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Strong earthquake hits northeast Japan; tsunami advisory announced

Tokyo: Japan on Friday issued a tsunami advisory after a 6.7 magnitude earthquake shook the country's northeast, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. Friday's quake followed a 7.5 magnitude earthquake earlier this week in the north that caused injuries, light damage and a tsunami in Pacific coastal communities. At least 34 people were injured in that earlier quake on Monday off the coast of Aomori, the northernmost prefecture of Japan's main Honshu island.

GHMC to accept objections, suggestions on delimitation during holidays

Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will continue to receive objections and suggestions related to ward delimitation even on the upcoming holidays. Hyderabad Local Events

"Complaints will be accepted on December 13 (second Saturday) and 14 (Sunday), ensuring uninterrupted public access and a wider opportunity for citizens to submit their representations," GHMC Commissioner R V Karna announced in an official statement on Friday.

Cabinet clears digital Census, opens up N-sector to pvt firms



New Delhi, Dec 12

The Union Cabinet on Friday cleared a proposal to conduct the much-delayed Census at a cost of Rs 11,718 crore. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said.

The Cabinet also approved two significant Bills — one to establish a higher education regulator that will replace bodies such as the UGC and AICTE, and another to allow private companies to participate in the nuclear power generation.

Speaking at a briefing on Census, Vaishnav said around 30 lakh enumerators would be involved in the entire exercise. The 16th edition of the Census since Independence would provide an option of self-

enumeration to the citizens. The exercise which was scheduled to take place in 2021 got postponed due to the outbreak of the Covid pandemic across the country, he said.

The minister said the Census would be conducted in two phases — house-listing and housing census from April to September 2026; and population enumeration (PE) in February 2027.

For Ladakh and snowbound non-synchronous areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the exercise would be conducted in September 2026, the minister said. Interestingly, on December 24, 2019, when the Cabinet approved Rs 8,754.23 crore for the 2021 Census, it also sanctioned Rs 3,941.35 crore for up-

dating the National Population Register (NPR) across the country, except in Assam. This time, no such allocation for the NPR was announced.

The Census would also capture caste data electronically in the PE phase, an official statement said. The data would be collected using mobile applications that will be available for both Android and iOS versions. The use of a mobile app for data collection and the central portal for monitoring purposes would ensure better quality data, it said.

Around 30 lakh enumerators would visit each and every household and canvass a separate questionnaire for houselisting and housing census and population enumeration. It would generate 1.02 crore

human days of employment.

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament session. The higher education regulator, which was proposed in the National Education Policy, looks to replace the University Grants Commission, the All India Council for Technical Education and the National Council for Teacher Education.

The commission is proposed to be set up as a single higher education regulator, but medical and law colleges will not be brought under its ambit.

The Atomic Energy Bill 2025, a reform that could open nuclear power generation to private companies for the first time, was also cleared by the Union Cabinet on Friday.

DGCA suspends 4 inspectors; IndiGo hires expert for probe

New Delhi, Dec 12

Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday suspended four of its senior flight operations inspectors (FOIs) and summoned IndiGo's CEO for fresh questioning amid the airline's deepening operational chaos. Under pressure to act, the private carrier initiated steps towards internal clean-up by appointing a global aviation expert to probe



the disruptions.

The decisive moves came as IndiGo continues to struggle to operate all its flights. Officials said the four inspectors — Rish Raj Chatterjee (Dy CFOI-A), Seema Jhamnani (SFOI-A), Anil Kumar Pokhriyal (FOI-A) and Priyam Kaushik (FOI-A) — were removed after a preliminary review indicated serious lapses in regulatory oversight during the period when IndiGo began cancelling hundreds of flights.

The FOIs, who form the backbone of the DGCA's safety and compliance machinery, are responsible for auditing airlines, certifying crew and ensuring adherence to operational and training standards. A senior official said the inspectors were relieved of their duties "in connection with the widespread disruptions at IndiGo", adding that their actions during the crisis were now under examination. The formal order stated that the officials, all serving on contract, were being released from DGCA assignments with immediate effect so they could return to their parent organisations.

On the ground, the impact of IndiGo's instability remained severe. Bengaluru airport alone reported 54 cancellations (31 arrivals, 23 departures) on Friday, following more than 200 cancellations across Delhi and Bengaluru a day earlier. Passengers at several airports complained of long queues, delayed rebooking and minimal advance communication.

Hyderabad to host Lionel Messi for GOAT Cup festival

Kolkata, Dec 12 Argentine superstar Lionel Messi's long-awaited return to India, after a magical maiden visit in 2011, will be high on glitz but low on actual football, promising a spectacle that may not recapture the raw frenzy that once shook the Salt Lake Stadium. His artistry in a competitive match will be missing this time. It will be unlike 2011 when more than 85,000 fans packed the stadium, some even perched on terrace edges, to watch Argentina edge Venezuela 1-0 in a FIFA friendly. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner is not scheduled to play serious football on the "GOAT India Tour 2025". It is a fully promotional, commercially curated event which will begin on Saturday here and wind up on Monday in New Delhi. Yet, for a city that once worshipped Maradona, Pele,

As disruptions persisted, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and COO Isidre Porqueras appeared before the DGCA inquiry panel for a second straight day. Elbers had been questioned on Thursday as well, after DGCA teams took station inside IndiGo's headquarters to closely track operational decisions.

The inquiry panel, formed earlier this week, includes Joint Director General Sanjay Brahamane, Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, senior FOI Kapil Manglik and FOI Lokesh Rampal. The committee has been tasked with identifying the root causes of IndiGo's instability, including its crew deployment strategy, fluctuating rosters and preparedness to comply with the revised pilot duty-rest norms that came into force on November 1. Its findings are expected to influence the next round of regulatory action.

IndiGo asserted that operations were stabilising, and that it expected to operate more than 2,000 flights till late Friday under a scaled-down schedule. The airline said all 138 operational destinations remained connected and claimed an improved on-time performance.

On Thursday, it operated close to 1,950 flights with only four cancellations, which it attributed to adverse weather, adding that passengers were informed in advance "to avoid inconvenience".

The airline also announced that its Board had approved the appointment of Chief Aviation Advisers LLC, led by veteran aviation strategist Captain John Illson, to conduct an independent review of the disruption and its underlying causes. Illson, who has served in senior positions across the FAA, ICAO, IATA and global carriers, will submit a comprehensive report to the Board once the assessment is completed. The move follows a recommendation by the airline's Crisis Management Group, which advised an external audit.

Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu chaired a review meeting to assess preparedness for the upcoming fog season. The DGCA, AAI, airport operators, airlines and the CISF were instructed to enforce strict compliance with fog-related SOPs, prioritise real-time data sharing, activate war rooms and deploy CAT-II/III-compliant aircraft with qualified crew.

The minister emphasised timely communication to passengers and warned that every instance of inconvenience would attract clear accountability.

The government has exclusive powers in extraordinary circumstances to cap airfares but it is not a single-way solution, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said amid rising concerns over high air ticket prices.

New Delhi, Dec 12

In a move that can unlock high-value urban and semi-urban lands across the country, the Ministry of Defence has said that 45,906 acres of defence lands have been identified as 'surplus'. It has asked the central departments to see if any of them needs these lands.

The ministry, in a written reply in Lok Sabha, today said, "Around 45,906 acres of vacant defence land has been identified that is surplus to the requirements of the armed forces".

The details of these lands have been circulated to the other Central Government Departments for ascertaining their requirements.

Giving out state wise details the Ministry said 817 acres of land in Delhi



has been identified as surplus. Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab have 2381, 833 and 1714 acres of defence lands, respectively, declared as surplus.

The hill state of Uttarakhand has a whopping 8693 acres as surplus and 8693 acres as surplus and 8693 acres as surplus.

Rajasthan has 2091 acres Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have 877, 8840 and 6781, acres respectively.

The ministry said any other lands, which may appear unused are meant for training, mobilization prac-

Akhilesh Yadav and KTR call for end to divisive politics

Hyderabad: Reaffirming the strong ties between the Samajwadi Party and the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), Akhilesh Yadav, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh,



expressed confidence that the national political landscape would improve soon. Holding key meetings with BRS leaders here on Friday, the Samajwadi Party national president emphasised the need for positive policies focused on progress and development.

During his visit, Yadav met BRS working president KT Rama Rao and senior leader T Harish Rao at Rama Rao's residence in Nandi Nagar. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Yadav described Rama Rao and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao as close allies.

"We will always stand with them," he said. Yadav

stressed that ups and downs were common in politics. "Sometimes people give opportunities, sometimes they do not. We used to get very few seats earlier, but people stood by us. We must remain watchful," he remarked, adding that the country needs to progress with a clear vision. Criticising the current political climate, Yadav called for an end to divisive and negative politics.

"Divisive politics and negativity should end. We should work towards positive things and progress," he urged. Yadav also revealed that he had spoken to Chandrashekhar Rao and expressed his intent to meet him soon to seek his blessings. He praised the warm welcome he has always received from the BRS leadership in Hyderabad.

Welcoming the SP chief, Rama Rao hailed the SP's strong performance in the last Lok Sabha elections. He said that despite losing the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, Samajwadi Party had emerged as the third-largest party in the Lok Sabha with 37 MPs.

"Even after losing the assembly elections, they could win 37 MPs and became the third-largest party," he said. The BRS strives for similar outreach to the masses, drawing inspiration from the Samajwadi Party. Harish Rao, along with former Minister Lalasani Srinivas Yadav and other BRS leaders, received Yadav and felicitated him in Hyderabad.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

'Hate Speech' Bill oversteps the line

The thin dividing line between freedom of speech and 'reasonable restriction', as enshrined in the Constitution, should not be allowed to be weaponised by governments to suit their narratives. Any attempt by the authorities, irrespective of the party in power, to appropriate sweeping powers to impose curbs on free speech would amount to setting a dangerous precedent. Freedom of speech and expression form part of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Democracy would be in peril if dissent and diversity were snuffed out from the public sphere. Dissent, disagreement and debate are the essential ingredients of a successful democracy. It is for this reason that the Karnataka government's hate speech Bill has drawn flak from civil rights groups and opposition parties. The provisions of the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, tabled in the Assembly recently, appear like a cure that is worse than the disease. The proposed legislation gives sweeping powers to the government which can be easily misused. The Bill is, at best, a band-aid that avoids a deeper consideration. In fact, it carries the danger of being used to criminalise the very people it seeks to protect. The proposed law defines "hate speech" and "hate crime" in broad and loose terms while proposing stringent punishments. The Bill is ostensibly aimed at "curbing and preventing the dissemination, publication or promotion of hate speech and crimes, which cause disharmony, hatred in society". It would effectively mean disempowering the citizens vis-à-vis the government.

Rs 10 Crore Sanctioned for Development Works in Uppal Constituency on the Directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy: Congress In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy Secures Funds After Meeting GHMC Commissioner

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 12 (Indian Chronicle):““The Uppal constituency has once again received a major boost with the sanction of ?10 crore for development works across its 10 GHMC divisions. The funds were approved following the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the instructions of District In-charge Minister Sridhar Babu. Congress constituency in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy met GHMC Commissioner Karnan and successfully obtained approval for the Rs 10 crore budget allocation. These funds will be utilized for various civic and infrastructural works across Kapra Circle and Uppal Circle.“Development Works Under Kapra Circle“Kapra Division“ CC road construction at Kandiguda – Rs 15 lakh“ CC road at Hastinapuram Colony – Rs 30 lakh“ CC road at Saibaba Officers Colony – Rs 20 lakh“ CC road at HMT Colony – Rs 15 lakh“ Sewerage line at Sriyug Enclave, Saket Colony – Rs 20 lakh“AS Rao Nagar Division“ CC road at South Kamalanagar – Rs 27.50 lakh“ Compound wall for Senior Citizens’ Bhavan – Rs 10 lakh“ CC road at MIG & LIG Colony – Rs 30 lakh“ Open Gym at Maheshnagar – Rs 12.50 lakh“ Sewerage line at Maheshnagar – Rs 20 lakh“Cherlapally Division“ Community Hall at Rail Vihar Colony, Vidya Maruthinagar & Shubhodaya Colony – Rs 80 lakh“ Sewerage line at Shubhodaya & Meenakshinagar – ?20 lakh“HB Colony Division“ CC roads at Mangapuram Colony & Indiranagar – Rs 40 lakh“ CC roads at Rajeevnagar, Navodayanagar & Kailasgiri Colony – Rs 40 lakh“ Sewerage line from Alluri Sitarama Raju statue to Canara Bank – ?20 lakh“Mallapur Division“ Community Hall at Janapriya Township (expansion) – Rs 26 lakh“ Community Hall at Annapurna Colony (expansion) – Rs 20 lakh“ RCC pipeline & CC road at Gandhi Statue area, Old Village – ?34 lakh“ Sewerage line at Brahmupuri Colony – ?20 lakh“Naharam Division“ CC road at Ramreddy Nagar – ?30 lakh“ CC road at Johnson Grammar School area, Raghavendra Nagar – Rs 50 lakh“ Sewerage pipeline at Koundinya Nagar, Ramnagar & Indiranagar – Rs 20 lakh“Development Works Under Uppal Circle“Chilukanagar Division“ Vaddera Sangham Community Hall at Chilukanagar Gutta – Rs 34.25 lakh“ Ramalayam Hall at Beerappagadda – ?15.75 lakh“ Kuruma Sangham Community Hall at Chilukanagar Gutta – Rs 30 lakh“ Sewerage line at Indiranagar & Old Kallu Compound lanes – Rs 20 lakh“Habsiguda Division“ CC road at Srinivasapuram – Rs 20 lakh“ CC road at Venkatesddy Nagar – Rs 24.50 lakh“ CC road at Ramreddy Nagar – Rs 35.50 lakh“ Sewerage line at Srinivasapuram – Rs 20 lakh“Ramanthapur Division“ Box drain near Satyanarayana Swamy Temple – Rs 60 lakh“ Repairs to Bharatnagar Community Hall – Rs 20 lakh“ Sewerage lines at Gandhinagar & Viveknagar – Rs 20 lakh“Uppal Division“ Internal roads at Sheshsai Nagar – Rs 45 lakh“ Balance works at Community Halls in South Swaroopnagar & Hanuma Sai Nagar – Rs 35 lakh“ Water supply & sewerage pipelines at Church Colony & Sriramanapuram – Rs 20 lakh A total of 36 development works have been sanctioned under this allocation, Parameshwar Reddy informed.

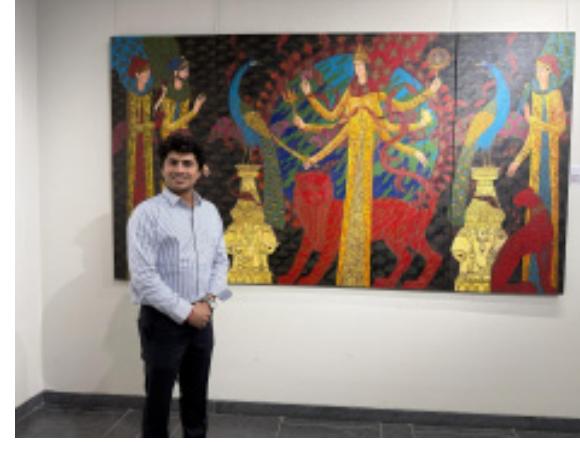
Bespoke Art Gallery Brings International Art Excellence to Hyderabad at AD Show

Hyderabad: Bespoke Art Gallery, India's emerging destination for premium international art collections, made a powerful impact in Hyderabad with its participation at the Architectural Digest (AD) showcase held on 5th & 6th December at the Hitec Exhibition Centre.

For many Hyderabad-based visitors, it was a delightful surprise to learn that Ahmedabad now hosts an art gallery representing international artists—a space that blends global talent with refined curation. The gallery's presence sparked conversations among architects, interior designers, and art enthusiasts who appreciated its diverse and high-quality collection.

Architects and interior professionals shared that the gallery's artworks strongly resonated with their clients, especially those seeking bespoke, statement-making pieces for luxury homes and commercial spaces. The curated pieces stood out for their uniqueness, craftsmanship, and global artistic perspective.

“Our mission is to make world-class art accessible and relatable within the Indian design ecosystem,” said Mr. Devan Gaurawala, Founder of Bespoke Art Gallery. “Hyderabad has welcomed us with tremendous warmth. The response encourages our vision to bring international artistry into modern Indian spaces through thought-



fully curated collections.”

With its growing presence in leading design-focused events, Bespoke Art Gallery continues to position itself as a trusted partner for architects, designers, and collectors looking for premium global artworks.

PhonePe Wealth launches 'Daily SIP' in Mutual Funds with minimum investment of Rs10

share . market

Hyderabad PhonePe Wealth Broking Private Limited (PhonePe Wealth) today announced the launch of its Daily SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) feature in mutual funds, making it possible for users to invest as little as ?10 per day directly through the PhonePe app. This will empower potential investors to convert their daily savings into investments effortlessly and enable more Indians to build wealth over time.

