

## IndiGo flight cancellations disrupt thousands at Hyderabad Airport

Hyderabad: Chaos continued at RGI Airport on Thursday as well, following widespread cancellations by IndiGo airlines for the second consecutive day. The travel of thousands of travellers was disrupted following the issueAirport authorities maintained that 68 IndiGo flights had been cancelled for the day, including 35 arrivals and 33 departures. Many travellers had complained that they were forced to run around as the airlines failed to inform them about revised timings and were unsure about alternative arrangements.In a statement issued on Wednesday, the airline has attributed these disruptions to a combination of factors, including technology glitches, schedule changes, and a shortage of crew due to updated regulatory requirements on crew rostering.

## Putin arrives in New Delhi for 23rd India-Russia summit



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in New Delhi Thursday evening on a two-day visit to further expand a nearly eight-decade India-Russia partnership that remained notwithstanding a fractious geopolitical environment.Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host a pri-

vate dinner for Putin to set the tone for the 23rd India-Russia summit talks on Friday.Boosting defence ties, insulating India-Russia trade from external pressure and exploring cooperation in small modular reactors are set to be the focus of the summit meeting between the two leaders that is expected to be closely watched by Western capitals.The Russian leader's nearly 27-hour visit to New Delhi has assumed greater significance as it is taking place against the backdrop of rapid downturn in India-US relations. Following the summit, the two sides are expected to seal several agreements including in areas of trade.On Friday morning, Putin will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan before the summit.Modi will also host a working lunch for the Russian leader and his delegation at Hyderabad House, the venue for the summit.Putin will also visit Rajghat in the morning, according to people familiar with the matter.After the summit, Putin is set to launch the new India channel of Russian state-run broadcaster, following which he will attend a state banquet to be hosted in his honour by President Droupadi Murmu.

## Death toll rises to 18 in Bijapur encounter in Chhattisgarh; Search ops underway

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Kothagudem: The death toll in the encounter that took place between police and CPI (Maoist) cadres on the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts in Chhattisgarh rose to 18.It might be noted that DRG, STF and CRPF personnel launched an ant-naxal search operation in Keshkutul forests under Bhairamgarh police station limits on Wednesday morning during which an exchange of fire ensued. Three security personnel were killed and two were injured in the encounter.

By the evening hours the security forces recovered bodies of 12 naxalites killed in the encounter along with weapons and the search operation was called off due to nightfall. The search operation was resumed on Thursday morning and the bodies of six more Maoists were recovered.Security forces have recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from the encounter site, including LMG machine gun, AK 47 rifle, SLR rifle, INSAS rifle, .303 rifle and other weapons. The Maoist PLGA second company commander of Bijapur West Bastar Division DVCM, Modiyam Vella who was carrying a bounty of Rs 8 lakh on his head was among the dead.The bodies of three Bijapur district reserve guards (DRG), head constable Monu alias Mohan Baddi, constables Dukaru Gonde and Ramesh Sodi were shifted to Police Line Shaheed Vatika Complex in Bijapur where last respects were paid to them on Thursday morning.

Two injured jawans, ASI Janardan Korram and Constable Somdev Yadav were said to be out of danger. An



intensive search operation was carried out by the security forces at the encounter spot and additional forces were dispatched to the area, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) South Bastar, Kamlochan Kashyap told the media.The slain Maoist Vella was involved in multiple attacks, including the 2020 Minpa ambush in Sukma that claimed the lives of 17 security personnel. He was also involved in the killing three villagers, the relatives of a surrendered Maoist commander, at Peddakorma village and abducted around a dozen local inhabitants in Bijapur in June, 2025.

## Telangana contributes Rs 4.32 lakh crore to nation, gets just 1.84 lakh crore from Centre



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Hyderabad: The Centre's step-motherly treatment towards Telangana has been exposed once again with its imbalance in fiscal devolution, with Telangana losing out big time among other States.Interestingly, it was in a reply to a question raised by BJP MP Arvind Dharmapuri in the Rajya Sabha that the Union Finance Ministry admitted to having devolved only Rs 1.84 lakh crore to Telangana against Rs 4.32 lakh crore contributed by the State in five years.

Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, Telangana contributed Rs 4.32 lakh crore in direct taxes and gross GST, which is around 3.87 percent of India's total collections. However, during the same period, the State received only Rs 1.84 lakh crore from the Centre in tax devolution, Finance Commission grants and centrally sponsored schemes, which is a mere 2.45 percent of total Union transfers.Ironically, the funds collected by the Centre in the form of cesses are excluded from the funds contributed and their inclusion could mean the Centre's fund devolution to the State would be even lower.Even high-performing States like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu which contributed around 12.66 percent and 7.61 percent respectively, received around 3.9 percent and 4.66 percent share in devolution of funds and faced similar structural discrimination. The data confirmed what Southern states have argued for a long time, that high-performing

economies contribute disproportionately to the national exchequer but receive far less in return.In contrast, Uttar Pradesh, which contributed just 4.6 percent, cornered a massive 15.82 percent of all transfers. Similarly, Bihar received 8.66 percent of devolution funds against a meagre 0.68 percent contribution, and Madhya Pradesh was given 7.4 percent of funds with a 1.94 percent contribution.

## Hyderabad braces for winter chill, as temperatures are expected to drop at night in the coming days

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Hyderabad: After weeks of relatively mild temperatures, a noticeable shift in the air is on its way in Hyderabad and other districts of Telangana. From Friday, the minimum temperatures are expected to drop and hover between 11 degree Celsius and 15 degree Celsius at multiple districts of Telangana, which will make weather chillier.

Forecasts from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday indicated that many districts, including Hyderabad and its neighboring districts like Rangareddy, should brace for a distinct and refreshing chill over the coming days.Starting as early as tomorrow (Friday) and intensifying till the weekend, the minimum temperatures are set to dip and hover between 11 degree Celsius and 15 degree Celsius.While in the past week or so, the minimum temperatures in Hyderabad hovered above 15 degree C, from Friday to next Monday, the mercury is expected to drop and hover between 11 degree C and 15 degree C, which is quite considerable.Based on the IMD forecast, in addition to the northern districts such as Adilabad, Komrambheem Asifabad and Nirmal, Hyderabad and its neighbouring districts Rangareddy.

## Courts can't intervene once panchayat poll notification is issued: Telangana HC

Hyderabad: Justice Sam Koshy and Justice Chalapathi Rao of the Telangana High Court on Thursday made it clear that courts cannot step into the election process once the State Election Commission issues a notification for panchayat polls.

The Bench was hearing a batch of petitions questioning the reservation pattern in several villages, including Mahmudapatnam of Warangal district, where three ward seats and the Sarpanch post were reserved for the ST community despite there being only six ST voters in the entire panchayat.

## Revanth Reddy touts ties with Centre at Adilabad meeting



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Adilabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy once again praised his own ability to coordinate and maintain cordial relations with the BJP-led Centre."I might be a Congress leader but I met the Prime Minister and invited him for the Telangana Global Summit and sought support for Adilabad airport. Within one year, work on the

airport will start and an Airbus will land here," he told a public meeting in Adilabad on Thursday.

He said the closure of the Cement Corporation of India unit would be taken up with the Centre and private investors would be welcomed to revive it.Claiming that he was ready to sanction a university for Adilabad, he pointed out that Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar wanted it in Adilabad, Khanapur MLA Vedma Bhoju wanted it in Khanapur, and Mancheril MLA Premasagar Rao urged it in Mancheril."I have no idea where MLAs Vivek and Vinod want the university. I suggest it should be in Indravelli," Revanth Reddy remarked.Interestingly, Congress leaders raised slogans as BJP's Payal Shankar commenced his speech. Irked over their behaviour, Adilabad incharge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao asked them to maintain silence.On the other hand, the BJP MLA asked to the gathering to give a standing ovation to the Chief Minister, stating that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the airport, the Chief Minister had issued orders for acquisition of 700 acres for the airport.

## KTR vows zero tolerance for misuse of industrial lands in Telangana

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Hyderabad: Taking a firm stance against the alleged misuse of public lands, Bharat Rashtira Samithi working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday declared that industrial lands in Telangana would not be permitted for non-industrial purposes under any circumstances.During a tour of key industrial zones in Hyderabad, including Jeedimetla, Rama Rao lambasted the policy, stating that it would enable the conversion of over 9,300 acres of land, originally earmarked for industrial development and job creation, into real estate ventures like apartments, villas, and commercial complexes."These lands are public assets meant for the people's benefit, not for private gain," he emphasised, stating that the BRS would block any attempts to divert them from their intended industrial use at any cost.

Rama Rao highlighted the pricing discrepancies that triggered the row, noting that while market values in areas like Jeedimetla reach up to Rs.1.5 lakh per square yard, the government was reportedly transferring these parcels to private entities at a fraction of the cost, around 4,000 rupees per square yard. He warned that such moves could lead to the relocation of existing industries, resulting in widespread job losses and economic disruption for lakhs of residents dependent on these sectors."The Congress government claims there's no land available in Hyderabad for essential public projects like Indiramma housing, schools, hospitals, or even graveyards, yet they're gifting away thousands of acres to private individuals," Rama Rao said, urging the administration to reclaim these lands immediately and repurpose them for public welfare initiatives, such as housing schemes and educational facilities under the Young India programme.

Drawing a contrast with the BRS's previous policy,



which focused on non-polluting sectors like IT to foster employment without environmental harm, Rama Rao challenged the current regime: "If the Congress is truly committed to development, they should restrict these lands to clean industries only, not hand them over for residential or commercial real estate."The BRS leader announced a multi-pronged campaign to combat the scam, including an all-party meeting, public awareness drives in local colonies, round-table discussions, and partnerships with civil society and other opposition groups."Our fight will persist until this policy is scrapped and the people's lands, worth lakhs of crores, are safeguarded," he affirmed. He said that legal recourse would be pursued if needed. Rama Rao also cautioned that, upon returning to power, the BRS would enact new legislation to prevent such diversion.Rama Rao advised industrialists against engaging in the policy, warning that anyone who greedily participates in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's land scam now Wwould lose both the land and their investment later.

## Tamil Nadu government challenges High Court order on Thiruparankundram Karthigai Deepam ritual

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Madurai: The Tamil Nadu government has defended its actions before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, arguing that Justice Swaminathan had exceeded his jurisdiction in ordering that Karthigai Deepam be lit at the hilltop lamp post on Thiruparankundram Hill and directing the deployment of CISF personnel for security.The controversy began after a petition was filed seeking permission to light the traditional Karthigai Deepam at the lamp post on the hill, which is one of the six barrack areas at Thiruparankundram.

Acting on the plea, the judge directed that the Maha Deepam be lit at the spot with security personnel.The order led to tense scenes on Wednesday evening. BJP cadres and Hindu outfit members raised slogans near the 16-foot hall and attempted to scale the hill after breaking barricades. Police intervened, resulting in clashes in which two policemen sustained injuries.Considering the escalating situation, District Collector Praveen Kumar imposed Section 144 prohibitory orders in the area. Several protesters were arrested for violating the restrictions. Some groups later lit camphor



on the pathway and performed rituals before dispersing.The state government immediately approached the Administrative Judge of the Madurai Bench, Justice Jayachandran, seeking to suspend and overturn the single judge's order.The Additional Chief Public Prosecutor argued that the judge had no authority to deploy CISF, which is assigned only for the security of the High Court premises, not for maintaining public order.The state further submitted that the order directly affected communal harmony and law and order in Thiruparankundram. Simultaneously, the Collector moved another petition seeking a stay on the contempt plea filed by the original petitioner.Both matters were taken up as the first cases of the day by Justices Jayachandran and Ramakrishnan. The state argued that action against the temple administration could not be taken without hearing them, and that contempt proceedings cannot lead to immediate punishment on the same day of filing.It urged the court to quash the single judge's directives, stating that they were beyond judicial authority and had aggravated tensions in the region.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Sanchar Saathi — Safety or surveillance?

With the Pegasus spyware scam fresh in public memory, the NDA government's handling of the rollout of Sanchar Saathi, the state-developed cybersecurity app, raised doubts in the minds of the people, and justifiably so. The backlash to the stealthily issued order on mandatory pre-installation of the app on every smartphone was strong and swift. Though the government has since withdrawn the directive, ostensibly citing a dramatic surge in voluntary downloads as the reason, it is clear that the all-round flak and criticism had forced the authorities to make a climbdown. The episode must serve as a cautionary tale for the governments ready to resort to snooping at the drop of a hat. On December 1, the Union Ministry of Communications directed smartphone makers to pre-install Sanchar Saathi on all new devices, ensuring the app is visible and functional from first boot. Devices already manufactured or already in circulation must receive the app via software updates, with manufacturers given 90 days to comply and 120 days to submit formal adherence reports. Following widespread protests from the opposition parties and digital privacy activists, Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia sought to assure that the government's directive was 'misconstrued' and that nowhere did it say that the user cannot delete the app. The initiative itself, launched in May 2023, is presented by the government as a consumer-protection measure; a tool to verify whether a device's International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) is genuine, to block cloned or blacklisted identifiers, to report stolen phones, and to flag potential telecom fraud. On paper, this may appear as a well-intended anti-fraud initiative, but a closer look reveals a disturbing potential for privacy invasion and state surveillance.

## Former ex Chief Minister Konijeti Rosaiah's Death Anniversary Observed at Boduppal Circle Office



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 4, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“The death anniversary of former ex Chief Minister Konijeti Rosaiah was observed today at the Boduppal Circle Office. Deputy Commissioner A. Shailaja led the tribute by placing a floral wreath at the memorial set up in the office premises. Assistant Commissioner Shyam Sunder Rao, Manager Praveen Kumar, Tax Officer Venkateshwarlu, ward officers, and staff members participated in the remembrance programme and paid their respects.

## 32-Year-Old Man Goes Missing Complaint Filed in Jawaharnagar



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 4, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“A missing person complaint was received on 04.12.2025 at 11:30 a.m. in which the complainant, Dandiga Sravanthi (29), resident of Rajiv Nagar Colony, Jawaharnagar, stated that her husband Dandiga Ramesh (32), a helper, who had been at home without work for the past three months, left the house on 02.12.2025 at about 4:30 p.m. saying he was going to meet friends at Gabbilalpet and did not return despite calling his phone, searching known places, and informing relatives, his whereabouts remain unknown.

The missing person is described as 6 ft tall, wheatish complexion, wearing a blue shirt and jeans, Telugu speaking, Phone: 9542094626. Police have taken up investigation.

## PhonePe's Indus Appstore and Motorola India announce Partnership



Hyderabad:Indus Appstore, India's homegrown Android app marketplace, announced today that it has entered into a partnership with Motorola. This partnership enables Indus Appstore to be available on Motorola devices in India. It enables wider distribution for Indus Appstore and delivers a personalised app discovery experience to Motorola users in India.Indus Appstore offers Indian consumers a meaningful alternative in the app ecosystem, designed specifically around user preference and the country's diverse cultural context. The platform is committed to reaching every Indian smartphone user by offering the experience in 12 Indian languages and English, complete with an AI-powered voice search feature that bypasses the need for typing complex vernacular compositions. Additionally, the video previews feature allows users to visually experience an app's functionality before downloading.

Indus Appstore creates a favourable environment for

developers and apps in India with its fair app store policies. It reduces dependency on a single source of distribution and has paved the way for a viable, competitive alternative. This will only empower and enable an increasing number of local developers and catalyze the Indian developer ecosystem to succeed on the global stage.

Priya M Narasimhan, Chief Business Officer, Indus Appstore expressed her excitement on this landmark development saying, "We are delighted to partner with Motorola to offer an extended set of Indians seamless access to the Indus Appstore experience, reinforcing our commitment to serving the entire breadth of the Indian market. The app store, that truly embodies the Made-for-India spirit, is looking at an inflection point to revolutionise the Indian app economy. The partnership solidifies our effort to offer Indians a meaningful, viable alternative to not just download but discover regionally relevant apps."Sharing the excitement T M Narasimhan, Managing Director, Motorola Mobility India said, "At Motorola, we have always prioritized delivering a premium and locally relevant experience to our users in India, and Indus Appstore perfectly fits this vision. By integrating this homegrown platform, we are offering an innovative app discovery medium that enriches our users' experience that is culturally relevant. This partnership holds the added advantage of supporting Indian developers by connecting them with the right users through Indus Appstore's unique distribution model."

## Sangam 2025 – Day 2 Celebrates a Decade of Tradition, Knowledge and Cultural Brilliance

Hyderabad,Sangam 2025 – Day 2 unfolded as a grand celebration of ten years of academic excellence, cultural depth, and holistic development. The event embraced the profound themes "Bharatiya Jnana Parampara" and "Where Modern Education Meets Ancient Wisdom," reflecting a unique blend of traditional values and contemporary educational vision. The celebrations were streamed live, enabling parents and well-wishers worldwide to participate virtually in the milestone occasion.

The ceremony commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest, Major Harsha Vardhan Chava, distinguished officer of the Indian Army. He was warmly welcomed by Principal Ms. K. Damaris along with the student council members. Chairman Sri Bollineni Seenaiah and other dignitaries graced the occasion, adding prominence to the celebrations. A ceremonial Guard of Honour presented by the student leaders set a dignified tone for the evening. In his address, Major Harsha Vardhan Chava spoke meaningfully about the distinction between knowledge and wisdom. He emphasised that while knowledge provides information, wisdom enables individuals to apply it for the greater good. Encouraging students to explore careers in the armed forces, he highlighted the vast opportunities available across technical, administrative, and specialised wings alongside the fighting forces. His inspirational message broadened perspectives and



motivated many young minds to view the armed forces as a pathway of service, innovation, and honour.

A deeply moving moment followed as the school paid tribute to 150 years of "Vande Mataram." Under the open sky, thousands joined together—students, parents, teachers, and guests—in a powerful chorus that filled the grounds with patriotic fervour and reverence. Principal Ms. K. Damaris presented the School Annual Report, showcasing outstanding achievements of Grade X students along with national-level accomplishments in sports and other fields. She highlighted the school's continuous efforts to mentor students through life-skill activities that nurture holistic personality development.

## Unveiling of Temple Reconstruction Brochure and Model Sticker at Harihara Kshetram Sri Chilukeswara Anjaneya Swami Gayatri Mata Temple



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 4 (Indian Chronicle):“The reconstruction brochure and model sticker of the Harihara Kshetram Sri Chilukeswara Anjaneya Swami Gayatri Mata Temple were unveiled on Thursday by retired GHMC Additional Commissioner Krishna Prasad, in the presence of the temple committee members. "Speaking on the occasion, Krishna Prasad, a resident of Kalyanpuri, said that the Chilkanagar area is home to one of the largest and most spacious Shiva temples, consisting of five sub-shrines. He congratulated

the temple committee members and the people of Chilkanagar village for their efforts in the temple's reconstruction. "He appealed to devotees and donors to come forward generously and contribute to this divine cause, thereby earning the blessings of Lord Parameshwara. He assured that he would also extend his full support. "Temple Committee President Dasari Krishna and General Secretary Gone Srikanth stated that the temple reconstruction works will soon begin with stone structuring, and that stone carving and cutting work has already commenced. They urged the residents and devotees of Chilkanagar to participate wholeheartedly in this sacred endeavor and support the temple reconstruction through voluntary contributions. "Those present at the event included Temple Committee Treasurer Amruth Rao, Deputy Treasurer Aadepu Anjaiah, Vice Presidents Ramacharla Balram and Masa Sekhar, Secretaries Kongara Ramachander and Kavali Narasimha, along with Dr. Veerareddy, Guda Srisailam, Gurralla Malleshham, and committee members Subbarao Swamy, Paidipala Gaurayya, Dandu Anjaiah, Vasu Swamy, Malleshham Swamy, and several others.

## Kandhi Shravan Kumar Reddy Extends Birthday Greetings to Telangana Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 4 (Indian Chronicle):“On the occasion of the birthday of Telangana State Sports Authority Chairman and Wanaparthy District Congress Committee President Shivasena Reddy, former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President Kandhi Shravan Kumar Reddy led a team to meet and felicitate him on Thursday, extending warm birthday wishes. "Speaking on the occasion, Shravan Kumar Reddy conveyed his heartfelt greetings, wishing that with the blessings of the Almighty, Shivasena Reddy continues to serve the people with good health and longevity. He also expressed confidence that, with the blessings of the party high command, Shivasena Reddy would rise to even more prominent positions within the party. "Those who participated in



the event included Habsiguda Division Congress President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, Division Chief Secretary and Endowments Department Director Dharmendra Naik (Dharma), Division Indiramma Committee Member Gundu Rajanna, and Congress leaders Sai Kiran, among others.

## More Retail Initiates Stringent Action on Fraud and Stock Manipu- lation in Andhra Pradesh Stores

Hyderabad:More Retail Pvt. Ltd., the food and grocery chain has initiated stringent action against few of its store employees in Guntakal, Nellore and Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh following the discovery of serious violations including stock manipulation, fraud and theft of store goods.

The violations were identified during internal stock audit and verification by the More Retail audit team. Employees Puttamreddy Venkata Narasa Reddy, Narra Sekhar, Ravi Kumar Meenuga, and Padam Jyothiswara Rao were found to be involved in these violations. Police complaints have been filed against these individuals under the relevant provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (2003) in relating to theft, fraud and criminal breach of trust. The incidents relate to stores located at Kasapuram Road at Guntakal, Vedayapalem at Nellore and Kurnool.

