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Two youngsters killed in road accident in Medak

Medak: In a tragic incident, two persons died in a road accident at Shalipet village of Havelighanpur mandal on Monday night.

The deceased were Dasari Suman (26) and Gundu Balaiah (29), residents of Burugupally. The duo along with another friend were proceeding towards their village on a bike from Medak when an unidentified vehicle knocked them down.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, his deputy Samrat Choudhary call on PM Modi, Shah

New Delhi, Dec 22

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister



Amit Shah during his first visit to the national capital after retaining charge of the eastern state a month ago following the NDA's landslide victory in the assembly election.

Kumar, accompanied by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Samrat Choudhary and JD(U) leader and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, met Modi and Shah separately and is believed to have discussed various issues—both development and political—related to the state.

"Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri @NitishKumar, Deputy CM, Shri @samrat4bjp and Union Minister, Shri @LalanSingh_1 met Prime Minister @narendramodi today," the Prime Minister's Office said on 'X'.

Earlier, the chief minister, along with his deputy Choudhary and Union Minister Singh, met Shah at his residence.

"Met Chief Minister of Bihar Shri @NitishKumar ji, Union Minister Shri @LalanSingh_1 ji, and the Deputy

Chief Minister of Bihar Shri @samrat4bjp ji. Under the leadership of Modi ji and Nitish ji, the NDA government is committed to taking public welfare and good governance in the state to even greater heights," Shah said in a message on 'X' in Hindi.

After their meeting with the prime minister, Choudhary said that following the resounding mandate received by the NDA in Bihar, the chief minister, he and Singh had a courtesy meeting with PM Modi, the "world's most popular leader"

"Under the guidance and leadership of esteemed Modi ji, the country and Bihar are continuously progressing. During this time, valuable guidance was also received on the goals of a developed

Bihar," Choudhary wrote on 'X' in Hindi

During their meetings, the Bihar leaders are believed to have discussed various issues related to the development of the state, sources said.

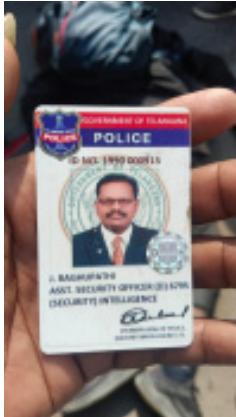
The expansion of the state cabinet and the forthcoming elections to five Rajya Sabha seats are learnt to have figured in the meetings, sources said.

Kumar had arrived here on Sunday for a two-day visit and returned to Patna this evening.

Election to the 243-member Bihar Assembly was held in November, in which the NDA secured 202 seats and Kumar returned as chief minister for the 10th term in office.

Among the NDA partners, the BJP won 89 seats, the JD(U) bagged 85, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) 19, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) five and Rashtriya Lok Morcha won four seats.

ARSI Killed in Road Accident at Medipally



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 22, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):" An Assistant Regional Security Inspector (ARSI) was killed in a road accident under the limits of Medipally Police Station on Monday. According to police, the complainant Rajesh stated that his father, Jaggani Raghupathi (59), working as ARSI, ISW, Telangana, met with a fatal accident on December 22, 2025. On the day of the incident, at around 12:30 PM, Raghupathi left Khairatabad on his two-wheeler towards Singapore Township as part of his official duties. While travelling, at about 1:30 PM, when he reached near Narapally Masjid, a tipper lorry coming from behind at high speed and in a rash and negligent manner hit his motorcycle. Due to the impact, the lorry reportedly ran over his head, causing severe injuries, and he died on the spot. An eyewitness at the scene informed the complainant about the accident. Upon receiving the information, Rajesh rushed to the accident spot and found that his father had already succumbed to his injuries. Medipally police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident.

Government Issues G.O. on Media Accreditation; New Rules Notified for Journalists

"Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle)" The State Government has taken a significant decision regarding the issuance of media accreditation cards for journalists in Telangana. Scrapping the old rules framed in 2016, the government has officially notified the "Telangana Media Accreditation Rules-2025" through G.O.Ms.No.252. Key Highlights of the New Rules:
1. Tenure of Accreditation Committees: The tenure of the State Media Accreditation Committee (SMAC) and District Media Accreditation Committee (DMAC) has been fixed at two years. Existing committees will continue until new ones are constituted.
2. Accreditation Card: Issued to reporters, this card serves as official identification for collecting government-related information.
3. Media Card: Issued to desk journalists, this card is valid only for availing government welfare scheme benefits.
4. Rules Introduced for Digital Media (First Time): To qualify for accreditation, a digital news website must record a minimum of 5 lakh unique visitors per month over the last six months. Under the digital media category, a maximum of 10 accreditation cards will be issued across the state.

Eligibility Criteria:
Print Media: Only newspapers with a minimum circulation of 2,000 copies are eligible. PRGI registration is mandatory.
Electronic Media: Satellite channels must carry at least 50% news content, while local cable channels must telecast a minimum of three news bulletins per day.
Journalists' Qualifications:
For State-level accreditation, applicants must possess a degree qualification or a minimum of five years' experience.
For Assembly constituency and Mandal-level reporters, Intermediate qualification is mandatory.
Freelance and Veteran Journalists: Freelance journalists with 15 years of experience and veteran journalists aged 58 years or above with 30 years of experience are also eligible to apply for accreditation cards.
Structure of Committees:
State Committee (SMAC): Chaired by the Media Academy Chairman, with the I&PR Commissioner as Co-Chairman. Representatives of journalist unions and PCI members will be part of the committee.
District Committee (DMAC): Chaired by the District Collector, with the District Public Relations Officer (DPRO) acting as Member-Convenor.
Action in Case of Violations: The government retains the authority to cancel accreditation cards in cases of misuse, submission of false information, or violation of rules. A fee of ₹250 must be paid for issuing a duplicate card in case of loss.

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CM holds meeting with Ministers, Assembly session likely in January first week

Hyderabad: The State government is gearing up to conduct assembly sessions from the first week of January to discuss different issues, especially river water sharing disputes between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

These decisions were learnt to have been taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with Ministers at Command Control Room on Monday.

I am with Cong for constituency devpt, says Kadiam Srihari

Hyderabad, Dec 22

StationGhanpur MLA Kadiam Srihari clarified that although he was elected on a Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) ticket, he is working with the Congress government, which is currently in power in Telangana, solely for the development of his constituency.

Speaking to the media at Jangaon, Srihari said that political defections have been happening for many years and questioned how many leaders were actually disqualified for changing sides. He criticised BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) for making what he termed "shameless" remarks against him. Srihari said he had brought ₹1,400 crore in funds for the development of Station Ghanpur.

The MLA said his priority was to ensure irrigation water to every village in the constituency. He alleged that KTR was mired in corruption and was frequently appearing in courts, and remarked that KTR seemed to have aspirations of becoming the Chief Minister. He also criticised people, who according to him, were misusing his image for political purposes.

Describing Station Ghanpur as a "temple" to him, Srihari said all his decisions would be guided only by the interests of constituency development. He pointed out that some Congress workers in certain villages were not functioning effectively but reiterated that he was cooperating with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the Congress government purely to ensure development works.

Srihari further accused KTR of arrogance and irrational statements and strongly condemned his offensive remarks. He said he was two years senior to former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) in age and recalled that while KCR served as Chief Minister for 10 years, he



himself had served as a minister for 14 years. He alleged that KCR's family had looted the people by misusing power and said he continued to stand firmly with the people of Station Ghanpur while addressing their issues. Srihari claimed that his group had won the highest number of Sarpanch positions in the undivided Warangal district and secured 1.25 lakh votes in the constituency, stating that they had emerged stronger than before.

Observing that power is not permanent, he said people would remember leaders, who worked honestly when given an opportunity. He advised Sarpanches to make effective use of the opportunity since Congress is in power in the state and to focus on village development. As promised, he announced that Rs 10 lakh would be provided to every village where the Sarpanch was elected unanimously and urged them to work honestly, ethically, and without corruption. Srihari also claimed that the BRS had lost its presence at the village level.

Telangana DGP suspends three police officials in Warangal

Warangal, Dec 22 Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) B Shivadhar Reddy issued orders suspending a senior police official Nandiram Naik, who previously served as ACP in Warangal, along with CCS Inspector T Gopi and Sub-Inspector Vithal.

A complaint was received alleging that the officials in question registered false cases at Mattewada police station under Warangal Police Commissionerate.

Based on investigation and the report submitted by the officials, the three police officers have been suspended, said an official release on Monday.



Bone-Chilling Cold Wave Grips Telangana: Record Low of 4.8°C in Sirpur as Temperatures Plummet Across Regions

"Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle)" An intense cold wave is sweeping through Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh, sending temperatures plummeting to unprecedented lows and leaving residents shivering in its wake. Night and early morning temperatures have dropped sharply and unexpectedly, forcing people to venture outdoors only when absolutely necessary. As a result, roads appear deserted during morning hours, with daily life disrupted by the biting chill. The severe cold persists even into the afternoon in many areas, offering little relief. The situation is particularly dire in the erstwhile Adilabad district regions. Over the past 24 hours, record-breaking minimum temperatures have been registered, with Sirpur (U) in Komaram Bheem district recording a frigid 4.8°C — highlighting the severity of the conditions. Similar patterns are observed in Andhra Pradesh, where several areas have seen historic lows, marking some of the coldest readings on record. The Meteorological Department has issued alerts across districts, urging the public to take precautions against the cold to avoid health risks. Authorities have warned that the chill is likely to intensify further in the coming days, with temperatures expected to remain unrelenting even during daytime. In the erstwhile Adilabad belt, single-digit temperatures have persisted for over a week. Besides Sirpur (U), other locations include:



Arli T in Adilabad district: 5.9°C (noted in some reports as around 7.6°C in nearby areas). Kuntala in Nirmal district: 8°C. Tiriyani in Komaram Bheem district: 7.2°C. Kotapally in Mancherlai district: 8.6°C. Pembi in Nirmal district: 9.4°C. Devulawada in Mancherlai district: 10.2°C. Residents are advised to stay indoors where possible, layer up with warm clothing, and monitor vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children for cold-related illnesses. The ongoing cold spell has turned routine activities into a challenge, with empty streets bearing testimony to its impact.

'Your Money – Your Right' Awareness Programme to Be Held on December 23

"Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle)" An awareness programme titled "Your Money – Your Right" will be organised on December 23 at the Integrated District Collectorate complex in the district headquarters, under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in accordance with the directions of the Union Ministry of Finance. Disclosing this in a press release, Lead District Manager Rajeshwar Joshi said the programme aims to educate the public on how to reclaim unclaimed deposits and insurance amounts lying with banks and insurance companies. Representatives from the Reserve Bank of India, insurance companies, and bank officials will participate in the camp and provide complete information on the application and claim process. Members of the public have been advised



to attend the camp along with their bank account details and valid identity documents to make effective use of this opportunity.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Live and let 'live-ins' live

The right of adult individuals to choose their partners and decide on the nature of their relationship is inviolable. It must be seen as being integral to the right to life and liberty. Unfortunately, in India, the idea of a couple living together without marriage is largely frowned upon. Many see it as an immoral act and an affront to cultural values. A live-in relationship is branded as a violation of traditions and cultural values. Marriage is widely seen as a lifelong commitment, while live-ins are seen as an abdication of responsibilities. Against this backdrop, the Allahabad High Court's recent ruling that live-in relationships are not illegal and that the state is bound to protect every citizen is a heartening development. Maintaining that the consenting adults have the constitutional right to live together with dignity and safety, irrespective of marital status, the court directed the Uttar Pradesh police to provide protection to 12 live-in couples facing threats from their families. The court rightly emphasised that Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the right to life, dignity, and personal freedom to all individuals, including those in live-in relationships. The fundamental rights of citizens cannot be eclipsed by social disapproval or hollowed out by stigma. It is a welcome development that the court places individual autonomy above majoritarian morality or inherited anxieties. The Allahabad court judgment comes at a time when there is a growing tendency to police intimacy, with inter-faith and inter-caste couples frequently facing hostility, coercion and violence from families and communities, often with no help from institutions meant to safeguard their freedoms.

In several rulings in the past, the Supreme Court had pushed back against moral vigilantism, affirming the right of consenting adults to choose their partners without intervention from society or the state. Despite this, there is a legal vacuum regarding the rights of parties who cohabit informally. There is no law to ensure the protection of rights for the parties in a live-in relationship, and for the status of children born to such couples. Ideally, the law must recognise adults as rights-bearing citizens, not wards to be steered towards socially approved choices.

EBG Group Launches Tollywood Pro League; Dil Raju Inaugurates Cricket League for Telugu Film Fraternity Kapil Dev, Sehwag and Suresh Raina Attend Grand Launch in Hyderabad

Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, December 22: "EBG Group a fast-growing Indian conglomerate on Monday announced the launch of the Tollywood Pro League (TPL) a premium cricket and entertainment league exclusively created for the Telugu film fraternity. The league was formally inaugurated at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) by veteran film producer Dil Raju, who will also serve as the Honorary Chairman of the league." The star-studded launch brought cinema and cricket onto a single platform in a professionally structured league format. Legendary Indian cricketers Kapil Dev, Virender Sehwag and Suresh Raina attended the inauguration as chief guests, extending their support to the initiative. Film personalities Dino Morea, Ashish Vidyarthi and Murali Sharma were also present on the occasion. "Planned as a six-team, franchise-based league with two seasons every year, the Tollywood Pro League will feature celebrities as players and leading film producers as team owners. The league aims to blend



competitive cricket with fan engagement activities, music, community outreach and premium digital content. As part of its social responsibility, a portion of the league's proceeds will be earmarked for welfare initiatives for the Telugu film fraternity." Addressing the gathering, Dr. Irfan Khan, Founder and Chairman of EBG Group, said that TPL is envisioned as more than a sporting event. "Tollywood Pro League is a cultural movement rooted in dignity, structure and long-term vision. It seeks to strengthen unity within the film industry while delivering a world-class sports and entertainment experience. The league's inclusion-led initiative, Alai Balai, ensures representation across all crafts of the Telugu film industry he said. "Dil Raju Honorary Chairman of Tollywood Pro League, described TPL as a unifying platform for the industry. "This initiative celebrates every contributor to cinema and fosters a sense of pride and togetherness. I am honoured to be part of a league that brings together sport, culture and purpose," he stated. "With a strong emphasis on professional governance, inclusivity and sustainability, the Tollywood Pro League aims to set a new benchmark in India's emerging sports-entertainment landscape, seamlessly blending the worlds of cinema and cricket."

Kisan Grameena Mela' to be held in Karimnagar Technology at the Farmers' Doorstep: P. Sugunakar Rao

Chittimalla Mahendar, Karimnagar Bureau, December 21, INDIAN CHRONICLE: "With the objective of promoting the economic progress of farmers, women self-help groups, and rural communities, the Kisan Jagrana organization is once again organizing the grand 'Kisan Grameena Mela' at Karimnagar, announced Kisan Jagrana President Sri P. Sugunakar Rao. "He stated that the mega event will be inaugurated by former Haryana Governor Sri Bandaru Dattatreya, who will attend as the chief guest. "Addressing the media, Sugunakar Rao recalled that the Kisan Grameena Melas held in 2022 and 2023 recorded the highest farmer participation in Telangana State. This year, he said, the mela is being organized with even more innovative programs. "Keeping in mind that farmers from remote areas are unable to travel to exhibitions held in Hyderabad, the organizers have chosen Karimnagar as the venue to bring modern agricultural technology directly to farmers. The mela will be held on December 24, 25, and 26 at Ambedkar Stadium, Karimnagar." Key Highlights of the Mela: "Profitable Alternative Crops: "Farmers will be guided on how to earn a minimum income of ₹1 lakh per acre by diversifying beyond paddy cultivation into oil palm farming, dairy industry, and sheep rearing. "Fish Farming in Waterlogged

Fields: "In areas under the Sri Ram Sagar Project canal command, where paddy crops suffer due to water stagnation, farmers will be educated on achieving higher profits through fish culture and prawn farming. "Strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs): "Success stories of FPOs will be showcased to motivate farmers, including Chintakunta FPO (led by Shankarayya) with an annual turnover of ₹2 crore, Konaraopeta FPO (led by Purushottam Rao) with a honeybee farming project, and Boinapalli FPO (led by Venugopal Rao)." Awareness on New Technologies: "Participants will receive guidance on the use of the government's new mobile application for urea purchase, modern beekeeping methods offering high returns with low effort, and the use of advanced tree-climbing equipment for toddy tappers. "Agricultural sci-



entists and experienced progressive farmers will participate in the mela and share their expertise, he added. "Sugunakar Rao appealed to farmers and women self-help group members to make the best use of this unique opportunity.

Lions Club Honors Khadergudem Sarpanch Couple

Chittimalla Mahendar, Karimnagar, Correspondent, December 22, INDIAN CHRONICLE: "Following the oath-taking ceremony of newly elected Sarpanches on Monday, Lion Rangu Raju, President of Lions Club of



Karimnagar Golden Tower, paid a courtesy visit to Khadergudem Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Kaniveni Akshaya and Srinivas and felicitated them. "Speaking on the occasion, Lion Rangu Raju assured that the Lions Club would extend its full cooperation for the overall development of the village. He expressed hope that Khadergudem village would emerge as one of the most developed villages in the district under the leadership of the Sarpanch. "Later, the Vice-Sarpanch and Ward Members were also felicitated by the Lions Club. Several Lions Club members, village elders, and local representatives participated in the programme.

Grand "Jaiho Jesus" Christmas Celebrations Held at Ramanthapur

Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, December 22 (Indian Chronicle): "The New Year diary and calendar of the Uppal Senior Citizens was formally launched by Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, In-charge of the Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party. The calendar was prepared under the aegis of the Telangana Senior Citizens Association and was unveiled on Sunday night. "Parameshwar Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and interacted extensively with senior citizens on various issues. During the interaction, the senior citizens brought to his notice the need for welfare schemes and development works specifically aimed at



their well-being. Addressing the gathering, Parameshwar Reddy assured that all problems faced by senior citizens would be addressed in a timely manner and that necessary steps would be taken to ensure their welfare and support. Several senior citizens and association members participated in the programme, including Venkata Goud, Share Narasimha Reddy, Narayana Goud, Papi Reddy, More Anji Reddy, Mandamula Anji Reddy, Veeresham Gupta, Linga Reddy, C.H. Purushottam Reddy, Venkatesham, P. Jeevan Reddy, and others.

Congress leaders lodge complaint with OU police seeking strict action against miscreants who vandalised flex banners

Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, December 22 (Indian Chronicle): "Congress leaders have lodged a complaint with the Osmania University (OU) Police, demanding strict action against unidentified persons who allegedly tore down flex banners erected for Christmas and New Year greetings. According to the complaint, ring flex banners displaying greetings to the public along with portraits of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy were installed by Congress leaders on the main road from Habsiguda Cross Road to Uppal Cross Road. These banners were reportedly vandalised by unknown individuals on Sunday night. "On Monday, Habsiguda Congress leaders, along with senior party members, submitted a written complaint to Inspector Appalanaidu of the Osmania University Police Station. The delegation included G. Vijay Kumar, President of the Habsiguda Division Congress Party; Tejavath Ganesh Naik, Chairman of the Medchal-Malkajgiri ST Cell; senior Congress leaders Janampalli Venkateshwar Reddy, Kishan Naik, Gaddam Ravikumar, Ramanthapur Congress in-charge Thavida Boyina



Giribabu; A Block Congress General Secretary Survi Murali Goud; Kondal Reddy; and others. They informed the Inspector about the incident and urged the police to identify the culprits and take stringent action. Responding positively, Inspector Appalanaidu assured the leaders that the accused would be traced and punished as per the law.

