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Telangana HC pulls up discom over inaction on GITAM's Rs 118-cr power arrears

Hyderabad: Justice Nagesh Bheemappa of the Telangana High Court on Tuesday expressed shock over the inaction of electricity authorities against Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM) University, despite power dues running into Rs 118.13 crore, while supply to poor consumers is routinely disconnected even for small arrears, often without notice.

The judge questioned the conduct of the officials for merely issuing repeated notices to the university over the years, notwithstanding a clear proposal by the distribution company to disconnect power supply. The arrears, it was pointed out, had accumulated over nearly two decades, beginning from financial year 2008-09.

Modi, Jordan King pitch \$5bn trade target, West Asia corridor

GNS News Agency,

Dec 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jordan's King Abdullah II on Tuesday laid out an ambitious roadmap to deepen economic engagement, calling for a doubling of bilateral trade to \$5 billion over the next five years and pitching Jordan as a pivotal bridge for Indian business into West Asia and beyond. Addressing the India-Jordan Business Forum in Amman, the two leaders urged industry on both sides to move decisively from potential to performance, with King Abdullah underlining that Jordan's network of Free Trade Agreements, when combined with India's economic scale, could anchor a new economic corridor linking South Asia with West Asia and global markets.

The forum, attended by Crown Prince Hussein and Jordan's Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment, brought together top business leaders across infrastructure, energy, health, pharmaceuticals, defence, manufacturing and logistics, signalling a push to translate political convergence into commercial outcomes.

Modi described India-Jordan ties as a "vibrant contemporary partnership"



rooted in deep civilisational links, and credited King Abdullah's leadership for positioning Jordan as a connector of regions and markets. Projecting India's growth trajectory, the PM said the world's fastest-growing major economy — on course to become the third largest globally — offered "immense and reliable opportunities" for Jordanian investors.

Inviting Jordanian companies to partner India, Modi highlighted the pull of India's 1.4 billion-strong consumer market, its expanding manufacturing base and what he termed a stable, transparent and

predictable policy environment. India and Jordan, he said, could emerge as trusted supply-chain partners at a time of global re-alignment.

Pointing to India's sustained growth of over 8 per cent, the PM attributed the momentum to productivity-driven governance and innovation-led policies and identified priority areas for collaboration ranging from digital public infrastructure, IT and fintech to health-tech and agri-tech.

He called on start-ups from both countries to jointly tap these sectors.

Modi also spotlighted

synergies between India's strengths in pharmaceuticals and medical devices and Jordan's strategic geography, suggesting the kingdom could evolve into a reliable hub for West Asia and Africa. Opportunities were also flagged in agriculture, cold chains, food parks, fertilisers, infrastructure, automobiles, green mobility and heritage tourism.

On sustainability, the PM proposed closer cooperation in renewable energy, green finance, desalination and water recycling, aligning India's green transition with Jordan's resource priorities.



Telangana CM seeks FRBM exemption from Centre, pitches for IIM Hyderabad

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Telangana Chief Minister A. R. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday met Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Dharmendra Pradhan in Delhi, seeking central support for education initiatives, including the establishment of an Indian Institute of Management in Hyderabad.

He also met Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and briefed her on the two-day Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 held on December 8-9 at Future City. He also presented a copy of the "Telangana Rising 2047 Vision Document", according to a state government statement.

Gandhi appreciated the state government's performance and expressed hope that Reddy would lead Telangana on a development path aligned with the vision document, it said.

In a meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament, Reddy outlined plans for Young India Integrated Residential Schools (YIIRS) being constructed across 105 assembly constituencies in Telangana.

Each school will accommodate 2,560 students from classes 5 to 12, directly benefiting 2.70 lakh students while indirectly serving lakhs more through their role as educational hubs for nearby government schools, the statement said.

The chief minister told Sitharaman that constructing these 105 schools with state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and stadiums would require Rs 21,000 crore, while another Rs 9,000 crore is needed for modernising labs

and infrastructure in junior colleges, degree colleges and technical institutions.

The total requirement for the comprehensive education sector development stands at Rs 30,000 crore.

Reddy requested that loans raised through a Special Purpose Centre being established for the integrated schools be exempted from Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) limits, urging the minister to view education expenditure as an investment in human resource development.

Sitharaman praised the initiative and asked for details of the Special Purpose Centre.

In a separate meeting with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the chief minister made a strong pitch for establishing an IIM in Hyderabad, citing the city's rapid growth in technology, life sciences, aerospace, defence, logistics and advanced manufacturing.

Reddy pointed out that while the Union government has established 21 IIMs across 19 states and one Union Territory, Telangana still lacks one.

The state has already identified 200 acres at the University of Hyderabad campus for the IIM, with a transit campus ready to commence classes immediately.

The chief minister said the state government would grant necessary permissions and provide required facilities. Reddy also appealed for nine new Kendriya Vidyalayas and 16 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in line with Telangana's increased number of districts.

Sonia, Rahul get respite in National Herald case

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, Dec 16

A Delhi court on Tuesday refused to take cognisance of the Enforcement Directorate's money laundering complaint against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, holding that the prosecution was not maintainable in law at this stage.

Special Judge Vishal Gogoi of the Rouse Avenue Courts ruled that the complaint filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) could not be entertained as it was not founded on a first information report (FIR) relating to a scheduled offence.

The court noted that the ED's money laundering proceedings were based on a cognisance and summoning order passed on a private complaint filed under Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by Subramanian Swamy, and not on an FIR. It observed that an FIR was a mandatory requirement for initiating proceedings under the PMLA. While pronouncing the order, the judge recorded that the economic offences wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police

had already registered an FIR in the matter. In view of this, the court held that it would be premature to examine the ED's arguments on merits at this stage.

The court ruled that since the prosecution complaint for the offence of money laundering was founded on a summoning order arising out of a private complaint, and not on an FIR relating to a scheduled offence, taking cognisance of the complaint was impermissible in law.

It further held that an investigation and prosecution under Sections 3 and 4 of the PMLA could not be sustained in the absence of

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYEDA SHAFEEENA FATHIMA daughter of TAUFEEQ AHMED (Father) and NAJEEBUNNISA (Mother) born on 12-02-2000 (OLD NAME) residence of H.no. 9-425/1, Teachers Colony, Adilabad-504001, Telangana. Presently holding passport No. U9807148 issued on 03-05-2021 hereby changing my parents name's and in future they will be known as SYED TAUFEEQ AHMED (Father) and SYEDA NAJEEBUNNISA (Mother) (NEW NAME) for the sake of my passport to be corrected accordingly.

DECLARANT.

SYEDA SHAFEEENA FATHIMA
D/O SYED TAUFEEQ AHMED

Place: Adilabad

Date: 17-12-2025

Suspected Hyderabad link emerges in Sydney Bondi Beach shooting

Hyderabad, Dec 16

In a significant development, a suspected Hyderabad connection has surfaced in the deadly mass shooting that took place during a public Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach in Sydney on December 14, which left 15 people dead.

Officials are said to have found that one of the accused, Sajid Akram (50), was originally from Hyderabad. He completed his B.Com in the city before migrating to Australia in November 1998 in search of employment. Telangana Travel Guide

Sajid later settled permanently in Australia after marrying Venera Grosso, a woman of European origin. He currently holds an Indian passport. His son, Naveed Akram (24), the second attacker, was born and raised in Australia and is an Australian citizen.

Investigators believe Sajid and Naveed were influenced by ISIS ideology. One of the two attackers was killed during the incident, while investigations into the wider network and radicalisation process are ongoing.

According to reports being attributed to relatives in Hyderabad, Sajid Akram had very limited contact with his family over the past 27 years. He reportedly visited India only a handful of times for personal reasons, such as

Murmu pays homage to 1971 war heroes

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, Dec 16

President Droupadi Murmu today led the nation in paying tributes to the bravehearts who ensured India's historic victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan. Murmu inaugurated 'Param Vir Chakra' at Rashtrapati Bhavan, displaying portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.

Commemorating India's historic victory in the 1971 war, through a post on X, Murmu paid tributes to the bravehearts, whose valour, devotion and patriotism have always brought glory to the nation and will continue to inspire every citizen.



The President added that the 'Empowerment through Indigenisation' initiative of the Indian Armed

Forces reflects their commitment towards being prepared for future challenges. The President also felicitated PVC awardees and next-of-kin on the occasion.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Hollowing out of the 'middle' – widening gulf between the rich and poor

While 'survival of the fittest' aptly describes the evolution of living organisms through natural selection, 'survival of the richest' appears to be the mantra of modern human history. Across the world, it is the wealthy few who get to dominate a vast majority of the poor. Despite numerous welfare models, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. The latest World Inequality Report 2026 presents a grim picture of wealth distribution that is so skewed that the nations must rethink the foundations of their growth models. Produced by the Paris-based World Inequality Lab, a network of over 200 researchers building on the pioneering work of economists like Thomas Piketty, it represents the global gold standard in tracking distributional accounts. The report says that the richest 10% of the world's population now owns three-quarters of all personal wealth. Worldwide, living standards are stagnating for many, while wealth and power are increasingly concentrated at the top. Alarmingly, fewer than 60,000 people — 0.001% of the world's population — control three times as much wealth as the entire bottom half of humanity. It is also found that the top 10% of income-earners earn more than the other 90% combined, while the poorest half captures less than 10% of total global earnings. In almost every region, the top 1% was wealthier than the bottom 90% combined.



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”The Telangana State Mala Associations Joint Action Committee (JAC) has urged the government to ensure that the Mala community does not face marginalization or extinction in Telangana. Under the leadership of the Telangana State Mala Associations JAC, a delegation submitted a memorandum to Uppal MLA, seeking his support for their ongoing democratic struggle. The JAC leaders stated that the SC categorisation law introduced by Chief Minister has resulted in injustice to 58 out of the 59 Scheduled Caste communities. They demanded that the government immediately introduce an amendment to the SC categorisation law in the Telangana State Assembly to ensure equitable justice to all SC communities. The delegation appealed to the Uppal MLA to raise their concerns in the Assembly and to fight on their behalf regarding the difficulties faced by the Mala community, particularly the injustices affecting Mala students and unemployed youth. Speaking on the occasion, JAC leaders sought complete support for their dharma struggle and reiterated the need for legislative correction to protect the rights and future of the Mala community in Telangana. Those who participated in the programme included Telangana State Mala Associations JAC Chairman Dr. Mandala Bhaskar; Greater Hyderabad Mala Associations JAC Chairman Berabala Kishan (Balanna); Uppal Constituency Mala Associations JAC leaders Masa Shekhar, Battula Ramesh, Battula Dileep, Alaka Narasimha Rao, Sakhi Gangadhar Rao; and Uppal constituency Mala Association leaders M. Shekhar, P. Prasad Rao, M. Srinivas, M. Raghuvaran, A. Veera, N. Rambabu, B. Arjun, K. Ramulu, and D. Purushottam.

Senior Congress Leader JANAMPALLI VENKATESHWARA REDDY Pay Courtesy Call on Telangana Sports Authority Chairman



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”Senior Congress leader Janampalli Venkateshwara Reddy paid a courtesy visit on Tuesday

to Chairman and Wanaparthy district president, and facilitated him on the occasion. The meeting was held in the Uppal constituency. Congress leaders Kondal Reddy and Kishan Naik were also present during the interaction. Speaking on the occasion, Shiv Sena Reddy urged party leaders and workers to work with dedication to ensure that the Congress party hoists its flag in the upcoming Greater Hyderabad elections. He expressed confidence that the Congress has already emerged as a formidable force in the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch elections and asserted that the party would achieve decisive victories in the forthcoming MPTC and ZPTC elections as well. He further assured that leaders and grassroots workers who actively serve the party would be given due recognition and appropriate positions, adding that he would extend his full support and cooperation to strengthen the party organization.

Always Remain Accessible to the People and Serve Them: MLA Dr. Palvai Harish Babu Advises Newly Elected Sarpanches



“Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”Penchikalpet: Sirpur Assembly constituency MLA Dr. Palvai Harish Babu felicitated the newly elected sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, and ward members at the mandal headquarters and extended his best wishes. Among those elected as sarpanches are Bhakta Ramchandar, Annam Rukmabai Ganapati, Chappidi Ravi, Potte Umadevi Mahesh, and Bottupalli Krishnaveni Harish. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Harish Babu advised the newly elected representatives to always remain accessible to the people and dedicate themselves to public

service. He urged them not to let arrogance creep in due to the authority they have gained, but instead to earn the enduring respect and affection of the people. He stated that development programmes are being implemented in villages transcending party lines, and assured that this approach would continue. He further encouraged those who were defeated in the elections not to lose heart, emphasising that ample opportunities would arise in the coming days. He promised to embrace the defeated candidates, nurture them, and groom them into future leaders.

Board engineer who is aware of the problems in Bapujinagar

“Secunderabad Cantonment, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”Bowenpally Bapujinagar under Cantonment Board Engineer Section Rajeshwar 1st Ward, Dhanalakshmi Colony. Vanita visited the colony areas and learned about many problems. Internal roads become potholed. Drainage. Arrangement of manholes. Locals were asked about other problems. The locals were told that the report of the problems would be taken to the attention of the higher authorities. Ajith Kalyan in this program. Srikanth, Shashi, Rama Rao, Metla Shekhar, Pala Shekhar. Others participated.



BRS Leader Sarva Babu Yadav Distributes Blankets Under the Leadership of Burra Mahender Kanne Swamy



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”Under the leadership of Kanne Swamy Mahender Mudiraj, BRS leader Sarva Babu Yadav distributed blankets on Tuesday to Kanne Swamys who had set out on the Sabarimala pilgrimage from the Satya Narayana Swamy Temple, under the guidance of Nagesh Gupta Guru Swamy and Narayana Guru Swamy. The distribution took place at the Harivarasanam premises. Later, Ayyappa Swamy Temple priest Srikrishna Namboori Guru Swamy, along with Vishwanath Guru Swamy, Neelachalam Guru Swamy, and Venkata Rao Guru Swamy, were felicitated with due respect.

Ramanthapur Division Congress President Mohammed Rafiq Participates in Irumudi Programme

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”Ramanthapur Division Congress Party President participated in the Irumudi programme held at the , organised under the guidance of Kantharao Guruswamy. On the occasion, towels were distributed



to 60 Ayyappa devotees. Demonstrating a strong spirit of communal harmony, Mohammed Rafiq also organised a bhiksha (community meal) for around 600 Ayyappa devotees at Gandhi Nagar Function Hall. In addition, he personally made necessary arrangements—using his own funds—for devotees who recently undertook the pilgrimage to. The programme witnessed the participation of Mohan Swamy, Vasu Swamy, Polinedu Swamy, Bal Raj Swamy, Gangaputra Bhaskar, Paila Adinayrayana Goud, Gayatri Goud, Gym Sandeep, Mohammed Nayeeem, Suri, Swamy,

Dhanurmasa Tiruppavai Utsavai started in Bowenpally

“Secunderabad Cantonment, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”Dhanurmasa Tiruppavai Utsavai at Venkateswara Swamy Temples in Bowenpally New City Colony started on Tuesday. Former Vice President of the Board Jampana Pratap attended the opening ceremony and performed pooja at the temple. Pawan Swami said.. Godadevi Amma herself performed the Tiruppavai Vrata



and thus the Parinayam Adi Asadyam of Sri Ranga Nadu can be made possible. Therefore, the devotees, especially women, for thirty days in Dhanurmasam, present their wishes to Lord Swami for thirty days, and the Puranas say that this Dhanurmasam is very important. It is said that every day on Telavar Jamu from 5 to 7 o'clock there will be sevakalam Tiruppavai writing practice. Dafedhar Ramakrishna Kumar, Sanitation Department in this program. Members of the Temple Committee. Lakshman. Priests participated

Do Not Shift Uppal Sub-Registrar Office to Boduppal: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”Uppal MLA on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the State Minister for Housing, Revenue and Information, , urging that the Uppal Sub-Registrar Office should not be shifted to Boduppal. The memorandum was submitted at the . Explaining the issue, the MLA stated that relocating the Uppal Sub-Registrar Office to would cause

significant inconvenience to the public. He also requested the Minister to initiate the construction of a new building for the Kapra Sub-Registrar Office in. Responding positively, the Minister assured that he would make all necessary efforts to address the concerns raised. BRS party state leaders Sai Zen Shekhar and Bannala Praveen Mudraj, among others, were present during the meeting.

Government Degree College Kagaznagar Hosts Workshop on Robotics Technology

“Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”A special workshop on robotics was organised on Tuesday at the Government Degree College, Kagaznagar, under the aegis of the college's Physics Department. Santosh, representative from Soham Academy, Hyderabad, attended the programme and provided students with hands-on awareness of robotics tech-



nology. He also guided the students in personally conducting experiments on the fundamental aspects of robotics. Speaking on the occasion, College Principal K. Sridevi emphasised that in the modern technological era, knowledge of robotics is expanding across all fields, making it essential for students to gain awareness in these areas. Vice-Principal Dr. D. Lakshminarasimham addressed the gathering, stating that artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and robotics are bringing revolutionary changes in the contemporary world. He advised students to acquire knowledge in these fields and develop specialised skills. Subsequently, certificates were distributed to the students who completed the workshop. Academic Coordinator D. Janardhan, faculty members B. Rose Mary, Dr. V. Devender, B. Venkatesham, R. Krishnaveni, and Shambavi participated in the programme.

Dr. Palvai Harish Babu-Led Foundation Holds Successful Free Eye Camp in Kagaznagar

“Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”Kagaznagar: A free eye medical camp was successfully conducted today under the auspices of the



Praja Bandhu Foundation at Praja Life Care Hospital in Kagaznagar town. Of the 20 individuals who attended the camp and underwent examinations, six were identified as requiring surgery. The organisers informed that these operations would be performed in phases. Sirpur MLA and Foundation President Dr. Palvai Harish Babu stated that eye examinations will be conducted every Tuesday. He urged those suffering from cataracts or diminished vision to make good use of this opportunity.

Illegal Construction Alleged in Nala Buffer Zone at Kapra, Officials Accused of Inaction

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 16, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):”This is to inform that within the jurisdiction of Kapra Circle/Mandal, at D.A.S. Rao Nagar Division, near the Kapra Mandal Office, a four-storey (G+4) building is under construction at Survey Nos. 393, 394 and 395, Sri Raja Rajeshwari Nagar, Kapra. The said construction has reportedly obtained approval from the GHMC Zonal Office through a Building Permit Order with the following details: Building Permit Order File No: 006442/GHMC/03082/SWBP/LBN2/2025 Permit No: 1453/GHMC/SWBP/LBN2/2025 Date: 17/10/2025 However, during the course of construction, several serious doubts and concerns were noticed. It was observed that construction activity was being carried out very close to the Nala and allegedly within the Nala buffer zone. Upon being informed, Mandal Revenue Officials inspected the site, and the Kapra Mandal Tahsildar confirmed that the construction falls within the Nala buffer zone and ordered an immediate stoppage of work. Despite these instructions, the builder resumed construction the very next day. As a result, the Kapra Mandal Revenue Inspector seized the JCB machinery being used at the site and shifted it to the Mandal Office. Subsequently, the Kapra Mandal Tahsildar, while reviewing the issue, requested a joint survey and communicated the same to the Deputy Commissioner, GHMC Kapra Circle, and the Deputy Executive Engineer, North Tanks Division, through Letter No. B/1660/2025 dated 20/11/2025. Even after this communication, construction activities continued. Following further intimation, GHMC Town Planning officials temporarily halted the work and seized certain construction materials. However, it was surprising to note that during



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 16):”In Bhuvanagiri town, on Tuesday, as part of the public governance program in the 10th ward's Housing Board colony, electricity officials conducted ward visits to understand the problems of electricity consumers and are resolving them immediately. PCC General Secretary and former 10th ward councilor Pothnak Pramod Kumar appreciated AGM Balaswamy and DE Venkateshwar for this initiative. Speaking on the occasion, he said that under the Congress people's government, electricity offi-



cials are coming directly to the people, understanding the consumers' problems, and resolving them promptly. They are immediately removing trees that are touching the power lines and installing poles to prevent loose lines and sagging wires. He also appealed to AGM Balaswamy to install underground power lines in the Housing Board colony. AD Anand Reddy, AE Sai Krishna, former councilor E Rapaka Narasimha, Matur Baleshwar, and others participated in this program.

Demand to Declare Boduppal Municipal Corporation into Four Divisions

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 16, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):”Boduppal Municipal Corporation should be divided into four divisions to ensure better governance and accelerated development, demanded 21st Division contestant corporator Sriramula Gnaneshwar along with local residents. Strong objections were raised against the proposal to declare Boduppal Municipal Corporation with only two divisions. Gnaneshwar pointed out that Boduppal has a voter population exceeding one lakh, making it necessary to create four divisions for effective administration and improved delivery of civic services. He further urged that one of the four divisions must be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (ST). He stated that from 1957 to 2025, not even a single division in Boduppal has been allocated to the ST community, which he termed as a long-standing injustice. He appealed to the Chief Minister to take immediate steps to rectify this by announcing four divisions with appropriate reservation. According to him, increasing the number of divisions would ensure closer representation, better accessibility to elected



representatives, and faster development of infrastructure and public services. Gnaneshwar and local residents submitted a memorandum at the municipal office, urging the government to consider public opinion while taking a final decision. They expressed confidence that if the corporation is divided into four divisions in line with people's aspirations, Boduppal's development would progress at a much faster pace.