More Retail team has lodged formal complaints at the respective police stations, and the police authorities are doing a thorough investigation into the matter. More Retail Pvt. Ltd. reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the highest standards of integrity and corporate governance and reiterated its zero-tolerance policy toward any form of misconduct. The company has emphasized that it will continue taking strong corrective action to protect customer trust and safeguard company assets.

## JSW MG Motor India Rolls Out 'Midnight Carnival' Across Portfolio, Invites Customers to Join the Celebration

Hyderabad:Marking a successful year of growth and customer trust, JSW MG Motor India has announced the nationwide rollout of its exhilarating 'Midnight Carnival' campaign across its full range of vehicles from December 5-7, 2025. All MG showrooms will remain open until midnight for these three days, giving customers more time and convenience to explore their preferred MG vehicles with family and friends while being part of a festive, carnival-like experience.?

The Midnight Carnival underscores JSW MG Motor India's focus on making customers a central part of its journey by blending product innovation with memorable ownership experiences. By extending showroom hours and curating engaging in-dealership activities, the brand aims to turn car buying into a joyful, family-friendly celebration.

Commenting on the announcement, Vinay Raina, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India, said, "At JSW MG Motor India, we truly believe in going beyond cars to create experiences, and this year has been a testament to the love and confidence customers have placed in our brand. With Midnight Carnival, we want to ensure that every new journey that begins during the Midnight Carnival comes with a special gift from us as a way of saying thank you and spreading joy among our growing community."

As part of the Midnight Carnival, customers get assured reward worth ₹1 crore, including a chance to win a dream trip to London, assured 3 days / 2 nights holiday vouchers, and engaging scratch-and-win rewards such as gadgets and lifestyle gifts for eligible customers.\* Customers can also get attractive financial options including 3 Month EMI Holiday, 100% On Road / Yrs / Tenure for Loan.

Since its debut in India, JSW MG Motor India has developed a strong and diverse portfolio that brings together advanced technology, safety and contemporary design for a wide spectrum of customers. MG Windsor continues to be the fastest-selling EV, with 50,000 units sold to date, helping the company cross the landmark of 1 lakh EVs on Indian roads. Together, models across EV and ICE segments, including Hector, Astor, Comet, ZS and Gloster, further reinforce MG's position as a future-ready brand committed to connected, comfortable and safe mobility solutions for Indian families.

## Local Corporator Jeripothula Prabhudas participates in Sri Dattatreya Swamy Jayanti celebrations and launches Annadanam programme



“Indian, Chronicle, December 4: “the Shirdi Saibaba Temple located in Venkateshwara Nagar under the Meerpet Housing Board Colony Division, the Sri Dattatreya Swamy Jayanti celebrations were organized under the auspices of the Shirdi Saibaba Sansthan Trust. Local Corporator Jeripothula Prabhudas participated in the programme and formally launched the Annadanam initiative. The temple committee members felicitated the chief guests with shawls. "In the morning, Kaagada Harathi was performed, followed by special Abhishekam, Dhuni Pooja, and Guru Charitra Parayanam. On this occasion, the Sansthan Trust distributed annaprasadam to more than 1500 devotees. It was also informed that a Seva Pallaki of the deity would be held in the evening. "Among those present were President K. Nadam Chari, Secretary PVG Raja Rao, Treasurer P. Veerabhadra Rao, Ramesh, Venkataramana, Satyanarayana, Ramadevi, Suresh Goud, Vijayalakshmi, Surya Prakash, BRS leaders Chari, Balayya Goud and others.



## National Level Jamboree Camp – Paramita Scouts and Guides Receive Merit Certificates



Chittimalla Mahendar “Karimnagar Bureau, December 04, Indian Chronicle: “Ten Scouts and Guides students from Paramita High School, Local City, participated in the 19th National Level Jamboree Camp held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from November 23 to 29, said Prashanth, Princi-

pal of Paramita School. “As part of the camp, 18 students from Karimnagar district were selected under the theme “Vikasit Yuva Vikasit Bharat”, and among them P. Srinika, P. Srijai, A. Divija, P. Varnika, K. Srihita, M. Sanvika, K. Kirti Chaitanya, M. Tanushree, C.H. Samardh, and K. Rajesh represented Paramita School under the leadership of Guide Captain Rajitha. “During the week-long Jamboree Camp, students actively participated in various events including March Past, Folk Dance, B.P. Exercises, Camp Craft, Rangavalli, Drawing, Physical Ability Tests, and other skill-based competitions, showcasing discipline, teamwork, and talent. “The meritorious students who excelled in these competitions were felicitated by the school chairman Dr. E. Prasada Rao at a special ceremony held at the school and were honored with Merit Certificates. “Directors Prasuna, Rashmita, Anukar Rao, Vinod Rao, V.U.M. Prasad, Hanumantha Rao, Principals Prashanth, Balaji, Poetry Coordinator Srinath, Guide Captain Rajitha, and Scouts & Guides teachers congratulated the students and appreciated their outstanding performance.

## Grand Sudarshana Homam and Special Puja Held at Sri Shiva Shankara Maha Mai Temple

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 4 (Indian Chronicle): “At the Sri Shiva Shankara Maha Mai Temple in Uppal, a grand Sudarshana Homam, special pujas to the Goddess, and distribution of Tirtha Prasadam were conducted on the occasion of Margashira Pournami. “Temple committee members Upoji Balavantha Chari, Rajagopala Chari, Srinivas, Madhu, Pawan, Cholleti Purushotham, Srinivas, Sridhara Chari Gopi, Palakurthi Ramesh, Srinivas Sharma, Bazaar Jaganath Goud, Shamirpet Hanumanth Reddy, Mamilla Balaraj, Papayya Goud, Srinivas Reddy, Poredy Srinivas Reddy, Praveen Reddy, Padakanti Narsimha Chari, Mahesh, Jagan, Bikshapati, Ram Prakash, Gopi Chari, Pasupuleti Ramesh, Raju, Sandeep, Mahesh Kumar, Bhavani Shankar, Lakshman, Santosh Kumar, Banti, Srinu, Srinivas Goud,



Ganesh Goud, Yadi Goud, Venkatesh, and many other devotees actively participated in the program.

## WJI Leaders Appeal to Governor for Resolving Journalists’ Issues



CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, “KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, December 04, INDIAN CHRONICLE: “The representatives of the Working Journalists of India (WJI), Telangana State unit, affiliated to BMS, submitted a representation to Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Thursday, requesting immediate action to address various challenges being faced by journalists across the state. “A delegation comprising State Honorary President Nandanam Krupakar, President Rana Pratap (Raju Bhaiyya), General Secretary Ravikanti Srinivas, Vice President Taduru Karunakar, Secretary Shivanadhuni Pramod Kumar, Kappara Prasad, and others called on the Governor at Lok Bhavan and submit-

ted the appeal. “The delegation brought to the Governor’s attention the two-year delay in the issuance of media accreditations in the state, causing serious inconvenience to journalists. “The leaders expressed appreciation of the Central Government’s decision to include electronic, digital, and web media under the new four Labour Codes, replacing 219 previous labour laws. They urged that the Telangana Media Accreditation Policy be updated accordingly to ensure opportunities for digital and web journalists. “The union representatives highlighted that the negligence in implementing health insurance schemes has severely affected rural journalists. They requested directions to the state government to issue health cards to all eligible journalists without delay. “They also pointed out the long-pending problems related to housing plots for journalists in several districts, due to which many journalists’ dream of owning a home remains unfulfilled. They appealed to the Governor to instruct the government to take a swift decision on the matter. “The delegation requested that journalists working in Hyderabad be provided free travel facility in the Metro Rail and concessions at toll plazas on national highways. “To ensure the survival of local newspapers published from various regions, the WJI leaders appealed for speeding up N-panelment procedures in the Information Department, completing pending approvals for eligible newspapers, and revising rate cards in proportion to increased costs.

## Public Outreach by Electricity Department Officials in Chilukanagar Section“

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 4 (Indian Chronicle): “The Electricity Department officials conducted a Prajabatha (public outreach) program on Thursday in the Chilukanagar section. Medchal Chief Engineer Bhaskar, Habsiguda SE Venkanna, and Habsiguda DE Subbarao, along with the staff, participated in the inspection. “They visited every street in Chilukanagar, interacted with residents, and learned about their issues. Later, they inspected the shifting works required for the road-widening project in Boduppal, accompanied by former Boduppal Mayor Ajay Yadav. “Speaking on the occasion, the officials stated that the Prajabatha program was being organized to understand and resolve public grievances related to electricity issues. Chilukanagar Section AE Vinay Kumar Reddy and other staff members also took part in the program.



## Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Inspects Culvert Works on Azmat Nagar Irrigation Canal

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal — December 4 (Indian Chronicle) “Chilkanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen on Thursday inspected the ongoing culvert construction works being taken up at a cost of around ₹1 crore on the irrigation canal in Azmat Nagar Colony. “As this is a major road that connects Azmat Nagar to North Kalyanpuri and Mallikarjun Nagar, leading to Chilkanagar, the corporator instructed the officials to ensure constant supervision during the execution of works. She emphasized that no inconvenience should be caused to the public, and directed officials to install proper signboards and take responsibility for guiding people through alternative routes. Corporator Geetha urged residents to use the alternative routes until the culvert works are completed, noting that public cooperation would help the project progress swiftly. Among those who participated in the program were AE Radhika, BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, senior leaders Eddula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan Shyam, Colony Association President Atishresha Rathod, members Prof. Lalayya, Sunil, Gopal Rao, and others.



## Rare Transoral Thyroid Surgery Successfully Performed at Lifeline Tulasi Hospital



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 4, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Doctors at E.C.I.L. Lifeline Tulasi Hospital have successfully carried out another rare and advanced procedure, further demonstrating their expertise in minimally invasive surgery. A 60-year-old man who arrived with a thy-

roid-related issue underwent a series of detailed evaluations before the medical team opted for the Transoral Endoscopic Thyroidectomy Vestibular Approach (TOETVA). The surgery was completed through the mouth using endoscopic guidance without any external cuts or scarring. TOETVA is a highly specialized procedure that demands exceptional skill and precision. Lifeline Tulasi Hospital remains the only medical facility in East Hyderabad performing this rare technique, a fact the hospital management described as a significant achievement. The patient began walking within 24 hours of surgery, reflecting the faster recovery associated with this approach. Speaking about the procedure, Lifeline Tulasi Hospital Chairman and Chief Surgeon Dr. J. S. Raj Kumar said the team was pleased to deliver a scar-free thyroid surgery that enabled quick healing. He added that the successful outcome represents the collective effort of the hospital’s surgical team and strengthens their commitment to offering advanced super-speciality healthcare services to the people of East Hyderabad. The surgical team included Dr. J. S. Raj Kumar, Dr. Colonel K. R. Rao, Dr. Karunakar, Dr. Praful, and Dr. Bhargav. With state-of-the-art facilities and an experienced panel of specialists, Lifeline Tulasi Hospital continues to earn the trust of communities across the region.

## Call to Make CPI’s Centenary Celebrations on January 18 a Success: Nedunoori Jyothi

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 4, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “The Communist Party of India, which emerged in 1925 with the demand for complete independence and an end to colonial oppression, is the only party in the country with a 100-year revolutionary history, said Nedunoori Jyothi. She addressed the Medchal district key activists’ meeting of the National Women’s Federation of India held on Thursday at ECIL under the chairmanship of M. Rajeshwari. Speaking at the meeting, Jyothi said that after Independence, the party played a crucial role in dismantling feudal structures and fought to ensure land for the landless, resulting in the distribution of lakhs of acres to poor families. She noted that the party secured several significant labour reforms, including the Tenancy Act and the principle of equal pay for equal work for agricultural labourers and workers. She criticised the current central government for altering labour welfare laws and introducing four labour codes that favour industrialists. Jyothi said that just as farmers united to push back anti-farmer laws, workers in both the organised and unorganised sectors must come together to resist policies that undermine their rights. She stated that the ruling capitalist forces are misleading people in the name of democracy and suppressing people’s movements, and said that democratic and secular groups must question such



actions. Protecting democracy, secularism, civil rights, and the right to live is the need of the hour, she added. Recalling the sacrifices, imprisonments, and struggles of many who laid down their lives during various people’s movements, Jyothi said the upcoming public rally in Khammam on January 18 will serve as a guiding inspiration for the present generation and is expected to witness a participation of around five lakh people. She called on women, students, youth, workers, and farmers to attend in large numbers and make the event a success. Medchal district leaders J. Lakshmi, Jyothi, P. Sindhuri, Narsamma, Padmamma, Lakshmi, Jaya, Aruna, Ellamma, Vijay, and others participated in the meeting.

## Complaint Filed Against Illegal Occupation of Government Land; Allegations Over Wine Shop Construction in Keesar Mandal



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 4, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Boodida Prem Kumar Goud, Telangana State Youth Congress leader, lodged a complaint with the Keesar Mandal Revenue Officer alleging illegal encroachment of government land and unauthorized construction of a new wine shop. According to the complaint, a wine shop

has come up on Survey No. 89 in Ahmedguda, an area consisting of assigned lands that were previously seized by the Revenue Department under the POT provisions. The complainant questioned how a wine shop was permitted on land that had already been taken over by the government, raising doubts about the role of the Excise Department in issuing such a license. Residents of Haimedguda, who accompanied the complainant to the Tehsildar office, stated that around 2 acres and 30 guntas of land in Survey No. 89 had earlier been seized by the government. Despite several complaints submitted to Keesar Tehsildar and the Medchal District Collector, the Revenue authorities allegedly failed to act against the illegal constructions. Locals allege that nearly 18 guntas of government land has been encroached upon, and a new wine shop has been set up without any clear permissions. They expressed suspicion that political backing may be protecting those responsible, resulting in inaction from the authorities. Residents further questioned how the Medchal District Excise Department could allocate a wine shop tender on land classified as government property. They demanded a transparent inquiry into the tender allocation process and the role of officials who allowed construction on the seized land. People of the area urged the Medchal–Malkajgiri District Collector to immediately cancel the wine shop tender allotted on the disputed land in Survey No. 89, demolish the illegal structures, and take strict action against those involved in the encroachment.

## Creativity among students with science fair.



the students. She visited the stalls set up by the students and congratulated all the students. On this occasion, she said that the models presented by the students impressed everyone. Parents and teachers should work hard so that the projects created by the students grow to the level of taking patents. After that, the winners were given prizes.

## Missing woman



“Secunderabad Cantonment. December 4 (Indian Chronicle): “Indra Rani, director of Mamata Vidyalayas, said that the creativity of the students will increase with the science fair. A science fair was held for two days at Veman Nagar Mamata High School under Contornmet. Director of Mamata Vidyalayas Indra Rani attended the program as the chief guest and started by watching the experiments of

“Secunderabad Cantonment. December 4 (Indian Chronicle): “The incident of disappearance of the woman after going out of the house took place within the Bowenpally police station area. According to SI Avinash Babu. Laliyya and his wife Ratlawat Sunitha (27) reside in Old Bowenpally RR Nagar. Two days ago, Sunitha left the house saying that she would go out and did not come back. Inquiring about the acquaintances of the relatives did not get any results. The suspicious husband filed a complaint with the Bowenpally police. In the complaint, the husband has stated that he is suspicious



of Praveen who he noticed, so the police said that they are investigating on the basis of Praveen’s phone.



# Overloaded vehicles, outdated vehicles... If they are driven contrary to government rules... and endanger people's lives, legal action will be taken:



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Transport Officer B. Sai Krishna“(Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. December 4) :- We are seizing vehicles that are overloaded contrary to government rules, outdated buses and other vehicles that are driving contrary to government rules and endangering people's lives, said Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Transport Officer B. Sai Krishna. Speaking to “Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Indian Chronicle Bureau In-charge Mandava Srisailem” on Thursday, he said that a special checkup of vehicles is being carried out as per the orders of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector. As part of this, vehicles coming with overloads, CC buses, vehicles without emergency doors and vehicles that are in violation of the rules will be seized. An awareness seminar will be organized for the drivers of RTC vehicles, mechanics who regularly check the vehicles, and the relevant conductors as per the government rules to sensitize them. Cases have been registered against drivers who put additional luggage in the respective buses other

than passenger luggage, 601 AV wagons without fitness have been identified and such wagons have been seized, and fines have been imposed on the owners of those vehicles. He said that there are 3 MVIs and 3 AMVIs in his district, 7 lakhs for MVI in the month of November, 4 lakhs for MVI, and this is the target revenue being provided to the government including himself. As part of this, each vehicle is checked, taxi connections, compounding fee, and deposited in the government account. As part of this, the details of the money deposited in the government account from March 2024 to March 2025 are as follows. He stated that quarterly tax 2506.87, life tax 4762.69, life tax fee, 940.81, service fee 244.12, detection 302.49, green tax 96.38, a total of 8853.36 crore rupees have been collected and deposited in the government account. Similarly, a fitness point has been set up in Chowtuppal, awareness seminars have been organized for RTC drivers, lorry drivers, auto drivers, DCM and four-wheeler drivers on the occasion of the Road Safety Week on January 1, 2026, and blood donation camps, health checkups, helmets will be provided to two-wheeler drivers who do not have helmets, and several awareness seminars are being organized for motorists to go home safely, and he urged every driver to participate in this Road Safety Week camp and make it a success. Similarly, he explained that recently, as per the orders of the Additional Collector of Revenue, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, they have provided vehicles to transport farmers' paddy to the market. He stated that vehicles will be provided as per the orders of the District Collector to provide vehicles for the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections. B. Sai Krishna, Transport Department Officer of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, stated that he always wishes the best for the comfort of passengers, the safety of drivers, and the convenience of the public, and that legal action should be taken against vehicle owners who act contrary to government regulations.

# Unidentified Woman Dies After Falling Under Bus in Uppal

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 4 (Indian Chronicle):““A tragic accident at the Uppal–Warangal bus stop claimed the life of an unidentified woman on Wednesday within the limits of the Uppal Police Station.According to police officials, they received information that a woman, aged around 45–50 years, had fallen under a bus and died on the spot. Police reached the scene immediately and confirmed her death.“Locals informed the police that the woman had been seen in the area for the past few days, begging and sleeping on the footpath. At the time of the incident, she was wearing a red saree and appeared to be approximately 45–50 years old.“The body has been shifted to Gandhi Hospital for postmortem. Police have appealed to the public to contact the Uppal Police Station if anyone can identify the deceased woman.Uppal Police have registered a case and begun an investigation.

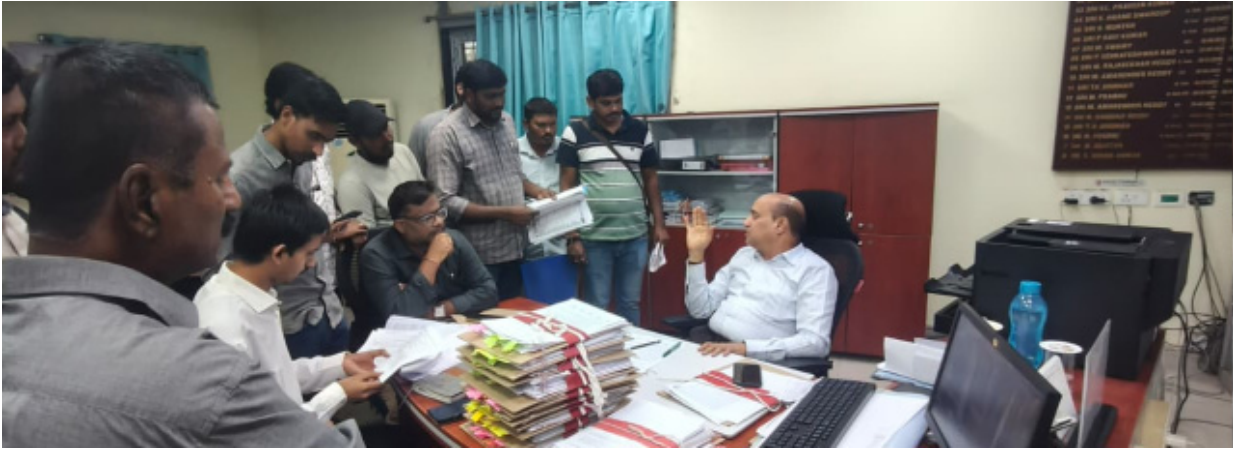


# Aakarapu Arun Patel Extends Birthday Wishes to Shivasena Reddy



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 4 (Indian Chronicle):““On the occasion of the birthday of Shivasena Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Sports Authority and President of Wanaparthy District, Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Aakarapu Arun Patel felicitated him in a grand manner and cut a cake to extend birthday greetings on Thursday.“Speaking on the occasion, Aakarapu Arun Patel wished that Shivasena Reddy, who is constantly among the people and dedicated to public service, be blessed by God with a long life and good health. He also expressed hope that, with the blessings of the Congress Party leadership, Shivasena Reddy would go on to achieve many more higher positions.“Medchal District General Secretary Sachin, along with Shiva, Nagesh, Nikhil and others, attended the programme.

