

## Nallakunta retiree loses Rs 29.5 lakh in online trading app scam

Hyderabad: A 63-year-old retired employee from Nallakunta has lost about Rs 29.5 lakh after allegedly being lured into a fraudulent online trading scheme run through a fake app.According to the police, the complainant was added in November to a WhatsApp group by a woman identifying herself as Divya Mehra. The alleged fraudster convinced him to share personal financial details and install a bogus trading app, claiming it enabled investments in shares, OTC trades, and IPOs."Believing the promises of high returns shown on the manipulated app, the victim transferred large amounts from his and his wife's bank accounts.

## CM Revanth Reddy Launches Major Development Initiatives in Narsampet

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has embarked on a visit to Narsampet in the Warangal district, accompanied by Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy. They received a warm welcome from local MLAs, leaders, and officials.During this visit, CM Reddy inaugurated a series of development projects amounting to a substantial total of ₹532.24 crore. Key initiatives include the establishment of the Young India Integrated School, funded with ₹200 crore, and a government medical college and hostel with an allocation of ₹130 crore.

Further projects announced included the widening and repair of the Hanmakonda-Narsampet-Mahabubabad road at a cost of ₹82.56 crore, the widening of the Narsampet-Pakhala road for ₹17.28 crore, and the expansion of the Narsampet-Nekkonda road at ₹56.40 crore. Additionally, a government nursing college building will be constructed for ₹26 crore, alongside various development works in Narsampet town valued at ₹20 crore.

In a subsequent public meeting, CM Reddy expressed his frustration with the state of regional development under the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), which he claimed had



left much to be desired over the past ten years. He highlighted the Congress party's commitment to profitable agriculture, contrasting it with the prior government's approach. CM Reddy pointed out that while previous rulers engaged in extravagant living, they neglected the core issues facing communities in Warangal. He reiterated the Congress government's achievements, including waiving farmer loans, issuing 1.1 crore ration cards, and providing subsidised rice to over 3.1 crore residents.

## Four militants arrested; five cases filed over cultural threats



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Imphal: The security forces in Manipur have arrested four hardcore militants of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) from two different districts during the past 24 hours, officials said here on Friday, adding that five cases have been filed for threats to cultural groups.A police official said that the PREPAK extremists, who were arrested from Imphal East and Thoubal districts, were involved in various crimes, including the forcible collection of subscriptions from government employees, contractors, traders and common people.

PREPAK rebel Akoijam Unvers Meitei alias Lukhoi (27), one of the four arrested militants, was involved in recruiting new cadres for the banned outfit, the official said. Theft of vehicles, especially small cars and two-wheelers, is frequently reported in Manipur.The Manipur Police arrested a vehicle lifter, one Md Asad (29), from the Kwakeithel Sangaiprou Mamang Leikai area under Imphal West district. A car that was stolen earlier has been recovered from him.In connection with the threats issued against participants of the Sumang Leela Associations and other performers at the recently concluded Manipur Sangai Festival 2025 by insurgent groups, Manipur Police have registered five cases across five Imphal valley districts — Imphal West,

Imphal East, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Kakching Districts. Investigations are underway to identify and take necessary legal action against those involved. As of now, three militants have been arrested in these cases.The police have assured that strict action will be taken against any attempt to intimidate or disrupt cultural activities and public events in the state. After a gap of two years, the 10-day Sangai Tourism Festival was held at Hapta Kangjeibung in Imphal from November 21 to November 30.

Meanwhile, ahead of the Sangai Tourism Festival, various groups of violence-hit Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and several Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an umbrella body of several Meitei civil society organisations, had called for a cease-work strike and appealed to the people to boycott the festival and organised a series of protests.These groups claimed that since the State government is organising the annual Sangai Tourism Festival from November 21 to 30, it is presumed that normalcy has been restored in their areas, and therefore, they should be allowed to return home instead of continuing in relief camps.The security forces continue extensive crackdowns against militants, with search operations and area domination drives underway in fringe, mixed-populated and vulnerable areas across districts. A total of 113 nakas/checkpoints have been set up across Manipur in both valley and hill districts, to curb the illegal movement of inimical elements and suspicious vehicles.Security forces have also been providing escorts to vehicles, including trucks carrying essential commodities, along the Imphal-Jiribam National Highway (NH-37). Strict security arrangements and convoy protection continue in sensitive stretches to ensure the safe movement of vehicles.Manipur Police have urged the public not to believe rumours and to be wary of fake videos on social media. "The veracity of any circulation of unfounded videos or audio clips may be confirmed from the Central Control Room. Uploading and circulating fake posts on social media will attract legal action," a police statement warned.

## SC raps Assam Police for keeping UAPA accused in custody for two years without chargesheet, grants bail

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to a 55-year-old tribal man, taking serious exception to the Assam Police keeping him in custody for two years without filing a chargesheet.Terming his prolonged incarceration as "wholly unjustified", a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta pulled up the Assam Police for failing to file the chargesheet within the statutory period prescribed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967."For two years, you did not file the chargesheet, and the man has been in custody? This is, in fact, illegal custody. You consider yourself to be the premier investigating agency of the country?" the Bench remarked, addressing advocate Shubhojit Roy who appeared for the Assam Government. Mr. Roy submitted that the accused, Tonlong Konyak, was a Myanmar national and had been found in possession of counterfeit Indian currency while crossing the border. He argued that Section 43D(7) of the UAPA imposes a statutory bar on granting bail to a person who is not an Indian citizen and has entered the country illegally, except in exceptional circumstances.Dismissing such a contention, Justice Mehta observed, "Whatever be the stringent provisions under UAPA, the law does not provide for illegal custody. This is appalling."The Bench further noted that the petitioner had already been granted default bail in two connected cases in which the chargesheet was not filed within the prescribed period. It added that under Section 43D(2)(a) of the UAPA, the period for completing an investigation may be extended only up to a maximum of 180 days, and only through a judicial order, expressly recording the grounds