Taking oath. Sworn in as Sarpanch: Chandawat Ramesh Babu

Yellandu, December 22 (): "Telugu Desam Party candidate Chandawat Ramesh Babu, who won as Sarpanch of Vijayalakshmi Nagar Gram Panchayat of Yellandu Mandal in the statewide local body elections, took oath as Sarpanch today. "Under the direction of Gram Panchayat Special Officer Raju, Secretary Rajinikanth first administered the oath of office to Sarpanch Ramesh Babu, after taking the oath of sub-sarpanch and ward members, they were felicitated by garlanding flowers from the panchayat. Later, Telugu Desam Party Illandu constituency in-charge Mudragada Vamsi sarpanch, sub-sarpanch and ward members were brought along. After honoring Gram Panchayat people village heads Sarpanch Ward members will not be honored with salva in this program family members of Ward representatives leaders of various political parties, TDP leaders Bhukya Ramesh, Matela Ratnakar, Ramdas, Srihari, Gopalakrishna, Raju Goud, Rajesh, Sreeda, Prashant, BRS leaders Tandra Nagaraju, Chinnari, Ishaq, Kashi Kumar, Krishnaveni, CPM Nabhi, former MPTC Poonem Surender, Samrat, Poornem Madhu, Vijay, CPI Bobbisetty Satyanarayana, Tandra Lashminarayana, Gugulot Krishna, Party Tejawat Lalu, Tudu Banda leaders from Congress. Ramanala Lakshmaiah, Vattam Kannaiah, youths and others participated.



ration, as the chief guest, along with Mohammad Rafiq, President of Ramanthapur Division. The guests were accorded a warm welcome and felicitated with shawls and flower bouquets. "Christian brothers and sisters celebrated the Christmas festival with great devotion and enthusiasm. Speaking on the occasion, the guests highlighted that the teachings of Jesus Christ primarily focus on the Kingdom of God, love, compassion, forgiveness, humility, selfless service, and righteousness. They emphasized loving one's neighbors, even loving one's enemies, and leading a simple, ethical, and disciplined life. They further stated that these teachings reflect divine values that guide human life. "Several community members including Bestha Bhaskar, Mohammad Nayyem, Praveen Kumar, Chotu Bhai, Bugga Paramesh, Chinna, and others participated in the celebrations, contributing to the festive spirit of the event.

Stalled Development Works at Chilkanagar Hindu Crematorium Must Be Expedited and Basic Facilities Provided: BJP LEADER GONE SRIKANTH



“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, December 22 (Indian Chronicle):“Development works at the Hindu crematorium in Chilkanagar Division are moving at a snail's pace, causing severe inconvenience to the public, alleged BJP contested corporator Gone Srikanth. Under the leadership of BJP President Dappu Dattasai, BJP leaders along with local residents submitted a memorandum to the Uppal Deputy Commissioner demanding immediate action. Speaking on the occasion, Gone Srikanth said that for nearly three years, public representatives and officials have been claiming that a model crematorium is under construction in Chilkanagar. While press releases and announcements are being made, there is no visible progress on the ground, he alleged. Even years after the foundation stone was laid, the construction has not been completed, raising serious questions among the public. He further stated that due to the lack of even minimum facilities at the Chilkanagar Hindu crematorium, people are facing great hardship while performing last rites. He demanded that basic amenities be provided immediately and that all pending development works be taken up on a fast-track basis. Addressing the gathering, BJP President Dappu Dattasai said that there is confu-

sion regarding funds allocated for the crematorium. On one occasion, it was stated that ₹3 crore was sanctioned, while on another, ₹2 crore was mentioned. He demanded clarity on fund sanctions and urged authorities to complete the works without further delay. Gone Srikanth also announced that the BJP would file an RTI seeking details on the sanction and utilization of funds for the crematorium and demanded that the Commissioner respond with complete information. He further pointed out that Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials have recently begun cleaning the old crematorium located near the Indira Gandhi statue in Chilkanagar without informing village elders. Local residents have expressed concern that the site contains graves and burial remains of their family members. They demanded that GHMC clearly explain the purpose for which the cleaned land will be used. Several BJP leaders and local residents participated in the programme, including senior leaders Gone Anjaiah, Vaidyula Veerareddy, district leaders Araganti Rajesh, party office-bearers, and numerous Chilkanagar residents.

“Government Doctors Give New Lease of Life to Throat-Slit Victim in Bhadravati District



“Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadravati Kothagudem Bureau, December 22, Indian Chronicle:“In a remarkable display of courage, skill and commitment, doctors of the government hospitals in Bhadravati Kothagudem district saved the life of a man who had slit his throat in an attempted suicide, giving him a new lease of life after two weeks of continuous treatment. The incident occurred two weeks ago near the Kothagudem bus stand. Bishal Tamang, a native of West Bengal who runs a noodles stall for his livelihood, attempted suicide due to personal reasons by slitting his throat. As the injury was extremely deep and life-threatening, he was initially being shifted to MGM Hospital, Warangal. However, upon receiving timely information from the patient's family, Dr. Ravi Babu, a throat surgery specialist, immediately intervened. In a daring decision taken during the golden hour, Dr. Ravi Babu, along with the medical team of Palvancha Government Hospital, performed a critical surgery that would normally require a super-specialty facility. After nearly two hours of strenuous effort, the surgery was successfully completed, saving the patient's life. Following the operation, the patient was shifted to the Bhadravati ICU for intensive observation and post-operative care. The ICU doctors and nursing staff provided round-the-clock treatment for two weeks, protecting the patient “like the apple of their eye”. On Friday, the patient was finally discharged in a stable condition. Addressing a press conference held at Bhadravati Government Hospital, District Collector Jitesh Patil lauded the doctors for their exemplary service. Performing such a complex surgery at a Community Health Centre during the golden hour

shows extraordinary courage and dedication. Dr. Ravi Babu and the Palvancha hospital team deserve special appreciation. The committed efforts of the Bhadravati ICU staff, who worked tirelessly day and night, are truly commendable,” he said. The Collector added that the incident stands as a strong testimony to the strengthening government healthcare services in the district. He presented a bouquet to the patient and wished him a long and healthy life with the blessings of Lord Rama. Bhadravati MLA Dr. Tellam Venkata Rao stated that government doctors are creating miracles with the encouragement of the district administration. “If doctors are given confidence and support, even agency areas can deliver super-specialty level medical services. Such a complex surgery requires immense courage,” the MLA said, congratulating Dr. Ravi Babu and the entire medical team. “The doctors who played a key role in the life-saving operation include Dr. Ravi Babu, Dr. Ram Prasad, Dr. Somaraju Dora, Dr. Prasad, Dr. Ramakrishna, Dr. Malesh, Dr. Nikhita, Dr. Koundinya, Dr. Tejaswi, along with nursing and paramedical staff. They were felicitated by the District Collector, the MLA, public representatives and members of the public. Expressing deep gratitude, Bishal Tamang honoured the doctors by draping shawls over them, stating that they had given him a second life. His wife, with tears in her eyes, thanked the doctors and hospital staff for saving her husband. The incident has evoked widespread appreciation across the district and reinforced public trust in government healthcare institutions.

Srinivasa Ramanujan – The Patriarch of Mathematics

A Visionary Who Unlocked Solutions to the World's Most Complex Mathematical Problems.

“P. S. A SHOKAN KARIMNGAR BUREAU:“Srinivasa Ramanujan, revered as the patriarch of mathematics, was a legendary figure who illuminated solutions to some of the most intricate mathematical problems, observed Principal Pradeep Reddy of Kakatiya High School. “On Sunday, the school celebrated National Mathematics Day with great enthusiasm on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the eminent mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at its English Medium campus in Manthani. Addressing the gathering, Principal Pradeep Reddy elaborated on Ramanujan's unparalleled contributions to the field of mathematics and inspired students with insights into his extraordinary life and intellect. “He explained that, despite having no formal academic training, Ramanujan made path-breaking contributions in diverse areas such as mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, continued fractions, and trigonometry, solving complex problems through his unique intuitive approach. “Highlighting one of Ramanujan's most celebrated discoveries, the Principal spoke about the famous Ramanujan Number 1729, which can be expressed as the sum of two cubes in two different ways. He remarked that Ramanujan's untimely demise at a very young age was an irreparable loss to the nation and the global mathematical community. “He further stated that observing Ramanujan's birth anniver-



sary as National Mathematics Day serves as a powerful source of inspiration for mathematics teachers and students alike. “As part of the celebrations, a cake was cut to commemorate the occasion, and heartfelt greetings were extended to mathematics teachers and students. Students showcased a variety of innovative mathematical projects, captivating the audience. The event was further enlivened by cultural programmes, mathematical rangoli displays, and a mathematics quiz competition, in which prizes were distributed to the winners. “Mathematics teacher Devender efficiently coordinated the programme as the organiser. School Directors Ravi Kiran Reddy, Shravan Reddy, along with Sravanti, Pavani, mathematics faculty members, students, and parents participated in the event, making it a grand success.

Nutrition Food Festival Celebrated with Grandeur at ZPHS Arenda.



“P.S. ASHOKAN KARIMNGAR BUREAU:“A Nutrition Food Festival was conducted with great enthusiasm at Zilla Parishad High School, Arenda, located in Manthani Mandal of Peddapalli District. The programme was organised under the able leadership of Complex Headmaster Mr. Narasimha Rao. As many as 55 students of the school actively participated in the event and showcased a wide variety of nutritious food items prepared by them. The students not only displayed the food but also confidently explained the nutritional values and health

benefits of each item, which emerged as a special highlight of the programme. Addressing the gathering, Complex Headmaster Mr. Narasimha Rao emphasised that regular consumption of nutritious food plays a vital role in improving both physical and mental well-being of students. He stressed the importance of creating awareness about balanced nutrition from an early age, which helps in cultivating lifelong healthy habits among children. He further pointed out that incorporating locally available fruits, vegetables, and leafy greens into daily meals can significantly enhance nutrition at a minimal cost. The primary objective of the programme, he added, was to extend awareness not only to students but also to parents regarding the importance of proper nutrition. On this occasion, students explained the details of the food items prepared by them to the School Committee Chairperson Mrs. Prema Latha and to parents who attended the programme. The event witnessed the active participation of teachers Srilatha, Suvarna, Padmaja, Mamatha, CRP Mallanna, and others, whose collective efforts contributed to the grand success of the Nutrition Food Festival.

Police Bust Gambling Den in Kagaznagar, Four Arrested



“Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle):“Kagaznagar: Acting on credible information, the Kagaznagar police conducted a raid on an illegal gambling den and arrested four persons, said Circle Inspector Ravinder on Sunday. According to the police, the raid was carried out on the outskirts of Dargao following reports that a group was engaged in gambling activities. During the operation, four individuals were taken into custody, and cash amounting to ₹7,100 was seized from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused, while two others managed to flee the scene, the CI added. Investigations are underway to trace the absconding suspects.

Crimes Rise in Rachakonda; CP Sudheer Babu Releases 2025 Annual Crime Report



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal | December 22 (Indian Chronicle):“The 2025 Annual Crime Report for the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate was released on Sunday by Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu, who stated that the overall number of crimes in the commissionerate limits has increased this year. According to the report, a total of 33,040 cases were registered in 2025, compared to 28,626 cases in the previous year, indicating a significant rise in crime. Key Crime Statistics (2025): Kidnapping cases: 579, POCO cases: 1,224, Murders for gain: 3, Robbery: 3, Burglaries: 67, House break-ins: 589, Vehicle thefts: 876, Other thefts: 1,161, Murders: 73, Rape cases: 330, Dowry deaths: 12, Domestic violence cases: 782, Crimes against women increased by 4% compared to last year, the CP said. Drugs and Prohibition Enforcement: Drugs worth ₹20 crore seized, 256 drug cases registered, 668 accused arrested. Seizures in-



cluded: 2,090 kg ganja, 35 kg ganja chocolates, 34 kg hash oil, 216 grams MDMA, 10 kg OPM, 242 grams heroin, 35 kg poppy straw. Under the Excise Act: 656 cases registered, 689 arrests, 6,824 litres of liquor seized. Other Special Laws: Gaming Act: 227 cases, 1,472 arrests, ₹69 lakh worth property seized. Human trafficking: 73 cases registered, 8 trafficking hubs identified. Convictions and Special Operations: In 5,647 cases, 146 persons were awarded imprisonment. Conviction rate increased by 74% compared to last year. Special Operations Team (SOT): 186 drug cases, 356 arrests. Cyber Crime: Cyber crime cases showed a decline. 2024: 4,618 cases, 2025: 3,734 cases. Rescue Operations: Operation Muskaan: 2,479 persons rescued. Operation Smile: 1,071 persons rescued. Road Safety and Traffic Enforcement: Road accidents increased this year. 2024: 3,207 cases, 2025: 3,488 cases. Deaths in road accidents: 659. ORR fatalities: 37. Under Drunk and Drive enforcement: 17,760 cases booked. ₹3,89 crore collected as fines. 5,821 driving licences cancelled. Commissioner Sudheer Babu said the police are strengthening enforcement, preventive policing, and public awareness to control crime and improve safety across the Rachakonda commissionerate.

Grand Christmas Celebrations at New Bethel Gospel Ministries Church “Chief Guest: Aakarapu Arun Patel

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 22 (Indian Chronicle):“Grand Christmas celebrations were held with great enthusiasm at the New Bethel Gospel Ministries Church located in Venkat Reddy Nagar Colony. The programme was organized under the leadership of Pastor D. Manasseh. Aakarapu Arun Patel, President of the Uppal Constituency Youth Congress, attended the celebrations as the chief guest. On the occasion, Arun Patel cut the Christmas cake and extended heartfelt Merry Christmas greetings to the Christian community. Speaking at the event, Arun Patel stated that the Telangana Government stands firmly in support of Christian brothers and sisters and is committed to implementing welfare programmes for their benefit. He assured that whenever government assistance or cooperation is required, he would extend his full support. Later, the church organizers felicitated Arun Patel in a grand manner in appreciation of his presence and support. The celebrations were attended by Pastors Daniel, Satya Prakash, Abraham, and D. Manasseh, along with Lakshmi, Dhanalakshmi, Sandhya, Pasha, Ali Patel, and a large number of local residents from the colony.



Applications Invited from Transgender Persons for Economic Rehabilitation Scheme in Komaram Bheem Asifabad

“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle)“Under the Economic Rehabilitation Scheme for Transgender Persons, three units have been sanctioned in Komaram Bheem Asifabad District. Applications are hereby invited for availing a subsidy of ??75,000 under the scheme.“Eligible applicants may submit their applications along with the required documents from 23-12-2025 to 06-02-2026 at the office of the District Welfare Officer, Department of Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities & Senior Citizens, Collectorate Complex, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Room No. G-7.“Eligibility Conditions & Required Documents:“1. The applicant must possess an Identity Card certified by the District Collector or a certified Transgender Certificate.“2. The applicant must be registered on the Transgender National

Portal“(https://transgender.dosje.gov.in).“3. The applicant must be aged between 18 and 55 years (Age proof required).“4. A recent Income Certificate is mandatory. Annual family income should not exceed:“o1,50,000 for Urban areas“o 2,00,000 for Rural areas“5. The applicant must possess a valid Aadhaar Card.“6. The applicant must be unemployed.“7. The applicant must be a resident of Telangana State and domiciled in Komaram Bheem Asifabad District.“8. Preference will be given to applicants with educational and/or technical qualifications.“Applicants must also submit three (03) passport-size photographs.“District Welfare Officer : Department of Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities & Senior Citizens : Komaram Bheem Asifabad District

S. Vijay Kumar Unanimously Elected President of District Village Administration Officers' Association

“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle)“The District Village Administration Officers' Association was formally constituted at the Revenue Guest House in the Asifabad district headquarters on Sunday.“At the meeting, Sunday Vijay Kumar was unanimously elected as the District President of the Kumaram Bheem Asifabad Village Administration Officers' Association.“The office-bearers elected to the association are:“• President: Sunday Vijay Kumar“• General Secretary: Durgam Sagar“• Vice-President: Kadapa Vinod“• Working President: Atram Gangaram“• Treasurer: Gedam Maruti“• Organising Secretary: M. Sarvan



Semi-Christmas celebrations in St. Peter's High School.



“Secunderabad Cantonment, December 22 (Indian Chronicle):“Alphonse Reddy, Correspondent of Bowenpally St. Peter's School, said that Christmas is a festival of joy, charity and compassion, the students and teachers sang songs and sang sweet Christmas carols in the spirit of the festival. On this occasion, the noise of Santa Claus and the cutting of Christmas cake became a special attraction for the distribution of Christmas gifts to every student. He said that love, humility and service are

the true meaning of Christmas celebrations. Director Aruna Reddy and Principal K. Suvarna wished Christmas to the students, teachers and parents who attended the celebrations. Showing the spirit of Christmas in action, the entire staff of the school united to collect funds in support of a staff member who is going to donate a kidney to save her son's life. This celebration is not just a festival but a symbol of compassion. Stopped student, staff, teachers parents are participated in this program.

Education department should pay special attention to sports



“Secunderabad Cantonment, December 22 (Indian Chronicle):“Former international volleyball players GR Kiran said that the education department should pay special attention to sports as well. The Sai Model High School Sports Day was held on Sunday at Bowenpally (NIEPID) Sports Ground, former international volleyball player GR Kiran as the chief guest. Former international baseball players Arvind was present as the guest of honor and inaugurated with the school principal Vijaya Reddy, the games by unveiling the sports flag, and on this occasion the students received the salute of the players with a march past. Speaking on this occasion, former international volleyball player Kiran said that students can reach higher heights in life only when they excel in

sports as well as in studies. He said that through sports one gets fame and good respect in the society and he said that playing sports is a major tool to shape a golden future. Sports are very useful for disciplined life. Victory and defeat are natural and one should enjoy the victory and accept the defeat and move forward. After that, the students who won in various sports gave prizes to the students. Many cultural programs performed by the students on this occasion attracted everyone. Vice President Anurag Reddy, School Secretary, Correspondent, Vijaya Reddy, Treasurer Sunaina Reddy, PETs Raj Kumar Yadav, Manoj, K Jagannadha Rao, parents of students and others participated in this program.

Journalists Demand Implementation of Government Promises



committee, the district leadership met Additional Collector Vijayender Reddy on Monday. State Council Member Gummadi Hari Prasad introduced the newly elected district committee to the Additional Collector. TWJF District President Pabbu Mallesh Goud explained the various issues faced by journalists and requested immediate steps for their resolution. Responding to the representation, the Additional Collector assured full cooperation and stated that long-pending issues would be brought to the notice of the government. Later, the district committee submitted a memorandum outlining their demands. Addressing the gathering, District Secretary Banavath Ravi Naik said the Working Journalists Federation would continue its efforts to resolve journalists' issues and organise programmes to exert pressure on the government to provide basic facilities such as house sites, accreditations, education support, health security, and retirement benefits. He appealed to journalists to unite for achieving these objectives. District Vice President Kummadi Roja Rani raised concerns over the safety and security of women journalists and urged the government to take appropriate protective measures. State Council Members and senior journalists Sabba Rajender and Balu, along with district committee members Pandu Goud, Narra, Srinivas Reddy, Durgaprasad, Gunti Sahadev, Singam Raju, Rajanikanth Goud, Narendar, Rambabu, Santharayana, Sudhakar, Madhu Yadav, Mahender, Narsimha, Md. Hussain Saheb, Vishnu, Arun Kumar, Chaitanya Reddy, Balakrishna, Srinivas, and others were present at the meeting.

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 22, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Leaders of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF), Medchal-Malkajgiri district, highlighted the problems faced by journalists working for the public and urged the government to implement long-pending assurances. Following the third district conference of TWJF and the formation of the newly elected

Applications Invited for Supply of Food to Government Hospitals

“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle)“The Superintendent of the Government Hospital has invited applications from eligible candidates for the supply of food to patients and on-duty medical officers at government hospitals in the district.“According to an official press release, applications are being accepted for supplying food for a two-year period to patients at Community Health Centres located in Sirpur Town, Bejir, Tiriyani, Wankidi and Jainoor, as well as to the Area Hospital at Kaghaznagar.“Interested applicants can obtain application forms on December 23, 24 and 27, between 10.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m., by paying ??5 in the form of a Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Superintendent, District Headquarters Hospital. Completed applications must be submitted on or before 2.00 p.m. on December 31.“Applicants are required to submit a Demand Draft of



??5,000 for Community Health Centres and ??1,00,000 for the Area Hospital. Preference will be given to eligible local women self-help groups from the undivided Adilabad district, the release added.

Will Work for the Welfare of Advocates – Senior Advocate Jupalli Satyanarayana Rao



“CHITTIMALLA MAHENDRA, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, December 22, Indian Chronicle:“Senior advocate Jupalli Satyanarayana Rao has assured that he will strive for the welfare of advocates if elected in the upcoming Telangana Bar Council elections, scheduled to be held next month.“Addressing a meeting organized by ad-

vocates at Huzurabad on Monday, Jupalli Satyanarayana Rao said that he would accord top priority to the development and welfare of the legal profession. He urged advocates to extend their support, stating that he has a thorough understanding of the issues faced by lawyers.“He emphasized that he would work to ensure that the legal profession receives due respect in society. He also promised to provide medical insurance coverage to every advocate as part of welfare measures.“Highlighting the importance of junior advocates, he said that awareness seminars and training programs would be organized to help them establish themselves and grow professionally. He further assured that special attention would be paid to improving infrastructure and facilities in every Bar Association.“On the occasion, a large number of advocates participated in the meeting and expressed their support for the candidature of Jupalli Satyanarayana Rao.