Renuka Yellamma Ammavari Kalyana Mahotsavam Celebrated with Grandeur

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”The Renuka Yellamma Ammavari Kalyana Mahotsavam was celebrated with great devotion and grandeur on Tuesday at the residence of Bollamalla Yadaiah, former Srinagar Colony president and senior Congress leader. Several local leaders and residents participated in the auspicious ceremony and sought the blessings of the Goddess. Prominent among them were Uppal Division BRS leaders Anya Balakrishna, Jajula Nageshwar Goud, President of New Bharat Nagar Colony, and Kappari Elles Kumar,



General Secretary of the New Bharat Nagar Colony, along with others.

BRS Leader Niranjan Chary Seeks Blessings of Uppal MLA on His Birthday



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 16 (Indian Chronicle):”On the occasion of his birthday, senior leader of the (BRS), Bhasha Palli Niranjan Chary, called on Uppal MLA at his residence and sought his blessings on Tuesday. The MLA warmly greeted Niranjan Chary, extended birthday wishes, felicitated him, and offered



sweets to mark the occasion. In return, Niranjan Chary felicitated the MLA, expressed his gratitude, and conveyed his happiness after receiving the blessings. BRS leaders Akula Mahender, Jetta Kishore, Kadige Shekhar, Alexander, Ram Reddy, Baddam Jnaneshwar Goud, Bandaram Raghavender Goud, and others were present at the event.

At the 47th National Public Relations Conference held in Dehradun, Hyderabad-based international magician Samala Venu was felicitated



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 15):”At the 47th National Public Relations Conference held in Dehradun, Hyderabad-based international magician Samala Venu was grandly honored on December 14th. At the conference held at Hotel Emerald in the city, Rajya Sabha member Naresh Bansal presented Venu with the PR Excellence Award for his efforts in promoting public relations through magic. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Information Minister Ganesh Joshi, National President of Public Relations Ajit Pathak, and the Chairman of the Russian PR Congress, Mikhail Maslov, participated in the event. 650 PR professionals and public relations officers from various states participated in this program.

As part of public governance, electricity officials toured the wards AGM Balaswamy is addressing the problems of electricity consumers.



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 16):”In Bhuvanagiri town, on Tuesday, as part of the public governance program in the 10th ward's Housing Board colony, electricity officials conducted ward visits to understand the problems of electricity consumers and are resolving them immediately. PCC General Secretary and former 10th ward councilor Pothnak Pramod Kumar appreciated AGM Balaswamy and DE Venkateshwar for this initiative. Speaking on the occasion, he said that under the Congress people's government, electricity offi-

cials are coming directly to the people, understanding the consumers' problems, and resolving them promptly. They are immediately removing trees that are touching the power lines and installing poles to prevent loose lines and sagging wires. He also appealed to AGM Balaswamy to install underground power lines in the Housing Board colony. AD Anand Reddy, AE Sai Krishna, former councilor E Rapaka Narasimha, Matur Baleshwar, and others participated in this program.

Exercise your right to vote, but misuse of the vote will result in imprisonment:
- District Election Officer Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Mandava Srisailam, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau, Indian Chronicle, December 16):”District Election Officer and Collector Hanumantha Rao stated that while citizens should exercise their right to vote, misuse of the vote will inevitably lead to imprisonment. He mentioned that according to Rule 227 of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act and Section 135 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, severe action will be taken against such individuals, including imprisonment for up to 5 years. He also stated that during counting, no one other than the counting staff should touch the ballot papers. In a statement, the District Election Officer and Collector said that voters in Addagudur, Mothkur, Motakondur, Gundala, Choutuppal, and Narayananur mandals, where polling is scheduled in the third phase of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district Gram Panchayat elections, should make good use of their right to vote. However, those who tear or take the ballot paper outside will be liable for imprisonment under Rule 227 of the Panchayat Raj Act. Therefore, everyone should utilize their right to vote responsibly.

Every officer performing election duties must conduct the polling process efficiently:

- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Election Officer and Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 16):”Every officer performing election duties must conduct the polling process efficiently. District Election Officer and Collector Hanumantha Rao said that every officer performing election duties must carefully ensure that each voter is casting two votes into the ballot box. On Tuesday, the District Election Officer and Collector inspected the polling material distribution center at the Mahalakshmi Function Hall in Motakondur mandal center, where the third phase of elections for the Gram Panchayat elections will be held, and gave several instructions. He said that all polling staff should check whether the ballot boxes, which are part of the polling material, are opening properly. They should also check the ballot papers. He said that everything should be checked once or twice. He stated that the voter list should be thoroughly examined and taken from there. He said that everything should be prepared today as soon as they reach the polling station. Form-9, which contains the symbols, should be affixed outside the polling station. He said that it should be thoroughly checked whether all voters are casting two ballot papers into the ballot box. He said that after the polling is completed, the polling material must be handed over to the reception center. He instructed that any problems that arise should be brought to their attention immediately. The Collector went to the staff who were packing the polling materials

and boarding the bus and inspected their preparations. He then went to the Presiding Officers (POs) and Other Polling Officers (OPOs) who were having lunch at the center and instructed them to double-check the polling materials after their meal. He also inquired about the quality of the food. He stated that the police personnel should ensure that voters do not bring mobile phones into the polling station and that no groups of people gather within 100 meters of the polling centers. He emphasized that the counting process should also be conducted meticulously and that the entire counting process must be video recorded. He made it clear that no one except the counting staff should touch the ballot papers. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Ready for the third phase of polling... Setting up eco-friendly polling stations...

District Election Officer Collector Hanumantha Rao

“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 16):”The District Election Officer said that meticulous arrangements have been made for the third phase of polling in Addagudur, Mothkur, Motakondur, Gundala, Choutuppal, and Narayananur mandals as part of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district Gram Panchayat elections. He inspected the arrangements at the ideal polling station in the Zilla Parishad High School in Patimatla village of Mothkur mandal and in Choulla Ramaram village of



AM tomorrow. He said that at these ideal polling stations, water will be provided in earthen pots, rangoli designs will be drawn in front of the polling stations, and the atmosphere will be festive with green plants, coconut fronds, and flower decorations. Selfie points will be set up with banana leaves, and green mats will be laid to create awareness. Ideal polling stations in 6 mandals... Arrangements have been made in Choulla Ramaram village of Addagudur mandal, Patimatla village of Mothkur mandal, Pachilla village of Gundala mandal, Muthireddy Gudem of Motakondur mandal, Aregudem village of Choutuppal mandal, and Chimiriyala village of Narayananur mandal.



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Divisions Should Be Delimited to Ensure Justice to the Public: Karanam Suresh

Congress Seva Dal Submits Memorandum to Zonal Commissioner on GHMC Division Changes

"Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, December 16: "Telangana Pradesh Congress Seva Dal Secunderabad District President Karanam Suresh has stated that the recent GHMC division delimitation should be carried out in a manner that ensures justice to all sections of the public." On Tuesday, Karanam Suresh met the Zonal Commissioner at the Zonal Commissioner's Office in Secunderabad and submitted a memorandum seeking changes and modifications to the Adikmet Division. Speaking on the occasion, he said that as part of the delimitation process, three additional wards have been added to the Musheerabad Assembly constituency, and therefore necessary changes should be made to ensure that the Adikmet Division is more beneficial and convenient for the public." He urged officials to take appropriate steps so that no area is unfairly merged with another, and that all residents within a division remain united. He emphasized that such an approach would



keep the people satisfied and lead to faster and balanced development." Those who met the Zonal Commissioner along with him included Vijay Yadav, Anand Mudiraj, Kiran, Sudhakar, Govardhan Reddy, and other Congress Seva Dal leaders

Paramita Student Selected for State-Level Under-14 Cricket Championship

"Chittimalla Mahendar, "Karimnagar Bureau, December 16, INDIAN CHRONICLE: "A student of Paramita Heritage School, Padmanagar, has brought pride to the institution by securing selection for the State-Level Under-14 Cricket Championship. According to School Director K. Hanmantha Rao, P. Kedarnath, a ninth-grade student of the school, has been selected to represent the district at the state-level competitions." The State-Level Under-14 Cricket Championship will be conducted under the auspices of the Hyderabad Cricket Association from the 17th to the 25th of this month. Kedarnath earned his selection after displaying outstanding performance in the recently held district-level Under-14 cricket competitions at Alugunoor in Karimnagar district. "On this occasion, the school Chairman Dr. E. Prasada Rao and Directors Prasuna, Anukar Rao, Rashmita, Rakesh, V.U.M. Prasad, Vinod Rao, and K. Hanmantha Rao congratulated the student and appreciated his achievement. The school Headmaster Gopikrishna, Coordinators Rabindra Patro, Bhavani, Nikita, and Physical Education Teachers



G. Mahesh and S. Raju were present and extended their best wishes to the selected student. The school management expressed confidence that Kedarnath would continue to excel and bring further laurels to the institution in future competitions.

BSP Leaders Oppose Merger of Nacharam Division Colonies with Tarnaka Division

"Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, December 16: "As part of the proposed reorganization of municipal divisions, BSP Uppal Constituency President Mindrala Narsing Rao has strongly urged the Kapra Municipal Corporation officials not to merge the colonies currently falling under Nacharam Division into Tarnaka Division. In this connection, he submitted a detailed memorandum with objections to the Kapra Municipal authorities on Tuesday. In the memorandum, he specifically requested that Ambedkar Nagar, Errakunta, and Karthikayya Nagar colonies, which are presently part of Nacharam Division, should continue to remain under the same division without any alteration. He emphasized that these colonies have been administratively and geographically associated with Nacharam Division for several years and that residents are accustomed to accessing civic services through this division." Mindrala Narsing Rao stated that if these colonies are merged with Tarnaka Division, residents may face several difficulties, including delays in municipal services, confusion regarding jurisdiction, and problems related to grievance redressal. He further pointed out that changes in divisional boundaries could adversely affect developmental works, welfare schemes, and coordination between the public and municipal officials. "Highlighting public interest, he appealed to the Kapra Municipal authorities to consider the convenience of the residents and to avoid making changes that could disrupt the existing administrative setup. He urged the officials to retain the current divisional structure and ensure smooth delivery of civic amenities to the people of Nacharam Division." Several BSP party members and local residents sup-



ported the demand and expressed hope that the municipal authorities would take a positive decision in favor of the public.

Ensure Adequate Facilities for Voters Without Any Inconvenience : District Add'l Collector Deepak Tiwari

"Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 16 (Indian Chronicle): "In the context of the second ordinary panchayat elections, District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Deepak Tiwari has directed that necessary facilities be provided at polling stations in the district for the third phase elections without causing any inconvenience to voters."

"On Tuesday, he visited and inspected the arrangements at the polling stations set up for the third phase elections in Ankushapur of Kagaznagar mandal in the district. "Speaking on the occasion, he stated that in the backdrop of the second ordinary panchayat elections, minimum basic facilities, electricity, drinking water, and ramp facilities must be provided for voters at the polling stations."

"He instructed the concerned officials to make adequate arrangements to ensure there are no shortcomings at the polling centres." He informed that polling will take place on the 17th of this month from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the counting process will commence from 2 p.m. onwards. "He emphasized that officials should responsibly perform the duties assigned to them to ensure transparent elections without any scope for irregularities."



Delhivery launches On-demand Intracity offering in Hyderabad via the Delhivery Direct App



We will continue to invest and expand to more cities to serve the growing demand across India."

The Delhivery Direct App is available on Google Play and Apple App stores. Customers can download the app to book intracity orders. The application also enables booking of intercity shipments to over 18,850 pin codes across India.

Delhivery is India's largest fully-integrated logistics services provider. With its nationwide network covering over 18,850 pin codes, the company provides a wide range of logistics services such as express parcel transportation, PTL freight, TL freight, cross-border, supply chain, and technology services. Delhivery has successfully fulfilled over 4.0 billion shipments since inception and today works with over 48K+ customers, including large & small e-commerce participants, SMEs, and other enterprises & brands. For more information about Delhivery, please visit www.delhivery.com.

Minor driving is increasing in Bowenpally



"Secunderabad Cantonment, December 16 (Indian Chronicle): "Driving under 18 years of age is a legal offense in India and if found to be dangerous to road safety, minors and their parents face heavy fines, cancellation of vehicle registration, imprisonment, especially bikes with engine capacity less than 50cc can be banned by 16 year olds. Driving motor vehicles (except 50cc bikes) is prohibited for persons under 18 years of age. A fine of up to ₹25,000 and imprisonment of up to 3 years can be imposed on parents or owners who give vehicles to minors. Vehicle registration will be canceled for 12 months in cases of under-age driving. In case of an accident due to under-age driving, stricter action will be taken against the owners. Some parents are giving vehicles to their

children to go to school and encouraging their children to go to school. Such incidents are seen more recently in Old Bowenpally area under Bowenpally police station. Locals say that the children going to school are driving the vehicles and driving at a high speed, causing fear to the pedestrians. Locals are appealing to the police to take measures to punish the parents who are encouraging minors by having separate drives at the schools once a week."

Review vehicular emission standard, install air purifiers in schools, suggests House panel

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

From recommending a comprehensive review of the country's vehicular emission standards, launch of a satellite to monitor farm fires, to installing air purifiers in all public schools and hospitals, a parliamentary panel has made slew of policy prescriptions to the central government to combat Delhi-NCR's air pollution in a new report tabled in Rajya Sabha, Thursday. The panel has also suggested that the government consider abolishing or reducing GST on air purifiers and HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters, capping the registration of non-electric cars and offering tax incentives for adoption of EVs. It also asked the Centre to expedite its revision of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and installation of pollution cutting devices in thermal plants within 300-km of Delhi-NCR.

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change report was tabled by the panel's Chairman and BJP MP Bhubaneswar Kalita. The panel said that no single policy or quick fix solution can untangle the deep-rooted pollution issue. It noted that even as the government's effort to reduce air pollution have fallen short, a prohibitive tax was levied on air purifiers, which it said citizens were forced to rely on. "Imposing such a tax effectively monetizes a public health failure," the panel stated. It added that since children are among the most vulnerable to poor air, it recommended installation of air purifiers in all public schools of Delhi-NCR, and public hospitals, especially critical wards. It also sought that the government make it mandatory to install air purifiers in government offices.

Analysing vehicular emissions and adoption of ethanol as alternate fuel, the panel acknowledged the rationale of ethanol blending for energy security, but flagged unintended impacts such as rise in nitrogen oxides emissions from older vehicles which are not fully compliant with blended fuel. It also delved into the issue of evaporative emissions, which lead to ozone formation. It thus recommended that the government should "undertake a comprehensive review of the nation's vehicular emission standards." It said that the review should evaluate the necessity of adopting more stringent evaporative emission standards. These standards relate to capturing fuel vapours from vehicles. On EV adoption, the panel noted the slow progress and said the government could consider incentives and some deterrents. It suggested offering cheaper or free public parking for EV owners, and steeper rates for petrol and diesel vehicles. Beyond park-



ing incentives, it said the government could also consider an "annual ceiling on the registration of new non-electric vehicles" across NCR. On stubble burning, the standing committee also took cognizance of media reports which indicated that farmers were evading satellite detection of farm fires. Expressing concern about these tactics, the panel recommended that ISRO launch a dedicated high-resolution satellite capable of monitoring farm fires 24x7, and a space application mapped with digital farm land records. The panel also examined the national ambient air quality standards and average annual air quality index. It noted that Delhi's annual PM 2.5 levels needed to be slashed by 62% to meet the air quality standards, and by 95% to meet WHO standards.

Law to regulate school fee in Delhi risks becoming procedural, say parents; minister says 'small, politicised circle criticising new rules'

GNS News Agency, Dec 15 Three days after the Rekha Gupta government notified the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Act to regulate fees in private schools, parent groups, while terming the step as "progressive", worried that "loops" could weaken its implementation. Divya Mattey, a parent at Delhi Public School, Dwarka, maintained that the new law is an important attempt in introducing long-pending accountability in the fee-fixation practices of private unaided recognised schools.

Hanumangarh ethanol plant: Farmer leaders from Punjab, Haryana to join kisan maha panchayat in Rajasthan on Dec 17



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Farmer leaders from Punjab, Haryana and several other states will participate in a kisan maha panchayat Wednesday outside the deputy commissioner's office in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh to protest against a proposed ethanol plant in the Tibbi village of the district. The Rajasthan government has suspended internet services in Hanumangarh ahead of the maha panchayat. Various farmer unions in Rajasthan have called for the maha panchayat to oppose the proposed ethanol plant, citing concerns about environmental damage, particularly groundwater depletion.

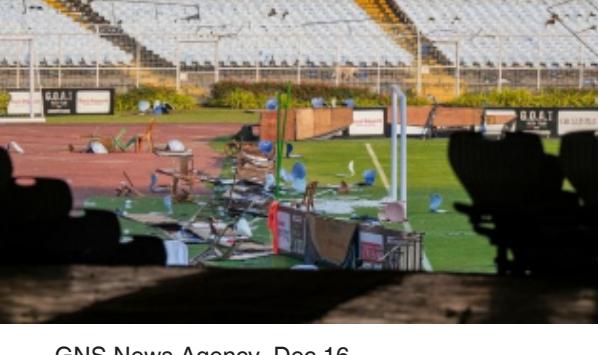
A 12-member national executive committee of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) will attend the maha panchayat. Among them will be Joginder Singh Ugrahan, president of BKU Ekta Ugrahan (Punjab); Prem Singh Gehlawat, president of All India Kisan Morcha (Haryana unit); Rakesh Tikait of BKU Tikait from Uttar Pradesh and P Krishnaprasad, finance secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha, who will be coming from Kerala. Other leaders from different states are also expected to attend. "There will be no mass mobilisation from Punjab or Haryana. Only members of the SKM national executive committee will go to extend solidarity. However, the SKM fully supports the demands of farmers in Hanumangarh," said Jagmohan Singh Patiala, state general secretary of BKU Dakauna, a constituent of the SKM. "We have learnt that internet services have been suspended in Hanumangarh, but leaders of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) from Haryana will be part of the maha panchayat. We will either travel by road or by train," said Tejveer Singh, spokesperson of the BKU (Shaheed Bhagat Singh), a constituent of the KMM. He added that the Gramin Kisan Mazdoor Samiti (GKS),

Rajasthan, also a constituent of the KMM, is already leading the agitation in Hanumangarh.

Sarwan Singh Pandher, coordinator of the KMM, said that constituent bodies of the morcha from Haryana would participate in Wednesday's maha panchayat. On December 10, farmers from Punjab visited the Tibbi village, where clashes reportedly took place between farmers and police. Kaka Singh Kotda, general secretary of BKU Sidhpur, a constituent of the SKM (non-political), said he and a few members of his union had visited the village on that day. He added that SKM (non-political) convener Jagjit Singh Dallewal went Monday to extend support.

"However, no one from Punjab will be going on Wednesday from the SKM (non-political) side. We are fully with the farmers, and our Rajasthan counterparts are leading the agitation; we will continue to support them," Kotda said. Punjab-based social media influencer Bhana Sidhu was detained by Punjab Police on December 9, ahead of his planned visit to Tibbi village. The proposed plant is being set up by Dune Ethanol Private Limited, a Chandigarh-registered company. Its directors are Jatinder Arora and Robin Jindal. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Rajasthan government and the company in 2022. The company obtained a no-objection certificate (NoC) from village Rathikhhera in the same year, revealed information from Rajasthan farmers. However, the project site is located just 1.5 km from the Tibbi village, and they strongly object to it, said Santveer Singh Chahal of the Gramin Kisan Mazdoor Sangrash Samiti, Rajasthan. "We came to know about the project after filing an RTI application at the district collector's office in Hanumangarh and began protesting in March 2024. The protest continued outside the factory site for months but was forcibly lifted last month when construction of the boundary wall began," Chahal said. He added that after detained leaders were released, the agitation regained momentum. "The information we received shows that the factory is coming up on nearly 65 acres of land and will consume thousands of litres of groundwater every day. We will not allow this to happen," he said. The land for the project was purchased between 2022 and 2023 from eight to ten farmers, he added. The SKM has extended full support to the protesting farmers. The All India Kisan Sabha, BKU Sidhpur, GKS Rajasthan and several other unions have also backed the local village committee opposing the project.

Bengal govt show-causes state DGP Rajeev Kumar, Bidhannagar CP



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

A preliminary report on the violence and vandalism at Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday has been submitted to the state government by the three-member enquiry committee constituted by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Based on the report, show-cause notices have been issued by the state to Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Kumar and Bidhannagar Police Commissioner Mukesh Kumar. Departmental proceedings have been initiated against Aneesh Sarkar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), among others.