for such extension.Justice Mehta then asked the State counsel what had prevented the police from filing the chargesheet, pointing out that an accused would ordinarily be entitled to statutory bail if the investigation is not completed within the mandated period. Mr. Roy responded that several co-accused were absconding, which had delayed the investigation."You cannot keep a person in custody for an indefinite period. If the chargesheet is not filed within the stipulated period under the law, he has to be granted default bail," Justice Mehta said.The apex court was hearing Mr. Konyak's petition challenging a December 20, 2024, ruling of the Gauhati High Court, which had denied him bail on the ground that he was not an Indian citizen and had entered the country without any authorisation.According to the prosecution, Mr. Konyak was arrested on the Nagaland border by the Assam Rifles on July 23, 2023, after he was allegedly found carrying ₹3,25,000 in extorted money while travelling towards Myanmar. He was later booked under provisions of the IPC and the UAPA for purported links with the banned United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA-Independent).Disputing these allegations, advocate Shahrukh Alam submitted that he belonged to the Konyak tribe of Nagaland, which is indigenous to the border region, and that, at the time of his arrest, the area was governed by the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar. The FMR permitted members of border tribes to travel up to 16 km into each other's territory without a passport or visa."My Lords, please note that the petitioner has been in custody since 2023, and a chargesheet was filed only on July 31 this year," Ms. Alam said.

## Ganja seized in two train operations; three arrested in Hyd

Hyderabad: The Regional Narcotics Control Cell unit of Eagle Force along with the Government Railway Police arrested three drug peddlers in two separate train operations and seized a total of 8.1 kg of marijuana.

In the first case, officers caught Muna Prusty and Tikash Barik from Odisha on board the Konark Express and recovered 7 kg of marijuana being transported to Mumbai.In another check on the LTT Express, the team detained one M Mohan Kumar Vijay and seized 1.1 kg of marijuana from him. He reportedly purchased it near Rayagada in Odisha.Eagle Force urged citizens to report drug related activities to the 1908 helpline or through WhatsApp.

## Telangana High Court issues notices on HILTP policy of Telangana government

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Hyderabad: The High Court on Friday issued notices to the State and Union governments on the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation Policy (HILTP) and directed the State government to file a detailed counter affidavit confirming the Advocate General's statement made in the court on record.Challenging the State Government's Order 27 on HILTP, retired Prof K Purushotham Reddy filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court. As per the GO, the State government permitted industrial lands for conversion into residential, commercial and mixed use zones.

He said in the petition that this move would create a public health disaster as schools, hospitals and residential apartments would be permitted in the heavily polluted industrial estates like Jeedimetla, Patancheru and Pashamylaram. Ground water, air and soil pollution have already been documented in these areas for decades.The Government Order on HILTP allowed large scale residential development without any environmental impact assessment. The conversion of nearly 9300 acres was being permitted with no clearance from the Ministry of Environment, he argued.Further, the current Government Order contradicted the order issued in 2013 which mandated shifting polluting industries beyond Outer Ring Road, besides violating HMDA zoning norms. The current Government Order also lacked criteria for conversion of lands and imposed a very low conversion fee of 30 percent to 50



percent of SRO value, he pointed out.Representing the State government, the Advocate General assured that no conversion would take place until all industries were shifted out. Relocation of the units was the primary intention of the policy, he said.Also, the 2013 prohibition on permitting land use conversion before shifting industries would not be diluted, he stressed."Any change in land use will strictly follow HMDA master plan amendment procedures, including issuing notifications and calling for public objections," the Advocate General told the court.After hearing the arguments of both parties, the High Court directed the State government to file a counter affidavit on the Advocate General's statement on record. The next hearing on the issue is posted for December 29.

## Housing loans to get cheaper, RBI cuts interest rates by 25bps



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Mumbai: Shrugging off concerns over the depreciation of rupee, the RBI has cut interest rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent in a bid to further bolster economic growth, which rose to a six-quarter high of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year.The development is expected to make advances, including housing, auto and commercial loans cheaper.

Announcing the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Mon-

etary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to cut the short-term lending rate or repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance.The rate cut comes on the back of the consumer price index (CPI) based headline retail inflation ruling below the 2 per cent lower band mandated by the government for the last three months.

India's retail inflation dropped to a historic low of 0.25 per cent in October 2025, marking the lowest level since the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series was introduced. Besides, the Indian economy has clocked better-than-expected GDP growth of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter.However, the rupee declined to historic low and crossed 90 against a dollar earlier this week making imports costlier, raising fears of rise in inflation. Rupee has depreciated by about 5 per cent so far this year.The RBI has sharply raised growth projection to 7.3 per cent from earlier 6.8 per cent for the current financial year.The central bank has been tasked by the government to ensure that CPI-based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.Based on the recommendation of the MPC, the RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 bps each in February and April, and 50 basis points in June amidst easing retail inflation.The retail inflation is trending below 4 per cent since February this year. It eased to historic low in October, aided by an easing of food prices and favourable base effect.

