR had issued a legal notice asking the minister to retract her statement and apologise, she said she was standing by her comments about the BRS leader.

Following this, KTR initiated defamation proceedings against the Minister.



# Indian Chronicle

## English Daily

### Australia shows the way

Cyberbullying, digital addiction, and mental illness are the worst nightmare scenarios for parents of teenage children. Safeguarding their kids from the potential harms of social media platforms is one of the biggest challenges that parents face today. Most often, they are confused about what strategy works best and how to strike a balance between personal freedom and safety. Underage children constantly glued to their mobile screens — sucked into algorithm-driven platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X, and YouTube — run the risk of getting disconnected from the real world and becoming aloof and socially awkward. Moreover, the online world is a minefield of dangerous allurements. At a time when social media has become an integral part of our lives, parents around the world constantly worry about how to shield their children from the risks associated with these platforms until they are mature enough to navigate them responsibly. Australia has come up with a solution, though a radical one. It has passed a law banning access to social media platforms for children under 16 years. The new federal law, which came into effect earlier this week, is the world's most sweeping measure to date aimed at shielding young people from the potential harms of social media platforms. Australia's historic move will be keenly watched by nations across the world, and its experience will serve as a template for others seeking to legislate on the matter. The question is whether a blanket ban is a desirable solution or if a middle path can be explored.

## Kadige Shekhar Emerges Front-Runner for BRS Division President Post

""Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, December 11 (Indian



Chronicle):""Kadige Shekhar has emerged as the leading contender for the newly formed Beerappa Gadda Division BRS President post. Since the inception of the TRS party, Shekhar has been actively working for the organisation, taking up every responsibility assigned by the party and successfully executing it."He has consistently contributed to strengthening the BRS at the grassroots level and worked tirelessly for the victory of party candidates. Recognising his unwavering commitment and dedicated service, several leaders and local supporters have requested that Shekhar be appointed as the Division President."Known for his strong organisational hold within the party and his good reputation among the public, Shekhar met Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy on Thursday and appealed for the appointment. He stated that the MLA responded positively to his request.

## Do not change the name of Alwal Division : Corporator Shanti Srinivas Reddy



""K ,Sadanand ""Alwal, December 11: Dhanika Corporator Shanti Srinivas Reddy has asked not to change the name of Alwal division. "On Thursday, she submitted the petition along with Alwal AMC Hemalath. "Speaking on this occasion, the corporator expressed strong objection to Alwal Division being changed to Temple Alwal.""She also asked that Retreat Colony, Tirumala Enclave Phase 1&2, Venkataramana Colony and Chandrapuram Colony should not be included.

## Ensure Cleanliness in Every Lane of the Colony, Avoid Accumulation of Garbage on Roads

Ram Reddy Nagar Welfare Association President Satyanarayana to Sanitation Workers

""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 11 (Indian Chronicle):""Ram Reddy Nagar Welfare Association President E. Satyanarayana Goud urged GHMC sanitation workers to maintain proper cleanliness in every lane of Ram Reddy Nagar under the Habsiguda Division. He instructed them to take necessary measures to ensure that garbage does not accumulate on the roads and that the colony remains clean and hygienic.On Thursday, Satyanarayana, along with the association committee members, interacted with GHMC sanitation workers regarding various sanitation issues in the colony. He directed the workers and SFI staff to sweep and clean all lanes—Street Numbers 1 to 10—on a daily basis and to ensure that no garbage is dumped or stored on either side of the roads at any time."He also appealed to the residents of Ram Reddy Nagar to post their grievances in the Welfare Association's group. He requested them to upload photographs related to civic issues so that they can be addressed promptly. Satyanarayana assured that all problems highlighted by the members in the group would be brought to the notice of the concerned authorities and efforts would be made for their timely



resolution."Welfare Association representatives G. Venkat Sai, P. Srinivas, B. Nagaraju, and others participated in the program.

## Chiluka Nagar Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Inaugurates Rudra Bellam Tea Point

""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 11 (Indian Chronicle):""Chilukanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj formally inaugurated the new Rudra Bellam Tea Point at Bank Colony on Thursday, attending the ceremony as the chief guest."Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen appreciated Sandeep and Keerthi Raj for setting up the tea stall, stating that it is commendable that today's youth are choosing to establish their own businesses instead of depending solely on government jobs. She added that Sandeep and Keerthi Raj have set an inspiring example for many young people."BRS Party State Leaders Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Eddula Kondal Reddy, Muddam Srinivas Yadav, Masa Shekhar, Cheryala Srinivas, Photo



Balu, Mahesh, Sairam, Naresh, Venu, Ram Prasad, Kotti Shiva, and several others participated in the program.

## Keesara Declared as GHMC Division No.1; Thanks Extended to CM Revanth Reddy: ex-ward member Ramidi Swapna Vijay Reddy



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 11, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""The government has officially finalized the geographical boundaries related to the Keessara mandal in the Medchal–Malkajgiri district. As part of the newly announced delimitation, the Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has declared Keessara as Division No. 1 and released detailed boundary limits. According to the government order, the division will extend northwards from the Narsampally Outer Ring Road towards the Yadgarpally–Ankireddypally border. From there, the boundary will follow the Keessara village limits up to Survey No. 757, stretching across the eastern and southern directions until it meets ORR Exit-8. Towards the west, the limits will run near Chiryala, Thimmayipally, and Dharmavaram villages before reconnecting with the Narsampally ORR point, completing the division's perimeter. Local leaders expressed happiness over Keessara being recognized as Division No. 1 Speaking on the occasion, Keessara Congress leader and ex-ward member Ramidi Swapna Vijay Reddy said: This is an important decision for the development of the Keessara region. We extend our thanks to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Medchal–Malkajgiri District Congress President Totakooru Vajresh Yadav for taking this step. Residents of the area are hopeful that the new division recognition will accelerate developmental works in Keessara.

## Third Annual Brahmotsavam Begins Grandly at Kalabhairava Temple



""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal — December 11 (Indian Chronicle):""The third annual Brahmotsavam commenced with great devotion and grandeur on Thursday at the self-manifested Sri Kalabhairava Swamy Temple

located in the Bhagayat HMDA Layout, Uppal."The celebrations began at 5:35 AM with Suprabhata Seva and Abhishekam, followed by Gopuja, entry into the Yagashala, Deeparadhana, and special worship rituals dedicated to Sri Lakshmi Ganapathi, Navagrahas, Vastu Devata, Kshetrapalakas, Yoginis, and the Ashta Kalabhairava Mandapam at 8:15 AM."From 5 PM onwards, various rituals including the Ashta Bhairava Homam, Harati, and Tirtha Prasada distribution were conducted with spiritual fervor."Speaking on the occasion, the chief priest said that a large number of devotees attended the event in traditional attire, took part in the pujas and homams, and received the divine blessings of Sri Kalabhairava Swamy through the Abhishekam and Harati. He also requested devotees to participate in the Annadanam (food distribution) program and make the event a grand success.

## Request to Form a Separate Division for Jammigadda

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 11, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""A representation was submitted at the Kapra Circle GHMC office urging the state government and GHMC authorities to create a separate division for the Jammigadda area. The petition stated that effective public administration requires direct participation of local residents, especially in densely populated low-income settlements. According to the representation, Jammigadda has more than 20,000 voters and nearly 40,000 residents, yet the area continues to lack basic civic amenities. The petitioners pointed out that the locality has no public playgrounds for children, no libraries for youth, no parks for senior citizens, no buildings for Anganwadi centres or women's groups, and no community halls to serve local needs. They also highlighted the absence of a burial ground, forcing residents to face difficulties during emergencies and last rites. The petitioners argued that such areas often remain under the influence of dominant political groups and fail to receive focused development. They demanded that Jammigadda be recognised as an independent division to ensure fair political representation, targeted development, and the possibility of reservations that support socially and economically weaker sections. The representation emphasised that the residents want a division that reflects their needs and aspirations, and



not one shaped by political dominance. The petition was submitted to the Deputy City Planner of Kapra Circle. RTI/HRPC organiser Tadoori Gagan Kumar, BRS leader S.A. Rahim, and Kapra Carpenter Association member Narsimha Chary participated in the programme.

## Grand 18th Maha Padi Pooja Celebrated in Rampally by Arige Rajinikanth Guruswamy

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 11, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""Rampally village of Nagaram Municipality witnessed a vibrant spiritual atmosphere during the 18th Maha Padi Pooja organized by Arige Rajinikanth



Guruswamy. The event was held at the Sri Mahankali Temple premises under the guidance of Bhajan Samrat Hariharan Guruswamy and Eljala Nagesh Goud Guruswamy. The rituals included Panchamruta Abhishekam, Pushpabhishekam, and a traditional Ayyappa Swamy procession with Pallaki Seva, drawing large participation and devotion from the community. Medchal District Congress Committee president Vajresh Yadav attended the ceremony and offered prayers. The event also saw the participation of members from Sri Seetharam Anjaneya and Sri Beerappa temples, sannidhanam members, guruswamis, former public representatives, village elders, youth association members, and a large number of devotees.

## Medchal Pastors Invite DCC President for State Christmas Celebrations

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 11, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""Medchal pastors met Medchal District Congress Committee president and Medchal constitu-



ency in-charge Totakura Vajresh Yadav and invited him to attend the Telangana State Government's Christmas celebrations as a chief guest. The meeting was held at Vajresh Yadav's residence, coordinated by Sanjeev Tenali and Co-ordinator Mittu Praneeth Kumar. The pastors offered prayers and formally extended the invitation. Speaking on the occasion, the pastors said that the Telangana Government has always supported the Christian community. They requested Vajresh Yadav to grace the Christmas celebrations scheduled for December 16. Several pastors from across the district participated in the meeting.

## Zonal-Level Boxing Competitions Held at District Parishad High School - Students Qualify for State-Level

""Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 11 ( Indian Chronicle)""Zonal-level Under-14 boxing competitions, organized under the aegis of the School Games Federation, were held today at the District Parishad High School in Kagaznagar town. The event was formally inaugurated by Kagaznagar Rural CI K. Kumaraswamy and Rural SI



Sandeep Kumar."In the Under-14 category representing Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, Vikram Teja secured a gold medal in the 28–30 kg category and qualified for the state-level competitions."Similarly, in the Under-19 category, Sumit Tiwari won gold in the 63–67 kg category, Ankit clinched gold in the 57–60 kg category, and Prabhat secured gold in the 69–75 kg category, earning all three of them a place in the upcoming state-level contests."SGF Secretary Venkatesh stated that the selected students will soon participate in the state-level boxing championships to be held in Warangal.



## BJP Holds Meeting in Nagaram Opposing GHMC Ward Delimitation

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 11, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“A meeting on the proposed GHMC ward delimitation was organised under the leadership of Nagaram Municipality BJP President Kondaboyina Nagaraj Yadav. Speaking on the occasion, ex-Municipal Chairman Kaukutla Chandra Reddy strongly criticised the draft delimitation, stating that the current division was completely irrational. He questioned how a single corporator could effectively manage a division with nearly 70,000 voters. Referring to the large geographical spread and revenue limitations, he stressed the need to divide Nagaram into two separate divisions. He further alleged that the Congress government was acting in favour of the AIMIM. He pointed out that while divisions in the Old City were formed with only about 20,000 voters each, divisions in surrounding municipalities were being created with 50,000 to 80,000 voters, calling it a clear injustice. Opposing this unfair delimitation, BJP leaders announced that the party would launch a large-scale public movement. They said that awareness would be created among citizens and that the party would not accept the current



proposal. Those who participated in the meeting included ex-ZPTC member Muniganti Suresh, district vice-president Ghanapuram Shyamsundar Sharma, district general secretary Buddavaram Lakshmi, district Kisan Morcha president Enugu Rajireddy, ex-MPTC Tarigoppula Balaram, ex-councillor Bizza Srinivas Goud, senior leaders Ramaram Balesh Goud, ex-president Budhavarapu Venu, Nakka Kishore Goud, and municipal general secretaries Mamidi Jangareddy and Potamshetti Venkateswara Rao, among others.