# Request to Include Water Board Meter Readers (Outsourcing Employees) in IFMIS Portal: Telangana JAC Outsourcing Employees Representatives Plead



“Kishore Vaddepalli, Hyderabad, December 4 (Indian Chronicle):““The representatives of Telangana JAC Outsourcing Employees have urged the government to include Water Board outsourcing employees, including meter readers, in the IFMIS portal, which has been introduced for contract and outsourcing employees. They stated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had earlier pointed out that corruption worth thousands of crores is occurring in the name of outsourcing employees, and therefore stressed the necessity of bringing all such employees under the IFMIS system.“They said that on November 6, Telangana State Outsourcing JAC had formally requested the inclusion of Water Board meter readers in the IFMIS portal. However, as there was no response, a complaint was submitted at the Praja Darbar to Chinna Reddy, seeking immediate

action.“The representatives further said that Prof. Kodandaram had also raised the issue with Water Board Managing Director Ashok Reddy on November 21 and instructed that meter readers be included in the IFMIS portal without delay. Though officials reportedly claimed that data collection was in progress, the representatives alleged that no real action was being taken.“They also complained that meter readers have not been paid their salaries for the past three months and that no proper response is being given when questioned about the pending payments. A detailed representation in both soft and hard copy (spiral-bound) was submitted on Thursday to Revenue CGM Kiran Kumar.“The representatives demanded that immediate steps be taken to register all meter readers on the IFMIS portal and ensure the release of their pending salaries without further delay.

# Sri Dattatreya Navaratri Festivities Conclude with Splendor; Thousands Receive Divine Benediction.



P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU.“““The nine-day Sri Dattatreya Navaratri celebrations at the historic Sri Dattatreya Swami Temple in Manthani concluded on Thursday with exceptional grandeur. Throughout the festivities, thousands of devotees thronged the temple premises, seeking the sacred darshan of the Lord and returning spiritually enriched.““Vedic scholars Duddilla Maruthi Sharma, temple priests Kollarapu Venkatarajam, and Dattulu performed elaborate morning rituals, including abhishekams and special ceremonial worship, invoking divine grace. The revered idol of Sri Dattatreya Swami—consecrated over a century ago—remains a profound symbol of spiritual potency and

sanctity.““Every year, in commemoration of Datta Jayanti, the temple hosts the Navaratri celebrations alongside the auspicious Sri Anagha Vrata, attracting devotees from far and wide. Under the stewardship of Vedic scholar Ojjala Ganesh Sharma, students of the Vedic academy rendered daily evening Veda chanting, enriching the spiritual ambience of the festivities.““The temple witnessed a vibrant, festival-like atmosphere as devotees arrived in large numbers. On the concluding day, a grand annadanam (community feast) was organized by Loke Manohar, Sharath, and Manthani Rahul, marking a fitting end to the sacred observances.“““Maha Pushpabhishekam Enchants Devotees at Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple““In honor of Sri Dattatreya Swami Jayanti, the Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple hosted an impressive Maha Pushpabhishekam, captivating the congregation with its devotional splendor. Conducted between 8 a.m. and 12 noon, the event drew a significant influx of devotees who sought the blessings of Sai Baba.““The ceremony was performed with devotion and precision under the guidance of temple priest Ramadugu Sai Srinivas. Temple administrators Mahavadi Jalaja Satyanarayana, Panakanti Muralidhar, Loka Manohar, Marupaka Satyanarayana, Avadhanulu Srinivas, and Tallam Srinivas took part in orchestrating the proceedings, alongside numerous ardent devotees.

# Review on Summit Security Rachakonda CP Sudheer Babu assesses arrangements



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, December 4, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Rachakonda CP Sudheer Babu, along with Additional DG Fire Vikram Singh Mann and IAS officer Shashank, conducted a review meeting today at Future City, Kandukur mandal, Ranga Reddy district, to assess the security arrangements for the upcoming Global Summit. During the visit, the CP discussed fire safety measures, emergency response plans, and overall security deployment required for the summit. He inspected the meeting venue and directed officials to ensure flawless coordination among all departments. Since the summit is being organized under the leadership of the Telangana Chief Minister at an international scale, the CP instructed officials to deploy comprehensive security involving law and order police, traffic police, special branch, intelligence, Octopus,

Greyhounds, dog squads, and bomb disposal teams. Officials also held discussions on the required infrastructure including barracks, mess, kitchens, and sanitation facilities. Around 600 delegates including representatives from global investment firms, heads of multinational companies, leading Indian corporates, and top industrialists are expected to participate. VIP delegates will be provided with three-tier security. To strengthen surveillance, over 1,000 CCTV cameras are being installed across the summit venue, all connected to a central police control room. For traffic management, nearly 1,000 traffic personnel will be deployed. Traffic marshals will also be positioned to manage road diversions, barricading, and parking arrangements. Strict traffic regulations will be in place for two days to avoid congestion and ensure smooth movement around the summit routes.

# An unidentified person died while receiving treatment.

Secunderabad Cantonment. December 4 (Indian Chronicle):““Two days ago, an unidentified man was injured at a bus stop in Nandamuri Nagar under Bowenpally Police Station and the Bowenpally police admitted him to Gandhi Hospital for treatment. The doctor of the hospital said that thursday morning died while undergoing treatment there, but since the person's whereabouts were not known, the dead body was kept in the mortuary, SI Avinash Babu said that anyone who knows the whereabouts should approach the Bowenpally police .



# Disturbance during KTR's visit..Video journalist collapses due to heart attack



“(Mandava Srisailem.. Hyderabad.. Indian Chronicle Bureau.. December 4):- BRS leader and former minister KTR's program while shooting a video, Aaj Tak channel cameraman (video journalist) Damodar collapsed due to a heart attack. Damodar, who suddenly fell while shooting a video of the KTR program held in Jeedimetla on Thursday afternoon, was immediately rushed to a local private hospital by the police. As his health condition was critical, he was shifted to another hospital for better treatment, but Damodar died in the evening while undergoing treatment. Many journalists and leaders expressed grief and condoled the death of senior Telangana video journalist Damodar. They expressed their deepest condolences to his family members. BRS chief KCR expressed condolences over Damodar's death. He recalled that he was an active participant in the coverage of the Telangana movement news since the early days of the party's formation.“KTR paid tributes to Damodar's body at Gandhi Hospital. KTR expressed his deepest condolences to Damodar's family and

spoke to the family members. Later, Damodar's “body was taken to Gandhi Mortuary. “TWJF leader Mamidi Somaiya condoles “Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) founding president and state convener Mami D'Somaiya expressed grief over the sudden death of senior video journalist Damodar. He expressed his condolences on Damodar's death and expressed his deepest condolences to the family members.



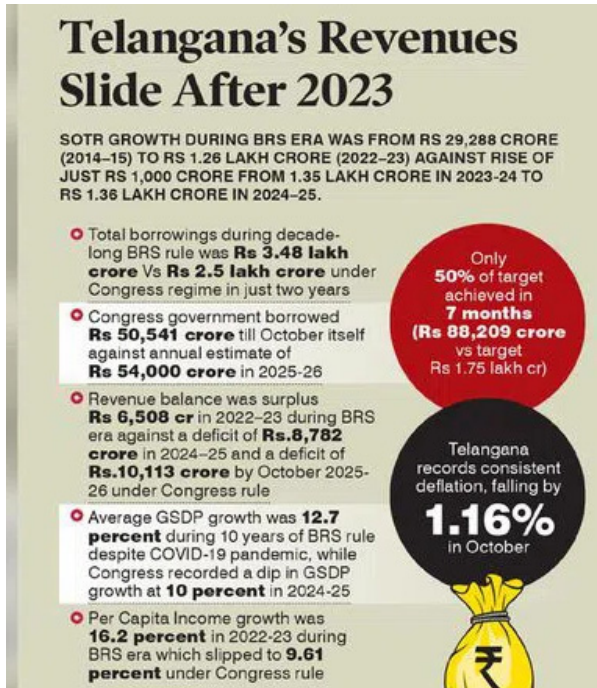
(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 4):- The 4th death anniversary of former Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh and former Governor Koni JT Rosaiah was officially organized by the Congress Party (Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad). On this occasion, former PCC President Rajya Sabha member V Hanumantha Rao was present. PCC delegate Tangallapalli Ravikumar, former MLC Rudraraju, Kura Siva Kumar, Giridhar, Sai Prakash, and others participated in this program.







# Telangana’s economic slide under Congress in stark contrast to BRS-era prosperity



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Hyderabad: As the calendar turns to December 2025, a sober reality stares at Telangana. The economic engine that roared through the BRS-led years has slowed to a sputter under the current Congress government, with shrinking revenue, mounting debt, decelerating growth and signs of fiscal stress. The latest data deepens the crisis rather than offering comfort.Under the previous BRS regime, the State’s revenue performance was robust. Between 2016-17 and 2022-23, Telangana consistently posted strong year-on-year revenue growth, often in double digits, including 12.37 per cent in 2016-17, 8.31 per cent in 2017-18, 14.32 per cent in 2018-19, 1.10 per cent in 2019-20, then a dip during the pandemic-hit 2020-21 to (-)2.57 per cent, but a sharp rebound with 27.59 per cent in 2021-22 and 25.01 per cent in 2022-23.However, revenue growth slowed to 6.11 per cent in 2023-24 after the Congress took over in December 2023 and then slipped into negative territory at (-)0.76 per cent. This is especially grim because the negative number has come without a pandemic.This slump is reflected in the State’s Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) trajectory. As per data, SOTR rose from Rs 29,288 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 1.26 lakh crore in 2022-23 under BRS. On average, SOTR grew at 18.3 per cent annually, significantly higher than the national average of 10.9 per cent. Telangana ranked second in SOTR collection efficiency with 84.2 per cent, just behind Haryana.

By 2023-24, total tax revenue reached Rs 1.35 lakh crore, but that was marred by a decline in the pace of increase. In 2024-25, tax revenue was recorded at Rs 1.36 lakh crore, only Rs 1,000 crore higher than the previous fiscal, despite the ambitious target of Rs 1.64 lakh crore. During the current fiscal, the State accumulated only 50 per cent of its tax revenue at the end of seven months, i.e. Rs 88,209 crore against the targeted Rs 1.75 lakh crore. Several major tax heads including stamps and registrations and GST collections have under-performed, indicating a contraction of economic activity and a shrinking tax base.The contrast in fiscal prudence could not be sharper. Under BRS, the State’s strategy prioritised capital expenditure while expanding tax revenues. Under Congress, debt has mounted. Against Rs 3.48 lakh crore borrowings during the decade-long BRS rule, the Congress government amassed debt of over Rs 2.5 lakh crore within two years.In 2023-24, market borrowings touched Rs 49,440 crore, amounting to 129 per cent of the original budget estimate of Rs 38,235 crore, compared to Rs 32,119

# Flower show at Bengaluru’s Cubbon Park draws crowds. What to expect



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Cubbon Park flower show, Lalbagh flower show, Bengaluru, Karnataka, flower displays, agricultural products,While Lalbagh’s bi-annual flower shows boast nearly a century of history, centered around its iconic 19th-century Glass House, the Cubbon Park event is a revival of a show that occurred three times before being interrupted by the pandemic. The 11-day Cubbon Park flower show in Bengaluru, running until December 7, has already drawn tens of thousands of visitors each day. This is only the fourth flower show held in Cubbon Park, distinguishing itself from the older, more established Lalbagh flower show.

While Lalbagh’s bi-annual flower shows boast nearly a century of history, centered around its iconic 19th-century Glass House, the Cubbon Park event is a revival of a show that occurred three times before being interrupted by

# Several shops destroyed in oil fire in Ahmedabad

GNS News Agency, Dec 3A major fire destroyed 12 shops and affected four workshops in the Vrajeshwari complex in Ahmedabad. (File )A major fire destroyed 12 shops and affected four workshops in the Vrajeshwari complex in Ahmedabad. (File )Several shops on the ground floor of the Vrajeshwari complex near Viratnagar crossroads in Ahmedabad were destroyed after a fire, fuelled by motor oil, ravaged the building on Tuesday morning.

The Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services (AFES) received the call at 9.58 am. Firefighting teams from multiple stations reached the spot, and the blaze was brought under control by around 12.30 pm. There were no casualties, though traffic along the road was disrupted.

core raised by the previous BRS government in 2022-23. In 2024-25, the Congress government borrowed another Rs 48,322 crore through auction of State securities in addition to borrowings from the Centre. By October this fiscal, the State raised a massive Rs 50,541 crore and is scheduled to obtain another Rs 9,000 crore by the end of December as against Rs 54,000 crore loan estimates.Correspondingly, the 2024-25 accounts show a reverse trend. The revenue surplus evaporated, replaced by a steep revenue deficit of Rs 8,782.42 crore, while the primary deficit widened sharply. The State, which witnessed a revenue surplus of Rs 6,508 crore in 2022-23, recorded a steep fall to a revenue deficit of Rs (-)8,782 crore in 2024-25. Under the Congress regime, the State registered a revenue deficit of Rs (-)10,113 crore by October in the current fiscal of 2025-26.In effect, while the BRS era managed to combine capital expenditure with growing revenue and maintain fiscal balance, the current government has reversed the trend, borrowing heavily even as revenues shrink, resulting in fiscal stress.

Under BRS, the State’s Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) rose from roughly Rs 5.05 lakh crore in 2014-15 to over Rs 14.49 lakh crore in 2023-24, a nearly 200 per cent increase in less than a decade. The growth was broad-based, with industry, services and agriculture contributing. In 2022-23, the agriculture-allied sector grew 11.9 per cent, industry 10.5 per cent and services 17.5 per cent.But in 2024-25, under Congress, momentum slowed. Recent official data show that for the fiscal year 2024-25, the State’s GSDP at current prices was estimated at Rs 16.12 lakh crore, marking a nominal growth rate of 10 per cent. As a result, the State ranked 14th among States in GSDP growth. Real growth at constant prices also decelerated to 6.79 per cent in 2024-25, down from 7.4 per cent in 2023-24.While a 10 per cent nominal growth may appear healthy, it is a decline compared to previous years under BRS, where average annual growth from 2014-15 to 2022-23 stood around 12.7 per cent, and in 2023-24 GSDP growth was reportedly 11.9 per cent.Per capita income (PCI) followed a similar downward trend, with PCI growth sliding to 9.61 per cent in 2024-25 compared to 16.2 per cent in 2022-23 and 14.1 per cent in 2023-24. While absolute PCI still increased due to past momentum, the State lost its top position as the decade-long boom hit a speed breaker.

Perhaps the most worrying indicator has been the shift from inflation to recurring deflation. For the first time since Statehood, Telangana recorded negative inflation in 2025: (-)0.93 per cent in June, (-)0.44 per cent in July, (-)0.15 per cent in September and (-)1.16 per cent in October.Although there was a brief rise to 0.94 per cent in August, the persistent negative or low inflation in consecutive months suggested weak demand, weak consumption and possibly a decline in business activity.While lower prices may appear beneficial to consumers, economists warned that sustained deflation can trigger a cycle of falling demand, falling production, job losses and reduced investment, which ultimately drags the economy into stagnation. They said this was a deeply unhealthy sign for any growing economy.The contrast is stark. Under the BRS regime, Telangana built an enviable record with robust revenue growth, disciplined fiscal management, high capital expenditure, rapid GSDP and PCI growth, and strong sectoral expansion. The State emerged as a model of development and economic governance.Under the current Congress regime, the story has been reversed. Revenue growth has declined, borrowings have surged, the fiscal balance has deteriorated, growth has slowed, per capita income gains have weakened and economy-wide deflation has set in.Unless corrective measures are taken through structural reforms, revival of demand, encouragement of private investment and fiscal discipline, Telangana risks sliding from temporary slowdown to sustained stagnation.The action or inaction of the Congress government over the next few quarters will determine whether this is a temporary speed breaker or the beginning of a long descent.

the pandemic.The flower show is organised along two main pathways: from the gate near Bal Bhavan to the end of the road into Cubbon Park, intersecting with the path leading from the back of the Government Museum to the State Central Library and Band Stand.Visitors can admire over 50 floral displays crafted from thousands of flowers sourced from nurseries across the city, as well as various agricultural products. The highlights include an elephant made from vegetables like gourds and capsicum, a map of Karnataka designed using millets and nuts, and a large floral display in the shape of a temple chariot, among others. The bandstand also hosts cultural events and musical performances.

Apart from the flower displays, dozens of stalls line both pathways, featuring vendors showcasing organic produce and horticultural offerings. Public sector undertakings, such as the Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation, are present as well, offering everything from pickles to powdered juices. The venue also has snacks, souvenirs, and clothing for sale.Several prominent Bengaluru institutions are participating in the show, including various artworks from the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath and reproductions from the Rumale Art House, which features the works of artist Rumale Chennabasavaiah.Admission to the event is charged at Rs 30 for adults and Rs 10 for children, running from 6 am to 7 pm. Commuters using the metro are advised to exit the gate at Cubbon Park closest to the Tejas jet replica and proceed to the entrance near the Bal Bhavan gate after purchasing a ticket en route.



# UP govt okays expansion of Ayodhya’s temple museum, Tata Group to build it



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

The Ram Temple in Ayodhya, built without iron or steel, is designed to withstand time and calamities for the next 1,000 years. (Source: Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust)The museum will be built at Manjha Jamtara village in Ayodhya and will also showcase Sanatan culture through temple architecture.(Source: Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust)In a significant decision, the Uttar Pradesh government Tuesday approved additional land for the world-class Temple Museum in Ayodhya, which will showcase the design, history and culture of temples across the world.As per the new lease, the government has approved 52.102 acres of land on the request of the construction agency, Tata Group.“Earlier 25 acres was given for constructing the Temple Museum in Ayodhya but the Tata group... said it would fall short for the project. Thus, the new lease document has been signed as per which about 52 acres of land would be provided...,” informed Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna.

The museum will be built at Manjha Jamtara village in Ayodhya and will also showcase Sanatan culture through

# Pimpri Chinchwad police commissioner cancels gun licences of realtor, criminal

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Pimpri Chinchwad police, firearms licence, cancellation, Mayur Gulab Sonawane, Pravin Suresh Lulkar,Earlier in the year, the firearms licences of four other men, identified as Santosh Dattatraya Pawar, Santosh Pandurang Kadam, Dinesh Babulal Singh, and Ganpat Bajirao Jagtap, were cancelled by the Pimpri Chinchwad Police Commissioner. (File photo)The Pimpri Chinchwad police have cancelled the firearms licence issued to two men identified as Mayur Gulab Sonawane, a real estate dealer and a resident of Khed, Pune district, and Pravin Suresh Lulkar, involved in criminal cases, according to the order issued by Vinoy Kumar Choubey, Commissioner of Police, on Monday.

According to the police, Sonawane, who owned a revolver, got injured in his leg as he was preparing for the Ganesh festival at his residence on August 27, after the firearm attached to his waist fell on the floor and a bullet was misfired.The police at the Mahalunge MIDC police station had booked Sonawane under Section 125 (b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for committing an “act endangering life or personal safety of others”, the police said in a statement on Tuesday.Praveen Lulkar, a resident of Chikhali in Pimpri Chinchwad, was booked under three criminal offences registered at the Nigdi police station, but had obtained a firearms licence, concealing his criminal cases, the police said in the statement. He also has a criminal case pending against him in a Pune court. But in his application

temple architecture. Officials said that with Ayodhya already witnessing a sharp rise in domestic and international footfall, the museum is expected to further attract tourists.“Designed to become a premier cultural and knowledge space, the museum will highlight India’s rich legacy of temple architecture, ancient construction sciences, sculptural traditions, design philosophies and archival heritage. Visitors will experience curated galleries, landscaped precincts and digital interpretation spaces that aim to make traditional knowledge more accessible and engaging,” said an official.The Cabinet approved the “Uttar Pradesh Adheenasth Paryatan Seva Niyamawali 2025” or new recruitment rules to streamline tourism administration across the state.

The rules define qualifications and roles for key posts, including Publication Officers, District or Deputy Tourism Officers and Tourism Information Officers. As per the rules, UPSSC will oversee officer-level recruitments, while UPSSSC will manage field and support-level selections.Another significant decision approved by the Cabinet includes establishing an “International Yoga and Wellness Centre”, which would come up across 70 hectares of land in Hariya Kheda village of Baghatpat district. The centre would focus on promoting yoga, naturopathy and holistic well-being.Apart from these, the Cabinet approved a proposal to streamline the process of providing permission to award-winning sportspersons in government jobs for participating in international sports and training. So far, they had to apply for leave to participate in these events as there were no rules for this.Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh said the initiatives reinforce the government’s vision of positioning Ayodhya as a global centre of culture, spirituality and heritage. He added that improved administrative systems and the new tourism infrastructure will strengthen service delivery and enhance the overall visitor experience.



seeking an arms licence, he mentioned only one offence registered against him and hid the details of the other two and the court case against him.

Police Commissioner Choubey had ordered an inquiry against Sonawane and Lulkar, and based on the findings, their gun licences were cancelled on Monday, the press release stated.Earlier in the year, the firearms licences of four other men, identified as Santosh Dattatraya Pawar, Santosh Pandurang Kadam, Dinesh Babulal Singh, and Ganpat Bajirao Jagtap, were cancelled by the Pimpri Chinchwad Police Commissioner.The Pimpri Chinchwad police have rejected applications seeking gun licences of 41 people during October and November, as they failed to give any satisfactory reasons for the possession of firearms.

# What’s at play in Maharashtra local body polls? BJP on expansion mode, its allies crying foul and Opposition teetering on the edge

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

In the fiercely contested first phase of Maharashtra local body elections for 222 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats, the voting for which began Tuesday morning, the power tussle within the ruling parties, the BJP, Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), has been evident.With state BJP president Ravindra Chavan and senior minister Ganesh Naik given a free hand to expand their influence in Thane, Kalyan-Dombivli, and Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, they have been employing various strategies, including poaching local leaders and workers. The message is unmistakable: the BJP is determined to achieve victory by any means necessary.

Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde’s flights to Delhi, seeking support and informing the central BJP leadership about unfavourable actions by the state BJP in its ambitious drive to weaken alliance partners, were in a bid to remind Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of coalition dharma.Frustrated with the BJP’s aggressive tactics and political manoeuvring, NCP minister Manikrao Kokate said, “The BJP is a diluted party. They are good at splitting and poaching.”In a candid admission, he said, “Mahayuti is witnessing the conflict. The election struggle is in the ruling alliance. There is no opposition on the field.” He further asserted that the BJP is engaging in splits here and there and creating divisions.In Konkan, BJP president Chavan warned Shiv Sena, saying, “I have to safeguard the alliance till December 2.” Though the remark was an outburst following Shiv Sena MLA Nilesh Rane’s sting operation to expose the BJP’s alleged misuse of money to bribe voters, the inbuilt animosity within the ruling trio came to the fore.Fadnavis, however, downplayed the tensions. “In local body elections, local units drive the alliances. But we have ensured that wherever the BJP and its ruling parties are contested against each other, there is no bitterness. It should be friendly fights.”With the Opposition parties on the back foot and top leaders Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, and Raj Thackeray adopting a lackadaisical approach to campaigning, the fight narrowed to the BJP versus Shiv Sena and the NCP. For the Congress, the majority of star campaigners stayed away, leaving it to state president Harshvardhan Sapkal to face the political heat and dust.

While CM Fadnavis led the campaign from the front, holding 37 rallies covering all five regions of Maharashtra, Deputy CMs Shinde and Ajit Pawar followed with more than two dozen rallies each to maximise voter outreach for their respective parties.Fadnavis is the BJP’s undisputed leader, guiding the party through the local body elections. The BJP has adopted a multifaceted approach, addressing various segments of the electorate with initiatives ranging from Hindutva and development to the populist Ladki Bahin



Yojna.On the other hand, Shinde has not hesitated to position himself as the leader of the common man, highlighting the welfare schemes implemented during his tenure as chief minister to uplift the poor and women.In the elections, Ajit Pawar, who also holds the finance portfolio, has leveraged his authority by promising development funds, contingent on the NCP securing a decisive victory.Difference from 2024 Lok Sabha, Assembly polls

In the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, Shinde, Fadnavis, and Ajit Pawar presented a united front, campaigning together under the Mahayuti banner with a shared goal of opposing the Maha Vikas Aghadi. However, the political landscape during the local body elections proved quite different.In the last year, since the Fadnavis government came to power in Maharashtra on December 5, the conflict within the ruling coalition has deepened. The mistrust between the trio has widened, resulting in an ugly spat in public. The differences within Mahayuti arising out of a power tussle consolidated as each political party worked independently to expand its organisation electorally.After the landslide victory in the Assembly polls last year, the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 132 seats out of 288. Shinde (57 seats) and Ajit Pawar (41 seats) strengthened their resolve to consolidate their individual parties further, using local bodies as a perfect platform.BJP minister and election campaign committee chairman Chandrashekar Bawankule said, “The local body elections are extremely important for us as it tests our presence at the grassroots. The BJP has always believed in a political model from panchayat to parliament, making no discrimination between Lok Sabha, Assembly or nagar panchayat polls.”The top central and state leadership, he argued, believes that a uniform political arrangement promotes good governance and rapid state development.Beyond good governance lies the BJP’s long-cherished dream of attaining absolute power in Maharashtra. To realise this ambition, the right-wing party has to consolidate its electoral base at the grassroots through local bodies.



# Indian Umrah pilgrims unaware of insurance claims despite mandatory coverage



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Dubai: Indians form one of the five largest groups of foreign Umrah pilgrims, yet Indian tour operators arranging travel to Saudi Arabia are lagging in creating awareness about claiming insurance in accidental death cases, according to sources. The role of local tour operators in India has come into focus following the recent tragic accident involving Indian Umrah pilgrims near Madina. All foreign Umrah pilgrims, including those from India, arrive in Saudi Arabia only after subscribing to an Umrah insurance policy, which is mandatory for obtaining an Umrah visa. The Insurance Policy Certificate, automatically issued during the visa process, contains the insured person's details, insurance benefits and contact channels.

Umrah insurance is compulsory and provides pilgrims with medical protection and emergency support during their visit to Saudi Arabia. It covers treatment for emergency health issues, compensation in cases of flight disruptions, accidental death, death due to natural disasters and accidental permanent total disability, in addition to the cost of repatriating the body to the pilgrim's home country. One lakh Saudi Riyal, equivalent to nearly Rs 23.80 lakh, can be claimed in the event of accidental death. Saudi Arabia treats foreign pilgrims as guests of Allah and accords priority to their wellbeing throughout their holy journey. The Insurance Policy Certificate issued during the visa process outlines all coverage and the channels available for seeking assistance.

However, gaps in awareness among tour operators in India, combined with sensitivity around the subject, language barriers and the short duration of stay abroad, leave many families traumatised and unable to access insurance benefits after the death of a pilgrim, sources said. It is noteworthy that many Indian pilgrims successfully avail themselves of medical care during their Umrah pilgrimage. Pilgrims can check policy and coverage details by visiting the e-services portal at <https://www.chi.gov.sa>, clicking on insurance status, selecting Umrah Insurance Inquiry and entering the required details. Policy holders may also call 966 138129700 for further information, as per Health Insurance Council guidelines.

# US envoy Witkoff will meet Putin in Moscow while Zelenskyy tours Europe

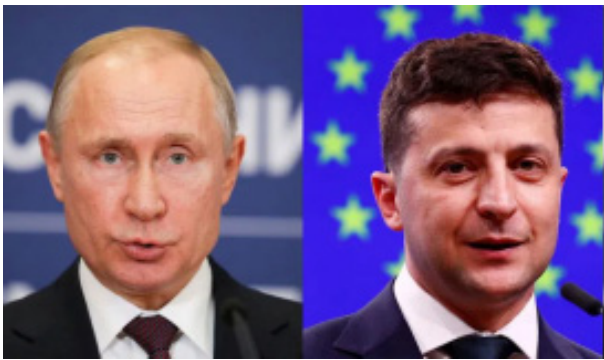
GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Moscow: US special envoy Steve Witkoff was due to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Tuesday, taking to the Kremlin an embryonic peace plan that Washington hopes can bring about an end to the nearly four-year war in Ukraine. Coinciding with Witkoff's trip, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy went to Ireland, continuing his visits to European countries that have helped sustain his country's fight against Russia's invasion.

After months of frustration in his efforts to stop the fighting, US President Donald Trump is deploying officials to get traction for his peace proposals. So far, the talks have followed parallel lines, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio sitting down with Ukrainian officials, and now Witkoff heading to Moscow. Though this week's consultations could move the process forward, few details have become public. It remains unclear how envoys are going to bridge the gap between the two sides on such basic differences as who keeps what territory. European officials say the road to peace will be long.

European leaders, who fear Russia's future territorial ambitions and are trying to figure out how they can fund Ukraine's fight beyond this year, are trying to make their voices heard after being largely sidelined by Washington. They are also working on future security guarantees for Ukraine. French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday that he and Zelenskyy, who was on a trip to Paris, spoke by phone with Witkoff. They also spoke to leaders of eight other European countries as well as top European Union officials and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

Macron said that the coming days will see "crucial discussions"



cussions" between US officials and Western partners. Zelenskyy's visit to Paris followed Sunday's meeting between Ukrainian and US officials, which Rubio described as productive. Diplomats face a hard time trying to bridge Russian and Ukrainian differences and persuading them to strike compromises. The key obstacles — over whether Kyiv should cede land to Moscow and how to ensure Ukraine's future security — appear unresolved. Zelenskyy is under severe pressure in one of the darkest periods of the war for his country. As well as managing diplomatic pressure, he must find money to keep Ukraine afloat, address a corruption scandal that has reached the top echelons of his government, and keep Russia at bay on the battlefield. The Kremlin late Monday claimed that Russian forces have captured the key Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region. Zelenskyy, however, said in Paris that fighting was still ongoing in Pokrovsk on Monday.

# Bangladesh's ex-PM Khaleda Zia's son readies return amid her deteriorating health



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Dhaka: Bangladesh's ailing former prime minister Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman, who has been living in self-exile in London for over a decade, is preparing to return home soon, a senior leader of her party has said. The development comes as the 80-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson remains in a critical condition and has been placed on ventilation. BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters late Monday that the party's acting chairman Rahman "will return to Bangladesh soon".

His remarks followed a meeting of the BNP's top decision-making body, which also discussed the current political situation and strategies for the upcoming election campaign. The Daily Star reported on Tuesday. BNP has re-emerged as the frontrunner in Bangladesh's changed political landscape after a student-led violent street protest toppled then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5, 2024. According to BNP leaders, Tarique, who has been in London since 2008, is awaiting the issuance of a new Bangladeshi passport, as he is unwilling to use a one-time travel pass offered by the interim government.

At a press conference on Monday, Election Commission Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said Rahman is not registered as a voter in Bangladesh but may do so if permitted by the EC. Meanwhile, security has been tightened around Zia, who is undergoing treatment at Dhaka's Evercare Hospital. Police erected a barricade at the hospital's main gate around 2:00 am on Tuesday, and hospital sources said more than two dozen police personnel were deployed to ensure the movement of patients and reinforce the former prime minister's security, according to The Daily Star report. Four members of the Special Security Force (SSF) visited the hospital from midnight and inspected various sections of the building for nearly three hours. The interim government on Monday declared Zia a "very, very important person", enabling SSF deployment for her protection. The BNP chief is currently staying in a cabin on the fourth floor, and hospital officials said surrounding cabins have been vacated due to security protocols. She was admitted to the private hospital on November 23 after being diagnosed with infections affecting her heart and lungs. Four days later, the three-time prime minister was shifted to the coronary care unit after several of her health complications worsened.

Her condition deteriorated further, and she was placed on ventilation on Sunday night, BNP Vice-Chairman Advocate Ahmed Aazam Khan said on Monday. "She is in a very critical condition. There is nothing more to do except seek prayers from the whole nation," he told reporters outside the hospital. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir also confirmed that Zia remains in a critical condition as she continues to receive treatment at the hospital in Dhaka, with both local and international medical specialists involved in her care.

Bannu. He expressed deep sorrow over the killing of the Assistant Commissioner, two other police personnel and a local in the attack. He has sought a detailed report of the incident from the Inspector General of Police.

Terming the incident extremely tragic, the chief minister said that "anti-state elements cannot undermine our resolve through such cowardly acts." He added that the sacrifices of those killed will not go in vain and that those involved in the attack will be brought to justice. Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terrorist incidents in recent months, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Balochistan, after the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in 2022. Following the breakdown of the truce, the TTP had vowed to target security forces, police, and other law enforcement personnel.

# Son of 'El Chapo' pleads guilty in U.S. drug prosecution



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

A son of imprisoned Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman on Monday pleaded guilty in a U.S. drug trafficking case, months after his brother struck a similar deal. Joaquin Guzman Lopez had been scheduled to appear in federal court in Chicago for a status hearing, but instead entered a guilty plea, court records showed. Guzman Lopez is one of four sons of El Chapo - known as Los

Chapitos, or Little Chapos - who inherited their father's faction of the Sinaloa cartel. Guzman Lopez originally pleaded not guilty after his arrest last year in Texas. Jeffrey Lichtman, Guzman Lopez's defense lawyer, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Guzman Lopez faced multiple charges in the U.S. of funneling huge quantities of fentanyl and other drugs to U.S. streets. Fentanyl overdoses have surged to become the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45.

Guzman Lopez was detained in July 2024 after landing in a private plane in the El Paso area. He was arrested along with Mexican drug kingpin Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, one of the most consequential traffickers in Mexico's history, who co-founded the Sinaloa Cartel with El Chapo. Current and former U.S. officials, who sought anonymity to speak candidly about the events, told Reuters at the time that Guzman Lopez had lured Zambada to the U.S., a major coup for U.S. authorities. Ovidio Guzman Lopez, another son of "El Chapo," pleaded guilty in July to two counts of drug distribution and two counts of participation in a continuing criminal enterprise. He faces a possible life sentence.

# White House says admiral ordered follow-on strike on alleged drug boat, insists attack was lawful

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

The White House has said that a Navy admiral acted "within his authority and the law" when he ordered a second, follow-up strike on an alleged drug boat in the Caribbean Sea in a September U.S. military operation that has come under bipartisan scrutiny. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt offered the justification for the September 2 strike after lawmakers from both parties on Sunday announced support for congressional reviews of U.S. military strikes against vessels suspected of smuggling drugs in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean. The lawmakers cited a published report that Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a verbal order for a second strike that killed survivors on the boat in that September incident.

Ms. Leavitt in her comments to reporters on Monday (December 1, 2025) did not dispute a Washington Post report that there were survivors after the initial strike in the incident. Her explanation came after President Donald Trump a day earlier said that he "wouldn't have wanted that — not a second strike" when asked about the incident. "Secretary Hegseth authorised Admiral Bradley to conduct these kinetic strikes," said Ms. Leavitt, referring to U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Frank Bradley, who at the time was the commander of Joint Special Operations Command. "Admiral Bradley worked well within his authority and the law, directing the engagement to ensure the boat was destroyed and the threat to the United States of America was eliminated." The lawmakers said they did not know whether last week's Post report was true, and some Republicans were sceptical. Still, they said the reports of attacking survivors of an initial missile strike posed serious legal concerns and merited further scrutiny. Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, when asked about a follow-up strike aimed at people no longer able to fight, said Congress does not have information that happened. He noted that leaders of the Armed Services Committee in both the House and Senate have opened investigations. "Obviously, if that occurred, that would be very serious and I agree that that would be an illegal act," Mr. Turner said. "Pete said he did not order the death of those two men," Trump said. He added, "And I believe him." Ms. Leavitt said Hegseth has spoken with members of Congress who may have expressed some concerns about the reports over the weekend.

Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also spoke over the weekend with the four bipartisan lawmakers leading the Senate and House Armed Services Committees in which he reiterated "his trust and confidence in the experienced commanders at every echelon," Gen. Caine's office said in a statement. The statement added that the call focused on "addressing the intent and legality of missions to disrupt illicit trafficking networks which threaten the security and stability of the Western Hemisphere." Senate Majority Leader John Thune on Monday broadly defended the operations, echoing the Trump administration position that they're necessary to stem the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States. "I don't think you want to draw any conclusions or deductions until you have all the facts," Thune said of the September 2 strike. "We'll see



where they lead." After the Post's report, Mr. Hegseth said Friday on X that "fake news is delivering more fabricated, inflammatory, and derogatory reporting to discredit our incredible warriors fighting to protect the homeland". "Our current operations in the Caribbean are lawful under both US and international law, with all actions in compliance with the law of armed conflict — and approved by the best military and civilian lawyers, up and down the chain of command," Mr. Hegseth wrote.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called Mr. Hegseth a "national embarrassment" over his response to critics. Schumer added that the armed services committees should demand that Mr. Hegseth release the video of the strike and testify under oath about what happened. Mr. Trump later on Monday met with his national security team to discuss the ongoing operations and potential next steps against Venezuela. The U.S. administration says the strikes are aimed at drug cartels, some of which it claims are controlled by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Mr. Trump also is weighing whether to carry out strikes on the Venezuelan mainland. Mr. Trump on Sunday confirmed that he had recently spoken by phone with Mr. Maduro but declined to detail the conversation. Speaking to supporters in Caracas on Monday, Mr. Maduro said that U.S. pressure has "tested" the country, but that Venezuelans are ready "to defend it and lead it to the path of peace". "We have lived through 22 weeks of aggression that can only be described as psychological terrorism," Mr. Maduro said. The September strike was one in a series carried out by the US military in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean as Trump has ordered the build up a fleet of warships near Venezuela, including the largest US aircraft carrier. More than 80 have been killed the strikes on small boats that the Trump administration alleges smuggle narcotics for drug cartels. Venezuela's National Assembly has announced the launch of an investigation into the lethal strikes carried about by the US. Sunday's announcement by the Assembly's president, Jorge Rodríguez, marked the first time that a Maduro government official explicitly acknowledged that Venezuelans have been killed in the monthslong US military operation. Rodríguez, Maduro's chief negotiator, said a group of lawmakers will come together to investigate "the serious events that led to the murder of Venezuelans in the waters of the Caribbean Sea".

# Zelenskyy says U.S. peace plan 'looks better' with revisions but work continues

Ukraine's President spoke optimistically about the progress of revising the Trump administration's peace plan, saying "it looks better" and the work will continue during talks on how to end Russia's nearly four-year war. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke after meeting with France's President on Monday (December 1, 2025), the latest in discussions aimed at brokering the terms for a potential ceasefire in the largest armed conflict in Europe since World War II. Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed that Russian President Vladimir Putin would meet with U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff on Tuesday. Witkoff's role came under scrutiny last week following a report that he coached Putin's foreign affairs adviser on how Russia's leader should pitch to Trump on the Ukraine peace plan. Mr. Zelenskyy's visit to Paris followed Sunday's meeting between Ukrainian and U.S. officials, which Secretary of State Marco Rubio described as productive. The two sides have worked to revise the proposed US-authored plan that was developed in negotiations between Washington and Moscow but criticised as being too weighted toward Russian demands. The Kremlin late Monday boasted of Russia's battlefield gains ahead of the talks, claiming Moscow's troops have captured the key city of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region. According to Mr. Peskov, Mr. Putin received a report about Pokrovsk's capture on Sunday.

Mr. Zelenskyy, however, said in Paris that fighting was still ongoing in Pokrovsk on Monday. Mr. Zelenskyy called the topic of Ukraine's control over its territories "the most complicated" in discussions over the plan. French President Emmanuel Macron said talks are still in a "preliminary phase" but called the flurry of diplomatic activity "a moment that could be a turning point" for the future of peace in Ukraine and security in Europe. After criticism from Ukraine and its European allies, President Donald Trump has downplayed his administration's original 28-point peace framework, which would have imposed limits on the size of Ukraine's military, blocked the country from joining NATO and required Ukraine to give up territory. He now calls it a "concept" to

be "fine-tuned". The French leader said he wanted to praise the US peace efforts but insisted that any peace plan can "only be finalised with Europeans around the table". Last week, Mr. Macron urged Western allies to bring "rock-solid" security guarantees to Ukraine in case a ceasefire or a peace deal is reached. He has endorsed deploying a "reassurance force" on land, at sea and in the air to help ensure the country's security. The French president said Monday that the coming days will see "crucial discussions" between US officials and Western partners, who would aim to clarify U.S. participation in security guarantees. Mr. Macron's office said he and Mr. Zelenskyy held talks with other European partners including leaders from Britain, Germany, Poland, Italy, Norway, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands. Also included were European Union officials Antonio Costa and Ursula von der Leyen and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte. Mr. Macron and Mr. Zelenskyy also had phone calls with Mr. Witkoff, Mr. Macron's office said. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas on Monday expressed concern that the U.S.-Russia talks might end up with Ukraine having to make more concessions, like being pressured to surrender territory. "I'm afraid that all the pressure will be put on the victim," Ms. Kallas told reporters in Brussels after chairing a meeting of EU foreign and defense ministers. The Kremlin released footage of Putin in military fatigues, meeting with top military officials on Sunday evening at an unidentified military command post. Russia's General Staff chief, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, reported to Putin that the Russian troops have taken full control of Pokrovsk in the Donetsk region — Russia uses the old Soviet name of the city, Krasnoarmeysk — and the city of Vovchansk in the Kharkiv region. Col. Gen. Valery Solodchuk added that Russian forces were still battling "the remaining small enemy groups" in Pokrovsk. There were no immediate comments from Ukrainian officials on the claim, which could not be independently verified. Pokrovsk sits along the eastern front line in part of what has been dubbed the "fortress belt" of Donetsk.

# Govt official among four killed in ambush in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Peshawar: At least four persons, including North Waziristan Assistant Commissioner, and two policemen, were killed when militants ambushed his vehicle in Pakistan's northwestern Province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday, police said. The attack in the Bannu district of the province, targeted a vehicle of Shah Waliullah, the assistant commissioner of North Waziristan. Spokesperson for the Regional Police Office, Kashif Nawaz, said that the attack occurred within the jurisdiction of Cantt police station in the Bannu district. Waliullah was killed after his vehicle came under attack on Tuesday. Two constables and a local were also killed while two other police officials sustained injuries, police said.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi has strongly condemned the terrorist attack in



# Ootupurai, the traditional feeding house in Kannyiakumari temples



Tamil composer and musician Papanasam Sivan offers a poignant glimpse into his early life in Thiruvananthapuram in his memoirs, recalling the difficult years after his father’s death. During this period, he worked at the Ootupurai, the traditional feeding house where Brahmins were served free meals. “My mother, who was sixty, suffered from a severe stomach ache. The food served at the Ootupurai did not suit her. I felt that no work was beneath my dignity, so I took up the job of a cook there, earning ten rupees a month to feed her,” he writes in Yenathu Ninaivu Kadal (My Ocean of Memories).Sivan describes how the long and strenuous days began with filling large tanks with water for cooking, followed by grating more than a hundred coconuts, and finally serving meals to the visitors. Only after completing these demanding chores would he allow himself the pleasure of listening to Harikatha.