Grand Celebration of National Mathematics Day and Felicitation of AMAT Toppers at Alphores E-Techno School

“Chittimalla Mahendar, Karimnagar Bureau, December 22 – Indian Chronicle:“Renowned Mathematics Avadhani and eminent Mathematics teacher E. Chandraiah, along with Dr. V. Narender Reddy, Chair-



man of Alphores Educational Institutions, stated that Mathematics plays a crucial role in achieving success in life. They were the chief guests at the grand celebrations of Srinivasa Ramanujan Jayanthi and National Mathematics Day, organized at Alphores E-Techno School, Kothapalli.“Before the commencement of the programme, the guests paid floral tributes to the portrait of the legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.“Addressing the gathering, they highlighted that Ramanujan developed a deep passion for Mathematics from a very young age and laid a strong foundation for innovative thinking. They remarked that his contributions are historic, and even today, many of the formulas he devised continue to challenge eminent mathematicians across the world. Born in Tamil Nadu, Ramanujan's life story is truly inspirational, they said, urging students to cultivate dedication, focus, and commitment like Ramanujan to achieve new discoveries and innovations.“They appreciated Alphores institutions for instilling a strong interest in Mathematics among students and for providing quality education through well-

planned academic strategies. The efforts of Dr. V. Narender Reddy in continuously updating teaching methodologies in line with changing societal needs were highly commendable, they added.“Speaking on the occasion, Dr. V. Narender Reddy emphasized that students with a special interest in Mathematics can achieve remarkable success in various competitive examinations. With consistent practice and concentration, students can not only excel academically but also secure excellent career opportunities. He noted that Ramanujan's teachings and formulas remain invaluable and continue to influence the world of Mathematics even today.“He further stated that Alphores institutions focus on teaching Mathematics with the objective of helping students secure admissions in premier institutions. As every year, winners of the Telangana State-level Mathematics Talent Test (AMAT) were felicitated, along with Mathematics teachers who have been relentlessly contributing to the development of the subject.“As part of the celebrations, students presented captivating cultural performances, including a thought-provoking skit titled “Life of Ramanujan – A Guiding Path.” The Mathematical wonders demonstrated by E. Chandraiah greatly impressed and energized the audience.“The guests congratulated all the students who emerged victorious in the prestigious AMAT examination and encouraged them to continue their success streak, bringing pride to their parents and institutions.“A special highlight of the event was the Mathematics Exhibition organized in memory of Srinivasa Ramanujan on the school premises. The exhibition featured engaging models and activities such as Maths Quiz, Tangram, Maths AI, Digital Measurement, Fun with Factors, Golden Ratio, Trigonometry Park, Pascal's Triangle, Ramanujan Number, and several other innovative concepts, which attracted widespread appreciation.“The programme was attended by the Principal, management representatives of various schools, Mathematics teachers, parents, and students.

Market Committee Chairmanship Triggers Fresh Rift Within Congress in Bellampalli

“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle):“Groupism within the Congress party, already simmering since the local body elections, has once again

come to the fore—this time over the allocation of the Market Committee Chairperson post.“Even as Congress leaders await the appointment of Agricultural Market Committee governing bodies, the chairmanship post has become a major flashpoint within the party. Reports that the MLA is attempting to allocate the post to select individuals have triggered strong dissent among party leaders, raising questions over whom the post will ultimately be given to and what political consequences may follow.“Congress MLAs are currently engaged in consultations to appoint Market Committee Chairpersons and Directors based on reservation rotation, seniority, loyalty to the party, contribution during elections, public support, and social balance. Given the constituency-wide influence of the post, the exercise has assumed significant political importance.“Bellampalli Leaders Stake Claim: In Bellampalli constituency, the Market Committee Chairperson post has been reserved for an SC woman this term. Several Congress leaders—many of whom have remained without positions for over a decade—are insisting that the post be allotted to Bellampalli leaders without exception. They argue that their seniority, long-standing commitment to the party, and efforts during the MLA elections justify their demand. Leaders claim that allotting the post locally would strengthen the party and enable better service to farmers.“Several aspirants are in the fray, including Women's Congress leader Rodda Sharada, Mudimadugula Mahender, who is lobbying for his wife, and Mudimadugula Shankar's wife, despite Shankar not being a formal party leader. However, Shankar is cred-

ited with having worked actively for the Congress during the last elections, supporting MLA Gaddam Vinod's victory. Others like Chilumula Shankar's wife, Pochampalli Harish, and Jammikunta Vijay are also making strong efforts to secure the post.“MLA's Strategy Sparks Discontent:“Contrary to expectations, Bellampalli MLA Gaddam Vinod is reportedly considering a different strategy. Party sources say he is exploring the possibility of allotting the chairmanship to Kasipet mandal, the home turf of Mancheril MLA Prem Sagar Rao, as a political counter-move to curb Rao's growing influence in the region.“The MLA is believed to be considering handing over the post to the Rathnam Pradeep faction, a move said to have the backing of senior Congress leader Karkuri Ramchander, who is reportedly preparing to contest the upcoming ZPTC elections. Leaders aligned with this camp believe that such a decision would consolidate political strength in Kasipet.“Anger Among Bellampalli Congress Cadre:“News of this proposal has sparked anger among Bellampalli Congress leaders. Though largely expressed behind closed doors, resentment is growing, with leaders questioning the logic of overlooking Bellampalli cadres who worked tirelessly during the elections. Many argue that denying them the post despite years of dedication would demoralise party workers and weaken grassroots strength.“Senior leaders are questioning why committed Congress loyalists should be sidelined in favour of another mandal, especially when the post has traditionally been seen as belonging to the Bellampalli political space.“Decision Imminent:“Sources indicate that MLA Gaddam Vinod has already arrived at a decision and may announce it within the next two to three days before leaving on a foreign tour. This has left Congress leaders uncertain and anxious about the outcome.“The key question now remains: Will the MLA reconsider and allocate the Market Committee Chairperson post to Bellampalli leaders, or will he stick to his strategy aimed at politically checking Prem Sagar Rao?“For now, the Congress party waits—and watches.

Srinivasa Ramanujan – The Patriarch of Mathematics. A Visionary Who Unlocked Solutions to the World's Most Complex Mathematical Problems



“P. S. A S H O K A N” K A R I M N G A R BUREAU: “Srinivasa Ramanujan, revered as the patriarch of mathematics, was a legendary figure who illuminated solutions to some of the most intricate mathematical problems, observed Principal Lethika of Kerala Global High School Rundranki. “On Monday the school celebrated National Mathematics Day with great enthusiasm on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the eminent mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at its English Medium campus in Rundranki. Addressing the gathering, Correspondent Babu m. Nambiar elaborated on Ramanujan’s unparalleled contributions to the field of mathematics and inspired students with insights into his extraordinary life and intellect. “He explained that, despite having no formal academic training, Ramanujan made path-breaking contributions in diverse areas such as mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, continued fractions, and trigonometry, solving complex

problems through his unique intuitive approach.” Highlighting one of Ramanujan’s most celebrated discoveries, the Correspondent about the famous Ramanujan Number 1729, which can be expressed as the sum of two cubes in two different ways. He remarked that Ramanujan’s untimely demise at a very young age was an irreparable loss to the nation and the global mathematical community. “He further stated that observing Ramanujan’s birth anniversary as National Mathematics Day serves as a powerful source of inspiration for mathematics teachers and students alike. “As part of the celebrations, a cake was cut to commemorate the occasion, and heartfelt greetings were extended to mathematics teachers and students. Students showcased a variety of innovative mathematical projects, captivating the audience. The event was further enlivened by cultural programmes, mathematical rangoli displays, and a mathematics quiz competition, in which prizes were distributed to the winners. “Mathematics teacher Venkateswarlu efficiently coordinated the programme as the organiser. Students, and parents participated in the event, making it a grand success.

Journalists Fighting Corruption Receive Widespread Support Arrested Journalists Released; Commissioner Assures Action Against Corrupt Officials

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 22, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Journalists who have been actively exposing corruption received strong public support during a protest highlighting alleged large-scale irregularities within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The journalists, who were briefly arrested during the protest, were later released. Addressing the journalists, the Commissioner assured that strict action would be initiated against officials found involved in corrupt practices. The journalists stated that corruption within GHMC has increased significantly and urged the authorities to take the issue seriously. They expressed concern that rampant illegal constructions are creating disorder across the city and warned that unchecked violations would severely impact urban planning and public safety. The protesters demanded immediate action against officials in the Town Planning Department, including Assistant City Planners, Section Officers, and Chairmen, who were al-



legedly facilitating illegal constructions. The journalists also urged the Commissioner to recommend an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) inquiry into officials accused of indulging in corrupt activities. During the protest, gratitude was expressed to journalists who participated in the agitation. Special appreciation was also extended to those who could not attend in person but supported the movement in various ways, helping strengthen the fight against corruption.

Outsourcing Bill Collectors and Meter Readers Protest Seeking Job Security at Water Board



“Kishore VADDEPALLI, Hyderabad, December 22 (Indian Chronicle): “Outsourcing bill collectors and meter readers working with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board staged a protest on Monday at the Water Board office in Kharabat, demanding immediate job security and implementation of government assurances. “As many as 673 outsourcing bill collectors and meter readers, who have been working continuously for the past 10 to 20 years, said their livelihoods have been pushed into uncertainty. They alleged that despite G.O. No. 60, which stipulates a monthly wage of ₹15,600 along with ESI and PF, their services are now being shifted to a daily wage system through a newly issued tender—without any supporting government order. “The protestors said that although ESI and PF benefits have been continued as per the November 2022 norms, the fresh tendering process threatens their job security and favors private agencies. They demanded that the government immediately intervene and protect their employment. “Speaking at the protest, leaders said that several representations have already been submitted since November 6 to the authorities. They alleged that despite repeated appeals by Planning Sangham Vice-Chairman Chinna Reddy and Pro Kodandaram to Managing Director Ashok Reddy, requesting registration of meter readers on the IFMIS portal, the issue has been ignored. “They expressed concern that the tender-based system benefits private agencies, which generate bills and earn profits, while denying meter readers basic rights such as job security, minimum wages, ESI, and PF. The protestors demanded strict implementation of G.O. No. 60, ensuring ₹15,600 wages along with full ESI and PF benefits. “They further urged the government to issue a fresh Government Order by showing meter readers under sanctioned posts in the Finance Department and MA&UD Department, and to ensure permanent job security for all 673 workers. “Warning the authorities, the leaders said that if their legitimate demands are not addressed, they would intensify their agitation in a peaceful yet determined manner. “The protest saw participation from Outsourcing State JAC President Puli Laxmaiah, Telangana Jana Samithi Labour Wing President Akula Srinivas, JAC Working President Mandala Balakrishna Reddy, Private Employees State President Kalamadugu Rajender, along with Zaheer, Ramesh, Upender, Manoj, Vinod, Srikanth, Somi Reddy, Ravi, Anji Reddy, Vikram, Mahender Reddy, Shekhar, and others.

Telangana Jana Samithi Labour Wing President Akula Srinivas, JAC Working President Mandala Balakrishna Reddy, Private Employees State President Kalamadugu Rajender, along with Zaheer, Ramesh, Upender, Manoj, Vinod, Srikanth, Somi Reddy, Ravi, Anji Reddy, Vikram, Mahender Reddy, Shekhar, and others. Outsourcing Bill Collectors and Meter Readers Protest Seeking Job Security at Water Board” Kishore VADDEPALLI, Hyderabad, December 22 (Indian Chronicle) “Outsourcing bill collectors and meter readers working with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board staged a protest on Monday at the Water Board office in Kharabat, demanding immediate job security and implementation of government assurances. “As many as 673 outsourcing bill collectors and meter readers, who have been working continuously for the past 10 to 20 years, said their livelihoods have been pushed into uncertainty. They alleged that despite G.O. No. 60, which stipulates a monthly wage of ₹15,600 along with ESI and PF, their services are now being shifted to a daily wage system through a newly issued tender—without any supporting government order. “The protestors said that although ESI and PF benefits have been continued as per the November 2022 norms, the fresh tendering process threatens their job security and favors private agencies. They demanded that the government immediately intervene and protect their employment. “Speaking at the protest, leaders said that several representations have already been submitted since November 6 to the authorities. They alleged that despite repeated appeals by Planning Sangham Vice-Chairman Chinna Reddy and Pro Kodandaram to Managing Director Ashok Reddy, requesting registration of meter readers on the IFMIS portal, the issue has been ignored. “They expressed concern that the tender-based system benefits private agencies, which generate bills and earn profits, while denying meter readers basic rights such as job security, minimum wages, ESI, and PF. The protestors demanded strict implementation of G.O. No. 60, ensuring ₹15,600 wages along with full ESI and PF benefits. “They further urged the government to issue a fresh Government Order by showing meter readers under sanctioned posts in the Finance Department and MA&UD Department, and to ensure permanent job security for all 673 workers. “Warning the authorities, the leaders said that if their legitimate demands are not addressed, they would intensify their agitation in a peaceful yet determined manner. “The protest saw participation from Outsourcing State JAC President Puli Laxmaiah, Telangana Jana Samithi Labour Wing President Akula Srinivas, JAC Working President Mandala Balakrishna Reddy, Private Employees State President Kalamadugu Rajender, along with Zaheer, Ramesh, Upender, Manoj, Vinod, Srikanth, Somi Reddy, Ravi, Anji Reddy, Vikram, Mahender Reddy, Shekhar, and others.

Free Mega Medical Camp Held at Kakatiya English Medium School, Manthani, in Commemoration of National Mathematics Day



“P.S. ASHOKAN” KARIMGAR BUREAU: “On the occasion of National Mathematics Day, marking the birth anniversary of the legendary mathematician Dr. Srinivasa Ramanujan, a Free Mega Medical Camp was successfully organised at Kakatiya English Medium School, Manthani, under the auspices of Sri Aditya Hospital. “The camp catered to the healthcare needs of students, parents, and teaching staff of the school. Comprehensive medical examinations were conducted, ensuring wide participation and benefit to the school community. “The medical services were rendered by a distinguished team of doctors, including Dr. Rajesh (MBBS, Fellowship in

Diabetology), a specialist in general medicine and diabetes care; Dr. Sirisha (MBBS, DNB – Paediatrics), a specialist in child healthcare; and Dr. Naveen (MBBS). In addition, ophthalmic services were provided by ophthalmologist Dr. Buddharathi Satish Kumar. “The camp offered free medical consultations along with diagnostic services such as blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar testing, ECG examinations, and eye check-ups. Doctors also conducted interactive awareness sessions, educating students on essential health and lifestyle practices. Children were advised to cultivate the habit of waking up early and engaging in at least ten minutes of physical exercise daily for better physical and mental well-being. “Addressing the gathering, School Principal Mr. Pradeep Reddy emphasised the growing importance of preventive healthcare and suggested that such mega medical camps should be organised annually. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the management of Sri Aditya Hospital, the team of doctors, and all supporting staff for their invaluable service to the community. “The doctors further advised that everyone should undergo a complete health check-up at least once a year to ensure early detection and prevention of lifestyle-related diseases. “The programme witnessed the active participation of the school directors Mr. Ravi Kiran Reddy, Mr. Shravan Reddy, Ms. Pavani, and Ms. Sravanti, along with students and parents, making the event a meaningful and impactful success.

Wife Among Three Arrested in Boduppal Murder Case



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 22, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Medipally Police of the Rachakonda Commissioner arrested three persons, including the wife of the deceased, in connection with a spousal murder case registered as Cr. No. 1433/2025 under Sections 103(1), 238 read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita (BNS). The victim, V.J. Ashok (45), a Logistics Manager at Srinidhi University, was found dead at his residence in East Brundavan Colony, Boduppal, on December 12, 2025. His wife J. Purnima (36) initially reported that he was found unconscious in the washroom and was later declared dead at a government hospital, claiming the death was natural. During investigation, police noticed suspicious injuries on the body, including marks on the cheek and neck. Analysis of CCTV footage and technical evidence led to the arrest of Purnima, along with Paleti Mahesh (22) and Bhukya Sai Kumar alias Sai (22). Police said the investigation revealed that Purnima had an illicit relationship with Mahesh. Suspecting the relationship, Ashok reportedly confronted his wife, following which the accused allegedly conspired to kill him. On December 11, 2025, after Ashok returned home from work, Mahesh and Sai allegedly restrained and assaulted him while Purnima held his legs. Mahesh is said to have strangled Ashok using chunnis, causing his death. The accused later attempted to destroy evidence and mislead relatives by claiming the death was due to a heart attack. Police seized mobile phones, blood-stained clothes, chunnis, a motorcycle and other incriminating material. The case was later altered to murder charges. All three accused were arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Further investigation is underway.



Uppal MLA Inaugurates Srinivasa Textiles in Nacharam

“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, December 22: “Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy inaugurated Srinivasa Textiles, newly established by Srinivasa Sharma, at Nacharam Main Road, by attending the event as the chief guest. The inauguration ceremony was held in a grand manner with the participation of local leaders, party workers, and residents. “Speaking on the occasion, the MLA congratulated Srinivasa Sharma and the management team for setting up a new business venture in Nacharam. He expressed hope that Srinivasa Textiles would grow successfully and provide quality products to customers while also contributing to local employment. He encouraged the management to uphold business ethics and serve society along with commercial growth. Srinivasa Sharma announced that, as part of his social responsibility, Srinivasa Textiles will provide free clothes to the poor, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens in Nacharam. He also stated that free clothes would be distributed on special occasions such as birthdays, reflecting the store’s commitment to community welfare. As a symbolic beginning of this initiative, clothes were pre-



sented to a couple on the same day through the hands of the MLA. “BRS party Greater Hyderabad leaders, including Sai Jen Shekhar, along with BRS party leaders, activists, and well-wishers, attended the programme and extended their support. The event concluded with greetings and best wishes for the success of Srinivasa Textiles and appreciation for its socially responsible approach.

District Police Intensify ‘Bharosa’ Awareness Programs for Safety of Girls and Women



“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle): “With a special focus on the safety and security of girls and women, the Bharosa Team of Asifabad district has intensified awareness programs across the district, following the directions of District Superintendent of Police Ms. Nithika Panth, IPS. “As part of this initiative, awareness programs were conducted for girl students at the following locations: 1. Z P S High School, Chintaguda village, Kaghaznagar 2. Gram Panchayat, Chintaguda village 3. MPPS School, Chintaguda village 4. MPPS School, Balagala village 5. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kaghaznagar. “During the sessions, students were educated on various topics, including: • Bharosa Centre functioning and services • Safe touch and unsafe touch • POCSO Act and its punishments • Child marriages • Adolescent attractions and behavioral changes • Social media: benefits and risks • Drug addiction • Case studies related to crimes against children and women. “In addition, practical self-awareness and emotional balance techniques such as mind-body balance activities, group exercises, and interactive methods were conducted to help students build confidence and awareness. “Students were also informed about important emergency helpline numbers, including 100, 1098, 112, and 1930. “A total of 950 students, principals, and school staff members participated in these programs. “District police officials stated that the safety, dignity, and protection of girls and women remain a top priority for the police department, and such awareness programs will be expanded further in the future. “The programs were conducted by the Bharosa Team, including the WSI, legal support personnel, and reception staff, as per the directions of the District SP.

Senior Citizens Felicitation and 2026 Calendar Launch Held at Meerpeta HB Colony



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 22, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"A felicitation programme for senior citizens and the launch of the Senior Citizens Association New Year Calendar 2026 were organised on, at Krishnanagar Colony, Meerpeta HB Colony Division. The event was attended as chief guests by MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Corporator Jeripothula Prabhudas, and former Corporator Gundarapu Srinivas Reddy. After participating in the felicitation ceremony, the guests formally unveiled the 2026 calendar. The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of M.V. Ramachandra Murthy, President of the Senior Citizens Welfare Association and District President of TASKA, Medchal-Malkajgiri. Addressing the gathering, the MLA assured senior citizens of his continued support and cooperation in addressing issues related to their welfare. Following

this, the Senior Citizens Association felicitated the MLA, Corporator, and former Corporator by presenting shawls. As part of the programme, nine senior citizens were honoured in recognition of their contributions. Former Corporator Golluri Anjaiah, Colony President Mora Malla Reddy, former KNSCWA President Narra Sukhender Reddy, KNSCWA Chief Advisor P. Lakshma Reddy, Hemant Reddy, Lion P.V. Ramana, and KNSCWA Vice Presidents were invited onto the dais. KNSCWA and Colony General Secretary B. Devaraj presented a detailed report on the activities undertaken by the association. Several speakers shared their views on senior citizens welfare and the need for community support initiatives. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Lion Anjaiah. The meeting was attended by KNSCWA Treasurer M.N. Kumar, Vice President A. Anjaiah, and a large number of senior citizens.