## Former MLA Koneru Konappa Participates in Election Campaign at Tatipelli Village in Koutala Mandal



“Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 11, ( Indian Chronicle)“Former MLA Koneru Konappa took part in an election campaign meeting at Tatipelli village in

Koutala mandal. He attended the gathering along with BRS-backed sarpanch candidate Rohinee Anand Rao, interacting with local villagers.“Speaking on the occasion, Konappa recalled that during his tenure as MLA, around 400 electricity connections were sanctioned to Tatipelli village, and road facilities were also developed. As a result, the village witnessed significant improvement in the cultivation of chilli and soybean crops, he said.“He appealed to the villagers to extend their valuable support and ensure the victory of Rohinee Anand Rao, who is contesting on behalf of the BRS party.“A large number of villagers, along with several mandal leaders and party activists, participated in the programme.

## No Permission for Victory Rallies, Processions, or Firecrackers After Gram Panchayat Election Results

Komaram Bheem Asifabad District“Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 11, (Indian Chronicle)“No Permission for Victory Rallies, Processions, or Firecrackers After Gram Panchayat Election Results“Winning candidates must strictly adhere to the Model Code of Conduct“Strict legal action will be taken against those violating rules, warns District SP“Victory rallies or celebrations must be held only on dates prescribed by the authorities“District SP Nitika Pant announced that counting of votes for the first phase of the Gram Panchayat elections is underway in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district and clarified that no victory rallies or celebratory processions will be permitted after the announcement of results.“Speaking on the occasion, SP Nitika Pant said that around 750 police officers and personnel have been deployed across the district to ensure law and order at counting centres and to prevent any untoward incidents.“Special security arrangements, including QRT teams and striking forces, have been stationed around counting centres to maintain safety and control. In view of the election results, the SP issued important guidelines for the public, candidates, and winners:“The Model Code of Conduct must be strictly followed.“No permission is granted for victory rallies, bike rallies, DJs, firecrackers, or celebratory processions after results.“Any actions that disturb public peace and order are strictly prohibited.“The district police have set up special surveillance; those involved in disturbances, riots, or unauthorized victory rallies will be taken into custody and remanded.“Any victory rally or procession may only be held on the dates speci-



fied by the concerned authorities.“Anyone violating the rules or acting in a manner that disrupts public peace will face strict legal action.“SP Nitika Pant further appealed to all citizens to maintain peace and harmony in the district and to accept the election results with mutual respect.

## Girl Killed for Rejecting Marriage Proposal; Accused Arrested in Musheerabad Murder Case Warasiguda Police Crack Case Within Hours Using CCTV evidence



“Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, December 10:“The Warasiguda Police have swiftly solved the shocking murder of an 18-year-old girl at Bapuji Nagar, Musheerabad, arresting the accused relative who killed her after she rejected his marriage proposal.“According to Eastern Zone DCP B. Balaswamy, Jadaga Lakshmi and Kantarao, migrants from Srikakulam district, were living in Bapuji Nagar with their two daughters. Their close relative Uma Shankar had been repeatedly pressuring the family to marry their elder daughter to him, but the parents refused due to his objectionable behaviour.“Enraged by the rejection, on December 8, the accused entered their home and stabbed the girl in the throat, killing her instantly. Following a complaint from the victim's parents, Warasiguda Police registered a case and launched a detailed investigation.“Analysis of CCTV footage helped trace and arrest the accused. He confessed during interrogation that he murdered her after she and her family refused his marriage proposal. Police seized a mobile phone and ₹1.10 lakh from his possession.“DCP Balaswamy appreciated the prompt investigation by Warasiguda CI A. Madhusudhan Reddy, DI A. Purender Reddy, Lalaguda DI Ramakrishna, SI Sudhakar, and their team. He announced that the offic-

ers would be suitably rewarded.“Senior officials including Addl. DCP Narasiah and ACP Shashank Reddy attended the briefing.

## For the development of the village, Congress candidates must be elected with a huge majority: Kumbham Keerthi Reddy, daughter of Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 11):- On Thursday, as part of the election campaign in various villages of Bhuvanagiri mandal, Kumbham Keerthi Reddy, daughter of Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, participated in the campaign. On this occasion, she appealed that for the development of the village, the Congress party's Sarpanch candidates must be elected with a huge majority. Library Chairman Avais Chisti, former Municipal Chairman Pothamshetty Venkateswarlu, Barre Jahangir, Krishna Reddy, and various village Sarpanch candidates participated in this program.



## Voters exercised their right to vote in a peaceful atmosphere at green polling stations: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 11):- District Election Officer and Collector Hanumantha Rao stated that in the first phase of polling held as part of the Gram Panchayat elections, voters exercised their right to vote in a pleasant atmosphere at the environmentally friendly 'green model' polling stations.“The District Collector inspected the polling process and arrangements at the model polling station in Fakir Gudem village of Bommalararamam mandal, Rustapuram village of Turkapalli mandal, Narsapur village of Rajapet mandal, Sarvepalli of Atmakur mandal, and Sharajipet of Aleru



mandal, where the first phase of polling was underway.“The Collector took special measures to set up green polling stations in every mandal as per the guidelines of the State Election Commission. Voters participated with great enthusiasm in the green model polling stations set up in the villages.“These centers provided voters with a captivating experience through green plants, floral decorations, coconut leaf decorations, plastic-free materials, and environmentally friendly decorations. Wheelchair facilities were also provided for the elderly and differently-abled.“Later, he inspected the polling process in Gandhamalla village of Turkapalli mandal. The concerned officials accompanied the Collector.

## Telangana State Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ailaiah exercised his right to vote along with his family in Saidapur

“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 11):- Telangana State Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ailaiah exercised his right to vote along with his family in his native village of Saidapur in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.“On the occasion of the Gram Panchayat elections in Saidapur village of Yadagirigutta mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana State Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ailaiah cast his vote along with his family. He urged all the people to vote on time, stating that the vote is very valuable and that everyone should exercise their right to vote.



## Vote for the Congress party's Sarpanch candidates: - Government Whip Beerla Ailayya



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 11):- On the occasion of the second phase of Gram Panchayat elections in Duppally and Narsapur villages of Valigonda mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana State Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ailayya participated in the election campaign. Speaking on the occasion, Beerla Ailayya said that if the Congress party's Sarpanch candidates are elected in the villages to work



alongside him as MLA, they will move forward like a pair of oxen pulling a cart, bringing funds and developing the villages. He stated that the sarees distributed by the previous KCR government were used at wells, for carrying fodder, and as scarecrows in the fields, but the sarees given now under the current people's government are being worn by everyone in the villages.



Photo caption only:“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 11):- District Election Officer and Collector Hanumanta Rao inspected the polling process on Thursday in Gandhamalla village of Turkapally mandal, where polling was being held in the first phase of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district Gram Panchayat elections. He examined all the facilities and arrangements at the polling station. He also checked the availability of wheelchair facilities for elderly and disabled voters.





“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 11):- District Election Officer and Collector Hanumanta Rao inspected the model polling station in Surveyapalli village of Atmakur mandal, where polling was underway in the first phase of the Gram Panchayat elections. He inquired about the polling percentage recorded so far and examined the facilities provided at the polling station.



## Victory Rallies Prohibited in Manthani: Authorities Issue Stern Warning.

“In the wake of the first phase of the Gram Panchayat elections in Manthani, authorities have categorically instructed all winning candidates to refrain from conducting victory rallies.”Officials emphasized that during the afternoon counting process, the candidates who secured victory—and their supporters—must strictly avoid organizing any celebratory processions. They cautioned that any rallies held in violation of the election code of conduct will result in legal action and the registration of criminal cases against the offender.



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 11):- District Election Officer and Collector Hanumanta Rao participated in observing the voting process in Narsapur village of Rajapet mandal, where polling was being held on Thursday as part of the first phase of the Gram Panchayat elections in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

## DGP Shivadhar Reddy Reviews Preparations for Messi Football Match at Uppal Stadium



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal | December 10 (Indian Chronicle)““Director General of Police (DGP) B. Shivadhar Reddy conducted a high-level review meeting on Thursday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Uppal, to assess the security and logistical arrangements being made for the football match featuring world-renowned player Lionel Messi, scheduled for December 13.“Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu, senior officials from GHMC, the Electricity Department, Water Works, Sports Authority of Telangana, and event organizers participated in the meeting and briefed the DGP about the ongoing preparations in their respective departments.“Speaking on the occasion, DGP Shivadhar Reddy instructed officials to ensure that spectators face no inconvenience and that a safe, comfortable environment is provided. Given Lionel Messi’s global stature and the participation of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the event, he stressed the need for foolproof and top-level security arrangements. He also directed officials to widely publicize spectator guidelines and



safety instructions through metro rail announcements and display boards at major junctions. Traffic diversion details should also be communicated in advance, he said.“Officials briefed the DGP on the stadium’s security suitability. The Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, spread over 23 acres, meets international standards and is well-equipped for major events, they noted. The stadium has been divided into four major sectors—South, East, West and North—and can accommodate around 39,000 spectators.“The DGP emphasized that all departments must work in perfect coordination to ensure the prestigious international match is conducted smoothly and without any lapses.“Those present at the review meeting included Additional DGP (Law & Order) Mahesh M. Bhagwat, DG SPF Swati Lakra, Additional DGP (CID) Charu Sinha, Additional DGP (Intelligence) Vijay Kumar, DG Fire Services Vikram Singh Mann, Joint CP (Traffic) Joel Davis, Malkajgiri DCP Sridhar, Narcotics Bureau SP Padmaja, Sports Authority of Telangana Chairman K. Shivasena Reddy and other senior officials.

## First phase of election process completed in the district..“92.88 percent polling recorded: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Election Officer, Collector Hanumantha Rao

“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 11):- In the context of the 2nd general panchayat elections, the district election officer and collector Hanumantha Rao stated that the first phase of the election process in the district has been completed peacefully.“He said that 92.88 percent polling was recorded during the first phase of elections held on Thursday in Aleru, Rajapet, Yadagirigutta, Atmakur (M), Bommalararam, and Turkapalli mandals of the district.“He stated that comprehensive measures have been taken to ensure that the panchayat elections in the district are conducted effectively. He said that micro-observers, flying squads, Mandal Parishad Development Officers, Panchayat Secretaries, police personnel, and polling officers performed their duties efficiently and in coordination during the first phase of the election process. He stated that transparent elections were conducted without any difficulties. He advised the officials to work in coordination to ensure that the 2nd and 3rd phases of elections, to be held on the 14th and 17th of this month, are also conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. He stated that the candidates who won in the first phase of the Gram Panchayat elections, or their representatives, should not hold victory rallies, and that the code of conduct will remain in effect even after all three phases of the Gram Panchayat elections are completed, until the code is officially declared to have ended. He warned that action will be taken against those who violate the rules and regulations.



## Tributes Paid to Singireddy Srinivas Reddy



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 11, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Several Congress leaders and local residents paid tributes to Singireddy Srinivas Reddy, a senior leader from Chapalli Division. A ten-day ceremony was held on Thursday at Sri Krishna Convention Hall in

Chakripura. Former MLA Subhash Reddy, corporators Swarna Raj and Sirisha, former corporator Pavani Reddy, along with family members including his brothers Singireddy Anji Reddy, Madhusudhan Reddy, Dhanpal Reddy, and sons Samithi, Vikas, Balwanth, Srikanth and Manish attended the programme.

## Shahi Garments Workers’ Demand for Wage Hike Must Be Resolved Immediately: CITU State Secretary S. Rama



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 11, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““The ongoing agitation by women workers of Shahi Garments in Nacharam has entered its fourth day, drawing widespread support from trade unions. CITU State Secretary S. Rama, who visited the protesting workers on Thursday, said the struggle of Shahi’s women employees has become an inspiring example of courage and determination. She said that despite harsh cold, fear and pressure, the workers continue to fight boldly for their rights. Rama stated that at a time when families are already struggling with low incomes, it is the responsibility of the management to provide a minimum wage of Rs.16,000. She condemned the Shahi management for adopting an adamant attitude instead of addressing the legitimate demands of the workers. Rama urged the management to come forward for talks and resolve the issue immediately. She also called on the government to inter-



vene and ensure justice for the women workers. IFTU leaders Aruna and Pradeep alleged that as per labour norms, the company should be paying ₹18,000 per month, but workers are still receiving only Rs.9,000, which they described as clear exploitation by the Shahi management. In a gesture of solidarity, the AP Rock Employees Union (CITU) from Cherlapally arranged food for 800 workers participating in the protest. Union leaders said they organised the programme to extend support to the ongoing struggle of Shahi’s women employees. They expressed hope that the workers’ movement would succeed and assured their continued support. CITU Medchal district leaders J. Chandrasekhar, Erra Ashok, P. Satyam, P. Ganesh, I. Rajashekar, J. Venkanna, Lingaswamy, R. Santosh, Manikanta, B.V. Satyanarayana, Ramesh, along with AITUC leaders Satyaprasad, Dharmendra, Ramesh, and several trade union activists and workers participated in the programme.