India's mutual fund industry has been witnessing rapid growth, especially in SIPs. According to Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), monthly SIP inflows surged to over ?29,000 crore in October 2025 – an annualized growth of more than 30% over the past five years. This growth is also reflected in the steadily rising contributing SIP accounts which stand at 9.45 crore as of October 2025. This shows a strong preference for disciplined investing with investors making periodic contributions in mutual funds.

To this extent, the launch of Daily SIPs will further enable users to invest as low as ?10 daily, making mutual fund investments more convenient and affordable for individuals with daily cash flows and savings acting as the first step towards building financial wealth.

Key Features of Daily SIP:

1. Micro (small) investment commitment: With a mini-

mum of ?10 a day, anyone can begin building wealth through regular contributions.

2. Seamless setup: Start a Daily SIP instantly through UPI (Unified Payments Interface) Autopay on the PhonePe app for smooth, automated daily investments.

3. Diverse fund options: Users can choose from carefully curated mutual funds in categories like equity fund, gold fund, multi-asset funds, designed to meet a variety of investment needs and risk appetites.

4. Contribution customisation: Potential investors using the PhonePe app have the option to customize their contributions by increasing or decreasing the amount based on their comfort and individual investment goals.

5. Easy to stop: In case, an investor feels that they cannot continue investments for a prolonged period, they have the option to stop their SIPs easily and let the invested money compound.

MSEDCL Sets Guinness World Record; C.R.I. Solar Proudly Contributes to the Historic Feat

Hyderabad In a landmark triumph for India's renewable-energy landscape, the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) has secured a Guinness World Record by installing an unprecedented 45,911 solar pumping systems within just one month. This exceptional milestone stands as a testament to MSEDCL's visionary leadership, strong execution capabilities, and unwavering commitment to empowering India's farming communities.

C.R.I. Pumps' Solar Division is proud to have been one of the key contributors to this transformative solar initiative. By installing solar pumps in 1,686 villages across Maharashtra, C.R.I. Solar empowered thousands of farmers with sustainable water solutions. Each installation was carried out with exceptional precision, disciplined execution, and coordinated teamwork—reflecting C.R.I.'s hallmark strengths.

This milestone aligns seamlessly with C.R.I.'s broader mission of driving India's clean-energy evolution. The company has already commissioned over 2,10,000 IoT-enabled solar pumping systems and deployed more than 3.04 million BEE star-rated, energy-efficient pumps nationwide. Collectively, C.R.I.'s initiatives have helped India save 7,600 million kWh of energy and avoid 6 million tons of CO2 emissions. These interventions continue to uplift communities by delivering intelligent, sustainable, and long-lasting pumping solutions.

Reflecting on the achievement, Mr. G. Soundararajan, Chairman, C.R.I. Group, remarked:

“This Guinness World Record represents far more



than a remarkable accomplishment—it is a moment of national pride and a milestone in India's clean-energy journey. We are profoundly grateful to MSEDCL for entrusting us with this opportunity and remain dedicated to advancing India's transition toward intelligent, future-ready energy technologies.”

Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy and Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkatarao Lay Foundation for Development Works Worth Rs1.20 Crore in Ramantapur Division

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 12 (Indian Chronicle):““Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, along with Ramantapur Division Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkatarao, laid the foundation stone on Friday for several development works being undertaken at an estimated cost of ?1.20 crore in the Ramantapur Division.“The MLA and Corporator initiated works including the construction of an open gym and CC road in Srinagar Colony, a storm water drain in Bhavani Nagar, and a CC road on Vasavi Nagar Road No. 2, among other development projects. Local residents appreciated the continuous efforts of the MLA and Corporator in providing essential infrastructure for the overall development of the division.“Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy stated that development activities in the Uppal constituency were being carried out beyond political considerations. He assured that he is extending complete support for the progress of the Ramantapur Division and has been working to resolve issues brought to his notice by the Corporator.“Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkatarao said that nearly 90% of the issues raised by the residents have already been resolved. She added that underground drainage works in almost all colonies of the division have been completed. She also mentioned that she has requested the concerned officials to allocate funds soon for the remaining pending works.“Bandaru Venkatarao, Pasula Prabhakar Reddy, Gaddam Sai Kiran, Rambahan, Babu Yadav, and leaders from BJP and BRS, along with local party workers, participated in the program.



Ozempic® - world's most prescribed GLP-1 is now available in India

Hyderabad: Novo Nordisk, a global healthcare company, today announced the launch of Ozempic® (injectable semaglutide) in India. Ozempic® is a once-weekly GLP-1 RA (receptor agonist) indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise for adults living with uncontrolled type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM).

The arrival of Ozempic® in India comes at a crucial time. According to the World Health Organisation's 2023-24 estimates, India has 101 million (roughly 11.4 % of India's population) people living with diabetes, making it the second largest diabetes-affected populations in the world after China. The country also has 136 million individuals with prediabetes and 254 million people living with generalised obesity, signalling an accelerating



health challenge that requires effective, evidence-based therapies.

Clinical benefits of Ozempic®:

• Demonstrated powerful HbA1c reduction with compelling weight-loss benefits, supporting better metabolic health

• Suitable for adults with HbA1c =7%, including those with high cardiovascular risk or established cardiovascular disease

• Provides additional lowering of cardiovascular events, a key concern for people with long-standing T2DM

• Offers protection against chronic kidney disease progression, supporting long-term health outcomes

“Bringing Ozempic® to India is a major milestone” said Vikrant Shrotriya - Managing Director, Novo Nordisk India. “Backed by global trust, proven clinical excellence & world class quality, reinforced by a robust supply chain, Ozempic® offers Indian doctors an effective treatment choice. Our goal is to provide patients an innovative & accessible therapy that offers improved glycaemic control, meaningful weight management and long-term heart and kidney protection – all delivered through a simple, easy-to-use pen device. This once-weekly treatment demonstrates Novo Nordisk's ongoing commitment to better health outcomes and chronic disease care.”

How does Ozempic® work?

Ozempic® is a GLP-1 receptor agonist that helps:

- Improve glycaemic control and reduce HbA1c
- Regulate appetite and food intake by acting on areas of the brain that control hunger

Support weight loss in people with T2DM

• Reduce risks of cardiovascular and kidney complications associated with diabetes

Corporator Rajitha and

Parameshwar Reddy Couple Participate in Sri Kalabhairava Swamy Brahmotsavam

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 12 (Indian Chronicle):““On Friday, Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy and Uppal Constituency Congress



Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy participated in the Sri Kalabhairava Swamy Brahmotsavam held at the Uppal HMDA Bagayat.“On this occasion, they offered special prayers to Lord Kalabhairava. The temple priests and committee members warmly welcomed Rajitha and Parameshwar Reddy upon their arrival. Later, they took part in the Brahmotsavam rituals conducted at the temple and performed special pujas.“Several devotees and local leaders attended the event, including Pujala Prabhakar, Eega Santosh Mudiraj, Nidhanakavi Sudhakar, Shameerpet Vinod Reddy, Kanchamidi Shivaiah Mudiraj, Telkala Mohan Reddy, Lingampally Ramakrishna, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Ramakant Reddy, Shameerpet Rakesh Reddy, Manda Muralikrishna Reddy, Upender Raju, Reddigari Sanjeev Reddy, Vallappu Srikanth Yadav, Upender Reddy, Elluri Narsimha Reddy, Lekkala Anji Reddy, Devi Reddy, Bomma Rathnam, Bhim Sen, Upender Yadav, Tumalla Rajender Reddy, Alugula Anil Kumar, Garidas Venkatesh, Sisala Ganesh, Pramod, Nagoor Basha, Peerambhi, Mamatha, Rajitha and many others.

Elect the Congress party's Sarpanch candidates after seeing the welfare and development programs being implemented by the Congress party: - Alair MLA and Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah

“(Manduva Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle December 12):- Alair MLA and Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah said that people should elect the Congress party's Sarpanch candidates after seeing the welfare and development programs being implemented by the Congress party. As part of the election campaign program, on Friday, “Telangana State Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ailaiah participated in the campaign for the second phase of Gram Panchayat elections in Duppalli and Narsapur villages of Valigonda mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. On this occasion, Beerla Ailaiah said that if the Congress party's Sarpanch candidates are elected in the villages alongside him as MLA, they will move forward like a pair of oxen, bring funds, and develop the villages. He said that the sarees given by the KCR government in the past were used at wells, for carrying bundles of grass, and as scarecrows in the fields... but now, the sarees given under the people's rule are being worn by everyone in the villages.



In the context of the Gram Panchayat elections... officials must take the initiative to ensure that polling takes place peacefully on the 14th of this month: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Manduva Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle, December 12):- In the

context of the Gram Panchayat elections... regarding the polling on the 14th of this month... as per the orders of the State Election Commission, a 'Silence Period' will be in effect until the polling ends at 1:00 PM, District Election Officer and Collector Hanumantha Rao stated in a press release on Friday. ??In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Telangana State Election Commission, during the second phase of elections in Bhuvanagiri, BB Nagar, Pochampally, Valigonda, and Ramannapet mandals of the district... the 'Silence Period' will be in effect from 44 hours before the end of polling in the areas where polling is to be held on the 14th of this month, the Collector said. From 5:00 PM on the 12th to 1:00 PM on the 14th... the following activities are completely prohibited in the relevant polling areas, he stated.“No public meetings, gatherings, or processions should be held.“Election campaigning should not be conducted through cinema, television, social media, or other media, or through musical, theatrical, or entertainment programs. Legal action will be taken against those who violate these orders, he added.

For villages to develop, people who work for the villages and good leaders must be elected:
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Manduva Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle, December 12):- The Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector said that for villages to develop, people who strive for the villages and good leaders who are appreciated by all must be elected. On Friday, as part of the third phase of Gram Panchayat elections, voter awareness programs were conducted in the mandals where the third phase of polling is scheduled, as per the instructions of the Election Commission. (District Collector Hanumantha Rao participated in Narayanapur mandal headquarters, RDO Shekhar Reddy in Choutuppal municipality, Tahsildar Sheshagiri Rao and MPDO in Addagudur mandal headquarters, and Additional DRDO Suresh in Gundala mandal headquarters. They conducted voter awareness programs.) On this occasion, the District Collector first made the voters take an oath that they would not succumb to money, liquor, or other temptations, and would choose a genuine and good Sarpanch or ward member. He said that the right to vote is the foundation of democracy and that every registered voter should cast their vote. He said that conducting awareness rallies on the use of the right to vote and educating students about it will bring about change as they will inform their elders at home. He said that although they are students now, in the

coming days all of them will become voters. He said that if voters cast their votes for those who offer money, liquor, gifts, biryani, or other presents, they will lose the right to question the winning candidate about the village's development after the elections. He advised them to discuss among themselves at home or at their workplace about choosing good leaders who will lead to the development of their village. He urged them to choose a good person who is acceptable to all, without succumbing to the temptations offered by the candidates.“He said that everyone should discuss together who to vote for, who will be available when needed, and who will bring about development. He said that they should discuss the matter.“He stated that towns and cities develop only when the villages are prosperous.“He suggested that to ensure the well-being of the villages, a good leader should be elected.“He mentioned that recently, rallies and awareness programs on voting were conducted in Bommallaramaram and Valigonda mandals of our district. He said that some women voters, having gained awareness, independently put up boards in front of their houses stating that they would not sell their right to vote, and exercised their franchise. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Rs 110 Crore Worth Development Works Completed in Chilukanagar Division: Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 12 (Indian Chronicle):“Chilukanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj inspected the on-

going CC road construction works, taken up at a cost of ??55 lakh in Sitarama Colony on Friday, along with GHMC officials.“Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen stated that development works worth nearly ??110 crore have been completed so far in Chilukanagar Division. She added that around 95% of works in Sitarama Colony have been successfully completed, fulfilling almost all the assurances made during the elections.“Those who participated in the programme include Municipal DE Vineel Goud, AE Radhika, Work Inspector Kedar, BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Sitarama Colony Association President Guduru Ramesh Goud, leaders RamAnjaneyulu, Anjireddy, Narsireddy, Ballem Venumadiv, Nageshwar Rao, Madhu, Haribabu, Banti Goud and others.

The concerned officials should check the materials required for the second phase of polling at the distribution center: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Manduva Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle, December 12): Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the concerned officials should check the materials required for the second phase of polling at the distribution center. The District Election Officer and Collector inspected the polling materials at the Pochampally Mandal Praja Parishad office, where the second phase of elections for the Gram Panchayat elections will be held on Friday. On this occasion, the District Collector instructed that the polling materials should be separated polling station-wise. He said that they should check if the ballot box in each polling station opens easily or not. He also instructed them to check if all the ballot papers for their respective Gram Panchayat are correct. He specifically instructed them to check if the Swastika symbol stamp is present. He advised them to check the marked voters' list beforehand.“He inquired about the location of the distribution center and ordered that good food facilities, drinking water supply, and other arrangements be made for

SBI Hyderabad Circle launches "SBI Home Loans Mega Property Expo" Campaign



“As part of "SBI Home Loans Mega Property Expo" Publicity Campaign, Shri S. Radhakrishnan, (Chief General Manager) Hyderabad Circle, Shri Ravi Kumar Verma, (General Manager NW-1), Shri Satish Kumar, (General Manager NW-2) has flagged off publicity vans from Local Head Office, Koti, Hyderabad.“Speaking on this occasion CGM Shri S.Radhakrishnan said, till now Hyderabad Circle organized six such Expos and tradition goes with 7th edition of SBI Home Loans Mega Property Expo scheduled from 19th to 21st of this month at Hall No. 4, HITEC, Hyderabad.“Telangana state is progressing steadily toward its aspirational 3 trillion economy by 2047. Under the visionary ambitions of Telangana Rising 2047 and Viksit Bharat 2047.“Shri S. Radhakrishnan also shared that our SBI Hyderabad Circle, is proud to be a strategic partner in this transformation and recently crossed the monumental milestone of 4 Trillion Business as on 30.11.2025.“SBI Hyderabad Circle REH business [Home & Home related] crossed 750 Billion with 2.10 lakh home loan customers base in Telangana state, and is marching confidently with a vision of 1 Trillion by June 2027“Hyderabad Circle is strengthening its role in Telangana's real estate and housing finance ecosystem.“We have Introduced simplified and faster loan-sanction systems,“Offering attractive ROI structures for builders and homebuyers,“Digital processing through end-to-end platforms for builder tie-ups and customers,“Supporting sustainable and affordable housing through PMAY scheme.“Builder Tie-ups are doing for the convenience customer as well as builder firms.“Shri S. Radhakrishnan said that, these initiatives reaffirm SBI's commitment to empowering homebuyers, supporting builders, and driving the State's long-term economic aspirations. Hyderabad's transform-



KG Reddy College of Engineering and Technology organised an interactive session for first year B. Tech students featuring Prof. Dr. Balakista Reddy, Chairman of Telangana Council for Higher Education (TSCHE) “During his address, Dr. Reddy emphasised the rapid growing importance of technology in shaping India's future and encouraged students to focus on innovation, continuous skill development and ethical use of emerging technologies including AI.“He also highlighted the relevance of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution explaining the core values of Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic, Justice, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity motivated students to uphold these constitutional principles in their academic and professional lives.“The event concluded with the formal launch of the College Diary by Prof. Dr. Balakista Reddy, along with the Chairman of KG Reddy College of Engineering & Technology Ln. K. Krishna Reddy garu, Dean Academics Dr. M.N. Narasiah and Principal Srinivas Reddy Aristotle PG college marking an important milestone for KG Reddy college of Engineering & Technology

TWJF Founder President and State Convener Mamidi Somayya congratulated the Panchayat Raj Supervisory Officer

“(Mandava Srisailam... Hyderabad... Indian Chronicle... December 12):- Several journalist leaders congratulated Kasula Kranthi Kiran, who assumed charge as Superintendent in the Telangana State Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department Commissionerate. Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) Founder President and State Convener Mamidi Somayya, IFWJ National Secretary Pulipalupula Anandam, State leader J. Uday Bhaskar Reddy, and others met him on Thursday, felicitated him with bouquets and shawls, and extended their congratulations. Kranthi Kiran, who previously worked as a PA to Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, assumed charge as Panchayat Raj Superintendent after being transferred.



BRS senior state leader Chintala Venkateshwar Reddy is campaigning vigorously in Raghavapuram village of Bibinagar mandal, urging voters to elect BRS village sarpanch candidate Shankarayya.



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle, December 12):- BRS party senior state leader Chintala Venkateshwar Reddy is conducting a vigorous campaign in Raghavapuram village of Bibinagar mandal, Bhuvanagiri constituency, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Speaking during the village panchayat elections campaign, he urged the people of Raghavapuram to vote for the BRS-backed candidate, Bandaru Shankarayya, by casting their votes on the ring symbol in the sarpanch elections on the 14th, ensuring his victory with a huge majority. He cautioned against being misled by the false promises of the Congress party, stating that the Congress party has not implemented a

single welfare scheme since coming to power, and that they have done nothing for the people except for the development initiated by former Chief Minister KCR. Therefore, he said, it is the responsibility of everyone to ensure the victory of the BRS party candidates in the local body elections. Present at the event were former Yadagirigutta Trust Board member Guntimidi Dayakar Bhagayamma, Jakki Nagesh, village branch president Buyya Kishore Goud, Donthireddy Srinivas Reddy, B. Ashok, Sarva Basavaraju Goud, Shivagoni Rangayya, Ongari Ramesh, Bandari Anand Goud, Bandari Raghavendra Goud, Donthireddy Rajasekhar Reddy, Ambati Parisharam, and district leaders Kuthadi Suresh, Harish, Venkatesh, and Manohar.