Ootupurais were once a familiar institution across southern Travancore and Kannyiakumari district which remained part of Kerala until 1957. In many ways, Ootupurais were the predecessors of the present-day Annadhana (food donation) scheme now followed in major Tamil Nadu temples overseen by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department.Many temples in the region maintained dedicated feeding houses for Brahmins, a system extensively documented by historian K.K. Pillai. Yet, the practice was not confined to a single community: the Kanjipurais offered simple gruel to the poor across caste lines, reflecting a parallel tradition of charity and care. Pilgrims from North India were also regularly given rice. Although the British administration ordered the discontinuation of the Ootupurai system in 1922, it survived in several temples long after the decree.

“It continued well into the 1970s at the Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram. Non-Brahmins too, were able to receive rice and other provisions. Lord Curzon may have mocked the system, but the then Travancore king, Moolam Thirunal, firmly defended this age-old institution,” notes historian M.G.

Sashibooshan.Historian K.K. Pillai, author of The Suchindram Temple, adds that the Ottupurai at the Suchindram temple was established in 1772. There, free food was offered to Brahmins twice a day throughout the year—a testament to the temple’s enduring commitment to hospitality and religious duty. According to him, Bala Marthanda Varma, the maker of modern Travancore, evidently aimed at continuing the glorious tradition of the ancient Chera kings. “This kind of charity has always been one of the titles of the Chera monarchs to fame, beginning from the days of Perumchottirudayan of the Sangam age,” he says.The system was so popular that when Col. Munro, the Resident Dewan, ordered the assumption of major temples and their properties in 1812, feeding in the Ootupurais was not discontinued. On the contrary, evidence shows that under his vigilant supervision, the administration of this charitable activity was regularised, and wastage and corruption carefully checked. It was ordered that no one, whether a native of Suchindram or an outsider, was to be fed for more than three days at a stretch. Temple records show a substantial increase in beneficiaries: in 1842, a total of 86,728 Brahmins were served food.In Thiruvattaru Adikesava Perumal temple, almost 600 kg of rice was cooked on a daily basis and the biggest ootupurai in Kannyiakumari district, that served hundreds of Brahmins, remains intact in the temple.The system was partially discontinued in 1911 as a measure of retrenchment. “Therefore, the Gosayis, a class of North Indian pilgrims, were given a fixed quantity of rice per head, and a limited number of other bona fide pilgrims were fed by the temple authorities. It was in August 1922, with the organisation of a separate Devasam Department, that the Ootupura was completely closed,” writes Pillai.However, what continued to benefit the poor and temple employees was the vast quantity of food (kattichoru) offered as neivedyam. Nearly 90 per cent of the cooked rice was sold to the poor at a nominal price. Employees who received the food often sold the surplus to others, earning additional income. “On average, well over 600 persons subsist upon this food alone. Thus, this has proved to be an unostentatious but nevertheless substantial institution of public charity,” Pillai notes.A.K. Perumal, author of Then Kumariyin Kathai (The story of Kannyiakumari), says the system of distributing kattichoru to employees was prevalent in almost all temples in the Kannyiakumari district. “Red raw rice was cooked in temples. Employees were given kattichoru depending on their role in the temple. Sweet pongal would be given on Saturdays and festival days. Every temple had a large collection of copper vessels for cooking and granite tanks for keeping buttermilk. The quantity of kattichoru increased during festival days,” he says.Mr. Perumal notes that as Kannyiakumari temples continued Kerala’s ritual traditions even after the region’s merger with Tamil Nadu, the system of serving kattichoru also continued and proved a boon to temple employees. But, it too was discontinued in 1966.

# Power sharing tussle: Party high command likely to summon CM, DyCM for amicable settlement

As the dispute over power-sharing within Karnataka’s ruling Congress continued, the party high command is expected to summon both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to New Delhi in the next few days to arrive at an amicable settlement.Sources in the State Congress said Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and former AICC chief Sonia Gandhi are expected to hold talks with both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar on November 28 or 29 to control the damage to the party and the government.The high command is expected to resolve the differences between two leaders before the winter session of the Parliament, which would commence on Monday (December 1), sources said.In the meantime, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge is expected to provide feedback on the developments in the State to Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Kharge met the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister and collected views from both leaders.Mr. Shivakumar, who had not met Mr. Kharge when the latter was in the city for the past few days, however, accompanied him to the airport on Tuesday as he left for the national capital. The KPCC chief has reportedly briefed political developments, including clarity from the party’s top brass, to end the ongoing stalemate on power sharing.Mr. Shivakumar is keen on Mr. Gandhi being reminded of the informal pact on “power-sharing” discussed during the formation of the government in May 2023, it is learnt.Interestingly, Minister for IT-BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge is learnt to have called on Mr. Gandhi in Delhi and discussed developments.

Call by high commandOn Tuesday, Mr. Siddaramaiah reiterated that the party high command would “ultimately



take the decision to put a full stop” to this confusion Speaking to reporters, the Chief Minister said he would abide by the high command’s decision.To a question about a team of legislators backing Mr. Shivakumar travelling to Delhi, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, “Let them (legislators) go; MLAs have freedom. Let’s see what opinion they give. Ultimately, the high command has to make the decision. We will abide by what the high command says.”On the Cabinet reshuffle, the Chief Minister said, “It will happen when the high command says.” He also said that he has no plans to meet Congress’s top leader, Rahul Gandhi, for now.Meanwhile, loyalists of the Chief Minister, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, MLAs Basavaraja Rayareddy and K.N. Rajanna, continued to issue statements that he would continue for the full five-year term. Mr. Khan also paid a visit to Mr. Shivakumar later in the day. Some leaders, including Chief Minister loyalist S.T. Somashekhar, met the Deputy Chief Minister at a meeting of the Bengaluru District Central Co-operative Bank.

# The crisis within academia

There was a time when teaching was a calling. Classrooms were spaces of dialogue, not deadlines; teachers were mentors, not data points. But somewhere between institutional audits and student feedback forms, the pulse of academia has weakened.Across universities and colleges, teachers are now expected to wear many hats: researcher, administrator, counsellor, public speaker, and much more. The classroom, once the core of intellectual life, has been reduced to a performative space where participation is judged by attendance, and creativity by compliance. Teaching no longer focuses on deep conversations or the slow development of ideas; instead, it’s about completing the syllabus and submitting forms.The irony is that while the system demands excellence, it offers exhaustion. Contractual appointments have become the norm, leaving thousands of qualified educators living from one semester to the next, uncertain if their services will be renewed. Full-time teachers fare only slightly better

Students, too, are quietly changing. Many come to class distracted, fatigued by screens and shaped by an attention economy that rewards speed over reflection. Teachers are asked to “adapt”, which often translates to entertaining rather than educating. The expectation is that we must package knowledge attractively, like a product, and deliver it efficiently, without the discomfort of intellectual struggle. But learning, by nature, is meant to be slow, sometimes difficult, and almost always uncertain. When we deny that truth, education loses its meaning.There is also a growing moral fatigue among teachers. The profession that once

promised dignity now demands constant justification. Every decision, including a grade, a remark, a missed call, is scrutinised. Academic autonomy, once a cornerstone of higher education, is increasingly fragile. When pedagogy becomes dictated by policy rather than principle, teachers lose the space to think freely, and institutions lose the very soul that makes them relevant.There is also the unspoken emotional toll. Many teachers in India juggle multiple jobs, commute long distances, and navigate the quiet humiliation of being seen as “disposable”. Mental health is rarely discussed in academic spaces, despite burnout becoming endemic. Even so, teachers show up every morning, masking fatigue with formality, carrying on because the work, despite everything, still matters.Yet, certain moments of grace keep many of us going. A question asked with genuine curiosity... A student returning years later to say a book changed their life. The quiet sense of having lit a spark, even in one mind. These moments do not appear in performance reports, but they remind us why we entered the profession in the first place. Every teacher can recall that one student who returned years later to say, “Your class changed how I think”. Those moments, small and incandescent, are what hold the system together. They remind us that education is still a human act, not an institutional function. But such moments cannot survive on nostalgia alone.The crisis of academia is not only about pay or workload. It is about purpose. Education has become transactional in a world obsessed with productivity. Teachers are caught between nostalgia for an older ideal and the ruthless pragmatism of the present.

# Mekedatu dam project: a long-standing source of friction between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka



The Mekedatu dam project is back in limelight with the Supreme Court, on November 13, 2025, giving nod for the appraisal of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and by the Central Water Commission (CWC).The idea of the project proponent – the Karnataka government – is to impound 67.16 thousand million cubic ft (TMC) of water by building a ?9,000-crore balancing reservoir at Mekedatu (which, in Kannada, means ‘goat’s leap’), about 100 km from Bengaluru. The project will have a 400 MW (megawatt) hydro power component too.In the Supreme Court’s 2018 judgment on the Cauvery dispute, Karnataka had been sanctioned an additional 4.75 TMC.The arguments

It was the case of Karnataka before the court that what the State intended to do was “only utilisation of the water allotted to it, as per the Award of the CWDT [Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal], as modified by this court.” The upper riparian State also argued it was “completely within its right” to utilise the water allotted in its share in the best possible manner. Even after the Mekedatu dam was constructed, the uncontrolled flow of water towards Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry would not be affected.Asserting Karnataka did not have a right to construct a dam at Mekedatu, Tamil Nadu submitted if the proposed dam was allowed, its right for the “uncontrolled flow of water would be adversely affected.” By constructing a dam, “Karnataka is, in fact, doing something which will amount to the modification of the Award passed by the CWDT, as modified by this court,” according to the lower riparian State.Hearing both sides, the Supreme Court clarified Karnataka would be bound to release the water, as directed by the CWMA, which would be measured by the CWC at the measuring point of Biligundulu. It also stated “every State is free to utilise water allotted to its quota in the manner it finds to be in the best interest of the State. No other State has a right to interfere with the decision regarding the management and use of water allotted to a particular State unless by such act the water allotted to that State is reduced.”It is against this backdrop that the Karnataka government has decided to give a fresh lease of life to the project by planning to submit a “revised” DPR soon to the Central authorities. If one looks back at the history of the Cauvery dispute, the Mekedatu project cropped up a number of times during inter-State negotiations as well as talks among all the basin-States of the Cauvery which include Kerala and Puducherry.

A perusal of materials available with The Hindu Archives for the past 75 years reveals how the project was animatedly discussed. As early as in February 1950, this newspaper reported that the two governments had come to an understanding and Karnataka, then known as Mysore just as Tamil Nadu was called Madras at that time, had “secured” the nod of the other State for power generation and the former had received a revised draft agreement from the latter. In 1950, the project, envisaging the production of 15 MW initially and 35-40 MW eventually, was estimated to cost ?5 crore, out of which the initial phase itself would cost ?3.5 crore.Detailed investigations were conducted between 1962 and 1964 for the establishment of two dams and two power houses near Hogenakkal at a total cost of ?80 crore which could produce 800 MW of power. The scheme involved the construction of a 470 ft. high dam and a big powerhouse at Rasimanal, 15 km upstream (also in Tamil Nadu).Speaking of the investigation work, former Chief Engineer of the now-defunct Tamil Nadu Electricity Board R. Sengottaiyan, who was in charge of hydro projects, recalled to this correspondent in the 1990s that in February 1963, Chief Ministers of the two States, K. Kamaraj and S. Nijalingappa, planned to visit the site of the proposed Hogenakkal hydro-electric project amid the expectation that even the foundation stone would be laid then. However, the

visit was put off at the last minute and it never materialised, the former engineer recounted.When Irrigation Ministers of the two States — H.M. Chennabasappa and P.U. Shanmugam — met at the picturesque spot of Hogenakkal on June 5 in 1974, an understanding was reached that officials of the two States would independently investigate and also hold mutual consultations to make detailed feasibility studies of the power projects, according to a report published by The Hindu the next day.In November 1980, the then Karnataka Chief Minister R. Gundu Rao, told during a press conference that his government had set up a nine-member committee to draw up a feasibility report on the Mekedatu project, envisaging power generation of about 1,000 MW, said a report of this newspaper on November 12, 1980.A year later, he claimed the expert panel had concluded that the Mekedatu hydroelectric project was more suitable for construction than the Hogenakkal project proposed by Tamil Nadu. However, in February 1987, the then Industry and Power Minister J.H. Patel sounded conciliatory towards Tamil Nadu when he said his State had suggested both to the Centre and Tamil Nadu that the Mekedatu and Hogenakkal projects be taken up as joint projects without bringing in the Cauvery waters dispute but no reply was received from the two governments. Patel, who was a Minister in the Janata government, headed by Ramakrishna Hegde, informed the Assembly that his State had sought the Centre’s clearance for Mekedatu.

During August 1996 - January 1997, when the two States held five rounds of negotiations to settle the core Cauvery dispute in the light of the Supreme Court’s suggestion, the Mekedatu dam project came up for discussion. According to a news report, filed by veteran journalist of Karnataka P.A. Ramaiah, published in this daily on October 27, 1996, the Centre was inclined to take up the Mekedatu project as its own. The cost might be ?2,000 crores and the power — about 950 MW — could be shared by all the four riparian States. Mekedatu was not being regarded as an alternative to the Hogenakkal project of Tamil Nadu.Karunanidhi periodTwo weeks after the fifth and final round of negotiations held in Chennai on January 5, 1997, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M. Karunanidhi told journalists that it was the Mekedatu project that stood in the way of reaching an accord on the sharing of the Cauvery water between the two States. But, his Karnataka counterpart Patel, on his return to Bengaluru on the day he led his State’s talks with Tamil Nadu, told reporters the reason behind the failure of the talks was that Tamil Nadu has pitched its demand for a higher percentage of the share of the river water.When P.R. Kumaramangalam was the Union Power Minister in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime during 1998-2000, he made an effort, through National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), to revive the Mekedatu and Hogenakkal project as components of a bigger hydro power scheme, that included power plants in Shivasamudram and Rasimanal. Aimed at meeting a total demand of 1,150-megawatt (MW), the Cauvery Hydro Power Project (CHPP) envisaged setting up four plants at Shivasamudram (270 MW) and Mekedatu (400 MW) in Karnataka and Rasimanal (360 MW) and Hogenakkal (120 MW) in Tamil Nadu.Initiated in 1999, the discussions went on for years at different levels with the Centre acting as the facilitator. In August 2008, Union Minister of State for Power and Commerce and Industry Jairam Ramesh, who emerged from nearly an hour-long meeting with Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi at the Secretariat, explained the rationale behind pursuing the “elusive” project. The cost of power through the CHPP would be ?2.5 to ?3 a unit when the States were buying power at a rate of ?7.5 to ?8 a unit, he explained. Finally, the talks broke down after one round in Chennai in August 2009. Citing one reason or the other, the basin States did not arrive at any understanding.In the last 10 years, especially after the 2007 final award given by the Tribunal, the upper riparian State’s approach has been to present the Mekedatu project as one that seeks to implement the final award, as modified by the Supreme Court in 2018. Also, the project’s purpose is to address the drinking water supply requirements of Bengaluru, a point of which has been conceded by the Court.Tamil Nadu’s stand has been that the Authority and the CWC should not entertain its neighbour’s plea for Mekedatu, given the upper riparian State’s “track record” in implementing the awards of the Tribunal. But, after the Court’s approval for the examination of the revised DPR, which is expected to be submitted by Karnataka in the coming months, the battle over Mekedatu is only likely to intensify further.

# Master time management

You are not at a disadvantage. While you may have missed out on the social aspects of campus life, you are gaining immense self-discipline, time management, and independence. Utilise these critical skills for your government exam preparation. Ensure that your degree is eligible and valid. Your score in the government exam is what matters. Focus on your goal and treat your exam preparation like a full-time job, structuring your day around it without other distractions. Create a study schedule that suits your peak productivity hours. Use the time to build a powerful profile through online courses, certifications, and self-driven projects. Excel in your course and aim for a high percentage, as it speaks volumes about your academic capability. Work on digital literacy and written and spoken language skills. Work on your communication skills, public speaking (join online forums like Toastmasters), and interpersonal skills.

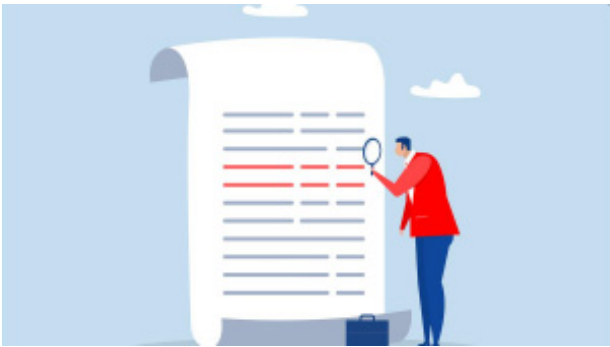
Look for online or part-time internship in content writing, research assistance, data entry, social media management, or with NGOs, as this shows initiative and gives you real-world experience. Build a professional LinkedIn profile. Connect with professionals, alumni from your school, and people in fields that you are interested in. Attend free online workshops, webinars, and seminars to keep you updated about your field and network.While it is possible to switch, you will need to acquire the foundational knowledge first. NSE’s Certification in Financial Markets (NCFM) has modules like fundamental analysis, mutual funds, and currency derivatives, which are great short-term accredited certifications. The CFA, a rigorous and globally recognised qualification, is the gold standard for investment roles. The Post Graduate Certificate in Business Finance from NISM is another good option. Take online courses such as Introduction to Corporate Finance, Financial Markets, Financial Modelling, and Investment Management from top universities. If you enjoy all this, consider an MBA in Finance or a Master’s in Finance, which is more specialised than an MBA, or a PGDM in Finance. Your unique profile can be a great differentiator in the admission process.

The main non-Engineering programmes in IITs are B.Sc. in Pure Sciences (a four-year programme in Physics, Chemistry, and Maths), the five-year Dual Degree Programmes (B.Sc. + M.Sc.), five-year Integrated M.A. in

Development Studies or English Studies, and online degrees such as B.S in Data Science and Application. There are also many new Interdisciplinary programmes that are technically under the ‘B.Tech’ umbrella, but are less traditional and more science-oriented.To join the Indian Army, you have to take the National Defence Academy (NDA) entrance exam after Class 12 for a three-year training programme, followed by specialised training at other national academies. You need to be 16.5 to 19.5 years old and should have passed or appeared in Class 12 with Physics, Chemistry, and Maths (PCM).If you do not make it to NDA, you can take the Combined Defence Services Examination (CDS) after graduation. The eligibility is a Bachelor’s degree, and the age limit is between 19 and 25 years). Graduates from any stream can apply, but, for the Army, a PCM background is beneficial.I completed B.Sc. in Environmental Chemistry with Water Management. I want to pursue a PG in Environmental Science from a Central University. Are there good job opportunities after this? Sreelakshmin India, there are opportunities across water and wastewater treatment, solid and hazardous waste management and environmental consulting. Almost every large corporation has an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) team to manage its environmental footprint, ensure regulatory compliance, and prepare sustainability reports. The CSR departments often fund and manage many environmental projects. In the public sector and government, jobs are available in pollution control boards for scientists, environmental engineers, and analysts. The Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jal Shakti, and Urban Development hire consultants and permanent staff for various environmental projects. NGOs and international agencies also hire technical experts.A Master’s degree from a reputed foreign university is the most effective way to secure a job overseas, as it provides local credentials, networking opportunities, and post-study work visas. Job opportunities abroad are more structured and well-paying.North America and Europe have stringent environmental laws that drive demand in consulting, government agencies, corporate sustainability, and the clean or greentech sector. Australia and West Asia offer roles in desalination, water recycling, and mining environmental management. Southeast Asia’s rapid industrialisation needs environmental consultants to manage pollution and water resources.



# Publish or perish: making sense of India’s research fraud epidemic



Research fraud is a global problem and has become worse due to the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The problem is even more acute in India's higher education sector where both the number of journal publications and retractions are growing rapidly. However, journal retractions do not capture the scope of research fraud since it is impossible to know the exact number of fraudulent publications that escape notice. Publishing over teachingMost observers blame the 'publish or perish' culture for India's research fraud epidemic. However, a prior issue is the preference that the University Grants Commission (UGC) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) give to publishing — which is different from research — at the expense of teaching for faculty members to advance their careers. This institutional bias drives a preference among faculty members to publish papers and is rewarded by promotions and other benefits at the workplace, whereas there are no significant incentives for better teaching.

The rationale to privilege publishing over teaching comes from two main considerations. The first stems from national and global university rankings, which have become ubiquitous and are considered to be of great value by the government, the HEIs themselves, and by students. These rankings reward publications but not teaching. HEIs are therefore incentivised to insist that their faculty publish. For private universities, the number of students they admit every year matters a great deal, and achieving higher rankings than their competitors is seen as necessary to attract more and better students. Public institutions do not want to be left behind either. The second consideration is the widespread belief that faculty members conducting research improves teaching and hence student learning outcomes. However, the evidence does not quite support this belief. The voluminous research on the research-teaching link has examined a diverse set of issues including the specific mechanisms at work, the fuzziness and diversity of the multiple variables used to understand the relationship, and both quantitative and qualitative research. However, there is no broad con-

sensus that the relationship between them is significant or even that there is one. If there is some sort of soft consensus, it is that the context often matters.

Both these considerations likely contributed to the UGC's decision to introduce the Academic Performance Indicator (API) in 2010 as part of the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for faculty members' promotions. The API established a clear bias for publications in assessing faculty members. Despite several amendments over the years, there has been no fundamental change to the API in terms of the emphasis on publications. The 2025 UGC draft regulations for the appointment and promotion of teachers in order to maintain academic standards, it claims, will reduce focus on quantifiable metrics such as publications. But for now, the publishing madness remains ascendant.