## India, Russia agree to continue working towards enhancing trade in national currencies



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Mr. Putin is in India for a two-day visit to attend the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit as well as to hold meetings with Mr. Modi. The two leaders also discussed how to remove the tariff and non-tariffs barriers so that the two countries can achieve their target of crossing bilateral trade worth \$100 billion by 2030. Annual bilateral trade stood at \$68.7 billion in 2024-25. "Russia and India have agreed to continue jointly developing systems of bilateral settlements through use of the national currencies in order to ensure the uninterrupted maintenance of bilateral trade," the joint statement said. It added that the two sides have agreed to continue consultations on enabling the interoperability of the national payment systems, financial messaging systems, as well as central bank digital currency platforms.Enhancing trade, reducing deficits

According to experts, the ongoing move towards trade in national currencies is a way for the two countries to reduce their dependence on the U.S. dollar and move towards addressing the widening trade deficit India has with Russia."By operationalising rupee-denominated trade, we can bypass the dollar-dependency that is currently aggravating our deficit," Suketu Thanawala, partner at StraCon, a business advisory and consulting firm, said. Notably, at a time when the World Trade Organization is being increas-

ingly sidelined in matters of international trade, the joint statement underlined the importance of an "open, inclusive, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trade system with the World Trade Organization at its core". "Both Sides emphasised that addressing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, removing bottlenecks in logistics, promoting connectivity, ensuring smooth payment mechanisms, finding mutually acceptable solutions for issues of insurance and reinsurance and regular interaction between the businesses of the two countries are among the key elements for timely achievement of the revised bilateral trade target of \$100 billion by 2030," the statement added.

## Flight cancellations to be less than 1,000 on Sat; expect situation to normalise by Dec 10-15: IndiGo CEO

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

New Delhi: IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers on Friday said the airline expects to have less than 1,000 flight cancellations on Saturday and that the situation is anticipated to normalise between December 10-15.

On a day when the airline cancelled more than 1,000 flights, or over half of its daily number of services, Elbers, in a video message, apologised for the major inconvenience caused to the passengers due to the disruptions.

"Regrettably, earlier measures of the last few days have proven not to be enough. So we decided today for a reboot of all our systems and schedules, resulting in the highest number of cancellations so far, but imperative for progressive improvements starting tomorrow onwards.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## On the investigation into cyber-crime

The Supreme Court's direction to the CBI to conduct a pan-India investigation into cyber-crimes, and "digital arrest" scams in particular, might seem extraordinary, as such directions normally require State government consent. But by doing so, the Court has acknowledged the severity of the menace that transcends State jurisdictions and boundaries. The Court's prioritisation of the "digital arrest" scam — fraudsters impersonate police or government officials in a video call, falsely accuse victims of crimes, and pressure them to transfer money to avoid arrest — is fully warranted. The government has estimated that this scam, which often targets senior citizens, has resulted in losses exceeding ₹3,000 crore. The Court has asked the CBI to target not just the scammers but also banking officials who facilitate the creation of "mule" accounts. This is necessary as these scams depend on a malleable financial architecture and therefore require the intervention of agencies such as the RBI, which has also been instructed by the Court to employ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to trace the "layering" of proceeds through multiple accounts. The Court has also asked online intermediaries to cooperate with the CBI, invoking the IT Rules 2021. The Court is also right in asking the CBI to investigate other scams such as investment schemes and part-time job scams, subsequently.

The severity of cyber frauds, as National Crime Records Bureau data indicate, has risen significantly. However, while the judiciary and domestic policing can address the symptoms within India, the problem has another dimension — it is also transnational.

## Chinna Jeeyar Swami Felicitates TRASMA Leaders



""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 5 (Indian Chronicle):""Chinna Jeeyar Swami expressed his gratitude to the TRASMA leadership for successfully organizing the Gita Jayanti celebrations. He felicitated State President Yadagiri, Honorary President Shekhar Rao, Uppal Mandal President Vijayender Reddy, and the Uppal EC body members for their efforts."Chinna Jeeyar Swami also assured that special motivational and guidance programs would be organized for children in the coming days. He conveyed heartfelt thanks to State President Yadagiri, Honorary President Shekhar Rao, and Uppal Mandal President Vijayender Reddy for giving him this opportunity.

## Dalit Leaders Must Be Given Due Representation in Government –



TPCC SC Cell Convener H.R. Mohan"" Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, December 5: ""TPCC SC Cell Convener H.R. Mohan called on Telangana Government Advisor Vem Narender Reddy and submitted an important representation demanding rightful recognition, participation, and opportunities for Dalit leaders in government and within the Congress Party."Speaking on the occasion, Mohan emphasized that Dalit leaders have been working tirelessly for over a decade for the growth and strengthening of the Congress Party. Especially the SC wing members who dedicated their lives at the grassroots level for public service must be provided with appropriate roles, responsibilities, and political positions. He urged that their service and commitment should be duly honored."Mohan further pointed out that Dalit Congress leaders across all 33 districts in Telangana have

played a vital role in addressing public issues and supporting the party at every step. The memorandum also included several recommendations and requests seeking recognition and representation for these leaders."Receiving the representation, Vem Narender Reddy responded positively and assured ""The Congress Government is committed to recognizing deserving leaders who have sincerely worked for the party, especially Dalit leaders, and will provide appropriate positions and responsibilities in both government and party structures."Mohan thanked the Government Advisor for his assurance and stated that he will continue to represent the concerns and demands of Dalit leaders at party platforms in the future."Those who participated in this meeting Srinu TPCC SC Cell", Raj Kumar Vice President, Ranga Reddy District Congress Party", Dalit Leader Kalva Mallesh, Dalit Leader Rachamalla Jagan, Other senior leaders and party leaders.

## Xiaomi India launches REDMI 15C 5G with sleek design, immersive display and dependable performance



Hyderabad:Xiaomi India today announced the launch of the REDMI 15C 5G, a smartphone designed to deliver a sleek aesthetic, a spacious 17.53 cm immersive display, and dependable all-day performance for users who seamlessly switch between work and entertainment.Commenting on the launch, Anuj Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer, Xiaomi India said, "With REDMI 15C 5G, our goal was to build a phone that feels effortless in the hands of everyday users. The combination of a big immersive display, a reliable all-day battery and a refined royale design reflects how people now watch, learn and work on their phones. As we look ahead, our focus is on keeping the REDMI experience reliable and built around what truly matters to our users."The REDMI 15C 5G features a slim, polished body with a 3D quad-curved back for a balanced

grip and a distinctive floating crater camera design. It comes in Moonlight Blue, Dusk Purple and Midnight Black, with Moonlight Blue crafted through a dual-colour magnetic ink process.The 17.53 cm HD+ display with up to 120Hz AdaptiveSync delivers smooth, responsive viewing, while the 50MP AI dual camera ensures clear, vibrant photography across bright, indoor and low-light conditions.