Revanth Reddy Says There's "No Backing Out" from the Match with Messi



“(KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 12 (Indian Chronicle))“With football legend Lionel Messi set to arrive for the upcoming match, excitement has begun to sweep across Hyderabad. Across the city, welcome banners featuring Messi and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy are prominently displayed, creating a festive atmosphere.“Around the Uppal International Cricket Stadium, where the match will take place on December 13, the flex banners and hoardings arranged by former State Youth Congress General Secretary and Yuva Kapu Nadu Vice-President Gaddam Ravi are attracting significant attention. Expressing his hopes for the event, Ravi said he wishes for the grand success of the match and the celebrations surrounding it.“Football enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's participation in the match, leading to expectations of a large turnout from ministers, MLAs, MPs, Rajya Sabha members, former legislators, and fans. In view of the massive crowd and VVIP movement, Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu has deployed extensive security arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

BJP Demands Renaming of Newly Announced Beerappa Gadda Division as Uppal Division

“(KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 12 (Indian Chronicle))“As part of the recent delimitation exercise, the newly announced 23rd Beerappa Gadda Division has been allotted to the geographical area traditionally known as Uppal. Strongly objecting to this notification, the BJP has expressed serious displeasure, stating that replacing the historic name “Uppal” with “Beerappa Gadda Division” undermines Uppal's identity and hurts the sentiments and self-respect of the people of Uppal.“Demanding that the decision be withdrawn immediately, BJP leaders said the division covering the original Uppal town must rightfully be declared as Uppal Division, in accordance with the wishes of the local residents. They further proposed that the currently announced 28th Uppal Division be renamed as Uppal Baghaya Division for clarity.Under the leadership of former Uppal Division President Reddygari Devender Reddy, BJP leaders submitted an objection and representation at the GHMC Uppal Circle office.Senior BJP leaders Mahankali Laxman Mudiraj, Ravula Balakrishna Goud, Meesala Jangaiah, Ellagon Prakash Goud, Singaram Karthik and others participated in the programme.



Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Performs Special Pujas at Kalabhairava Swamy Temple



“(KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 12 (Indian Chronicle))“As part of the 3rd anniversary celebrations of the Kalabhairava Swamy Temple located in Uppal Bhagayat, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy performed special pujas on Thursday.“Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that with the blessings of Lord Kalabhairava, he wished for the well-being and happiness of everyone.“Local leaders, party workers, and others from the Uppal division participated in the program.

District Gears Up with Heavy Security for Second Phase of Panchayat Elections: SP

“(Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 12 (Indian Chronicle))“Komaram Bheem Asifabad district administration has arranged robust security with a total deployment of 862 personnel from the police department and other supporting departments for the smooth conduct of the second phase of Gram Panchayat elections, District SP Nitika Pant said.“SP Nitika Pant stated that the efforts of the district police officers and personnel were instrumental in ensuring the peaceful and impartial conduct of the first phase of local body elections. As part of the second phase, elections will be held on December 14 in the mandals of Bejjur, Chintalamanepalli, Dahegaon, Koutala, Penchikalpet, and Sirpur (T) for 113 Sarpanch posts and 992 Ward Member posts. She confirmed that the police department is fully prepared for bandobust arrangements.“The SP advised candidates, political parties, and the public to strictly adhere to the Model Code of Conduct.“Regarding the silent period, she said it will be in effect from 5:00 PM on December 12, 2025, i.e., 48 hours prior to polling, until the conclusion of voting. During this period, public meetings, gatherings, door-to-door campaigning, loudspeaker usage, rallies, and bike rallies are completely prohibited.“To ensure peaceful polling, special measures have been taken, including enhanced security at polling stations, surveillance teams, area domination parties, route mobiles, and striking forces, the SP said.“For the second phase, 665 police officers and personnel, along with 197 staff members from other departments (Forest, Singareni, Excise, TRANSCO, ACB), totaling 862 personnel, have been deployed as part of the strengthened security arrangement.“From 5:00 PM



today until the completion of elections, Section 144 (BNSS 163) will remain in force. Gathering of five or more individuals within 100 meters of polling stations is strictly prohibited. Candidates and party workers will not be allowed to congregate near polling locations, the SP added. She also stated that liquor shops must remain closed from 5:00 PM today.“Any form of campaigning, rallies, or meetings is completely banned during the 48-hour silent period. She reiterated that no victory rallies or bike rallies will be permitted after the announcement of election results. Celebratory events may be organized only on dates specified by the authorities after completion of the third phase of polling.“The SP appealed to the public to cooperate fully with the police to ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections. She urged citizens to immediately report any suspicious persons or activities to the police.

A dangerously sagging manhole



“(Secunderabad Cantonment, December 12 (Indian Chronicle))“Bowenpally Ayyappa Society under Ward 1 of the Cantonment Board on the main road leading to Ayyappa temple has collapsed and become dangerous. In addition to the lack of roofs on the manhole, about 40 meters of the road has been left unbuilt, thus people are exposed to accidents. Locals say that people who venture that way mainly at night are falling into the manhole cover due to sagging and getting injured. The famous Ayyappa Swamy temple in Bowenpally area is located in this area. A large number of devotees come to the temple in the morning and evening for the darshan of Lord Ayyappa Swamy. In this order, the devotees who do not realize that the manhole cover is sagging are getting affected by accidents, but the officials of the Cantonment Board are acting as if they do not care. People are worried that accidents are taking place due to lack of supervision of the authorities or manholes in many places. Even now, the locals want the high officials of the Cantonment Board to respond and solve the problems within the Cantonment Board.



Lions Club Marks Manipal Reddy's Jayanti with Service Activities 'All-in-One' Books Distributed to Class 10 Students



“(NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 12, (INDIAN CHRONICLE))“The Lions Club organised community service programmes on Friday to mark the fourth death anniversary of Manipal Reddy, founder of the Kamalanagar Spoorthi Club. As part of the initiative, Class 10 students of Yaprak Government High School received 'All-in-One' study books, which were handed over by former corporator Pajjuri Pavani Manipal Reddy and members of the Lions Club. Kushtaguda Zone Additional Deputy Commissioner Nallamotu Venkatramana attended the programme as the chief guest and formally launched the book distribution. Speaking on the occasion, he said Manipal Reddy was a close friend who al-

ways thought about serving people and often discussed community-oriented activities. He added that the Lions Club should continue expanding its service programmes inspired by Manipal Reddy's vision. Those present included MEO Manohar, Rajeev, DCS Ravi Yadav, DCT Kiran Kumar, R.C. Sridhar Goud, Chief Coordinator Sampath Kashapi Reddy, GST Kannan, President Venkatakrishna Reddy, Secretary Sudhakar Reddy, Rupa Reddy, Lakshmi Moorthy, Shekhar Reddy, Srinivasa Reddy, Ramadevi, Vanjari Praveen, Achchaya, Sambasiva Rao, Sanjeeda Reddy, Ramachari, Harinath, Madhusudan, Kashinath, Rajendra Prasad Raju, Rajesh Chode, Surender, Padmavati, Srilatha, Vijay Kumar, Govardhan, Ramu, Rajesh, Arun, Umesh Chary and others.

TWJF Medchal District 3rd Conference on December 14

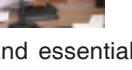
“(NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 12, (INDIAN CHRONICLE))“The Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) will hold its Medchal district 3rd conference on December 14 at 10 a.m. at the SS Function Hall in Neredmet, Malkajgiri, according to a statement from TWJF Medchal district convener G. Hariprasad and co-convener P. Mallesh. The conference will discuss key issues including housing sites for journalists, the health scheme, accident insurance, accreditation cards and other related matters. The organisers said that the meet-

ing will also review past programmes, outline future responsibilities and elect the new district committee. TWJF Adhoc Committee State Convener Pilli Ramchander, TWJF State General Secretary B. Basava Punnaiah, State Secretary and District In-charge S.K. Saleema, along with public representatives and other guests, will attend the event. The organisers appealed to all journalists in the district to participate and make the conference a success.

District Enters Silent Zone Ahead of December 14 Panchayat Polls : Collector Dhotre

“(Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 12 (Indian Chronicle))“Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Election Officer and Collector Venkatesh Dhotre announced that a silent period will be in force in the district until 1:00 PM on December 14, the closing time of polling for the second phase of Gram Panchayat elections.“In a statement issued on December 12, 2025, the Collector said that as per the directives of the State Election Commission, the silent period will commence 44 hours before the end of polling in all areas where elections are scheduled. Accordingly, the restrictions will be strictly implemented from 5:00 PM on December 12 until 1:00 PM on December 14.“During this period, public meetings, rallies, and processions are strictly prohibited. Likewise, no election campaign of any form—whether through cinema, television,

social media, or any other broadcasting platforms—may be carried out, including music, drama, or entertainment-based publicity.“The Collector cautioned that any violation of these rules will attract action under Section 214(2) of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018.“He further stated that all necessary officials and staff have been deployed, and essential materials arranged at polling stations to ensure a peaceful, transparent, and well-organized election process in the district.“Issued by the Department of Public Relations, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District



Medipally Police Conduct Cybercrime Awareness Program at Jama Masjid, Narapally



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 12, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Following the directions of the Telangana State DGP, Medipally Police conducted a cybercrime awareness program at Jama Masjid, Narapally. Around 200 Muslim residents of Narapally participated in the session, after which a rally was held on the Narapally main road. The event was organized under the second week of the six-week campaign themed Scam Se Bacho focusing on educating the public especially students about online frauds, cyber safety, and immediate steps to take if they fall victim to digital crimes.“Key Awareness Topics Discussed“1. Digital Arrest Scams“Students were cautioned not to trust phone calls or WhatsApp video calls made in the name of police, cybercrime officials, or courts. Threats such as a case is registered against you or your Aadhaar/Bank account is being misused“ are common signs of digital arrest scams. Police never arrest or demand payments, OTPs, or bank details over phone calls. Victims were advised to immediately contact the 1930 Cyber Helpline or inform the local cyber cell. “2. Sextortion“Students were warned to be cautious about unknown social media friend requests and video calls.

Accepting requests from strangers, sharing private photos, or engaging in intimate video calls can lead to sextortion. Participants were advised not to click on unknown links or download apps/APK files advertised as free recharge, scholarships, or rewards, as they often contain spyware capable of accessing photos, contacts, and camera to blackmail victims.“3. Blackmailing“Students were urged not to share personal photos, videos, or private information with new online contacts. Even after trust is built, caution is essential. Suspicious video calls, fake accounts, and unsafe links on Instagram, WhatsApp, Snapchat, and other platforms should be avoided. Any attempt at blackmail should be immediately reported to college authorities or the cyber helpline.“4. Cyber Slavery & Job Frauds“Participants were warned about online advertisements offering high-paying part-time jobs or work from abroad. Students were advised never to share passports or ID proofs with unknown recruiters or individuals. They were alerted about travel offers and interview calls from unknown companies, which may be attempts to misuse personal documents or open loans/accounts under their name.“Awareness Call“Medipally Police urged the residents to stay alert online, report suspicious cyber activities without delay, and spread awareness among family members and friends to prevent cybercrime victimization.

Private Employee Goes Missing From Balaji Nagar

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 12, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Balaji Nagar: A 20-year-old youth identified as Banothu Badri, son of Mangtha and a resident of Balaji Nagar, has been reported missing since December 7, 2025. Badri, who works in a private company, left home around 10:00 AM stating that he was going to work but did not return. His father checked at Badri's workplace, searched in surrounding areas, and contacted relatives, but there was no trace of him. The family also stated that Badri's mobile phone has remained switched off since he left home. Following a complaint filed by his father, police have registered a missing case and begun an investigation.



Senior Congress Leader Bhukya Dalsingh naik Resigns from the Party

“Yellandu , December 12, Indian Chronicle :“Senior Congress leader of Ilendu constituency in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Bhukya Dalsingh Naik, along with his wife Sukkala Bodu and former sarpanch Gangabai, resigned from the Congress Party on Friday. Announcing their decision at a press meet held at the Tekulapalli Mandal Press Club, Dalsingh became emotional while recalling his long association with the party.“Dalsingh stated that his political journey with the Congress began in 1987, and parting ways with the party in 2025 was “heart-breaking.” He recalled serving the party as a follower of Gonela Narayana, former minister Ratredy Venkata Reddy, and as an admirer of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. He said that despite many leaders switching parties over the years, he remained loyal to the Congress and ensured its continued presence in the Tekulapalli region.“However, expressing deep disappointment, Dalsingh alleged that he faced repeated humiliation within the party, which ultimately forced him and his wife to resign. The couple broke down in tears while narrating their



experiences.“Having served the Congress for over four decades, Dalsingh contested as the party's candidate for the Ilendu Assembly seat in 1999. He stated that he worked tirelessly to strengthen the party and support its candidates in both Assembly and local body elections.“He said it was painful to leave the party despite his unwavering commitment and service. Dalsingh added that he would announce his future political plans soon

Nityannadanam to Ayyappa

“Secunderabad Cantonment, December 12 (Indian Chronicle):“Ayyappa Sabari Tirtha Kshetra temple under construction in the Royal Enclave in the cantonment area is offering daily alms for the devotees. Devotees wear Ayyappa mala before the beginning of Kartika MaSam. This program is being organized with the help of donors on the advice of Gurushwami Kapil Barabari, a devotee of Ayyappa for nine years, so that they do not face any difficulties. As part of that, almsgiving was organized for Ayyappa devotees after the special pujas of the day, two hundred to three hundred devotees were giving alms a day.



Medchal District Congress President Vajresh Yadav attends felicitation event for former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav in Hyderabad

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 12, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav visited Hyderabad on Thursday for a private engagement. During his visit, he took part in a felicitation event organised at Adarsh Nagar, New MLA Quarters, under the initiative of former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav. Medchal District Congress Committee president Vajresh Yadav attended the programme. Speaking at the event, Akhilesh Yadav lauded the Telangana government's recent decision to declare the Sadar festival as a state festival. He said the move reflects Telangana's cultural diversity and strengthens the recognition of local traditions.



Grand Ayyappa Padipu..

“Secunderabad Cantonment, December 12 (Indian Chronicle):“Ayyappa Swami Mahapadipu was performed with grandeur on Friday at GVR Garden, Bowenpally under the direction of Santosh Swami. Ganapathi Kumaraswamy Lakshmi Devi and Ayyappa Swami photos were specially decorated and worshiped on the stage set up for this occasion. Former Vice President of the Cantonment Board Jampana Pratap attended the program as the chief guest and visited the Swami. A large number of Ayyappa Swami along with the devotees from the surrounding areas came to visit the Swami and worshiped him. Ayyappa Swami's songs sung by Shashi Gurushwami's bhajan team impressed everyone. Later, Ayyappa Swami gave alms to the initiates and Raju Yadav, Sarath, Sai Charan, Pawan and others participated in this program.



“Public Must Be Empowered With Healthcare Awareness: Senior Civil Judge Smt. V. Bhavani”



“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU:“Senior Civil Judge Smt. V. Bhavani emphasized the importance of public awareness regarding healthcare services. Speaking on the occasion of Universal Health Coverage Day on Friday at the Manthani Court premises, she urged citizens to fully utilize the medical facilities and various healthcare schemes implemented by the Central and State Governments.“She further stated that field-level medical staff and paralegal volunteers must proactively educate the public about the availability and benefits of

these services. In case of any deficiencies or lapses in service delivery, she encouraged people to approach the Mandal Legal Services Authority for assistance.“Bar Association Vice President Sri Raghottam Reddy highlighted the need for widespread awareness on preventive healthcare. He stressed that vaccinations and precautionary measures play a crucial role in combating long-term and chronic illnesses.“Additional Junior Civil Judge Smt. A. Sudharani advised the public to remain alert and informed about various diseases.“Gaddalapalli PHC Medical Officer Dr. Ch. Madhuri elaborated on the healthcare facilities being provided through Primary Health Centres (PHCs). She mentioned that every Tuesday, special awareness programmes under Arogya Mahila are being conducted to address women's and adolescent girls' health issues.“Advocates AGP B. Anjaneyulu, D. Vijay Kumar, Katakam Srinivas, Sashi Bhushan Kache, K. Vyas, along with medical staff and beneficiaries, actively participated in the programme.