## Ramaguntam Commissioner Extends Graceful Assistance to Elderly Voter During Polling Inspection

“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU. ““During the first phase of the Gram Panchayat elections, Ramaguntam Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha conducted a thorough inspection of the polling stations at Gunjapadugu in Manthani mandal on Thursday.“Amid his review, the Commissioner paused to engage warmly with an elderly woman who had arrived to exercise her democratic right. He courteously verified her voter identification details, confirmed her ward information, and guided her to the appropriate polling booth designated for casting her vote.“Commissioner Jha assured her that, should she encounter any difficulty, the police personnel stationed at the venue were fully prepared to extend immediate assistance. He further emphasized that exclusive facilities for senior citizens and persons with disabilities had been arranged to ensure a smooth and dignified voting experience.“He reiterated that comprehensive security and bandobast measures had been meticu-



lously implemented, enabling every voter to participate freely, confidently, and without intimidation.

## Deputy Mayor Conducts Field Visit in Tarnaka – Assures Swift Resolution of Public Issues



“Indian Chronicle OU, December 11: Greater Hyderabad Deputy Mayor Smt. Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy, along with GHMC officials, conducted an extensive inspection tour in the Gokul Nagar Kimtee Colony area of Tarnaka Division on Thursday. During the visit, she interacted directly with local residents and gathered detailed information about their pending civic issues.“Residents raised several concerns, including damaged roads, irregular drinking water supply, delay in park development works, drainage problems, and non-functioning streetlights. Responding immediately, the Deputy Mayor issued instructions to the concerned officials to address the issues without delay.“Speaking on the occasion, she stated that resolving public grievances is the administration’s top priority. She assured that special review meetings will be conducted to speed up all pending works in the Tarnaka Division. She further added that road repair tenders would be finalized soon and that immediate measures would be taken in coordination with

the Water Board to address drinking water issues.“Reaffirming the government’s commitment to improving civic amenities, Deputy Mayor Srilatha Shobhan Reddy assured that all issues raised by residents will be monitored closely and resolved in a timely manner.

## Deputy Mayor Conducts Special Inspection for Road Development in Tarnaka

“Indian Chronicle OU, December 11: In view of the growing concerns over road widening and repair issues in Tarnaka, Greater Hyderabad Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy conducted a field inspection today along with GHMC officials at the Sweet Number One Line area to review the newly initiated road works.“During the inspection, she discussed with GHMC officials the deteriorated condition of roads in the Tarnaka division and directed them to ensure permanent, high-quality road construction instead of temporary fixes. She emphasized that the works must be executed keeping future requirements in mind and without causing inconvenience to the public.Interacting with local residents, the Deputy Mayor assured that necessary road development works would be sanctioned through the GHMC budget to accelerate overall development in Tarnaka. She reiterated her commitment to stand by the people and support their civic needs.









# Deoria land fraud case: Ex-IPS officer Amitabh Thakur arrested for forging IDs to get industrial plot in 1999

GNS News Agency,Dec 11

The Lucknow Police Wednesday arrested former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur in connection with an alleged case of fraud and cheating to secure an industrial plot in Deoria in 1999. Officials said Thakur allegedly misused his authority as Superintendent of Police, Deoria, to secure the plot in his wife's name through forged IDs and fake documents, and later selling the property for profit. The case is currently being investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Lucknow Police. "Based on the evidence collected during the probe, we arrested Amitabh Thakur from Sitapur. He will be produced before the Deoria court as the incident took place there," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Lucknow, Vishwajeet Srivastava. The FIR against Thakur and others was registered at Talkatora police station in September on charges of fraud, cheating, and related offences, following a complaint filed by Sanjay Sharma, a resident of Talkatora.

To ensure a fair and transparent investigation, DCP Srivastava constituted the SIT. Police said as part of the probe, the team gathered documentary evidence from Deoria, verified the alleged false identities and addresses in Bihar, examined official records, and questioned multiple witnesses. According to police, the complainant, Sharma, alleged that when Thakur was serving as Deoria SP in 1999, his wife, Nutan, secured the allotment of an industrial plot from the District Industries Centre, Deoria. For this allotment, she allegedly used false personal details — replacing her and her husband's real names and addresses with fabricated ones, and a fake residential address. Sharma further claimed that Nutan prepared forged documents — such as the application form, affidavit, treasury challan, and transfer deed — to mislead government departments. He also alleged that she benefited from her husband's official position, which provided protection and support for these actions. The complaint further alleged that the plot was later sold using the couple's real names and address, thereby keeping government agencies, banks, and other stakeholders in the dark for a long period. According to police, the SIT



found sufficient evidence to proceed against the accused after which Thakur was arrested. In July 2015, while serving as Inspector General, Civil Defence, he was suspended by the Samajwadi Party government days after he publicly accused then SP chief Mulayam Singh Yadav of allegedly "threatening" him. The suspension order stated that Thakur had been found prima facie guilty of "indiscipline," holding an "anti-government point of view," "violating High Court directions," showing "indifference toward duties and responsibilities of his post," and "breach of service rules". In 2016, the UP government reinstated Thakur. The central government had held that his suspension was not valid after October 11, 2015, as it was extended only after the period of 90 days since the first suspension order. In March 2021, the Union Home Ministry gave premature retirement from service to Thakur, a 1992-batch IPS officer, in "public interest". The same year, in August, Lucknow Police had arrested him from outside his residence in Gomti Nagar on charges that included abetment of suicide of a rape survivor and her friend, who had set themselves on fire outside the Supreme Court and later died at a Delhi hospital. The 24-year-old survivor had accused then BSP Lok Sabha MP Atul Rai of allegedly raping her at his Varanasi residence in 2018. She had also alleged that Thakur assisted the MP in harassing and intimidating her to withdraw or weaken her case.

# SIR form submission deadline ends tomorrow in Bengal: Here's your quickest last-day option

GNS News Agency,Dec 11

Bihar Assembly elections, SIR of electoral roll, nationwide SIR, Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Assembly elections, Assembly polls, nationwide Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, nationwide SIR of of electoral rolls, Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, SIR of of electoral rolls, Election Commission, Election Commission of India, Indian express news, current affairs ECI has digitised data for nearly all of the state's 7.64 crore voters, but a substantial portion still remains unverified.

The pre-hearing phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of West Bengal's voter roll ends on December 11, 2025. With one day left, discrepancies have emerged — including roughly 55 lakh 'uncollected forms', representing voters who may be struck off the upcoming draft list. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has digitised data for nearly all of the state's 7.64 crore voters, but a substantial portion still remains unverified. If you have not submitted your SIR Enumeration Form, your name may not appear in the Draft Roll to be published next week. Read on to understand what to do if you missed the deadline and how to verify your form status before this phase closes.

What if you didn't receive the SIR form or missed filling it up?

The ECI earlier extended the deadline from December 4 to December 11. If you, as an elector, missed submitting the form, you can still file a claim once the Draft List is published. You will likely need to fill Form-6 (Application for Inclusion of Name in Electoral Roll) during the claims and objections period. Applicants may be required to appear for a hearing before the respective Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) before their names are included in the Final Roll. However, your fastest option right now is to use the



ECI's online portal. Unlike the offline process, the online SIR system is fully managed by the ECI. Electors do not need to download any form. A dedicated link on the ECI/CEO West Bengal website or the ECINET app allows citizens to fill in details directly. Users can visit the "Services" section and select "Fill Enumeration Form" to complete the process digitally.

As of Monday afternoon, the number of uncollected forms in the SIR has risen to 56,37,731. Of these, 23,98,345 have been recorded as deceased. "Uncollected forms" include entries that cannot be verified or included in the draft roll under any circumstances — voters who have died, gone missing, shifted permanently, have duplicate registrations, or are enrolled elsewhere. Such names will not appear in the draft electoral list. West Bengal currently has 19,64,629 transferred voters, 10,94,710 missing voters, 1,32,215 duplicate entries, and 47,832 voters categorised under 'others' (technical or miscellaneous issues). Electors can check their names, and those of relatives, in previous SIR Electoral Rolls at <https://voters.eci.gov.in/> and provide details in the online Enumeration Form as required.

# Chandigarh Golf Association faces lawsuit over alleged illegal sub-letting and profit siphoning



GNS News Agency,Dec 11

The Chandigarh Golf Association (CGA) is facing a civil suit in a local court over allegations of illegal commercial exploitation. (File) The petition alleges that the seven-acre site, allotted in 1999 for a low-cost driving range to encourage new golfers, has gradually been converted into a commercial hub over 27 years. The Chandigarh Golf Association (CGA) is facing a civil suit alleging illegal sub-letting, commercial exploitation of public land and violations of environmental norms near Sukhna Lake, with a local court issuing notices to the association as well as senior officers of the Chandigarh Administration. The notice was issued by the Court of the Civil Judge (Senior Division), Chandigarh, on a petition by Harinder Pal Singh, a Sector 44 resident and recently elected executive member of the CGA. Singh, represented by advocates Ashok Paul Jagga and Akshay Kumar, has challenged the lease and licensing arrangements of the CGA Golf Range in Sector 6. Notices have gone out to CGA president R K Pachnanda, the UT Finance Secretary, Secretary Estates, Secretary Sports, the Deputy Commissioner and other respondents, seeking their replies in the coming weeks.

Singh's petition alleges that the seven-acre site, allotted in 1999 for a low-cost driving range to encourage new golfers, has gradually been converted into a commercial hub over 27 years. He claims the association has earned close to Rs 150 crore through memberships, rentals and

high-fee services such as a gym and restaurant, while failing to share profits with the Administration or submit mandatory audits. Records cited in the petition show that only Rs 1.47 lakh was deposited with the government in 2003, with no subsequent profit-sharing.

The suit says the CGA has sub-let portions of the premises to private operators in violation of the 2021 licence deed, which expressly bars such arrangements. Entities named in the filing include a restaurant, a gym and multiple shops run by coaches and tenants. Singh has also alleged that a separate entity called "CGA Golf Range" was created to collect fees from nearly 2,500 members without any oversight from the main association, amounting to "misuse of public resources and opaque financial practices". Environmental violations form a significant part of the allegations.

The petition states that the range lies within 100 metres of the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, in a notified eco-sensitive zone, where the natural bank of the Sukhna Choe has allegedly been altered, obstructing water flow and posing ecological risks. It further questions how an excise licence for serving alcohol was granted in 2022 when the association's lease expired in September 2025, leaving it in what Singh terms "illegal occupation" of the land. The suit also flags governance concerns, noting that the CGA's April 2025 elections did not follow the National Sports Code requirement for post-wise voting. It alleges that self-styled president Pachnanda did not contest any post, and that Singh's warnings to office-bearers from July onwards went unanswered, prompting him to escalate the issue to senior officials and the Prime Minister's Office in September and October. Apart from the CGA and its office-bearers, the defendants include senior UT Administration officials and the private entities operating from the site. Singh has sought a judicial declaration that the association's activities violate the terms of allotment, a permanent restraint on further sub-letting or commercial alienation of the land, and recovery of the government's pending revenue share after scrutiny of the club's finances.