Rachakonda 2025 Sets Benchmark in Technology-Driven, Citizen-First Policing

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 22, (INDIAN



of nearly 15 percent, attributed largely to visible policing measures such as bicycle patrols and the deployment of the CAR force. Action against organized crime remained robust, with NDPS seizures valued at over Rs.20.01 crore. The commissionerate also dismantled interstate child trafficking and illegal organ trade networks, leading to the rescue of 16 infants. A distinguishing feature of Rachakonda policing has been its welfare-oriented and preventive approach, integrating law enforcement with social intervention. Programmes such as Golden Care for senior citizens, the Barosa Centre for victim counselling, and reformatory engagement with rowdy sheeters emphasized rehabilitation, trust-building, and community confidence. The Mega Job Fair, which facilitated employment opportunities for 2,323 women, highlighted efforts to reduce social vulnerability through economic empowerment. Looking ahead, Rachakonda aligns with the government's vision of technology-driven, citizen-first policing. Advanced analytics, digital platforms, and intelligent field operations are being deployed to anticipate crime, accelerate justice delivery, and enhance transparency. The approach reinforces the belief that technology, when guided by integrity and accountability, serves as a force multiplier for public trust. The report underscores a defining principle of modern policing: success is not measured solely by the number of cases registered, but by lives protected, confidence restored, and justice delivered. The year's achievements reflect not only the commitment of the police force but also the constructive cooperation of the public, institutional support from the government, and the role of the media in strengthening democratic accountability. As Rachakonda moves forward, it continues to set a benchmark for balanced, accountable, and community-focused policing.

CHRONICLE):"As 2025 draws to a close, the Annual Report of the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate presents a comprehensive account of the year's policing outcomes. More than a compilation of statistics, the report reflects a year defined by resolute law enforcement, strategic innovation, and sustained partnership with the community. Policing throughout the year was guided by the VQT principle Visible presence, Quick response, and Technology-led initiatives. Covering a jurisdiction of 5,122 square kilometres and serving a population of nearly 64 lakh, the commissionerate demonstrated that effective and humane policing is achievable even across vast and complex urban and semi-urban landscapes. Operational performance remained strong. A total of 33,040 cases were registered, of which 25,643 were disposed of, marking a disposal rate of 78 percent and indicating a system focused on timely justice. The execution of 4,121 Non-Bailable Warrants resulted in the achievement of Zero-NBW status, reflecting consistent legal follow-through. In contested cases, courts recorded 144 convictions, including 31 life sentences. Notably, 17 life sentences were secured in a single murder case, reinforcing deterrence and public confidence in the criminal justice process. Enforcement efforts were complemented by proactive crime prevention. Property crimes recorded a reduction

Landmark Success in National Lok Adalat: Ramagundam Commissionerate Resolves 4,411 Cases, Refunds Over Rs 53 Lakh to Cybercrime Victims

"Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 22 (Indian Chronicle)"Ramagundam, December 22, 2025: In a significant achievement during the National Mega Lok Adalat, the Ramagundam Police Commissionerate successfully resolved 4,411 pending cases within its jurisdiction, as announced by Commissioner Ambar Kishore Jha. The resolved cases included 2,971 e-petty cases and 1,038 drunk driving offences, providing swift justice and relief to thousands of citizens. Highlighting efforts to combat cybercrime, the Commissionerate facilitated refunds totaling ₹53,24,105 to victims across 59 cases. This comprised ₹24,98,879 returned in 54 cases under the Ramagundam Commissionerate limits, and an additional ₹28,25,226 in five cases registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station (CCPS), Ramagundam. Commissioner Jha attributed the outstanding results — surpassing set targets — to proactive outreach by police officers and court staff. Over the past 15 days, teams personally met parties involved in the cases, raising awareness about the benefits of Lok Adalat: expeditious and impartial reso-



lution for both sides. Praising the dedication of the Commissionerate's officers and staff, Mr. Jha announced that rewards would soon be distributed to court personnel and officers who meticulously monitored the process daily. The National Lok Adalat, held on December 21 across Telangana, underscores the effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution in clearing backlogs and delivering accessible justice.

Sarpanch Avoids Taking Oath!



"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas, December,22

"In Wankidi, seven ward members, including the sarpanch, were absent from the oath-taking ceremony. As a result, the officials administered the oath with only the deputy sarpanch and six ward members. This development in the major gram panchayat, which has 14 wards, has led to criticism locally."

People are discussing that the reason for this is the differences between the sarpanch and the ruling class members during the election of the deputy sarpanch. The caste differences between the sarpanch and the deputy sarpanch have been raising questions about the development of the panchayat since the beginning. There is criticism that the sarpanch did not respect the schedule released by the government.



Residents Urge GHMC Kapra Circle Officials to Clear Garbage Choking Nala Between Dwarakapuri and Sonia Gandhi Nagar

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 22, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"Residents of Dwarakapuri Colony and Sonia Gandhi Nagar in the Cherlapally Division under the Kapra Circle of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) have appealed to municipal authori-



ties to immediately clear the garbage accumulated in the nala near the culvert between the two colonies. Locals allege that despite repeated complaints to the GHMC engineering wing, no concrete action has been taken. They claim officials are offering excuses and delaying the removal of garbage, sludge, and fallen vegetation that have piled up in the nala, causing severe inconvenience to residents. According to colony residents, nala cleaning is carried out only once a year in a token manner, from Kapra Lake to Nagaram Lake, after which officials abandon follow-up maintenance. They are demanding a permanent solution to prevent recurring flooding and sanitation issues. Residents say that during rainfall, the nala overflows, submerging low-lying areas and allowing polluted water to enter houses, turning them into flood-affected zones. They recalled that during election campaigns in the past, an estimate of Rs.500 crore was

proposed for a permanent solution to the nala problem, but no progress has been made so far. The term of the previous mayor has ended, and even after several years, residents allege that the issue has been completely neglected. They are now urging whoever represents the area to ensure the construction of a proper culvert between the two colonies. Residents stated that the local corporator had personally visited the area during the monsoon and promised that the culvert work would be completed within a month. However, more than four months have passed, and no work has begun. They allege that GHMC engineering officials are merely stating that files are under process without delivering any solution. The lack of a functional culvert has severely affected daily movement, especially for school-going children, pedestrians, and commuters, who are forced to face hardships while crossing the area. Garbage, debris, and uprooted trees flowing from the Kapra side are getting stuck near the culvert, worsening the blockage. Residents say they have repeatedly approached the Kapra Executive Engineer and Deputy Engineer, but officials insist that cleaning will be done only when heavy machinery like a Hitachi is made available. Due to the accumulated waste, residents are facing foul smells, mosquito menace, and serious health concerns. Complaints were also made to the GHMC Deputy Commissioner, who assured action but has failed to ensure actual cleanup, residents alleged. The residents have now demanded immediate removal of the garbage at the culvert between Dwarakapuri Colony and Sonia Gandhi Nagar and urged GHMC officials to provide relief from unhygienic conditions. They warned that if authorities fail to act promptly, they will launch protests and dharnas in front of GHMC offices.

Jambul Dari Gram Panchayat's New Governing Body Takes Oath

"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas, December, 22."The oath-taking ceremony of the new governing body members was held at the Jambul Dari Gram Panchayat office on Monday, Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, ward members, village people, youth and elders attended in large numbers and made the program a success. Wankidi Congress President Gurunala Narayana and Satyanarayana Secretary also participated in the program.



New Sarpanch Sworn In At Chorpalli Gram Panchayat

"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas, December, 22."The oath-taking ceremony of the new Sarpanch, Upasarpanch and ward members in Chorpalli Gram Panchayat in Asifabad district will be held on Monday, 22nd of this month at 11 am at the Gram Panchayat office. The organizers are requesting that the people of the village, leaders and activists

participate in this program in large numbers and offer their blessings to the new public representatives. Upasarpanch Chitla Narayana said that everyone should work together for the development of the village and with the cooperation of the people, they will work to make Chorpalli an ideal village." [8:19 PM, 12/22/2025] +91 99485 55073: End..

n Alwal..Being rejected Telangana mother idol



"K. Sadanand "Alwal, December 22: Telangana mother statue partially destroyed in Alwal. Telangana mother statue at Telangana mother square." The arm was broken. There is no one who cares that the statue of Mother Telangana is being neglected in the main road. "Officials of various departments, public representatives and leaders of various parties regularly travel through this road for their work. "Any important program in Alwal, public representatives, leaders and Telangana activists start by garlanding the statue of Mother Telangana in this square. "However, the locals are questioning whether the partially destroyed statue of Mother Telangana is not visible to anyone's eye. The local people are complaining that the statue of Mother Telangana is losing its luster as there is no direction to paint the statue. "Meanwhile, one arm of the statue of Mother Telangana was broken. "It is a shame to tie that arm with wires. "People of Alwal want to paint and repair the statue of Mother Telangana." [8:20 PM, 12/22/2025] +91 90308 01023: End

Missing Boy Reported in Medipally Police Station Limits



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 22, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"A nine-year-old boy has been reported missing from Jayaprada Colony, Chengicherla, under the limits of Medipally Police Station. The missing child has been identified as Raj Kumar (9), son of Meena Devi, a native of Bihar. According to the complaint, Raj Kumar went missing about a month ago while playing in front of his house and has not returned since. Following a complaint lodged by his mother at Medipally Police Station, a case has been registered and an investigation is currently underway. Police have appealed to the public for assistance. Anyone who has seen the boy or has any information regarding his whereabouts is requested to immediately inform Medipally Police Station.

Family Members' Anguish Over Missing Youth In Kagaznagar

"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas, December,22."Family members' anguish over missing youth in Kagaznagar." A young man named Duvwari Rajesh from Sirupur (T) district has been missing from Kagaznagar area for the past month. His whereabouts are yet to be found. In this unfortunate time, his mother passed away on Monday morning. The young man is still unaware of this. The family members are searching for him with great anxiety. Anyone who knows about him or his current whereabouts is requested to inform the family members immediately.

Four Quintals Of Cotton Burnt Due To Short Circuit

"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas, December,22."About Four quintals of cotton were burnt due to a short circuit in the house of jabore Ganapathi in Jaitpura village of Wankidi mandal on Sunday. According to the family members, the cotton crop stored in the house accidentally caught fire. A major accident was averted as the locals responded in time and doused the fire.



past month. His whereabouts are yet to be found. In this unfortunate time, his mother passed away on Monday morning. The young man is still unaware of this. The family members are searching for him with great anxiety. Anyone who knows about him or his current whereabouts is requested to inform the family members immediately.

Israel's security cabinet approves 19 new settlements in West Bank



Establishment of a Palestinian state have proliferated, with several European countries, Canada and Australia recently moving to formally recognise such a state, drawing rebukes from Israel. Sharp increase

A U.N. report said the expansion of settlements was at its highest point since 2017, when the United Nations began tracking such data. "These figures represent a sharp increase compared to previous years," Mr. Guterres said, noting an average of 12,815 housing units were added annually between 2017 and 2022. "These developments are further entrenching the unlawful Israeli occupation and violating international law and undermining the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination." Excluding East Jerusalem, which was occupied and annexed by Israel in 1967, more than 500,000 Israelis live in the West Bank, along with about three million Palestinian residents. Mr. Smotrich's office said the 19 newly approved settlements are located in what it described as "highly strategic" areas, adding that two of them — Ganim and Kadim in the northern West Bank — would be re-established after being dismantled two decades ago.

Five of the 19 settlements already existed but had not previously been granted legal status under Israeli law, the statement said. While all Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory are considered illegal under international law, some wildcat outposts are also illegal in the eyes of the Israeli government. Many of these, however, are later legalised by Israeli authorities, fuelling fears about the possible annexation of the territory. U.S. President Donald Trump has warned Israel about annexing the West Bank. "Israel would lose all of its support from the United States if that happened," Mr. Trump said in a recent interview to Time magazine. Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967, and violence there has soared since the Gaza war erupted in October 2023 following Hamas's attack on Israel. Israeli troops or settlers have killed at least 1,027 Palestinians in the West Bank both militants and civilians — since the start of the fighting in Gaza, according to an AFP tally based on Palestinian Health Ministry figures. At least 44 Israelis have been killed in the West Bank in Palestinian attacks or Israeli military operations during the same period, according to Israeli data.

Israel's Security cabinet approved the establishment of 19 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, a move the country's far-right Finance Minister said on Sunday (December 21, 2025) was aimed at preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state. The decision brings the total number of settlements approved over the past three years to 69, according to a statement from the office of Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich. The latest approvals come days after the United Nations said the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank — all of which are considered illegal under international law — had reached its highest level since at least 2017.

"The proposal by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Defence Minister Israel Katz to declare and formalise 19 new settlements in Judea and Samaria has been approved by the Cabinet," the statement said, without specifying when the decision was taken. Mr. Smotrich is a vocal proponent of settlement expansion and a settler himself. "On the ground, we are blocking the establishment of a Palestinian terror state," he said in the statement. "We will continue to develop, build, and settle the land of our ancestral heritage, with faith in the justice of our path." U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has recently condemned what he described as Israel's "relentless" expansion of settlements in the occupied territory. It "continues to fuel tensions, impede access by Palestinians to their land and threaten the viability of a fully independent, democratic, contiguous and sovereign Palestinian state," he said earlier this month. Since the start of the war in Gaza, calls for the es-

UN urges Rwanda to leave eastern Congo, extends peacekeeping mission for year



The UN Security Council has urged Rwanda to withdraw its forces from eastern Congo and extended the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo, known as MONUSCO, for a year, as fighting in the region escalated despite a U.S.-mediated peace deal. The UN's most powerful body on Friday (December 19, 2025) condemned an offensive by the Rwanda-backed M23, demanded that Rwanda stop supporting the rebels and withdraw its troops. The Security Council also renewed the peacekeepers' mandate, keeping about 11,500 military personnel in the country, in a unanimously adopted resolution.

The resolution comes as M23 claimed Wednesday (December 17) to have withdrawn from Uvira, a strategic city in eastern Congo, which it seized last week, after pressure from the U.S. Congo's government said the withdrawal was "staged" and that the rebels were still in the city. U.S. Deputy Ambassador Jennifer Locetta told the Security Council on Friday that M23 must immediately withdraw at least 75 kilometres (47 miles) away from Uvira. M23 took control of the city last week in a deadly offensive that came despite a U.S.-mediated peace agreement signed earlier this month by the Congolese and Rwandan presidents in Washington. The accord didn't include the rebel group, which is negotiating separately with Congo and agreed earlier this year to a ceasefire that both sides accuse the other of violating. However, the accord obliges Rwanda to halt support for armed groups like M23 and work to end hostilities.

Congo, the U.S. and UN experts accuse Rwanda of backing M23, which has grown from hundreds of mem-

bers in 2021 to around 6,500 fighters, according to the UN. More than 100 armed groups are vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern Congo, near the border with Rwanda, most prominently M23. The conflict has created one of the world's most significant humanitarian crises, with more than 7 million people displaced, according to the UN agency for refugees. The MONUSCO force arrived in Congo in 2010, after taking over from an earlier UN peacekeeping mission to protect civilians and humanitarian personnel and to support the Congolese government in its stabilisation and peace consolidation efforts. However, frustrated Congolese have said that no one is protecting them from rebel attacks, leading to protests against the UN mission and others that have at times turned deadly. In 2023, at Congo's request, the UN Security Council voted unanimously to draw down the peacekeeping force and gradually hand over its security responsibilities to Congo's government.

Train mows down three BJP workers bound for PM rally



leaders met the families of the deceased in Murshidabad. "There is no political party, caste, class, or religion in death. So, we have come to be with the bereaved family," a local Trinamool leader who visited the family of the deceased said. BJP State president and Rajya Sabha MP Samik Bhattacharya expressed his condolences. "We stand stunned and speechless in the face of this sudden and heart-wrenching event," Mr. Bhattacharya said. Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari visited the Krishnanagar Hospital to pay his last respects to the three deceased.

Indian visa applications suspended indefinitely in Bangladesh's Chittagong

Dhaka: India on Sunday suspended visa operations at the Indian Visa Application Centre in the Bangladesh's second-largest city Chittagong until further notice in the wake of heightened tensions following the death of prominent youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi, local media reported. Hadi, a prominent leader of the student-led protests last year that led to the ouster of the prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, was a candidate for the scheduled February 12 general elections. He was shot in the head on December 12 by masked gunmen at an election campaign in central Dhaka's Bijoyanagar area. He died while undergoing treatment in Singapore on Thursday. His death triggered attacks and vandalism across Bangladesh, including stone-hurling at the Assistant Indian High Commissioner's residence in Chattogram on Thursday. Indian visa applications in Chittagong have been suspended indefinitely, the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) was quoted as saying by The Dhaka Tribune newspaper on Sunday. The decision came into effect on Sunday following a recent security incident at the Assistant High Commission of India in Chittagong. According to the IVAC, all Indian visa-related services in the port city will remain closed from December 21 until further notice. The statement added that a further announcement will be made regarding the reopening of the visa application centre after a review of the security situation.

I have looked at India's success and tried to execute plans: Pak selector Aaqib Javed



Karachi: Senior Pakistan selector and head of the National Cricket Academy, Aaqib Javed has revealed that he has been following India's success story and has tried to implement it for the betterment of the sport in his country. India has been performing consistently in white-ball cricket with the team winning the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean last year, the Champions Trophy in Dubai earlier this year and the Asia Cup in September, defeating Pakistan in the final. "I have looked at India's success and have tried to execute plans for the betterment of Pakistan cricket. Any cricket nation's success is based on the quality of its talent," Aaqib, a former pace bowler, said on a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) podcast.

He recalled that in 2006 when India toured Pakistan, a senior official of the visiting side had requested a visit to the LCCA ground in Lahore, which was considered a top academy and facility in the region.

I think we fell away (behind) in doing the basic things correctly in our cricket system. No matter who you appoint as captain, coach or selector, unless you don't have the

quality in talent nothing changes. And quality of talent can be assured by increasing the bench strength and competition, and this is only possible with proper infrastructure and system," he said. Aaqib, who was until recently also the interim head coach of the Pakistan team, expressed confidence that Pakistan cricket was now moving in the right direction. Asked about the T20 World Cup early next year in India and Sri Lanka and the upcoming international matches, he said this is the best time for Pakistan to make a impact in the global showpiece. "Indications are all there, we have good players, they have combined well and importantly there is choice of players now." He said the biggest advantage for Pakistan in the upcoming World Cup was that they would play all their games in Sri Lanka.

"If the World Cup had been in say Australia or South Africa, I would have thought differently. But (this) is the best time for the team to do well." He also expressed satisfaction with the talent coming through in the Pakistan Shaeens squad and from domestic cricket, and claimed that 3-4 players were ready to step into international cricket. "Nowadays, talent is also about mental strength because players are constantly under scrutiny; they can't move around freely, their every move is scrutinised... so you have to gauge how mentally tough a player is." Aaqib added that after serving as a player, captain, coach and selector, he does not get unnerved by criticism. "The criticism is an aftershock; it only comes after a poor performance. So, why should I mind the criticism. I have no problems with that because that is how you have accountability in a system. 'Yes, at times the criticism is personal and they are those who will only want to criticise everything. But we have to remember when a team does well, everyone is happy and backs you. So why can't we accept criticism when we do badly. The only way you can avoid being criticised is to do well."

Trump signs law, wants India's nuclear liability aligned with global norms

Two days after Parliament cleared the SHANTI Bill, which allows private participation in India's nuclear sector and eases liability norms by capping operator liability for a nuclear incident to ₹3,000 crore, U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday (December 19, 2025) signed into law the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) advising the U.S. Secretary of State to work with the Indian government and "...align (India's) domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms".