Massive Security Arrangements for Messi Football Match at Uppal Stadium: Rachakonda CP Sudheer Babu



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 12 (Indian Chronicle):“Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu announced that elaborate security arrangements have been put in place for the Messi football match scheduled to be held on December 13 at the Uppal Cricket Stadium. Speaking at a press conference organized at the stadium on Friday, he revealed that 3,000 police personnel have been deployed to ensure fool-proof security.“As part of the security measures, 450 CCTV cameras and a mini command control room have been set up. Messi will be provided Z-category security. Since Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will also be attending the event, additional layers of security have been arranged. A special green channel has been created to ensure that Messi's movement route remains unobstructed.“He appealed to the public to showcase Hyderabad's culture and heritage by cooperating fully with the authorities. He clarified that no passes will be sold at the stadium; all passes are available only online. People without valid passes are requested not to come near the stadium.“CP Sudheer Babu said that Messi will play at a specific scheduled time, and entry will not be allowed once the match begins. He urged fans to arrive early and to make use of public transport, including RTC buses and the metro rail,

to avoid traffic congestion.“To ensure the safety of women, SHE Teams will be deployed. Visitors must park their vehicles only in the 34 designated parking locations.“Calling it a landmark event for Hyderabad, he appealed to citizens and students to act responsibly. The entire security setup will also be monitored using drone cameras.“He said that certain items will not be allowed inside the stadium, including laptops, banners, cameras, cigarettes, matchboxes, lighters, binoculars, pens, helmets, pet animals, firecrackers, power banks, and selfie sticks. He urged sports lovers to cooperate with these restrictions.

Jawahar Navodaya Entrance Test Today; All Arrangements in Place



“Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 12, (Indian Chronicle):“The PM Shri Kendriya Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya located atop Trishul Pahad in Kagaznagar town has completed all arrangements for the Jawahar

JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SELECTION TEST – 2026.

Navodaya Entrance Examination for admission into Class VI for the academic year 2026–27. The examination will be held on Saturday across 24 centres in the erstwhile Adilabad district, Principal Repala Krishna stated in a press release issued on Friday.“A total of 6,196 students from across the erstwhile district have applied for 80 available seats, he said. The entrance test will be conducted from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, and students have been advised to reach their respective centres by 10:30 AM.“Meanwhile, Sirpur (T) examination centre was inspected on Friday by Additional District Collector (Local Bodies) Deepak Tiwari and Kagaznagar Sub-Collector Shraddha Shukla, who reviewed the arrangements in detail.“In view of the examination, police officials announced that security arrangements have been made at all test centres across the district.

CM unveils Magh Mela logo in Gorakhpur

GNS News Agency, Dec 12

The government issued a statement saying the logo reflects the spiritual significance of chanting, penance, and Kalpavas at the Sangam during the month of Magh. Featuring the seven energy chakras based on the constellation positions of this period, the logo captures the sacred Akshaya Vat symbolising eternal merit, the cosmic journey of Surya Dev and Chandra Dev with the 27 constellations, along with the Sanatan Dharma, and elements of environmental harmony.“The inscription 'Maghe nimajjanam yatra papam pariharet tatah' highlights the belief that bathing in the month of Magh absolves one of all sins,” the statement said.

“Designed by consultants Ajay Saxena and Pragya Ajay on behalf of the Mela Authority, the logo was formally released in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Gorakhpur. Its design also mirrors the astrological positions of the Sun and Moon during Magh,” the statement said.“Indian astrological calculations state that the Moon completes its cycle across the 27 constellations in about 27.3 days. The dates of the Magh Mela are determined



based on these exact celestial movements. The month of Magh begins when the Sun enters Capricorn, and the Moon aligns with the Ashlesha-Purva Phalguni constellation on the full-moon day,” it added.The Magh Mela in Prayagraj, scheduled to begin in January, is likely to attract around 12-15 crore pilgrims during its one-and-a-half-month duration, the chief minister had earlier said.

TIME magazine names 'Architects of AI' as its person of year for 2025



GNS News Agency, Dec 12

The "Architects of AI" were named TIME magazine's person of the year for 2025 on Thursday (December 11, 2025). The magazine cited 2025 as the year when the potential of artificial intelligence "roared into view" with no turning back. "For delivering the age of thinking machines, for wowing and worrying humanity, for transforming the present and transcending the possible, the Architects of AI are TIME's 2025 Person of the Year," TIME said in a social media post. Artificial Intelligence: A history of the present

The magazine was deliberate in selecting people — the "individuals who imagined, designed, and built AI" — rather than the technology itself, though there would have

been some precedent for that. "We've named not just individuals but also groups, more women than our founders could have imagined (though still not enough), and, on rare occasions, a concept: the endangered earth, in 1988, or the personal computer, in 1982," wrote Sam Jacobs, the editor-in-chief, in an explanation of the choice. "The drama surrounding the selection of the PC over Apple's Steve Jobs later became the stuff of books and a movie." It made sense for Time to anoint AI because 2025 was the year that it shifted from "a novel technology explored by early adopters to one where a critical mass of consumers see it as part of their mainstream lives," Thomas Husson, principal analyst at research firm Forrester, said by email. AI was a leading contender for the top slot, according to prediction markets, along with tech CEOs Jensen Huang of Nvidia and Sam Altman of OpenAI. Pope Leo XIV, the first American pope whose election this year followed the death of Pope Francis, was also considered a contender, with President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and New York Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani topping lists as well. Mr. Trump was named the 2024 person of the year by the magazine after his winning his second bid for the White House, succeeding Taylor Swift, who was the 2023 person of the year. The magazine's selection dates from 1927, when its editors have picked the person they say most shaped headlines over the previous 12 months.

Defence experts term Russia India's most reliable military partner

GNS News Agency, Dec 12

Defence experts have reaffirmed Russia's position as India's most dependable defence partner, highlighting Moscow's consistent support, willingness for technology transfer, and openness to co-production. Thomas Mathew, retired IAS officer who has served in the Ministries of Defence and Finance, described Russia as an "unquestioning and reliable" defence supplier. He said Russia's S-400 air defence system proved to be a game-changer during recent conflict situations with Pakistan, and the offer of the S-500 — though expected to take time — marked another major opportunity for India. Experts noted that additional S-400 missile systems would significantly bolster India's air defence capabilities, while discussions on the advanced S-500 system signal the next phase of strategic cooperation.

"Russia has never withheld technology, never questioned India's decisions, and never linked military support to conditions," he noted. "If any country has consistently supported India's defence modernisation, it is Russia. Their readiness for technology transfer is unmatched and crucial for strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative. India has already seen technological evolution through joint projects like BrahMos." In June this year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a comprehensive bilateral meeting with Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov in Qingdao, China, where a discussion was held over the timely delivery of S-400 air defence system to India, to which the Russian leader confirmed it of timely delivery. An initial order of five S-400s was placed by India and three had been delivered. The remaining two S-400 units were on track, with deliveries expected to be completed in the stipulated time frame, he announced. Out of the remaining two, one would be delivered next year 2026 and the last one in 2027.



Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (retired), Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies, emphasised that India-Russia defence ties had transformed from a buyer-seller model to co-production and technology sharing. While no major deal was signed during the recent leadership-level talks, he noted that both sides agreed to explore new avenues for joint development. He added that after the S-400, India would naturally evaluate the S-500 system when it became available. "The India-Russia partnership is here to stay. It sends a clear message that India chooses its partners based on national interest — not external pressure." Experts also pointed out Russia's enduring military strength and economic resilience despite sanctions, asserting that Moscow remained the only nation capable of offering India the scale of technology transfer it seeks. Although no major defence announcement was expected during the bilateral summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held recently, experts underlined that several agreements in other sectors reflect the continued depth of the strategic partnership.

'Very positive': Italian Deputy PM Tajani on meeting with PM Modi



GNS News Agency, Dec 12

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani on Wednesday (December 10, 2025) described his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "very positive", highlighting the strong bilateral relations between India and Italy. Also Read | India, Italy announce joint initiative for co-op in combating financing of terrorism as PM Modi meets Meloni. Mr. Tajani, who is also the Foreign Minister, is on a three-day visit to India.

Speaking to PTI Videos after the meeting with Mr. Modi on Wednesday (December 10) evening, Mr. Tajani said the situation in West Asia is much better now and expressed optimism over the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) project. During the meeting, the two leaders

discussed deepening industrial collaboration and cultural exchanges while underlining India's key role in facilitating dialogue between Russia and Ukraine to achieve a peaceful resolution. "India is very important for pushing Russia towards achieving an agreement with Ukraine," Mr. Tajani said. The Italian deputy PM also extended a formal invitation to Modi on behalf of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to visit Italy next year. "In 2026, he (PM Modi) will be in my country, in Italy," Mr. Tajani said. A significant part of the discussions focused on the IMEC, a strategic initiative that envisages connectivity from India through the Middle East (including Israel and Saudi Arabia) to Europe via Italy.

When asked about IMEC project delays, Tajani said the situation in the Middle East has improved considerably. "...We need a ceasefire now. The situation is much better for this now," he said, adding that both India and Italy remain strongly committed to the project. "We will start early. We need to work hard with the other countries. India and Italy are strongly engaged. Now the situation in the Middle East is much better, so it is possible to move in the right direction. I am optimistic. Italy and India are on the front line," the Italian deputy PM said. Mr. Tajani also revealed that he had discussed IMEC during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia two weeks ago, indicating active diplomatic efforts to push the corridor forward. The IMEC, announced during the G20 Summit in New Delhi in 2023, is aimed at enhancing trade connectivity between Asia, the Gulf and Europe.

Nigerian children reunite with their parents after being released from abduction

GNS News Agency, Dec 12

Papiri: Several parents welcomed the return late Tuesday night of their children, who were abducted last month when gunmen stormed their school. "It has not been easy for me... But today, in fact, I have a little bit of joy, especially because there is still one abducted. But I am now happy with this one that I have gotten," Luka Illaya, one of the parents in the hall, said.

One of his sons was released, while another remains with the abductors. His son, who hugged him tightly, is one of the 100 students released over the weekend after they were abducted from a Nigerian Catholic school on Nov. 21. The Papiri school abductions, where more than 300 students and staff were taken, was the latest in a string of mass abductions that have rocked Nigeria in the past decade. Days earlier, 25 students were also abducted in nearby Kebbi state. The government did not release any details about the released Papiri students and the fate of at least 150 other children and staff who remain in captivity. Fifty of the students escaped in the hours following the

abductions. "We thank all the security agencies that helped in the rescue of our children. We are pleading that God should give them more strength to be able to rescue the remaining children," Reverend Sister Felicia Gyang, the principal of the school, said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abductions. Analysts say school children are a target for armed groups seeking a high ransom from the government and communities. Such abductions have often commanded national and international attention, with the pope last month calling for the release of the Papiri students in a Sunday address from the Vatican. Since 2014, when Boko Haram kidnapped 276 girls from Chibok, there have been at least a dozen mass school abductions with at least 1,799 students kidnapped, according to a tally. Nigerian President Bola Tinubu on X earlier this week called on security agencies and governors to do more to protect children from falling into the hands of abductors, saying students "should no longer be sitting ducks."

The national song debate, a reading between the lines



Much before the celebrations of the 150th year of the national song, Vande Mataram, on November 7, 2025, one of India's leading music directors composed a song woven around the Vande Mataram tune (the album, Maa Tujhe Salaam). It was a song that was immensely popular. So, why the sudden focus on Vande Mataram and a debate in Parliament which saw accusations that words of the original song were muted to appease certain sections, and that all this amounted to a betrayal by the Congress?

The so-called 'mutilation' of the song — a line being peddled by the government of the day — was part of an official resolution of the Congress Party's Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Calcutta on October 30, 1937. The CWC meeting had Jawaharlal Nehru chairing the session and almost all the big stalwarts which included Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Bhuabhai Desai, Jannahal Bajaj, Acharya J.B. Kripalani (General Secretary), Pattabi Seetharamiah, Rajaji, Acharya Narendra Dev, Jayaprakash Narayan, and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in attendance.

The sense of the meeting Though Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the CWC, he was a special invitee and was finalising the working of the resolution which was moved by Rajendra Prasad (later, the President of India) and seconded by Sardar Patel (the Home Minister in independent India). The resolution was unanimous: "The Working Committee have given careful consideration to the question that has been raised in regard to the Congress anthem 'Vande Mataram'. This song has a historic background and has evoked deep enthusiasm and powerful sentiment in the course of our struggle for freedom. It has thus acquired a unique place in the national movement. The Committee recognize the validity of the objections raised by Muslim friends to certain parts of the song. While the Committee have taken note of such objections in so far as it has felt justified in doing so, it is unable to go any further in the matter. The Committee have, however, come to the conclusion that the first two stanzas of the song, which alone have been generally sung on Congress and other public occasions, should be the only stanzas adopted as the National Song for the purpose of the Congress and other public bodies and functions. These two stanzas are in no sense objectionable even from the standpoint of those who have raised objections, and they contain the essence of the song. The Committee recommend that wherever the 'Vande Mataram' song is sung at national gatherings, only these two stanzas should be sung, and the version and music prepared by Rabindranath Tagore should be followed. The Committee trust that this decision will remove all causes of complaint and will have the willing acceptance of all communities in the country." Prime Minister Narendra Modi has indirectly targeted this resolution of the CWC in which even Sardar Patel was a part of. But has the Prime Minister realised that he has attacked a spectrum of national leaders, whose remarks on the song are being used selectively to try and score points? What was the purpose of debating this in Parliament? Was it to have a debate on the issue for the second time much after the one in the Constituent Assembly which sealed the issue? Composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Vande Mataram was first published in the literary journal, Bangadarshan, in 1875 and was sung at the 1896 session of the Congress by Tagore. All these exercises took place much before the partition of Bengal.

There is no doubt that the song became the spirit of all meetings of the national movement which also had substantial representation by Muslims also. It was in 1935, when the Government of India Act was enacted, that Indians got a chance to participate in the electoral exercise to get into Provincial Assemblies and the Central Legislative Assembly. The issue of participation in the elections held in 1937 had inner party repercussions. The Congress captured the Provincial Assemblies. Some were won by the Muslim League. When the Congress entered the portals of power, it also had the duty to ensure a diverse culture and have Vande Mataram sung at government functions. The Calcutta session became the focal point to decide to have the edited version so that it would have a pan-India appeal. The song

obviously had references to Hindu goddesses, but if one wanted to ensure the broader unity of religious groups, a basic understanding on its theme was essential. It was this pragmatic decision which made them contest elections in alliance and continue in the government for the next two years. In 1939, the Congress ministries resigned in eight provinces of British India.

Later, when the Constituent Assembly was convened and the interim parliament was doubling as the Constituent Assembly in 1947, it had 208 Congress members, 73 Muslim League members, and 15 others. It also had 93 members nominated from the princely States, giving it a total of 389 members. After Partition, and the departure of the Muslim League members from the Constituent Assembly, there were only 299 members — a majority of them from the Hindu fold. It will not be out of place to state that the entry of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was possible when he was elected from Bengal Assembly by the Muslim League-dominated Assembly. After Partition, he could not continue and it was Nehru who made the decision to make the Bombay Governor nominate Dr. Ambedkar to the Assembly.

Making a choice The Constituent Assembly also had ideas of having a national anthem for the country. Members were made to listen to three important songs that were in contention — Vande Mataram, Sare Jahan Se Achha and Jana Gana Mana. Though secular in its meaning and set to a marching tune, Sare Jahan Se Achha was not picked as the lyricist, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, had become an ardent Pakistan supporter. Even after the final draft of the Constitution was adopted in 1949 in the House headed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and two days before the coming into force of the Constitution, in 1950, Vande Mataram was sung in the House by a group. However, Members were in favour of Jana Gana Mana, passing a resolution that it would be the National Song. The Constitution, which has 395 Articles, never referred to any national song as part of the constitutional framework. It was only in 1976, by the 42nd amendment, under Mrs. Gandhi's tenure, that a provision was introduced for a fundamental duty under Article 51A (which also had a clause obligating every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideas and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem). It was later, under the Prevention Of Insults To National Honour Act, 1971, that disrespect to the National Anthem was made a penal offence. The Supreme Court of India, in Bijoy Emmanuel vs State of Kerala, upheld the constitutional rights to freedom of religion and expression provided that actions do not disrupt public order or show disrespect to national symbols. Despite being a Hindu majority, the Constituent Assembly selected Jana Gana Mana as the national anthem and was of the opinion that Vande Mataram would be the national song under its adopted version. It is against this background that one has to view the sudden ebullition over Vande Mataram with the request made by those in the ruling party to Members of Parliament to consider whether they should add a new fundamental duty under Article 51A, to accord the same respect to Vande Mataram as Jana Gana Mana.

In 2017, Justice M.V. Muralidharan of the Madras High Court gave a direction to the Tamil Nadu School Education Department that schools must sing Vande Mataram at least once a week, and crooned in offices once a month. Noting that the song could also be played in other government and private establishments at least once in a month, the judge said that if people felt that it was too difficult to sing it in Bengali or in Sanskrit, steps could be taken to translate the song into Tamil. The Delhi High Court asked the Government of India to treat Vande Mataram on a par with the National Anthem. What is curious is that it was the same Narendra Modi government that told the court that both the National Anthem and the National Song had their sanctity and deserve equal respect. However, it said that the subject matter of the proceedings could never be a subject matter of a writ. The Modi government defended its position in court against granting equal legal status to the National Song as the National Anthem by citing the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, which specifically criminalises disrupting the anthem but lacks a parallel provision for the National Song, highlighting the legal distinction. The new controversy being sought to be created now over the National Song, 75 years after it was settled down by the Constituent Assembly, makes one doubt the intentions of the present government. Is there an agenda to replace the National Song by a simple resolution of Parliament akin to the similar exercise done to cancel the special status of Jammu and Kashmir? The amount of importance and publicity being given now to a non-issue certainly makes one to believe that it could be the next move of the Narendra Modi government — which is to bring in a different National Anthem for the country without disturbing the Constitution of India and any law to the contrary.