# Man arrested for 'raping minor with metal rod' in Gujarat's Rajkot

GNS News Agency,Dec 11

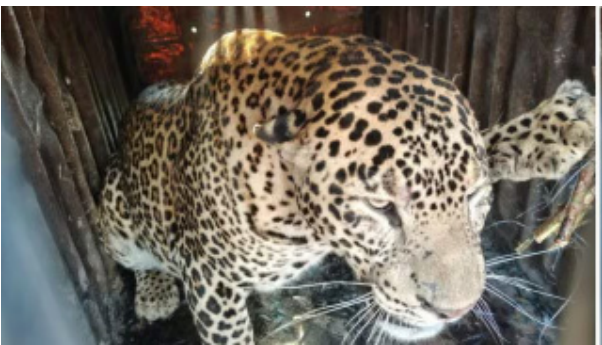
A farm labourer was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly raping and assaulting a minor girl in Gujarat's Rajkot district after the child identified him as her attacker, police said. According to the Rajkot Rural police, the 30-year-old man admitted to the crime that happened on December 4.

In a statement, Vijay Singh Gurjar, Superintendent of Police, Rajkot Rural, said that when the accused failed to rape the child at first, he "inserted a metal rod", causing internal bleeding and trauma to the minor survivor. "The child was admitted to a hospital in Rajkot city and the police began searching for the perpetrator. The police checked CCTV footage from nearby villages and drew up a list of around 100 suspects," said Gurjar. "From there, we zeroed in on 10 possible suspects. We showed the photographs of these 10 persons to the minor victim with the help of child counsellors. She identified one of the men as the perpetrator



and an interrogation was done, during which he admitted to the crime," Gurjar added. The police said the accused is a sharecropper who hails from Madhya Pradesh, is married and has three children. Further investigation is underway, police said.

# 3 more leopards captured in Pune's Shirur range amid rising human-wildlife conflict



GNS News Agency,Dec 11

Three more leopards were caught over Monday and Tuesday in trap cages installed by the Forest Department in the Shirur range in the Pune district of Maharashtra. Two of these were from the Pimparkhed village, where two children were killed in leopard attacks in October and November. These traps were set less than a week after three leopards were captured in the same range, including one on the premises of the Fiat Automobiles plant in Ranjangaon.

The Shirur range of the Junnar Forest Division has seen a sharp rise in human-leopard conflict in recent weeks, with three people, including two children, getting killed between October 12 and November 1. On Monday, a six-year-old female leopard was captured in a cage installed on the farm of one Rohidad Temkar in the Pimparkhed village during the day. On Monday night, a seven-year-old male leopard was captured in the cage installed on the farm of one Santosh Sonavane. On Tuesday, a nine-year-old male leopard was captured in a cage installed on the farm of one

Datta Wadane in the Chandoh village, located around 4 km from Pimparkhed. All three leopards have been sent to the leopard rehabilitation centre at Manikdoh. Last week, a leopard was reported on the premises of the Fiat Automobiles plant in Ranjangaon, Shirur, in the early hours of December 3. This leopard was captured the next day in a cage installed on the premises after the sighting. Two more leopards were captured in cages installed in Pimparkhed and Kawade village on December 3 and 4.3 deaths in Shirur due to leopard attacks. In the two villages, Pimparkhed and Jambut in the Shirur taluka, three deaths occurred due to leopard attacks between October 12 and November 1: Shivanya Bombe, 5, on October 12; Bhagubai Jadhav, 70, on October 22; and Rohan Bombe, 13, on November 1. These incidents triggered massive public outrage. In protest against the increasing leopard attacks in Junnar, Shirur, Ambegaon, and Khed talukas, villagers staged agitations blocking the Belhe-Jejuri Road on October 12 and 22 and the Pune-Nashik highway at Manchar on November 3. On November 2, following the death of Rohan, 13, an angry mob set fire to a Forest Department patrol vehicle and the local base camp building, resulting in significant damage. The Pune Forest Department subsequently obtained immediate permission from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to capture or shoot dead the animal. Special teams from the Forest Department, including those from ResQ Charitable Trust in Pune, were deployed. A male leopard over five years old, suspected to be involved in the Pimparkhed attacks, was shot dead on November 5 after efforts to tranquilise it with a dart failed. The animal became aggressive and charged at the team, leaving officials with no option but to open fire.

# Gujarat tribal arrested for 'endangering sovereignty' after he 'praised' Naxal commander Hidma on Instagram reel

GNS News Agency,Dec 11

The Gujarat police have arrested a man from Chhota Udepur district for "endangering the sovereignty of India" by allegedly praising senior Naxal commander Madvi Hidma as a "freedom fighter" in an Instagram reel. The alleged post came about a month after Hidma was killed in an operation by the Andhra Pradesh police. The tribal youth, identified as Paresh Rathwa (31) from Kawant taluka, had allegedly made the reel earlier this week, and was arrested on Wednesday.

Police said that Rathwa's social media account had been under the scanner of the Chhota Udepur Special Operations Group (SOG), which came across the alleged post. According to the FIR lodged at Kawant police station, Rathwa had posted the reel on November 25, which was noticed by the SOG on Tuesday while scanning through accounts of influencers on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Whatsapp. On Wednesday, Chhota Udepur District Superintendent of Police, Imtiyaz Shaikh said, "Paresh Rathwa had posted a reel on Instagram where he was praising Hidma as a freedom fighter and speaking of tribal people being Naxals. The post challenged the sovereignty of the country and posed a threat to internal unity and security. It was also aimed at creating discord among communities of the country. We have taken cognisance and the SOG Police Inspector has registered an FIR against the accused. He has been formally arrested and further process is on." Shaikh also warned tribal youth against the "glamour of social media", likes and followers. Shaikh said, "It is my message to the tribal youth to not fall for the glamour of social media and post unverified reels just to gain likes and followers. You can become an accused in the eyes of law by posting such reels... Before making posts or comments, always verify the facts, otherwise you may land up in grave legal trouble."



The FIR has been lodged under BNS sections 152 (endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India, covering secession, armed rebellion, and separatist activities through speech, writing, electronic means, or finances), 192 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 196(1)(a) (promotions or attempts to promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities), 196(1)(b) (any act which is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, and which disturbs or is likely to disturb the public tranquillity), and 197(1)(d) (making or publishing false or misleading information, jeopardising the sovereignty, unity and integrity or security of India).

# Andhra Pradesh High Court orders CID, ACB action in Tirumala Parakamani theft case

GNS News Agency,Dec 11

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday directed CID and ACB to take legal action in the Parakamani theft case at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple, Tirumala. The court allowed Directors General of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to register the FIRs to take action as per law. Both the CID and ACB have been authorised to probe the compromise in the Lok Adalat and the assets of accused C V Ravi Kumar. Both agencies were directed to mutually exchange information during the investigation. They were also asked to share the information with the Income Tax and the Enforcement Directorate. The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which probed the Parakamani theft case, had submitted its report to the court on December 2. Additional Director General, CID, Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, who headed the SIT, submitted the report in a sealed cover. The CID had launched the probe after the High Court issued orders on a petition challenging the closure of the Parakamani theft case in the Lok Adalat. Ravi Kumar, an employee of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), was caught while stealing USD 920 from Parakamani (coins and currency notes counting centre) in April 2023. The theft case

registered at the Tirumala police station was transferred to the Lok Adalat, where a compromise settlement formula was reached in September 2023 after Ravi Kumar volunteered to donate seven properties worth Rs 40 crore, all of them located in Tirupati and Chennai, in the name of the TTD. A petition was filed in the Andhra Pradesh High Court alleging that there was no investigation into the theft case as the then-governing board of the TTD had closed the case after a compromise in the Lok Adalat. Petitioner Macherla Sreenivas sought an investigation into the closure of the case. The SIT, which launched the investigation in October, questioned former TTD Chairpersons B Karunakar Reddy and Y V Subba Reddy, former TTD executive officer Dharma Reddy, and several other TTD and police officials. In a related development, the High Court on Wednesday directed CID to submit a report of the post-mortem examination of Y Satish Kumar, the complainant in the theft case. A former Assistant Vigilance and Security Officer (AVSO) of the TTD and complainant in the theft case, Satish Kumar, was found dead under mysterious circumstances on the railway tracks at Komali village near Tadipatri in Anantapur district on November 14. Postmortem revealed that he had been hit on the back of his head with a sharp object.



# UN Security Council endorses Trump’s Gaza peace plan, authorises stabilisation force



GNS News Agency, Dec 11

United Nations: The UN Security Council has adopted a draft resolution endorsing US President Donald Trump’s Gaza peace plan and authorising the establishment of an international stabilisation force in the enclave, with the American leader describing it as a “moment of true historic proportion”. The US-drafted resolution was adopted in the 15-nation Council on Monday evening with 13 votes in favour, none against, and abstentions by China and Russia.

It endorsed Trump’s ‘Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict’ announced on September 29, which envisions Gaza as a “deradicalised terror-free zone that does not pose a threat to its neighbours” and is redeveloped for the benefit of its population. The resolution also welcomed the establishment of a ‘Board of Peace’ (BoP), described as a “transitional administration” with international legal personality that will set the framework and coordinate funding for Gaza’s reconstruction under the plan. Trump, in a social media post, welcomed the Council’s adoption of the resolution, describing it as “a moment of true historic proportion”. “It will go down as one of the biggest approvals in the History of the United Nations, will lead to further Peace all over the World,” he wrote. Trump congratulated the “world” on the “incredible vote” in the Council that acknowledged and endorsed the Board of Peace. Trump said he will chair the Board, which will “include the most powerful and respected Leaders throughout the world”. The vote comes a day before Trump is scheduled to host Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman at the White House. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, in a statement, said the adoption of the resolution on Gaza is an “important step” in the consolidation of the ceasefire, urging all parties to abide by it. Guterres commended the continued diplomatic efforts of Egypt, Qatar, Turkiye, the US, and regional states and underlined the importance of moving towards the second phase

of the US plan, leading to a political process aimed at achieving a two-state solution. “It is essential now to translate the diplomatic momentum into concrete and urgently needed steps on the ground,” the UN statement said, adding that the organisation is committed to scaling up humanitarian aid and supporting efforts to advance the next phase of the ceasefire.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the resolution a “historic milestone in building a peaceful and prosperous Gaza governed by the Palestinian people, not Hamas”. With the vote, the region is “closer than ever” to achieving a “demilitarised, deradicalised, and stable Gaza”, he said. US Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Mike Waltz said the resolution represents another significant step towards a stable Gaza that will be able to prosper, and an environment that will allow Israel to live in security. “The Board of Peace, which will be led by President Trump, remains the cornerstone of our effort,” he said, adding that the Board will coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, facilitate Gaza’s development, and support a technocratic committee of Palestinians responsible for day-to-day administration, while the Palestinian Authority implements its reform programmes. The resolution also provides a framework for troop-contributing countries for the International Stabilisation Force and mechanisms for global financial institutions to channel investment, Waltz said. Russia’s Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia criticised the resolution as “yet another pig in a poke”, saying the Council was effectively placing Gaza “at the mercy” of the Board of Peace and the stabilisation force “whose working methods are still unknown”. He warned that the document must not become a “smokescreen for unbridled experiments by the US and Israel”, nor “turn into a death sentence for the two-state solution”.

According to Trump’s comprehensive plan, if both sides agree to the proposal, the “war will immediately end”. Israeli forces will withdraw to the agreed-upon line to prepare for a hostage release. During this time, all military operations, including aerial and artillery bombardment, will be suspended, and battle lines will remain frozen until conditions are met for the complete staged withdrawal. Further, within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting this agreement, all hostages, alive and deceased, will be returned. The plan also proposes a “Trump economic development plan” to rebuild Gaza, drawing on experts who have developed modern cities in the Middle East. It envisions a special economic zone with “preferred tariff and access rates”, and says “no one will be forced to leave Gaza, and those who wish to leave will be free to do so and free to return”. “We will encourage people to stay and offer them the opportunity to build a better Gaza,” the plan states.