The NDAA, signed every fiscal, is a key law through which the U.S. decides the annual budget and expenditures of its Department of Defense. This financial year, considered from October 2025 to September 2026, a portion of the voluminous document says that the Secretary of State "... shall establish and maintain within the U.S.-India Strategic Security Dialogue, a joint consultative mechanism with the Indian government to assess the implementation of the 2008 Indo-U.S. nuclear deal" and "...align (India's) domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms".

The development comes after the Parliament cleared the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill which repeals existing legislation governing nuclear activity – the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act, 2010. This was despite several appeals and a walkout by many Opposition parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha to refer the SHANTI Bill to a parliamentary panel for greater scrutiny. The Bill aligns India closer to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and makes it consonant with the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. It is such an alignment that the NDAA 2026 encourages.

While the NDAA is presented every year in the U.S. and India finds a mention in the NDAA of previous years for defence and security matters, this is the only time – as per a perusal of previous NDAA by The Hindu – at least since



2016, that India has been specifically mentioned in the context of the 2008 nuclear agreement as well as "nuclear civil liability rules". The Opposition, which had termed the SHANTI Bill "vendor-driven", slammed the Centre on Saturday over the U.S. law. "Now we know for sure why the Prime Minister bulldozed the Shanti Bill through Parliament earlier this week that, among other things, did away with key provisions of the CLND Act, 2010... It was to restore SHANTI with his once good friend," Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. "The SHANTI Act may well be called the TRUMP Act - The Reactor Use and Management Promise Act." He also appended a photograph of the page of NDAA 2026 with the reference to India. SHANTI encourages private companies to participate and potentially allows foreign funding to flow into India's nuclear sector. It removes the links to 'supplier liability' – or the circumstances under which an operator of a nuclear power plant can statutorily claim recourse from a supplier of components if it resulted in a nuclear accident. This is a controversial clause with a history but also said to be one that has frozen foreign participation, particularly American and French nuclear technology, into India.

Bangladesh on edge as protesters demand home adviser's resignation after Osman Hadi's death

GNS News Agency, Dec 22

Protests in Bangladesh continued for a third consecutive day on Saturday (December 20, 2025), with demonstrators demanding punishment for the killers of Sharif Osman Hadi, a prominent youth leader of the July 2024 uprising, even as his funeral was held under heavy security in the capital. Political parties and rights groups warned that the continuing unrest, which saw widespread violence and arson attacks, could be exploited to derail the coming elections, scheduled for February 2026. Protesters have also renewed calls for the resignation of Home Affairs Adviser Lt. Gen. (retd.) Md. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, whom they accuse of failing to ensure the arrest of the perpetrators more than a week after Hadi was shot in Dhaka on December 12.

Tens of thousands from across the country attended Hadi's funeral prayer at Manik Mia Avenue, near the National Parliament on Saturday (December 20, 2025). The funeral was held amid tight security, with the Dhaka Metropolitan Police deploying a large force along with around 1,000 body-worn cameras to manage the crowd. Abdullah Al Jaber, secretary of Inqilab Moncha, a socio-cultural group co-founded by Hadi, gave a 24-hours ultimatum for the resignation of the home adviser.

Hadi was buried around 3:48 p.m., after which the mourners moved towards Shahbagh intersection, chanting slogans such as "Inquilab Zindabad" and "Delhi na Dhaka-Dhaka, Dhaka." Some protesters also called for Shahbagh, where a massive crowd has assembled, to be renamed as "Hadi Chattar." Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, who arrived at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) before the funeral prayer, said Hadi would "never be forgotten" and would live on through the lessons he left for the nation. "Dear Hadi, you wanted to take part in the election. In expressing your desire to contest, you also taught us how elections should be conducted. Let us all accept that process," Mr. Yunus said.

Although parts of the country showed signs of returning to normalcy, concerns remained high following the recent attacks on media and cultural institutions. The offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, which were torched on Thursday (December 18, 2025), resumed publication on Saturday (December 20, 2025). Leaders of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, a prominent cultural organisation, accused the interim government of failing to prevent an arson attack on its



central office despite prior warnings. It alleged that the government had "moved away from the spirit of the July uprising and was appeasing fundamentalist forces." Udichi said the fire destroyed 55 years of cultural archives, calling it a direct blow to Bangladesh's progressive cultural movement and part of a broader attack on the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War. Amnesty International called for a swift, impartial, and independent investigation into Hadi's killing and subsequent mob violence. In a statement, the organisation condemned the torching of Prothom Alo, The Daily Star, and Chhayanaut, as well as the harassment of New Age editor Nurul Kabir. Amnesty also expressed grave concern over the killing of Dipu Chandra Das, a Hindu garment worker who was lynched in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila over allegations of blasphemy. Bangladeshi authorities arrested seven suspects in connection with that case on Saturday (December 20, 2025).

As political unrest continues across the country, political analysts have raised doubts over whether Bangladesh will be able to hold the national election on February 12 as scheduled. Several political leaders have urged vigilance to ensure that the situation is not exploited to derail the electoral process. BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed warned that "fallen fascist forces and anti-election conspirators" could exploit the killing to delay the polls. "Some fallen fascist forces and those conspiring against the elections might try to use this incident for political gain. I call on the people of the country to be vigilant so that no conspiracy can be made to delay the elections," said Mr. Salahuddin on Saturday (December 20, 2025) at Manik Mia Avenue while attending the funeral prayer of Hadi.

What should and shouldn't you feed your baby? Experts bust myths



When Anjaly Thankappan, a nursing officer at JIPMER, Pondicherry, became a mother for the first time, she thought her professional training would guide her through the early weeks. Yet, the realities of postpartum life and cultural expectations played out differently. At 28 days, her husband's family wanted to conduct nookukettu, a traditional ceremony where relatives gather to bless the newborn. "I didn't have the energy to oppose it," she says. The rituals brought crowds, incense, and countless hands reaching for the baby. Soon after, her newborn developed fever and nasal congestion. While relatives dismissed the symptoms as "common," Anjaly, aware of infection risks, knew otherwise. "Even with my medical knowledge, I felt vulnerable to suggestions of giving honey, gripe water, or sugar water," she says.

Her experience highlights a broader challenge in India: the tension between traditional newborn practices and evidence-based care. According to the World Health Organization, neonatal infections remain a leading cause of newborn mortality in India, often linked to overcrowding, unhygienic handling, and unsafe feeding practices.

Arun Kumar Sundaram, senior consultant in neonatology at SIMS Hospital, Chennai, notes that misconceptions about newborn feeding persist widely. "Many people still don't believe exclusive breastfeeding is enough for the first six months," he says. This belief often leads to unsafe practices, including giving honey, sugar water, dates water, or gripe water. "Honey is particularly dangerous. Infants under one year can develop botulism because their immature gut cannot neutralise Clostridium botulinum spores," Dr. Sundaram explains. Gripe water, even when alcohol-free, can induce sleepiness, vomiting, or loose stools, while sugar water irritates the gut. Breast milk, he emphasises, provides adequate hydration and all necessary nutrients. Dr. Rajasree S., senior consultant in paediatrics and neonatology at Rela Hospital, Chennai, adds, "Traditional prelacteal feeds: honey, sugar water, dates water, or gripe water can increase the risk of infections, severe diarrhoea, sepsis, and allergic reactions. Even discarding colostrum deprives the baby of vital antibodies." She cites clinical cases where honey-induced botulism, though rare, can be fatal. "Prelacteal feeds delay exclusive breastfeeding, which is essential for immunity and growth." Meena Thiagarajan, senior consultant paediatrician and neonatologist at Apollo Children's Hospitals, Chennai, notes, "In India, festivals and family celebrations often prompt elders to give sweets or a drop of honey to a newborn. I've seen families struggle to balance cultural practices with medical advice. Honey can

be neurotoxic, and gripe water, though improved today, is not recommended for newborns."

Other harmful practices involve oil instillation in the nose, which can lead to lipid pneumonia, and applying harmful substances like kajal, which can cause infection or lead poisoning. These practices can lead to infections, illness, and increase the risk of infant mortality. Exclusive breastfeeding matters. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months is recommended by the World Health Organization and paediatric organisations globally. Dr. Sundaram explains: "Breast milk provides essential nutrients, antibodies, and growth factors that improve immunity, reduce infections, and support growth and development. Early introduction of cow's milk, herbal preparations, or complementary feeds increases the risk of allergies, infections, and feeding intolerance." Dr. Rajasree highlights additional risks, "Cow's milk before 12 months is low in iron, high in protein, and can stress immature kidneys. Herbal concoctions may carry contaminants or infections." Dr. Thiagarajan adds, "Sugar should be avoided up to age two, as infants quickly develop a preference for it. Breast milk remains the safest, most complete nutrition in the first six months, and provides significant nutrition even beyond that." One of the most frequent statements parents hear from elders is, "We followed all this and nothing happened." Dr. Sundaram says, "While maybe well-intentioned, still these practices can be harmful. Bringing grandparents to clinic visits often opens space for respectful, evidence-based discussions." Dr. Rajasree advises, "Parents can gently provide updated information from trusted sources. Emphasising modern understanding of newborn physiology and the potential hidden harms of traditional practices helps bridge gaps." Dr. Thiagarajan notes, "Cultural rituals are deeply ingrained. Professionals can support families by addressing myths without dismissing their values, gradually promoting safe practices." Recognising adequate feeding

Parents often worry whether their newborn is feeding adequately. Dr. Sundaram outlines clear indicators: at least six wet diapers per day, feeding every 2–3 hours, appropriate sleep, activity, and regaining birth weight by two weeks. Signs that require urgent attention include lethargy, poor feeding, low urine output, or inadequate weight gain. Dr. Rajasree adds that infants should feed 8–10 times in 24 hours after day four, with steady weight gain. Dr. Thiagarajan advises mothers to maintain a balanced diet, hydration, and rest to support milk production.

Any concerns should be promptly discussed with a paediatrician. For mothers whose milk output seems low, experts recommend timely evaluation by a paediatrician or lactation specialist to rule out underlying issues such as latch problems, hormonal imbalances, or postpartum complications. Strengthening newborn care requires coordinated efforts. Dr. Sundaram emphasises early counselling during the antenatal period. Mothers need support not only from healthcare professionals but also from families and the wider community. Dr. Thiagarajan suggests leveraging breastfeeding week and ongoing campaigns to reinforce correct practices. "Messages should be visible in public spaces, workplaces, hospitals, and social media," she says. Dr. Rajasree notes that engaging elders in community-based awareness efforts increases acceptance and effectiveness.

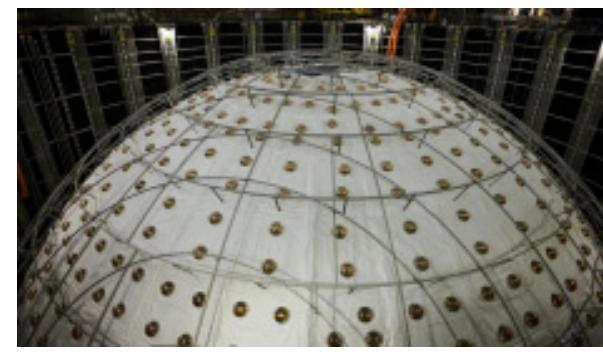
The U.S., China and 'Circles for Peace' in an age of fracture

Hong Kong has always lived between worlds. At a meeting on November 17, 2025, in the city, of the China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF), titled Circles for Peace, it became clear that this liminal geography is now a metaphor for the wider planetary condition. The U.S. and China remain locked in a tense, mistrustful relationship — yet, they are also tied together more tightly than either side likes to admit. And in that uneasy middle space, Hong Kong offered a vantage point from which to imagine a way forward. The complexities of today's rivalry

The discussions at the 6th U.S.-China Hong Kong Forum showed that trust has thinned, and both the U.S. and China now operate as if expecting sudden shocks. Participants spoke with candour, with a sense of fatigue. Old frameworks — engagement, "guardrails", managed competition — no longer feel adequate for today's complex rivalry.

A persistent theme was the shrinking room for nuance. Strategic anxieties that once belonged to specialists have entered the public sphere, shaping domestic politics and narrowing the range of acceptable positions. This has seeped into the human dimension of the relationship. American student numbers in China are far below pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Chinese student enrolments in the U.S., once well above three lakh, have also declined. The deeper loss is familiarity: younger generations are encountering each other through narratives shaped by fear rather than through lived experience. Participants agreed that while the two Presidents, of the U.S. and China, can anchor the relationship, personality-driven diplomacy is not enough. Technology, and artificial intelligence (AI) in particular, threaded through many conversations. Several participants observed that AI now resembles an international public good — too consequential to be monopolised or monetised by any single country. A credible governance regime, they said, must rest on equity, transparency and accountability. This linked to broader concerns about the overlap between civilian innovation and defence applications, especially in parts of the private sector. One American participant suggested the eventual need for an international governance mechanism for AI, and possibly for space ("the galaxy") as well. The question was straightforward: if competition moves beyond the earth, who determines the rules?

The wider diplomatic climate also featured in the discussions. A speaker described the Busan summit, on October 30, 2025, as a "tactical retreat", not on technology but on foreign policy more broadly. The Taiwan question surfaced often. A Chinese participant argued that the discussion has become overwhelmingly militarised — and warned that American policy appeared to be drifting toward what Beijing views as a "one China, one Taiwan" posture. He called for new mechanisms and a new vocabulary before the situation hardens into confrontation by default. One question was whether the U.S. and China are prepared for another EP-3 incident (in 2001) — an accidental collision at sea or in the air that could escalate before political systems can respond. The region obviously needs a crisis-prevention mechanism insulated from political swings. Singapore's former Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen offered the broadest frame. He described this period as a "dialectic moment", when competing pressures reshape the global order but outcomes remain uncertain. The U.S., Europe and China will inevitably influence the emerging structure, he said, but the rest of the world should not allow the global commons



to become collateral damage in major-power rivalry. One seasoned participant argued that a "new approach should be crafted"; the world does not need another hegemon, it needs powers capable of co-organising the future.

Hong Kong has a role to play. Throughout the forum, Hong Kong was in focus. One speaker invoked Richard Hughes's "borrowed place, borrowed time", while another reached for Graham Greene's phrase "improvised bravado". Both images still fit — but Hong Kong today is also becoming more China-centric, even as it tries to remain globally fluent. Its future depends on preserving its cosmopolitan function: the transparency, connectivity, and cultural hybridity that allow ideas to cross borders even when politics cannot. Hong Kong reminded one that the world's middle spaces still matter, revealing pathways that pure geopolitics often misses. People-to-people ties emerged as a gentle theme of hope. Participants noted that official relations may be strained, but human contact remains the ballast that prevents larger relationships from capsizing. Hong Kong, despite the pressures of recent years, continues to make such exchanges possible.

Lessons for India The forum conversations were a reminder that great-power relations may determine the climate of the world, but the weather is shaped by everyone else. India cannot control the forces buffeting the U.S.-China relationship, but we can decide how to navigate them, and how to ensure that our own future is not written by default. Rigid binaries are unsustainable. India's task is not to imitate U.S. rhetoric nor to accept Chinese narratives at face value. It is to build the domestic strength — technological, economic and institutional — to navigate a fractured world without losing strategic autonomy. The forum's emphasis on youth, cultural ties and the social contract around technology offered reminders that relationships are not made or unmade by summits alone. They are shaped by steady habits of engagement.

The shape of a new order

The clearest insight from the Forum was that the U.S.-China relationship will not be restored to its old shape. The economic models diverge. The technology race is structural. And the political atmospherics will remain turbulent. But the alternative to managed rivalry is not victory; it is a world of cascading risks — climate stress, pandemics, fragile supply chains, and polarised societies. One participant put it simply that this was "A story we have to write together". The phrasing carries weight. It shifts the conversation from competition to stewardship, from ideology to survival. The next order, if it emerges at all, will depend less on grand bargains and more on practical cooperation on energy, health, finance, and AI governance. As the forum ended and one stepped out into the evening.

Eight-year-old dies amid suspected water contamination at Bengaluru apartment complex



An eight-year-old boy, a resident of the Prestige Falcon City apartment off Kanakapura Road in south Bengaluru, died on Thursday (November 27, 2025), three days after being admitted due to prolonged diarrhoea. Residents of the apartment, who have been falling ill regularly and believe water contamination is behind their deteriorating health, are alleging the same cause for the child's death. However, civic officials said they can draw a conclusion only after the medical reports are out. Mansoor Ali, a resident of the apartment complex, said that health issues such as diarrhoea and vomiting have persisted among many residents since the start of October.

"All hospitals nearby have at least one patient from our apartment complex, as everyone is falling sick regularly."

"We have been complaining about water contamination, but the problem is being downplayed," he said. Avnidhar Hawaldar, another resident, was admitted to the hospital early this morning after falling unconscious. "I rushed to the hospital at 3 a.m. after I collapsed following a day-long bout of diarrhoea on Wednesday (November 26)," he told The Hindu from the hospital. Mr. Ali noted that even after the issue has claimed a life, it is still not being taken seriously. Corporation send out health team Ramesh K.N., South City Corporation Commissioner, told The Hindu that a team has been sent to the hospital and the reason behind the death will be known once the medical reports are out. "Our teams have deployed medical camps at the apartment complex at regular intervals over the past month, but there was no outbreak of any disease."

"There was no evidence of illness due to contamination, but safety measures were provided to the residents," Mr. Ramesh said. Another official from the South City Corporation health team said they collected stool samples and conducted tests, but the results did not conclude that the issue stemmed from water contamination. However, the officer acknowledged that tests on the water sample from the tank showed slightly contaminated results. He added that BWSSB carried out leakage tests, fixed issues wherever needed, and also conducted chlorination. "We will have a clearer understanding once the medical reports of the deceased are out. Thereafter, we will have clarity on the issue," he said.

The INO that wasn't and the JUNO that is



China has finished building its Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO), a bittersweet development given that the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) has been in limbo for years. Both JUNO and INO were designed to study subatomic particles called neutrinos, which are very hard to catch because they rarely interact with matter. This is why both INO and JUNO are huge: the more matter there is, the more interactions there will be between neutrinos and matter, and thus more opportunities for study.

Progress on JUNO However, this size was perhaps the original trigger of the INO's downfall, so to speak, in India. Because the INO detector was so massive (weighing 50 kilotonnes), it could not be operated from inside a lab nor could scientists situate its detector in an existing facility. Instead, the INO collaboration had planned to install the detector inside a mountain in Theni in Tamil Nadu, together with other research facilities. The mountain's rock was to serve as a natural shield for the detector, obviating the need for a separate structure, which would have been expensive. However, the scale of the construction activity in the area and the involvement of the Department of Atomic Energy, which was helping fund the project, spooked the locals and spurred local leaders to draw political mileage from that. The INO collaboration also erred (in hindsight) by not following procedure and by not estimating how controversial the project could become, which, if it had done, would have helped it respond to and manage certain public sentiments better.

In the late 2010s, these delays were painful as China moved in leaps to realise JUNO. The 'pain' was because the INO collaboration was hoping to secure a limited pool of grants and investments from foreign governments to operate the detector. China expected to complete JUNO by 2020 but that turned out to be five years too soon. If it had said it would aim for 2025, would the INO have had a better chance by no longer having a tight deadline? Maybe not but it wouldn't have been implausible either.

Today, while the INO remains stalled, JUNO has released its first analyses. The JUNO team uploaded two preprint papers on November 18. One reported the "initial performance results of the JUNO detector". Its author list reveals the sort of international collaboration India was hoping for, with researchers from Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile,

Taiwan, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Pakistan, Russia, Slovakia, Thailand, the U.K., and the U.S. participating. It is not clear why there are no researchers from India. Journalist Jatan Mehta has documented a similar issue in the space science sphere: researchers from India were conspicuous by their absence in the (first) list of applications to access the rocks China had brought back from the moon on its Chang'e-5 mission in 2020. India has a long history in neutrino physics and analysing lunar samples, and boasts of many excellent scholars in these fields. The second preprint paper reported the object of INO's study. Even though neutrinos are so elusive, physicists have discovered that they come in three types, or flavours, and that they can oscillate between these as they travel through space. Figuring out how the three neutrino masses are ordered is an important open question — and it is related to neutrino oscillations, which are in turn described by three figures called θ_{12} ("theta one two"), θ_{13} , and θ_{23} . Previous experiments have pinned down θ_{13} , and JUNO and INO were conceived to use this prior knowledge to determine the neutrino mass ordering. In the second paper, the JUNO collaboration reported that it had measured θ_{12} very precisely, in a way broadly consistent with previous findings. On the back of this, Institute of High Energy Physics scientist and JUNO project manager and spokesperson Yifang Wang had said, "With this level of accuracy, JUNO will soon determine the neutrino mass ordering, test the three-flavour oscillation framework, and search for new physics beyond it." Rising bar

While we can debate the way the INO collaboration (at times), bureaucrats, political leaders, and some activists conducted themselves during the saga, one must acknowledge that in this domain, missing the bus on one occasion does not mean you can catch the next one; it means the next one has to be something more sophisticated than a bus for your efforts to mean anything. India had the whereabouts in the previous decade to help crack an important scientific mystery. But if JUNO helps surmount this challenge, India may not have the resources to take a shot at the next big mystery on this front because it will be more specialised and require more sophisticated technologies. Then again, only a fool would bet against the ingenuity and resourcefulness of young scientists to come up with a way.