According to a press statement issued by the Chief Secretary's office, "Rajeev Kumar, DGP, West Bengal, has been served a show-cause notice to clarify within 24 hours of communication as to why such mismanagement and lapses happened in the stadium on that day and why proper coordination with concerned stakeholders, including the private organiser, was not carried out to ensure the smooth conduct of the event." The statement added, "Mukesh Kumar, CP, Bidhannagar, is also show-caused, and clarification has been sought within 24 hours regarding the role and conduct of the Bidhannagar Commissionerate in the management of the event at Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan (VYBK), Salt Lake." Further, departmental proceedings have been initiated against Aneesh Sarkar (IPS), DCP, for "reported negligence in duties and responsibilities" on the day of the event, and he has been placed under suspension till the completion of the enquiry. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary, Youth Affairs and Sports department, has also been show-caused and asked to submit clarification on the lapses and mismanagement. The services of Deb Kumar Nandan, WBCS (Exe) (Retd.), CEO of VYBK, were also withdrawn with immediate effect for his role in the mismanagement and lapses. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to conduct a thorough probe, which will include Piyush Pandey, IPS (Director, Security); Javed Shamim, ADG and IGP (Law and Order); Supratim Sarkar, ADG and IGP (South Bengal); and Muralidhar Sharma, Commissioner of Police, Barrackpore. The enquiry committee is headed by former Calcutta High Court judge Ashim Kumar Roy, with Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Home Secretary Nandini

Chakraborty as members.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, former Justice Roy said the committee had sought details on who was responsible for arrangements during footballer Lionel Messi's visit. According to the former judge, the committee detected a lack of supervision across the event. "Questions have been raised about how food items and water bottles were allowed inside the stadium. As far as we know, water bottles are not permitted. Yet, numerous broken chairs, damaged gates, and bottles of water and soft drinks were found lying inside the stadium. After questioning responsible officials, we learned that stalls had been set up inside the stadium. However, everything is still subject to investigation. Our preliminary view is that those who were on duty that day should have monitored this," he said. The committee has sought detailed reports from the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate and the Sports department within 24 hours, seeking information on who was in charge on the day of the incident, the advance planning undertaken, and the timeliness of arrangements. "We have sought a detailed response from the police and the Youth and Sports department on planning, discussions, meetings with stakeholders — everything has been sought," Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said. On the SIT, Pant said senior police officers were being considered to ensure impartiality and transparency, as the incident occurred in Bidhannagar and the local police are already investigating the case. "Since most of the investigation involves the police, we have recommended that an SIT with senior officers be formed," he said. Former Justice Roy said the committee also inspected stadium infrastructure. "Chairs were picked up to check whether they could be easily thrown and whether the screws were loose. These aspects were examined," he said.

"These matters require deep investigation, which is the job of the police. We usually see police present in the galleries, and whenever there is trouble, they intervene immediately. Why that did not happen that day is still unclear. Without concrete evidence, no one can be blamed. We are examining everything. Once the reports come in, all facts will be known," Roy added. Meanwhile, Governor C V Ananda Bose left for Delhi on Tuesday. Sources said he is expected to submit a report to the Union Home Ministry on the issue, along with recommendations. On Monday, three PILs were filed in the Calcutta High Court seeking a CBI and Enforcement Directorate probe into the incident. On Saturday, angry fans had alleged they were unable to see Messi as he was surrounded by VVIPs and politicians, following which vandalism broke out at the Salt Lake Stadium. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had apologised to Messi and fans on social media and announced the formation of the enquiry committee. The committee visited the stadium on Sunday. Bidhannagar police have arrested prime organiser Satadru Dutta and secured 14 days of police custody. Six persons were arrested on Monday in connection with vandalism.

HETC Foods launches Navdhan sprouted millet powder brand

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Hyderabad: HETC Foods has launched its new-age food brand 'Navdhan', a range of scientifically processed sprouted millet powders, that aims to make millet consumption easy, scalable, and sustainable. The products are presently available in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and soon will be made available across India. They are also available online through e-commerce portals, through the company website, as well as retainer network. Traditional millet preparation often involves soaking, fermenting, grinding, or slow cooking. The second is digestibility concerns, as improperly processed millets contain anti-nutrients (phytates, tannins) that can reduce mineral absorption and cause bloating or discomfort.



Traffic disruptions on Bengaluru airport road as cab drivers protest against new parking rules



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

The road leading to Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport witnessed traffic disruptions on Tuesday morning as cab drivers protested against new parking rules introduced by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which runs the airport. The protesters blocked the road at the Sadahalli toll gate. Under the new parking rules, entry to the designated arrival and pick-up zone at the airport's Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 is free for all private cars, but there is a charge for overstaying inside the zone beyond eight minutes. Vehicles are fined Rs 150 for overstaying eight to 13 minutes and Rs 300 for overstaying 13 to 18 minutes.

"Any vehicle overstaying beyond 18 minutes will be towed to the nearest police station, and applicable fines and towing charges will be levied. All commercial vehicles, including yellow-board taxis and electric cabs, are required to wait for passengers only at the designated parking zones. To facilitate a seamless pick-up experience, the first 10 minutes of parking will be complimentary. Commercial vehicles arriving at Terminal 1 should proceed to the P4 and P3 parking zones, while those serving Terminal 2 are directed to

the P2 parking zone," the new rules stated. The new lane segregation and fines have not gone down well with passengers, either. Several passengers complained that they were forced to walk for more than 1 km because of the new rules. Some others said they had to walk for a good 800 m with luggage to get into cabs. Gautam Pradhan, a traveller, wrote on X, "@BLRAirport has designed an obstacle course before you can get into your taxi at T1 arrivals. Anyone with baggage, kids or elders will struggle. Don't create problems! Please go back to the old system!"

There have been disruptions since December 12. On Tuesday, the police intervened and cleared the cab drivers protesting at the Sadahalli toll gate. While BIAL says that the overstay limit of eight minutes is much higher than international standards, taxi operators argue that it ignores unavoidable passenger delays. Security screenings, baggage collection, flight delays, and passengers navigating unfamiliar terminals routinely extend waiting times beyond the limit. Drivers say they are being penalised for circumstances that are entirely outside their control. However, BIAL has defended its new parking rules. "At BLR Airport, passenger safety and convenience are our top priorities. With daily passenger and vehicle volumes continuing to rise, it became necessary to bring greater discipline and clarity to arrival pick-up areas to prevent congestion, unsafe halts, and confusion at the kerbside. The new pick-up measures are designed to create a safer, smoother, and more predictable experience for passengers. Private vehicles have a dedicated pick-up lane with a generous free time window, while commercial vehicles operate from designated parking and supervised pick-up zones to ensure orderly movement. These systems are standard practice at leading global airports," a spokesperson said in a statement on December 14.

Karnataka man who tried to grab 512 acres of Chikkamagaluru forest land held after police complaint



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

On Monday, the Karnataka Police arrested a man, who attempted to grab 512 acres of forest land in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru after obtaining court orders based on fake documents following a case registered by the Mudigere Police. (Express Photo) On Monday, the Karnataka Police arrested a man, who attempted to grab 512 acres of forest land in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru after obtaining court orders based on fake documents following a case registered by the Mudigere Police. The Karnataka Police on Monday arrested a man who attempted to grab 512 acres of forest land in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru after obtaining court orders based on fake documents, following a case registered by the Mudigere police. The person has been identified as M B Nemanna Gowda, also called M B Manmatha.

"In this regard, on November 28, the assistant conservator of forests of the Forest Department had filed a complaint at the Mudigere Police Station, and later the tahsildar had also filed a complaint in this regard," Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said Tuesday. The police FIR against Gowda was registered under sections of the Indian

Penal Code for forgery and impersonation as well as the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, on December 13 at the Mudigere police station. Earlier, the forest minister had written to CM Siddaramaiah seeking a Crime Investigation Department (CID) or Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged role of officials and government lawyers facilitating the grab of government and forest land worth crores of rupees in Chikkamagaluru and Bengaluru after obtaining court orders based on fake documents. The minister said that the value of land involved in the alleged land grab, including reserved forest land in B M Kaval in south Bengaluru, is over 225,000 crore. "M. B. Nemanna Gowda @ M. B. Manmatha has filed a writ petition in the High Court and has obtained an order to transfer the documents of a total of 532 acres of land, including 482 acres of reserved forest land, allegedly allotted to him under the Inam Abolition Act to his name within three months," the forest minister had stated. The government remained in the dark during the proceedings, which led to the HC order, and was informed only at the penultimate moment after the 90-day period to file appeals regarding the land grab attempt lapsed, Khandre said in his letter to the CM. The forest department, after being alerted to the attempted land grab, has issued orders for the filing of an appeal. "Manmatha alias Nemanna Gowda has also tried to claim government land by giving false and fake documents in the past," the minister stated. "As soon as the matter came to my notice, I ordered for a complaint to be registered. The fact that the Mudigere Police Circle Inspector, who received the complaint on 28.11.2025, has not registered an FIR so far is also a reason for suspicion," Khandre said. "It appears that some officials and government lawyers are directly and indirectly helping those who are grabbing government and forest land worth thousands of crores of rupees," the forest minister stated in the letter.

As BJP takes a dig at Congress over Karnataka leadership tussle, Siddaramaiah says, 'I am CM now and until high command decides'



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

"You came to power only through Operation Lotus. In the future, you will not be able to form a government on your own strength," Siddaramaiah added. "You came to power only through Operation Lotus. In the future, you will not be able to form a government on your own strength," Siddaramaiah added. As the issue of a change in leadership in the state reverberated in the Karnataka Assembly Tuesday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah maintained he would continue in the post, while replying to a remark by Leader of Opposition R Ashok. Responding to Ashok's comments on the leadership tussle at the end of the Question Hour, Siddaramaiah advised the Opposition against adding fuel to the fire on issues like leadership change. "Even if everyone in our party is quiet, the Opposition is not," Siddaramaiah said, noting that the Congress party will not be distracted by the provocation by the Opposition. "I am the CM. I am CM now, and until high command decides," Siddaramaiah said, prompting a retort from senior BJP MLA Sunil Kumar, who asked why he had maintained that he would remain in the top post for the next five years. When Sunil asked what would happen after January, Siddaramaiah said, "I will remain CM in the future too." Ashok responded, saying that the CM's remarks should send a clear message to the Assembly, "as there were various reports (regarding CM change)." As the Treasury and Opposition benches engaged in a noisy exchange over the issue, Siddaramaiah said that, irrespective of the tactics employed by the BJP, the Congress would return to power in 2028.

"Everyone is working towards that. The BJP will win

fewer seats than it currently has," he said, taking a dig at the saffron party for having never come to power in the state with a full majority. "You came to power only through Operation Lotus. In the future, you will not be able to form a government on your own strength," Siddaramaiah added. Over the past month, speculation has intensified about Deputy CM D K Shivakumar replacing Siddaramaiah. However, the Karnataka chief minister's loyalists argue that he will remain in the post for the full term, and that the Congress high command is not keen on disturbing the current set-up.

North Zone police crack two theft cases, recover Rs 31 kakh worth gold; Three arrested

Hyderabad: The North Zone Police have solved two major theft cases and arrested three persons and recovered gold and silver ornaments worth about Rs 31 lakh on Tuesday. In the first case registered at Karkhana Police Station, a Bowenpally-based jeweller reported the gradual disappearance of gold ornaments and biscuits from his residence.

Following an investigation, police arrested his maid servant, Uragadda Madhavi (35) and her husband, Uragadda Krishnaiah (40). The duo allegedly committed repeated thefts and melted gold and silver ornaments.

part of the stolen gold for personal use. Police recovered gold ornaments and melted gold weighing 24.2 tolas. In the second case, at Bolarum Police Station, a housewife reported the theft of gold and silver ornaments from her almirah. Police arrested maid servant J Sindhu alias Chinnari and recovered gold and silver ornaments.

Following an investigation, police arrested his maid servant, Uragadda Madhavi (35) and her husband, Uragadda Krishnaiah (40). The duo allegedly committed repeated thefts and melted gold and silver ornaments.

Tribal woman creates history in Kothagudem



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Kothagudem: From the daily routine of collecting trash and plastic waste and selling it to make a living, a tribal woman here is scripting history by getting elected as a gram panchayat ward member. Sriramula Triveni, a resident of Rudrampur, contested for the eleventh ward reserved for Scheduled Tribes in Rudrampur gram panchayat of Chunchupalli mandal with the support of the BRS. Much to

her joy, the voters in the ward gave her a resounding victory as she got elected with a majority of 137 votes. With the aim of providing an opportunity to women from the most underprivileged sections of society, Chunchupalli mandal BRS president Gudelli Yakaiah had fielded Triveni in the elections in the second phase of gram panchayat elections held on Sunday. Speaking to *Telangana Today*, Yakaiah said this was not just the victory of one individual.

"This stands as a victory of democracy over poverty, despair and ridicule. Triveni's journey from a life of daily struggle to public service will instil new hope among women," he said. The election of a woman from a poor family as a public representative, having earned the trust of the people, stands as a testament to social change. It will boost the morale of the poor, especially in the village, to overcome their limitations, he added. Triveni said the victory she achieved was made possible only due to the efforts of BRS leaders Yakaiah, Sankubapana Anudeep, former sarpanch Gummadi Sagar, Kannaiah, Amudala Anil and others who encouraged her to contest as a ward member and worked for her victory. She said she would remain indebted to the BRS and its leaders for their support, adding that she would serve and be available to the people who voted for her and ensured her victory. Wishes poured in for Triveni from the villagers, women's groups and social activists, who opined that such victories would definitely serve as an inspiration to many more poor families.

Maharashtra Govt to request PM Modi to flag off Pune Grand Tour 2026: Ajit Pawar

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

The Maharashtra Government is planning to request Prime Minister Narendra Modi to flag off the mega Pune Grand Tour 2026, a 437-km cycle race that will be held between January 19 and 23 on the lines of the Tour de France, said Deputy Chief Minister and Pune Guardian Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday. The race, to be held in four stages, will pass through various terrains in Pune city and the district to test the endurance and expertise of the cyclists. It will pass through hilly areas, grasslands, and plateaus. "The Pune Grand Tour is going to be a world-class event with the best in the sporting event participating in it," Pawar said.

The state government has expressed its intention to make it an annual event, and a lot depends on the first experience in January 2026. Of the four stages in Pune Grand Tour, the first segment of 91.8 km passes through Mulshi, Maval, and Pimpri Chinchwad. The second stage of 109.15 km passes from Pune, Purandar, Rajgad, and Haveli; the third stage of 137.07 km passes from Purandar and Baramati, while the last stage of 99.15 km passes from

Pune, Haveli, and PCMC to end near Bal Gandharva in Pune city. The administration is working on developing road infrastructure that is conducive to the international cycling event. A dedicated lane with barricades on both sides is being developed for the race, with beautification of the roads to attract enthusiasts and tourists to witness the event. All facilities, including health and accommodation, for participants that are necessary as per the international standards will be provided during the event.

After brief return to normal weather, Bengaluru to see minimum temperatures dip below normal again



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Bengaluru is set to experience markedly below-normal temperatures over the next few days, along the lines of the weather seen in the city at the start of the week, following cold-wave conditions in North India. The minimum temperature on Wednesday in Bengaluru is set to be around 12.6 degrees Celsius, which is nearly four degrees Celsius below the normal minimum temperature for December in the city. On December 13 (Sunday), the old and new Bengaluru airport regions experienced temperatures of around 12 degrees Celsius, which is markedly below normal for the regions, while the main city recorded temperatures that were 2.2 degrees Celsius below the normal of 16.4 degrees Celsius for December. While cold-wave conditions prevail in parts of North Karnataka, the minimum temperatures were in the range of 10.0-12.8 degrees Celsius.

sions over Belagavi, Bidar, Vijayapura, Dharwad, Gadag, Raichur, Haveri, Agumbe, Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL), HAL Airport, Davangere, Hassan, Chintamani, and Shivamogga at the start of the week, according to an India Meteorological Department report. The temperatures were 13.0-15.1 degrees Celsius over Koppal, Kalaburgi, Bengaluru city, Chitradurga, Mandya, and Mysuru.

On Monday, the minimum temperatures were back to being closer to normal, with Bengaluru city recording 16.4 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature and KIAL and HAL airports logging 15.4 degrees Celsius and 15.5 degrees Celsius, respectively. Overcast conditions on Tuesday are expected to keep the temperature near normal again, but colder weather is predicted for Wednesday and Thursday. "Maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 27 degrees Celsius and 14 degrees Celsius, respectively," stated the IMD forecast on Tuesday for the next 48 hours. The minimum temperature could be as low as 12.6 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, according to the forecast for the city. The mean minimum temperature in December in Bengaluru over the last 15 years has been 16.4 degrees Celsius. The lowest minimum temperature in December in the last 15 years was 12.8 degrees Celsius, recorded on December 24, 2011. The lowest minimum ever recorded in the city in December was 8.9 degrees Celsius, on December 29, 1883. The lowest minimum temperature ever recorded in Bengaluru is 7.8 degrees Celsius, recorded on January 13, 1884, as per the IMD's historical records.

Maharashtra offers 1-month 'Purohit' service course ahead of Nashik Kumbh Mela

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Ahead of the Kumbh Mela to be held in Maharashtra's Nashik in 2027, the state government's Skill Education Department has launched a short-term course aimed at creating manpower for 'Purohit' services (priest for Hindu rituals). Despite the requirement of diverse manpower skilled in various trades to manage a large-scale event like Kumbh Mela, the focus on religious roles has sparked a quiet debate. This one-month course will be implemented jointly by the Department of Skill Development, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Kavi Kulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University in Raikot. The course, which will include 45 hours of training, has been divided into four phases, and each segment carries 25 marks, for which assessment will be conducted through weekly oral examination and multiple-choice questions, the department said in a statement. Certificates will be awarded to candidates based on their performance and attendance. A 21-day workshop began in Nashik at the Shri Swami Akhandanand Veda Vedang Sanskrit College on December 16, with an objective to prepare trained personnel for various religious rituals and services that are expected to be in demand during the Mela.

Starting December 16, "this workshop aims at equipping participants with both scriptural knowledge and practical expertise required for large-scale religious events," the department stated. The participants will be trained in the recitation of Vedic scripts and different methods of worship and rituals. State's Skill Education Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha said that the participants will gain knowledge of Vedic



and Puranic traditions, their significance, the scripturally prescribed methods of worship of deities, and correct pronunciation through this workshop. "This knowledge will also open up new employment opportunities for them. By bringing together the scientific understanding of Vedic traditions and an employment-oriented approach, this initiative will serve as an effective model of skill development while simultaneously contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage," he said. Considering that the Kumbh Mela is a large scale religious gathering that demands wide range of services – such as crowd management, security, healthcare, sanitation and logistics – the state's skill education department's decision to offer short-term courses focused solely on the religious aspects of the event has sparked a quiet debate with critics questioning the approach that overlooks the need for manpower with diverse skill requirements to manage an event of this magnitude.

'Can't overreach court like this': Delhi HC frowns as DDA demolishes Sainik Farms bungalow



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

The DDA had issued a show-cause notice on October 13 alleging that certain parts were constructed on the DDA's green zone, following which an opportunity of hearing was given. The DDA had issued a show-cause notice on October 13 alleging that certain parts were constructed on the DDA's green zone, following which an opportunity of hearing was given. The Delhi High Court on Monday objected to the Delhi Development Authority's (DDA's) move of demolishing a bungalow in South Delhi's Sainik Farms as it said that the agency can't "overreach the court" while the matter was still being heard.

The DDA had on December 12 demolished the bungalow allegedly built on the land acquired by the authority inside the Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park on the Southern Ridge. The bungalow, built on an area of 2,000 square yards in 1999, belonged to Azher Nisar Shervani (78), who had been living there with his wife, son, daughter-in-law, 10-year-old grandson and caretakers. The family claimed that they had bought the land from a farmer in 1993 and built the house before the land was designated as a green area under a biodiversity park. The DDA had issued a show-cause notice on October 13 alleging that certain parts were constructed on the DDA's green zone, following which an opportunity of hearing was given. Subsequently, on October 30, the DDA passed an order for demolition, which was challenged by Azher before the Delhi High Court in November. On December 10, the DDA had reportedly given an oral assurance that it would not take any coercive action. The assurance was, however, not recorded in any court order. Azher, meanwhile, in an application, had sought that no coercive steps be taken by the DDA till the next date of hearing.

He also filed a clarificatory application before the Su-

preme Court in the MC Mehta case of 1985, the landmark case which established the principle of absolute liability, holding hazardous industries strictly liable for harm without exceptions. The SC has been routinely hearing all issues pertaining to air pollution under this landmark case. While hearing this petition, the Supreme Court had in April sought responses from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the DDA, the MCD and the Delhi government, asking "why there is an attempt to protect illegal structures of affluent people". The clarificatory application sought the SC's clarification if the Delhi HC can deal with Azher's matter or whether SC will have to, given that Sainik Farms falls under DDA's list of unauthorised affluent colonies, which remain outside the ambit of regularisation, according to DDA. Highlighting that even before a clarification could be obtained in this regard from the SC and before Delhi HC could be informed about it, DDA went ahead with the demolition, Azher's counsels, senior advocate P S Bindra and advocate Naunidh Singh Arora told the High Court, "Matter was kept on 18th December (before Delhi HC) because it is very very unfortunate... As far as possession is concerned, they may not do anything further." Justice Singh, orally responding to DDA's counsel R K Dhawan, said, "This is overreaching the court... and someone will pay heavily for this... This is the respect they show the court."

Noting that Azher's application, where he was seeking that no coercive action be taken against his property, has been made infructuous owing to the demolition, the court dismissed it. Justice Singh, however, added that she will deal with the issue of demolition when the main plea comes up for hearing on December 18. Justice Singh went on to remark: "I'm going to make observations that you can't overreach court orders like this. An understanding was ongoing, he mentioned the matter after about 4:30 pm (on December 10, when the matter was last heard) when I said 'Mr Dhawan (DDA's counsel) I've been given an assurance (on behalf of DDA)'. Notably, the HC, in an order on November 12, had directed the DDA to file a short affidavit, bringing forth its stand on if the 'affluent unauthorised colonies' are excluded from National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Regulations, 2019 and if the DDA intends to grant protection to the said colonies under National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2011.

Rs 1.1 crore ICMR grant for Pune institution for diabetic wound care research

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Chronic diabetic wounds remain one of the most pressing unmet clinical challenges and a key project at Dnyaan Prasad Global University School of Pharmacy and Research by Dr D Y Patil Unitech Society has received a prestigious ICMR intermediate grant to the tune of Rs 1.1 crore to develop advanced biomaterial to speed up the healing process.