# Calm but tense Bangladesh under tight security as Awami League calls shutdown after Hasina verdict



Bangladesh remained calm but tense as heavy security enforced a shutdown called by the Awami League after Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death in absentia for alleged crimes against humanity. Public movement was limited, with authorities maintaining strict patrols and checkpoints across major cities

GNS News Agency, Dec 11

New Delhi/Dhaka: Bangladesh on Tuesday remained calm but tense as security forces kept a tight grip on the streets across major cities, following the Awami League’s call for a “nationwide total shutdown” to protest the death sentence handed down to its chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. No incident of violence was reported, while traffic in Dhaka and other major cities stayed thin and public movement was limited amid fears of possible unrest following Monday’s high-profile verdict. “The transport flow

is thin as the people preferred to stay indoors,” a transport operator in Dhaka said. Many offices and educational institutions recorded low attendance as people chose to stay indoors amid uncertainty. Heavily armed police, Rapid Action Battalion personnel and paramilitary units continued round-the-clock patrols, especially around government buildings, party offices and key intersections.

Authorities kept security cordons in parts of the capital, while checkpoints and barricades remained in place. Hasina’s Awami League party, in a statement posted on social media on Monday, called for a “nationwide total shutdown” on Tuesday in protest against Hasina’s verdict. It has also called for “nationwide demonstrations, protests, and resistance” from Nov 19-21. “Our systematic democratic movement will continue until the fall of the illegal, unconstitutional government of killer-fascist (Muhammad) Yunus and the restoration of a democratic state system,” the statement said. The party termed the verdict “politically motivated”, “malicious, retaliatory, and vengeful”.

Hasina, 78, was on Monday sentenced to death in absentia by Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) for “crimes against humanity” over her government’s brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year. It also handed the death sentence to former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on similar charges. Hasina has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests. Commenting on the verdict, Hasina denied the charges as “biased and politically motivated” and said the judgment has been made by a “rigged tribunal” established and presided over by an “unelected government with no democratic mandate”.

# Glittering royal jewels displayed while Paris is still uneasy over Louvre robbery

GNS News Agency, Dec 11

Paris: A glittering exhibition of royal jewels is opening on Wednesday in Paris even as the city still reels from the brazen crown-jewel heist at the nearby Louvre Museum. The four-minute operation in October emptied cases in the Louvre’s Apollo Gallery, forced its closure and rattled public confidence in France’s cultural security. With the plundered gallery still sealed off, another museum nearby is showcasing diamonds and tiaras that endured revolutions, exile and empire: treasures that have managed to escape the type of plunder now afflicting the Louvre’s own jewels.

The “Dynastic Jewels” exhibition at the Hôtel de la Marine — itself the site of an infamous 1792 crown-jewel theft — opens at a moment of national sensitivity. Spread across four galleries, the exhibit unfurls more than a hundred pieces that dazzle in both sparkle and scale. Its objects are drawn from the Al Thani Collection, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and major lenders including King Charles III, the Duke of Fife, Cartier, Chaumet and France’s own national collections.

Some of the most striking loans include the giant 57-carat Star of Golconda diamond; a sapphire coronet and emerald tiara designed by Prince Albert for Queen Victoria, reunited here for the first time in more than 150 years; and Catherine the Great’s diamond-encrusted dress ornaments. A Cartier necklace created for an Indian ruler blends European platinum-age design with centuries-old gems. Curators didn’t comment on details of operational security. But the Hôtel de la Marine stresses that it was rebuilt with modern, high-grade security when it reopened in 2021, and that its galleries were conceived with robust protections in mind. The museum did not say whether any measures had been strengthened in response to the Louvre heist. Still, the latest exhibition unfolds at a moment when Paris is urgently tightening museum protections. Last month, Louvre director



Laurence des Cars announced that roughly 100 new surveillance cameras and upgraded anti-intrusion systems will be installed, with the first measures rolled out in weeks and the full network expected by the end of next year. The Louvre investigation remains active; meanwhile, none of the stolen pieces have been recovered. Arthur Brand, an Amsterdam-based art detective, said the Louvre heist will have sharpened vigilance at institutions like the Hôtel de la Marine. “Authorities have learned from the Louvre’s lacking security,” he said. “The thieves know that the security people here aren’t going to be sloppy.

They will have learned their lesson. It’s a good thing this exhibit is going on. Life goes on. You should not give in to thieves. Show these precious items!” With the Apollo Gallery closed, the Hôtel de la Marine is suddenly poised to become a prime stop for jewel-lovers — an unfortunate coincidence, or unexpected advantage — a place where visitors shut out of the Louvre’s Crown Jewels displays may naturally gravitate. “We show how great gemstones, tiaras and objects of virtuosity reflected identity in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.”

# Trump says he will sell F-35s to Saudi Arabia on eve of crown prince’s Washington visit



GNS News Agency, Dec 11

Washington: President Donald Trump said Monday he will sell F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia despite some concern within the administration that such a sale could lead to China gaining access to the US technology behind the advanced weapon system. The announcement came on the eve of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s highly anticipated Washington visit, his first to the United States in more than seven years. “I will say that that we will be doing that,” Trump said when asked if he would sell the jets to Saudi Arabia. “We’ll be selling F-35s.” The crown prince had been expected to arrive with a wish list that includes receiving formal assurances from Trump defining the scope of the US military protection for the kingdom and an agreement to buy US-made F-35 fighter jets, one of the world’s most advanced aircraft.

The Republican administration, however, has been wary about upsetting Israel’s qualitative military edge over its neighbours, especially at a time when Trump is depending on Israeli support for the success of his Gaza peace plan. Another long-standing concern, which also derailed a potential similar sale to the United Arab Emirates, is that the F-35 technology could be stolen by or somehow transferred to China, which has close ties to both the UAE and Saudi Arabia, according to three administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations on the matter. The Saudis and China last month held joint naval exercises hosted by the kingdom. And Beijing in 2023 helped mediate an agreement between the Saudi Arabia and Iran to reopen their embassies and exchange ambassadors amid ongoing tensions. China surpassed the US last year as Saudi Arabia’s top trade partner, but the United States has remained Riyadh’s favoured nation for arms sales. Bradley Bowman, senior director of the Center on Military and Political Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said Congress could press the administration to detail what assurances Riyadh has given the White House about its relationship with China. He added that the White House is likely to also face questions about plans to ensure Israel maintains its qualitative military edge. The announcement by Trump comes at a moment in which he’s trying to persuade Saudi Arabia and Israel to

# UNSC approves resolution endorsing Trump’s Gaza peace plan and international force

GNS News Agency, Dec 11

United Nations: The Security Council approved a historic resolution endorsing US President Donald Trump’s peace plan for Gaza, opening the way for deploying an international force for the devastated territory. The resolution adopted on Monday is a diplomatic victory for Trump, recognising the Board of Peace (BoP) headed by him that will be the transitional authority for Gaza as it emerges from a two-year catastrophe. Trump, a vehement critic of the UN, posted on Truth Social, “This will go down as one of the biggest approvals in the History of the United Nations, will lead to further Peace all over the World, and is a moment of true Historic proportion.”

Another path-breaking element in the resolution is opening a “credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood”, which the Trump administration had opposed. The entire 20-point Trump plan for Gaza was attached to the resolution, in an unusual action by the Council. Opposition by veto-wielding Russia, which had drafted its own motion, was overcome by the backing of Arab and Muslim countries of the US plan. Moscow dropped its resolution and abstained, enabling the resolution to go through. Algeria’s Permanent Representative Amar Bendjama said the Palestinian Authority, at the highest levels, as well as Muslim and Arab countries, backed the US resolution. But lasting peace hinged on Palestine gaining statehood. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the resolution and said, “It is essential now to translate the diplomatic momentum into concrete and urgently needed steps on the ground”. The resolution calls for stepping up humanitarian aid by the UN and other organisations and for unhindered access for them to Gaza. China also abstained on the resolution, which had the support of the other 13 members, including Algeria, the only Arab nation on the Council. With the ceasefire already in force, the next phase of Trump’s peace plan requires an International Stabilisation Force (ISF) to disarm Hamas and help bring law and order to the territory, while training a Palestinian force. Countries like Indonesia, that could provide the troops, wanted Council approval for it to give a sense of legitimacy. The ISF will not be a UN peace mission or report to the Council, which was one of the sticking points for Beijing and Moscow. The General Assembly has long called for an independent Palestine living side by side with Israel, and in September, France and Britain, along with several Western nations, announced they would recognise Palestine, leaving the US on the outside. Palestine’s statehood was conditioned in the resolution on the Palestine Authority reforms and progress on redeveloping Gaza, most of which has been reduced to rubble by Israeli bombing. Russia’s Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia said Moscow appreciated “the efforts by the United States and other mediators, which have made it possible to halt the ‘hot’ phase of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict”. He said that because the Palestinian leadership and several Muslim and Arab countries favoured the US resolution, Moscow was dropping its resolution. He said that it was “a sorrowful day for the Security Council” because its powers were being “undermined” by the resolution that empowers the US. “Don’t say we didn’t warn you,” he said. The resolution also provides a framework for international financial institutions like the World Bank to contribute to Gaza’s rebuilding. The adoption of the US resolution was the result of intense negotiations with members of the Council and other Arab and Muslim nations, with the mention of an eventual statehood for Palestine one of the compromises. On Friday, the US corralled Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan, and Turkiye to endorse its resolution in a joint statement aimed at undercutting Russia’s

normalize relations.

He has talked up his push to extend his first-term Abraham Accords — the project that formalised commercial and diplomatic ties between Israel and a trio of Arab nations — as key to his plan for bringing long-term stability to the Middle East as the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza continues to hold. “I hope that Saudi Arabia will be going into the Abraham Accords very shortly,” Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday as he made his way to Florida for the weekend. Yet Trump’s optimism that a US-brokered deal could come soon is tempered by more sober internal assessments. The Saudis have made clear that a guaranteed path to a Palestinian state remains a condition for the kingdom signing onto the accords — something Israel vehemently opposes. The UN Security Council on Monday approved a US plan for Gaza that authorizes an international stabilization force to provide security in the devastated territory and envisions a possible future path to an independent Palestinian state. Still, Saudi Arabia is unlikely to sign on to the accords anytime soon, but there is cautious optimism that an agreement can be sealed by the end of Trump’s second term, the officials said. “Let’s hope that President Trump makes clear that the first F-35 will not be delivered until Saudi Arabia normalizes relations with Israel,” Bowman said. “Otherwise, the president will undercut his own leverage.” The Trump administration formally notified Congress in November 2020 that it planned to sell 50 stealth F-35 fighter jets to the United Arab Emirates as part of a broader arms deal worth US\$ 23 billion aimed at deterring potential threats from Iran, despite concerns raised by Israel. The UAE announcement came shortly after Trump lost the 2020 election to Democratic Joe Biden and followed the signing of the Abraham Accords between and the UAE. But Biden, soon after taking office in January 2021, put a hold on that sale. Trump’s move is likely to receive scrutiny from human rights activists as Prince Mohammed’s trip marks his first visit to Washington since 2018. On that visit, the crown prince went on a three-week US tour aimed at improving the perception of his nation in the eyes of Americans concerned by the kingdom’s conservative social mores, its unequal treatment of women and the ignominious fact that 15 of 19 hijackers that took part in the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States were Saudi citizens. The Saudis’ reputation was further eroded months after Prince Mohammed’s last Washington visit with the killing and dismemberment of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Turkey, an operation targeting a critic of the kingdom that US intelligence agencies later determined Prince Mohammed likely directed. The crown prince has denied he was involved. But seven years later, the dark clouds in the US-Saudi relationship have been cleared away by Trump, who has tightened his embrace of the 40-year-old crown prince he views as an indispensable player in shaping the Middle East in the decades to come.



opposition. The Gaza conflict began on October 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel, killing more than 1,200 people and taking 251 people hostage. Israel launched a war of retribution that continued till September 29, when the US arms-twisted Israel and Hamas to agree to a ceasefire. Hamas was made to release the hostages it still held, while Israel released some Palestinian prisoners. According to the UN, 80 per cent of buildings in Gaza have been destroyed by Israeli bombing, and the Hamas-controlled health ministry said about 69,000 Palestinians, about half of them women and children, were killed.

# Trump backs H-1B visas despite Republican opposition

Washington: US President Donald Trump once again defended the H-1B visas, saying overseas workers are needed to train American workers.