A large 6000mAh battery powers the device through extended use, supporting 23 hours of video playback and 106.9 hours of music. With 33W turbo charging, the phone reaches 50% in just 28 minutes, and 10W reverse charging offers added on-the-go convenience. It also comes with a 33W charger in the box.

Powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 6300 octa core processor, the REDMI 15C 5G delivers smooth multitasking, with up to 16GB RAM (with memory extension) and 1TB expandable storage. It runs on Xiaomi HyperOS 2, offering smart features such as Circle to Search with Google, built-in Google Gemini, and Xiaomi interconnectivity tools including Call Sync and Shared Clipboard.Engineered for everyday durability, the device includes IP64 dust and water resistance and a 200% volume boost for clearer audio in noisy environments.The REDMI 15C 5G will be available in 4GB+128GB, 6GB+128GB and 8GB+128GB variants. The pricing has been set competitively, with the 4GB+128GB variant priced at ₹12,499, the 6GB+128GB variant at ₹13,999, and the 8GB+128GB variant at ₹15,499.

## HDFC Bank Parivartan to Upgrade Infrastructure in Two Government Schools in Adilabad District, Telangana

Hyderabad:HDFC Bank, under its CSR umbrella brand Parivartan, today announced the foundation stone laying ceremony for the renovation of two government schools in Adilabad District, Telangana. The Bank is supporting a comprehensive infrastructure upgrade at Government High School No. 1, Vidyanagar, Adilabad, and Government High School, Mahalaxmiwada, Adilabad. The work will include improvements to classrooms, IT facilities, laboratories, playgrounds, sanitation units and drinking water systems.

The announcement was made during the visit of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Shri Anumula Revanth Reddy, to Adilabad today. Key dignitaries present included Shri Jupally Krishnarao, District In-charge Minister, Shri Payal Shankar, MLA Adilabad, and Shri Rajarshi Shah, IAS, District Collector and Magistrate. Senior Bank officials including Mr Venkatesh Challawar, Executive Vice President and Regional Head, HDFC Bank Ltd, and Mr Karunakar Reddy, Zonal Head, HDFC Bank Ltd, attended the ceremony.

HDFC Bank, along with its implementation partner Learning Links Foundation, conducted a detailed assessment of the two schools to identify infrastructure gaps. As part of its role, the Bank will fund and oversee the renovation and ensure quality execution in partnership with the Learning Links Foundation. More than 850 current students, and many more in the years ahead, will benefit from safer, more effective learning environments that support both academic and co-curricular development.



Speaking about the development, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Branch Banking Head, Telangana, HDFC Bank, said, "We are dedicated to offering a comprehensive range of banking services across Telangana, ensuring accessibility for all. As a socially responsible corporate citizen, HDFC Bank is equally focused on bringing meaningful change to individuals and families in the state. The renovation of the two government schools in Adilabad is a meaningful step in this direction and we are grateful to the District Administration for their partnership in enabling impact at the community level."

Speaking about the wider programme, Ms Nusrat Pathan, Head CSR, HDFC Bank, said, "Education is one of the strongest levers for social transformation. Through Parivartan, our aim is to help build quality learning environments in underserved regions so that every child has an equal opportunity to grow, learn and thrive. Parivartan is our commitment to inclusive growth."

## Champion the Victory of Minister Sridhar Babu– Backed Candidates to Propel Holistic Rural Progress:



Gotikar Kishan Ji""P.S.ASHOKAN""KARIMNGAR BUREAU""Congress Party BC Cell District General Secretary Gotikar Kishan Ji has urged the electorate of the Manthani constituency to ensure a resounding victory for the Congress candidates endorsed by State IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and TPCC General

Secretary Duddilla Srinubabu in the ongoing Panchayat elections.""Addressing the public on Friday, he stated that the Congress-led government is steadfastly committed to achieving comprehensive and sustainable development across rural Telangana. He underscored the imperative of electing principled, dedicated, and service-oriented representatives to guarantee the transparent and effective implementation of government welfare schemes at the grassroots level.""Kishan Ji highlighted that Minister Sridhar Babu has been instrumental in securing substantial developmental funds from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, ensuring that every village in the Manthani constituency receives the necessary resources for accelerated growth.""He appealed to citizens to unanimously support the Congress-endorsed candidates so that each village can fully benefit from ongoing developmental initiatives. He further called upon Congress leaders and BC Cell members to work with unwavering commitment toward ensuring the triumph of the party's officially approved candidates.""Any Congress functionary acting in contradiction to the party's directives or undermining its supported candidates will face strict disciplinary action," he asserted.

## Rampant in Malkajgiri Circle Officials Accused of Collusion



""K Sadanand Malkajgiri. December 5: "Illegal constructions are continuing unchecked across GHMC's Malkajgiri Circle, with serious allegations that officials in the Town Planning Department are turning a blind eye while collecting hefty bribes. Locals allege that the officials, driven by regular monthly payments, are openly supporting those carrying out unauthorized works. According to residents, the department is not only ignoring violations but is even advising builders on how to escape legal scrutiny if problems arise. As a result, illegal constructions are mushrooming across several divisions. Unauthorized cellars, additional

floors and major deviations from approved plans have become common, with virtually no enforcement. A Town Planning officer working as a NAC engineer is allegedly playing a key role in facilitating these violations. Because of his influence, even the Special Task Force teams meant to curb illegal constructions are reportedly avoiding inspections in these areas. Accusations are also surfacing that large amounts of money collected from violators are being shared with certain public representatives. Builders are proceeding with multi-floor structures without even applying for permissions through TS-BPASS. Occasionally, Town Planning staff visit sites for namesake inspections, but residents say the visits only serve to reassure violators instead of stopping the unlawful activity. When complaints are filed, officials are allegedly issuing mere token notices and using them as proof that action was taken while allowing construction to continue. Despite the severe revenue loss to GHMC, the Deputy Commissioner of the circle has allegedly shown little interest in addressing the situation.