A return to teachingIf we turn to context, there are at least two reasons that render the emphasis on research questionable, on ethical and practical grounds.First, the faculty members at all types of HEIs are expected to publish — whether at colleges devoted to undergraduate teaching, universities that are teaching-cum-research institutions, and specialised research centres which typically run only PhD programmes. There is no thought given to context: whether the university or college has the necessary physical infrastructure (libraries and laboratories for example), human capital (research-capable faculty members), academic environment (a sufficient population of postgraduate students and academics in specific disciplines), sufficient research funding, and a fair or even reasonable balance between the teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities of faculty members. Most HEIs fall short on many of these parameters. Without considering these issues, the emphasis on research and publishing is meaningless.The outcome is eventually predictable. Given the limitations of most HEIs, the idea of 'publish or perish' is taken quite literally. Rather than carry out actual research, faculty members and even students churn out fraudulent papers for their HEIs to secure university rankings and for them to secure individual benefits. And publishers monetarily benefit from these publications and also participate in the scam.Second, 80% of students at India's HEIs are undergraduates who need better teachers rather than competent researchers. Given that the research-teaching link is dubious and that most HEIs do not have the necessary research capabilities, it should follow that those teaching at undergraduate institutions should focus on teaching.In the end, it appears that the only logic to prefer research over teaching is to help HEIs attain university rankings and to help faculty members secure individual gains, both of which are the main drivers of research fraud, and neither of which contributes in any way to India's knowledge sector.

# Trump-MbS summit — \$1 trillion among friends



As adrenaline-high at the Saudi-American Summit last week demonstrated, the 80-year-old bilateral alliance remains perhaps the oldest transactional deal still going strong. It predates the establishment of post-Second World War global architectures such as the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Bretton Woods Institutions. It was conceived as a secret "oil-for-security" strategic partnership signed on Valentine's Day 1945 between U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and King Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rehman al-Saud on the USS Quincy in the Suez Canal Area. Originally intended to last 60 years, it was renewed in 2005.Thanks to the exceptional amity between U.S. President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS), this arrangement is currently being reset to the new domains of strategic cooperation, with the potential to anchor bilateral, regional and global developments in a more consequential manner.The trajectory of ties

During the past 80 years, U.S.-Saudi ties have not always had smooth sailing. First, thanks to shale technology, the U.S. has become the world's largest producer of crude and a significant exporter. While this has reduced the commercial content of the relationship, the U.S.'s exports have remained steady, leading to a decline in the bilateral merchandise trade and a balance swinging in America's favour. As Saudi Arabia's trading partner, the U.S. now ranks below China and India.Historically, the ties came under strain during the Ramadan War of 1973, when Saudi Arabia joined an Arab oil embargo. In the mid-1980s, the Saudis surprised the Americans by buying intermediate-range ballistic missiles from China, a country they did not even recognise then. There have been tensions as the American military supplies were staunch during the Yemen war, affecting Saudi offensive and defensive capabilities against the Houthis.The assassination of Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi commentator working with The Washington Post, in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018 jolted ties, and the Biden presidency initially decided to keep MbS at arm's-length. The friction pushed the Saudis into diversifying their ties with China and Russia.In December 2022, China's President Xi Jinping visited Riyadh and held three separate summits with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Arab and Muslim countries, respectively. Later, Beijing also facilitated the resumption of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Since late 2023, the U.S. support for Israel's brutal military campaign in Gaza has also made it difficult for Riyadh to turn a new page in bilateral ties.

The Saudis have resisted U.S. pressure to formally recognise Israel, pre-conditioning it on the creation of a pathway to Palestinian statehood, which Israel has ruled out.New contours under the Trump presidencyThere has been a positive sea change in bilateral ties since Mr. Trump took over the U.S. presidency this year. His first visit of his second term abroad was to Saudi Arabia in May 2025, where an agreement to supply \$142 billion worth of military equipment was secured. The new contours of this new relationship were in evidence at the no-holds-barred state visit. It included a moving guard of honour, a fly-past, a private lunch and a 300-guest banquet, both hosted by Mr. Trump, who also attended the investment forum at which deals worth \$270 billion were signed.On his part, MbS readily agreed to raise

the promised Saudi investments in the U.S. economy from \$600 billion to \$1 trillion without a fixed time frame. The amount is nearly as big as the country's GDP and the entire corpus of the Kingdom's Public Investment Fund (PIF), which already has 40% of its foreign investments in the U.S. economy. The groundbreaking Strategic Defence Agreement was signed, formally designating Saudi Arabia as a "major non-NATO ally" and committing the U.S. to actively assist Saudi Arabia if it came under an attack.

The two sides also made tangible progress towards collaboration in civil nuclear energy and the supply of state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips. Given the Trumpian propensity for "truthful hyperbole" and Saudi economic stringency, observers are sceptical about all key promises made during the visit being fully realised.Moreover, the bilateral differences on basic issues such as the global oil glut, Riyadh-Tel Aviv reconciliation, Iran, and the Kingdom's drive towards strategic autonomy were papered over during the Summit, which was conspicuous by the absence of any final communiqué. The visit can, nevertheless, be considered as a qualified bilateral success, particularly as it managed to bury the past ghost issues.The robust revival of the U.S.-Saudi ties in Trump 2.0 is bound to have a regional impact. Under MbS, Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy, has abandoned its low-key diplomatic profile, adopting a more assertive and visible pursuit of national interests. This process has accelerated after the two-year-long Israeli military campaign that has subdued Iran, the Kingdom's long-standing rival in the region and the Islamic world.MbS has already persuaded Mr. Trump to drop sanctions against Syria's new regime and has asked for stronger American intervention to end the Sudanese civil war. Even the Iranian President has sought the MbS facilitation of the resumption of nuclear talks with Washington. The robust endorsement by the White House during the recent visit would further empower MbS, who at 40 years could be around for decades, making him an indispensable, long-term U.S. interlocutor as the region's geopolitical architecture gets reconfigured.

While the visit was silent on global issues, there are signs of subterranean bilateral coordination. Although oil has largely disappeared as the driver for bilateral economic synergy, the Saudi economy continues to be highly dependent on oil export revenues. Moreover, as recent U.S. sanctions against the two Russian oil majors demonstrated, Washington intends to continue its dominance of the global oil market. Both Saudis and Americans want the oil price to be at a moderate, sustainable level. The concerted American actions on sanctions against Iran, Venezuela and two Russian oil majors can only help stem the emerging supply-side oil glut, shore up the price and create market space for higher exports by both Saudi Arabia and the U.S. For the U.S., reinforced ties with Saudi Arabia would also stave off the recent encroachments by China and Russia on its turf, and complement its regional Pax Americana.

Impact on IndiaThe Washington Summit does have several implications for India. First, it may provide advanced U.S. military equipment access to Pakistan, with which Riyadh concluded a strategic mutual defence agreement in September 2025, apparently with the U.S. nod-and-wink.Second, although India, as the world's third-largest oil importer, would prefer oil prices to be low, moderation and stability in the oil market may still be preferable as it navigates for alternative sources to Russian supplies.Third, soaring Saudi ambitions for its post-oil Vision-2030, such as AI data centres, may create economic opportunities for India.Fourth, curbing China's foray into Saudi Arabia may open the door wider for India. India also needs to prioritise entering into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Saudi Arabia.Lastly, the emerging modus vivendi with Israel may also facilitate the work on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which transits through Saudi Arabia. At a different level,

# Israel approves proposal to bring all remaining 5,800 Jews from Northeast India



Israel's government has approved a proposal to bring all the remaining 5,800 Jews from India's north-eastern region, commonly referred to as Bnei Menashe, over the next five years.The Government of Israel, on Sunday (November 23, 2025), approved a "significant, wide-scale initiative" to complete the Aliyah (immigration) of the Bnei Menashe community from northeastern India, the Jewish Agency for Israel said."This historic decision will bring approximately 5,800 members of the community to Israel by 2030, including 1,200 already approved in 2026," it said.It will be the first time that the Jewish Agency will be leading the entire pre-immigration process — eligibility interviews together with the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, the Conversion Authority, and the Population and Immigration Authority — organising the flights for eligible candidates and managing their absorption in Israel. The plan is estimated to require a special budget of 90 million shekels (\$27 million) to cover the costs of the flights of these immigrants, their conversion classes, housing, Hebrew lessons, and other special benefits.

It was presented to the Cabinet by Immigration and Integration Minister Ofir Sofer. A professional and expanded

delegation of rabbis is likely to leave for India in the coming days."It will be the largest delegation sent to date and the first in more than a decade. The delegation will interview the first half of the community, about 3,000 Bnei Menashe who have first-degree relatives in Israel," the announcement read.The process will be managed by The Jewish Agency in coordination with the Chief Rabbinate, the Conversion Authority, the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, the Population and Immigration Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and additional government ministries.Towards the beginning of the immigration of the community, most of the members were resettled in the West Bank. More recently, they have been sent to towns in northern Israel, with Nof Hagalil — a mixed Jewish-Arab city very close to Nazareth — a prime destination.The thousands scheduled to arrive over the coming years will also be settled there, according to the Cabinet decision."This government decision reflects the shared responsibility of the state of Israel and The Jewish Agency for a national effort that is meaningful, values-driven, and deeply moving. Our extensive professional involvement in planning, preparation, transport, and absorption is central to ensuring the success of this initiative," the agency said.There have been intense debates around the Jewishness of Bnei Menashe in the past, but in 2005, the then Chief Rabbi of the Sephardi community, Rabbi Shlomo Amar, recognised them as "descendants of Israel", paving the way for their immigration to Israel.The community claims that it belongs to the Menashe tribe, one of the 10 tribes pushed into exile by the Assyrians some 2,700 years ago. Around 2,500 community members already live in Israel, and local media reports say that most of the youngsters in the community serve in combat units of the Israel Defence Forces.The Jewish Agency is an Israel-based international organisation that acts collectively to strengthen Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by advancing Aliyah as a core value.

# Siddhant Bhatia’s ‘Sounds of Kumbha’ takes Mahakumbh 2025 to the Grammys

Earlier this year, all roads led to Prayagraj, which hosted the 'Mahakumbh 2025'. An event that happens once in 144 years, Mahakumbh 2025 — or the Kumbh Mela — put the spotlight on spiritual enlightenment, attracting visitors from across India and the globe seeking to take a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam.Classical singer-composer Siddhant Bhatia was there for a few days, but on a project commissioned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. On the banks of the Ganga, Siddhant recorded live field recordings, which would then go for post-processing and sound mixing.Within 45 days, Siddhant and team crated 12 songs and 12 music videos, featuring more than 50 artists from across India and around the world. The result was 'Sounds of Kumbha', which has recently secured a nomination at the 68th Grammy Awards in the Best Global Music Album category. "It is a significant moment in my life," he says, referring to not just the nomination but the album itself: "That I was entrusted to pull off such a beautiful musical experience is a huge blessing. I see this as a big step in globally promoting Indian culture and traditions."

He is referring to the entire album that seeks to capture the living energy of one of the world's largest gathering. While the 'Colours of Kumbh' track was designed as an anthem that "hits the people and brings them together", 'Inniverse' was inspired by silences and 'Maya' was inspired by the large flow of people.With established artists like V Selvaganesh and Rajakumari, along with musicians like Aditya Gadhi, Kanika Kapoor, Kala Ramnath and Bhanumathi Narasimhan, among others, 'Sounds of Kumbha' blends traditional sounds and mantras with con-



temporary music production. "The biggest highlight is the 'Ram Ram' track that features Gurudev Sri Sri Ravishankar. He has never been featured in a music album before. When you have him in the project, it becomes a global spiritual product.""Sounds of Kumbha", which also brings together distinguished producers such as Jim 'Kimo' West, Raghav Mehta, Madi Das, Ron Korb, Charu Suri, and Devraj Sanyal, hopes to give a sense of the Mahakumbh within the comforts of your homes, adds Siddhant."I'm humbled that this project, which seemed like an almost impossible task initially, is now regarded as a proud product of India," says Siddhant, who has also been nominated in the upcoming Grammys for another album, Shayan, by Indo-American pianist Charu Suri.

# What is the row over selecting a Head of Police Force in Tamil Nadu? | Explained



The story so far: Tamil Nadu has found itself in the middle of a controversy over the appointment of a regular Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force (DGP/HoPF). For the first time in recent years, the State was unable to appoint a regular police chief in time to succeed the outgoing DGP. G. Venkatraman, a 1994-batch IPS officer ranked sixth in seniority, has been appointed as the in-charge DGP.

What has the government said? Although the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) had finalised a panel of three senior DGP-rank officers from the list forwarded by the State, the Tamil Nadu government rejected the panel, stating that the shortlisted officers were "not acceptable". Tamil Nadu Law Minister S. Regupathy issued a statement accusing the Centre and the UPSC of disregarding the State's views and selecting officers of their choice. Meanwhile, two contempt petitions have been filed against Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam for allegedly violating the Supreme Court's guidelines.

What are the SC guidelines? In *Prakash Singh versus Union of India* (2006), the Supreme Court laid down detailed guidelines for the selection of State DGPs/HoPF. The Court mandated that, "The DGP of the State shall be selected by the State Government from amongst the three seniormost officers of the department who have been empanelled for promotion to that rank by the UPSC, on the basis of their length of service, very good record, and range of experience for heading the police force." It further ruled that the selected officer must be granted a minimum tenure of two years, irrespective of their date of superannuation. State governments are required to send proposals to the UPSC at least three months before the anticipated vacancy of the DGP, outlining the eligible officers to be considered for the post. However, Tamil Nadu did not follow this timeline. The then incumbent DGP, Shankar Jiwai, retired on August 30, 2025, which meant the State should have forwarded its list by June. Instead, the proposal was submitted to the UPSC only on August 29, 2025.

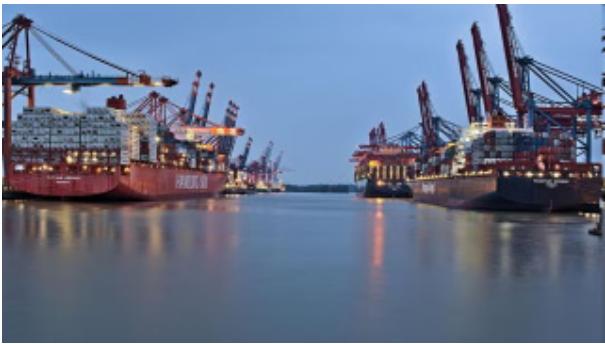
What is the contempt plea about?After advocate Henri Tiphagne moved the top Court alleging that the State Government had committed contempt by appointing an in-charge DGP, the Chief Secretary informed the Court that a regular appointment was delayed because one of the eligible officers had approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) seeking inclusion of his name in the panel. The CAT dismissed his application on April 30, 2025. While disposing of the contempt plea, a Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India requested the UPSC to consider the matter "expeditiously" and directed that, once the UPSC's recommendations were received, the State Government must take steps "forthwith" to appoint a DGP.Following this direction, the UPSC convened an Empanelment Committee Meeting on September 26, 2025, with the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary. It emerged through reliable sources that the State had withdrawn the integrity certificate of one officer and expressed its unwillingness to empanel three other officers for undisclosed reasons. Despite this, the UPSC shortlisted the senior-most DGP-rank officers, and forwarded its recommendations to the State. However, Tamil Nadu raised objections by writing to the UPSC to express its concerns about the inclusion of officers it deemed "unacceptable" and indicating a preference for another meeting. The UPSC responded swiftly, stating that its earlier decision would stand.What is the current status?Petitioner Kishore Krishnaswamy filed a case against the State, alleging wilful contempt for appointing an in-charge DGP and withholding the appointment of a candidate from the panel of three IPS officers. The top Court has sought the State's response within three weeks.

# What is a 'random forest'?

A: A random forest is a machine-learning method that makes predictions by combining the decisions of many simpler models called decision trees. A decision tree works like a tree from bottom-up. At each node, it asks a question about the data, e.g. "is a person's age greater than 30?". Then, depending on the answer, it moves left or right until it reaches a final decision at a 'leaf'. While single trees are easier to understand, they can also overfit the data, i.e. they may learn small quirks of the training data that don't generalise well. A random forest minimises this issue by building a large number of trees, each trained on a slightly different random sample of the data. When asked to make a prediction, every tree gives an answer. For classification problems, the random forest picks the most common answer. For regression problems, it averages the numerical outputs. Because random errors and quirks tend to cancel out when the verdicts of many trees are combined, a random forest is often more accurate than any single tree while still being relatively straightforward to use.



## As India pushes for EU deal, legal team told to avoid leaves; key EU team in Delhi expected this week



Amid pressure on goods exports due to steep 50 per cent US tariffs and the trade deal with Washington still hanging in the balance, India is pushing to complete negotiations for a trade deal with the European Union by next month and has asked the legal team working on the deal text to refrain from taking leaves before the trade deal with EU is signed. While an EU delegation is expected to visit India on December 3, both countries have ramped up negotiating rounds, and a key virtual stocktaking meeting between Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and the EU's Directorate-General for Trade Sabine Weyand took place on Friday as both partners enter the final lap of negotiations.

While 10 out of 23 chapters have been closed, key issues, particularly related to rules of origin and market access that include agriculture, remain pending, two people aware of the development said. Both countries have reached a landing ground on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), which means an agreement on the use of different methods of control, inspection and approval procedures to verify compliance with pre-agreed standards that have a bearing on food items. With the deadline approaching, both partners have also likely dropped a few sensitive chapters, including one on state-owned enterprises (SOEs), as New Delhi was not on board with putting the same on the negotiating table. The SOE chapter in a trade deal typically deals with rules and governance surrounding businesses that are partially or wholly owned by a government, covering their commercial activities and competitive neutrality.

On the issue of the carbon tax that the EU is expected to implement from January 1, India has introduced a 'rebalancing' provision, as it is unlikely that the EU is willing to give Indian products a concession. The rebalancing provision would mean that if Indian products face a restriction in market access in the EU, India will subject European products to restrictions in equal measure. The Indian Express had reported that India had pitched for a similar provision in the trade deal with the UK to ensure that when London introduces its version of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), it does not impact the concession won by India under the trade deal. The rebalancing mechanism has also been introduced as the carbon tax legislation has the scope of including more and more products going forward. The carbon tax, which will ensure that imported carbon-intensive goods into the EU bear a carbon cost starting January 2026, is seen by several developing nations as

discriminatory and in conflict with international environmental law. Brazil, China, India and South Africa have raised serious concerns about CBAM in World Trade Organisation (WTO) forums, and Russia initiated a formal dispute on May 12 this year. A statement released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry in October had said that there was intensive engagement to explore possible landing zones on the outstanding issues, and there was also a good discussion on India's concerns over non-tariff measures and new EU regulations. "During the negotiations, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal emphasised the need for preferential treatment for India's key asks, particularly those relating to labour-intensive sectors. Both sides agreed to work closely to finalise the non-sensitive industrial tariff lines. They also agreed that issues related to steel, automobiles, CBAM and other EU regulations still require further discussion, as these have higher sensitivities," the statement said.

Official trade data shows that steel and aluminium shipments to the EU have already dropped by 24.4 per cent — from \$7.71 billion to \$5.82 billion in FY25 compared with the previous financial year. This is concerning as Indian products are already facing 50 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium in the US market. The EU is India's largest trading partner, accounting for \$124 billion worth of trade in goods in 2023 or 12.2 per cent of total Indian trade. India is the EU's 9th largest trading partner, accounting for 2.2 per cent of the EU's total trade in goods in 2023. Trade in services between the EU and India reached \$59.7 billion in 2023, up from \$30.4 billion in 2020.

After the phone call on September 4, in a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said, "Had a very good conversation with European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Reaffirmed our shared commitment to an early conclusion of the India-EU FTA and implementation of the IMEEC corridor." Ajay Srivastava, former trade official and founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), said that, unlike the US—whose recent 50 per cent steel and aluminium tariffs are harsh but clearly defined—the EU's trade barriers are complex and opaque. He added that a fair FTA with the EU should address measures such as the carbon tax. Srivastava said that CBAM, when fully implemented, will result in a 20–35 per cent import tax on Indian firms and that the industry will have to share all plant and production details with the EU. "Large firms may need to run two production lines: expensive yet greener ones for making products for exports to EU countries, and normal ones for the rest of the world," Srivastava said. Barring the carbon tax, other sensitive issues include whisky, cars, and automobiles. While market access to the UK was given in stages, experts said that the volumes in the case of the EU would be much higher, and hence market access negotiations on these items would be more complicated. In response, Costa and von der Leyen had said, "Looking ahead, we plan to agree on a joint strategic agenda at the next EU-India summit, as early as possible in 2026. We also remain fully committed to concluding the Free Trade Agreement negotiations by the end of the year. To achieve this, progress is needed now."

## After exit from Tata Trusts, Mehli Mistry quits Tata's Small Animal Hospital board

Mehli Mistry quits Tata's Small Animal Hospital board. Mistry was voted out of Tata Trusts by other trustees in the last week of October. Weeks after stepping down from Tata Trusts, Ratan Tata's close confidant Mehli Mistry has resigned from the board of Tata's pet initiative, the Small Animal Hospital Trust, stating that he is no longer in a position to fund the trust.