“If you are going to be making chips, we don’t make chips too much here anymore. We are going to be...in a period of a year, we are going to have a big portion of the chip market. But we have to train our people how to make chips. We used to do it, and foolishly we lost that business to Taiwan,” Trump said while addressing reporters at the White House. Last week, Trump, in an interview with Fox News’ Laura Ingraham, supported the H-1B visa programme. When asked if his administration planned to deprioritise H-1B visas, he replied, “You do have to bring in talent.” When Ingraham countered, “We have plenty of talent,” Trump responded, “No, you don’t.” “You don’t have certain talents.... And people have to learn, you can’t take people off an unemployment line and say, I’m going to put you into a factory. We’re going to make missiles,” he added. Trump’s comment sparked an intense debate with leading Republican and conservative leaders demanding the scrapping of the visa programme. The White House on Friday clarified its position on the visa policy, telling IANS that the \$100,000 application fee is a “significant first step to stop abuses of the system.” In an exclusive response to IANS, a White House spokesperson said that President Donald Trump has “done more than any president in modern history to tighten our immigration laws and put American workers first.” “The \$100,000 payment required to supplement new H-1B visa applications is a significant first step to stop abuses of the system and ensure American workers are no longer replaced by lower-paid foreign labor,” White House Spokeswoman Taylor Rogers told IANS. She also highlighted the recently launched “Project Firewall” to investigate companies flouting the H-1B visa rules. The Department of Labor launched Project Firewall as a new enforcement initiative [initiative] to investigate companies that have abused the H1-B visa system.



# Crimes against children surge in Assam, Rajasthan, and Kerala: NCRB data



In 2023, cases of crimes against children recorded the sharpest rise in three States — Assam, Rajasthan and Kerala, according to the latest data from the National Crimes Records Bureau. In Assam, recorded cases of crimes against children surged by nearly 100% — from an average of around 5,100 cases between 2018 and 2022 to more than 10,000 in 2023. In Kerala, the number increased by 106% — from an average of more than 2,800 cases between 2018 and 2022 to more than 5,900 cases in 2023. In Rajasthan, the number increased by 70% — from an average of 6,200 cases between 2018 and 2022 to more than 10,500 cases in 2023. In comparison, overall recorded cases of crimes against children in India increased by 25% in that period. The below map shows the percentage change in cases of crimes against children in 2023 compared with the average number of cases recorded between 2018 and 2022. While these three States stand out, the reasons for the rise in each of them vary considerably.

In Assam, a record crackdown on child marriage led to a sharp rise in the number of cases filed under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. In fact, a close look at Assam's crime data against children shows that the spike was driven almost entirely by this State-led intervention. Between 2020 and 2022, about 150 cases were recorded annually in Assam under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act; this increased to 5,267 in 2023. That year, cases re-

lated to child marriage accounted for nearly 52% of all crimes against children in the State, a dramatic jump from 3-4% in the preceding years, as shown in the chart below. In Rajasthan, two key factors appear to have driven the rise. The first is the sudden shift in the way offences against children were categorised — from only non-POCSO sections to specific POCSO provisions. POCSO refers to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. In 2021 and 2022, over 2,700 cases were filed separately under the rape provision (Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code). However, in 2022 and 2023, no cases were filed independently under this section; instead, there was a corresponding rise in cases registered under the relevant POCSO provision. Cases filed under Sections 4 and 6 of the POCSO Act read with Section 376 of the IPC increased from just three in 2021 and 2022 to more than 3,500 in 2022 and 2023, as shown in the chart below. This shift — from filing cases solely under IPC provisions to invoking relevant sections of the POCSO Act — was seen across the country, but was most pronounced in Rajasthan.

It should be noted that the more accurate classification of child rape cases occurred alongside an actual increase in such offences in Rajasthan — from about 2,700 to 3,500 cases. However, whether this rise is primarily due to proper classification or an actual increase in offences is an open question. The second is that there was a sharp spike in cases related to the kidnapping and abduction of children. In Rajasthan, cases filed under various sections related to the kidnapping and abduction of children rose sharply, with their share in total crimes against children climbing to over 54% in 2023 — a steep increase., as shown in the chart below. There was a surge in POCSO cases in Kerala too. The increase appears partly linked to more accurate classification of offences under specific POCSO sections, accompanied by an increase in the reported cases., as shown in the chart below. It is important to note that the rise in cases, particularly those involving crimes against children, may indicate improved reporting, rather than a genuine increase in the incidence of such crimes. The data for the charts were sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) from 2020 to 2023

# The curious history of how quantum mechanics came to be ‘seen’ in an electrical circuit

Quantum mechanics is usually described as the science of the very small — of electrons, atoms, and photons that behave in ways that defy the rules of everyday experience. Yet one of the most striking results of modern physics is that this quantum behaviour doesn't vanish abruptly when systems become large. Instead, it continues to show itself in the behaviour of groups of particles doing something together. Over the years, physicists have learnt how to engineer these groups, measure them, and even control them to perform specific tasks.

The 2025 physics Nobel Prize has been awarded to John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis for showing in their experiments that quantum tunnelling — a phenomenon in which a particle passes through an energy barrier instead of having to climb over it — can occur not only in the subatomic realm but also in an electrical circuit big enough to see with the naked eye. Their achievement came at the end of one particular chain of ideas stretching back to Brian Josephson, a British physicist who first described how pairs of electrons could tunnel through an insulating barrier between two superconductors, and Anthony Leggett, who later proposed that an entire circuit's collective state could itself behave as a quantum object. Together, these ideas created a bridge from the quantum world of particles to the macroscopic world of devices. In 1962, when Josephson was a 22-year-old graduate student at the University of Cambridge, the Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory had explained superconductivity. In a superconductor, electrons move in pairs known as Cooper pairs, forming a collective state that flows without resistance. Josephson wondered what would happen if two superconductors were separated by a very thin insulating barrier. Would the paired electrons simply stop at the wall or would they tunnel through (since that's something quantum physics allows)? Using the maths of quantum physics, he showed that it was possible for a supercurrent, i.e. a superconducted current, to pass through even if there was no voltage across the barrier. The result was revolutionary: a current could flow indefinitely across an insulator purely because of the particular relationship between the two superconductors. Josephson derived a simple formula linking the current to the phase difference.

In a superconductor, all the electrons that form Cooper pairs act together as a single quantum wave. And like any wave, this collective quantum state has a phase, which you can think of as a measure of how far along the wave's cycle (crest to trough) it is at a given point. When you place two superconductors next to each other with a thin insulating barrier between them, each one has its own quantum wave and its own phase. The phase difference is simply the difference between those two phases — i.e. how much one wave leads or lags behind the other. This difference isn't just mathematical; it's also physically real and it controls how electrons tunnel between the superconductors. In fact, the current that flows across the junction depends directly on the sine of that phase difference, which is what Josephson expressed in his formula:  $I = I_c \sin(\phi)$ , where  $\phi$  is the angle expressing the phase difference. Imagine two synchronised dancers performing the same steps. If they move perfectly in sync (no phase difference), they look like one. If one dancer is slightly ahead of the other, that offset (their phase difference) creates visible interference in their motion. Similarly, when the superconductors' phases differ, that offset drives a beat between them, producing a current even when no voltage is applied. Josephson also predicted that if a voltage were applied, the current would oscillate at a specific frequency proportional to that voltage. He also said that if the setup were illuminated with microwaves of that frequency, there should be a measurable voltage across the barrier. When other researchers quickly confirmed these predictions, this Josephson effect became a cornerstone of quantum electronics. In 1972, the BCS theory won the Nobel Prize for physics, and Josephson followed the next year with the prize for his work.

To visualise the Josephson effect, imagine two reservoirs of water separated by a thin glass wall. Classically, no water should cross it. But in the quantum world, waves associated with the molecules on either side can interfere and create a small but steady leak through the wall. The Josephson junction — which is a sandwich of two superconductors and an insulator — is the electrical version of this improbable leak. The supercurrent doesn't arise from a push, or voltage, but from the coherence of the quantum waves themselves. 'Coherence' here means the ability of the system to maintain its quantum character. And because of this coherence, a Josephson junction can behave like a single

quantum entity, even though it consists of trillions of electrons. In the quantum world, waves associated with the molecules on either side of this reservoir can interfere and create a small but steady leak through the wall.

In the quantum world, waves associated with the molecules on either side of this reservoir can interfere and create a small but steady leak through the wall. | Photo Credit: Image created with ChatGPT 5 The next great leap on this chain was that of the British-American physicist Anthony Leggett. By the late 1970s, physicists knew Josephson junctions behaved in ways consistent with quantum theory, but there also remained a deeper conceptual question: could an entire macroscopic variable, such as the current flowing in a circuit, obey the laws of quantum mechanics as if it were a microscopic particle?

Leggett, then a young theorist with a background in superfluid helium, recognised that the Josephson junction offered the ideal testing ground. He proposed treating the phase difference between the two superconductors (remember: a collective property involving trillions of electrons) as a single parameter moving in an energy landscape. In his model, the system resembled a marble trapped in a valley between two hills. The marble represented the phase difference; the hills represented energy barriers determined by the junction's current and capacitance. If the marble had enough energy, it could roll over the hill, corresponding to the junction switching from a zero-voltage state to one with a finite voltage. But even without enough energy, quantum mechanics allows the marble to tunnel through the hill, appearing on the other side without having to go over the top. Leggett predicted that at a sufficiently low temperature, when there wasn't enough heat in the system to push it over the energy barrier, a macroscopic variable of the system could tunnel through — and that this could be observed as a small current that's independent of the temperature. His work did more than propose a radical idea: it set down specific conditions in which macroscopic quantum effects could survive the destructive influence of the environment. He analysed how frictional losses and electromagnetic noise (together known as dissipation and decoherence) would discourage quantum tunnelling, and showed how to design circuits that would minimise effects. In other words, his theory showed a way to use the Josephson junction to test the limits of quantum mechanics. Among those who took up the challenge were Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis. They developed exquisitely clean Josephson junctions and cooled them to fractions of a degree above absolute zero. By biasing the junction with a steadily increasing current, they could watch for the point at which it switched into a finite voltage state. At high temperatures, the switch occurred at random currents determined by thermal fluctuations: i.e. the hotter the sample, the more easily it could jump over the barrier, instead of opting to tunnel through. But as they lowered the temperature, something remarkable happened. Below a certain point, the temperature no longer mattered: the junction continued to switch with a small but steady probability, exactly as Leggett's model predicted. This escape rate also stopped following the classical thermal pattern and instead settled into a pattern only quantum mechanics could explain. In effect, the trio had caught a macroscopic system tunnelling through an energy barrier. To strengthen their case, the three then turned to spectroscopy. If the phase variable truly behaved like a quantum particle, it would have to have discrete energy levels. They followed Josephson's prediction and shone microwaves of specific frequencies on the circuit, and found that it absorbed energy only when the frequency matched the gap between energy levels. This was clear evidence of energy quantisation in a macroscopic object. In two papers in 1981 and 1985, they described the observation of macroscopic quantum tunnelling and quantised energy levels, both in a single Josephson junction — a result that built directly on J

# ‘H-1B move could be a win-win as more talent might return to India’



Amid evolving India–US relations, and growing concerns among students reconsidering plans for higher education in the US, Geoffrey Garrett, Dean of the USC Marshall School of Business and Jared Grusd, Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at the institute told The Indian Express that despite the uncertainties, USC has seen a record number of Indian students enrolling across various programmes. They said while recent announcements around the H-1B visa may seem worrying at first, but once the details were fully understood, it became far less intimidating. Edited excerpts:

In recent times, changes to the H-1B visa have become a crucial factor for Indian students considering higher education in the US. How do you view the current regulatory environment around the H-1B visa?

Geoffrey Garrett (GG): One important clarification for students is they do not need the H-1B visa right away. There is a different system called Optional Practical Training (OPT), which allows students to work after graduation. If it's a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degree — as all degrees from the Marshall Business School are — students can get up to three years of work experience through OPT. What we're really concerned about, from a firm's perspective, is the increasing hassle of getting an Indian student into the US workforce. That challenge has been growing for a while. However, I suspect that the bigger American companies, where most students aim to work, will absorb the cost. For them, the \$100,000 or so is spread over six years, which makes it manageable.