What grates more is the spectre of "resource constraints" — sometimes all too real, sometimes a bogeyman that administrators invoke to not fund research or, crucially, the skills and materials required to manage its consequences for local communities. Still, there is no room for the notion that India is not ready for a Big Science project. Both the large ground-based telescopes of astronomy and the protected areas of conservation constitute Big Science, and India has many of them. Perhaps the bigger lesson is that we should not attempt such a project solely by whether our scientists alone are ready; we should also check whether the conditions beyond science and on the ground are ready as well.

Chennai's Umpherston Street: when names metamorphose

Two weeks ago you will recall that I had walked through George Town. While doing so I had kept a sharp eye on the blue street name signboards for their spellings always provide some rich material. I did think there was something wrong with Umpherston Street but did not pay much attention owing to the general chaos. Last Sunday I was back, and this time at 6.00 am. I had ample opportunity to take a proper look, and this is what I found. This is not the first time this street name has changed. Strictly speaking it ought to have been Umpherston Street but even in British times, as is evident from the writings of HD Love in his *Vestiges of Old Madras* in 1913, the street name had changed to Umpherston. An H had been added where none existed, probably because someone felt it was silent, as in honour. This contrasted with the way the Y in Yelldham vanished to make it Eldam's Road — adding a Y in pronouncing is common in our region when a word begins with an E and clearly whoever was in charge of signboards in the 20th century thought that was wrong.

But let us get back to Umpherston. Rather uniquely, there were according to Love, four Umpherstons in these parts towards the end of the 18th and early years of the 19th century. Thomas was a coachbuilder in George Town, James was a trader in Ceylon, George a livery stable keeper in Chintadripet and William a sutler (supplier of provisions to an army) at Gooty in present day Andhra. Love opines that either Thomas or James gave his name to the street, though why a trader in Sri Lanka merited being commemorated in Madras is not clear. There was most interestingly, a Mr. Umpherston here at the same time and he too was a sutler, unless the British too were confused with the spelling. On August 22, 1800 (Madras Day!) Umpherston came to grief at camp near Chevitygoondy, being caught while at



tempting to sell spirits to the sepoys of the army, contrary to orders. His cache of '24 dozen of rum shrub, 4 dozen of Jamaican rum and 7 dozen of English claret' were ordered to be auctioned by Arthur Wellesley (later Duke of Wellington no less) and the proceeds remitted to the Madras Orphan Asylum. Such a Umpherston was unlikely to have merited a street name. Our Corporation must have thought that Umbarston is enough for an obscure coachbuilder or trader depending on whether it was Thomas or James. But what is forgotten is that Umpherston Street was where a great success story of 19th century Madras began. This was where P. Venkatachellum started his business of curry powders, sauces, condiments and built an empire that saw his products being sold from Europe to Australia. He was one of the few Dalit successes from Madras in business and he, like Rao Sahib MC Madurai Pillai, showed that it was sheer diligence and focus on excellence that mattered when it came to business.

No risk that Mehul Choksi won't get fair trial in India after extradition: Belgian court



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There is no risk that fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi will not get a fair trial in India after his extradition, a Belgian court has ruled, underlining that he has failed to demonstrate any "serious risk" of being subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment. A four-member indictment chamber at the Court of Appeals in Antwerp has found no infirmity in the orders issued by the pre-trial chamber of the Antwerp district court on November 29, 2024, allowing Choksi's extradition.

The district court had termed the arrest warrants issued by a Mumbai special court on May 23, 2018 and June 15, 2021 "enforceable", which has been upheld by the Court of Appeals in its order dated October 17. The third warrant, related to disappearance of evidence, was not accepted by the Belgian court. The Court of Appeals has held that the documents Choksi submitted do not substantiate his claims that he is the subject of a political trial. It said that it is up to the subject to provide evidence demonstrating substantial grounds to believe that there is a genuine risk of ill-treatment upon extradition. Rejecting the arguments put forth by Choksi that he may not get a fair trial if extradited to India, the Court of Appeals held that the documentation provided by him is insufficient to make it "concretely plausible" that he personally faces a real, present and serious risk of being subjected to flagrant denial of justice, torture or inhuman and degrading treatment in India. Choksi's claims that he was kidnapped from Antigua and Barbuda by Indian agencies and tortured in Dominica did not find support from the court, which said the records submitted by the fugitive businessman do not "conclusively indicate" that he was the victim of a kidnapping in Antigua ordered by Indian authorities.

The order of the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files (CCF) an independent body that ensures that all personal data processed through the Interpol's channels conforms to the rules of the organisation that allowed the Interpol Red Notice against Choksi to be dropped on the grounds of alleged kidnapping, was cited by the fugitive businessman in Belgium to buttress that he may be tortured in India. The Court of Appeals said the CCF's October 12, 2022 decision provides no clarity on the matter and is formulated cautiously and conditionally.

Choksi did not cite any substantial document that would allow the indictment chamber to conclude that there is a real risk of violation of his right to a fair trial due to the al-

leged lack of independence of Indian judges, it said. The court order gave a major jolt to the fugitive businessman, who is wanted in connection with a ₹13,000 crore fraud in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) allegedly orchestrated in collusion with his nephew Nirav Modi, who is lodged in a London prison. Modi too is facing extradition proceedings. Of the ₹13,000 crore, Choksi alone has siphoned off ₹6,400 crore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged in its chargesheet.

The Court of Appeals has held that Choksi's arrest by Belgian authorities on India's request was valid, officials in the know of the development said. The order has come as a strong validation for India's case seeking his extradition, with Choksi having the option of appealing against the decision in Belgium's Supreme Court, they said. "This is the first success for India in the ongoing extradition proceedings against Mehul Choksi in Belgium," an official said. Choksi (66) is in the Antwerp Prison since his arrest in April. His multiple bail petitions have been rejected after they were effectively countered by Belgian prosecutors, who were aided by the CBI. "The order has come in our favour. The court has termed his arrest by the Belgian authorities on India's request valid. The first legal step in getting him extradited is now clear," a senior official said. The Belgian prosecutors were aided by Indian officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the CBI in putting forth strong arguments on Choksi's alleged role in orchestrating one of the biggest bank frauds. The prosecutors told the court that Choksi is a flight risk and cannot be released from the prison, the officials said. New Delhi has given a number of assurances to Belgium regarding Choksi's safety, the charges that he would face during trial in India, prison arrangements, human rights and medical needs. India has also assured Belgian authorities that if extradited, Choksi would be housed in Barrack No. 12 at Mumbai's Arthur Road jail, with no chance of overcrowding or solitary confinement, as at least one more economic offender is expected to share the cell with him. Daily newspapers in English and local languages, terrestrial TV channels, video-conferencing facilities and tele-medicine services are also available in the prison. The Union Home Ministry informed the Belgian authorities through a September 4 communiqué that the personal living space for each inmate in Barrack No. 12 is in line with and fully meets the minimum space requirement of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) of Europe. The CBI has also invoked the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in its extradition request.

At least two open-ended arrest warrants, issued by the Mumbai court in 2018 and 2021, were shared by the Indian agencies with their Belgian counterparts as part of the extradition request, sources said. Choksi fled to Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean days before the scam was detected. He had taken citizenship there. The sources said he remains an Indian citizen as he has not renounced Indian citizenship, a mandatory requirement under the law. After Choksi was spotted in Belgium, the CBI, the MEA and the home ministry swung into action to get him extradited to India to face the law. Choksi and Modi are wanted for allegedly swindling ₹13,000 crore through fraudulent letters of undertaking (LoUs) in connivance with some officials at the PNB's Brady House branch in Mumbai, the officials said.

Carabid beetles as potential bioindicators to track soil microplastics

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The carabid ground beetles of the family Carabidae are as common as they come. These little nocturnal hunters are found in almost any terrestrial habitat on the planet. To some, they're simply pests — infamous for their pungent smell, which they emit when they're threatened. Others, but farmers in particular, are fond of them because they sate their voracious appetite by snacking on a variety of garden pests, including snails, caterpillars, slugs, and other small invertebrates. Unfortunately, their diet of late has also begun to include microplastics.

Small fragments, films, and fibres of this nuisance material are dispersed in our oceans and our lands. In soil, they have a tendency to accumulate, altering the soil's structure and the way it retains water, and reacting almost unpredictably with the microbes in their surroundings. The smaller a piece of microplastic is, the more easily it's digested by organisms. Researchers have found that their subsequent effects include deleterious effects on the surrounding tissue and metabolic stress. However, while the distribution and consequences of microplastics are well documented in aquatic environments, tracking them in terrestrial ecosystems has proven quite difficult. The primary challenge is the soil itself: unlike water, which can be filtered and analysed, soil is a complex, heterogeneous matrix. Here, microplastics become entangled with organic matter, clay particles, and mineral grains, rendering scientists' methods to extract them for study technically demanding. Even when scientists do recover them, they have difficulty distinguishing synthetic microplastic fragments from natural fibers, and need specialised labs to do so. Burrowing earthworms and insects also help spread microplastics through the soil, and they can be carried further underground by the roots of affected plants. As a result, scientists often have to engage in laborious soil-sampling endeavours, followed by chemical treatment and expensive techniques like spectroscopy. To fill the gap an innovative approach was necessary. Recently, scientists from Italy took a new look at this problem. The group started looking for insects that could help detect microplastics in soil rather than scientists having to do so directly. These insects, the Italy group figured, would have to be easy to sample, be distributed widely, and be well documented in the literature for further analysis. In a study published in Ecological Indicators, the scientists set pitfall traps along the Conero coast of Italy from July to October 2020. According to ScienceDirect, "Pitfall traps are plastic containers dug into the substrate until flush with the surrounding surface, often covered with plastic plates to prevent rain and debris from entering, and may contain preservatives such as ethylene glycol or saline solution." These traps captured carabid beetles from different sites with varying levels of human activity: a meadow, woodland, and a stony beach, among others. When the scientists had a sample of 50 carabid beetles, they dissected each specimen, extracted the contents of their guts, digested them with oxidising solutions, filtered the remains, and examined what was left under microscopes and using infrared spectroscopy. What they found was both encouraging and unsettling. Nearly a third of the beetles carried microplastic fragments, most of them polyester and silicone, ranging from 0.1 to 1 mm in size and often no larger than a



grain of sand. The highest rates of microplastic ingestion appeared on a stony beach popular with summer tourists, where up to 87% of beetles captured in August contained plastic. The encouragement came from the fact that the carabid beetles proved to be legitimate bioindicators of microplastics. While this study represents only the first step in this direction, according to the authors, more standardised techniques can be developed on this work. For example, carabid beetles can be integrated into bio-monitoring programs as a cost-effective way to assess the extent of microplastic contamination in a location. The idea of using bioindicators is not new. In India, farmers in particular already use bioindicators to help anticipate impending rain, to manage pests, to assess soil fertility, and to evaluate the success of certain organic farming practices. Plenty of research is also ongoing in the country to detect contaminants in rivers and agricultural lands using insects. But why insects? The new study had in fact also unearthed earthworms (which are annelids) that had ingested microplastics.

In a review published recently in Plant Archives, a team of scientists from Navsari Agricultural University (NAU) in Surat explained why insects present clear advantages. The principle purpose of a bioindicator is to be a simple and sensitive marker of an ecosystem's health. According to the Plant Archives paper, insects are effective bioindicators because they respond quickly to environmental stress, are abundant, and have short life cycles. They are also able to provide early warnings of ecological changes, are cost-effective to monitor, and sensitively reflect the consequences of pollutants on ecosystems, plants, and humans. "Their prevalence in most terrestrial habitats followed by an ability to migrate makes them the best choice," NAU entomologist Malireddi Prasanna and lead author of the paper said of the carabid beetles in this regard. Humans' response She added that even if their populations are negatively affected when scientists pick up individuals from an area for study, what they learn could help protect the insects. The review paper also enumerated important challenges when working with insects as bioindicators. They include natural fluctuations in their populations, temporary declines from calamities, predation pressure, and their absence in particular seasons. Their complex life cycles and varying activity patterns can also complicate scientists' ability to interpret the data and thus demand careful, long-term monitoring for reliable assessments. Research worldwide has established that microplastics have contaminated almost all known ecosystems and biospheres.

Country's first Ruskin Bond International School to open in Gujarat; with a focus on nature, emotional development



GNS News Agency, Dec 22

After being part of school curricula for decades, stories of legendary author Ruskin Bond will now come alive in a nature-themed school in Gujarat — the first franchise of the Ruskin Bond International School (RBIS) in the country. An initiative of the writer's adopted grandson, Siddharth Bond, the school is set to open. The brand was launched in January this year in Mussoorie to mark the author's 91st birthday. The first franchise in Gujarat's Vadodara is in partnership with Advocate Kunal Sharma as well as President of Chhatra Sansad and Chartered Accountant-educationist Utpal Shah. The school aims to impart education based on the principles of "Nature, Nurture and Nourish", intertwining Bond's stories with modern learning.

The fact that Bond spent the first six years of his childhood in Jamnagar, Gujarat — where his father ran a school for the royal family — makes it fitting that the first school to carry forward his legacy is being set up in the state. Ruskin Bond told The Indian Express, "We only left Jamnagar when World War II broke out... I was sent to a boarding school. I have fond memories of my childhood in Kathiawar... I have not lived in Vadodara but I remember passing through several times. It is a city with a history, a culture of its own and a very vibrant part of Gujarat and of India. It is an ideal place... I am so happy that the school is starting in Gujarat and in Vadodara." Several of Bond's characters and stories will become part of the curriculum that is being "painstakingly curated". A popular Bond character, Rusty from The Adventures of Rusty, based on Bond's own childhood experiences growing up in Dehradun — with integrated lessons in math and science. With plans to expand into a K-12 school model and multiple franchises across the country, Sharma said RBIS will ensure outdoor learning. "We intend to make sure that students get out of their classrooms... We would be making them experience music, nature walks and other activities," he said. For Bond, the school represents a way to bring nature back into education. "This whole project was a vision of my grandson, Siddharth Bond. He has worked very hard on it. I hope there will be more schools... The appreciation of nature and all that it offers us will be a part of our education. Over the years, human civilisation has put nature on the back foot. It has gone out of its way to trample on it, in a way. As a result, we are the ones who have suffered — climatically and in many other ways. Nature education is an essential part of our all-round education. I will be very happy if it is a part of the teaching that will take place in this school and in others." Bond added that while he had shied away from social media at first, he now sees it as a bridge that reduces the learning gap in smaller cities. "Social media certainly helps spread literature. I remember times when you lived in a small town in India and you wanted a book, but you could not get it unless you travelled to a big city. Today, you can get it online... Technology has helped and social media helps you with what is happening. Being an old-school person, at first I backed away from it, but I embrace it now and it is a vibrant part of modern-day life and spreading education," he said.

Man held for harassing minor in Andhra Pradesh; row over TDP link



GNS News Agency, Dec 22

The YSRCP accused the TDP of shielding him, while the TDP called the act "shameful" and denied his association. A 58-year-old man allegedly linked to the Telugu Desam Party was arrested in Kakinada for harassing a minor girl, sparking political tensions in Andhra Pradesh. A 58-year-old man allegedly associated with the Telugu Desam Party has been arrested in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district for sexually harassing a schoolgirl, triggering a political row in the state.

Police identified the suspect as T Narayana Rao. While the YSR Congress Party claimed Rao is a leader of the ruling TDP's Tuni unit, the latter has not commented on the alleged affiliation. According to Kakinada Police, Rao went to the girl's government residential school posing as a distant relative and persuaded her to leave with him to "meet his family". Instead, he allegedly took her on his scooter to a mango orchard in a nearby town. There, the orchard owner and workers noticed his "suspicious behaviour" and raised an alarm while recording a video, prompting Rao to hastily drop the minor back at school, police said. Once back, the student told her teachers about the incident, after which they helped her call her parents, who alerted the police. The orchard owner's video helped trace the suspect, who was arrested on charges of kidnapping under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Police urged people not to "politicise" the case and warned against sharing the video on social media. Meanwhile, the student's parents held protests outside the school demanding strict

Two more arrested for 'selling fake national park safari permits' across India



GNS News Agency, Dec 22

The Gujarat Cyber Centre of Excellence on Wednesday said it had arrested two persons from Delhi for allegedly black marketing and profiteering from the illegal sale of safari permits for national parks across India. The accused — Ajaykumar Ghanshyam Chaudhary and Arvind Shrikant Upadhyay, both residents of Delhi — were allegedly involved in the advance booking and resale of safari permits for Gir Jungle Safari (Sasan Gir, Gujarat) as well as other prominent wildlife reserves, including Ranthambore (Rajasthan), Tadoba (Maharashtra), Jim Corbett (Uttarakhand), Kaziranga (Assam), and Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh). According to officials, the accused used electronic devices to book forest safaris in bulk using false identities on official government websites. They allegedly created fake safari permits and sold them to tourists through travel agents, collecting inflated payments and defrauding customers. Investigators of the Gujarat Cyber Centre of Excellence found that the accused had created a website mimicking the official government portal. The probe revealed that around 12,000 illegal safari permits had been allegedly issued, with over 8,650 confirmation emails and payment records allegedly recovered. Additionally, more than 10,000

PDF links containing fraudulent permit details were allegedly discovered. Three people were previously arrested in connection with the case, namely Alpeshkumar Mansukhali Bhalani, who runs a tours and travels company in Thaltej, Ahmedabad; and Sultan Usman Baloch and Ajoi Nurmohammad Shaikh, both residents of Mendarla, Junagadh. The FIR, filed on October 10 at the State Cybercrime Cell on the basis of a complaint by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Sasan Gir, on behalf of the State, booked several unknown persons under Section 112 (organised petty crime) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

LG Electronics India launches Essential Series, home appliances designed for Indian households

Hyderabad: LG Electronics India Ltd. (LGEIL) unveiled its Essential Series, a new line of home appliances designed "Made for India" to combine performance, durability, and affordability for Indian consumers. Launched under the campaign slogan "Har Ghar Appliances, Har Ghar Happiness," the series reflects LG's commitment to making innovation accessible to millions of households across the country. Developed after engaging with over 1,200 families across India, the Essential Series incorporates two core philosophies: "Made in India" and "Made for India." Each appliance addresses everyday challenges while offering thoughtful design, superior performance, and reliability at accessible price points.

RRP Semiconductor's stock price surges 55,000 per cent, triggering regulatory concerns



RRP Semiconductor's stock has recorded a sharp surge of more than 55,000 per cent over the past year, despite the company having no operating semiconductor business. The rally has placed the scrip firmly under the regulatory lens, with both the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the BSE closely monitoring trading activity. The latter has put a trading restriction of once-a-week trading with 1 per cent price band on the company's shares. RRP Semiconductor's stock was trading at around Rs 20 in April 2024. It has since jumped to Rs 11,094, catapulting the company's market capitalisation to about Rs 15,114 crore. To be sure, the company has not commenced any semiconductor manufacturing. It has reported negative revenues, and continues to post losses. This has prompted questions about price discovery, market integrity, and investor protection.