Mistry said he would not seek funds from the philanthropic entities that control the Tata conglomerate, particularly since he was removed from them last month. However, he continues to serve on the board of the Tata Education and Development Trust, which operates under the Sir Ratan Tata Trust headed by Noel Tata. Since he is no longer associated with the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), he would not be in a position to provide funding for the Small Animal Hospital Trust, Mistry said in his resignation letter. He added that he would also prefer not to request funding from a trust with which he is no longer associated, and therefore tendered his resignation with immediate effect. "Our founder, Ratan N. Tata, while seeking care for his beloved pet, encountered firsthand the challenges in accessing advanced veterinary treatment in India. This deeply personal experience sparked a vision — to create a space where pets receive the best medical care, empathy, and dignity. The journey to raise the standards of veterinary care in India began, and it marked the inception of SAHM," the hospital's website states.

Small Animal Hospital, Mumbai (SAHM), was set up by the Tata Trusts through the Advanced Veterinary Care Foundation (AVCF) to ensure that every aspect — from medical infrastructure to compassionate service — meets the unique needs of small companion animals and their



families. On November 4, Mistry, who had been involved in a tussle with Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata and other trustees, parted ways with the Tata group, saying that "precipitating matters would cause irreparable harm to the reputation of the Tata Trusts". A close confidant of Ratan Tata, Mistry was voted out of Tata Trusts by other trustees in the last week of October when his renomination proposal came up. He had been appointed a trustee three years earlier, in October 2022. Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Sir Ratan Tata Trust are the two principal trusts within Tata Trusts, with several smaller trusts operating under them. On November 11, the Board of Trustees of the SDTT unanimously approved the induction of Bhaskar Bhat, former MD and CEO of Titan Company, and Neville Tata, son of chairman Noel Tata, as trustees with effect from November 12, 2025, for a three-year term. Neville's induction is seen as strengthening Noel Tata's influence within Tata Trusts. The Tata Trusts hold a 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons, the principal holding company of the Tata group.

## India's new SIM-binding rule for WhatsApp and other apps. Here's what you should know

New Delhi: India has mandated an active SIM linkage for messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Signal to work on a device in the coming days, with the government asserting that "SIM binding" is essential to plug security gaps that cybercriminals exploit to perpetrate large-scale, often cross-border, digital fraud. The move has, however, polarised stakeholders, with mobile operators under COAI supporting the directive, while digital platforms under the Broadband India Forum (BIF) have raised "serious concerns" about overreach and urged the government to pause implementation timelines. Here is a snapshot of what the directive says and how various players have reacted:

Messaging platforms must ensure, within 90 days, that their services work only if an active SIM is present in the user's device. Also, within 90 days, any web version of the app must automatically log users out at least once every six hours; users can then re-link the device using a QR code. All players offering app-based communication services in India have been asked to submit compliance reports to the Telecom Department within 120 days of the directive. The department has warned that failure to comply will attract action under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, the Telecom Cyber Security Rules and other applicable laws. At present, app-based communication services link to a subscriber's mobile SIM card only during installation and

verification. These applications continue to function even if the SIM is removed, replaced or deactivated. The directive impacts users of apps such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Arattai, Snapchat, ShareChat, JioChat, and Josh in India. The government says an active SIM requirement is "essential" to plug a security vulnerability that cybercriminals use to conduct large-scale, often cross-border, digital fraud. With cyber-fraud losses crossing Rs 22,800 crore in 2024 alone, continuous SIM linkage and periodic logout will ensure that every active account and web session is tied to a live, KYC-verified SIM—restoring traceability of numbers used in phishing, investment, digital arrest, and loan scams. The Centre has clarified that the direction does not affect cases where the SIM is present in the handset, and the user is on roaming. Industry body COAI — whose members include Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea — says the directive will bolster national security and safeguard citizens. It argues that continuous linkage ensures accountability and traceability for any activity undertaken using the SIM card and its associated communication app. It will close "long-persistent gaps that have enabled anonymity and misuse", COAI has said, pledging support for seamless implementation. Broadband India Forum (BIF), which represents major technology firms like Meta and Google, says the directions raise significant questions around jurisdiction, consumer impact,

## ‘That’s why they ultimately got separated’: Veteran journalist recalls why Rajesh Khanna didn’t want Dimple Kapadia to work after marriage; psychologist on how such restrictions impact marital health



Actors Rajesh Khanna and Dimple Kapadia married each other when she was just 16, and he was 32. Dimple, who had just begun her stint in the industry, was grabbing attention after her breakthrough role in the film Bobby. However, she decided to get married, and her promising career came to an abrupt halt as Rajesh had banned her from working in movies. This became a major point of conflict later, with Dimple eventually returning to the cinema years after their separation in 1984. Veteran journalist Pooja Samant, who once interviewed Rajesh Khanna in the 1980s, recalled how he viewed marriage and his expectations from Dimple. She told Hindi Rush, "I don't exactly remember all that happened during that interview, but I do know that at the time of getting married, Rajesh told Dimple that she had to take care of the household and his family. He was at the top of the game, and he was a superstar, and he wanted a wife who would take care of everything. He didn't think that the household would be the same if his wife worked in films. Now people want both partners to earn to sustain the house, but Rajesh did not need any more money. On the other hand, Dimple knew she was talented, and that's why she wanted to work, and maybe that's why they ultimately got separated."

How can differences in expectations around career and household roles affect the health of a marriage?

Sonal Khangarot, a licensed rehabilitation counsellor and psychotherapist, tells indianexpress.com, "Differences in expectations around career and household roles can deeply strain a marriage, as both are full-time responsibilities that consume much of daily life. When one partner contributes as per their capacity, but this clashes with the other's expectations, it can lead to feelings of being undervalued or 'doing nothing.'"

## ‘Jab main Mumbai mein hoti hoon tab meri mom-in-law mujhe champi deti hai’: Sonakshi Sinha shares her haircare routine

Sonakshi Sinha might be a Bollywood star, but her approach to hair care feels refreshingly real. From battling the scorching sun on shoots to giving herself a nostalgic "champi" when away from home, her routine is all about keeping it natural. While shooting outdoors in Delhi's blistering heat, Sonakshi admitted in a YouTube video, "I'm quite tired. I'm feeling very drained out." That's when she really misses the pampering sessions back home. "Aur aise samay mein jab main Mumbai mein hoti hoon tab meri mom-in-law abhi mujhe champi deti hai. Aur pehle meri mom mujhe champi deti."

Working in films means constant exposure to styling tools: heat, tongs, blow-dryers, and extensions. Sonakshi revealed, "Is waqt mere baalon mein koi extensions nahi hai. As you know, hum kaam ke liye bahut hair extensions pehente hain. Which can also be quite damaging for your hair, kyunki woh clip-ons hote hain. Hair breakage ho sakta hai uske saath. Din bhar hum tong karte rehte hain. Blow dry karte rehte hain. Straighten karte rehte hain. So a lot of heat damage, especially to an actor's hair. Kyunki aapke baal in sabko roz expose hote hain. So it's not very cool." Her remedy? Going back to basics with natural products. "Use oils, a good conditioner, a nice shampoo, nothing too heavy on chemicals. Jaisa aapko pata hai, I love all things natural, and I keep my shampoo also very gentle, and same with my conditioner."

Not a fan of sticky hands, Sonakshi found a solution, a scalp massager gadget she stumbled upon online. "It's a really cool gadget... whenever I'm oiling or putting any serum by myself, I make sure it seeps into my scalp with the



help of this." Does it really work? "I don't know how much the red light works, but the massager is great... It's very relaxing." When it comes to oils, Sonakshi picked up a mix of rosemary, bhringraj, and biotin hair oil, all known for promoting hair growth. "All three ingredients are very good for hair growth, I've heard, and I'm giving it a shot." The applicator tip makes it mess-free. "It just goes directly to my scalp, so all my hair doesn't get messy. I'm trying not to take it on the lengths of my hair, just on the scalp." She even massages the ends of her hair — a part most of us forget. "That felt really good... Sometimes I do it even while sitting around during the day, it's good for circulation and promotes hair growth." For Sonakshi, hair care isn't about ten-step routines or complicated regimens. "My hair care routine is very basic... I always believe — and I'm sure you know this by now — that less is more. If you don't mess with your hair or skin too much, they'll always be nice to you."

## How the pressure of being constantly online and maintaining multiple identities is draining Gen Z

"I feel the most pressure to constantly prove that I'm doing something meaningful with my life," says 27-year-old Rushali Natarajan in a conversation with indianexpress.com. She continues, "As you see, everyone continuously hits new achievements, you feel an immense amount of pressure to do so yourself. Your timeline to achieve your goals is then accelerated, and you start to expect everything to happen almost immediately or get super upset when it doesn't. Even if you know it's not realistic, you beat yourself up for not trying hard enough or being successful enough. This race of sorts is what emotionally drains me most." Natarajan's words capture a defining struggle of Generation Z, considered the most digitally connected generation in history, yet perhaps the most emotionally depleted. A 2022 McKinsey Health Institute survey of more than 42,000 respondents across 26 countries found that Gen Z is significantly more likely than older generations to report poor mental, social, and spiritual health. The survey revealed that nearly three in five Gen Zers spend at least one to two hours daily on social media, creating a complex relationship where digital connectivity becomes both a

lifeline and burden. "Negative effects seem to be greatest for younger generations, with particularly pronounced impacts for Gen Zers who spend more than two hours a day on social media and Gen Zers with poor mental health," the study noted. The weight of multiple identities For young people today, being online isn't just about scrolling; it's about putting up a performance. Many describe experiencing what mental health professionals are now calling 'identity burn-out': the exhaustion that comes from juggling different versions of themselves across various platforms. "Instagram is the creative and polished side of me, LinkedIn is the serious one, and WhatsApp is the unfiltered everyday version," explains Shivani Sinha, 19. "Managing all these identities gets tiring because I feel like I am adjusting parts of myself all day. It sometimes makes me question which version is the closest to the real me, that too is often tiring," she points out. Managing all these different identities has created a lot of chaos. Managing all these different identities has created a lot of chaos (Source: Freepik) Nupur Pagawad, 24, describes how this digital fragmentation has taken over her life. "On LinkedIn,



## Washington Sundar or Nitish Kumar Reddy in Raipur? Dew will take the call



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

What was the par score when batting first at Ranchi? 330, perhaps. What's the par score when chasing in that first ODI? 400, or thereabouts. Such was the effect of dew. India got relatively lucky in the sense that the dew initially helped them with the new ball to get the ball skidding on, and South Africa lost wickets in a clutch. Had they preserved wickets in the first powerplay, South Africa might well have cantered home. Despite that collapse, Marco Jansen bashed the living daylights out of India to threaten a heist.

The caravan is now in Raipur, where evening condensation is likely to pop up dewy droplets and gatecrash all well-laid plans of the teams. It's a massive stadium outside the city, near a pretty water body, with a 60-65 thousand capacity, the third-largest stadium in the country after Ahmedabad and Kolkata. But South Africa's Temba Bavuma isn't worried about 65,000 Indians screaming from beyond the stands, but realises the importance of toss and dew. "I think the right decision (to bowl first) was made. The majority of our runs (in the chase) were scored by the guys coming in down ... We haven't considered the crowd to be honest." The dew also raises headaches over selection, particularly for India. South Africa went with just one spinner, packing their team with pacers to handle the dew. For India, who is the better bowler when bowling first, Washington Sundar or Nitish Reddy? Sundar, clearly. He is also the better bowler of the two in most conditions, but when the dew-soaked ball gets mighty difficult to grip for spinners, India might perhaps be tempted to use Reddy. In the latter half of the chase in the first ODI, Indian's seamers mostly used cross-seam balls and such. But the toss situation can't be predicted. At one point, when Marco Jansen was smash-

ing the white ball all around the Ranchi stadium, the ball had to be fetched from beyond the boundary. It looked like a bar of soap when the ball-boy threw to the nearest fielder, with moisture dripping off like water. Two more Indians deployed the towel treatment before it reached the bowler, who too whipped out his towel. The first real appearance of dew came in the 17th over, and from the 25th over on, it fell copiously and India had to scamper around, trying to find a way. In the end, a piece of luck arrived when Jansen heaved a long-hop from Kuldeep Yadav to deep midwicket, and the game turned again.

There is another factor that is creating issues. Ranchi was the first ODI in India that had the new ICC rule that stated: "Two new balls will be used for the first 34 overs of an ODI innings, after which the fielding team will choose one of the balls for the remaining overs." As it turned out, Jansen fell off the first ball of the 34th over, but South Africa's tail too batted on without much fuss. It's a team that has batsmen all the way down, and is well poised to make use of that one-ball rule better than India, whose three seamers and Kuldeep aren't known for fireworks with the bat. The one-ball run from the 34th over was done to bring parity between ball and bat, as it can potentially help reverse swing, but this series in this region of the country this month isn't helping that. Instead, in an ironic twist, with dew piling on, that one ball is now playing into the batsmen's hands.

At the end of the first ODI, Kuldeep spoke about the challenge of bowling with that one very-soaked ball. "It was very challenging, the ball was getting really wet. We kept putting dust and asked the umpire for a replacement, that was the plan. I bowled a few balls slower through the air, but you can't just rely on stock balls. You have to mix things up and keep batters guessing. That was my plan ... I was mixing up the scrambled seam and seam up. Just tried to go back off the length. It was easy to connect off a full length." Raipur stadium might have one trick up its sleeve to help out the beleaguered bowlers: its massive size. The boundaries are usually at least 80 metres long here, say the locals, and the batsmen might not be able to hit as many sixes with a dewy-soft ball, in theory. In the bigger scheme of things, this ODI series is viewed differently by the two teams. For India, it has already become an all-consuming affair around Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. South Africa see it as an avenue to give chances to youngsters as they build their ODI team. Bavuma said as much: "We're in a different space, it's a different team compared to the Test side. It's about giving chances to young guys."

## 'Inclusion of those two guys that does bolster the team': Temba Bavuma on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's impact on India side



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Rohit Sharma Virat Kohli Bavuma IND SARohit Sharma and Virat Kohli of India during the 3rd ODI match between Australia and India at Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney, Australia, on October 25, 2025. (CREIMAS for BCCI) The Proteas captain Temba Bavuma said that while the addition of stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the India ODI side bolsters the hosts but it's nothing that the South Africans haven't faced before. Kohli and Rohit returned to the Indian side for the first time since the Australia ODIs in October and immediately made an impact with a century and a half century respectively, helping the hosts win by 17 runs and take a 1-0 lead in the 3-match series.

"The inclusion of those two guys that does bolster the team. Like we said at the start of the series, these are two guys who have a lot of experience and a lot of skill and that can only benefit the team. It is not something that we are not aware of," Bavuma said in the press conference on Tuesday. "We played against, Rohit... I think it was in 2007, the T20 World Cup, I was still in school then. I mean, these guys have been around, so there is nothing new. These are world-class players. (Coming up against them is) nothing new, we have come across it. We have been on the bad end of it. But we have also had good times against them. It all just makes the series a lot more exciting," he added.

Bavuma, who led South Africa to 11 Test wins in his 12 matches as skipper, including the recent Test series clean sweep against India, said that it was up to the higher-ups in the South Africa board to ensure there were more Tests against top countries. "All of us have been crying for more cricket especially against the top nations. The Test series (against India) now, as much as there were two match series, a lot of us would have wanted to see it going to three or four-match series. When it's a side like India, they would have raised the standard, which would have forced us to raise our standards as well." "As players, we don't get involved when it comes to the scheduling, the negotiation, and all of that. Those are for, I guess, the people in suits, the Cricket South Africa," he said.

## Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz brands under fire Gautam Gambhir 'best ever coach, human being, mentor' of his career



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Afghanistan keeper batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who was a part of the Kolkata Knight Riders side which won the IPL in 2024 under the mentorship of Gautam Gambhir, said that he was baffled by the criticism against the now India head coach. Gurbaz also added that Gambhir was the best coach and mentor he had ever worked under. "If 1.4 billion people are there in your country, you can say 2-3 million will be against him. The rest are with Gautam sir and with India team. It doesn't make sense to talk about them. He's the best ever coach and human being, mentor that I have had in my career so far. I love the way he goes about things," Gurbaz said to PTI.

"India just won the Champions Trophy in ODI format, Asia Cup in T20 format. They have won a lot of series, so you can't blame them for one series. I love the way he (Gambhir) goes about his job. When you have a good environment, you will be always on the top. He made the environment very easy for us, nothing stressful, nothing strict... and that's why we won the tournament. He is not strict but he is disciplined. He is strict only when something goes against discipline," he added. Gambhir has been under the cosh since India lost to South Africa 0-2 in the recently concluded Test series, their second whitewash at home after

getting blanked 0-3 by New Zealand last year. India's longstanding home Test domination now lies in tatters with the team now having lost 5 of their last 7 Tests in their own backyard. Gurbaz, however, said that India should be cut some slack and they needed support now more than ever when they need it the most. "As a cricketer, I will never blame players because everyone works hard and tries their best. They lost, so what? They are human. Sometimes you lose — it's part of life. When you are going through bad times, that's when you need support," Gurbaz said.

## Tilak says he enjoys ODI & Test cricket format

HYDERABAD: Indian cricketer Tilak Varma says that the ODI and Test cricket feel like his game because he enjoys the longer format.

"I'm really excited to play more ODIs as well. When Rohit bhai and Virat bhai are in the same team, the confidence level is completely different," Tilak said in JioHotstar's show 'Follow The Blues'.

"They have so much experience and knowledge, and I try to take as much advice from them as possible to get better. I speak to Virat bhai a lot, especially about fitness and running between the wickets. His intensity is incredible. I love running too, and I feel I'm pretty quick, so I really enjoy that part of the game. If we play together, running between the wickets with him is something I look forward to," Tilak said. On guidance from Head Coach Gautam Gambhir, the Hyderabad said that "Gautam sir always gives me confidence. He tells me that if you have the skill, you can play all formats and do well in all formats." "He (Gambhir) puts me under pressure in practice sessions so I can learn how to handle pressure in matches.

## Why the stadium is a blessing for Madurai and the neighbouring districts



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

When you think of Madurai, you think of the Meenakshi Amman Temple, the rich local cuisine, the jasmine buds, and for being Thoonga Nagaram — the city that never sleeps. It's why the city is a popular tourist destination down south. But for 17-year-old Athiban, and many more students of the sport in and around the city, the past few days have been all about hockey. Athiban, along with his friends, has had the chance to witness from close quarters some of the best young players from hockey powerhouses like Belgium, Spain, and the Netherlands, not much older than him, showing them what it takes to get to this level. More importantly, it brings a world-class stadium to their doorstep — the Madurai International Hockey Stadium in the city's Race Course area.

"The new floodlights mean we can practice till much later in the night. Getting to play on this new blue Astro Turf means our touch won't leave us when we go play in bigger tournaments in Chennai or at the national level. Tough kudukalam, jeikalaam. (We can give tough competition to anyone and win more)," says Athiban, who hails from Sivakasi and has been at the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu hostel in Madurai for four years now, tells The Indian Express. He has represented Tamil Nadu at the Sub Junior and Junior Nationals in the last couple of years. "We feel lucky that we have this facility here now." Athiban, who is a volunteer for the tournament and has just been out in the middle with the Netherlands players for the national anthems, adds that it has been an eye-opener to see Dutch players in action. "We tend to hit some slow, lazy passes at times, but their passes are just so powerful and precise with timing. We got to see them training, too." The Dutch captain Casper van der Veen was impressed with the infrastructure. "We really like it, the pitch is amazing, the dressing rooms are good too, we could see the amount of work that has been put in, it feels similar to the facilities we have back home," he says.

## 'When Rohit bhai and Virat bhai are in same team, confidence level is completely different': Tilak Varma



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

India's Tilak Varma said that the presence of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the side gives the team a major boost of confidence, adding that he was seeking inputs on running between the wickets and fitness from the latter. Kohli and Rohit scored a century and a half century respectively as India defeated South Africa by 17 runs in the 1st ODI in Ranchi on Sunday and helped India take a 1-0 lead in the 3-match series.

## 'Very un-Bazball': Michael Vaughan questions Will Jacks' selection for second Ashes Test against Australia at Brisbane



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has questioned the inclusion of Will Jacks in the playing XI for the second Ashes Test at Brisbane, calling the move "very un-Bazball". The 51-year-old said that Jacks' selection went against the very nature of the direction Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum have taken the present side in. Vaughan praised Jacks as a cricketer, but admitted that the decision to pick him was not an attacking move by the visitors.

"England's selection for the second Ashes Test at the Gabba is very un-Bazball and goes against the grain of so much Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum have done since taking charge of this team." "Don't get me wrong, Will Jacks is a very aggressive cricketer who fits the mould of this team. But they are normally ultra-positive, and this is not an attacking move," Vaughan wrote in his column for "The Telegraph". The former batter felt that the inclusion of Jacks at number eight meant that it shortened England's tail considerably. "Jacks at eight, followed by Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse and Jofra Archer is one of England's short-

While hosting a tournament of this magnitude is a first for Madurai, the region has a place of pride in Tamil Nadu's hockey history. "Some of the best hockey coaches in Tamil Nadu were from this region in the late 80s. They have produced hundreds of players from villages like Kovilpatti, Rajapalayam, and Palayamkottai," says Dhinesh Kumar, Ramnad's District Sports Officer, who has played for the state in the 2000 nationals and has since transitioned to coaching and administration. "The Reserve Line Sports Club has been in operation for more than 50 years. This region is iconic in Tamil Nadu for producing talent. But the scope of developing locally had been limited; we had to depend on facilities in Chennai. Now we feel like we are part of the international hockey community. Idhu engalukku oru varaprasadham. (It's like a divine blessing for us)." At this World Cup, Madurai has been hosting half the group-stage matches and is scheduled to host post-group classification games, while Chennai hosts the key knockout matches. But given the amount of work that had gone in the last five months to get the venue ready, the organisers managed to schedule one India match here, against Switzerland on Tuesday.