Debate on Vande Mataram an attempt to divert attention from economic issues: Opposition

GNS News Agency, Dec 12

The Opposition on Tuesday (December 9, 2025) demanded that the Union Government take up for discussion in Parliament economic and livelihood issues rather than dwelling on topics to "divert" the attention of people from real issues. "When there are economic challenges in front of the country, then to have a political discussion on the national song Vande Mataram is just an attempt to divert attention," said Opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, during a debate on 150 years of the National Song. Mr. Kharge said Parliament can pay true homage to Bharat Mata by discussing and resolving the issues of common people. He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was discussing Vande Mataram, keeping the West Bengal election in mind. Mr. Kharge said the discussion on Vande Mataram was to divert the people's attention from the real challenges, such as economic issues, rising unemployment, and depreciation in the value of the rupee, and several social issues.

He said the country's influence on neighbouring countries is decreasing and China's influence is increasing. "Nepal is demanding investment from China. Bangladesh, with China and Pakistan, is participating in trilateral meetings. Beijing is openly pulling South Asia towards itself under its strategic plan," he said. The Congress chief alleged that the Prime Minister does not say a word against China. Mr. Kharge said that during the tenure of the United Progressive Alliance, the rupee was valued at ₹55-60 against the U.S. dollar and at present it is at ₹90. "It's just like someone has 'fallen from the Himalayas,'" he said.

He said it had become a habit of the BJP to abuse the Congress and to target Jawaharlal Nehru and spoil his image, "which is impossible as he is the tallest leader of this country". "Stop spreading lies and slamming national leaders to cover up your own failures. Learn to respect the lead-



ers who built the Constitution and the leaders who sacrificed everything for our country's independence," he said.

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva said the government should also acknowledge the contributions of freedom fighters from South India. He urged the Centre to dedicate the next warship to the memory of freedom fighter Chempakaraman Pillai. Mr. Siva said Pillai coined the slogan Jai Hind, which was later popularised by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, and the new generation does not know about the contributions of such unsung heroes of the freedom struggle. RJD member A.D. Singh said Vande Mataram was not created by the BJP. CPI(M) MP V. Sivadasan said the national song talks about Bharat Mata, who is a poor woman, struggling to feed millions of her children. AAP leader Sanjay Singh said the BJP was not giving respect to the motherland as it was trying to hide its failures in the garb of nationalism. "The government is just trying to hide its failures and crimes behind the sloganeering," he said. "We will not allow any government in this country to plunder in the name of slogans like Vande Mataram and Bharat Mata ki Jai. The government does not want to discuss matters like unemployment, price rise," he said.

What do forensic experts do after blasts? | Explained



The story so far: On November 10, New Delhi witnessed a massive explosion near the Red Fort complex. An i20 car parked at the signal of the complex exploded, destroying several nearby cars, buses, and the people inside them. As of now, 13 people have been confirmed dead.

What do forensic experts do?

Experts of the Explosives Department of the Delhi Forensic Laboratory visited the scene within half an hour along with police personnel. The primary job of forensic experts in such situations is to observe and analyse the cause from a scientific perspective. They collect necessary samples and arrange for quick laboratory tests so that the cause of the accident can be found, or the identities of the people involved in the crime can be verified in a science-based manner. It is worth noting that various media houses often report that forensic members collect samples from the site, which is partly accurate; the site does provide a wealth of information for any skilled forensic expert. However, an explosion is different from other crimes; here everything is shattered in an instant. Explosions generate intense pressure and heat, causing everything at the scene to burn to ashes, thereby complicating the work of experts. Despite the challenges, they persist in their efforts. Locard's principle states that a criminal will leave something at the scene and bring something when he arrives; both are equally important as evidence in forensics. Thus, there must be a sample linking the suspect to the scene, from which it could be possible to guess the intensity of the explosion, the source, and what kind of explosives were used.

Photographers are also present and take pictures of the site from different angles, and experts make a sketch of it, which serve as a guideline for various stages of analysis. Along with this, various burnt pieces (which experts call debris), broken parts of the car, carbon powder, etc. are collected from the scene. These samples are then analysed by explosives experts in the laboratory using spectroscopic and chromatographic techniques to determine the

type of chemicals used. During the on-site inspection, it is necessary to figure out if any piece of electronic gadget has been found, because in remote-controlled explosions, an auto-timer, the best activation technique, is usually used. However, no timer or electronic circuit has been found in the Delhi incident.

What kind of tests are done?

After gathering and analysing the initial data, experts then try to reconstruct the crime scene to better understand the explosion's timing. For this, experts use Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and Attenuated Total Reflectance-FTIR (ATR-FTIR). In these tests, forensic experts analyse the spectrum of the absorbed light to find out how the collected samples interact with infrared light. The chemical composition of explosives is detected using field-specific Raman spectroscopy. Advanced Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) is used to analyse the morphology of the fragments found after the explosion, while Energy Dispersive X-ray (EDX) techniques are used for fundamental analysis of the residues. Scientists also use thermal analysis to determine information about explosives, such as chemical activity and stability. Additionally, fire is an important factor in any explosion — how it spreads, how far it spreads, and the total loss caused by fire all depend on statistical data. That's why experts use laser-based scene mapping, flashpoint testing, etc. to try to determine the source of the fire and the presence of any combustible material that caused it to spread so much. Therein they decide whether it was an accident or an intentional explosion. Are only explosives experts involved? In the current incident, the role of the vehicle is crucial. Therefore, CCTV footage of the car needs to be thoroughly examined to find out whether anyone got in or got down in order to form an idea about the attacker. A cyber-forensic expert is necessary to achieve this. Again, experience says that in any accident, especially in the case of organised heinous crimes like explosions, the engine number and the chassis (the metal frame of a vehicle onto which the other parts fit) number of the cars are changed before they are used for the crime purpose, so it is necessary to find out the actual engine number and chassis number of the car with the help of 'thermochemical examination,' which is popularly known as etching. Typically, the investigating agency employs a forensic physicist for this. Moreover, DNA analysis of the body parts found at the crime scene is a must, as their families are waiting. Therefore, in the event of an explosion, multiple divisions of a forensic science laboratory must collaborate to assist investigators in solving the crime and to ensure that the scientific analysis of various evidence is presented before a court of law.

Exploited workers, a labour policy's empty promises



small medium enterprises, merging Skill India to tackle 91.75% graduate mismatches. Yet, absent AI bias safeguards risk caste- and gender-based Article 15 violations. Ignoring the Wages Code minima for 12 million gig workers — where "flexibility" is a cover for abuse — and unclear transition benefits demand ethics audits and union-vetted algorithms to curb tech-driven inequality.

The policy targets 35% female labour participation by 2030 (from 33.7%) through affordable childcare, flexible gigs, equal pay and apprenticeships — aligning with Article 15's gender equity and the ILO Convention 195's mobility goals. However, without quotas, penalties or sufficient maternity support for informal workers, there can hardly be success. Overlooking youth mental health and caste-gender data gaps hides the unique challenges that Dalit women face, making union-led audits essential for true dignity and progress. The policy's green-tech vision promotes AI-enhanced safety measures and reskilling opportunities for coal workers, aligning with the climate goals of Sustainable Development Goal 13 and the livelihood rights of Article 21. However, "just transitions" lack substance without income support or union involvement, risking violations of ILO Convention 29. Widening rural-AI gaps and urban-centric green jobs marginalise 400 million informal workers. Tripartite funding and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) safeguards are essential to avert an exploitative eco-trap that undermines dignity. The policy, which hints at convergence through Labour and Employment Policy Evaluation Index (LEPEI) dashboards, aims to realise Article 12's vision — of just governance — by linking the National Education Policy with Digital India. However, weak enforcement of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act risks enabling surveillance and undermining Article 19's freedoms. Amid exploitation and digital optimism, the Shram Shakti Niti 2025 projects a "rights-driven, future-ready" vision for Viksit Bharat. But there are gaps beneath its ambitious rhetoric such as weak regulatory oversight, digital exclusion, unenforced penalties and a fragile adherence to ILO conventions. All these would only accelerate the decline of unions in an expanding gig economy. It is about dignity, rights and justice. Without concrete funding and institutional safeguards, the promise of universal social protection may collapse under its own weight. For millions trapped in informal and forced labour, the policy's success will ultimately be measured not by its digital dashboards, but by its power to restore dignity, rights, and justice to India's working poor. The 2025-47 rollout needs urgent pilots, with rights audits for accountability. There needs to be tripartite enforcement, offline access for digitally excluded workers, and transparent grievance redressal. Without these, there is the risk of symbolic rhetoric over justice for India's labouring millions.

Youngster from UP arrested for job fraud in Asifabad

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: A youngster from Uttar Pradesh was arrested on charges of duping the public by offering jobs in Sirpur (T) mandal centre on Tuesday.

Police said Abhishek, a 19-year-old polytechnic diploma student from Noida, was apprehended for cheating people by promising employment in return for posting reviews of business establishments on Google. A cheating case was registered against Abhishek, his brother-in-law Raju Athri and others for extracting Rs.5 lakh from a resident of Sirpur (T) mandal headquarters.

During interrogation, Abhishek confessed to committing the offence to make a fast buck. He admitted to transferring the funds to Athri after receiving Rs.5 lakh from the victim.

Trump's 'Spear of the South' sparks regional alarm as Venezuela braces for U.S. moves



Barely hours after U.S. President Donald Trump had signed the bill ending the longest government shutdown on Friday (November 14, 2025), his Secretary of War, Peter Hegseth, fired off a tweet, declaring a new military operation, "Spear of the South", against "narco-terrorists in the Western hemisphere". On Sunday (November 16, 2025), the Trump government went a step further as it announced that a Venezuelan criminal group would be classified as a terrorist organisation and that it views President Nicolas Maduro as "the head of that cartel". With Mr. Trump back in the White House on Sunday (November 16, 2025) after a weekend at Mar-a-Lago—and Washington still consumed by the uproar over the Epstein files—the decision is seen in the region as a major escalation for a possible strike on Venezuela. Tensions have been rising for weeks, forcing regional powers to state their positions. President Lula of Brazil, speaking at a meeting in Bogota on Sunday (November 16, 2025), pressed other leaders to confront the continued U.S. attacks on boats in the Caribbean. Colombian President Gustavo Petro was more direct as he described Mr. Trump as a leader "intent on intimidation" and called the U.S. military build-up "an unmistakable act of aggression against Latin America".

In recent weeks, the U.S. has moved massive fire-power into the Caribbean: more than 15,000 personnel, a dozen warships, the biggest aircraft carrier and a submarine; more than 10 F-35s have also been stationed at Puerto Rico. The political messaging has matched the military build-up. On Sunday (November 16, 2025), U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Mr. Maduro of enabling "terrorist violence" across the hemisphere. "Regime-change bid" To local observers, the scale of the U.S. deployment—and their rhetoric—looks like the opening act of a regime-change operation in Venezuela. Diego Sequera, a Caracas-based analyst and co-founder of the research group Misión Verdad (Truth Mission), believes that Washington's pressure aims to trigger an internal collapse in Venezuela. "The goal is to generate enough heat to force some kind of breakdown inside the government," he says. "So far, the pressure has damaged the currency and added to economic strain, but it has not changed the political situation on the ground," says Mr. Sequera.

If the U.S. wanted to scare Mr. Maduro into a negotiation process, it has not happened. Rafael Duarte Villa, a Venezuelan who teaches international relations at the University of São Paulo, says the pressure has only hardened the government's posture. "Maduro has put his military forces on unprecedent alert. The government, feeling cornered and demonised, has mobilised not just the armed forces but also civilians, grassroots organisations and the

militias," says Mr. Villa. "The expectation that he would step down or flee—perhaps to Russia—is clearly not happening. His grip on power, for now, remains intact." Mr. Maduro is also backed by Venezuela's formidable military. Armed with mostly Russian defence platforms, including Su-30 jets, T-72 tanks, S-300 and Buk missiles, Igla-S launchers, and Kalashnikov rifles, the military comprises more than 123,000 active troops, backed by almost 8,000 reservists and thousands of militias who support the government. Some estimates put the total number of soldiers at 300,000. Patricia Marins, a Rio de Janeiro-based defence analyst, says Venezuela fields the most capable military in South America. "No other country in the region has SAMs or anti-ship missiles comparable to Venezuela, but sanctions have left parts of the arsenal without maintenance," says Ms. Marins. "Russia has shipped some spare parts in recent weeks, but it will be difficult to effectively resist a military attack given the U.S. build-up in the Caribbean." But observers believe Washington's real goal may be less about defeating Venezuela militarily and more about reasserting U.S. power in the region. In recent months, the U.S. has repeatedly used the term "narco-terrorism" to pressure governments from Mexico to Colombia and even Brazil. Mr. Diego Sequera argues that the U.S. justification simply does not hold. "One thing is absolutely clear: this is not about fighting drug trafficking. That claim goes against every element of reality," he says. For him, the ambiguity is intentional. "What began as a confrontation with Venezuela now touches the broader Caribbean, especially with Colombia drawn in and Trinidadian fishermen among those killed at sea," says Mr. Sequera. If anything, Washington's posture marks a return of the Monroe Doctrine, now camouflaged in the language of "narco-terrorism" to contain the growing influence of emerging powers such as China and Russia in the hemisphere. Mr. Sequera argues that this is precisely why his country has become a target. "Venezuela is a key player for multipolarity. Its ties with Russia, China, Iran and others make it a symbolic and practical challenge to U.S. dominance," says the Venezuelan analyst. "Washington's goal is to reassert control over the entire hemisphere." Mr. Duarte Villa agrees that the current escalation could be part of a broader effort by Washington to reclaim a lost sphere of influence. "Under Trump, Latin America has returned to the centre of American strategic planning. The echoes of older doctrines are unmistakable. Even when officials now speak of the region as their "neighbourhood" rather than "backyard, the underlying intent is the same: to restore U.S. primacy in a hemisphere where America's grip has visibly weakened," says Mr. Duarte Villa. More theatre than strategy Despite all the noise and thunder, this situation may be more theatre than strategy—a projection of force at a time when Trump is grappling with political storms in Washington. A full-scale invasion of Venezuela, says Mr. Duarte Villa, would carry risks the Americans cannot control: urban warfare in Caracas, civilian losses, the prospect of U.S. soldiers returning home dead, refugees going into neighbouring countries and a fierce regional backlash. "There could be significant numbers of casualties in a ground invasion of Venezuela. Such losses would demand answers from the administration at home, especially if the operation faltered. For that reason, a major military attack is unlikely," says the professor. In a region shaped by old doctrines and new challenges, even the threat of war seems to be a message in itself.

Why is there a cold wave over parts of Telangana? | Explained



On November 17, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned of a cold wave in parts of Telangana. The nighttime temperatures have fallen into single digits in many locations. Kohir and Yalal districts recorded around 8.1°C while Adilabad, Medak, Kumaram Bheem Asifabad, Nirmal, and Sangareddy have reported minimum temperatures between around 8°C and 10°C — all well below what is normal for this time of year. The IMD has issued a cold wave alert for the latter five districts on November 18, with similar conditions expected on November 19.

What is a cold wave?

The IMD has a precise rule for when the term 'cold wave' can be used. For plains regions like Telangana, a cold wave is said to occur when the minimum temperature is 10°C or lower and at least 4.5°C below the long-term normal — or when it falls to 4°C or lower even without such a large departure. In the current spell, minimum temperatures in parts of the State are 3-5°C below normal, so some stations are meeting this condition, pulling them into the 'cold wave' category. The immediate cause lies to the north and northwest of Telangana. After recent weather systems over north and central India, a broad region of high pressure has formed there, and it is sending cold, dry winds from the interior of the country towards the Deccan plateau.

According to the IMD's national bulletins, the cold to severe cold wave conditions are also affecting Central India and that cold wave conditions are likely over Chhattisgarh, Marathwada, central Maharashtra, and Vidarbha on November 18-19. Telangana is being swept by an extension of this larger mass of cold air. Local conditions can amplify this cooling. Much of Telangana lies on the inland Deccan plateau, far from the sea, so it lacks the moderating influence of large water bodies. At present, according to local reports, the skies are mostly clear and the air is dry. In such conditions, the ground loses heat quickly after sunset because there are no clouds and little moisture to trap the outgoing heat. This radiational cooling drags the nighttime temperature down even when the daytime temperature gets close to 28°C to 31°C.

Is there a cold wave in Hyderabad?

The cold also isn't uniform across the State because geography and land use differ. Telangana's northern and western interior districts, including Adilabad, Kumaram Bheem Asifabad, Medak, and parts of Sangareddy, are more exposed to the incoming northerly flow and have more open, rural land, which cools quickly at night. Hyderabad, with its urban heat island and slightly different local conditions, has also cooled: recent minimum temperatures have

been around 13°C to 14°C, yet the city's nights haven't reported single digit temperature readings. Thus it has been spared the IMD's official 'cold wave' label as well. Taken together, for now, the unusual chill is a result of Telangana sitting downstream of a much larger continental cold wave, combined with clear skies, dry air, and particular characteristics of the Deccan Plateau. According to the IMD, the cold conditions over the specific districts are likely to persist on November 18 and 19, after which minimum temperatures should slowly rise as the supply of cold air dwindles and the pressure pattern changes.