Dr. Asha Thomas, Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Dnyaan Prasad Global University School of Pharmacy and Research said that their research focuses on using poultry waste in a circular economy approach by recycling it into high-value products for biomedical use. "This waste-to-resource strategy supports the Sustainable Development Goals by reducing pollution and creating alternative materials with less environmental impact," Dr Thomas said. The project focuses on developing a new biomaterial to improve healing in chronic diabetic wounds and the team has been allocated a grant of ?1,09,93,437.

Researchers are working on a collagen-elastic scaffold supported by bioactive oil chicken-derived skin oil to accelerate healing in chronic diabetic wounds. The team also plans to study the combined growth of skin cells (keratinocytes and fibroblasts) to enhance tissue regeneration, especially for patients with slow-healing ulcers. By using electrospinning technology, natural biomaterials, and advanced cell culture methods, the study aims to create an affordable solution for diabetic wound care. Diabetic wounds heal slowly because high blood sugar levels impairs the immune system. "This leads to poor blood flow which reduces the supply of oxygen and nutrients to the wound. Diabetes can also cause nerve damage and long-lasting inflammation. Compared to normal wounds, diabetic wounds heal poorly because the inflammation stage lasts longer," Dr Thomas explained.

Presently the current options for the treatment of dia-



abetic wounds focuses on a multidisciplinary approach with use of dressings like hydrogels, foams and antimicrobial dressings to advanced therapies like hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), and potential skin substitutes. "Our work aims to deliver a next-generation, cost-effective biomaterial capable of improving clinical outcomes and significantly reducing healing time in high-risk patients. The innovation integrates electrospinning technology, bio-derived materials, and advanced coculture cell design, which represents a translational approach to regenerative medicine," Dr Thomas who heads the project with co-investigators Dr. Sanjeevani Deshkar (HOD, Pharmaceutics) and Dr. Vinita Patole said. "This grant will significantly boost biomedical research in Maharashtra." Dr. Somnath P. Patil, Pro-Chancellor, Dnyaan Prasad Global University (DPGU) by Dr. D Y Patil Unitech Society, said adding that it also signifies their commitment to vigorous and transformative research that adds real value to the healthcare sector. "At this level and size, obtaining an ICMR Intermediate Grant reflects the scientific excellence and innovative capacity of our faculty, supported by an outstanding research team," Dr Patil added.

160 FIRs in 2 years over 'fake law degrees', big nexus being run, Bar Council of Delhi tells court

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

A gang of fake lawyers is being run in the Capital, the Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) told a court on Monday as it expressed concern over the use of alleged fraudulent degrees for enrolments in the BCD. "There have been 160 FIRs in Delhi in relation to fraud degrees of lawyers (since 2023). The BCD has got these FIRs filed. In Delhi, there is a gang of fake lawyers being run... this is a nexus. On the basis of fake degrees, they're seeking enrolments," advocate Rajal Kasana told Additional Sessions Judge Shunali Gupta of Saket court on behalf of the BCD.

The Indian Express has learnt that out of the nearly 2 lakh advocates enrolled with the BCD, just over 1 lakh have been verified. Over 90,000 verifications are pending as universities have not responded to the BCD. The submissions were made on Monday by the BCD as ASJ Gupta heard the anticipatory bail plea of J Vasantha, who hails from Tamil Nadu and has been accused of paying bribes of around Rs 1.5 lakh to get enrolled in the BCD.

Vasantha, who claims to have an LLB degree from Indian Institute of Professional Studies, had told the court that Delhi-based advocate Arvind Panchal and Jagdish Yadav, a BCD employee, had allegedly asked him to pay Rs 1.45 lakh for the enrolment. Currently, the enrollment fees at the BCD is just Rs 750. "All my documents were changed by Panchal and Yadav. I'm the victim here. I complained to BCI. I had also surrendered my certificate (of practicing) voluntarily," said the lawyer who was representing him. Vasantha, who got enrolled in the BCD in 2023, was informed on September 18 regarding his suspension due to a "forged" law degree and "fraudulent marksheets". In November, his licence was suspended after the Bar Council of India (BCI) wrote to the state bar council and

directed his removal.

"I immediately gave my complaint to the BCI after I found out about my suspension. My certificates which were used were fake... I've been cheated," he said. All the degrees are verified by the Bar Council after speaking to universities. We had sent his LLB degree to Bundelkhand University. They said it was fake. A big nexus is being run here. He can't speak in Hindi, but the documents he gave were in Hindi. Without his interrogation, the scam won't be uncovered. He himself said Rs 1 lakh was demanded... this was not fees," said advocate Neeraj, who was also appearing for the BCD. Along with advocates Kasana and Neeraj, advocate Narendra Sharma also appeared for the BCD and was assisted by advocates Saurav Kumar and Maroof Khan. Vasantha had argued that he had provided "original documents of (Uttar Pradesh-based) Indian Institute of Professional Studies" and not from Bundelkhand University. "What was your complaint (to the BCI)... this college that you've completed your law from is it recognised by the BCI or not?" the Judge asked Vasantha. He responded by saying that at the time of his enrolment, the matter relating to the recognition of the university was subjudice before a court but later, the University Grants Commission had rejected recognition to the university. "So that means any of the degrees that the university gives won't be recognised as per the UGC," the Judge said while dismissing Vasantha's anticipatory bail. The Judge in her order said, "... during the course of the arguments, Ld. Counsel had admitted that he has not done graduation in Law from Bundelkhand University but has studied from Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad, Uttar Pradesh and as on date the same has not been recognised by the Education Department as the University affiliated and recognised to give law degrees."

Search for Brown University shooter continues as questions swirl about U.S. campus security



Authorities knocked on doors and scoured yards Monday (December 15, 2025) in search of any video or other evidence that might lead them to the Brown University gunman, whose face was covered or not visible in footage captured before and after the weekend attack that killed two students and wounded nine others. Officials released three new videos of the man they believe carried out Saturday's (December 13) attack that show him wearing a mask and a dark two-tone jacket. Although his face wasn't visible, the footage from about two hours before the shooting provided the clearest images yet of the suspect.

The FBI said the man is about 5 feet, 8 inches (173 centimetres) tall, with a stocky build. The agency offered a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person responsible. "We're asking for the public's assistance," Providence's police chief, Col Oscar Perez, said at a news conference, urging people who might recognise the suspect to call a tip line. Police renewed their search after releasing a person of interest Sunday (December 14) once they determined the evidence pointed elsewhere. Meanwhile, details began to emerge about the students who were shot.

The lockdown order for the Ivy League school was lifted Sunday (December 14) after authorities said they had detained the person of interest. But hopes for a quick resolution were dashed when they announced hours later that they had released him. The abrupt change of direction marked a setback in the investigation as questions swirl about campus security, the apparent lack of school video evidence and whether the focus on the person of interest gave the attacker more time to escape. Colin Moussette, who has friends at Brown and is considering enrolling next fall, said while visiting the campus Monday that he felt uneasy knowing the suspect hadn't been caught. "How someone got away, like in the middle of the day is, to me, not only heartbreaking but very concerning," he said. "How they got access to the building is concerning."

Before Monday's (December 15) news conference, police released a second video showing someone dressed in black walking along a city street minutes after the shooting. The video — like one released the day of the shooting — didn't show the suspect's face. In a neighbourhood near the university, a line of officers scraped their feet through a snow-covered yard looking for evidence. Meanwhile, agents identifying themselves as U.S. marshals asked locals if they had security cameras. Attorney General Peter Neronha, who said Sunday (December 14) that there weren't many cameras where the attack happened, said Monday that investigators were "making steady progress." Law enforcement on Monday (December 15) appeared to still be performing basic of investigative tasks, including tracing the suspect's movements in the minutes after the attack and searching for evidence near the crime scene. "I was really glad to see that they were doing something," said Katherine Bairam, who lives in the area. "This is the first time any of us in my build-

ing, as far as I know, had heard from anyone. We hadn't gotten alerts and we were really surprised that there hadn't been anyone searching, let alone knocking on doors, on the first night." One of the dead was active in church. The other overcame health concerns

The shooting happened in an auditorium-style classroom where students in a study group were preparing for an upcoming exam. Ella Cook, a 19-year-old sophomore who was vice president of the Brown College Republicans and believed in her church in Birmingham, Alabama, was one of the students killed, according to her pastor at home. In announcing her death Sunday, the Rev R Craig Smalley described Cook as "an incredible grounded, faithful, bright light" who encouraged and "lifted up those around her." Ella was known for her bold, brave, and kind heart as she served her chapter and her fellow classmates. Martin Bertao, the president of the club, said in a message posted on X.

The other student who was killed was Muhammad Aziz Umarzokov, an 18-year-old freshman majoring in biochemistry and neuroscience. He was helping a friend at a review session for an economics final when he was shot, his sister said. As a child, Umarzokov suffered a neurological condition that required surgery, and he later wore a back brace because of scoliosis, said Samira Umarzokova, noting that the family immigrated to the US from Uzbekistan when she, her brother and sister were young. "He had so many hardships in his life, and he got into this amazing school and tried so hard to follow through with the promise he made when he was 7 years old," she told the AP by phone Monday. Only one of the nine people wounded had been released as of Sunday, Brown President Christina Paxson said. One was in critical condition and the other seven were in critical but stable condition. Mayor Brett Smiley said Monday evening that none of their conditions had worsened, but that he didn't have further information. Durham Academy, a private K-12 school in Durham, North Carolina, confirmed that a recent graduate, Kendall Turner, was critically wounded and that her parents were with her. "Our school community is rallying around Kendall, her classmates, and her loved ones," the school said in a statement.

Another wounded student, 18-year-old freshman Spencer Yang of New York City, told the New York Times and the Brown Daily Herald from a hospital bed that there was a mad scramble after the gunman entered the room where he and the other students were studying for finals. Many students ran toward the front of the room, but Yang said he wound up on the ground between some seats and was shot in the leg. Mr. Yang, who expects to be discharged in the coming days, said he tried to keep some of the more seriously wounded students conscious until police arrived. Questions are raised about campus security. Brown was no longer on lockdown and the city's schools were open Monday (December 15). But some colleges and universities, including in Rhode Island and some Ivy League schools, were increasing security in light of the attack. Yale said extra security would be in place for Hanukkah celebrations. The shooting occurred as final exams were underway at Brown, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious schools. Investigators were not immediately sure how the shooter got inside the first-floor classroom. The attack set off hours of chaos on campus and in the surrounding neighbourhoods, as hundreds of officers searched for the shooter. Li Ding, a Rhode Island School of Design student who is on a dance team at Brown, was upset that there wasn't better security on campus. "The fact that we're in such a surveillance state but that wasn't used correctly at all is just so deeply frustrating," Li Ding said.

Chile's leftist candidate concedes defeat to ultra-conservative Kast in presidential runoff



The candidate of Chile's left-wing governing coalition, communist Jeannette Jara, conceded defeat on Sunday (December 14, 2025) after early presidential results showed a strong lead for ultra-conservative Jose Antonio Kast, as voters opted for change following years of rising fears over heightened crime and immigration. According to preliminary results with 83% of the vote counted, Mr. Kast won 58% of the vote, with Ms. Jara, a former labour minister in President Gabriel Boric's left-wing government, getting 41%, making it clear she was on course to lose to her right-wing rival. On social media, Ms. Jara said she called Mr. Kast to congratulate him on his successful campaign.

"To those who supported us and were rallied by our candidacy, rest assured that we will continue working to advance a better life in our homeland," she wrote. "Together and standing tall, as we have always done." As Chileans voted on Sunday, even detractors of ultra-conservative former lawmaker Jose Antonio Kast said the candidate whose radical ideas lost him the past two elections was likely to become the country's next leader.

Mr. Kast's commanding lead in the polls over his rival in the presidential runoff, communist Jeannette Jara, shows how the hard-liner agitating for mass deportations of immigrants has seized the mantle of the traditional right in a country that once defined its post-dictatorship democratic revival with a vow to contain such political forces. Vowing a

harsh security crackdown to address heightened fears about uncontrolled immigration and crime, Mr. Kast's popularity has surged in recent months. "Just because he's the most right-wing we've seen in decades doesn't mean that it's a dictatorship, that's what the left wants you to believe," said Juan Beltran, 68, a taxi driver who voted for Mr. Kast in hopes he stops the frequent violent carjackings that make him scared to go to work each day. "It means that he'll have an iron fist, and take action like others haven't." While casting his ballot on Sunday, Mr. Kast demonstrated respect for Chile's democratic institutions. "Chile has a tradition, and I am very clear that whoever wins, whether Jeannette Jara or me, will have to be president of all Chileans," he told the hundreds of supporters thronging him.

Delhi AQI: Congress urges action against pollution amid Delhi's severe smog crisis

The Congress asserted on Monday (December 15, 2025) that India cannot afford to pollute its way to prosperity, emphasising that faster economic growth must not come at the cost of public health and environmental degradation. The principal Opposition party said rising pollution levels need not and must not be the price citizens are compelled to pay for development. Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said, in a statement that India's current clean-air strategy relies excessively on Graded Response Action Plans (GRAP), which are largely reactive in nature. He argued that these measures focus on managing pollution crises after they occur, rather than preventing them through sustained policy interventions. "We need tough, multi-sectoral actions with scale and speed throughout the year, not just during the winter months of October to December," Mr. Ramesh said, calling for a comprehensive and continuous approach to tackling air pollution. The Congress communication chief criticised the Centre for stating in the Rajya Sabha on December 9, 2025, that there was no conclusive data establishing a direct correlation between air pollution and deaths or disease. He described this as a display of insensitivity, noting that the government had made a similar claim in July 2024. Deaths linked to pollution Citing scientific evidence, Mr. Ramesh referred to a study published in The Lancet in July 2024, which

estimated that 7.2% of all deaths in India were associated with air pollution, amounting to around 34,000 deaths annually in just 10 cities. He also highlighted an August 2024 study by the International Institute of Population Sciences, which used data from the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-5). According to this study, districts that do not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards recorded a 13% rise in premature adult mortality and nearly a 100% increase in child mortality.

Further, he cited a December 2024 study published in The Lancet Planetary Health, which estimated that long-term exposure to polluted air contributes to about 15 lakh additional deaths in India every year compared to a scenario where the WHO air-quality guidelines are met. A November 2025 report by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation estimated that nearly two million deaths in India were linked to air pollution, a 43% increase since 2000. The Congress leader noted that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, last revised in 2009, are outdated and require urgent revision and strict enforcement. "The present standard for PM2.5 is 8 times the WHO guideline for annual exposure and 4 times the guideline for 24-hour exposure," he said. He also called for revisiting the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Trump seeks \$10 billion in defamation suit against BBC over editing of January 6 speech



US President Donald Trump on Monday filed a lawsuit seeking at least \$10 billion from the BBC over a documentary that edited his 2021 speech to supporters ahead of the U.S. Capitol riot. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Miami, seeks "damages in an amount not less than \$5,000,000,000" for each of two counts against the British broadcaster for alleged defamation and violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

Mr. Trump accused Britain's publicly owned broadcaster of defaming him by splicing together parts of a January 6, 2021, speech, including one section where he told supporters to march on the Capitol and another where he said "fight like hell". It omitted a section in which he called for peaceful protest. The BBC has apologised to Mr. Trump, admitted an error of judgment and acknowledged that the edit gave the mistaken impression that he had made a direct call for violent action. But it has said there is no legal basis to sue. The BBC is funded through a mandatory license fee on all TV viewers, which U.K. lawyers say could make any payout to Mr. Trump politically fraught. Crisis led

to resignation Facing one of the biggest crises in its 103-year history, the BBC has said it has no plans to rebroadcast the documentary on any of its platforms. The dispute over the clip, featured on the BBC's "Panorama" documentary show shortly before the 2024 presidential election, sparked a public relations crisis for the broadcaster, leading to the resignations of its two most senior officials. Mr. Trump's lawyers say the BBC caused him overwhelming reputational and financial harm. The documentary drew scrutiny after the leak of a BBC memo by an external standards adviser that raised concerns about how it was edited, part of a wider investigation of political bias at the publicly funded broadcaster.

The documentary was not broadcast in the United States. Mr. Trump may have sued in the United States because defamation claims in Britain must be brought within a year of publication, a window that has closed for the "Panorama" episode. To overcome the U.S. Constitution's legal protections for free speech and the press, Mr. Trump will need to prove not only that the edit was false and defamatory but also that the BBC knowingly misled viewers or acted recklessly. The broadcaster could argue that the documentary was substantially true and its editing decisions did not create a false impression, legal experts said. It could also claim the program did not damage Mr. Trump's reputation. Other media have settled with Mr. Trump, including CBS and ABC, when Mr. Trump sued them following his comeback win in the November 2024 election. Mr. Trump has filed lawsuits against the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and a newspaper in Iowa, all three of which have denied wrongdoing. The attack on the U.S. Capitol in January 2021 was aimed at blocking Congress from certifying Joe Biden's presidential win over Mr. Trump in the 2020 U.S. election.

3 Indian students among those injured in Australia's Bondi Beach attack



GNS News Agency, Dec 16
Melbourne: Three Indian students were among 40 people injured in the terrorist attack on Sydney's Bondi

Beach in Australia, according to a media report on Tuesday. Two out of these three students are believed to be receiving treatment in the hospital, The Australia Today news portal reported. The names of the Indian students injured during Sunday's attack have not been disclosed yet.

The Indian students sustained injuries during the shooting, and their exact condition has not been formally confirmed yet, it said. Naveed Akram, 24, and his father, 50, opened fire on a gathering during the Jewish festival Hanukkah by the Sea celebration. At least 15 people were killed in the attack, including a 10-year-old child. Five of the injured remain in critical condition, while two injured police officers are in serious but stable condition, it added. New South Wales Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon said the investigation is expanding as new information emerges, including international travel by the alleged attackers and the discovery of extremist material, the report said.

Never allowed territory for activities against Bangladesh's interests: India

GNS News Agency, Dec 16
The Ministry of External Affairs on Sunday (December 14, 2025) asserted that forces that are "inimical" to the people of Bangladesh have never found a foothold on the territory of India. The response came soon after the neighbouring country alleged that "incendiary" remarks by deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina—who is currently based in India—have been inciting her supporters to launch "terrorist" attacks in order to "thwart" the February 2026 election.

"India has never allowed its territory to be used for activities inimical to the interests of the friendly people of Bangladesh. We expect that the interim Government of Bangladesh will take all necessary measures for ensuring internal law and order, including for the purpose of holding peaceful elections," said the Ministry of External Affairs.

Earlier, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Bangladesh summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma and reiterated its demand for "expeditious extradition" of Ms. Hasina, who has been in India since fleeing Dhaka on August 5, 2024. A press note released by the Bangladesh MoFA said the officials "drew the attention" of the Indian envoy to "anti-Bangladesh activities by fugitive Awami League members staying in India". The Ministry accused them of "planning, organising, and helping to carry out terrorist activities within Bangladesh to hinder the upcoming elections." Bangladesh started demanding the repatriation of Ms. Hasina since the fall of her government and the demand became a formal request following the death sentence that Ms. Hasina and the former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal received from the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on November 17. Sunday's remarks from Bangladesh's MoFA accused Ms. Hasina of making "incendiary statements calling upon her supporters to engage in terrorist activities in Bangladesh, aiming to thwart the upcoming parliamentary elections."



The statement acquires a sharp focus as it came three days after a right-wing youth leader, Sharif Osman Hadi, was shot and critically injured in Dhaka. Subsequently, authorities in Dhaka have zeroed in on Faisal Karim Masud, a part-owner of a local IT firm, for his alleged involvement in the plot to assassinate Mr. Hadi. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh in its statement indicated that the alleged assailants in this case might try to seek refuge in India and said, "The Ministry further sought India's cooperation in preventing the escape to India of the suspects involved in the recent attempted assassination of Bangladeshi political leader Sharif Osman Hadi and, in case they manage to enter Indian territory, to ensure their immediate apprehension and extradition to Bangladesh." Bangladesh announced the schedule of the February 2026 election on December 11, and the attack on Mr. Hadi came soon after, indicating a spike in violence in the country. India has been calling for a "transparent and inclusive" election, hinting at its preference for participation of all sides, even as Bangladesh has banned political activities by the Awami League, which was in power under former Prime Minister Hasina for more than 15 years from 2009 to 2024.

Bondi beach shooting: Philippines confirms Indian national among gunmen who allegedly visited country

Brant-Coles/Handout)

The Philippines Bureau of Immigration said on Tuesday (December 16, 2025) that the two alleged gunmen behind the mass shooting at Sydney's Bondi Beach travelled to the Philippines on November 1 aboard Philippine Airlines Flight PR212 from Sydney to Manila and onward to Davao. A spokesperson for the bureau said that Sajid Akram, 50, an Indian national and Australian resident, travelled on an Indian passport, while his son Naveed Akram, 24, an Australian national, used an Australian passport, arrived together on the same flight. They departed on November 28 on the same flight numbered, PR212, from Davao via Manila back to Sydney, weeks before the assault that killed 15 people. The attack on Sunday (December 14, 2025) was Australia's worst mass shooting in nearly 30 years, and is being investigated as an act of terrorism targeting the Jewish community. It was not immediately clear what activities they undertook in the Philippines or whether they travelled elsewhere after landing in Davao, a city in Mindanao.