The BSE has put RRP Semiconductor under the Additional Surveillance Measure (ASM) framework. Jointly implemented by the SEBI, the BSE and the NSE, it is used to flag stocks that exhibit abnormal price movements, extreme volatility or a sharp disconnect between market valuation and underlying fundamentals. To be sure, trading in the stock has not yet been frozen by the exchanges. Repeated attempts by The Indian Express through emails and telephone calls to seek clarification from the company did not elicit any response.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the BSE said, "in the context of RRP, the company was placed under enhanced surveillance measures in a phased manner. Initial actions included tighter price bands and trade-to-trade settlement, followed by periodic call auctions. The exchange also issued cautionary public advertisements urging investors to exercise due diligence." Further tightening was introduced for companies exhibiting abnormal trading patterns, such

as consistent upper circuit hits or extreme valuations, resulting in RRP and other identified entities being moved to once-a-week trading with a one per cent price band effective November 2025," the BSE said. These measures were widely communicated through investor advisories and market circulars, reflecting the BSE's proactive approach to investor protection and market integrity, it said. In an exchange filing dated November 3, the company sought to distance itself from several claims circulating in the public domain. "Our company is engaged in the business of semiconductors. The company has yet to start any sort of semiconductor manufacturing activities," RRP Semiconductor said. The company has not applied under any government semiconductor policy and has no celebrity association whatsoever, it added. RRP Semiconductor has categorically denied reports suggesting export activity or marquee endorsements. "The company is not exporting ASIC chips and has not done business of Rs 6.15 crore by export. The company has no relation with legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and he is not a shareholder of the company," it said. The firm also flagged the circulation of misinformation on social media, where stock recommendations and exaggerated claims were allegedly being spread "illegally and without any basis", potentially misleading retail investors. For the latest reporting period, the company disclosed negative revenue of Rs 6.82 crore and a net loss of Rs 7.16 crore for the September 2025 quarter. However, the market has priced RRP Semiconductor at a valuation comparable to established industrial players. RRP Semiconductor's promoter shareholding stands at just 1.27 per cent. Shareholder Rajendra K Chodankar holds 73.96 per cent of the company's equity. Such concentration, coupled with thin public float, often amplifies volatility and makes stocks vulnerable to sharp price swings, speculative trading, and manipulation.

In a media release earlier, the BSE said the company, through a letter dated November 5, had informed that its board of directors proposes to consider the withdrawal of a preferential allotment of shares earlier issued to promoters and non-promoters. This move has added to uncertainty around the stock. "In view of the apparent misinformation in the public domain and the uncertainty attached to various events associated with the company, investors are urged to exercise extreme care and caution while transacting in the securities of the said company," the BSE cautioned. Market participants say this episode underscores a broader concern confronting regulators.

RBI MPC Minutes: Considering benign inflation outlook real interest rates need to be lower, says Governor Sanjay Malhotra

Given the benign outlook for both headline and core inflation, real interest rates need to be lower, Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra wrote in the minutes of the December Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, where he voted for a 25-basis-point repo rate cut. The MPC members unanimously lowered the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.25 per cent, marking a cumulative reduction of 125 bps in the key policy rate since February 2025. The six-member rate-setting panel, by a 5:1 majority, also decided to maintain the neutral stance, with one member voting for a shift to an accommodative stance. "...demand pressures, as evident from low core inflation (excluding precious metals), are minimal and projected to remain low in the next three quarters. Considering the benign inflation outlook — headline as well as core — real interest rates need to be lower," Malhotra wrote in the minutes of the MPC meeting, held from December 3 to 5. The country's CPI inflation, or retail inflation, rose to 0.71 per cent in November from a record low of 0.25 per cent in October.

Malhotra added that although domestic economic activity remains resilient in Q3, weakness in some leading high-frequency indicators is suggestive of a deceleration in the growth momentum in the second half (H2) of FY25 compared with the first half (H1). The country's GDP expanded by a better than expected 8.2 per cent in Q2. Overall, real GDP growth is poised to exceed 7 per cent, much above the RBI's expectation of 6.5 per cent at the beginning of the year, as healthy domestic prospects outweigh the concerns on the external front, he said. "Going forward in H1 next year, domestic growth is projected to remain strong, though moderate to 6.7-6.8 per cent," Malhotra said. He favoured retaining the neutral stance as it gives the requisite flexibility to remain data-dependent and act according to the evolving macroeconomic conditions and outlook. RBI Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta said that the faster than anticipated moderation in CPI headline inflation has been the most crucial recent development from the perspective of monetary policy. "Even if the MPC members traditionally consider a whole host of factors in their decisions, but when the prevailing inflation and its forecast is as low as it is cur-



rently — it alone ought to get a larger weight in the monetary policy deliberations," Gupta, who voted for a 25 bps cut, wrote in the minutes. One of the external MPC members, Saugata Bhattacharya, said the cumulative policy rate cuts and liquidity infusions will now have moved the orientation of monetary policy from mildly restrictive to balanced. "Pending incoming data, I believe the policy interest rate is now consistent with macroeconomic stability," he wrote in the minutes. MPC member and RBI Executive Director Indranil Bhattacharya, who voted for a 25 bps reduction in the repo rate and a neutral stance, said, "when muted inflation outlook, both in terms of the trajectory of headline and core (excluding precious metals), suggests absence of demand pressures, the MPC ought to support growth, particularly when it is projected to decelerate going ahead." The neutral stance preserves the flexibility to respond judiciously to the evolving situation by remaining data dependent while avoiding the pitfalls of precommitment in an uncertain environment, he wrote in the minutes. MPC member Ram Singh said given the uncertainty on the external front, it seems prudent to go for only a 25-bps cut at this point. "In view of the dormancy in the price momentum underlying headline CPI and CPI core, and the case for supporting growth momentum, the rate cut should be accompanied by a change in stance to 'accommodative,'" Singh said. MPC

Delhi Police busts racket selling fake premium mobile phones, 4 held

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has busted a racket involved in the illegal assembly and sale of fake premium mobile phones in the Karol Bagh area and arrested four people, an official said on Sunday. As many as 512 fake premium smartphones of a brand, including fold and flip models, along with a large quantity of mobile parts and fake IMEI stickers, were recovered during the operation, police said.

Police said the accused were illegally assembling high-end phones using spare parts imported from China and pasted fake IMEI numbers marked "Made in Vietnam". They then sold them in the open market as genuine branded handsets at prices ranging between Rs 35,000 and Rs 40,000 per unit, cheating customers, he said. Following a tip-off, a police team was constituted, and a raid was conducted at the identified premises, where four men were apprehended red-handed while assembling mobile phones on the intervening night of December 13 and 14 at a shop located in Karol Bagh.

The accused have been identified as Hakim (36), the alleged mastermind of the racket, Mehtab Ahmad Ansari (36), Ravi Ahuja (36), and Rahul (33). During the raid, police recovered 512 assembled and semi-assembled premium mobile phones, 124 motherboards, 138 mobile batteries, 459 fake IMEI printed stickers, besides a large quantity of mobile accessories and specialised assembling tools. All the accused failed to produce any valid documents or satisfactory explanation regarding the possession of the re-



Delhi Police busted a fake premium mobile phone racket in Karol Bagh, arresting four men and recovering 512 counterfeit phones, fake IMEI stickers, and spare parts.

covered articles, following which they were arrested and a case was registered. During interrogation, Hakim disclosed that despite being only an eighth-class pass with no formal technical qualification, he was operating the racket by importing mobile spare parts such as motherboards, cameras, speakers, back glass, body frames and fake IMEI stickers from China. "With the help of his associates, he assembled new-looking premium ultra, fold and flip models due to their high market demand and sold them as genuine new phones to unsuspecting customers.

Mira Kapoor invests her money in these 3 things: 'Not just because they are lovely to wear...'



investing in other companies. "What does Mira Kapoor invest in? How do Mira and Shahid's investing styles differ? (Source: Instagram/@mira.kapoor) A beginner's guide to investing

Rohit Mahajan, Founder and Managing Partner at Plutos ONE, says that for beginners, the right investment journey starts with building strong financial habits rather than chasing returns. "Creating a basic emergency fund covering at least six months of expenses and securing adequate health insurance should be the first priorities before investing," he told indianexpress.com. Sharing a warning note, he added that new investors must stay away from Ponzi schemes or unregulated products that promise extraordinary or guaranteed returns, as these are financial traps. According to him, a sensible starting point includes simple and transparent instruments such as fixed deposits (FDs), recurring deposits (RDs), digital gold, or systematic investment plans (SIPs). Mukesh Pandey, Director of Rupya Paisa added that it is important for beginner investors to have complete clarity regarding their investment goals (including how long to hold an investment) and their individual risk tolerance before they invest any money. "The best place to start investing would be in regulated and transparent investment instruments such as mutual funds and Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs)," he suggested, adding that government-backed schemes or funds should also be considered, and lastly, equity funds diversified over time that have long-term compounding returns will help to build wealth over time. Wealth creation is a gradual process — protect first, save consistently, and then invest for the long term with discipline and patience.

The world's first Harry Potter-themed hotel is all set to open in Europe



The first ever Harry Potter-themed hotel is coming to life just a few hours from Luxembourg, and fans of the Wizarding World are already buzzing. Located inside LEGOLAND Deutschland Resort in Günzburg, Germany, this groundbreaking project will let visitors step into a fully immersive magical stay without crossing the Atlantic. From rooms styled in the colours of the four Hogwarts houses to beds inspired by Ron Weasley's, every detail is designed to evoke the charm and wonder of Harry Potter's universe. Unlike anything built before, the hotel will be the world's first entirely dedicated to the popular fictional series, blending the creative spirit of LEGO with the magic of the Wizarding World.

The hotel will be located at LEGOLAND Deutschland Resort in Günzburg, Bavaria, roughly halfway between

Munich and Stuttgart. For fans in Luxembourg, France, and Belgium, this means a real Hogwarts-style escape is within easy reach by train or car. A dream weekend trip for Potterheads without the need for long flights. While an official opening date hasn't been announced yet, excitement is building as more details about the expansion at LEGOLAND Deutschland are expected soon in 2026. Till then, if you want to immerse yourself in the wizarding world, here are some Harry Potter-inspired stays to scratch that itch: The Ground Keeper's Cottage, North Yorkshire. Looking for a family getaway? This stone-built cottage with an open fireplace, timber beams and cozy nooks is perfect for curl up with your favourite holiday read and soak in the festive spirit. If you are visiting York in England, don't miss out on this enchanting stay with a double floored bunk bed, large fireplace and fairy lights at night for a cozy night. A short ride from London's Victoria station, this inn features gothic four poster beds and hidden nooks and crannies. Find bubbling cauldrons and antique hardboards scattered all over the chambers for a realistic look and feel a la Defence of the Dark Arts classrooms. Considered one of Scotland's rustic and iconic landmarks, this suite was where the very last book in the Harry Potter series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, was completed. Plush sofas and knicks and bobs referencing the fictional wizard world, the suite blends traditional elegance with modern sensibilities to cater to a wide range of audiences. Whether you are a dedicated fan for years, or someone just getting into this fascinating fictional world, these magical stays promise to leave you spellbound.

'Burger from outside and salad from inside': Psychologist explains why clean version of junk food gives satisfaction to many, including Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday



simple terms, the brain values recognition and ritual as much as it values the food itself."

The naming also plays a big role in satiety. "Calling something a burger or pizza creates emotional familiarity and a sense of a 'proper meal,'" Ms. Dordi explains. "The brain doesn't just eat nutrients — it eats stories, memories, and symbols." Which is why, even without the bun, the burger still satisfies. For many people, healthier versions also reduce deprivation, which is a major driver of binge restrict cycles. "When the brain doesn't feel 'denied,' self-control becomes easier and more sustainable." However, the psychologist cautions against rigid rules or moral labels, e.g. "real burgers are bad, this is the only allowed version". Over time, this can create mental restriction, where the desire for the "forbidden" food increases, often leading to guilt or overeating later.

Indian visa applications suspended indefinitely in Bangladesh's Chittagong

Dhaka: India on Sunday suspended visa operations at the Indian Visa Application Centre in the Bangladeshi second-largest city Chittagong until further notice in the wake of heightened tensions following the death of prominent youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi, local media reported. Hadi, a prominent leader of the student-led protests last year that led to the ouster of the prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, was a candidate for the scheduled February 12 general elections. He was shot in the head on December 12 by masked gunmen at an election campaign in central Dhaka's Bijoynagar area. He died while undergoing treatment in Singapore on Thursday. His death triggered attacks and vandalism across Bangladesh, including stone-hurling at the Assistant Indian High Commissioner's residence in Chattogram on Thursday. Indian visa applications in Chittagong have been suspended indefinitely, the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) was quoted as saying by The Dhaka Tribune newspaper on Sunday. The decision came into effect on Sunday following a recent security incident at the Assistant High Commission of India in Chittagong. According to the IVAC, all Indian visa-related services in the port city will remain closed from December 21 until further notice. The statement added that a further announcement will be made regarding the reopening of the visa application centre after a review of the security situation.

Sameer Minhas' record 172 powers Pakistan to dominant win over India in Under-19 Asia Cup final



GNS News Agency, Dec 22

India entered Sunday's Under-19 Asia Cup final against Pakistan at Dubai's ICC academy ground as the favourite. But history has shown time and again that Pakistan thrive when they are underdogs, especially in high-stakes encounters – and they lived up to that reputation once more. The Farhan Yousaf-led side produced a near-flawless performance to outplay India by 191 runs and lift the Under-19 Asia Cup title at Dubai's ICC academy ground, leaving India searching for answers at the business end of their World Cup preparations.

Chasing a mammoth 348 runs for victory, Vaibhav Suryavanshi did what he does best, giving India the kickstart they needed by scoring 21 runs in the first over. But his captain at the other end – Ayush Mhatre, in need of a substantial score, fell cheaply again, caught at mid-off by his counterpart Yousaf for two runs off Ali Raza. The onus was on the in-form Aaron George to deliver, and he began with four boundaries, but a short ball from Mohammad Sayyam led to his downfall in the fourth over. While Pakistan had ripped through the top order, they still had the Suryavanshi threat to deal with. However, it wasn't long before they dismissed him as the southpaw fell trying to drive a back-of-a-length delivery, caught behind off Raza for 26 to leave India in deep trouble at 49/3.

The middle-order had a mountain to climb to keep India in the hunt, but after the early Suryavanshi assault, the Pakistan bowlers extracted a lot more out of the surface

'I doubt I'll be playing Melbourne': Pat Cummins on playing 4th Test after Australia retain Ashes with 2 matches in hand

GNS News Agency, Dec 22

With Australia wrapping up the Ashes on Sunday with 2 matches remaining, skipper Pat Cummins who had returned to the playing XI after missing the first matches due to injury, all but ruled himself out of appearing in the 4th Test at Melbourne, starting on December 26. "We had a pretty aggressive build up knowing that there's an Ashes there to be won, and we thought that was worth it. Now that the series has been won, there might be a sense of job's done and let's kind of reassess the risk. We'll work it out over the next couple of days. I doubt I'll be playing Melbourne and then we'll have a chat about Sydney. Certainly before the series, it was while the series is alive lets take on the risk and have a crack at it. Now that's it done, I think we'll need to have a chat about it," Cummins said in the post-match press conference after going 3-0 up in the series. Ahead of the series, England were termed heavy favourites by English media and experts due to Australia severely hampered by injury with Cummins and Josh Hazlewood unable to take part in the first 2 matches. Steve Smith led in those 2 matches at Perth and Brisbane and Australia won both those games by 8-wickets.

Cummins returned for the 3rd match in the Adelaide

'They've embraced 'entertainment' over 'results' already': Aakash Chopra takes dig at England fans after Ben Stokes and Co go 0-3 down in Ashes

GNS News Agency, Dec 22

Former India player Aakash Chopra took a dig at the England side who went down 3-0 in the Ashes series on Sunday leading to Australia retaining the urn with 2 matches in hand. England, who came in the series with a lot of confidence, are now looking at a very real possibility of getting whitewashed 5-0. Chopra took a subtle shot at the Ben Stokes-led crew, saying that he can't wait for the build up for the next Ashes where 'the best England team' will play, a knock on the chatter before the 2025 series with English experts pointing branding the current English side as the best to tour Australia. "Can't wait for the build-up for the next time England goes to Australia. Surely, that'll be the best English team to play #TheAshes. And the English cricket fans will lap it up. Can't blame them either...they've embraced 'entertainment' over 'results' already," Chopra posted on X. "Can't wait for the build-up for the next time England goes to Australia. Surely, that'll be the best English team to play #TheAshes."

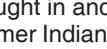
Earlier on Sunday, Australia retained the Ashes after paceman Mitchell Starc took three of the last four wickets to blunt England's defiant comeback in a tense fifth-day finish to the third cricket test. Australia started Day 5 needing four wickets to retain the Ashes, with England resuming at 6-207 and still 228 runs away from the victory target of 435

Why does Atul Wassan prefer Rinku Singh to Shubman Gill?

One of the notable omissions in the T20 World Cup squad 2026 announced on Saturday was Shubman Gill. The Indian red-ball skipper was drafted into the T20I side during the Asia Cup in place of Sanju Samson, who was going through a purple patch as an opener in the format. As a result of drafting Gill into the side, Samson was pushed down the order, and Gill, who was made to open, could not make a telling contribution in 15 outings. And Samson in the middle order, too, had a rough time.

However, for the World Cup, amidst a poor run of form, Gill was axed, and Rinku Singh and Ishan Kishan were brought in and it is likely that Samson will return to open. Former Indian cricketer Atul Wassan lauded the selection

of Rinku Singh and even went on to say he will have Rinku over Gill in the team. "I think this is well done. I think it's a brilliant selection, and hence, I say that Rinku Singh is back because he is the kind of player we have to invest in. He is a fearless guy. He has won us matches. He is that kind of guy. I would rather have him than Gill in the current situation," Wassan said. Wassan was also confident about Ishan's selection in the squad. "Wonderful. I think the guy is back from the wilderness, and I don't know what's been transpiring in the West Indies since he was dumped. This happens in Indian cricket. You know, a lot of noise, and if somebody is seen as cocky, maybe he is not because he is a kind of different man, and we have to respect that," said Wassan



'I was confident we had it right but obviously we didn't': Brendon McCullum admits mistakes after Ashes debacle



GNS News Agency, Dec 22

The creed of Bazball was based on supreme self-confidence and an absence of doubt, but after losing the Ashes at the earliest possible stage, England coach Brendon McCullum finally admitted that there may have been some errors in preparation for the series, which he had said would "define" players. Australia were never able to field their first-choice XI in any of the three Tests, but that didn't prevent them from being too good for the tourists, whose primary aim now would be to avoid a 0-5 debacle. "We haven't got everything right. I haven't got everything right as a coach and I put my hand up for that," McCullum told BBC Test Match Special after the 82-run defeat in Adelaide on Sunday. "It is disappointing when you lose and I'm sure there will be plenty of questions asked and rightly so." Not playing practice games on the tour, enjoying a break on the Sunshine Coast after losing the first two Tests, and an emphasis on having a good time while playing cricket created

an impression that the team was casual in its approach and didn't care enough for the assignment at hand. "I have been very strong about the conviction we had and our preparation and, you know, for us, it was a matter of trying to replicate what we have done in series that have been successful for us away from home," McCullum said.

"Maybe, we didn't get that right and I'll acknowledge that. Ultimately, you are responsible for how you get your side ready and how you prepare them." The England top seven remained constant despite repeated failures with Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope being the lowest contributors, and McCullum, in hindsight, believes changes should have been made.

We are 3-0 down so you would probably say there was room for change there. Again, you put your hand up as a coach and say you might not have got that right," the former New Zealand captain said. "At the same time, I felt it would give us our best chance because it has previously. Sitting here 3-0, it didn't work. Your job as a coach is to try and get performance on the field. I was confident we had it right but obviously we didn't." The England coach heaped praise on the Australian outfit, saying they were "as precise as a team as I have seen in the last few years." This quality prevented his team from playing in the way they wanted to. "When you're put under immense pressure, your decision-making can become a little blurred at times and you don't know whether to stick or twist," he said. "That's probably the disappointing aspect because I did think we were rock hard in our belief of the style we were going to play when we were down here, knowing we were going to be challenged. But I do think we got a little bit stuck."

Geoffrey Boycott slams McCullum-Stokes regime: 'Hubris has taken over from common sense, and that cannot be allowed to carry on'

GNS News Agency, Dec 22

Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes took over the reins of the England Test side when the team was at a cross-roads in the summer of 2023. Post the takeover, they have adapted attacking cricket as their method and given the players freedom to express themselves. In the span of over three years, the side did manage to pull off some remarkable wins but also suffered some humbling experiences. The tours in which any leadership group of the big three (England, Australia and India) is judged when they play against the other two, Stokes-McCullum duo with their Bazball approach could not alter the results as much. When the England side came to India in early 2024, they took a 4-1 drubbing, and in the ongoing Ashes series, they have lost the series after the first three Tests. And at home, they drew both against Australia and England in 2023 and 2025, respectively.