When it was decided that the Junior World Cup would be held in Tamil Nadu, Chennai was the obvious first choice for the host city. Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium is an iconic stadium that has plenty of history, but has gone 16 years without hosting an international tournament until 2023's Asian Champions Trophy came along. After the success of the Chess World Cup, the Tamil Nadu government was ready to put up another show for the world. But a call had to be made on an additional venue to accommodate 24 teams. There was initially an idea to install another pitch in Chennai.

"Then, we realised, you know, why should we do that? Let's take it to another city," J Meghanatha Reddy, IAS — CEO & Member Secretary of Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu — tells The Indian Express. "Madurai has a natural ecosystem of hockey. Southern Tamil Nadu is known for being a hockey belt. From Kovilpatti to Pudukottai to Ramnad to Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli, we have hostels in these centres. So, Madurai was a natural choice. We thought it was an opportunity where we could create a world-class facility down South. There was an old pitch in place, with just a broken fence. That is what was presented to us. We took it as a challenge and thought: Why not create something wonderful out of this? And we executed the project in 4 to 5 months." There is a tinge of disappointment in Athiban's voice, as he rues that he can watch only one India match. But when the dust settles and the tournament ends, he and hundreds of budding talents in the region will have an elite facility to nurture their own dreams and hopes.

"ODI and Test cricket feel like my game because I enjoy the longer format. I'm really excited to play more ODIs as well. When Rohit bhai and Virat bhai are in the same team, the confidence level is completely different. They have so much experience and knowledge, and I try to take as much advice from them as possible to get better," he said on JioHotstar. "I speak to Virat bhai a lot, especially about fitness and running between the wickets. His intensity is incredible. I love running too, and I feel I'm pretty quick, so I really enjoy that part of the game. If we play together, running between the wickets with him is something I look forward to," he added. The 23-year-old who has played 4 ODIs and scored a half century said that he wanted to prove himself in the long formats like ODIs and Tests and will grab any opportunity that comes his way in the ongoing South Africa series. "Whatever opportunities I get against South Africa, I want to finish those matches. I want to prove myself in ODIs and Tests too. I'm challenging myself to perform in the longer formats and grow as an individual player," he said. India will next face South Africa in Raipur for the second ODI on Wednesday and will hope to seal the series with one match remaining. Before the ODI series, India were white washed by the Proteas 0-2 in the Test series.

est tails in history. It is certainly a far cry from the infamous tail of Andy Caddick, Alan Mullally, Phil Tufnell and Ed Giddins from 1999. Caddick's Test batting average was 10, and if my mate the Tuffers is batting anywhere other than No 11, you know something is not right," he wrote. The 2005 Ashes-winning captain added that Jacks' role as an off-spinner will be crucial in the second Test, considering the heat factor in Brisbane, which might drain the fast bowlers quickly. "The big concern about Jacks is that he is going to have to bowl a lot of overs.

## Flutter Entertainment pledges Rs 60 lakh to boost para-sports through AMF

HYDERABAD: Flutter Entertainment India LLP (FEI), the Hyderabad-based centre of excellence for the world's leading sports entertainment operator, Flutter, on Tuesday announced a partnership with Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF) to strengthen India's para-sports ecosystem and further its commitment to empowering communities through sport. Flutter Entertainment India has committed Rs 60 Lakh to support two major programs at AMF — Training, Rehabilitation Centre/Adaptive Gym Upgradation, Nutrition & Coaching and Customized Adaptive Devices & Equipment. Together, these initiatives will directly impact up to 15 para-athletes as they prepare for elite competitions including the Asian Youth Para Games and Paralympic games 2028. The support strengthens AMF's vision of enabling athletes to train with dignity, confidence, and world-class resources, echoing AMF's belief that the right infrastructure can turn potential into podium finishes. Ashish Sinha, Managing Director, Flutter Entertainment India, said, "Para-athletes represent resilience, ambition, and the belief that sport should be accessible to everyone.



# Vijay Varma says he had to ‘up my game’ to work with Naseeruddin Shah: ‘He has played Ghalib; I had lost my lehja’



After making the audience scared out of their wits with his portrayal of dark characters in *Pink* (2016), *Darlings* (2022), and *Dahaad* (2023), Vijay Varma has entered into a whole new world. In Vibhu Puri's new romantic drama *Gustaakh Ishq*, Varma plays an old-school Urdu poet, wrapped in shawls and stealing glances from his love interest, played by Fatima Sana Shaikh. "I always had a soft corner for poetry. I used to look up to it. I always used to improve my bhasha (language) and lehja (accent) as a student of acting. But when the script came to me, I remember deep-diving and falling in love all over again with something I'd lost touch with, which is my profound love for poetry," says Varma in an exclusive interview with *SCREEN*. It helped that Varma shared screen space with his longtime idol Naseeruddin Shah, who's no stranger to playing poets on screen and stage. "I was playing ball with an actor who's played Ghalib and several other shayars on screen. So, I had to up my game and get myself upto speed. It was one of the most enduring learning experiences for me," says Varma.

What didn't help was that they shot in temperatures below 10 degrees in Uttar Pradesh. "It was tough because shayari doesn't roll off my tongue so easily. And it was very cold. How do you do shayari while shivering? But I love a good challenge. And I'm glad Vibhu threw that kind of a challenge at me. I had enough support of a producer who ran with the idea of casting me and putting me out there in this light," says Varma, lauding ace fashion designer Manish Malhotra, who's turned producer with *Gustaakh Ishq* under his new banner Stage 5 Productions. Another person on set who was no stranger to poets was director Vibhu Puri, having helmed two short films on poets' lives in the past. His 2004 documentary *Chauras Chand* was based on the revolutionary 20th-century Punjabi poet, Pash. His 2006 short, *Chabiwali Pocket Watch*, also set in Old Delhi like *Gustaakh Ishq*, revolves around an ageing Urdu poet. The film fetched Puri a Special Jury Prize at the National Awards. "I love poetry, poets, and the life that a poet loves. You can't be-

come a poet overnight. It's not like you see something and just click on it. Poetry is always an evolving medium. You go through so much suffering so that one new line, thought or couplet can come out. Poets have always changed the world. It's not the war heroes, but the poets who give you hope. In days of war, it's that hope that you live till the next day for," says Puri. He added that the unsaid in poetry is so prominent that it'd invariably seep into his filmmaking process as well. "Half of the time, I'd wonder on set why Vijay didn't do that, and then he'd say, 'But you didn't tell me.' So, poetry keeps reflecting in all my work, and I love it," confesses Puri, who has also honed his visual lyricism by assisting and writing dialogues and songs for films of Sanjay Leela Bhansali, including *Saawariya* (2007) and *Guzaarish* (2010).

"There are so many things I've learnt from him when it comes to craft, from the detailing, pauses, silence, colours to even when the music should start. That's all there, of course. But one thing I've imbibed in my heart that he'd keep telling me: Once a shot is done, it'll be imprinted in time forever. I won't be able to go back and change it. If you have to change something, now is the moment," says Puri, adding, "Which is why I also kept telling Vijay. I'd tell him, 'If you say that line like this, I'd sleep better at night.' Bhansali has told me to do whatever I do with all my heart and conviction, and not do anything half-hearted at all." Vijay Varma made the most of the romance in this one, since he goes back to the more familiar territory of Nagraj Manjule's Prime Video India show *Matka King* and an unnamed *Hansal Mehta* show that he's just wrapped up the filming of. While he recalls he did a bit of romance in *Sujoy Ghosh's 2023 Netflix India crime thriller Jaane Jaan*, he got the opportunity to explore another shade in *Gustaakh Ishq*. "The romance isn't like the Shah Rukh Khan-Kajol one. It's a more unsaid, kuchh pehle jaisa (old school) romance. So, it wasn't a big ask. It was a nuanced, non-pronounced romance which I particularly enjoy doing," says Varma. His co-star Fatima, however, has been a part of two blooming romances this year — Anurag Basu's musical *Metro*... In *Dino* and Vivek Soni's *Aap Jaisa Koi* on Netflix India. But instead of leaning on Fatima for initiating him into the world of romantic films, Varma got a head start and turned out to be the reassuring one instead. "I started the shoot earlier than her. I spent six-seven days and got acclimatized to the director, the text, the character as well as the weather. So, I was a bit warmed up by the time she came. She was the nervous one when she entered. So, it was the other way round. I comforted her and held her hand through it," says Varma.

# Dhurandhar gets CBFC go-ahead; Mohit Sharma's brother reacts: ‘Don't know what data the board relied on, but...’

With the board's approval following a fresh examination, the path is now clear for *Dhurandhar* to receive its CBFC certificate, allowing the film to release on its previously announced date. CBFC has ruled that *Dhurandhar* is a work of fiction with no factual or biographical connection to Major Mohit Sharma. (Credit: Express Archives, IMDb)

In a significant relief for director Aditya Dhar's Ranveer Singh-starrer *Dhurandhar*, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has cleared the hurdles that had cast uncertainty on its impending release. Following the Delhi High Court's directions to consider the objections raised by the parents of Army officer Major Mohit Sharma, who claimed that the movie appears to be directly inspired by his life, the board re-examined *Dhurandhar* on Tuesday, December 2. Subsequently, it ruled that the spy actioner is a work of fiction with no factual or biographical connection to Major Mohit Sharma. In their petition to the High Court, Major Mohit Sharma's parents, who was martyred during a counter-terrorism operation in Jammu and Kashmir in 2009, alleged that *Dhurandhar*, purportedly based on their son's life, was created without their consent or that of the Indian Army. Seeking a stay on the film's release, they also demanded a private screening before its worldwide release. On Monday, while disposing of the petition, the court had directed the CBFC to consider the objections raised by the plaintiffs. With the board's approval following a fresh examination, the path is now clear for *Dhurandhar* to receive its CBFC certificate, allowing the makers to ensure the Ranveer Singh-starrer's release on Friday, December 5, as planned.

Now, the Ashoka Chakra awardee's brother, Madhur Sharma, has reacted to the latest development, expressing his belief that a disclaimer mentioning that the movie is a work of fiction will be added at the beginning of *Dhurandhar*. "I am sure they've followed the process and they were very quick to take a decision, which is good. We don't know what



data CBFC has relied on but I am sure they have done their due diligence. They have said that it is a work of fiction so I hope that a disclaimer will be duly added," he said during a conversation with *Hindustan Times*. However, he expressed dissatisfaction with the makers and the CBFC for not considering his parents' request for a private screening of the film, which, he opined, would have allayed the ongoing speculation. "I just feel that a screening could have been organised for the parents so that any misconceptions floating on social media could have been clarified. People who have lived their entire life with him are in a better position to tell if anything in the film replicates his life, rather than someone outside the ecosystem," Madhur added. When asked if the family would pursue the matter further, he said that he had yet to contact their lawyers. Madhur, nonetheless, did not respond with a firm no to this question.

# Avatar Fire and Ash first reactions: James Cameron film is the ‘ultimate spectacle’

Director James Cameron is rolling out the third instalment of his film *Avatar*, called *Fire and Ash*, later this month, and all eyes are on it. When the first *Avatar* came out in 2009, it changed people's perception of what could be achieved with visual effects. Now critics have shared their two cents on the film after attending the world premiere of *Avatar 3* at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Film critic Courtney Howard took to social media and praised Cameron for yet another exciting film. "3 films in, James Cameron still has the sauce, making the epic spectacular feel emotionally impactful. A glorious saga. Bold, brilliant & awesome in every way, this is what movie theatres were built for," wrote Howards. Another critic admitted that he had never been an 'Avatar fanatic', but he still loved what Cameron did with *Avatar: Fire and Ash*.

He wrote, "I may not be the biggest 'Avatar' superfan, but *Avatar: Fire and Ash* proves once again that James Cameron can and will always deliver the ultimate cinematic spectacle, pushing visuals and emotion to new heights and redefining what a true blockbuster feels like."

Several other critics and journalists praised *Avatar: Fire and Ash* for its complexities beyond just the technical aspect. While the films have always been lauded for the latter, many have argued in the past that they could do with



a lot more substance. Film critic Michael Lee argued the same and wrote, "Avatar: Fire and Ash is huge on visual spectacle, especially in 3D. Deeper exploration of Pandora & new tribes allows for immense world-building. The story may be lacking, but this pushes technical boundaries in unimaginable ways." Starring Kate Winslet, Stephen Lang, Zoe Saldana, Sam Worthington and Edie Falco, *Avatar: Fire and Ash* will release on December 19.

# Dharmendra's mom met Hema Malini secretly; Prakash Kaur shared she ‘understands’ what Hema went through



Hema Malini and Dharmendra's marriage was unconventional. He was already a married man with four kids when he decided to tie the knot with the Dream Girl. Though Hema had met Dharmendra's first wife, Prakash Kaur, before her marriage to the star, she maintained her distance and never met her again after she married Dharmendra. She lived alone with her and Dharmendra's two daughters — Esha Deol and Ahana Deol — and Dharmendra visited them quite often. But not all of Dharmendra's family members stayed away from Hema. His mother, Satwant Kaur, came to meet her when she had their first daughter, Esha.

In her biography *Hema Malini: Beyond The Dream Girl*, authored by Ram Kamal Mukherjee, Hema spoke about meeting Dharmendra's mother and recalled how warmly she hugged and blessed her. She revealed that Satwant came to see her without informing anyone in the family. "Dharamji's mother Satwant Kaur was equally warm and kind-hearted. I remember how she came to meet me once at a dubbing studio in Juhu after I had conceived Esha. She hadn't informed anyone in the house. I touched her feet, and she hugged me and said, 'Beta, khush raho hamesha (Be happy always).'" I was happy that they were happy with me," she wrote. Dharmendra's father and Hema's father would arm-wrestle

Not just Dharmendra's mother, even his father Kewal Kishan Singh Deol was very fond of her. She recalled Kewal's bond with her father V.S. Ramanujam Chakravarthy

and how Dharmendra's father would arm-wrestle him. "He would drop by and meet my father or brother for chai. Instead of shaking hands, he would arm-wrestle them, and after defeating them he would jokingly say, 'Tum log ghee-makkhan-lassi khao, idli aur sambhar se taqat nahi aati (Have butter, lassi, ghee. Idli and sambhar won't make you strong). My father would join in the laughter. He (Dharmendra's father) was a very jovial person," she recalled. About not crossing Dharmendra's first wife Prakash Kaur's path, the Sholay actor said she "didn't want to disturb anyone." Hema added that she has never spoken to Prakash, but she and her daughters respect her. "I am happy with whatever Dharamji did for me and my daughters. He played the role of a father, like any father would do. I guess I am happy with that. Today, I am a working woman and I have been able to maintain my dignity because I have devoted my life to art and culture. I guess, if the situation was even slightly different from this, I wouldn't be what I am today," she wrote. 'Nobody wants to be like that': Hema on living separately from Dharmendra

Though Hema expressed that she "doesn't want to disturb" anyone and stays away from Dharmendra's family with his first wife, she also admitted that the arrangement of him living with his first family wasn't ideal. She said, "Nobody wants to be like that; it happens. Automatically, what happens, you have to accept. Otherwise nobody will feel like they want to live their life like this. Every woman wants to have a husband, children, like a normal family. But somewhere, it went out of the way... I am not feeling bad about it, or sulking about it. I am happy with myself. I have my two children, and I have brought them up very well." Dharmendra was 19 years old when he married Prakash Kaur in 1954, a time when he wasn't a star and hadn't entered the film industry. After becoming an actor, he fell in love with co-star Hema Malini when they first met on the sets of *Tum Haseen Main Jawaan* in 1970. In 1981, in a chat with *Stardust*, Prakash Kaur spoke about his second marriage and even defended her husband against the label of being a "womaniser". "Why only my husband? Any man would have preferred Hema over me "How dare anyone call my husband a womaniser when half the industry is doing the same thing?" Prakash defended Dharmendra's choice to marry again, stating how all male actors have affairs. "All heroes are having affairs and getting married a second time. He may not be the best husband, though he is very good to me, but he is certainly the best father. His children love him a lot. He never neglects them," she said. However, Prakash didn't approve of Hema choosing to marry an already married Dharmendra. "I can understand what Hema is going through. Even she has to face the world, her relatives and her friends. But if I were in Hema's place, I would not have done what she did. For, as a woman, I can understand her feelings. But as a wife and a mother, I do not approve of them," she had said.

# Sunjay Kapur didn't give Karisma Kapoor's kids Rs 1900 cr, says his mother as she questions Priya Sachdev's claims

Sunjay Kapur's death in June this year led to a legal battle between his third wife Priya Sachdev Kapur, his ex-wife Karisma Kapoor's children, and his mother Rani Kapur. While Karisma and Sunjay's kids — Samaira and Kiaan — accused their stepmother of forging his will, Rani Kapur has also levelled fresh allegations against Priya, accusing her of hiding Sunjay's assets and even moving his wealth overseas. Here's a detailed look at all the accusations Rani Kapur has made against Priya Sachdev: During the Monday hearing, lawyers representing Rani Kapur told the Delhi High Court that Priya had concealed the value of Sunjay's assets, pointing out that his salary was Rs 60 crore per year, along with luxury assets and a 6.5% stake in Sona Comstar valued at roughly Rs 650 crore. However, the counsel, Vaibhav Gaggar, said that in her submissions, Priya allegedly showed only Rs 1.7 crore in bank accounts.

According to *Hindustan Times*, the counsel said, "Massive concealment. This house (farmhouse in Delhi's Rajokri area) is built by my late husband. There are more than 50 pieces of artwork there... Sunjay Kapur had no life insurance, no rental income, and mutual funds? His salary was Rs 60 crore, and we are saying that he has only Rs 1.7 crore in his accounts." On Karisma Kapoor's children receiving Rs 1,900 crore worth of shares Her counsel also spoke about Karisma Kapoor's children not getting anything from his personal estate since they received Rs 1,900 crore worth of shares from the RK Trust. It is the family trust where Rani is the settlor. "It is not for him (Sunjay) to bequeath (from the trust)... so this entire thing to say there's fairness in the will is wrong.... he couldn't have under law, and he has not given it... The Rs 1,900 cr worth of shares being transferred, it was not for Ms Sachdev (Priya) to give, couldn't have been and it could not have been for Mr Sunjay to give... I being the settler of the trust, and the sole beneficiary is (in charge of the trust's control)." "Money moved overseas"

Rani's counsel also alleged that Priya has moved the money across borders. "My lady may seek details of two years, not just of Mr Kapur but also of Defendant No 1 (Priya Kapur) because the money has moved. Any interim order must be in the nature of status quo ante because the money has moved across borders, potentially," he said, as per NDTV. Rani Kapur's counsel argued that she wasn't informed about the will and raised doubt about Sunjay leaving the entire estate to Priya. "If he truly intended to leave me out, he would have said so expressly," her counsel submitted during the hearing. The counsel also pointed out that Sona Comstar was built by Rani's husband and Sunjay's father, Surinder Kapoor, but despite that, Rani wasn't even mentioned in the will. "An 80-year-old has been told today that she has not even been mentioned in the Will. There is not even a whisper about her. That she has no ownership in the company built by her husband, which was exclusively left to her," he said. The counsel further argued that Rani's name was not mentioned in the will despite the company being built by her husband, who had left it to her. He also challenged Priya Kapur's counsel's assertion that a husband bequeathing his personal assets to his wife is a Kapur family tradition, since Sunjay Kapur's father had also willed his entire property to Rani Kapur. Contesting Priya's argument, he said, "How can you compare the two? She (Priya Kapur) was married to Sunjay for seven years. This was his third and her second marriage. I was married to my



# Rani Kapur has also levelled fresh allegations against Priya Sachdev Kapur, accusing her of hiding Sunjay Kapur's assets and even moving his wealth overseas.

husband for forty years. The distinction doesn't end here. Our Will was registered. The witness to our Will was a person whom my husband had known for 30 years. Here, the witness says he wasn't even associated with the company before 2022," Rani Kapoor has contended.

'Rani Kapur also accused Priya of plotting to take control of his assets immediately after his death, even while the family was mourning. Her lawyer claimed that one Dinesh Aggarwal was appointed director of Aureous a day after Sunjay's death in June. The counsel claimed that Dinesh — one of the witnesses in the disputed will — works at Priya's 'dictate'. "Star witnesses (of the will) are closely working at the dictate of the propounder and sole beneficiary. They are totally going to be speaking for only 1 side. Fairness doesn't seem to be anywhere in this," the senior lawyer said.

'Everything goes to her within 3 months of marriage?' During a previous hearing in September, Rani Kapur questioned how Sunjay transferred his entire estate to Priya's name within three months of their marriage. "Her vested interest goes into trust. All gone. I am nowhere. Ms Sachdev comes in, within three months of her getting married, everything goes? My son today leaves me with no roof over my head? I am Rani Kapur," the mother had said.

Rani Kapur claimed Rs 10,000 cr from Sunjay's Rs 30 cr wealth Rani Kapur had also claimed that assets worth Rs 10,000 crore are hers from Sunjay Kapur's estimated assets worth Rs 30,000 crore. "I have written at least 15 emails asking about the will, what are the documents? Not a word has been shared. I have been told that my emails have been compromised. There is something incredibly unholy. Rs 10,000 crore worth of assets should have been mine," she said during the hearing in September.