This screen grab made from UGC handout video footage courtesy of Timothy Brant-Coles shows two gunmen dressed in black firing multiple shots on a bridge at Bondi Beach in Sydney on December 14, 2025. The father and son behind one of Australia's deadliest mass shootings spent nearly the entire month of November in the Philippines, Manila's immigration department confirmed on December 16, with the father entering the country as an "Indian national". (Photo by AFP Photo/Courtesy of Timothy Brant-Coles/Handout)

This screen grab made from UGC handout video footage courtesy of Timothy Brant-Coles shows two gunmen dressed in black firing multiple shots on a bridge at Bondi Beach in Sydney on December 14, 2025. The father and son behind one of Australia's deadliest mass shootings spent nearly the entire month of November in the Philippines, Manila's immigration department confirmed on December 16, with the father entering the country as an "Indian national". (Photo by AFP Photo/Courtesy of Timothy Brant-Coles/Handout)

A people-led climate intelligence movement



Globally, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems have become central to climate transparency. Under the Paris Agreement, countries must track emissions, adaptation progress, and climate finance to show movement towards their Nationally Determined Contributions. COP30 reinforced this through the Global Implementation Tracker, the Belém Mission to 1.5°C, and voluntary indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation. India aligns with this direction, emphasising that stronger domestic MRV is essential both for transparency and for unlocking climate finance, while also underscoring that developing countries need substantial financial and technical support to build such systems. Also, climate finance must not only increase in scale but also shift power downwards to frontline communities like the Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. These communities who observe climate change daily and bear its greatest impacts must lead monitoring efforts, govern funds, and access resources that support local adaptation and environmental stewardship.

Yet, MRV systems still rely heavily on remote sensing, administrative datasets, and external expertise, leaving little room for community-generated insights. It is in this context that Tamil Nadu's community-based environmental MRV (CbMRV) initiative becomes relevant. It makes community-generated environmental intelligence a formal part of climate governance. The CbMRV model

Across Tamil Nadu, climate change is reshaping daily life: in Erode, farmers describe rains collapsing into short, intense bursts, and increasing heat waves; along the Cuddalore coast, salinity is moving inland and shifting tides are affecting fish catch; and in the Nilgiris, tribal foragers report thinning forest moisture and erratic flowering cycles. These signals emerge first at the smallest ecological scales, yet policymaking relies on coarse datasets as climate intelligence has rarely been produced locally. CbMRV was created to change exactly that. It enables villages to generate systematic, science-ready environmental data. It weaves traditional ecological knowledge with field-based monitoring of rainfall, temperature, soil and water health, biodiversity, fish catch, cropping patterns, livelihoods, and even carbon stocks and emissions. This evidence is integrated into a digital dashboard that informs decision-making across village, district and State levels. CbMRV thus reframes governance as a partnership between commun-

ties and institutions, rather than a top-down exercise. The initiative began in 2023 under the UK PACT programme, which enabled Tamil Nadu to pilot a community-based MRV system that could support just transition goals. In collaboration with Keystone Foundation and other scientific partners, three ecologically distinct landscapes were selected: Aracode in the Nilgiris (mountain forests), Vellore in Erode (agriculture and wetlands), and Killai in Cuddalore (mangroves and coastal fisheries). In these locations, communities contributed generational knowledge that shaped the indicators, monitoring protocols and digital tools that now underpin CbMRV. Carbon feasibility studies were conducted in parallel to assess how reliable village-scale data could support future community-centred carbon projects. In less than three years, each pilot village has developed into a functional environmental knowledge hub, with trained monitors, field instruments and digital systems capable of generating real-time data. Community climate stewards

A defining achievement of the initiative is the emergence of 35 key community stakeholders (KCS) — farmers, fishers, women, youth, elders, and tribal knowledge-holders — who now serve as first community climate stewards. They collect and interpret environmental data, and can identify trends, work with local institutions, and help translate information into daily decisions in the near future.

CbMRV is also reshaping how data flows through governance systems. At the panchayat level, it can complement Gram Panchayat Development Plans and programmes such as the Climate Resilient Village, strengthening vulnerability assessments, crop diversification decisions, and natural resource management. At the block and district levels, village-scale evidence can support watershed development, agricultural advisories, and disaster preparedness. At the State level, CbMRV can enhance the evidence base for the Tamil Nadu Climate Tracker, the State Action Plan on Climate Change, the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, coastal adaptation programmes and climate investment pathways under the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company. A key aim is long-term institutionalisation and the creation of a permanent green workforce. Training modules, applications, field protocols and dashboards developed under CbMRV are being proposed for integration into community colleges, Industrial Training Institutes, forestry and agricultural institutions, Panchayat Raj training centres, and State skill development programmes. With sustained support, community monitors can maintain long-term environmental baselines and eventually replicate the system across wider geographies. When the tools of science are shared rather than concentrated, and when governance grows from the ground up, climate action becomes both more democratic and more resilient. Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Government of Tamil Nadu; Pratim Roy, Co-founder of Keystone Foundation and a rural development expert and ecologist; Tabinda Bashir, Advisor, Climate Change and Energy - Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, U.K. Government

Why Thailand and Cambodia are fighting?

The Thai-Cambodia conflict was one of the eight wars U.S. President Donald Trump claimed to have ended. In July, fighting broke out along the porous border between the South East Asian neighbours in which at least 48 people were killed and over 200,000 displaced. Mr. Trump, along with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, mediated a ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia. But the ceasefire did not last long. In November, Thailand announced that it would suspend the implementation of the ceasefire after a landmine blast injured several of its soldiers. Bangkok accused Cambodia of mining the border region. On December 7, it carried out air strikes at Cambodian forces, triggering another round of full-scale cross border fighting. Mr. Trump talked to Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Premier Hun Manet and announced that both leaders agreed to resume the ceasefire. But his claim did not have any impact on the ground as fighting continued. At least 28 people have been killed in the fresh round of violence.

The Thai-Cambodian crisis has colonial roots in the Franco-Siamese (Thai) treaties of 1904 and 1907, which defined the boundary between Siam and French Indochina. While these treaties sketched borders along the forested Dangrek ranges, the line remained largely undemarcated on the ground. The flashpoint has been Preah Vihear, the 11th century Khmer Hindu temple and UNESCO World Heritage Site. When French surveyors created maps, they placed Preah Vihear on the Cambodian side despite the temple sitting atop a cliff more easily accessible from Thailand. After Cambodia got independence from France in 1953, its rulers renewed claims over Preah Vihear, but Thailand had deployed troops in the region. In 1962, the International Court of Justice awarded Cambodia sovereignty over the temple, but the dispute has endured in the absence of a mutually accepted border demarcation. Why is Preah Vihear so important for both Thailand and Cambodia? Read this profile of the temple.

Foreign investors and tourists watch nervously as the two ASEAN members exchange fire across the border. ASEAN is already grappling with a far larger challenge in Myanmar where a brutal military regime seems determined to cling to power even at the cost of its own people. If the Thai-Cambodia border crisis metastasises into something worse, South-East Asia's hard-won reputation for stability and economic cooperation could further be undermined, writes The Hindu in this editorial. "Regional powers such as Malaysia and Indonesia have both the interests and the influence to facilitate renewed dialogue and must press both sides to return to talks without delay. Once the ceasefire is restored, ASEAN should promote confidence-building measures to address the deep mistrust between the two countries and ensure that another round of fighting does not erupt," it adds. Massacre in Sydney Bondi Beach in Sydney, one of Australia's most iconic locations, turned into a scene of massacre on December 14, the first day of Hanukkah, when two gunmen opened fire at a Jewish gathering. At least 16 people, including a 10-year-old girl and an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor, were killed and 40 others wounded. Police said the attackers were a 50-year-old man, who held licensed firearms, and his 24-year-old son. In recent years, Australia has witnessed growing antisemitic incidents, targeting its Jewish community, which makes up some 0.4% of its population. Last year, in October, a kosher-food business in Bondi was targeted, while in December, a synagogue in Melbourne was firebombed. After Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel and Israel's retaliatory genocidal war on Palestinians in Gaza, antisemitic incidents in



Australia rose by 316%, between October 2023 and September 2024, with more than 2,000 cases reported, according to the country's special envoy to combat antisemitism. According to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the attackers, identified as Sajid and Naveed Akram, were influenced by the Islamic State's ideology. The rise in antisemitic violence should be a grave concern for Australia, which hosts the world's eighth largest Jewish community. Mr. Albanese should also remain alert to forces, domestic and foreign, that seek to divide Australian society, writes The Hindu in this editorial. "While antisemitic extremists target the local Jewish community, critics of Mr. Albanese, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — under whose watch Hamas killed 1,200 people in Israel — have sought to blame Mr. Albanese's policies, including his government's recognition of Palestinian statehood earlier this year, for the Bondi shooting. Mr. Albanese should ignore such attacks and focus instead on healing society, combating hate crimes, and addressing concerns over gun violence."

1. Cyclone impact sparks fresh calls in Sri Lanka to recast IMF deal

The programme's crushing austerity measures make recovery harder, contend activists, reports Meera Srinivasan from Colombo.

2. With Bolsonaro in jail, Brazil's right in disarray as Trump warms up to Lula

The former President's absence has done little to rally his supporters even as his family is embroiled in a bitter succession battle; the markets and U.S. officials signal waning support for the Bolsonaro brand; with legal troubles and low public backing, the far-right in Brazil faces a turbulent path ahead, reports Shobhan Saxena from Sao Paulo.

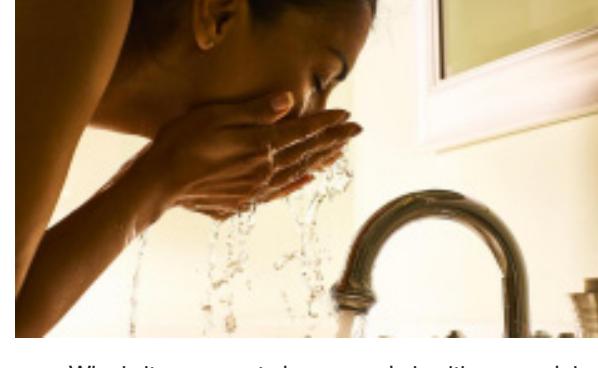
3. Nepal anti-graft body charges officials, China firm in Pokhara airport corruption scandal

Investigation finds 55 individuals colluded with Chinese state-owned company to inflate Pokhara airport costs by \$74 million, reports Sanjeev Satganya from Kathmandu.

4. U.S. National Security Strategy: America, First in the World

The document outlining the foreign policy thinking of the second Trump administration says the U.S. should not be seeking global dominance or trying nation-building in other countries; it seeks strategic stability with Russia, a new balance of power with China, and new terms of engagement with Europe, writes Varghese K George in The Hindu Profiles. 5. How will Australia's social media ban work? | Explained Why did the government think this was necessary? What are the platforms blocked for children under 16? What do companies which don't comply with the rules face?

Hard water can impact hair and skin: here's how you can prevent the damage



we receive. However, consistent efforts and a strategic approach that addresses the three important factors — water quality, a cleansing routine, and moisture repair — can help your skin and hair.

To prevent the damage, there are two key steps: Invest in a shower filter: This is the most accessible and affordable solution for city dwellers. A quality shower head filter, using materials such as KDF or Vitamin C, can help neutralise chlorine and reduce some of the mineral load before it hits your body. Remember to diligently change the cartridge once every three to six months, depending on the hardness of your tap water. The RO rinse trick: Using RO water for that final rinse is an immediate, budget-friendly fix. All you need is a jug of purified (RO or filtered) water in your shower. Use this as the very last rinse for your face and hair, as it will stop soap scum from collecting and lingering on the skin and hair. This is a simple, yet effective way to ensure that mineral residue is not left behind. Cleansing must become a key part of your routine to actively remove soap scum and mineral deposits that hard water leaves behind. This involves: Switching to soap-free cleansers: Ditch harsh, high-pH bar soaps. They react poorly with hard water, creating more scum. Instead, use pH-balanced, soap-free gels, natural soaps, or syndet bars (synthetic detergents) that are gentler on the skin.

The ACV rinse: A simple, natural antidote involves using a diluted rinse of Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) after shampooing to help dissolve mineral deposits and restore the scalp's natural acidity. One or two tablespoons of ACV can be mixed into a cup of filtered water and used as a final rinse. Since hard water can compromise the natural barrier of your skin and hair, post-shower skin care is critical and should become a part of your daily routine. For the skin: A popular routine is the 'three-minute rule' which involves applying a rich body moisturiser within three minutes after a shower while the skin is still somewhat damp. This is the optimal window to lock in moisture. Look for ingredients such as ceramides and hyaluronic acid in your skincare products to actively repair the damaged skin barrier. For the hair: Ensure weekly deep conditioning for the hair, as repeated use of hard water results in dry hair. Use a rich, deep conditioning hair mask once a week to replenish the moisture stripped away by hard water. You can also apply a leave-in serum post-hair wash on damp hair, but take care to avoid applying it on your scalp. Try coating your hair and scalp with a natural oil (coconut or argan oil) about 30 minutes before your shampoo wash. This protective layer acts as a buffer, preventing excessive mineral penetration and drying.

Tesla board made \$3 billion via stock awards that eclipsed tech peers



Tesla's board of directors has earned more than \$3 billion through stock awards that far exceeded the value of those given to peers at the biggest U.S. technology firms at the time they were paid, according to an analysis performed for Reuters by compensation and governance specialist Equilar. The analysis found CEO Elon Musk's brother Kimbal has earned nearly \$1 billion since 2004, based on the appreciated value of stock options held or liquidated. Director Ira Ehrenpreis has collected \$869 million since 2007. Board chair Robyn Denholm has made \$650 million since 2014. Directors reaped such windfalls even though they haven't awarded themselves new stock grants since 2020. The board agreed to suspend director compensation starting in 2021 to settle a shareholder lawsuit alleging excessive board-member pay. Between 2018 and 2020, however, the average Tesla director received a total of about \$12 million in cash-and-stock compensation. That was about eight times as much as the average director at Alphabet, the next highest-paid among the "Magnificent Seven" companies over the same period.

The value of those original awards skyrocketed along with Tesla's share price in subsequent years. That's also true of the other six firms in the Magnificent Seven — Nvidia, Alphabet, Meta, Apple, Microsoft and Amazon — which got that name because their soaring stocks have been a big driver of the long-running bull market. But Tesla is the only company among that cohort where the size of directors' original stock awards played such an outsized role in the vast wealth they've earned from these part-time jobs, the Equilar analysis shows. Tesla directors' average compensation between 2018 and 2024 — including the four years of suspended pay — was still two-and-a-half times that of Meta directors, the next highest-paid over the seven-year period.

In a statement to Reuters, a Tesla spokesperson said its directors' compensation "is not excessive but directly tied to stock performance and shareholder value creation." The statement added that board members provide extraordinary service to Tesla and devote "substantial time and effort," for example by attending 58 full-board or committee meetings in 2024. The spokesperson said that meeting frequency was well above industry norms. Tesla's board also paid itself in stock options instead of shares, a rare practice criticised by some corporate-governance specialists because it magnifies directors' upside potential with no downside risk. Tesla directors have exercised tens or hundreds of millions of dollars in options to date but also continue to hold similarly large amounts, Equilar found.

Stock options are the right to buy the company's stock after a specified period for a preset price. Option holders face no risk, corporate-governance experts say, because they're not required to buy the stock if its value drops below the preset price. If it appreciates, they can buy the shares at a discount and immediately unload them at a profit. Instead, many governance experts advise boards to pay directors in shares to align their interests with shareholders. When directors directly own shares, rather than options to buy shares, the value of their holdings drops if their company's stock price falls. Only 5% of the largest 200 companies in the S&P 500 by revenue issue directors options, according to the National Association of Corporate Directors.

The Tesla spokesperson said options create a more "at-risk" incentive structure for directors because they only get compensated if the stock rises. Directors at other firms who receive shares still get some value, even if share prices fall, "as long as the stock exceeds \$0," the spokesperson said. Four corporate-governance experts who reviewed Equilar's analysis for Reuters said the Tesla board's extraordinary compensation undermines directors' independence in overseeing Tesla and its CEO Elon Musk. "Tesla directors are ridiculously overpaid," said Douglas Chia, an independent corporate-governance consultant at Soundboard Governance LLC. "Are you actually incentivized to do a better job by being paid this much? Probably not."

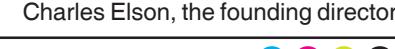
Charles Elson, the founding director of the University

of Delaware's corporate-governance institute, acknowledged Tesla's argument that directors only make money if the company's stock goes up. But Elson and others recommend paying directors in restricted stock, which includes a vesting period, to better align their interests with shareholders who can both make and lose money holding shares. Further, he said, options are usually more lucrative for directors because they "tend to magnify returns dramatically." In addition to the shareholder lawsuit, the Tesla board's compensation also came under fire in a Delaware court ruling last year that invalidated the pay package the board gave Musk in 2018, which is worth \$132 billion at the company's current stock price. The judge found board members' excessive compensation and personal ties to Musk compromised CEO-pay negotiations. The board has appealed and promised Musk a replacement package worth at least \$42 billion if it loses. The board in September proposed a new compensation package for Musk that could grant him as much as \$1 trillion in Tesla stock over the next decade, worth about \$878 billion after subtracting what Musk must pay for the shares. Each of these packages alone would make Musk by far the highest-paid CEO in history — a title he already holds based on his Tesla earnings to date.

Equilar analysed Magnificent Seven directors' cash-and-stock compensation to find annual averages from 2018 through 2024. Equilar excluded members who left boards during any given year to ensure those included received a full year's compensation. Tesla directors averaged \$1.7 million annually for those years, despite having pay suspended for most of the period. Meta was next highest at nearly \$685,000. Amazon was lowest at about \$307,000. Equilar also calculated the lifetime compensation of every current Magnificent Seven director, including the appreciated value of all shares or options held or sold. Tesla's total of more than \$3 billion was paid to just five of its eight current nonexecutive members. The other three — Jeffrey Straubel, Jack Hartung and Joe Gebbia — joined the board after it suspended pay. The lawsuit settlement also requires the board to seek shareholder approval for director compensation after 2023, which it hasn't yet done. All five well-compensated Tesla directors have cashed out options. James Murdoch has liquidated the lowest amount, nearly \$81 million, while board chair Denholm has cashed out the highest, at about \$595 million, or 91% of her total compensation.

A few board members at other Magnificent Seven firms have also reaped huge sums as their companies' value surged, the analysis found. But lifetime-compensation comparisons among different firms are complicated by their directors' varying lengths of service and by the fact that board members at some firms made personal purchases of company stock that Equilar was unable to exclude from their estimated total compensation. Equilar could not determine what company-stock purchases directors might have made before 2003 because regulators did not require board members to disclose such purchases before that year.

The examination found that Nvidia's directors collectively held or had sold about \$17 billion in the chipmaker's stock and Google-parent Alphabet directors held or had sold about \$5 billion in company shares. Those amounts include large numbers of shares the directors were paid for their board service but also could include shares they purchased with personal funds before the 2003 regulations took effect.



Why Indian HEIs such as IITs fell in QS Asia 2026 despite rise in QS Global



Several top-tier Indian institutions, particularly the premier IITs, experienced substantial rank declines in the QS Asia Rankings 2026. Paradoxically, the ranks of some of the IITs improved in QS global rankings 2026. At the same time, ranks of a number of institutions in China and Hong Kong improved dramatically in QS Asia 2026. This article analyses the reasons for the anomaly and the performance gaps, proposes measures for strengthening India's position in global ranking.

Overview of QS Asia 2026 The 2026 edition of the QS Asia rankings featured 1,526 higher education institutions across Asia, 557 of which are new entries, 260 from China and 137 from India. Mainland China is the most represented country, with 394 ranked institutions, three in the top 10 and 25 in the top 100. Out of 11 universities ranked from Hong Kong, nine have moved up, with five figuring in the top 10. India has 294 universities in this year's Rankings with only seven universities featuring on the top 100. Not just that, as many as 110 institutions have gone down by over 10 ranks whereas 33 moved up by at least 10 ranks.

Performance of Indian universities in QS Asia 2026 Out of the top 10 ranked Indian institutions in QS Asia 2026 rankings, nine premier institutions (7 IITs, IISc and University of Delhi) continued to remain among top 10 in 2026, with one private institution, Chandigarh University entered the top 10, moving up by 11 ranks and displacing Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). However, all the nine public institutions have gone down from last year, though by different magnitude. An analysis of the top 10 institutions reveals that though their overall average score has gone up from 65.1 in 2025 to 71.7 in 2026, the sliding down was due to relatively lower score in faculty-student ratio, citations per paper and internationalization parameters. Though their average score on number of research papers is higher than that of top 10 in Asia, citations per paper is far less, reflecting on the quality of the papers. Curiously though, the top 10 Indian private institutions have performed better with regard to internationalization indicators, even surpassing the public institutions, by a wide margin. The private institutions that jumped ranks by over 100 places include Galgotia University, Christ University, Kalasalingam Academy, Satyabama Institute, Graphic Era University and O P Jindal Global University. While the top 10 Indian institutions signed research MOUs with a number of foreign universities, they have been unable to leverage them for enhancing the mobility of students and faculty, as much as the top 10 private institutions.

Fierce regional competition and changing the geography of excellence In the last few years, Chinese universities have invested heavily in international faculty recruitment, research capacity and industry partnerships; several such institutions made notable gains in 2026, pushing many Asian peers down the list even if those peers have improved the absolute metrics. The increased participation

by high performing institutions in 2026 shifted upward the average scores and even small difference in score, impacts the relative ranking widely. How China and Hong Kong outperformed India/China's national initiatives, such as the Double First Class University Plan, have led to rapid expansion in high-impact research output. Due to intense internationalization efforts, China has also seen increases in global scholar and faculty mobility. In order to improve their intake of international students, Mainland China is introducing a new STEM visa to make it easier for students to study science, technology, engineering or medicine subjects to study in their top institutions. They are also making post-graduate work visas more accessible in an effort to retain the most talented students. Indian institutions in QS Global vs. QS Asia rankings It may look paradoxical that while some of the IITs have improved their ranks in QS global 2026, their ranks dropped in the QS Asian regional rankings during the same year. For instance, IIT Delhi improved from 150 to 123 in QS global ranking, whereas dropped from 44 to 59 in Asia rankings. Likewise, IIT Madras global rank moved up from 227 to 180, while it moved down steeply from 56 to 70. QS Asia rankings includes new indicators, compared with those in the World University Rankings such as staff with a Ph.D. and exchange of students (inward and outward). Citations per faculty in the global rankings is replaced by papers per faculty and citations per paper. Employment outcomes and sustainability factors are dropped. Weightages for international research network and employer reputation were increased.