I understand why Indian students are so concerned. But in practical terms, two things matter. First, the job pathways into big firms likely won't be affected much. Second, several of the major users of H-1B visas were Indian companies operating in the US, so this shift could be a win-win — as more talent might now return to India. The signal these new regulations send is powerful and concerning. At universities like USC, where international students are our lifeblood, we have to take this seriously. One-third of our entire student body consists of first-generation migrants to the US. But when you unpack the details, the reality is less intimidating than it first appears. We will need to break this down clearly for people — otherwise, it will be a very big change to our business model.

If you can elaborate on this and also did you see any impact on the number of admissions from India this year? GG: At the business school, we had a record number of Indian students coming in, and I believe that was true across USC, at the UG level as well. We were initially concerned — not just about students from India, but about international students in general — because of visa-related hassles. We feared we might lose a significant number. But that actually didn't happen. What I think is really happening is that at top-quality institutions, international students have a global outlook, understand the value of the education they are getting. It's probably the second-tier American universities that will suffer, at least in the short term. That said, the recent news about H-1B visas is a big deal. From a business model perspective, I am less concerned about the UG programmes, because they are longer — the experience stretches over four years, and you can amortize the uncertainty over time.

The part of our educational system that's a bit more transactional is the one-year master's programmes. For those students, this new environment makes the decision much harder: Do I pursue this degree with so much uncertainty around my employment prospects afterward? That's a real concern, and we'll need to think carefully about it. It's also another reason to seriously consider offering graduate education outside the US — not just as a strategic move, but because it might become a practical necessity.

There's a growing cultural fear among Indian students they may no longer be as welcomed in the US as before. In your view, what is the one real fear and the one imagined fear they should keep in mind about the American campus? GG: I have two reactions to that. First, California is demographically different. If you walk down Trousdale Parkway in the middle of the day at USC, you don't feel like you're in some mythical version of white America from the 1950s. Southern California is even more cosmopolitan than the Bay Area.

Second, Indian Americans are incredibly influential today—not just as corporate CEOs, but also through the growing power of the Indian caucus in Congress. That should

give people a sense of comfort. The success of Indian-Americans is remarkable... I think the real fear is not uniquely American — it's global. I never imagined we would see such de-globalization, that the global economy would begin to fracture. I also never expected skilled migration to become such a politically charged issue in so many countries.

The imagined fear, I believe, is around physical safety. The LA riots over the summer were a global news story. People reached out to ask if we were okay. In reality, it was happening in just two blocks of downtown LA. It was the same with the fires in January—tragic, yes—but they were confined to small areas like the Palisades and Altadena. LA wasn't burning down. Jared Grusd (JG): At USC, on a day-to-day basis, these fears aren't what dominate conversations. What students are actually talking about is exactly what you would expect from any time in the past three to five years — learning, developing skills, pursuing interests, and shaping their career trajectories.

In the past decade, more Indian students have been choosing the US for UG education. However, in recent months, growing uncertainty has led many students to consider newer private Indian universities that offer high-quality, flexible education at much affordable rate. How real or significant is this shift, and what should students keep in mind when making their decision? GG: You are absolutely right about the growing trend of students pursuing UG education abroad — we've seen the same shift at USC. This year, international students made up 21% of USC's incoming UG class overall. At the business school, where I serve as dean, that number was 24%. In fact, the number of Indian undergraduates at USC has doubled over the past five years — and the number of graduate students has increased as well.

Now, however, we are entering a different phase. With India's New Education Policy (NEP), there is a lot of domestic momentum, particularly with the emergence of high-quality private universities. At the same time, there's a new opportunity for institutions like ours: foreign universities are now allowed to operate independently in India. That's a big deal when you start thinking about offshore operations. My view — especially for USC and our business school — is that we want to continue attracting a global student body, as much as possible. But we will also need to think globally in a broader sense. Not just about offshore operations, but also about creating career opportunities outside the US. It can't just be one-way traffic into American jobs. This marks a significant shift for US higher education at a time when both our reliance on international students and on government research funding is being challenged. And I don't believe we will return to the old status quo.

On the research side, this means building more partnerships with the private sector, rather than depending primarily on government support. On the education side, it means adopting a more expansive global outlook. We can't be expecting an endless supply of super-talented students from India coming to LA. You mentioned the NEP. Does it actually make it easier for foreign universities to set up operations in India? GG: Yes. And it's interesting, maybe not surprising, that the two countries that have taken first advantage of that are my home country, Australia, and the UK. I think the reason for that is the financial position of those universities is much weaker than the big, strong American institutions. I suspect the US will be next. It will likely be institutions like NYU and USC, which already have large international footprints and student numbers, including Indians. I do think we'll just be the leading edge of a change that has to happen, because the underlying model of higher education is being challenged today in unprecedented ways. There's a clear supply-demand mismatch in India, and I think that's something everyone recognises. That's also where the opportunity lies. It's why we're seeing the rise of so many impressive private universities, and why international institutions view India as a compelling market.

Several foreign universities are setting up campuses in India — five in Mumbai alone. But for many students, studying abroad is about gaining international exposure and cultural exchange. Can campuses in India provide that same experience? And will it be a challenge to attract international students to these campuses? GG: I think the implicit American model for a long time was that everyone in the world wanted, if they could, to get to the US and become as American as possible. That's clearly outmoded today. So, I think both culturally and economically, we need to go to the world more. Having more balance, rather than this one-way traffic, is the right way to go. There's a cultural dimension to that. At the business school at USC, we send a remarkable proportion of our degree students on international experiences. They all want to go to Western Europe because they are familiar with it — they vacation there, they know the culture and history, etc. What I would like to do is proactively get them into leading emerging markets. And India is the obvious place to focus on now. But the challenges are real. If you haven't been here, the first impression is often that it's different, it's halfway around the world — all of that can feel like a barrier. But I think the opportunity here is so great that if we can grease the wheels by having better access to more things here it will become more feasible.

# Your depression isn’t in your head; it is linked to immunity

Hyderabad: Management of mental health ailments is usually centered around addressing issues with our brains. However, in the last few years, there has been growing evidence linking the role of body immunity and its influence on various kinds of mental health ailments. Studies by psychiatrists and neuroscientists in the last few years have indicated that Regulatory T Cells (Tregs), which are body's peacekeeping immune cells, have a direct link to our mental health. The drop in Tregs in our body is directly linked to chronic neuroinflammation, an inflammatory response that occurs within the central nervous system (CNS), which includes the brain and spinal cord, driving conditions such as major depressive disorders, anxiety and schizophrenia. "Tregs prevent the immune system from overreacting. When these cells decrease or become dysfunctional, inflammation increases, thus affecting brain chemistry, mood regulation, and emotional stability," explains senior psychiatrist and national director council member of the Indian Psychiatric Society, Dr Vishal Akula.

Research shows that individuals with depression have reduced Regulatory T Cells (Treg) levels, leading to higher inflammatory markers like IL-6, TNF-a, and IL-1β, which contribute to chronic stress and mood disturbances. The Regulatory T Cells have links to schizophrenia, Dr Vishal explains, "Imbalance in Treg cells increases neuroinflammation and worsens psychotic symptoms. This immune dysregulation is now being studied as a possible



biological factor in schizophrenia. Chronic substance abuse, such as alcohol, nicotine, and opioids, suppresses Treg activity, causing increased brain inflammation and higher relapse rates". The senior psychiatrist points out that improving or enhancing immunity has a lot of potential to address the treatment outcomes of various kinds of mental health ailments. "Recent cutting-edge studies have suggested that antidepressants (SSRIs) may enhance Treg function. Yoga, meditation, vitamin D, omega-3 fatty acids, and a balanced diet can help regulate immune balance and improve mood stability," he added. People in general should not be under the impression that mental health is only related to the brain, as it also depends on our body's immunity. "





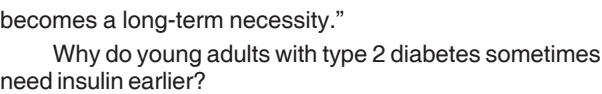


## Genelia Deshmukh on striking a work-home balance: 'I plan my shoot at 6 in the morning to be back by...'; why parental presence matters

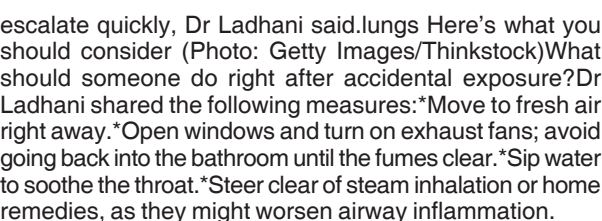


## Report 2026: Top 10% receive 58% of national income while bottom 10% get only 15%

# ‘How do doctors decide when a type 2 diabetic patient should stop oral medications and start insulin injections?’



# Never mix toilet cleaners, pulmonologist warns after witnessing 'emergency' case: 'One wrong combination can permanently injure your lungs'



\*If breathing becomes noisy or complex, or if it continues for a few minutes, seek emergency care, said Dr. Ladhani.

What to keep in mind?

\*Use one cleaning product at a time.\*Never mix acid-based cleaners with bleach or ammonia.\*Make sure the bathroom is well-ventilated; even a small window helps.\*Store cleaners separately and always read labels.\*If you feel irritation while cleaning, stop immediately and step out.Can one episode cause long-term lung damage?Yes, asserted Dr Ladhani. "A single significant exposure can lead to a lingering cough, wheezing, and increased sensitivity in the airways lasting weeks to months. In rare but serious cases, it can result in permanent lung function reduction or chronic airway hyperreactivity."







## Ahmed Khan says not having Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar in Welcome 3 isn't a problem: 'I didn't direct Baaghi 4, someone else did'



Ahmed Khan has rounded up a huge ensemble cast for his upcoming adventure comedy Welcome to the Jungle, perhaps the biggest in recent memory. However, two actors who have been a crucial part of the first two instalments of the Welcome franchise — Anil Kapoor aka Majnu and Nana Patekar aka Uday — aren't a part of the threequel.

"Why is that a problem? I didn't make Baaghi 4, someone else (A Harsha) did. I'm making Welcome 3, and Anees Bazmee (director of Welcome and Welcome Back) made Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 and 3. The first one was directed by Priyadarshan," says Ahmed on the inaugural edition of SCREEN Spotlight.He feels that the change in cast and director only brings freshness to the franchise. "Akshay

(Kumar) was in Welcome (2007), John (Abraham) was in Welcome Back (2015). Akshay was in Bhool Bhulaiyaa; now, Kartik (Aaryan) is in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 and 3. Siddharth Anand made War (2019), Ayan Mukerji made War 2," added Ahmed.

"You can only stretch something to an extent. After that, it snaps. Every film has its limits, but a franchise doesn't. There were so many Khiladi movies that came out, but no Khiladi had to do anything with the other Khiladis. Similarly, in Welcome, John replaced Akshay in the sequel so the link in the story was cut right there. Now, Akshay is back again. So, it's Welcome, but with an even bigger cast," Ahmed Khan argued.Having been a choreographer on the first instalment, Ahmed has also attempted to reinvent the aesthetic of the Welcome franchise with a threequel that's designed as an adventure comedy. "Welcome had black suits, buildings, and girls in shimmery clothes. What we've done is get them into army fatigues. We've completely changed the terrain and concept into army style. Otherwise, they'd keep singing the same tune in the same suits. So, we've to give the audience something new," added Ahmed.He also claims that Welcome to the Jungle is not slapstick comedy. "If you mute the film, you'll see they're talking very seriously, with guns in their hands. But if you dial up the volume, you'll think, 'What are these idiots doing?' They're talking rubbish to each other, but with poker faces. So, that's what this Welcome is about," said Ahmed.In an exclusive interview with SCREEN earlier this year, Anees Bazmee had opened up on Anil Kapoor and Nana Patekar walking out of Welcome to the Jungle. "It's very, very fortunate that Anil and Nana aren't there in Welcome 3. Without them, it's a tough, tough task. I wouldn't have made a Welcome without them. But I have a different equation with them. If I was directing it, I would've made sure they're a part of the film, by hook or by crook," he said.