Former England cricketer Geoffrey Boycott reckoned Hubris has taken over from common sense in the England side. However, he also acknowledged that the Bazball approach does deserve a bit of credit. "A lot of credit should go to Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes for what they have done for our cricket, but it is obvious that Bazball has run its race," Boycott wrote in his column for The Telegraph. "Hubris has taken over from common sense, and that cannot be allowed to carry on. Stokes and McCullum are like men digging a hole to nowhere. If what you are doing isn't working, then stop digging. Change is absolutely necessary to step up to the next level. What would I do? Change the coach. We are tired of this duo talking a good game but not delivering against the best teams so Rob Key, it is time for you to assert yourself," he said. "They don't accept the fact that when England come under pressure



against the 'Big Two,' they are found wanting in technique, unable to think on their feet and adjust to the rhythm of Test cricket," Boycott observed.

In addition to the flaws in the playing style and player techniques, Boycott also picked on players' responses in the media on the opinions of former English cricketers. "Our players are disrespectful to past great England cricketers and their helpful views. They are wrapped in cotton wool and overpaid. Time to get tougher with them because their way hasn't won anything in three years," Boycott added. "I would like this 'gung-ho' batting to stop. I realise it has been ingrained over three years but we have to get it out of them. It may take a little time but it can be done and batsmen should still attack when they are in and on top of the bowlers. Nobody wants dour, defensive cricket but let's get back to textbook cricket with guys assessing the situation, thinking on their feet and batting with discipline. We were always told to use our brain. A thinking cricketer is a better cricketer."

Why Indian badminton owes Satwik-Chirag gratitude for keeping the sport relevant

GNS News Agency, Dec 22

It wasn't the best year of their careers for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. 2025 may end without a title – the first such for half a dozen years. But Indian badminton owes the unassuming duo immense gratitude for keeping the sport relevant in the country by trying to stay in the realms of excellence with immense hard work.

Six semifinals and two finals, besides the strong finish at the World Tour Finals, out of 16 elite tournaments played in a season in which they looked for stability rather than silverware, is far more than what any other Indian shuttler managed. That's 9 top-4 finishes out of 16 in a not-the-greatest year, when they had fallen out of the World Top 25. India's singles stars would've traded a limb for results like that. That's why Satwik-Chirag, even in a title-less year, deserve a thank you note. The game won't ever get wiped out in India, given the light Saina Nehwal ignited 20 years ago. But 2025 came pretty close to recurring blackouts, where the sport seemed to have plateaued and was not moving forward, struck as it was by big hopes coming a cropper.

Unnati Hoda defeating PV Sindhu at the Chiba Open was perhaps the only result of significance for the future. But for Satwik-Chirag, it was important that their motivation didn't dwindle, with LA 2028 in the distant horizon. Between 2021 and 2023, Satwik-Chirag seemed to be destined for all the glory badminton offered. It wasn't actually so, but success seemed to come easy to them as they hammered past opponents on the back of two of the most powerful smashes in international badminton. India were also world champions after winning the Thomas Cup. But then 2024 struck. With burgeoning expectations, and their game dissected – the weaknesses teased out by the master-coaches of Malaysia, China and Indonesia – the ace Indians started tasting defeats in tournament finals. Missing out on the Olympic medal was a jolt, not just a sobering nudge for a sport that had tripped at the big occasion after three editions of Olympic medal returns. Coach Matthias Boe had left. Tall, attacking, aggressive, confident and far-too-nice at all times, Satwik-Chirag were forced to dig deep and learn counters to deceptive throttles that stymied their game. Devious serves, parallel fast-drive games and all-court skills that were pickled into the heart of East Asian doubles styles – all varied in their guile, needed the Indian duo to step back, bolster fitness, learn tricks of the trade and build a scaffolding of defensive skills to add sturdiness to their natural attack. Malaysian Tan Kim Her took on the



challenge, and while it's taken time, the Satwik-Chirag game looks far more resilient to deal with all sorts of opponents now.

It wasn't just the titles that had gone missing, the confidence and swag in their Big Offence had also cracked. Because Satwik is naturally calm and cerebral, and Chirag one of the hardest workers and geekishly diligent, once they knew they had to adapt, they set about learning skills and counters to take on every opponent. It will be very difficult to dismiss them as an one-dimensional hard attacking pair, for they can skulk and bend and pick shuttles inches off the ground, trade swivel serves for tumble ones, and bring their own control to the flat game. 2025 might not have titles to show, but in their return to the Top 5 from World No.27, there was the sort of determination and willingness to attack that gives them a second wind.

Having achieved plenty, the duo could have rested on their laurels, doubled down on sticking to their attacking guns, and won a few in the short term. But they went about ironing out wrinkles which eventually made them better doubles shuttlers, reinventing and evolving while absorbing short-term setbacks, while they developed a versatile mentality. Post the Thomas Cup, there was also the deflating realisation that a World Cup equivalent of a win in badminton will not get them the same adulation as cricketers do after a T20 crown. Indian sport refuses to evolve enough to appreciate landmark non-cricket wins, and Olympic athletes need to get on with life, and build legacies not seeking approval of the casuals. While Satwik dealt with personal grief, Chirag added steel to his temperament. 2025 wasn't one to turn heads or hit headlines. But it definitely fortified a unique partnership. They're not 'best friends' to each other – each of them has thick bonds, social circles and comfort zones away from the court. But the badminton bond is stronger than ever. "I trust Shetty bhai's serve like anything in crucial moments..."



Sanjay Dutt abused; Kader Khan nearly drowned after argument; Salman Khan was scared: Inside Govinda's chaotic buddy comedies



late on set, in this particular case, the actor said he reached the location at 7 am in the morning. However, he was made to wait for four hours, with the shoot only getting ready around noon. Govinda refused to shoot at that time and told Kader Khan that he would have lunch before starting work. This irked Kader Khan and resulted in a heated altercation between the two. Recalling the incident, Govinda said, "Kader Khan told me, 'I've heard a lot that you're being difficult these days. Are you afraid of anyone or not?' 'I am not afraid of anyone, except God,' I said. 'Come on, give the shot,' he said. I said, 'No sir, please wait for a while, then we'll do it.' " Govinda recalled how Kader Khan abused him after he insisted on having lunch first. "He abused me a lot. He would not usually do this. He loved me a lot. He has done a lot for me." The Hero No. 1 actor added that Kader Khan went ahead with the shoot without him. However, the shot could never be canned as the boats they were filming on drowned — along with the camera and Kader Khan himself, who went missing for a while. Later, Govinda recalled that when Kader returned, he kissed Govinda's hand and told him, "Tum mein baat hai. (You have something in you)." Govinda was infamous for arriving late on set, while the industry was well aware of Amitabh Bachchan's legendary punctuality. When the two starkly different personalities came together for the 1998 film *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan*, Govinda admitted he was nervous. In an old interaction with *Aaj Tak*, Govinda revealed that he was "scared" to work with the senior actor and was honest about his situation from the very beginning. Govinda told Bachchan that he had signed too many projects and could not guarantee punctuality. He also expressed surprise that Bachchan agreed to do the film with him, as many senior actors had refused. "When I started the film, I spoke to Mr Amitabh Bachchan and said 'Sir, I have signed too many films, senior actors often don't work with me. How are you here? When I joined, I was scared because he is such a veteran. People were also scaring me that he always comes on time. I said I can't (come on time) because I am tied up in so many movies." However, Bachchan handled the situation with professionalism, working out a system with Govinda. The actor recalled, "Mr Bachchan said, 'You call me and let me know what time are you coming. I don't have a problem and it is not my concern if anyone has a problem with your timings.' After this conversation, I signed that film." That wasn't all. Bachchan would even pick Govinda up from his bungalow to ensure the shoot wasn't delayed. In an interview with *Filmymanta* Media, actor Vijay Patkar recalled, "Amitabh used to go in his car and honk for him to come along to the shoot. He would bring him to set in his car. That's why Bachchan ji is still working. If you want to throw tantrums, first reach that level."

The 2007 film *Partner* marked Govinda's comeback to Bollywood and saw him revisiting the buddy comedy genre, this time with Salman Khan. While Amitabh Bachchan had once made Govinda nervous, during *Partner*, it was Salman who admitted to being scared to share screen space with Govinda. Known for his impeccable comic timing and effortless dancing, Govinda made Salman apprehensive about matching his energy. Speaking about it in a throwback video, Salman said, "I felt scared to work with Govinda. Think of it, how much comedy can a person do in a film? So for the first 17 years of my life, I was very scared to share screen space with Govinda." Salman added that he couldn't compete with Govinda's onscreen presence. "If two actors of the same level are working together, there's a lot of healthy competition between them. But (here) the difference is this much (Salman-Govinda) in terms of performance, dancing and comedy level, and this whole film is about dancing and comedy." In another chat on *The Music Podcast*, music composer Sajid Khan revealed how Salman put in extra effort during the shoot and would rehearse his dance moves repeatedly. "Even though Salman bhai usually doesn't do that much, he would just move on the beat but because Govinda was there, he practiced too much," he said.

Rajat further revealed that Govinda had another commitment in Hyderabad and was flying directly to the set, arriving only at 3 pm after keeping everyone waiting for 9 hours. "In those days, nobody would know where he was because at that time, he would do 4-5 shifts," he recalled. After Govinda arrived, Sanjay Dutt was given his dialogues, which were far more than Govinda's. This further angered the actor, who demanded changes on the spot. "Sanju started abusing the assistant and told him, 'you give these lines to Govinda, I will not do this. So the whole scene changed on the spot," Rajat shared.

Earlier, while speaking to Mukesh Khanna on his YouTube channel, Govinda recalled shooting a film with Kader Khan, who was also directing the project. While Govinda has often been called out by producers for arriving

on time regulating the crowd and ensuring the completion of cremation and other rituals on time. Earlier in the day, Congress general secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi condoled the demise of Sreenivasan and said his humane storytelling touched countless hearts. "Deeply saddened by the passing of Malayalam actor and filmmaker Sreenivasan ji. His humane storytelling, sharp wit and timeless performances enriched Indian cinema and touched countless hearts. My heartfelt condolences to his family and admirers," Gandhi posted on her X handle. One of the most influential figures in Malayalam cinema as an actor, screenwriter, and director, Sreenivasan died at a government hospital here on Saturday morning at the age of 69. He had been facing health issues and had undergone heart surgery in 2022. He was travelling for dialysis at a private hospital in Kochi when he developed breathing difficulties and was shifted to the Government Taluk Hospital,

Veteran Malayalam actor-screenwriter Sreenivasan laid to rest



Kerala on Sunday bid a tearful adieu to legendary actor, screenwriter and director Sreenivasan, who passed away on December 24 at a government hospital near here. Thousands of people from various walks of life thronged his home in Kandanadu near Tripunithura here since this morning to catch a last glimpse of the versatile genius of Malayalam cinema. Tamil actor Surya, ministers, leaders of various political parties, and Malayalam film actor Mukesh and director Sathyam Anthikkad, who was also a close friend of Sreenivasan, were among those who came to pay their homage on the final day. The house witnessed emotional scenes when the body was taken to the pyre, as family members were seen fighting hard to console themselves. As a symbolic gesture of respect to the versatile writer, Sathyam Anthikkad placed a pen and a paper, reportedly with the wording "may good things happen to everyone," on Sreenivasan's body. His elder son Vineeth Sreenivasan lit funeral pyres on the premises of his home, in the presence of younger son Dhyani, bringing the curtain down on the life of an actor who cemented his place in the hearts of Malayalis through natural wit and spontaneous comedy.

The cremation of the award-winning scriptwriter-director was held with complete state honours. Police had a tough

Kerala bids adieu to versatile actor-director Sreenivasan

Kochi: Kerala on Sunday bid a tearful adieu to legendary actor, screenwriter, and director Sreenivasan, who passed away a day ago at a government hospital near here. Thousands of people from various walks of life thronged his home in Kandanadu near Tripunithura here since this morning to catch a last glimpse of the versatile genius of Malayalam cinema. Tamil actor Surya, ministers, leaders of various political parties, and Malayalam film actor Mukesh and director Sathyam Anthikkad, who was also a close friend of Sreenivasan, were among those who came to pay their homage on the final day. The house witnessed emotional scenes when the body was taken to the pyre, as family members were seen fighting hard to console themselves. As a symbolic gesture of respect to the versatile writer, Anthikkad placed a pen and a paper, reportedly with the wording "may good things happen to everyone,"

Dharmendra says 'kuch kahi koi galti ho gayi toh kshama karna' in his last video from Ikkis sets.



Veteran actor Dharmendra, one of Hindi cinema's most enduring and beloved superstars, passed away on November 24, marking the end of a remarkable journey that spanned over six decades. A true icon of his era, Dharmendra remained deeply committed to his craft until the very end, continuing to work on films and winning over new generations of audiences with the same warmth and sincerity that defined his early years. In recent times, the legendary actor impressed younger viewers with his appearances in *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* and *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani*. His final cinematic outing, however, holds a special emotional significance. Dharmendra appears in *Ikkis*, a film that also stars Agastya Nanda, the grandson of his longtime friend and *Sholay* co-star Amitabh

Bachchan. While *Ikkis* is scheduled for a theatrical release on January 1, Dharmendra's son Sunny Deol recently shared a heartfelt behind-the-scenes video from the film, offering fans a glimpse into the actor's final days on set.

In the video, Dharmendra is seen expressing his gratitude as he says, "I am extremely happy to be with Maddock Films. The team, the captain Sriram ji... the film is done in a very nice way. I think people in both India and Pakistan should watch it." The clip also captures an emotional farewell from the sets of *Ikkis*, where Dharmendra cut a cake to mark his final day of shooting. Surrounded by Jaideep Ahlawat and director Sriram Raghavan, the actor shared, "I am a bit sad today for the last day of shooting." He concluded the video on a deeply humble note, saying, "I love you all. Kuch kahi koi galti ho gayi toh uske liye kshama karna." Sharing the video, Sunny Deol penned a touching message: "A smile that lit up the darkness. Generosity without limits. Love for my papa is deeply rooted in our hearts. He has blessed us with his final film, *Ikkis*. Let's celebrate him in movie halls this New Year." The video attracted several responses, with Dharmendra's younger son Bobby Deol dropping multiple red hearts in the comments section. *Ikkis*, which marks Agastya Nanda's second film after *The Archies*, was initially slated for a December 25 release but was later postponed to January 1.

Aditya Dhar says Dhurandhar 'could run because RGV walked first'; Satya director says he took risks out of 'ignorance'

Not just among the general audience, but director Aditya Dhar's Ranveer Singh-starrer *Dhurandhar* has been gaining fans within the film fraternity as well. The most recent celebrity to share his opinion on the spy actioner was veteran filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma (RGV), who took to social media to pen a lengthy post praising the film. Calling it a "quantum leap in Indian cinema," RGV stated a few days ago that Aditya Dhar had "completely and singlehandedly changed the future of Indian cinema."

Further, in a separate tweet, RGV also listed "some unique lessons that all the so-called film makers can learn from Dhurandhar." In response, Dhar expressed his admiration for RGV, saying that he is "one of my favourite directors who made Indian cinema feel fearless, impolite, and alive." He added, "If Dhurandhar has even a fraction of that DNA, it's because your films whispered (sometimes screamed) in my head while I was writing and directing it." Since then, the two filmmakers have been using X (formerly Twitter) to exchange notes and publicly express their appreciation for one another. Earlier on Sunday, December 21, Dhar pointed out that "Dhurandhar could run because (RGV) walked first." He added, "You took the risks when it was the hardest! At a time when there were no templates, no safety nets and no guarantee that things would work." In response, RGV remarked that he took those so-called risks out of ignorance and because he was unaware that they were, in fact, risks. "Well, sir, to tell you the truth, I took those risks because I didn't know those were risks due to my ignorance. Whether it is out of arrogance or confidence, I just went ahead with my conviction. When it worked, they



said it's vision, and when it didn't, they said it's blindness." Also starring Akshaye Khanna, R Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, and Sara Arjun in key roles, *Dhurandhar*'s cinematography is handled by Vikash Nowlakha, with editing by Shivkumar V Panicker and music composed by Shashwat Sachdev. The film has already emerged as the third-highest-grossing Indian film of 2025 — behind *Kantara: Chapter 1* (Rs 852.3 crore) and *Chhavaa* (Rs 807.91 crore) — with a worldwide gross of Rs 780 crore, according to industry tracker Sacnilk.

Even Rajinikanth and Shah Rukh Khan couldn't recreate the magic Sreenivasan once achieved in Malayalam with Mammootty



It's not easy to explain through words what Sreenivasan's brilliance was, either as a screenwriter-filmmaker or as an actor. One can only understand its true extent by experiencing his work. However, it can definitely be said that one of the factors that made his movies and performances dear to Malayalees was their ordinariness. Much like the man himself, his characters were also raw and unfiltered. If any of his characters appeared to be wearing a mask, he ensured they were unmasked before the silver screen went blank. He popped the bubbles surrounding people, provoked the egos that defined them, and exposed their affectations like nothing else. Yet, there was an extreme sincerity at the core of his words and works.

In fact, even Rajinikanth and Shah Rukh Khan couldn't recreate the magic that Sreenivasan achieved once when they remade one of his films in their respective languages. Even though these movies were helmed by the most prolific filmmakers in both industries, they failed to replicate the success of the Malayalam original.

After years of continuous work, the 2000s saw Sreenivasan slow down and take on only a few projects each year. However, when his brother-in-law, M Mohanan, was planning to make his directorial debut after years as an AD, Sreenivasan took his pen once again and wrote *Kadha Parayumbol* (2007). Interestingly, Sreenivasan and his actor friend Mukesh bankrolled the movie under their newly established banner, Lumiere Film Company. It was one of the only two films they produced, the other being *Vineeth Sreenivasan's Thattathin Marayathu* (2012).

Revolving around a barber named Balan (played by Sreenivasan himself), who lives in a village with his

family, and his long-lost friendship with film superstar Ashok Raj (Mammootty), the movie emerged as a massive success upon release. The story of Balan, who purposefully distances himself from all the clamour when Ashok Raj reaches his village for a film shoot — assuming that the latter may have forgotten him — and the superstar, who still silently harbours sweet memories of his lost childhood friend, stole the hearts of the audience.

Following the film's massive success, it was remade in Tamil (*Kuselan*, 2008), Telugu (*Kathanayakudu*, 2008), and Hindi (*Billu*, 2009). While ace filmmaker P Vasu helmed the Tamil and Telugu versions, which were shot simultaneously, blockbuster director Priyadarshan remade *Kadha Parayumbol* in Hindi. 'Superstar' Rajinikanth reprised Mammootty's role in Tamil and Telugu, and 'Bollywood's Baadshah' Shah Rukh Khan did it in Hindi. Irrfan Khan took on the role of Balan in Hindi, while it was played by Pasupathi in Tamil and Jagapathi Babu in Telugu, highlighting that all the films had the necessary ingredients to soar, with the extra benefit of bigger budgets. Although *Kuselan* and *Kathanayakudu* marked Rajinikanth and P Vasu's first collaboration since the all-time blockbuster *Chandramukhi* (2005), both movies underperformed and even earned negative reviews compared to the Malayalam film. The fate was similar for *Billu* as well. Although the Hindi movie grossed Rs 47.45 crore worldwide against a budget of Rs 27 crore, according to Box Office India, it didn't reach the lofty heights everyone expected. Despite Shah Rukh Khan riding a success wave at that point, with back-to-back hits such as *Don* (2006), *Chak De! India* (2007), *Om Shanti Om* (2007), and *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi* (2008), *Billu*'s performance didn't match that of his recent works. Even Priyadarshan, known as an expert in remaking movies, couldn't recreate the Sreenivasan magic. But why? One of the major reasons could be that while *Kadha Parayumbol* was the story of Balan, the barber, *Kuselan* and *Billu* revolved mostly around Ashok Kumar (Rajinikanth) and Sahir Khan (SRK), respectively. Despite the superstars having only limited screen time in their respective films, *Kuselan* and *Billu* went above and beyond to satiate their star images, stripping the narratives of their naturalness. While one could easily imagine Ashok Raj (Mammootty) shedding his glittering robes to rekindle with Balan (Sreenivasan) at the end, the manner in which *Kuselan* and *Billu* presented Ashok Kumar and Sahir Khan — from the opening moments to the climax — made it almost impossible to believe that they would step into the homes of Balakrishnan (Pasupathy), Balakrishna (Pasupathy), Balakrishna