The universities that overtook IITs in QS Asia rankings, also participated in QS World, but they improved significantly in QS Asia-specific metrics faster than the IITs did. The stated objective of the Asia regional rankings is to present a specialised perspective of higher education in the region. However, the changed indicators and weightages do not reflect any region specific aspects, on the other hand, they seem to favour the priorities of the Chinese institutions, in respect of internationalization from a regional perspective. Is the system being gamed? Reputation scores depend on the composition of survey database and voluntary submission of responses from academics and employers. Institutions with stronger global networks or branding initiatives may receive disproportionate visibility, creating structural bias. Though QS does validation of the data submitted by the participants to a limited extent, there is scope for the institutions to refine submitted data, such as faculty counts, international staff, and research outputs to optimise perceived performance.

Way forward for Indian HEIs Irrespective of rankings, there is need to address the faculty shortage issue in premier institutions, as hiring in India is constrained by long recruitment cycles, salary competition with industry and bureaucratic processes. Internationalisation efforts of the institutions need to be stepped up by strengthening international offices and facilitating policies and processes to attract foreign faculty and scholars. India's growing representation in QS Asia 2026 reflects the widespread growth of its higher education system, both in quantity and quality. However, the decline of premier institutions indicates structural challenges in research impact, internationalisation, and reputation. In contrast, China and Hong Kong's strong performance highlights the importance of strategic investment, global engagement, and methodological alignment. While all the rankings systems have inherent limitations and potential biases, they may be viewed as indicators of global competitiveness. Strengthening India's performance in global rankings require systemic reforms, sustained funding, and proactive internationalisation strategies.

Illegal U-turns slow down traffic near Duraisamy Subway



12 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays. Weekends are no better, as the street sees equally chaotic traffic, with T. Nagar being a shopper's den.

The traffic police should strictly enforce one-ways on the service roads, so that traffic movement is not affected as much, said Suresh Rodrigo, a shop owner in the area. "Moreover, during peak hours and weekends, customers struggle with parking in the area," he added. Often, when heavy vehicles such as large trucks and lorries pass through the subway road, despite it being a cramped space, traffic gets disrupted, observed another motorist. A traffic police personnel, on condition of anonymity, said that U-turns from the service lanes are not permitted. "Since the subway road lies on lower ground, vehicles tend to slow down as they ascend and descend the slope. This may be why traffic is relatively slow-moving here, especially during peak hours," the personnel added. Flooding woes The subway road is in poor condition, with cracks and crevices along its surface. During heavy rain, the low-lying stretch floods quickly. Although the water is eventually pumped out, it causes traffic delays. The footpaths along the subway road are also not conducive for pedestrians, as wires hang from the sides and water sometimes leaks from above, said S. Govindarajan, a resident of the area. While there is adequate lighting at night, some sections of the footpaths are broken, with garbage strewn on the sides, he added. K. Elumalai, Councillor of Ward 133, Zone 10, Greater Chennai Corporation, said there are motors attached to the subway that pump out water during heavy rains. The water is collected in a nearby well. "There are adequate drains along the subway road. When the rains are light, the water easily seeps through the drains," he added.

26 e-commerce platforms declare compliance to eliminate dark patterns

New Delhi: In a major step towards protecting consumer interest in the digital marketplace, 26 leading e-commerce platforms have voluntarily submitted self-declaration letters confirming compliance to eliminate dark patterns, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, on Thursday. The compliance with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, marks a significant milestone in India's efforts to curb deceptive online design practices that mislead or manipulate consumers.

"The platforms have conducted internal self-audits or third-party audits to identify, assess, and eliminate any presence of dark patterns. All 26 companies have declared that their platforms are free from dark patterns and do not deploy any manipulative user interface designs," the Ministry said. The compliance demonstrates a strong commitment

towards consumer transparency, fair trade practices, and ethical digital ecosystems. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has also appreciated these declarations and termed them "exemplary". It encouraged other companies to adopt similar self-regulation. To strengthen compliance, CCPA issued an Advisory on 5 June 2025, instructing all e-commerce platforms and online service providers to conduct a mandatory self-audit within three months to detect and eliminate dark patterns. The advisory emphasised transparency, explicit consent, clear disclosures, and non-manipulative design. The CCPA strongly urges all other e-commerce platforms, marketplace entities, service providers, and app developers to follow the example set by these companies. "Through the National Consumer Helpline (NCH), social media campaigns, informative videos, and outreach programmes.

Multipurpose National Identity Card: Once there was a card to prove citizenship



Mishro and several hundred residents of her village – Pooth Khurd in north-west Delhi's Bawana – were among the first few lakhs of people to be allotted the Multipurpose National Identity Card (MNIC) by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under a pilot project 17 years ago. The card, with an embedded electronic chip, had Mishro's biometric details: 10 fingerprints, an iris scan, her photograph, and thumb impression. It also had details such as her name, date of birth, parents' names, place of birth, place of issue, and 10-year validity period.

The issuing authority was the Registrar General of Citizens, under the MHA, which determines citizenship in India. Under the pilot project, which concluded on March 31, 2009, as many as 12.88 lakh MNICs were issued to citizens aged 18 and above. Biometric data of about 30 lakh people was captured. On August 12 this year, while responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, the MHA did not specify the "categories of valid documents" required for people to prove citizenship in India. Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation MP Sudama Prasad had asked for the details. Minister of State for Home Nitinanand Rai stated in a written reply: "The citizenship of India is governed under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made thereunder." Without specifying the admissible documents, the reply stated that citizenship "can be acquired by birth (Section 3), by descent (Section 4), by registration (Section 5), by naturalisation (Section 6), or by incorporation of territory (Section 7)." Determining citizenship

A debate around citizenship and what documents are required in order to be called an Indian was reignited when the Election Commission of India (EC) decided to conduct a special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar in June this year. Besides cleaning up and updating voter rolls, one of the objectives of the exercise was to weed out illegal immigrants – a mandate of the MHA. According to the June 24 order of the EC for rolling out the SIR in Bihar, now being conducted in 12 other States and Union Territories, people could furnish any of the 11 valid documents for inclusion in the voter rolls. Residents whose parents' names were included in the 2003 electoral rolls, the last time SIR was carried out, could skip submitting documents, it stated. On the list of admissible documents were birth certificate, passport, education certificate, but not the Aadhaar card. Following petitions in the Supreme Court, the EC agreed to accept Aadhaar cards too. As citizenship is the MHA's domain, Opposition parties flagged the EC's mandate to steer such a drive in the name of a clean-up of electoral rolls. In 2015, then Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju informed Parliament that under the Citizenship Act, 1955, "the Central government may compulsorily register every citizen of India and issue (a) National Identity Card" to them. He added that accordingly, the government had decided to create the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC/NRC) by verifying the citizenship status of all people in the National Population Register (NPR). Bharpai, a resident of Pooth Khurd village, can't remember where her MNIC card is, but says she has never used it.

Updating details for the NPR, which was to be carried out simultaneously with the first phase of the Population Census 2027, has been put on hold. The citizenship of each individual would be separately determined at the time of preparation of the NRC, a subset of the NPR. The NPR has a database of 119 crore residents of the country. Unlike the Census, where statistical data up to the village level is made public, NPR data is collected household-wise and can be shared with government agencies and States. NPR data was first collected in 2010 along with the first phase of the 2011 Population Census. It was last updated in 2015.

The first phase of the Census is to be conducted from April-October 2026; the pre-test is currently in progress across the country from November 10-30. Unlike previous instances, this time questions related to the NPR are not being asked or updated by enumerators in the pre-test phase. Updation of the NPR was put on hold following riots and violence in 2019-20 after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) was passed by Parliament on December 9, 2019. There were fears and apprehensions that CAA – which grants citizenship to members of six undocumented non-Muslim communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014 – followed by a countrywide compilation of the NRC will disenfranchise Muslims and undocumented Indians. It was felt that while the CAA would come to the rescue of

The myth of the 'normal': what does your lab report really mean?

When the U.S. wrestler and actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson was in his prime, his Body Mass Index (BMI) was around 33 kg/m², technically 'obese' by World Health Organization (WHO) standards. Yet no one watching him could call him unhealthy. This paradox is one glimpse of how numbers alone can't be used to define good human health. For many years, the WHO has used universal BMI cut-offs: over 25 kg/m² for 'overweight' and 30 kg/m² for 'obesity'. But research in Asian populations has revealed that even at lower BMI levels, people developed diabetes and heart disease more often. Recognising these ethnic differences in fat distribution, the WHO revised the 'normal' upper limit for many Asian countries to 23 kg/m². Thus, 'normal' health is not fixed or global but a shifting statistical boundary shaped by population data and biological diversity.

Every lab report for continuous variables includes a reference range, which is often mistaken to be the normal range. Laboratories use the term 'reference' because the range is statistical, not absolute. This means it's derived from the test results of a large number of individuals. When these values are plotted on a graph, they form a bell-shaped curve, with most results clustering near the average and fewer at the extremes. The reference interval is the central 95% of this distribution, meaning 95 out of 100 healthy people fall within it, while 5% lie outside it. This is why falling outside the reference range doesn't always indicate disease – nor does falling within guarantee good health. It's only a guide, rather than a definitive boundary of normalcy. Diagnosing disease would be simple if health and

non-Muslims excluded from the NRC, excluded Muslims would have to prove their citizenship. Eighty-three people were killed in protests and riots from December 2019 to March 2020 in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, and Delhi after the CAA was passed.

Though the Union government informed Parliament that "till now" no decision has been taken to prepare the NRC at the national level" and denied that the CAA and NRC are linked, the Citizenship Rules 2003 under the Citizenship Act, 1955 – which enables the process – has neither been amended nor dropped. No new legislation is needed to conduct the NRC. Assam is the only State where the NRC was compiled on the orders of the Supreme Court and the draft register excluded 19 lakh out of the 3.29 crore applicants. In 2013, the then United Progressive Alliance government informed Parliament that the NPR is a register of residents: citizens as well as non-citizens. "The objective of creating an NPR is to net all usual residents of the country at a given point of time. The proposed resident identity (smart) cards will not be proof of citizenship and would carry a disclaimer that the card does not confer any right to citizenship. The citizenship of each individual would be separately determined at the time of preparation of the NRC," it stated. The idea of a unique identification system, however, goes back to 2001 when then Home Minister L.K. Advani proposed the issue of MNICs. During a meeting of a Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Home Affairs on August 21, 2003, a presentation by the government quoted a recommendation by a Group of Ministers on reforming the National Security System. "Illegal migration has assumed serious proportions. There should be compulsory registration of citizens and non-citizens living in India. This will facilitate preparation of a national register of citizens. All citizens should be given an MNIC," it stated. It added that non-citizens should be issued identity cards of a different colour and design. It recommended that the exercise be started in border districts or in a 20-km border belt and extended to the rest of India gradually.

A card as a memory Sitting in her three-storey house in Pooth Khurd, where she has been living since 1974, Mishro recalls how she was invited to a school in 2008 and a government official facilitated her in the presence of the whole village. The lane that leads to her house is cemented but open drains flow on both sides. When she was given the card, Mishro was told that she could use it to demand better civic facilities. Asked what the card could be used for, she says, "We were told that this card could get us potable drinking water and is also proof of our citizenship. I did not use it anywhere. Later, it was cancelled and replaced by the Aadhaar card." Mishro has even preserved the ceremonial banner resembling the card that was presented to her. "It is for posterity. The future generations should know that I was the first one to get this card," she says. Over the years, the Aadhaar card issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) became ubiquitous with 100% saturation. The proposed NPR and the pilot MNIC face uncertainty. A former MHA official involved in the pilot project says the then government decided to give primacy to Aadhaar over the MNIC.

"We were told to hand over all the biometric data that we had collected during the pilot project to the UIDAI. The biometric data was seeded with Aadhaar to avoid duplication," the former official says. The efficacy of the Aadhaar card is now being contested by the Union government. The EC, during a hearing in the Supreme Court, stated that Aadhaar is only proof of identity, not citizenship. Mishro's son, Deepak Dabas, who works in a school, has kept the MNIC wrapped in a plastic sheet along with other important documents in his almirah. "The whole family got the card. I was young then. The village head filled our details and we only had to give our biometrics at a camp organised by authorities. We were not charged any money by the government," says Deepak, adding that he has never used the card and he knows it has no value. Rajbir Dabas, another resident of Pooth Khurd, says he lost the card while shifting to a new house, but used it several times to his advantage. "The card had a prominent Ashoka emblem on the right side and the 'Republic of India' inscribed on top. If you showed it to anyone, they could not understand what it was. I used it several times at toll plazas to avoid paying tax as attendants got scared every time we displayed the red card. They thought we were from the Ministry." Bharpai, 67, another resident of the village, has a faint memory of the MNIC. Battling age-related health issues, she sits on a cot on the terrace of her two-storey house. When asked about the card, Bharpai, who is hard of hearing, says, "Yes, I did get the card, but do not remember where it is right now. I never cared to take care of it. I have my Aadhaar card." She also says she did not use it ever in her life. Around 500 metres away at the panchayat bhawan, a group of men have gathered to play cards. When asked if they also got the MNIC, Rajesh, one of the residents, says, "I do have the card, but it is of no use. An electricity bill is of more use to us than this card. Now that you are asking about it, maybe I will look for it. Around 4,000 people in this village got the card then," he says, adding that he too used the card to avoid paying toll tax on highways.

illness were cleanly separated, the way India and Sri Lanka are separated by the Palk Strait. But biogeography resembles the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border: fluid and gradual, without a clear point where Tamil-speaking people end and Malayalam-speaking people begin. In the border villages, both languages mingle and one shades into the other. Similarly, no single value separates health from disease with precision. Consider diabetes: when the fasting blood glucose levels of thousands of people are plotted on a graph, the healthy and the diabetic curves merge smoothly. The diagnostic cut-off of 126 mg/dl wasn't a mathematical discovery but a practical compromise; there's no fixed line beyond which a person suddenly becomes diabetic. Clinicians draw a line only for practical purposes, and assume that beyond that limit, the risk of complications such as diabetic retinopathy rises sharply. Put another way, all such medical boundaries balance the two concepts of sensitivity and specificity. A lower threshold would detect all true cases but falsely label many healthy ones, increasing the number of false positives; vice versa for a higher threshold. No test in medicine is 100% sensitive and 100% specific at the same time. Since no test is perfectly accurate, the chosen cut-off reflects medical judgment shaped by a disease's severity, prevalence, and social consequences. For serious yet treatable conditions, clinicians prefer caution and accept more false positives; for mild or stigmatising ones, they raise the bar to avoid overdiagnosis. Every cut-off in medicine is thus a negotiation and, for that reason, they must be regularly revisited.

Govt introduces N-power bill in Parliament, permits private participation, limits supplier liability



The government on Monday introduced a new Bill in the Lok Sabha called the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, which will allow private participation in India's highly restricted nuclear power sector. The new Bill will replace the existing Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010.

The government said the new Bill is a key step towards achieving India's target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity by 2047, as it seeks to "harness the full potential of India's nuclear energy and indigenous resources through active involvement of both the public and private sectors." "... accelerated growth of Artificial Intelligence, high-performance computing, quantum technologies, indigenous semiconductor fabrication and large-scale data-driven research requires stable, reliable, abundant, clean and round-the-clock power supply, which can be ensured through expanded deployment of nuclear energy and necessitating a new legal framework promoting research and innovation in private-sector," the short title of the Bill read.

A key change in the new Bill is removal of an earlier provision under 'right of recourse' which had allowed nuclear plant operators to seek compensation from suppliers in the event of a nuclear accident caused by defective equipment, sub-standard services or acts of suppliers or their employees. This provision was repeatedly flagged by foreign nuclear equipment vendors as a deterrent to investing in India's nuclear sector as it exposes them to long-term and uncertain liability risks in the event of a nuclear accident. Under the new Bill, both public and private companies, as well as their joint ventures, will be allowed to set up nuclear power plants, transportation or storage of nuclear

fuel, and import or export nuclear fuel, technology, equipment and minerals required for nuclear power generation. However, all entities involved in nuclear energy production will be required to obtain safety authorisation from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The Bill makes "safety authorisation" mandatory for the manufacture, possession, use, transport, import, export or disposal of radioactive substances and radiation-generating equipment, as well as for establishing, operating or decommissioning radiation facilities.

Meanwhile, the Bill retains certain exclusive Central government control over critical and sensitive activities. These include enrichment and isotopic separation of radioactive substances, management and reprocessing of spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste, production and upgradation of heavy water, among others. The Bill also provides for the creation of new institutional arrangements, including an Atomic Energy Redressal Advisory Council, designation of Claims Commissioners, and a Nuclear Damage Claims Commission for cases involving severe nuclear damage, with the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity acting as the appellate authority. Further, it empowers the Central government to establish a Nuclear Liability Fund for the purpose of meeting its liability in case of a nuclear incident. On the liability front, the Bill specifies graded liability caps for nuclear power operators based on their size of installation. Operators of reactors with thermal power above 3,600 MWe will have a liability limit of Rs 3,000 crore. Reactors with thermal power above 1,500 MWe and up to 3,600 MWe will carry a cap of Rs 1,500 crore, while those above 750 MWe and up to 1,500 MWe will be liable up to Rs 750 crore. For reactors above 150 MWe and up to 750 MWe range, the liability limit is set at Rs 300 crore. Smaller reactors with thermal power up to 150 MWe, fuel cycle facilities other than spent fuel reprocessing plants, and transportation of nuclear materials will have a liability cap of Rs 100 crore. India enacted The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 after repealing the Atomic Energy Act, 1948. Since then, the Act has been amended four times, with the latest amendment being in 2015. However, the sector was confined to the Central government. In 2010, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 was enacted to provide for civil liability for nuclear damage and prompt compensation to the victims of a nuclear incident through a no-fault liability regime.

Not worried about impact of tariffs as much as impact of AI: Richard Lesser, BCG global chair

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Even as the Indian economy and markets have been feeling an overhang of the ongoing tariff deal with the United States of America, Richard Lesser, Global Chair of Boston Consulting Group (BCG) said that he is not worried about impact of tariffs as much as impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which he termed as 'critically important'.

"For me, the impact of tariffs relative to factors like AI would turn out to be smaller rather than larger. I am not trying to minimise the impact on sectors of the economy but overall I think it's easy to focus on the political challenges of the near term but as business leaders keeping the focus on more fundamental underlying changes in the economy which are first and foremost characterised by multiple revolutions in technology, of which the one that is most in front of us now is AI. It is just critically important," said Lesser, during an Idea Exchange session at Stating that no one knows how tariffs would play out between India and the US and that the future is 'not clear and unlikely to be stable', he maintained that a tariff policy will serve the strategic interests of both the countries and that he was optimistic that US and India would get to some level of a tariff policy.

"President (Donald) Trump believes deeply in the power of uncertainty and so the idea that we know how tariffs would play out in the US, I don't think any of us know. When we are asking question on future, my assumption is that future is not clear and unlikely to be stable. I personally remain optimistic about India-US relationship and I know it has been a very difficult year but I believe the strength of US-India relationship remains important to both the countries. I believe the opportunities to work together remain enormous and I believe that at the end of day, despite the ups and downs, there is a real chance to get to some level of a tariff policy that will serve both countries strategic interest." Stating the importance of AI, Lesser said that AI is not an 'and/or' question. It's an 'and'. He pointed that AI will help people learn at an accelerated rate and will both encourage and force people to adopt broader skills. "AI will give young people more power to deliver value in their jobs than they have ever had before," he said.

Stating the importance of AI adoption, he said that no major country 'has a choice' and that they will have to think about how to participate and encourage responsible



usage. He further said, "AI can be an accelerant to productivity growth, it can be an accelerant to faster learning and it can be an accelerant to building capabilities that didn't previously exist. As India is trying (to build) its industrial base, in its education system, and other aspects of its economy and is trying to put itself on an accelerated growth path, AI can be a massive support on these very critical priorities for both industry and for society more broadly." He, however, pointed that it comes with a challenge that we have to acknowledge that in many cases, it will be taking work that people could do, though in some cases, that may be a good trade-off, he noted.

Speaking about concerns around AI bubble globally, Lesser said that the term concerns him as it mixes things together that should be separate. "There are three simple points. Is there an over investment in AI infrastructure like energy, power and data centres in the near term? The answer is yes, of course it is possible. Every time there has been a massive shift in global capital, no one has the crystal ball to get it right at the start. So, there is a good chance that there will be over investment for a period of time.... Two, will there be usage of assets built for AI over time much like rare earth or dark fibre that was laid 25 years ago. I think the answer is yes; Three, we are still at the early usage of AI in downstream usage. Most companies are in the early stages. Currently, only 5-6 per cent companies are deploying AI at scale across broad parts of the enterprise. 30-40 per cent are starting on that journey to deploy it at scale. 60 per cent are in the stage of doing pilots and starting their efforts. So the answer is no," he said.