The Malkajgiri, Moulali and Neredmet divisions are witnessing the highest number of unauthorized constructions. Near Old Safilguda Dargah, a multi-storey building is reportedly excavating a cellar in clear violation of norms, yet no action has been taken by officials.

## Solis Unveils JP 975: India's First New-Gen Tractor Platform with Advanced JP Tech Engine & 15F+5R Transmission



Hyderabad:Solis, the flagship brand of International Tractors Limited (ITL) and India's No. 1 tractor export brand, today announced a major leap in Indian farm technology with the launch of the all-new Solis JP 975. Developed ground-up on an entirely new technology platform, the JP 975 marks the beginning of a new era of high-performance, intelligent, and application-ready tractors for progressive Indian farmers. Built to empower the 'Viksit Kisan' of India, the Solis JP 975 integrates breakthrough technologies for unmatched operational comfort and category-leading features ensure to drive higher productivity across diverse farm applications.

A NEW PERFORMANCE STANDARD FOR INDIAN FARMS

At the heart of the new Solis JP 975 is the advanced JP Tech 4-cylinder engine, that delivers up to 10% higher torque that peaks at 205 Nm for effortless performance in heavy-duty operations. This powerful and fuel efficient engine is paired with India's first 15F + 5R Epicyclic Transmission in the segment, alongside side-shift gears for smoother handling and a minimum of 5 optimal working speeds suitable for every major application.The Solis JP 975 tractor's Smart Shuttle system ensures quick, and jerk-free directional changes, that significantly enhances operator efficiency in field and loader work. A robust ladder-type chassis ensures stability, lower vibration, and reduced noise which is crucial for longer working hours.Speaking on the landmark launch, Mr. Raman Mittal, Joint Managing Director, International Tractors Limited, said: "The launch of the advanced Solis JP 975 marks a decisive step in our mission to bring next-generation tractor technologies to Indian farmers. The JP 975 is the first model in our completely new JP series, designed on a future-ready platform that integrates intelligent engineering with the evolving needs of the progressive Indian farmer.

## Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Participates in the 36th Ayyappa Swamy Maha Padi Puja“



""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 5 (Indian Chronicle):""The 36th Ayyappa Swamy Maha Padi Puja was organized at Balaji Enclave Colony in the Chikanagar Division under the supervision of Venu Gopal Reddy. Chikanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen, along with BRS State Leader Praveen Mudiraj, participated in the devotional ceremony."BRS leaders Eddulakondala Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Ram Anjaneyulu, Photo Balu, Mudham Srinivas Yadav, Shyam, and several others took part in the Maha Padi Puja."Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen said that devotees who wear the Ayyappa Mala follow strict rituals with discipline and perform their services with deep devotion and dedication.



No Roads for Tribal Hamlets... But a VIP Route for the Sand Mafia?"Forests Become a Barrier for Tribal Development — Yet Wide-Open Gates for Illegal Sand Trucks!"Tears of Regulagandi, Bugga, Khammam, Togu Tribal Villages Don't Get Permission... But Sand Transport Gets a Red Carpet?"Forest Laws for Tribal Lives... Forest Loopholes for Mafia Profits?"Manuguru, December 4 – Indian Chronicle:"For decades, the people of Bugga Khammam, Togu, and Regulagandi tribal hamlets have been pleading for a simple road."Even during medical emergencies — when minutes decide life or death — the Forest Department has only one answer:"Forest land... permissions cannot be given.""Basic rights like transportation, healthcare, and access to education are blocked in the name of forest protection."But in the same forest, late at night, sand mafia trucks roar through without the slightest obstruction."The same authorities who deny a road for tribals, silently watch as new pathways are carved deep inside the forest for illegal sand transport"[16:00, 5/12/2025] +91 80965 45824: End



## Decade-long Dream of Habsiguda Division Residents Fulfilled: RTC Bus Services Launched to the Colonies“Thanks to the Efforts of Uppal Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 5 (Indian Chronicle):““The ten-year dream of residents in the colonies of Habsiguda Division has finally been realized, thanks to the persistent efforts of Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel, with the support of Uppal Congress Party In-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy. Three days ago, Arun Patel submitted a representation to RTC officials of the Uppal Depot regarding the transportation problems faced by the local residents. Responding positively, RTC authorities on Friday morning launched two new bus services — 115 RR (Ram Reddy Nagar–Secunderabad) and 18 RR (Ram Reddy Nagar–Koti).“On this occasion, Arun Patel, along with colony presidents, formally launched the services at Ram Reddy Nagar, Vasavi Nagar, Kamakshipuram, Vivek Nagar, Sri Nagar Balakrishna Colony, and Devendra Nagar Colony. Residents celebrated the launch with great enthusiasm, performing special pujas and expressing immense happiness. As the colonies had been facing severe inconvenience due to the lack of bus connectivity, the issue was taken to Arun Patel, who immediately alerted Uppal Constituency In-charge Parameshwar Reddy.

He, in turn, discussed the matter with Transport Minister Ponnampallam Prabhakar, leading to the prompt approval and commencement of the bus services.“Residents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Parameshwar Reddy and Akarapu Arun Patel for their efforts in restoring RTC bus services to the inner colonies of Habsiguda Division after nearly 10 years, and celebrations erupted across the localities in joy.

He, in turn, discussed the matter with Transport Minister Ponnampallam Prabhakar, leading to the prompt approval and commencement of the bus services.“Residents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Parameshwar Reddy and Akarapu Arun Patel for their efforts in restoring RTC bus services to the inner colonies of Habsiguda Division after nearly 10 years, and celebrations erupted across the localities in joy.

## Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy discussed the problems of teachers in Parliament

“(Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- Based on the representation given by STFI National General Secretary & TSUTF State President Sri Chava Ravi, TSUTF State General Secretary Adimulam Venkat, TSUTF District President (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri) Mukkerla Yadayya, Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy raised the problems of teachers in the House on Thursday in the Parliament session on Thursday. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, he said that lakhs of teachers are in deep distress due to the sudden mandatory TET examination for teachers appointed before August 23, 2010. The House was informed that the Central and State Governments have made it clear many times in the past that TET is not applicable to teachers appointed before that date, and many teachers have not appeared for this exam. It is completely unfair to make it mandatory for them to pass TET within two years, and there is a risk of losing their jobs,



and the future of thousands of senior teachers will be in crisis.

The Central Government should take immediate steps to protect the rights of appointed teachers and, if necessary, make appropriate amendments in the RTE Act 2009 and NCTE Act 1993.

## More Students, Fewer Teachers in Mandal Primary School; Government Neglect Alleged — Prajavani Voluntary Organization“



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 5 (Indian Chronicle):““Leaders of the Prajavani voluntary organization visited the Mandal Primary School at Ramanthapur on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, they expressed concern that the school, which has classes from Grade 1 to

Grade 5 with 255 students, has only four teachers. The school also runs Nursery, LKG and UKG classes.“They said that although Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is working with an objective to develop government schools on par with private institutions, admissions have increased significantly in recent times. Due to teacher transfers, the school is currently functioning with only four teachers instead of the required seven. Over 230 students attend classes daily, making it difficult to provide proper education with the existing staff. They also noted that the school does not have voluntary teachers.“Although the school has its own building, the number of classrooms is insufficient. Mid-day meals are being provided as per the government menu. The leaders highlighted that students are facing difficulties due to the lack of a playground. They demanded that a portion of the area near the Ramanthapur Chinna Cheruvu be developed into a playground for the students.“Prajavani organization president Eram Srinivas, general secretary Vijay Kumar, members Vumpu Lakshman, Goli Krishnaiah, Raju and others participated in the program.

Political party leaders should cooperate with the police for the smooth conduct of the Gram Panchayat elections. Legal action will be taken against those who act against government rules:-

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Akanksha Yadav

➤ Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district has 17 mandals..427 gram panchayats..

➤ Police security arrangements for the gram panchayat elections to be held in three phases...

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Akanksha Yadav



124 Gram Panchayats to be held in the third phase. Apart from this, mobile police vans, patrolling police vans, Portaroti mobile, Villa Pick, (FST) Pine Squad Team, one for each mandal, 4 SST teams, and four check posts have been set up. Apart from this, 400 State Battalion and AR police are also participating in the security. He explained that 248 people with other cases and rowdy sheeters have been bound over in the backdrop of the elections. He said that his police have registered a case against 80 people who were transporting and selling illegal liquor, and their staff has seized 756 liters of liquor. Similarly, he said that 219 problematic areas have been identified in the district and police security has been set up there. He explained to the leaders of the respective political parties that the police will patrol regularly during the elections throughout the district, there will be constant police surveillance, and Section 144 will be imposed in the area where the elections will be held, and no one should come and violate it. Similarly, he warned the leaders of the respective political parties and the people that if political leaders mislead the people by distributing liquor and money, strict action will be taken against them and if law and order is disrupted, legal action will be taken against them. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Deputy Commissioner of Police Akanksha Yadav said that the leaders of the respective political parties and people from all walks of life should cooperate with the police and the government machinery to ensure the smooth conduct of the Gram Panchayat elections in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

## Sai Eshwara Chary’s Tragic Sacrifice for 42% BC Reservation Is Heart-Wrenching: Nertham Bhaskar Goud, Uppal Constituency BC JAC Leader



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 5 (Indian Chronicle):““The death of Sai Eshwara Chary, who attempted suicide in Peerzadiguda over the anguish that all political parties had deceived the Backward Classes regarding the implementation of 42% reservations, has deeply shaken society, said Uppal Constituency BC JAC leader and second-phase movement activist Nertham Bhaskar Goud.“Bhaskar Goud, along with leaders of various BC organisations and BC JAC representatives, participated in a protest demonstration in front of Gandhi Hospital following the demise of Sai Eshwara Chary.“Speaking on the occasion, he said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had publicly announced the BC Declaration at a public meeting in Kamareddy, and the BC community has only been demanding its implementation. He accused the Congress government of completely failing in fulfilling this promise. It is painful, he said, that BC–Bahujan youth are being pushed to such extreme steps.“He reminded that more than 1,200 BC,

Bahujan, and marginalized community members had sacrificed their lives during the Telangana movement. “Enough is enough — no more sacrifices. Only struggle is the way forward,” he asserted.“Bhaskar Goud emphasised that rights, reservations, and dignity cannot be achieved through suicides but only through unity, awareness, and political consciousness.

“To accomplish our goals, we must stand strong, united, and vigilant. No one should resort to such actions again. Our future lies in our hands — it is shaped through our vote, our self-respect, and our collective struggle,” he said.“He added that Telangana should no longer become a land of sacrifices but must stand as a bastion of good governance, justice, and rights. “Those who betrayed us must be answered through the ballot. Let us walk the path shown by great leaders Jyotirao Phule, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Kanshi Ram, and achieve our aspirations,” Bhaskar Goud declared.

## Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Participates as Chief Guest in Pre-Christmas Special Prayer



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 5 (Indian Chronicle):““A Pre-Christmas special prayer and the 14th Sea Water Flow Festival were organized at KKR Garden, Bharat Nagar in Uppal Division. Chikanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj attended the programme as the chief guest.“Addressing the gathering, Corporator Geetha Praveen said that under the leadership of Holy Temple Brother J. Teju Mai, the Pre-Christmas celebrations are organized every year with great devotion and grandeur, with a large number of devotees participating. She expressed happiness that by the grace of the Lord, every-

one is blessed with joy, peace, health and prosperity.“She conveyed her gratitude to all the brothers and sisters who supported her in becoming a Corporator. She assured complete cooperation to all prayer halls within the division and promised continued support in future as well.“Speaking on the occasion, Geetha Praveen stated that during the KCR government, every Christian brother and sister received Christmas gifts, but the current Congress government has been neglecting this. She urged the government to ensure that Christmas gifts are distributed to all Christians this year without fail.“Pastor Gonee Phillips and pastors from various prayer halls, along with many believers, participated in the event.

## In the third phase of nomination reception, the concerned officials should scrutinize the documents of the candidates



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao““(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- As part of the third phase of nomination reception, the concerned officials should scrutinize the documents of the candidates, said District Collector Hanumantha Rao.“As part of the third phase of nomination reception for the Gram Panchayat elections on Friday, the District Collector inspected the nomination reception centers of Chinna Kondur Cluster and Pantangi Cluster in Choutuppal Mandal. Speaking on this occasion, the District Collector asked how many nominations of village sarpanch and ward members were received today. Since today is the last day to file the third phase of nominations, many people have come and queued up, so the nomination process should be conducted very care-

fully and transparently without any mistakes. Candidates should double-check whether they have brought all the documents as per the rules and regulations while filing their nominations. If the candidates have any doubts or difficulties in filing their nominations, the officials should help them through the help desk. They should complete any form without any mistakes. All those who come to file their nominations till 5 pm should be given number-wise tokens and nominations should be received till the last candidate, no matter how long it takes. No nominations should be allowed after 5 pm, and the police should set up barricades around the gram panchayat after 5 pm and make tight security arrangements to prevent anyone from entering. They should accept the nominations without any mistakes and perform the election duties responsibly.“The concerned officials participated in this program.

## Punjugutta police arrest freelance YouTuber in extortion case

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Hyderabad: The Punjugutta police on Friday arrested a freelance journalist working for a YouTube news channel named ‘SKS FLY TV’ for allegedly threatening and attempting to extort money from a real estate company by publishing defamatory videos.

According to police, the suspect, Munige Mahender (40) from Old Bowenpally, along with four others – Venkatesh, owner of SKS FLY TV, Kiran from Vijetha Paper, Mahender from SCB Channel and Maajid from MR News, all YouTube channels had created misleading content targeting SSL Infra’s venture Peacock Avenue (Our Nest) in Vikarabad district and later demanded Rs 40 lakh from the company to delete the already uploaded videos and stop further defamation.“The suspects used threats, criminal intimidation and misuse of digital media platforms to induce the victim to pay unlawful gratification,” police said.Following a tip-off, Mahender was arrested and efforts are underway to nab the remaining suspects. Officials seized a mobile phone used in the offence and digital evidence, including WhatsApp chats and voice recordings.



# There is no more value in democracy than a vote. Everyone should make good use of their right to vote:



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao ""(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- There is no more value in democracy than a vote, said Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao. The District Collector participated in an awareness program on exercising the right to vote under the auspices of SVEEP at Bommala Ramaram Mandal Center on Friday..On this occasion, the District Collector said... If villages want to develop, we should



elect good Sarpanchs and ward members, and if we want to elect a good leader, we should exercise our right to vote. They tempt us that someone will come and do something, but we should not sell our right to vote for alcohol and money and exercise our right to vote to elect a good leader. He said that everyone needs to take advantage of the right to vote provided by the Constitution and protect democracy. The Collector made women aware about voting. He made all women pledge to exercise their right to vote."The concerned officials participated in this program.

# Everyone who has completed 18 years of age should exercise their right to vote in the Gram Panchayat elections

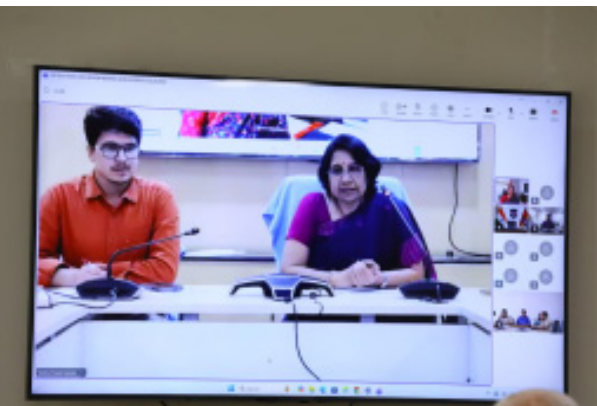


Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector and Election Officer Hanumantha Rao""(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector and Election Officer Hanumantha Rao said that everyone who has completed 18 years of age should exercise their right to vote in the Gram Panchayat elections. In the context of the Gram Panchayat elections, as per the instructions of the District Collector and Election Officer, sweep programs were conducted by the relevant Special Officers on Friday morning in the 6 mandals where polling will be held in the first phase."As part of this program, rallies were taken out under the auspices of members of women's groups in each mandal center. Artists gave demonstrations to make voters understand the right to vote. Polling will be held on the 11th of this month in Aleru, Atmakur, Bommalaramaram,



Rajapet, Turkapalli, and Yadagirigutta mandals, where the first phase of elections will be held in the district, and all the people in (6) mandals should exercise their right to vote. No matter what temptations the people standing in the elections in your villages may give you, you should elect leaders who work for the development of the villages with honesty and without selling your vote. What will happen if I do not vote? He said that no voter should think that any change will come with my single vote, and that everyone should exercise their right to vote. Your single vote will decide the outcome of the election. In these programs, District Collector Hanumantha Rao, DRDO Nagi Reddy, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao, Additional Collector of Revenue Veera Reddy, ZP CEO Shobharani, Additional DRDOs Jangareddy and Suresh, and local mandal tehsildars and MPDOs participated in these programs.