What can people do?

Until then, as The Hindu had reported, doctors have urged locals to take precautions. Dr Rajeev, a Hyderabad-based pulmonologist, had said the "homeless, elderly, economically disadvantaged, persons with disabilities, pregnant or lactating women, children, outdoor workers, managers of night shelters and farmers" are particularly vulnerable in very cold conditions. Such conditions, he explained, could exacerbate symptoms of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and other long-standing lung conditions. "Cold and dry air also increases the risk of common respiratory infections, including the common cold, influenza and pneumonia. Deep and slow breathing techniques can help improve lung function and reduce shortness of breath," he had said.

SpaceX launches NASA's Sentinel-6BA satellite to monitor sea level change

New Delhi: SpaceX on Monday launched NASA's Sentinel-6B satellite aimed at monitoring sea level change, the US space agency said. Sentinel-6B is an Earth-observing satellite jointly developed by NASA and US and European partners to observe the ocean and measure sea level rise. The satellite will build on over 30 years of sea level data to improve weather forecasts. It will help improve coastal planning, protect critical infrastructure, and advance weather forecasts. "Liftoff! The latest in a long line of satellites to monitor sea level change, Sentinel-6B, successfully launched at 12:21 am ET (10:55 AM IST) on Monday, from Vandenberg Space Force Base," NASA said in a post on social media platform X. "This is the second Sentinel-6 satellite Falcon 9 launched after delivering the Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite to orbit in November 2020. Together, the two spacecraft will measure sea levels, improve forecasts of ocean currents as well as wind and wave conditions, and enhance both short- and long-term weather predictions," added SpaceX. Sentinel-6B will deliver data on about 90 per cent of Earth's ocean, providing direct benefits to humanity. The data is key to helping improve public safety, city planning, and protecting commercial and defense interests. Data from the satellite will also help NASA prepare for the next phase of space exploration, including safer reentry of astronauts returning from Artemis missions.

IndiGo chairman denies claims that airline engineered crisis; says board was engaged on FDTL rules for 'many months'



In his first public statement since widespread operational disruptions hit IndiGo last week, the chairman of the airline's board Vikram Singh Mehta rejected allegations that the crisis was engineered and that the airline tried to influence the government over the revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules. Mehta also said that claims that the airline's board was not engaged on the FDTL issue are "not correct". The IndiGo chairman announced that the airline's board will involve an external technical expert to work with the management and help determine the root causes and ensure corrective action, "so that this level of disruption never occurs again". Apologising for the disruption that impacted tens of thousands of passengers, Mehta said that while he had been urged to make a statement on the issue, he chose to wait because the airline's board felt that its first duty was to support IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and his team, restore operations, and help passengers who were affected. With the airline's operations now stabilised, Mehta said that he felt it was the right time for him to speak.

"The disruptions of last week did not happen because of any deliberate action. They happened because a combination of internal and unanticipated external events including minor technical glitches, scheduled changes linked to the start of the winter season, adverse weather conditions, increased congestion in the aviation system, and implementation of and operation under the updated crew rostering rules. This is not an excuse. This is simply the truth. Clearly this combination of events pushed our systems beyond their limits," Mehta said in a video message released by IndiGo on Wednesday evening.

According to Mehta, IndiGo has followed the FDTL rules as they came into effect and did not attempt to bypass them. The new FDTL rules stipulate more rest for pilots and rationalisation of their flying duties—particularly late night operations—in a bid to better manage pilot fatigue, which is a key risk to aviation safety. These new norms, which were stipulated in January last year were delayed in their implementation, and took effect in two phases—from July 1 and November 1—with the second phase rollout hitting IndiGo considerably. The new norms meant that airlines either had to have more pilots to maintain their schedule, or curtail their schedules in line with the new requirements. On questions raised on the airline's board, Mehta said, "There has also been a claim that the board was not engaged. This is not correct. The board has been closely involved with this matter for many months. Both the board and the (board's) risk management committee have received relevant information from the management on the implementation of the rules."

Some aviation sector experts and former bureaucrats had questioned the effectiveness of the airline's high-profile

board and whether it did enough in the months leading up to a massive operational crisis that brought the country's aviation system to its knees. While Mehta mentioned that the board was involved and had received the necessary information about the new crew rest rules from the airline's management, he did not say whether the board was aware that IndiGo was underprepared for the new rules and whether it made any intervention in the run-up to the rollout of the second phase of the FDTL norms from November 1. Mehta is the Chairman and Non-Executive Independent Director of IndiGo, and was the Chairman of the Shell Group of Companies in India between 1994 and 2012. Other members of the airline board include the airline's co-founder, promoter and Managing Director Rahul Bhatia in an executive role, India's former G20 Sherpa and retired IAS officer Amitabh Kant as a non-executive non-independent director, former SEBI chief M Damodaran as a non-executive director, and former administrator of the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Michael Whitaker as a non-executive independent director. The board also includes former Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa and Pallavi Shroff, Managing Partner of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, as non-executive independent directors.

"Following the first day of the disruptions, we held an emergency board meeting and set up a crisis management group. Since then, Board members have been in continuous contact with the management team. The crisis Management team has been meeting every day. Our collective focus has been clear: restore operations, support passengers, communicate transparently, prevent this from happening again. The results are tangibly positive," Mehta said, noting that the airline's operations have normalised earlier than what was initially anticipated. In a statement on Tuesday, IndiGo announced that its operations have stabilised and normalised. IndiGo operated over 1,800 flights on Tuesday, operating to all destinations on its network, and its on-time performance (OTP) is back at over 80 per cent. The airline expects to operate around 1,900 flights on Wednesday. Friday was the worst day of the disruption with over 1,600 flight cancellations, but the situation has steadily improved since. As per the regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), IndiGo informed it that the disruptions "have arisen primarily from misjudgement and planning gaps in implementing" the second phase of new FDTL rules, with the airline accepting that the actual crew requirement for the new rules exceeded what it had anticipated. The massive disruption at IndiGo—India's largest airline that commands over 60 per cent of the domestic market share—threw commercial flight operations out of gear all over the country. The DGCA has allowed IndiGo some temporary exemptions from the new FDTL rules in order to help it get its act together, while also starting a probe into the disruption. IndiGo is also doing a root-cause analysis to identify the exact cause or combination of causes that led to this unprecedented disruption, which Mehta described as a "blemish on the airline's pristine clean record".

"We owe answers to our customers, to our Government, to our shareholders and equally importantly to our employees. We assure you that we will examine every aspect of what went wrong and we will learn from it. The Board has decided it will involve an external technical expert to work with the management and help determine the root causes and ensure corrective action. So that this level of disruption never occurs again," Mehta said.

466 SEZ units shut in last 5 years, shows official data



As many as 466 units have closed in the last five years till FY25 in seven special economic zones (SEZs) across the country, according to data shared by the Commerce and Industry Ministry in written response to a Lok Sabha question. This comes against the backdrop of the US tariffs resulting in consecutive months of decline in goods exports in September and October. The official data showed that 100 units shut shop in FY25 alone, most after FY22 when Covid-19 resulted in the closure of 113 units. The employment in SEZs also declined to 31.77 lakh in FY25 compared with 31.94 lakh during the previous financial year.

SEZs enjoy various tax benefits, including duty-free imports and domestic procurement and employ over 31 lakh people in various labour-intensive sectors. SEZs in China became a prominent engine of growth, resulting in China's manufacturing prowess. However, this model has not resulted in similar success for India. To be sure, exports from the SEZs in the export units during the last 5 years have shown an upward trend. Exports have doubled to Rs 14.63 lakh crore in FY25 compared to Rs 7.59 lakh crore in FY21. Meanwhile, investments have also shown a slight

uptick as they picked up to Rs 7.82 lakh crore in FY25 from Rs 6.17 lakh crore in FY21. This comes even as SEZs are facing low investments in Research and Development (R&D) and tight competition from other countries. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been working on SEZ reforms for the last 3 years and is expected to announce reforms going forward.

Responding to a question on possible measures planned to aid SEZs, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitendra Prasada, said the government undertakes various measures from time-to-time to remove operational challenges in SEZs in consultation with different stakeholders. "Such measures, including policy initiatives like permitting reverse job work and regulatory changes are a continuous process and introduced in the administration of SEZs as and when needed," Prasada said. According to a survey by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER): "Some of the reasons behind low FDI in Indian SEZs are the lack of investment protection agreements, unlike countries like Vietnam; negative perception about the SEZs and limited marketing and brand building to address those perceptions." The ICRIER survey added SEZs have been facing productivity-related challenges. Before 2019, there were around 500 gems and jewellery units in SEZs. However, in recent years, many gems and jewellery units exited SEZs and during FY22, there were close to 360 gems and jewellery units in Indian SEZs, the report stated. "During FY21, the share of gems and jewellery in total exports from SEZs also declined to 15.7 per cent. This is because of multiple reasons, including better non-fiscal incentives received by firms in other competing countries, withdrawal of fiscal benefits in India, pandemic-related demand and supply disruptions and SEZ-related policy uncertainties," the report stated.

FinMin revises bank recruitment results sequence to reduce attrition

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has undertaken several initiatives aimed at streamlining the timelines for recruitment examinations for the public sector banks and declaration of their results. This includes recruitment to State Bank of India (SBI), Nationalised Banks (NBs), and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), the Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance said in a statement on Thursday.

Additionally, these initiatives seek to enhance transparency in examinations conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS). The recruitment in SBI, NBs, and RRBs is conducted through the IBPS process, in accordance with the mandates of the respective banks, it said. Typically, examinations for RRBs are administered prior to those for NBs and the SBI. The results are subse-

quently announced in a similar sequence, it said. "Nevertheless, a notable trend has emerged wherein newly recruited candidates frequently transition from RRBs to NBs, and subsequently to SBI. This migration has resulted in significant attrition within the banks and has posed operational challenges," it said. Taking cognisance of the above issue, it said the DFS reviewed the comprehensive process of recruitment examinations and the pattern of result declarations, advising the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to implement a standardised and logical sequence for announcing recruitment results across all three categories of banks.

Consequently, it said, a revised framework has been established, which stipulates that results will now be announced first for the SBI, followed by NBs, and subsequently for RRBs.

'I think my parents...': Kareena Kapoor Khan on what she learned about avoiding setting expectations for her kids from her upbringing



like I have two boys. The only thing I push them for is a little more of an outdoorsy kind of sport and stuff. Tough in Mumbai. In Mumbai, just push them a little bit more like, you know, cricket or football."

She added that the only other gentle nudge is related to music, "Yeah, and the only thing I've said, it'll be nice if you guys play an instrument because your father loves the guitar. If you wish to pick it up, if you don't, that's also fine." Guidance versus autonomy Psychologist Rashti Gurnani tells [indianexpress.com](#), "Kareena's example reflects an authoritative style, where children are offered support but not control. The key is to provide exposure, not direction." She continues, "Parents can introduce opportunities, like showing what exists in the world, while letting the child decide what to pursue. Autonomy-supportive parenting encourages curiosity without demanding performance, which helps children feel they are choosing for themselves, not living out their parents' goals."

How autonomy impacts motivation, confidence, and long-term success in children Children should engage in activities because they find personal value in them, not because they fear failure or seek approval. Gurnani notes that when children feel they have control over their choices, their self-efficacy grows, making them more confident in their abilities. "Self-determination theory builds internal motivation, which sustains learning, performance, and overall emotional well-being," states Gurnani. How parents can introduce activities without turning them into expectations To avoid invisible pressure, Gurnani suggests that parents watch for behavioural cues: sudden resistance, anxiety before practice, or doing something only to please adults are signs that external pressure is taking over. "When children feel they can quit without disappointing anyone, they engage more freely and develop interests that genuinely belong to them," concludes the expert.

Masaba Gupta recalls getting an 'acidity attack' after wearing tight corset for *Kesari* Chapter 2's burlesque number: 'Was two days after my wedding'



Masaba Gupta, 36, went down memory lane, opening up about her childhood, shows, and her professional work in a chat with former Tennis champion Sania Mirza on the latter's podcast. Talking about her item song in *Kesari Chapter 2*, in which she is seen in a black corset, the fashion designer shared, "This one is very recent. I am at my fittest. This was two days after my wedding. I did an item song in the film *Kesari 2*. I was doing a burlesque number. I was very excited. I was wearing this corset. It was so tight that I had an acidity attack. So, I want to let you all know, I was chugging Eno and pretending to be hot." Taking a cue from her revelation, let's understand how tight clothing can give you acidity.

Dr Aniket Mule, consultant, internal medicine, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, said a very tight outfit, especially around the waist, puts extra pressure on the stomach. "When that happens, stomach acids can move upward, creating a burning sensation in the chest or throat. Many people think acidity only comes from food choices, but physical compression plays a big role, too. When the stomach doesn't get enough room to expand, even normal digestion becomes stressful for the body," said Dr Mule. Dr Mule noted that the stomach naturally produces acids to break down food. "When the abdominal area is squeezed for too long, this acid can rise toward the food pipe. The food pipe isn't built to handle acid,

so even short bursts can cause discomfort, sharp burning, nausea, or a sour taste. Someone already dealing with long working hours, irregular meals, or stress becomes even more sensitive to such triggers," said Dr Mule. An acidity attack can happen to anyone, even without food being the villain. The body reacts strongly when it's compressed, strained, or pushed beyond its comfort zone.

Not always, said Dr Mule. "The issue starts when the outfit is too tight, worn for long hours, or used during activities that demand a lot of movement. 'Occasional use generally doesn't cause long-term issues, but frequent compressive clothing can make acidity episodes more common,'" said Dr Mule. Dr Mule said that a sudden heaviness or sharp burning in the upper abdomen is the most common one. "Some people feel discomfort while breathing or talking because the chest feels tight. Others may feel bloated, excessively burpy, or unusually tired. If the discomfort continues even after removing the outfit, that means the pressure has already triggered irritation," said Dr Mule.

What should one do when such acidity hits?

Loosening clothes or changing into something comfortable usually brings instant relief. "Sipping water slowly helps settle the stomach. Some people find that walking for a few minutes eases the burning sensation. Resting upright, not lying flat, also prevents acid from rising again. Spicy or oily food should be avoided for the rest of the day because the stomach is already irritated," advised Dr Mule.

How can someone prevent such attacks in the future?

*Choosing outfits that allow some movement around the waist makes a big difference. *Eating on time, not skipping breakfast, staying hydrated, and avoiding long gaps between meals help the stomach stay stable. *Stress management plays a big role, too, since stress often triggers acidity even without food involvement. "If someone must wear a tight outfit for work or performance, short breaks in between and mindful meal timings reduce the risk of discomfort," said Dr Mule.

Raghav Chadha's favourite go-to vacation place in India is...

Raghav Chadha recently revealed his favourite holiday destination during *Curly Tales*'s short interview series 59 Seconds, in which celebrities answer as many questions as they can within 59 seconds. Chadha's favourite destination is a South Indian paradise with beautiful backwaters, luscious tea plantations, gorgeous beaches, and a cultural extravaganza. Any guesses? "In India, it is Kerala," the politician admitted his love for the "God's own country" promptly. Known for its serene beauty, rich traditions, and soulful cuisine, this South Indian state has long been a favourite among tourists. Approximately 2.22 crore (22.2 million) tourists visited Kerala in 2024, as per the state's official tourism records. Chadha's prompt response clearly shows Here are seven must-visit destinations in Kerala: Kerala Sadhya is a grand, traditional vegetarian feast from Kerala, served on a banana leaf, especially during festivals like Onam and weddings (photo: [pexels](#))

1. Munnar – The Hill Station of Dreams

Munnar is located at about 1,600 meters above sea level in the Western Ghats and is known for its signature rolling green hills. Its tea plantations are popular for producing some of India's finest tea varieties. Its cool, misty mornings make it a year-round retreat. Another tourist attraction is Eravikulam National Park, which turns pink once every 12 years when the flower blooms. What not to miss here: Eravikulam National Park, Kolukkumalai Tea Estate, Mattupetty Dam, Top Station, Tata Tea Museum

2. Alleppey – Venice of the East

Kerala Alappuzha is the official Malayalam name of Alleppey, which is the anglicized version used during British rule that became popular internationally (photo: [pexels](#)) Alleppey is famous for its enchanting backwaters, canals, and lagoons, many of which also offer houseboat cruises. As the boat glides past paddy fields, coconut groves, and village life, tourists get a closer look at the true essence of Kerala. Alleppey's coir industry, handwoven mats, and the Nehru Trophy Boat Race are also popular.