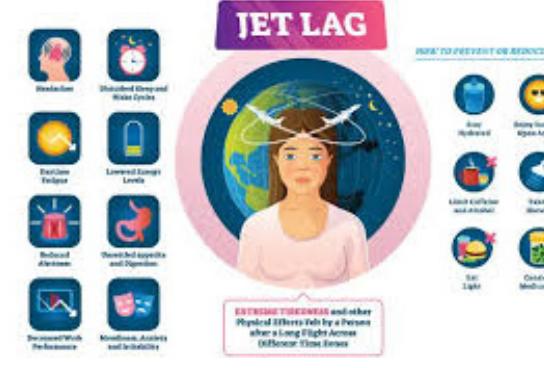
Delhi airport, IndiGo, Air India issue advisories warning more flight disruptions due to fog, poor visibility

Delhi flight disruptions: The Delhi airport has issued a fresh advisory on flight disruptions, warning that while flight operations had been normalising after hundreds of cancellations due to fog, disruptions are likely to continue. The advisory issued at 6:06 AM on Tuesday, read: "Flight operations are steadily recovering, but disruptions may persist for certain departures and arrivals. For accurate and timely updates, please contact your airline directly. Our personnel are available across terminals to assist passengers and provide necessary support." As per the Early Warning System for Delhi, Safdarjung airport recorded the lowest visibility of zero metre from 1:30 AM to 2:30 AM on December 15. This continued to prevail till 8:30 AM and improved to 400 m at 10:00 AM. "Palam airport recorded the lowest visibility 50 m from 6 AM to 9 AM IST." On Tuesday, the general visibility marginally improved to 800 m, as per the Delhi Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS). What airlines said

Air India said: "Dense fog enveloping Delhi and parts of Northern India early this morning caused flight disruptions across airlines, leading to significant air traffic congestion at the Delhi Airport and parking bay constraints,

among multiple other challenges. Regrettably, several Air India flights had to be delayed and/or cancelled, which had a cascading, network-wide impact on our flight schedules as a result. While such unavoidable conditions are beyond airline control, our teams are working around the clock to assist affected guests with rebookings or full refunds if their flights were cancelled." IndiGo Airlines, which has been plagued by thousands of flight cancellations due to operational reasons, too, said: "As winter sets in, early mornings across Northern India can bring fog that may occasionally slow down flight movements... Please be assured that our teams are well prepared and closely monitoring weather conditions. Wherever possible, we are making thoughtful adjustments on the ground to reduce inconvenience and ensure any waiting time is as comfortable as possible." As winter sets in, early mornings across Northern India can bring fog that may occasionally slow down flight movements. We wanted to share this gentle heads-up in advance, so you can plan with ease and check your flight status before heading to the airport... Akasa Air said on Monday that flights across its network had been impacted due to the severe weather conditions in Northern India. SpiceJet,

This is what happens to the body when you're jetlagged



Jet lag is more than just feeling tired after a long flight. It is a physiological condition that occurs when your body's internal clock, or circadian rhythm, is thrown off balance due to crossing multiple time zones. Dr Bikky Chaurasia, Consultant, Internal Medicine at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, explains the science behind jet lag, its symptoms, etc. The disruptive effects of jet lag

When you travel across time zones, Dr Chaurasia said, your body struggles to align with the local time, leading to: Disrupted Sleep Patterns: You may find it difficult to fall asleep or stay awake at the appropriate local times, feeling sleepy during the day and alert at night. Fatigue and Drowsiness: A misaligned biological clock causes physical exhaustion, making it hard to get restful sleep. Digestive Issues: Digestive processes are regulated by your circadian rhythm. Jet lag can lead to indigestion, constipation, or diarrhoea as your gut struggles to adapt. Mood Swings:

Hormonal imbalances and disrupted sleep cycles can cause irritability, anxiety, or mild depression. Reduced Mental Function: Jet lag can impair concentration, memory, and decision-making, often referred to as "brain fog." Hormonal Disruptions: Misaligned sleep cycles affect the release of hormones like melatonin, which regulates sleep and wakefulness. By giving your body the time and tools to adjust, you can enjoy your travels without being bogged down by jet lag fatigue. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock) The science behind jet lag

Dr Chaurasia explained that jet lag stems from the mismatch between your internal body clock and the time at your destination. This circadian rhythm is controlled by the brain's suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN), located in the hypothalamus, which responds to light and dark cues. Circadian Rhythm Disruption: When exposed to a new light-dark cycle, your body struggles to adjust, causing symptoms of jet lag. Travel Direction: Flying east (e.g., from India to Japan) results in more severe jet lag, requiring the body to shorten its natural rhythm. Traveling west (e.g., from India to Europe) is more accessible, as it extends the rhythm. Melatonin Levels: This sleep-regulating hormone is often out of sync with the new time zone, leading to insomnia and daytime drowsiness. Body Temperature: The circadian rhythm controls core body temperature, contributing to sleep disturbances and other symptoms. On average, it takes about one day per time zone crossed for your body to adjust fully. However, age, health, travel direction, and hydration levels can affect recovery time. By giving your body the time and tools to adjust, you can enjoy your travels without being bogged down by jet lag fatigue.

'Chhote bachhe batameezi karte hain, toh kabhi kabhi dhar dena chahiye': Jaya Bachchan on disciplining kids



Actor Jaya Bachchan recently shared that it's essential to discipline kids to ensure they are well-behaved. Citing her example at an event moderated by Barkha Dutt, she said, "I was a very strict mother. Shayad ye kehna aajke zamane mei galat hoga, magar kabhi kabhi chote bache batameezi karte hein toh kabhi kabhi dhar dena chahiye. Then they know humne jo kiya galat kiya, iss wajah se padi hai. I am not saying ki bahut zyada... but kids have to be taught because I have seen children, especially when you go to public places. Idhar aao baitho, aisa nahi karna, I feel like doing it, I have been that kind of mother."

To understand what healthy discipline really looks like today, we spoke with Dr Meghana Phadke Sultania, Senior Consultant & Head of Unit III – Pediatrics and Adolescent Health at Asian Hospital, Faridabad.

How does one draw a line between healthy discipline and creating fear in young children?

Dr Sultania explained that reprimanding children is essential, but only when done in a way that guides behaviour rather than instilling fear. She adds, "Healthy discipline of-

fers boundaries, predictability, and emotional security, helping children understand consequences without damaging trust." However, she notes that the line is crossed when correction turns into shouting, humiliation, unpredictability, or reactions that make the child feel unsafe. "Even when children are reprimanded, they should feel secure and understand that the behaviour is wrong, not that they are wrong," she says. "A calm, steady, and structured approach ensures discipline builds confidence rather than anxiety, while also protecting self-esteem," Dr Sultania elaborates. When small children misbehave in public, what is the right way for parents to respond without being overly strict?

To address this, Dr Sultania says the key is for parents to remain composed and acknowledge the child's emotions. Public misbehaviour often stems from overstimulation, tiredness, or frustration, and harsh reactions—especially in front of others—can increase distress and humiliation, she adds. Instead, she recommends gently removing the child from the situation, offering comfort, and waiting until the child is calmer before explaining what went wrong. "Soft firmness helps them settle, while the parents' self-control models emotional regulation. This approach prevents the child from feeling embarrassed or intimidated in a public space and helps restore balance without resorting to excessive strictness," she adds.

How does strict parenting impact a child's emotional development in the long run?

In the long term, Dr Sultania cautions that overly strict or authoritarian parenting can have significant emotional effects. Children raised under constant harshness may become fearful of expressing themselves, overly dependent on external validation, or develop a fragile self-image, she explains.

As Italy becomes first country to win UNESCO recognition for national cuisine, here are 10 must-try dishes from this European culinary paradise

Italy has now officially become the first country whose entire national cuisine has been recognised by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage. The cheesy pulls of pizzas, the tempting aroma of spaghetti, the romantic layers of a lasagna — everything is now an internationally recognised immersive experience. The listing honours the rituals, skills and social habits behind Italian cooking in general, including shopping at local markets, slow preparation, seasonal menus and long, shared meals. So, the next time you order anything Italian, don't forget to call yourself a cultural enthusiast. Here are the top must-try dishes from the birthplace of pizza.

Born in Naples, this soft, puffy-crusted pizza is topped simply with crushed tomato, mozzarella and basil, then blasted in a wood-fired oven to come out blistered, tender and lightly smoky. It remains one of the most democratic ways to taste Italian heritage, eaten by workers, students and tourists at the same marble-topped counters?

In Bologna, fresh egg pasta is rolled into ribbons and coated with a slow-cooked meat ragù, built from soffritto, tomato and hours on the stove. Served in modest portions as a primo, it shows how Italian cuisine values depth of flavour over heavy sauces. Italian Tagliatelle Bolognese features a rich, slow-cooked meat sauce served with broad, flat tagliatelle pasta (photo: pexels) This Roman classic combines pasta with cured pork, eggs, pecorino and black pepper to create a silky, rich sauce without any cream. When made traditionally, it captures the city's knack for turning a handful of pantry ingredients into something luxurious. Milan's signature risotto is slowly stirred with stock, marrow and saffron until creamy, with each grain still distinct. Often paired with ossobuco, it reflects northern Italy's love for rice and buttery richness rather than olive-oil cooking.?

Layered sheets of pasta, meat ragù, béchamel and cheese bake together into the ultimate Sunday dish in Emilia-Romagna. Every family tweaks the formula, turning lasagna into a symbol of home-style generosity and celebration. Slices of aubergine are fried, layered with tomato, basil and cheese, then baked until bubbling in many southern regions. The dish proves how Italian cooking can be indulgent and hearty even when built around vegetables. Italian Parmigiana, the eggplant slices are



Italy is the first country to be recognised for its cuisine in its entirety rather than for a single tradition or recipe.

typically salted, floured, dipped in an egg wash, and then deep-fried until golden brown and soft (photo: unsplash)

In Puglia, small "ear" shaped pasta is tossed with bitter broccoli rabe, garlic, chilli and olive oil. It celebrates local greens and good oil, embodying the Mediterranean diet that underpins much of Italy's culinary reputation. Italian Tiramisu is made from layers of coffee-soaked ladyfingers, a creamy mascarpone cheese mixture, and a dusting of cocoa powder (photo: unsplash) Florence's famous T-bone steak is cut thick, grilled quickly over high heat and served very rare with just salt and olive oil. Shared at the table, it showcases Tuscan respect for prime ingredients and minimal interference. Artisanal gelato is churned slowly, so it holds less air, giving an intensely flavoured, dense scoop in fruit, nut and chocolate varieties. Evening gelato walks have become a daily ritual, turning dessert into both a social event and a sweet treat. Layers of coffee-soaked biscuits, mascarpone and cocoa have made tiramisu one of Italy's most imitated desserts. In its homeland, it is still often served in simple trays at family-run trattorias, a comforting finale to long, shared meals.

Who is Prashant Veer, the UP allrounder bought by Chennai Super Kings for Rs 14.2 crore at IPL 2026 auction?



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Uttar Pradesh all-rounder Prashant Veer was bought by the Chennai Super Kings for Rs 14.2 crore at the IPL 2026 auction in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. The 20-year-old allrounder, who started with a base price of Rs 30 lakh, saw his price tag increase exponentially with CSK bidding heavily for him. [IPL Auction 2026 LIVE: Check Team-wise Sold and Unsold Players Live Updates Here](#). [IPL 2026 Auction Live Updates](#)

Veer had given trials with CSK recently and was acquired by them on Tuesday. He had also given trials with the Mumbai Indians, recently. Born on November 24, 2005,

he made his T20 debut against Tamil Nadu in Dehradun in 2023. He has played nine T20 matches for his state so far. Veer played twin tournaments for UP, flying between Mumbai and Kolkata to play in the Under-23 tournament as well as the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy between November 25 and December 1. In SMAT, Veer made 112 runs in seven matches at a strike rate of 169.19. He also took nine wickets with his left-arm spin in seven matches at an economy rate of 6.76. "The intensity in T20 matches is high. The state team has high-class players like Rinku Singh. All of them supported me a lot. They urged me to run less on the field. They made me field in a safer part of the ground," Veer had told

"Our support staff from both teams, our physios, trainers, they supported us a lot, as did the UPCA. Generally, we get economy tickets, but this time we got business class tickets, and we could sleep and recover while travelling," Veer adds. Veer's purchase could mean that he could be a like-for-like replacement for Ravindra Jadeja, who was traded to Rajasthan Royals for Sanju Samson by the five-time champions at the time of retentions. Veer was CSK's first buy at the mini auction on Tuesday. Stay updated with the latest sports news across Cricket, Football, Chess, and more. Catch all the action with real-time live cricket score updates and in-depth coverage of ongoing matches.

Who is Auqib Nabi, the Jammu & Kashmir cricketer brought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 8.40 crore at IPL 2026 auction?

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Jammu & Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi, who had a base price of Rs 30 lakhs, was bought by the Delhi Capitals for Rs 8.40 crore at the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 auction in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. The Axar Patel-led side was involved in a bidding with other teams like Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad, but eventually got the player after a fierce battle. [IPL Auction 2026 LIVE: Check Team-wise Sold and Unsold Players Live Updates Here](#). [IPL 2026 Auction Live Updates](#)

Born on November 4, 1996, in Baramulla, Auqib Nabi's family comes from a modest background. His father, Gulam Nabi Dar is an English teacher in a government school. A right-arm medium pacer, with an ability to move the ball both ways and maintain excellent control, Nabi has modelled his action around South African fast bowling great Dale Steyn, who was his role model growing up. "Just his aggression when bowling outswingers. I copied his action entirely. Recently, I admire Bumrah, an all-format bowler, and so, so skilled. Put him on any pitch, he has that attitude of 'I will take wickets', he told The Indian Express earlier this year.

Growing up, cricket was not in Nabi's family plans. His father dreamt of him becoming a doctor. However, his passion for cricket gradually won over his father, and he became his biggest ally once Nabi made it into Under-19 cricket. "Back then, there was no formal coaching really in Baramulla. Now things have changed. So I played my first real red-ball cricket only after 19. I happened to accom-



pany a friend for state trials when I was picked," he told The Indian Express earlier this year, he said. Nabi began with tennis-ball cricket on the streets and later progressed to organised play after being encouraged by a friend to attend trials. Nabi made his Jammu & Kashmir debut in the 2019-20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. In 27 T20 matches for his state, he has taken 28 wickets at an average of 26.39. Nabi has been one of the standout performers in India's domestic scene. In the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy season, he claimed 44 wickets, finishing as the second-highest wicket-taker. He also made headlines in the 2025 Duleep Trophy, becoming one of the few Indian bowlers to take four wickets in four balls in first-class cricket. The pacer took 4/16 in the 2025-26 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign, which helped his side defend 159 runs against Bihar at Eden Gardens.

Cameron Green is gifted, but beware his dodgy back



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Cameron Green walking away with the heftiest cheque for an overseas player in IPL history was little surprise. The rare tribe of genuine all-rounders have always pulled franchises to break banks. This Western Australian all-rounder fits the classical all-rounder bill; someone who could barge into a team on the basis of any one of his assorted but specialised skills. With the ball in hand, he generates slippery pace, coerces steep bounce with height and release. He nips the ball away from the right-handed batsman; he can bend the ball inwards too, but without the snap of the stock out-swinger. He is versed with new-age white-ball deception too. He has strong, long levers that make six-hitting as simple a task as plucking a flower.

Yet, for all the virtues, he has a habit that could frustrate teams. His penchant for wounding injuries. Just before the limited-over series against at home, he picked up a back injury that ruled him out of the series. He returned for the Ashes, but the start-stop tenor has been a recurring theme of his career. In October 2024, he underwent a surgery after a fifth stress fracture injury in two years. He skipped the six months and abstained from the IPL too. For several months after his return, he played as a specialist batter. He, according to Cricket Australia, has a "unique defect" in the area adjacent to the future that is contributing to the injury. It was later revealed that he had a unique spinal defect (extra bone on the L4 vertebra) that caused friction and pressure on the bones when bowling. It required spinal fusion surgery last year.

Australian cricket's medical experts have tended to prefer the non-surgical approach to stress fractures. Test captain Pat Cummins was the prime example of this, working through a series of issues as a young bowler before his body matured and strengthened around the age of 25. But in severe cases, as Green's was in 2024, surgeries are the only solution. He has suffered multiple back stress fractures in his teenage days, wherein he was primarily a fast bowler. He also suffers from a kidney condition, diagnosed when he was a child. The doctors even said that he might not live beyond 12 years. But he fought on, wanting to be both "Ricky Ponting and Brett Lee." Resultantly, he strictly follows a kidney-friendly diet. "My parents got told when I was born that I had chronic kidney disease. I'm still trying to learn as much

as I can about it," Green once told Channel 7. "Basically, my kidneys don't work as well as other people's and don't filter the blood very well. So I have got to keep my salt and my protein quite low, which isn't ideal as a cricketer but around games I can pick that protein intake back up because I spend so much of it out on the ground," he explained. It has five stages, and he is passing through the second. The back injury has more to do with workload management. But the recurring injuries have stalled his career from booming fully and establishing as one of the world's preeminent all-rounders. Instead, it has traced the path of his predecessor Shane Watson, gifted, but one of unfulfilled renown. KKR would hope his injuries stay away during the IPL and fulfills the immense potential he undoubtedly has.

Why Cameron Green will take home only Rs 18 crore and not the record bid of Rs 25.2 crore from KKR

Although Cam Green was sold for Rs 25.2 crore, the highest ever for an overseas player at an IPL auction, he will take home only Rs 18 crore because of a new rule introduced by the BCCI which puts a cap on salary for foreign players.

What does the rule say?

As per the new rule of the BCCI, the maximum fee an overseas player can gain from the mini-auction is determined by the highest retention price or the highest auction price at a mega auction whichever is lower. Since Rishabh Pant was bought for Rs 27 crore, the highest retention price (Rs 18 crore) becomes the cap. If a bid exceeds Rs 18 crore for an overseas player, the amount will go to the BCCI. This rule was brought in after overseas players had a trend of going for huge sums at the mini-auctions.

Green, who was expected to generate interest, at a base price of Rs 2 crore lived up to the pre-auction talk. Mumbai Indians, with the least purse at the table, opened the bidding before Rajasthan Royals joined in. Then Kolkata Knight Riders joined the race as MI waived the white flag. With RR having only Rs 16.05 crore, KKR didn't have any second thoughts. With Rs 64.30 crore in their bag they went in totally committed in their pursuit of Green. Once RR backed out, Chennai Super Kings entered the fray when the bid was at Rs 13.60 crore making it a battle between franchises with the highest purse. KKR, with Andre Russell announcing IPL retirement, were keen on bringing the Australian to Kolkata. Similarly, CSK which lacks a power-hitter and a finisher to go with an all-rounder too refused to give up and stretched it all the way till the bid went above Rs 25 crore mark.

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Uncapped Prashant Veer, Kartik Sharma go for whopping Rs 14.2 crore to CSK; Chennai Super Kings full squad, retained and released players list



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

CSK Team 2026 Players List: Chennai Super Kings went big for two uncapped players at the IPL mini auction in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. Uttar Pradesh's left-arm spin-bowling allrounder Prashant Veer was first brought on board for a whopping sum of Rs 14.2 crore from his base price of Rs 30 lakh. Veer, and his Uttar Pradesh teammate Sameer Rizvi, had recently clocked more than 5000 air miles, shuttling between Mumbai and Kolkata, playing in the U-23 State A Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. CSK then followed that up with another massive bid, pipping SRH and KKR to sign up promising 19-year-old Kartik Sharma, whose power-hitting for Rajasthan in domestic cricket caught attention recently.

After strangely not adding any marquee names available early on in the auction, Chennai Super Kings' first signing at the mini auction in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday was West Indies spinner Akeal Hosein at a base price of Rs 2 crore.

Behind Pat Cummins' comeback, an 'aggressive rehab'

GNS News Agency, Dec 16

The day before the third Ashes Test, Australia captain Pat Cummins was all smiles, except when he dwelled on the horrific shooting incident in Bondi, Sydney. Primed to feature in his first Test of the battle of the urn, that Australia leads 2-0, he detailed the rigorous rehabilitation that fast-tracked his return faster than he, or his doctors, had anticipated.

Preliminary observations of doctors projected a healing time of four months, after he sustained a stress injury on the back, which put him out of action for 16 weeks. "We had a pathway that you need to do when you come back from a stress injury like that," Cummins told reporters on Tuesday. "So I had 16 weeks completely off bowling, made sure the bone heals really well. It's looking good," he added.

Then, with the Ashes in mind, he notched up a gear or two in training. "From there it's ramping up. And normally you try and ramp up ... maybe over three or four months. But obviously it was the Ashes. So we set on a pretty aggressive plan to get up in six or seven weeks." He was surprised with his progress rates. "It went better than I thought. I got asked a million times in the off-season: 'Are you going to play?' I genuinely didn't know because as long as everything tracked well, I would be in this position. But we also knew you have got to tread lightly around some of these injuries and if there was a flare-up or setback, I wouldn't have played or risked it ... luckily, things have played out pretty well," he recollects.

At the same time, he couldn't rush the comeback because he has a chronic history of back injuries. He sustained a series of those in his late teens that robbed nearly five of his Test career, required multiple surgeries, a slightly

Hosein was part of SRH in IPL 2023, but played just one match. The five-time champions Chennai Super Kings entered the mini-auction process that lists 369 cricketers with the second-highest purse, only behind Kolkata Knight Riders, with Rs 43.40 crore. In November, CSK had made the decision to release 12 players, including two high-profile names through trades to the Rajasthan Royals.

Securing their biggest-ever trade deal since the league's inception by signing Sanju Samson, CSK let go of one of their most trusted lieutenants in Ravindra Jadeja, along side Sam Curran to the Royals. Stepping into a transition in what could be MS Dhoni's last-ever appearance in the tournament, CSK have set up a squad stacked with batting firepower under captain Ruturaj Gaikwad while some interesting bowling acquisitions from previous years had been retained.