## Jaya Bachchan didn't cry when Amitabh Bachchan was in the hospital after Coolie accident, recalls Abhishek: 'I didn't know how serious it was'

While actor Amitabh Bachchan has had a storied career, there are some chapters that brought pain to his family. One of them is the infamous Coolie incident, during which he was injured while performing a stunt with actor Puneet Issar. His son, actor Abhishek Bachchan, recently talked about the same and revealed how the family went through that traumatic phase as the whole country prayed for Big B's recovery.While appearing on the YouTube channel Peeping Moon, the actor was asked about the dark chapter and how it affected his family. Recalling that period, Abhishek shared that even though he was just 6-years-old at the time, he remembered that night "vividly." He shared that he was in the hotel with his sister Shweta, and were waiting for their father to come back from the shoot."That night when he returned, he had a lot of people with him, helping him walk. I went to give him a hug, and he pushed me away. I didn't know that he was hurt, and I was angry with him all night. I don't remember emotionally too much after that," he recalled. Abhishek shared that his mother Jaya made the hospital visits as jovial as they could in order to shield the children from any kind of trauma. He said, "Whenever we used to go to the hospital to visit Dad, Mom and he used to make it into a game. I didn't know how serious it was. If you keep going to the hospital, you realise something was wrong. We would be more excited for the masks, and playing doctor. He had all those drips and he would say



these are 'kites'."All of these games and stories kept the children aloof and happy, but the real reason for the family's survival, according to Abhishek, was his mother, Jaya Bachchan. "All credit goes to my mom. I don't remember seeing her cry or even be in a bad mood. She tried to normalise it as much as she could. She didn't make it a traumatic experience at all. I can only imagine what she must have been going through. To hold the family together in such a situation must be a difficult task. She wasn't that old. She must have been in her mid-30s, and two young children. I don't remember it being a traumatic time but that's because our parents never allowed it," he said.

## Abhishek Bachchan reveals how daughter Aaradhya deals with parents' divorce rumours: 'Aishwarya taught her to not believe everything she reads'



Bollywood's A-list couple Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan have often dealt with trolls and constant speculation about their relationship. In a recent interaction, Abhishek opened up about how they have kept their daughter Aaradhya Bachchan away from such chatter. The actor also revealed that his 14-year-old daughter doesn't have a phone and avoids googling her parents.Speaking to PeepingMoon, Abhishek said, "Aishwarya has instilled a great respect in Aaradhya towards the film industry and what we do. She has taught her that we are what we are because of what the films and audience have given this to us." Talking about Aaradhya and how she is growing into a confident teenager, he added, "She has an opinion. She is a very sure teenager. She has distinct opinions which we discuss in private, but she has a wonderful way of conveying everything."

Abhishek also revealed that their daughter is focused on her studies and doesn't own a cell phone. "She is 14 years old and she doesn't have a phone. If her friends want to get in touch with her, they have to call her mother's phone and that's something we had decided a long time ago. She has access to the internet, but she is more interested in doing her homework and researching. She loves school so she is into that."When asked if Aaradhya ever gets both-

ered by rumours about her parents while browsing online, he responded, "I don't think she does that. I don't think that is what interests her, and she won't believe anything that she reads. Her mother has taught her not to believe everything that she reads. Like my parents were with me, we are completely honest with the family. So, we are never in a position where anyone needs to question anybody."He was also asked to address rumours that he quit smoking and drinking after Aishwarya became pregnant with Aaradhya. Abhishek confirmed, "I have stopped both of these, sadly. No, I don't touch them at all."Aishwarya and Abhishek tied the knot in 2007, and in 2011, they welcomed their daughter Aaradhya. The couple have recently faced rumours suggesting trouble in their marriage, but they have chosen not to comment on such speculation and continue to make public appearances together, putting on a united front.

## China's Tencent quits Paramount's bid for Warner Bros to avert national security questions

Bangkok: Chinese gaming and social media giant Tencent Holdings has withdrawn from Paramount Skydance Corps bid to buy Warner Bros Discovery, according to a revised filing of its takeover bid by Paramount with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.The filing seen on Wednesday shows the Chinese company dropped its \$1 billion financing commitment for the takeover bid.Paramount said the Chinese company's participation in the bid had raised concern, since it would be a "non-US equity financing source," that its bid might be subject to a review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, known as CFIUS. That was even though approval by CFIUS or by the Federal Communications Commission was not a condition of the bid.The SEC filing, dated Monday, said that foreign sovereign wealth funds of Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi and Qatar, which are providing \$24 billion for Paramount's bid, had agreed to give up a right to participate in Warner Bros' management to avoid the additional scrutiny.

## Samantha Ruth Prabhu is glowing in unseen wedding photo with husband Raj Nidimoru: 'Love shared is love multiplied'



A new photo has surfaced online showing actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu with her new in-laws and her husband, filmmaker Raj Nidimoru, all smiling ear to ear.Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu with her husband, filmmaker Raj Nidimoru, on their wedding day. (Credit: Instagram/@samantharuthprabhuoffl)Renowned South Indian film star Samantha Ruth Prabhu is currently busy scripting the latest chapter in her personal life. Ending dating rumours that had been swirling for several months, Samantha and filmmaker Raj Nidimoru, tied the knot on December 1, embarking on a new journey together. Now, a new photo has sur-

faced online showing the actor with her new in-laws and Raj, all smiling ear to ear.

The photo was shared on Instagram by the filmmaker's sister, Sheetal Nidimoru. In the picture, Samantha, wearing a mustard-and-green outfit with mehendi on her hands, can be seen standing next to Raj as they pose with his family. "Love shared is love multiplied," Sheetal wrote in the description box. Sharing the photo on her Instagram story, she noted, "Harmony is the real blessing."Following their wedding, Sheetal had posted another family photo from the ceremony on Instagram, mentioning how happy they all were for Samantha and Raj. "While praying to Shiva in the Chandrakund today, soaked, shivering, during the prado?ha time, I found myself embracing the Shivalingam with a heart full of tears. Not tears of pain... but tears of gratitude."She added, "Gratitude for the peace I feel in this moment, for the clarity that has settled around our family, and for the deep sense of 'gentle alignment' in Raj and Samantha's journey. As a family, we feel so proud of how they are walking forward with calm dignity, honesty, and a steadiness that only comes when two hearts choose the same path with intention. And as a family, we stand by them together, fully, joyfully, and without hesitation, blessing them and supporting them in every way."Much like Samantha, Raj Nidimoru has also entered his second marriage here. Samantha and her former husband, actor Naga Chaitanya, parted ways in 2021. Raj, meanwhile, was previously married to Shyamali De. While they tied the knot in 2015, NDTV reported, the two got divorced in 2022. Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Raj Nidimoru got married in an intimate ceremony at the Linga Bhairavi Devi shrine in Sadhguru's Isha Yoga Centre, Coimbatore, on December 1.

## Music composer duo Sachet-Parampara hit back at Amaal Mallik's 'Bekhayali' plagiarism claim; demand public apology: 'Shame on you'

After Amaal Mallik accused music composer and singer duo Sachet Tandon and Parampara Thakur of taking credit for the song "Bekhayali" from Kabir Singh, which he claims he created, Sachet and Parampara have now clapped back and shared a video saying that Amaal's claims are false. They even said that the song was made in the presence of director Sandeep Reddy Vanga and actor Shahid Kapoor.In their joint video, they said, "Hello everyone, we are Sachet and Parampara, and we are addressing a matter that has escalated significantly. This concerns Mr Amaal Mallik. Honestly, we never anticipated having to clarify these issues, but this is something we solely created. We are referring to Bekhayali, which Amaal Mallik claims he produced some time ago."

The duo shared that the song was created with the entire Kabir Singh team, including Sandeep Reddy Vanga and Shahid Kapoor, being present during its creation. They said, "We have all the conversations with Amaal Mallik; we have all the discussions with the Kabir Singh team because the whole team was present when we crafted this song. Every melody, every composition, every arrangement, every lyric was developed with the entire team present, and it is entirely a Sachet and Parampara original work."

They also countered Amaal's claim of industry favouritism and allegations that some composers are preferred by major labels because of personal connections. Refuting the claim, the duo said, "We were never associated with T-Series; we were not part of T-Series before Kabir Singh came along. And I believe he has been with T-Series since 2015, if we are correct."Amaal texted and congratulated us for the song'

They also denied claims about hearing the song on WhatsApp. "We are outsiders; why would anyone favour us? Or if we have come from a small town, would someone play their song for us and expect us to make a song like that? Are you serious, Amaal Mallik? Also, let's assume that if you want to say we stole your song, then why were you congratulating us after the release? You were the first one texting me, saying you were waiting for our song and..."Sachet then showed his phone screen, displaying messages allegedly from Amaal. "I didn't even have your number, Amaal Mallik. You called me, you texted me telling me you were waiting for our song and then congratulating me and asking about your day after 'Bekhayali' was released," he said.Later in the clip, the couple demanded a formal apology from Amaal and added, "We demand an apology from you, and it should be public, as you took this



matter outside. You went on your social media, making these claims. This could happen to anyone."

They captioned the video, "Warning ?? ?? This video could have been a 10 sec video also proving all rumours false, but for our mental peace, exposing some people was very important. @amaal\_mallik SHAME ON YOU AMAAL MALIK."In July, in an interview with Siddharth Kannan, Amaal had claimed that Sachet-Parampara used his references for Bekhayali. He alleged that he had sent musical references on WhatsApp and claimed those references were used to make the final song. He further claimed he had a deal with the makers for the full Kabir Singh album featuring six songs, but it was eventually reduced to just one.Sachet and Parampara have previously faced plagiarism accusationsEarlier, musician Nilanjana Ghosh Dastidar, wife of musician Rajarshi Mitter, had accused Sachet-Parampara of plagiarising her husband's track in "Maiyya" from the Netflix film Do Patti, starring Kriti Sanon and Kajol.In her now-removed Facebook post, Nilanjana wrote, "Kindly report @tseriesfilms, @sachettandonofficial, and @sachetparamparaofficial. They have blatantly used my husband Rajarshi Mitter's track without permission or legal action in their Bollywood movie song 'Maiyya' from 'Do Patti'."She added, "I'm asking all my fellow musicians and artists to shame this music director and the entire T-Series music company. How dare you guys do this? If you can't make music, then don't steal it! Sachet Tandon, I'm speaking directly to you – you're a shameless, filthy thief. How dare you not even ask for the rights from my husband? You're a thief! Go to hell!"

## 'Dharmendra put his hand on my cheek and called me good-looking,' recalls Jaideep Ahlawat: 'Have felt his hand holding mine'

Sriram Raghavan's Ikkis is set to hit the theatres soon, and in a recent panel discussion, the makers and cast members of the film spoke about their fond memories of working the late actor Dharmendra, who will be seen in this film. Dharmendra passed away on November 24 at 89.Agastya Nanda, who is the lead actor in the film, spoke about his fond memories with the late star. He called it an "experience of a lifetime" and said that it "means a lot to him." He added that he shares a special connection with Dharamji, as the actor has worked extensively with the Bachchan family in the past. "You know, for me it's very emotional, because Dharam ji has worked with four generations of my family. I had the privilege to share some screen space with him. I am extremely sad that he couldn't see the love he deserves for the film, and it is very emotional for all of us," he said. To give context, Agastya is the grandson of Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan, who have worked with Dharmendra extensively.Jaideep then joined the conversation and reminisced about working with the late star. He said, "I shared the most screen time with him, and the moment he used to come on set, he used to make everyone so comfortable. I have felt his hand, holding mine, and I think I still do. One day, we were just sitting around and I was asking him questions when he suddenly kept his hand on my cheek and said, 'Kinna sona munda hai' (You're



such a good-looking guy). 'If Dharam ji thinks that, then I don't care what the rest of the world says."He added that Dharmendra often recited poetry on sets and said, "He got so much love because he used to give it back to everyone. There was a scene where I was driving, and we had to reshoot it a couple of times. At first, one of the ADs was helping, but then I insisted on doing it myself. Once we were done with the shot, Dharam ji looked at me and said, 'Now you'll get a driving licence.'