What not to miss here: Houseboat cruise on Vembanad Lake, Nehru Trophy Boat Race, Pathiramanal Island, Alappuzha Beach, lighthouse visit

3. Kochi – A Blend of Cultures

Kochi is one of India's oldest port cities with the old-world charm of the Arabs, the Dutch, and the Portuguese. The colonial-era bungalows and European churches add to the nostalgia. The city has a rich maritime legacy and is a seafood paradise, with delicious prawn curry and karimeen pollichathu on the menu. Kochi International Airport is also India's first fully solar-powered airport. What not to miss here: Fort Kochi Beach, Chinese fishing nets, Mattancherry Palace, Jew Town, Kochi-Muziris Biennale

4. Wayanad – Nature's Hidden Gem

Kerala In Frame: Scenic Road through Wayanad's Lush Tea Estate (photo: [pexels](#))

Wayanad stands out with its lush forests, waterfalls, wildlife sanctuaries, and coffee estates. The landscape is perfect for trekking and exploring caves like Edakkal, which feature ancient petroglyphs dating back 6,000 years. India's largest Earthen dam, Banasura Sagar, is also found in Wayanad. What not to miss here: Edakkal Caves, Soochipara Falls, Pookode Lake, Banasura Sagar Dam, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

5. Thekkady – For the Wild at Heart

Home to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Thekkady offers thrilling boat safaris and jungle safaris where you might spot elephants, deer, and exotic birds. A spice paradise, Thekkady is also famous for its cardamom, pepper, and cinnamon plantations, which often offer guided tours. What not to miss here: Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, spice plantation tour, bamboo rafting, Mangala Devi Temple, Kathakali show6. Varkala – Cliffs and Calm Seas Kerala A Kathakali show is a vibrant South Indian dance-drama from Kerala, known for its elaborate costumes, intricate makeup, and expressive mudras, telling stories from epics

Shah Rukh Khan confirms appearance in Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium on December 13 for Lionel Messi's GOAT Tour



GNS News Agency, Dec 12

Bollywood superstar and Kolkata Knight Riders co-owner Shah Rukh Khan on Thursday confirmed his appearance in Salt Lake Stadium for Lionel Messi's GOAT Tour, scheduled to kick start from Kolkata on December 13. "This time round not planning my Knight in Kolkata.... and hoping the day Ride is completely 'Messi'. See you guys on the 13th at the Salt Lake Stadium," Shah Rukh posted on X. Argentine star Messi will begin his 4-city GOAT Tour from the City of Joy on December 13 and will on the same day travel to Hyderabad. He'll then go to Mumbai on December 14 before ending the highly-anticipated tour in Delhi on December 15, where he is scheduled to meet Prime minister Narendra Modi. In the Kolkata leg, the unveiling of Messi's "biggest ever statue" — a 70-feet structure — will be done virtually from his team hotel owing to security concerns, at 2pm.

according to PTI. "Police has not given permission so he will do it from the hotel. It will be done virtually in the morning," a Kolkata Police source said as per PTI. Earlier, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner was scheduled to visit Sreebhumi in person for the inauguration. Kolkata Police sources confirmed Messi will land in the city at 1.30am in the wee hours of Saturday and will stay at a five-star hotel on the EM Bypass.

A sponsor-exclusive meet-and-greet programme will run from 9.30am to 10.30am. A special Argentine-Indian fusion food festival will be held on the sidelines, keeping in mind Messi's love for 'mate' (Argentine herbal tea). It will showcase Argentine herbal tea infused with Assam flavours, along with a spread of Bengali fish delicacies — including hilsa — and an assortment of local sweets. A 25ft x 20ft Messi mural, planned for the upcoming Durga Puja season, will also be unveiled. "Not only will he unveil his biggest-ever statue, we will have a huge mural, which will be kept at strategic Durga Puja pandal-hopping locations so that all his fans will have an opportunity to paint and post messages in a nearby message box," organizer Satadru Dutta said to PTI. The mural will be presented to Messi at the Salt Lake Stadium during the Kolkata leg of the tour. A crowd of more than 70,000 is expected for the Kolkata event. "75,000 seats are open for spectators. There is heavy demand and we have made counter sales open from Tuesday," Dutta said. After the meet-and-greet, Messi will proceed to Salt Lake Stadium before departing for Hyderabad at 2pm.

IND vs SA: Arshdeep Singh notches up unwanted record of most wides bowled in an over in T20Is

GNS News Agency, Dec 12

India bowler Arshdeep Singh notched up the unwanted record of becoming the first bowler to bowl 7 wides in a T20I over. The unwanted stat was brought up in India's 2nd T20I match against South Africa in Mullanpur on Thursday. The Punjab speedster did not have an ideal homecoming when bowling the 11th over when he was smacked for a six by Quinton de Kock off the very first ball. With the pressure mounting, Arshdeep bowled 7 wides in the over, ultimately conceding 18 runs from the over.

This was also the joint longest over bowled by a full nation member bowler with Arshdeep joining Afghanistan's Naveen-ul-Haq, both of whom bowled 13 deliveries. Naveen had also bowled 6 wides in the over he bowled back in 2024 vs Zimbabwe. South Africa's Sisanda Magala comes next for a 12-ball over against Pakistan in 2021. Arshdeep's over on Thursday was a perfect representation of India's ordinary bowling efforts with Quinton de Kock and Aiden Markram running riot over them. Only Varun Chakravarthy was the lone bright spot, taking 2 wickets. Earlier, India skipper Suryakumar Yadav won the toss and elected to bowl against South Africa in the second T20I. India, who lead the five-match series 1-0, are fielding an unchanged playing XI. South Africa, on the other hand, have made three changes with Reeza Hendricks, George Linde and Otniel Baartman replacing Tristan Stubbs, Keshav Maharaj and Anrich



Nortje. Meanwhile, World Cup winners Yuvraj Singh and Harmanpreet Kaur were on Thursday immortalized at the New Chandigarh Stadium with stands named in their honour. Yuvraj, player of the tournament for the 2011 ODI World Cup, and Harmanpreet, who recently captained India to their first ever Women's World Cup trophy, were surrounded by friends, family and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on the occasion. Yuvraj was also seen giving a pep talk to the Indian team in a huddle before the second T20 International against South Africa. His longtime teammate Harbhajan Singh has a pavilion named after him at the stadium and Harmanpreet joined him on the other side of the screens on Thursday.

Crafty all-rounder, Mr 360 degree, right-arm quick and a big-scalp hunter

GNS News Agency, Dec 12

The Super League phase of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025-26 will commence in Pune on Friday, as eight high-quality teams look to put their best foot forward to enter the final on December 18. The players have motivation to perform optimally, as the Indian Premier League auction is scheduled in Abu Dhabi on December 16. Some have already issued notice of their potential; they have two more rounds, on December 12th and 14th, to push their case. Here are some of the players who could become rich and famous overnight.

Sairaj Patil was expected to do a lot with the bat in the league phase, following a promising season in the T20 Mumbai league. However, it was with the ball that he did most of the talking, taking 11 wickets in seven matches at an economy rate of 8.21. He has worked with the likes of former India pacer Dhawal Kulkarni and former India spinner Sairaj Bahutule, and that has reflected in his bowling in the ongoing tournament. His best performance came against Vidarbha in Lucknow, where he claimed figures of 3/33 in four overs. Patil can hit the hard lengths at 130 kph and also has slow cutters in his armoury, which adds variety to his bowling. With Shivam Dube away playing for India, Patil may have an even bigger role to play in the Super League phase of the tournament, and a few more impressive performances may help him bag an IPL contract on Tuesday.

Yashvardhan Dalal (Haryana) The Haryana batter emerged as the highest run-getter for his side in the league phase, with 319 runs in seven matches at a strike rate of 143.04. The right-hander, who made headlines last year when he became the first batter to make a 400+ score in a CK Nayudu match against Mumbai, made four half-centuries and also struck 13 sixes. A good performance in the Super League stage could enhance his chances of finding a buyer at the IPL auction on Tuesday. "One remarkable thing about Yash's batting is his appetite for big scores and his tendency to play straight. He has all the shots for T20 cricket, but he prefers traditional cricketing shots. He showed his 360-degree game after crossing 200," Haryana Under-23 coach Jitender Siwach had told The Indian Express last year. Ashok Sharma (Rajasthan)

The Rajasthan pacer, who was released by his home franchise, Rajasthan Royals, ahead of the auction and has been with the Kolkata Knight Riders without getting a game in either team, had an excellent SMAT league phase, where he emerged as the leading wicket-taker. The right-arm pacer, who can clock close to 140 kph regularly, took 19 wickets in seven matches with two four-wicket hauls. While his economy rate of 8.84 was on the higher side, a similar performance, in terms of wickets, in the early stages of the Super League could acquire him a contract.

CTL Rakshann (Hyderabad) Hyderabad found themselves in a group with teams like Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, with players like Prithvi Shaw, Rinku Singh, among others, in their ranks. Yet, they made it to the Super League by topping the group, thanks to CTL Rakshann's exploits with the ball. The right-arm seamer took 12 wickets in seven matches at an economy rate of 8.53. His best performance



came against Uttar Pradesh at Eden Gardens, where his 3/31 helped bowl the opposition out for 127 in 19.2 overs. Similar performances in the lead-up to the auction could propel his chances of finding a buyer in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

ICC names AB InBev as official beer partner for global tournaments from 2026

GNS News Agency, Dec 12

Hyderabad: The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced AB InBev (Euronext: ABI) (NYSE: BUD) (MEXBOL: ANB) (JSE: ANH), the world's leading brewer, will become the Official Beer Partner for all major ICC tournaments starting in 2026.

The partnership will be led by Budweiser 0.0, Budweiser's no-alcohol beer in India, with other ABI mega brands activating in Europe and Africa.

From attending a match live in-stadium to watching one at a bar or pub with friends, with a lower alcohol-by-volume (ABV) and no-alcohol options like Budweiser 0.0, beer is the natural choice to enjoy responsibly. Through this partnership with the ICC, AB InBev will create more moments of cheers, choice and celebration for cricket fans of legal drinking age all over the world.

ICC CEO, Sanjog Gupta said: "Cricket is one of the world's most loved sports with more than two billion fans and ICC events are its largest platforms for passion, while AB InBev has been at the forefront of creating experiential activations to grow and deepen fandom."

This partnership is a natural alliance between organizations striving to elevate moments, create memories and deliver experiences via innovation in avenues for fan engagement. We welcome AB InBev to the ICC's august list of commercial partners and look forward to co-delivering multi-modal event experiences across our tournaments and amplifying excitement for the sport around the world," he said.

How you can watch the 2026 T20 World Cup for as low as Rs 100? Find out how and when to book tickets



GNS News Agency, Dec 12

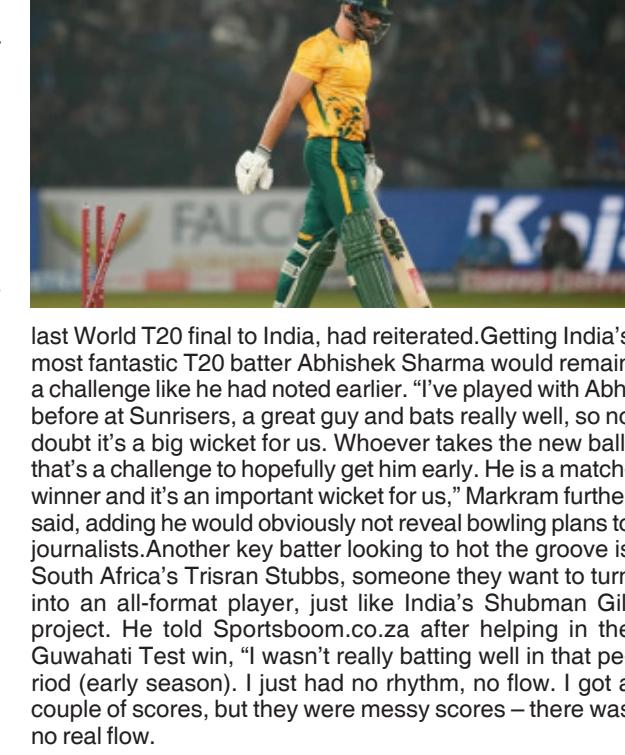
The tickets for the highly anticipated T20 World Cup 2026 set to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka will be made available for fans on Thursday from 6.30 PM IST, the ICC announced. The cricket body also announced that fans can book tickets for select matches for some venues for as low as Rs 100 "to widen accessibility." The ICC has reduced one of the primary entry barriers for fans to experience the ICC Men's T20 World Cup by making the tickets highly affordable in Phase I. With pricing starting from ₹100 in India and LKR1000 in Sri Lanka and more than 2 million tickets going on sale, the ICC aspires to democratize the in-stadia experience of ICC events," the ICC announced via press release.

In order to book the Phase I tickets, fans have to go to <https://tickets.cricketworldcup.com>. The matches which will

have Rs 100 tickets are Bangladesh vs Italy in Eden Gardens (Feb 9), South Africa vs Canada in Narendra Modi Stadium (Feb 9), South Africa vs Afghanistan at Narendra Modi Stadium (Feb 11), New Zealand vs South Africa at Narendra Modi Stadium (Feb 14), England vs Italy at Eden Gardens (Feb 16) and West Indies vs Italy at Eden Gardens (Feb 19). There are also matches which have tickets which start from 150, 200 and 300 as well. The World Cup will start on 7 February and go on till March 8 with 55 matches taking place in 8 venues across seven cities in India and Sri Lanka. In all 20 teams will participate in the event with Italy making their first appearance in the T20 World Cup with teams divided into four groups of five teams.

Five cities in India will host the event with Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata being the chosen ones. Across the Palk Strait in Sri Lanka, Colombo and Kandy will be the host cities. R Premadasa and Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo will host the matches alongside the one in Pallekele in Sri Lanka. Defending champions India are in Group A alongside Pakistan, Namibia, The Netherlands and the USA. India will play the opener against the USA on February 7 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. They will move to the national capital to face Namibia on February 12 before heading to Colombo to take on Pakistan on February 15. Suryakumar Yadav & Co will then head to Ahmedabad to play their last league game against The Netherlands on February 18. Group B comprises Australia, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Zimbabwe and Oman. England, West Indies, Bangladesh, Nepal and Italy make Group C. The Group D consists of New Zealand, South Africa, Afghanistan, Canada and the United Arab Emirates.

How Aiden Markram plans to bounce back? 'You have to draw a line through it... quick turnaround.. give it another crack again'



GNS News Agency, Dec 12

The Proteas started disastrously at Cuttack, but after the match, Markram reckoned the plan was to draw a line through the shambles and not dive too deep ahead of the Mullanpur second T20I. India have their tails up after the mammoth win. And Markram who had said prior to the series that the hosts would always field strong teams, said the quick turnaround called for moving on quick and get cracking at the new challenge.

Markram said after Cuttack, "The biggest factor was obviously not being able to build partnerships, settling after losing wickets and getting some momentum on our side. So yeah, we'll have brief conversations..." Markram recommended a strikethrough instead. "You don't want to dive too deep into things like this. You almost just want to draw a line through it and stick to the positive ways of this format," Markram also said. On the Cuttack pitch, he had said that it had tennis ball bounce, which shredded their batting. But the skipper was determined to look for positives. "Yeah, I think there were some good signs. It was a ball-in-the-field. Nice to start the way we did. We put some emphasis on starting well, and that was a box we ticked, so we can be proud of that," he said. Ticking the finishing box was what he seemed to have forgotten. "From a batting point of view, it's unfortunately something that can happen in this format. It's a pity that it had to happen in the first game, but you have to draw a line through it. It's a quick turnaround and we'll give it another crack in a couple of days' time," said Markram. Earlier while saying that it was great that Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were not part of the T20I side, Markram had noted that others still needed fending off. "No extra plans, I guess. It's T20 cricket, it's an entertaining format and that's the brand we want to play. We want guys to free themselves up, enjoy the game, let their best skills be on show," Markram, who was part of the T20 side that lost the

last World T20 final to India, had reiterated. Getting India's most fantastic T20 batter Abhishek Sharma would remain a challenge like he had noted earlier. "I've played with Abhi before at Sunrisers, a great guy and bats really well, so no doubt it's a big wicket for us. Whoever takes the new ball, that's a challenge to hopefully get him early. He is a match-winner and it's an important wicket for us," Markram further said, adding he would obviously not reveal bowling plans to journalists. Another key batter looking to hot the groove is South Africa's Trisram Stubbs, someone they want to turn into an all-format player, just like India's Shubman Gill project. He told Sportsbook.co.za after helping in the Guwahati Test win, "I wasn't really bat well in that period (early season). I just had no rhythm, no flow. I got a couple of scores, but they were messy scores – there was no real flow.

I just couldn't get into a rhythm. It wasn't easy, but it's part of the game. Before the Pakistan series and especially coming to India, I wasn't too worried because I was bat well in the nets. I hadn't done that for ages, so I knew it was around the corner." Stubbs is one of the three wicketkeepers that afford luxury to Saffers, and sometimes Quinny de Kock and Donovan Ferreira and him all play in the XI.

How you can watch the 2026 T20 World Cup for as low as Rs 100? Find out how and when to book tickets

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The tickets for the highly anticipated T20 World Cup 2026 set to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka will be made available for fans on Thursday from 6.30 PM IST, the ICC announced. The cricket body also announced that fans can book tickets for select matches for some venues for as low as Rs 100 "to widen accessibility."