CSK players signed in IPL 2026 Mini-Auction

- 1) Akeal Hosein (West Indies), Base price: Rs 2 crore, Winning bid: Rs 2 crore
- 2) Prashant Veer (Uncapped), Base price: Rs 30 lakh, Winning bid: Rs 14.2 crore
- 3) Kartik Sharma (Uncapped), Base price: Rs 30 lakh, Winning bid: Rs 14.2 crore

Players retained: MS Dhoni, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson (traded in from RR), Ayush Mhatre, Deewald Brewis, Shivam Dube, Urvil Patel, Noor Ahmad, Nathan Ellis, Shreyas Gopal, Khaleel Ahmed, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Mukesh Choudhary, Jamie Overton, Gurjapneet Singh, Anshul Kamboj



remodelled action and pep talks from former legends such as Dennis Lillee and Mitchell Johnson. But since then, he has gone on to forge a stellar career. His return, though, would disrupt a pace pack that had held admirably in his absence, donning important roles in setting up wins in Perth and Brisbane. He praised his colleagues. It's incredible. It shows just great depth in the Aussie cricket system at the moment with fast bowlers. It has almost worked out perfectly. we're halfway through a series and I come back online and we have got Nes [Michael Neser] and Doggy [Brendan Doggett], who are resting from this week but have obviously got themselves into the series, and they will look to the last two games," he reflected. However, his return would ease the heavy-lifting duties on Mitchell Starc, who has snared 18 wickets this series, which is nearly half of England's wickets. "It's been fantastic to watch and I think it's lived up to the hype," Cummins said. "It's been captivating every session. I've loved it and I am itching to get out there."

Manu Bhaker, Brar shoot gold at National Shooting Championship Competitions



GNS News Agency, Dec 16

Hyderabad: Double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker and ISSF World Cup Final Cairo 2025 gold medalist Simranpreet Kaur Brar delivered top-class performances, here at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, winning the gold medals in the senior and junior women's 25m sports pistol events, respectively, at the 68th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC).

Manu shot 36 in the final to secure the gold, finishing four hits clear of Divya T.S. of Karnataka, who took silver with 32. Anjali Choudhary claimed the bronze medal after hitting 28 targets. Rhythym Sangwan (22) finished fourth, followed by Arshdeep Kaur (18), Annu Raj Singh (14) and Anuja Verma (11) in fifth, sixth and seventh positions respectively, while Parisha Gupta did not start in the final. Earlier, Divya T.S. topped the qualification round with a score of 587-22x, ahead of Anjali Choudhary (582-19x). Annu Raj Singh finished third with 582-16x, while Manu qualified fourth with 581-19x. Parisha Gupta placed fifth with 581-14x, followed by Rhythym Sangwan (579-17x), with Arshdeep Kaur and Anuja Verma completing the top eight with 578-19x.

In the Junior Women's 25m Sports Pistol final, Simranpreet Kaur Brar continued her impressive run, shooting 39 to claim the gold medal. Dwaram Pranavi won silver, while Palak of Haryana picked up bronze with 20. Tanu Shree Tomar (19) finished fourth after bowing out in the shoot-off, followed by Sejal Raju Kamble (14), Megana Sadula (11) and Lavanya Kanwar (7). Parisha did not start in the final. The junior qualification round was topped by Parisha Gupta, with Simranpreet Kaur Brar qualifying second with 578-13x. Palak (575-14x) finished third, followed by Sejal Raju Kamble (575-12x), Tanu Shree Tomar (573-11x), Lavanya Kanwar (572-17x), Megana Sadula (572-13x) and Dwaram Pranavi (572-11x).

In the Women's Team 25m Sports Pistol event, Maharashtra clinched the gold medal with a combined score

of 1726-40x, through Shital Preetam Desai (577-12x), Abhidnya Ashok Patil (575-13x) and Rahi Sarnobat (574-15x).

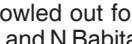
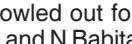
The Army Marksmanship Unit (Anuja Verma, Sejal Raju Kamble, and Anjali Bhagwat) finished second with 1722-44x, while Haryana (Rhythym Sangwan, Vibhuti Bhatia, and Tejaswani) secured the bronze medal with 1718-43x. In the Junior Women's Team event, the Army Marksmanship Unit (Sejal Raju Kamble, Jiya Jakhar, and Anjali Bhagwat) claimed gold with 1714-38x, while Delhi (Parisha Gupta, Kamakshi Kumar, and Naamya Kapoor) secured silver with 1714-36x. Punjab (Simrampreet Kaur Brar, Agam Grewal, and Jasman Kelley) won the bronze medal with 1709-40x.

Pranav wins prize money chess tournament

Hyderabad: Pranav Akula won the Bodda Pratyusha International Chess Academy prize money chess tournament with five points. Moshing Ajay and Aamuktha Guntaka, with 4.5 points each, finished second and third, respectively.

The Hyderabad Open Golf Tournament, an initiative of the TGolf Foundation, was officially launched on Monday with a poster launch at Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club, Hyderabad. Regarded as India's Premier Amateur Golf Championship, the tournament will be held from February 18 to 21, 2026, bringing together top amateur golfers from across the country.

Madhusudhan Rao, Head of Business – Emaar India, NRN Reddy, Founder, TGolf Foundation, Papi Reddy, General Manager, Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club, and Prashanth Reddy were present. Registrations for the Hyderabad Open are now open, and interested players can register by scanning the QR code available on the official tournament poster. Hosted at the iconic Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club, one of India's most challenging and scenic championship courses, the Hyderabad Open is expected to attract leading amateur golfers, golf enthusiasts, and key stakeholders, further strengthening Hyderabad's position as a major golfing destination in India. V Prathiksha cracked a century (100n.o., 62b, 10x4, 3x6) to help Hyderabad score a 97-run win against Himachal Pradesh in the BCCI Women's (under-19) one-day cricket championship here on Monday. Batting first, Hyderabad scored 242 for six in 50 overs, with Prathiksha well supported by K Nidhi (65) and A Hasini (37). In reply, Himachal was bowled out for 145 in 42.2 overs with K. Srivalli (three for 38) and N Babita (four for 27) being the main wicket-takers.



Sunny Deol raises a rousing war cry in a film fractured with shoddy visual effects.



Border 2 teaser: The teaser of Sunny Deol-starrer Border 2 was released on Tuesday, and it appears that apart from getting all their jingoistic beats right, the makers have spent a hefty amount on the visual effects. The short teaser introduces the characters of Varun Dhawan, Ahan Shetty and Diljit Dosanjh, who are all serving in the different branches of the defence forces, and it appears that Sunny Deol has reprised his character from the first film.

Sunny announces in the beginning of the teaser, "Tum

jahan se bhi ghusne ki koshish karoge, aasman se, zameen se, samundar se, samne ek Hindustani fauji khada paoge (No matter which route you try to intrude through, land, sea or water, you will find an Indian soldier there.)" This is followed by visuals of Varun fighting on the battlefield, Ahan taking charge of his naval command, and Diljit taking on his fighter jet. But, it is painfully obvious that the film was largely made inside a studio, as one can clearly see the shoddy visual effects. Much of the teaser is composed of these green-screen-like visuals. It is yet to be seen if the trailer continues with the same tone, or if they will actually give some other visuals as well. The teaser also introduces the female cast members – Mona Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Anya Singh, Medha Rana; but, much like the first film, here too, the women are just restricted to the roles of playing partners to the heroes in the battlefield. Tabu played Sunny Deol's wife in the first film but this time, it is Mona Singh playing that role. Diljit Dosanjh in a still from Border 2. Diljit Dosanjh in a still from Border 2. Varun Dhawan in a still from Border 2. Ahan Shetty in a still from Border 2. Ahan Shetty in a still from Border 2. Towards the end of the teaser, Sunny yells out and asks, "Aawaaz kahan tak jani chahiye? (Where should our voice reach?)" as he encourages his troops to attack, and they respond, "Lahore tak. (Till Lahore.)" The 1997 film Border was based on the Battle of Longewala. Border 2 is a sequel to that film, and the teaser claims that this is also "inspired by true events." The teaser says that this is also set during the events of the 1971 war between India and Pakistan. The film has been directed by Anurag Singh, who has previously directed Kesari, Punjab 1984 and the first two films of the Jatt and Juliet series.

'Devastated' Shammi Kapoor yelled when he heard of my wedding; married Neila Devi in the same temple we were to wed: Bina Ramani



Shammi Kapoor was just 24 when he married his first wife, actress Geeta Bali. Her untimely death due to smallpox in 1965 left the actor shattered and deeply lonely. Though Shammi was at the peak of his career, his personal life was marked by grief and emotional turmoil. Open to love again, his name was linked to two women between 1965 and 1969—actress Mumtaz and fashion designer Bina Ramani. While Mumtaz reportedly declined his proposal as he expected her to give up her career, his equation with Bina was far more layered and complicated. In 2013, two years after Shammi Kapoor passed away at the age of 79, Bina Ramani released her memoir *Birdi in a Banyan Tree: My Story*, where she candidly wrote about her turbulent relationship with the actor, before she unexpectedly married Andy Ramani. In a recent interview with ANI, Bina revisited the memories of meeting Shammi Kapoor for the first time. She recalled being introduced to him by Krishna Kapoor, Raj Kapoor's wife, whom she fondly addressed as Bhabhi ji. Despite Krishna Kapoor's subtle matchmaking efforts, Bina admitted she had already decided to keep her distance. Raj Kapoor, however, was against this matchmaking effort even though Bina was his 'rakhi sister.' "I never allowed myself to fall in love with him," Bina said, explaining that she was conscious of not upsetting her family and was never immediately drawn to him. She described her first encounter with Shammi at Raj Kapoor's traditional Christmas Eve dinner, where Shammi silently tried to communicate his feelings through his eyes—something she deliberately ignored. She also listed why she was against this matchmaking effort—he was a widower with two small children, was a movie star with quite a reputation and was known for his love for alcohol and smoking. "Raj ji had told bhabhi ji to not bring me there, yet she did and had warned Shammi about my presence. I met Raj ji and then was introduced to other members. When I met Shammi Kapoor, he looked straight into my eyes... I instantly looked away. I knew he was trying to talk to me through his eyes." Shammi wooed me, we fell in love. Despite her resistance, Shammi continued to pursue her. At subsequent meetings, he expressed his love repeatedly, even in different languages, but Bina could never reciprocate. "I never fell in love with him," she reiterated—before pausing and adding, "But I began to love him, and I still do. It's a special kind of love. Mine was enduring love." Shammi went on hunting for seven days, when I was suddenly introduced to this man, who was seven years older to me. I went to San Francisco," she recalled meeting the man she would eventually marry.

Andy Ramani on the insistence of her parents. In her book, Bina wrote: "My parents weren't comfortable too as the thought of losing their daughter to a movie star with a terrible reputation for 'drinking' and 'womanising' was alarming. I had plans of eloping with Shammi, when my parents introduced me to Andy while Shammi was away on a seven-day tour." She added it was her parents who threatened her to take her back to London. "We've shown you many men and you've said no, and Shammi Kapoor is not on, so either marry the next one or we go back to London and you come with us. She added: "I hated the option of London, so the next one who came along I got engaged to. It was Andy Ramani. I had no intention of marrying him, but a week before Shammi and I were to run away, Andy's mother put pressure on my parents to do the marriage before New Year's Eve. On December 31 the marriage took place." She recalled how he was devastated to learn, through a newspaper, about her sudden marriage to Andy Ramani while he was away. Shammi eventually married Neila Devi at the same temple where he had once promised to marry her. "I heard he yelled when he read the news. He had promised to marry me on January 2. He married Neila when he heard I was returning to India." Yet, despite everything, there was no bitterness between them. Shammi remained cordial with Bina and her second husband, even inviting them over. "Shammi got along well with George."

Who is Bina Ramani?

Belonging to a rich Sindhi family from Britain, Bina is the sister of Binatone's Gulu Lalvani. A socialite who has set up restaurants, boutiques and was known for hanging with the international jet-set, it was at her restaurant in Delhi's Mehrauli that model Jessica Lal was shot dead by Manu Sharma.

Shilpa Shetty's Bastian booked by Bengaluru police for operating beyond hours, days after brawl featuring Bigg Boss contestant



Khan's son, Aryan Khan, where an obscene hand gesture prompted a preliminary inquiry. The Cubbon Park police confirmed that the cases were initiated suo motu after reviewing the videos, which suggested the pubs were operating beyond allowed hours. A senior officer said the actions were part of a broader crackdown on pubs ahead of the New Year. Shilpa Shetty also owned a branch of Bastian in Bandra, which was closed in October this year. The brand, however, has been widely recognized as one of India's premier restaurants. Writer and socialite Shobhaa De recently while speaking on *Mojo Story*, highlighted the popularity of Shilpa Shetty's Mumbai-based restaurant, noting that it reportedly generates a turnover of Rs 2-3 crore every night, with patrons often spending lakhs for a single evening.

A sharp drama offering authentic portrayal of Cholanaikkan tribe's lives, and powerful commentary on fragility of manliness



While there are many things common in human life and existence worldwide, even amid numerous differences, one thing that is the most universal is adherence to patriarchy. The world can be described as one massive society "controlled by men in which they use their power to their own advantage." Manhood, however, is not just something that brings default power, but also a burden with unrealistic expectations that one must live up to and codes that one must unquestioningly follow. As a result, "be a man" is not merely a phrase of encouragement but also a snare that pushes one into a monolith of sorts, compelling them to live by the patriarchal norms that ensure that power doesn't slip through their fingers. It can also be argued that manliness is a construct rather than something definitive. Its fragility is such that even a light blow can cause it to crumble. This is one of the many themes explored in director Unnikrishnan Avala's *Thanthapperu* (Life of a Phallus), which was recently screened at the 30th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK).

What makes the movie more timely and significant is that it also authentically and compassionately documents the lives of the Cholanaikkan tribe, reportedly Asia's last cave dwellers, without ever patronising them. At a time when discussions surrounding the importance of representation are growing louder, Unnikrishnan manages to get this aspect right, not just by casting people from the community but also by making the entire movie in their Cholanaikkan language, defying mainstream norms. Thanthapperu also brilliantly interweaves the issues faced by Cholanaikkans at the local level with the broader political and social factors that shape them.

A look at its title reveals the deep themes the movie discusses. While Thanthapperu literally translates to "father's name," highlighting its commentary on people's obsession with patrilineal pride, the English title, *Life of a Phallus*, goes deeper, revealing how manliness is also often related to one's genitalia and the ability to satisfy a mate and procreate, thus making any threat to the organ a threat to manhood itself.

Moreover, Thanthapperu also examines how societal beliefs are inherently anti-women. At the centre of the story is Nari Monchan (Bellakkariyan Maneesh), the son of the clan's chieftain, and his wife, Bella (Chincina Bhamini). With only 198 members remaining, according to the movie, a significant issue plagues the Cholanaikkans: a massive disproportion in the male-to-female ratio. As a result, many men in the community remain single. Despite this, Nari has found a partner. However, instead of being content with his life and the fortune he has received, Nari is haunted by the fear that Bella doesn't love him and will leave him one day. Although her behaviour suggests she desires his compassion, Nari is perpetually cold and rude towards her. His Othello syndrome manifests in various ways, and it doesn't

end with doubts regarding her fidelity. He continually finds ways to lash out at her and belittle her. During the beginning of a makeout session between them, when she titillatingly brings his hands to her breasts, he explodes and slams her for the act, as, according to their beliefs, breasts are only for satisfying children's hunger and not for fulfilling one's lust. At another point, when a stack of firewood falls from her hand as they walk across rocky terrain, he taunts her, making her feel worthless. Even worse, he frequently undermines her womanhood by constantly comparing her to his mother. Yet, in front of his fellow men, he keeps claiming that he loves her more than anything, even though Bella never feels this affection. Instead, she receives the compassion that Nari fails to provide from fellow tribesman Poomala (Poochakkaran Mani). He not only spends time with her, chats, shares laughter, and discusses dreams, but once they fall for each other, he touches her—emotionally and physically—in a way Nari never has. When things become physical between them, he satisfies her sexual desires according to her wishes, showing that he genuinely cares for her.

Unlike many movies that use women's empowerment as tokenism, Thanthapperu stands apart in this aspect. While it establishes the shortage of women in the community—resulting in Bella and Nari's mother being the only Cholanaikkan women we see on screen—it also addresses feminist politics in an unfiltered manner. During their sexual encounter, when Poomala reminds Bella that breast stimulation goes against their customs, Bella bluntly says, "It (the customs) is against women," making a strong statement. But it doesn't stop there. By showing Poomala satisfying Bella in the way she likes, Thanthapperu emphasises that one's priority should always be their loved ones, not the community's rules. Later, when Bella elopes with Poomala and is caught midway by Nari—who behaves like the bigger person and lets them go—Bella asserts that she doesn't need his favour, explaining that she left him because "your doubts are greater than your love."

Unnikrishnan Avala and co-writer Vinod Chellan have included several such powerful moments throughout the movie, addressing identity and gender politics. For instance, the scene where Cholanaikkans finally buy a jeep for themselves—so they no longer have to rely on the town jeep driver, who charges them excessively and often fails to arrive on time even during emergencies—is significant. Their subsequent dialogue, "This is our path. And from now on, we will decide our way," indicates they are not willing to be servile to any authority.

Thanthapperu also touches upon the systemic erasure of Cholanaikkans that started during the Emergency era, when many men from the tribe were subjected to mass sterilisations by the government, contributing to the ethnic group's low population. The film parallels this with manhood itself, showing how less of a man Nari feels upon realising he is not the chieftain's son, but born to his mother through another man. Upon learning about the sterilisation, he rebukes his father, expressing that he feels his entire identity is lost. This underscores men's obsession with patrilineal pride. Meanwhile, after admitting everything to his son and facing his criticism, the chieftain dies by suicide, seemingly unable to live as a "lesser man." Nonetheless, Unnikrishnan never makes any of this feel artificial and achieves a brilliant balance of politics and drama, all while offering an atmospheric experience that introduces viewers to visuals and lives they may never have seen before. Mohammed A's cinematography and the music by Janaki Easwar and Rithu Vysakh play key roles in capturing and communicating the essence of Thanthapperu to its fullest, making it a hard-hitting experience.

Saif Ali Khan was jealous of Kareena Kapoor 'working with other men': 'My rivals would be her allies'



allies, and I was like, 'How do you work that?' But love triumphs that."

He also spoke about how he always wished the best for Kareena and her projects, even if it meant rooting for his "rivals." "You have to wish her success because it makes her happy, and I got to see her happy, even if it means the success of a rival or of someone else. Then you stop thinking in terms of rivalry. You start thinking, you know, one day I'll be a producer, maybe I'll sign that guy. There's tons of space for everyone. So you develop like this. But initially, when it first started, she helped me by saying, just think of it like this."

Saif also recalled advice from Kareena's longtime friend and co-star, Rani Mukerji, which helped him navigate their relationship. "Rani was once saying, 'Don't think of it in a chauvinistic way,' which, you know, that's not my idea of a relationship anyway. But she meant really well. I was working a lot with Rani in those days, and she loves Kareena. It was good advice. She was trying to help me."

Looking back on how their relationship has evolved, Saif shared how Kareena brings balance to his life. "Balance comes very naturally to her. So it's not like being in a relationship with another man who's equally driven, with that main-character energy. I mean, even if it is main character energy, she also wants other things, those other things, and to play a more feminine role, whatever that means. We obviously believe in equal relationships, and we always have in our family. There's no expectation of what a woman should be or any rigid idea like that. But romantically, in terms of energy, it's just nice if both people want the same things and are playing slightly different roles." He went on to praise her character and creativity. "She truly is an incredible, incredible woman, and I'm so lucky to be with her. She's one of the most patient and loving people I've ever met. She makes a wonderful home for us and has such lovely ideas, very creative in her work, both behind and in front of the camera, but equally creative with us, with our life. And that's really special." Previously, in a 2022 interview with *Pinkvilla*, Kareena participated in a rapid-fire round on topics ranging from beauty to Gen Z lingo. When asked what the most "Kareena thing" Saif has adopted, she revealed it's her unique vocabulary. "I think my lingo. Words like 'guts,' 'mess'... the whole world is talking like that. It's become Gen Z lingo. Suddenly, everyone is like 'guts' and 'mess,' and I'm like, I want credit for all of that."

A video circulating on social media in recent days has drawn police attention, showing late-night footage from a Bengaluru pub linked to actor Shilpa Shetty. The CCTV recordings, captured at Bastian on St. Mark's Road, depict a verbal dispute among patrons in the early hours of December 11, around 1:30 am. According to a report by *The Hindu*, Bengaluru police have registered case against Bastian Garden City, co-owned by Shilpa Shetty, for operating beyond permitted hours.

The clip circulating online shows a tense argument and some heckling. Staff members are seen stepping in to defuse the situation. One of the individuals visible in the video is Satya Naidu, a businessman and former Bigg Boss participant. Addressing the controversy, Satya Naidu had earlier dismissed allegations of misconduct, stating, "I had gone to the pub solely to have dinner with friends." He explained that the confusion occurred during payment and insisted that "there was no physical confrontation."

Drunk, Powerful, and Out of Control? Bigg Boss Fame Satya Naidu Caught on Camera Assaulting Pub Staff in Bengaluru A major controversy has erupted in Bengaluru after Shilpa Shetty has been associated with the Bastian brand for a very long time as she partnered with its founder, restaurateur Ranjit Bindra. The police have also booked Sourberry Pub on Residency Road, previously linked to an incident involving Bollywood actor Shah Rukh

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