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Teary-eyed Hema Malini says she'll have to learn to live without Dharmendra at prayer meet: 'Humaara pyaar sacha tha'

Veteran actor-BJP MP and Dharmendra's second wife Hema Malini hosted a prayer meeting in Delhi for the late superstar. He passed away on November 24, at the age of 89. Besides the family members, the gathering had many high-profile personalities, including Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president JP Nadda, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Actors Ranjeet, Kangana Ranaut, and Ravi Kishan were also in attendance. Everyone paid tribute to the icon at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.

The prayer meet was also attended by Dharmendra's daughters Esha Deol and Ahana Deol and Hema's son-in-law Vaibhav Vohra. Esha's ex-husband and business Bharat Takhtani was also part of the service. Before heading inside the main hall, everyone paid tributes to the 'He-Man of Bollywood' by placing flower petals in front of a framed photo of him. Both Hema and Esha were seen getting emotional while bowing down before the picture. Dharmendra Prayer Meet Hema Malini with Ranjeet, Esha Deol, Amit Shah and J P Nadda.

Shradhanjali bhajans were followed by a Hema recalling Dharmendra and his memories. The actor was emotional and teary eyed as she said, "I am feeling very emotional while welcoming you all at this prayer meet. I never thought that I will have to host a condolence meet, that too, for my Dharam ji. The whole world is mourning his passing away. But for me, it is an inconsolable shock." Dharmendra Prayer Meet Hema Malini after addressing the crowd at Dharmendra's prayer meet. (Anil Sharma) Dharmendra Prayer meet Amit Shah, Bharat Takhtani, J P Nadda, and Kiren Rijiju at the prayer meet. (Anil Sharma)

As her daughters Ahana and Esha stood behind her for support, the veteran actor-politician added, "The companionship stood the test of time. My association with Dharam ji was for 57 years. When I entered the film industry, I got a chance to do most films with him only. We worked together in 45 films, and out of that, over 25 were superhits. We got a lot of love as a 'hit pair' from the industry and audience. Humaara pyaar sacha tha (our love was pure), I will have to learn to live without him." Dharmendra prayer meet Hema Malini addressing the crowd at Dharmendra's prayer meet. (Anil Sharma) Dharmendra prayer meet Delhi



CM Rekha Gupta greets Hema Malini. (Anil Sharma) Recalling her fond memories with Dharmendra and expressing how he was as a 'pure soul', she shared, "He was a very cheerful and friendly person. Despite being such a famous personality, he never thought of himself as different from others, always stayed down to earth. He was a pure soul." Dharmendra prayer meet Ravi Kishan taking Hema Malini's blessings. (Anil Sharma) Hema said that the family celebrated Dharmendra's 90th birthday on December 8, a few weeks after his passing. "We celebrated his birthday but along with us the entire country remembered him," she said, adding how people from all walks of life come to her to reminiscence about Dharmendra. Hema also revealed that Dharmendra wanted to write a book, full of his Urdu poetry, but he unfortunately passed away before fulfilling his dream. "He did so many roles in different genres, but I know that he loved to do comedy. He was so fond of standing in front of the camera. Dharam ji had a special talent that not many people knew about – writing Urdu shayari. Whatever the situation was, he could recite a poem on that. I told him that he should write a book of his Urdu poetry, he even wanted to, it was planned, but that dream will now remain incomplete," she concluded.

'I slapped Sanjay Dutt, pulled his hair': IPS officer recalls when Sanjay fell on dad Sunil Dutt's feet saying 'galti ho gayi' after arrest

Rakesh Maria, the IPS officer who worked on the 1993 Mumbai blast case that involved Sanjay Dutt's conviction for illegal possession of arms, recently revisited the investigation. Rakesh's investigation led to the actor serving jail time. In a new interaction with Desi Studios, Rakesh Maria recalled how his probe led him to Sanjay Dutt, and also recalled the emotional moment between Sanjay and his father, veteran star and politician Sunil Dutt, when Sanjay fell at his father's feet and asked for his father's forgiveness, allegedly after admitting to his crime.

During the interaction, Rakesh recalled that Sanjay Dutt's name came up in the case through Hanif Kadawala, proprietor of a famous restaurant in Bandra, and Sameer Hingora, then President of the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA). "They refused the allegation against them, but they asked to speak to me and the first thing they told me was, 'Why don't you arrest big people?' I asked them, 'Which big people have I not arrested?' They tell me, Sanju Baba, I thought what does Sanjay have to do with this?" Rakesh recalled Hanif and Sameer telling him that the perpetrators wanted a quiet place to take out the weapons from the car's cavity, and they had suggested Sanjay's house for the same. These were the weapons used in the 1993 Mumbai blasts. "They come to Sanjay Dutt's house. Sanjay had already received the call. Sanjay told them to park the car there and unload the things," he claimed.

Rakesh said that Sanjay kept some of the weapons for himself, but later returned most of them to the terrorists who were planning the attacks. He said that when they learned about Sanjay's involvement, they wanted to bring him in for questioning, but the actor was then shooting for a film in Mauritius. They decided to wait for him to return to India, and when he landed a few days later, Rakesh recalled picking him up right at the airport and taking him in for questioning. Rakesh recalled holding Sanjay in a room at the Mumbai Crime Branch that had an attached bathroom. However, they had taken off the bathroom door. He placed two constables inside the room and instructed them not to give cigarettes to the actor, and did not allow him to



call anyone. Rakesh recalled confronting Sanjay and said, "He sat down in the room 2:30 am and at around 8 am, I entered the room. I asked him, 'Will you tell me your story or do you want me to tell your role?' He added, 'Sanjay told me that he is innocent and he's not involved in this. The pent-up emotions, stress of the last few days, suddenly got through me and he was sitting on the chair in front of me. I just walked up to him and he had long hair at that time. I just gave him a slap and he toppled a little back and I caught hold of his hair and pulled him up. I asked him, 'If he would talk to me like a gentleman, or should I...?' Then he asked to speak to me alone. Then he narrated the whole thing to me. He told me, 'I made a mistake, please don't tell my father.' I told him, 'How can I not tell your father? You have made a mistake. Be man enough.' Rakesh recalled that by the evening, Sunil Dutt came to meet him, along with Rajendra Kumar, Mahesh Bhatt, Yash Johar and politician Baldev Khosa. "They all told me that Sanjay is innocent and he could not do these things," he said. Recalling the first time Sanjay faced his father after being accused of such a grave crime, he said, "Sanjay Dutt is brought into the room, he sees his father, he howls like a child and goes and falls down at Sunil Dutt's feet and tells him 'Papa galti ho gayi mere se (Dad, I made a mistake)'. I wouldn't wish this thing to happen to any father. Sunil's face went pale."

Anupama Parameswaran's 'Lockdown' release postponed again due to 'unforeseen circumstances'

Chennai: The makers of director A R Jeeva's gripping drama, 'Lockdown', featuring actress Anupama Parameswaran in the lead, on Thursday announced that they had decided to postpone the release of the film "due to unforeseen circumstances".

Taking to its X timeline, Lyca Productions, the firm producing the picture, wrote, "#Lockdown has been postponed. The new release date will be shared soon. #LockdownInCinemasSoon" and shared a statement that read, "We understand the excitement and anticipation surrounding the film, and we sincerely regret any inconvenience this change may cause for our audience, theatre partners, distributors, and the media."

The makers further said in the statement, "We are committed to ensuring that the film reaches you under the best possible conditions. We truly appreciate your patience, support, and understanding. The new release date will be announced soon." This is the second time that the film is being postponed in two weeks. The release of the film, which was originally scheduled to happen on December 5 this year, was postponed the first time due to incessant rains that continued to lash Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu as a result of the deep depression caused by the remnants of cyclone Ditwah, which wreaked havoc in neighbouring Sri Lanka. Lyca Productions, while announcing its decision to

postpone the release of the film then, had said, "With the ongoing rains, the release of #Lockdown has been postponed. Your safety comes first. We'll meet you in theatres soon. #LockdownInCinemasSoon."

It also published a statement that read, "Due to the ongoing heavy rains and adverse weather conditions, the release of our film #Lockdown has been postponed. In light of the current challenges, we are delaying the release to prioritize the safety of our audience, theatre staff, and partners. Please stay safe and take necessary precautions. We look forward to welcoming you to cinemas soon to experience 'Lockdown' on the big screen." However, once the rains receded, the makers, on December 8, announced a new release date and said the film would release on December 12. Now, they have again postponed the film's release citing "unforeseen circumstances." The Censor Board has already cleared the film for release with a U/A certificate. 'Lockdown', a woman-centric film, has triggered huge expectations as it is based on a true story. A trailer released by the makers begins with Anupama Parameswaran (who plays the character of Anitha in the film) expressing fear to go home. It is evident she has a problem about which she cannot speak to her family. To add to her complications, we see unwanted advances being made by men to her.

Alia Bhatt reveals daughter Raha 'has her own relationship with paparazzi': 'She's old enough to ask where I'm going'

Alia Bhatt is no stranger to the Red Sea International Film Festival, this being her second visit in two years. The last time I was here, Raha was one and now she is three, says Alia, sounding like most mothers do when thinking of life before and after children, marking their presence and the changes they bring. "Now Raha has her own relationship with the paparazzi, and is old enough to ask me where I am going, and when I will be back," she says. Raha comes up frequently in the hour-long conversation, as does the word "authenticity", which she uses when speaking of her choices. No one knows how the audience will react, but what they do respond to is authenticity, she says, and that's something she looks for in the kinds of roles she does.

The conversation touches upon the salient points of where Alia is at right now, at the cusp of stardom and motherhood, the projects she is producing, along with being the face of global brands. It's all beautifully chaotic, she says, of her red carpet experiences in Cannes and the Met Gala etc, and the best part is all about relaxing with pyjamas and pizza—did she really say pizza, are these slyly-like things allowed such calorie-dense things—after the event is over. "When I was young," she stops and corrects herself with a laugh, "I'm still young, but when I was in my 20s, I was all over the place, trying to do everything. At 17, 18, I was way more enthusiastic and full of beans, and trying very hard, because that's normal. And now, more than a decade later, the way you look at a situation changes. I'm still enthusiastic and full of beans, but the approach is more silent, it comes with a little more intent. Part of me wants to hold on to the girl at 18 who was brave and fearless, who had no idea of how things would pan out, who had no answers, who would enter a room and give it her all. I think now with success, with failure, with knowing, sometimes you tend to become a little more tentative." "No matter what will happen in the future," she says, "I would like to stay curious, because that's the only way to grow." Responding to whether she feels the weight of what she



represents on the global stage, she says it's more a sense of pride, of being Indian. And dodges, smartly, a question from a Pakistani fan asking when she will visit, saying that she's happy to go anywhere that work takes her. She takes a fan question on 'nepotism' by talking about talent whether you come from a film family or not, and when the audience sees you "bringing something to the table, sab kuch maf ha". This writer has noticed her dexterity in dodging uncomfortable questions in live interactions in the past, and these days, when anything a star says is up for intense scrutiny, this is a superpower too. In a rapid fire round, she chooses Highway and Gangubai as the roles that stayed with her longest. Clearly, Sanjay Leela Bhansali is top of mind recall, with 'Love and War', in which she stars with Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal, coming out early 2026. Micro-managing everything is also one of her things, she says, "I even planned my wedding and I had so much fun doing it that I'm thinking this could be a second career." And the audience breaks into a laugh, all waiting for their chance at a selfie.

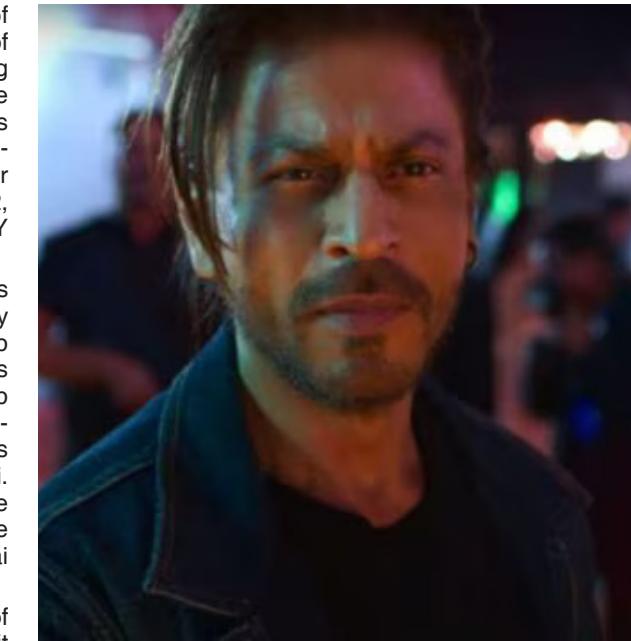
Shah Rukh Khan's Don 2 co-star slams Aryan Khan's Ba***ds of Bollywood for abusive language: 'Boring'

Since Aryan Khan's debut show The Ba***ds of Bollywood dropped on Netflix, it has become the subject of widespread discussion. While the series received glowing reactions from many viewers, a significant portion of the audience remained unimpressed, with some criticizing its frequent use of crude and abusive language. Recently, British-Pakistani actor Aliy Khan, who has appeared in major Hindi films and shows, including Shah Rukh Khan's Don 2, shared his candid opinion about Aryan's work at ARY Podcast.

"Recently maine Aryan ka kaam dekha The Ba***ds of Bollywood mein, mujhe bohot ajeeb laga. Ek toh family ke saath aap dekh nahi sakte hain kyunki language itni ajeeb hai. Aur uss language ki koi justification bhi nahi thi, aur jiss level ke log dekh rahe thay aap, kya woh aise sadak chap language use karte hai? Mujhe kabhi kabhi lagta hai ki eyeballs ke liye, ratings ke liye, iss tarah ke informed decisions liye jaate hai? Wohi cheez kehne ki bohot tareeke hota hai. Aur agar gaali dene bhi hai, toh closeup ki tarah honi chahiye na. Ki jab chahiye tab bol aap, that's when you get the impact. Agar har jumle mein woh aa rahi hai toh cringe hai woh, boriyat jaati hai."

"(Recently, I watched Aryan's work in The Ba***ds of Bollywood, and I found it very strange. You cannot watch it with family because the language is so unusual. And at the level of the people being portrayed in the show, do they actually use such street-level language? Sometimes it seems to me that such decisions are made just for eyeballs, for ratings. There are many ways to convey the same thing. And if you want to use expletives, it should be like a close-up, say it when it matters, that's when it has an impact. If every sentence has it, it becomes cringe-worthy and boring.)

Aliy Khan is not the first actor to openly criticize the show. Recently, Vivek Vaswani, someone who helped Shah Rukh Khan navigate his early struggling days, shared his honest disappointment with its depiction of the film industry: "What I felt was that when Shah Rukh came into the industry, the amount of love and respect that Aziz Mirza and Nirmala gave him, and that me and my mother gave him, and Saeed Mirza gave him... all of them gave him so



much love, so much affection. So when did he come to the conclusion that Bollywood is a gutter and everyone in it is bad people? He is the one person who was treated with kid gloves as a rank outsider."

He added that Shah Rukh Khan was welcomed with open arms by the industry, yet the show mocked it relentlessly: "Everyone treated him so well, so warmly, without a single rift. So for me, and maybe I am the only one in this whole country who may have felt like this, but I am also the only one in the country whose house he lived in for two years. Toh haq banta hai to say: Why did you think we were a bad industry? Why did you personally think that everyone was bad? I can understand you showing whatever you showed. But why was there not one redeeming character in the show? Someone who says: Yes, maybe everything is bad, but there are also some good, decent human beings here. And he is living proof of that."

Priyanka Chopra reveals her go-to skincare tip for long-haul flights

Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra, on Thursday, gave a quick peek into her travel routine as she shared a candid moment from her long-haul flight. The global star offered a simple yet essential skincare tip, emphasizing that the only way to keep skin healthy during long journeys is to stay hydrated in every possible way. Taking to her Instagram Stories, the 'Baywatch' actress shared a photo of herself applying a sheet mask mid-flight, giving a glimpse of her in-flight skincare ritual. In the candid image, the desi girl is seen looking straight into the camera. Alongside the click, Priyanka wrote, "Only way for your skin to survive, long haul flights. Hydrate in every way possible. Ok now...g'night!"

Priyanka Chopra, who had recently returned from Mumbai, also shared glimpses from her whirlwind visit. The post featured a video of the actress getting ready for a show, meeting Kapil Sharma in his vanity van, and posing for the paparazzi. Priyanka also clicked selfies with fans before heading to her car. The clip wrapped up with Priyanka admitting that she didn't want to leave, joking about how long the flight back to New York would be. "Mumbai always raises the bar. I raise it right back. Jald phir Mulaquat hogi... See you in 2026 #whirlwind," she wrote as the caption.

The 43-year-old actress made a quick stop in Mumbai, spending under 12 hours in the city before heading back to the United States. The actress arrived on the morning of



December 10 to film a special episode of Kapil Sharma's comedy show "The Great Indian Kapil Show 4." Throughout her brief visit, Priyanka Chopra kept everyone updated through social media. She shared a glimpse on Instagram Stories, admiring Mumbai's pleasant weather. Later, as she prepared to leave, she posted a farewell selfie with the caption, "Chalo wapis! Less than 12 hours this time. Phir milenge," marking the end of her whirlwind trip.