# Regular Gram Panchayat elections should be conducted in a safe manner:- State Election Commissioner Rani Kumudini



""(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- State Election Commissioner Rani Kumudini said that regular Gram Panchayat elections should be conducted in a safe manner. On Friday, State Election Commission Commissioner Rani Kumudini from Hyderabad ... held a review on the conduct of elections with district collectors, election observers and police officers through video conference. Speaking on

this occasion, the Election Commission Commissioner said...First, he inquired about the details of the nominations filed for the second phase of nominations. As the process of receiving nominations for the third phase is ending today, he advised that the nomination acceptance process should be careful so that there is no room for mistakes. The issues related to the conduct of elections in the district, such as allocation of election staff, postal ballots and ballot boxes, were reviewed. " District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the ballot papers required for the first phase of polling have been handed over to the concerned MPDOs. Election Commission Commissioner Rani Kumudini said that all the arrangements related to the conduct of the elections have been completed. She explained to the Election Commission Commissioner that we are ready for webcasting, distribution of voter slips, postal ballot arrangements, service voters, registration in T-Poll and other issues. She said that a facilitation center has been set up in each mandal MPDO office. Postal ballot papers have been given to the staff on election duty. District General Election Observer Gauthami, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskara Rao, ACP Rahul Reddy, DRO Jayamma, District Panchayat Officer Vishnuvardhan Reddy and relevant officials participated in this video conference.

# Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in the Gram Panchayat Election Campaign



"(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- In Bommalaramaram Mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in the campaign during the Gram Panchayat Elections. He conducted a campaign in Medipalli, Mailaram, Naginenipalli, Tirumalagiri, Maisireddy Pali, Hajipur, Peddaparvatapur, Thumakku Rangapur villages of



Bommalaramaram Mandal seeking the victory of the Congress Party Sarpanch candidates. He urged them to vote on the symbols of the candidates supported by the Congress Party and contribute to the development of the village.

# In the third phase of nomination reception, the concerned officials should scrutinize the documents of the candidates:

- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao""(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- As part of the third phase of nomination reception, the concerned officials should scrutinize the documents of the candidates, said District Collector Hanumantha Rao."As part of the third phase of nomination reception for the Gram Panchayat elections on Friday, the District Collector inspected the nomination reception centers of Chinna Kondur Cluster and Pantangi Cluster in Choutuppal Mandal. Speaking on this occasion, the District Collector asked how many nominations of village sarpanch and ward members were received today. Since today is the last day to file the third phase of nominations, many people have come and queued up, so the nomination process should be conducted very carefully and transparently without any mistakes. Candidates should double-check whether they have brought all the documents as per the rules and regulations while filing their nominations. If the candidates have any doubts or difficulties in filing their nominations, the officials should help them through the help desk. They should complete any form without any mistakes. All those who come to file their nominations till 5 pm should be given number-wise tokens and nominations should be received till the last candidate, no



matter how long it takes. No nominations should be allowed after 5 pm, and the police should set up barricades around the gram panchayat after 5 pm and make tight security arrangements to prevent anyone from entering. They should accept the nominations without any mistakes and perform the election duties responsibly."The concerned officials participated in this program.

# Talakondapalli reporter Rajender dies of heart attack:- TWJF state convener Mamidi Somaiya pays tribute "

"Manduva Srisailam..Ranga Reddy Indian Chronicle December 05):- Metro Evening Daily reporter Takelapalli Rajender of Talakondapalli mandal, Rangareddy district, died suddenly of a heart attack on Friday morning. He was 42 years old. Rajender is survived by his wife and three young children. Rajender, who had been working as a reporter for the past seven years, suffered a heart attack in the early hours of Friday morning and was rushed to a private hospital in Kalvakurthi for treatment. He died shortly after receiving treatment. Upon learning of this, Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) State Convener Mamidi Somaiya, Co-Convenor Pulipalupula Anandha, Ranga Reddy District TWJF Founder President Middelala Satyanarayana and others went to Rajender's home in Gattu Ippalapalli village, his hometown, visited Rajender's body, laid floral garlands and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, State Convener Mamidi Somaiya said that many journalists have been dying of health problems in recent times, but still the central and state governments are being negligent towards journalists. He expressed his concern that journalists are dying due to negligence in not providing health cards to journalists. Mamidi Somaiya demanded that the state government take steps to implement health cards for journalists in every corporate and private hospital and that the government support Rajender's family. Amangal Block President Daruvula Shankar, Secretary Tirupati Sabyulu, Assistant Secretary Tirupati Srinu and others participated in the program.



# Lions Club of Snehapuri Distributes Free Blankets to Sanitation Workers



""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 5 (Indian Chronicle):""The brave men and women who wake up early every morning to sweep the roads and protect the health of city residents are now educating their children well and helping them become Deputy Collectors, said Uppal Deputy Commissioner G. Raju."On Friday, free blankets were distributed to sanitation workers under the auspices of the Lions Club of Snehapuri at Kakatiya Colony, Habsiguda. Speaking on the occasion, he mentioned that



in Secunderabad, one woman sanitation worker not only works in the morning but also teaches some children in the evening — a commendable effort."He also said that in Khammam Municipality, though one woman worker was not keeping well, she still ensured her son completed higher education and became a Deputy Collector. He described such sanitation workers as "gems hidden in the soil."Former Governor Lion Manohar Raju, Club President Sridhar, Secretary Anil Kumar, Directors Pullarao, Sudhakar Reddy, A.V. Prasad, and other members participated in the programme.

# The poor are the partisans - the leader who will implement the Indian Constitution without any hesitation is Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha: - Former Municipal Chairman.. Barre Jahangir

"(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- The birthday celebrations of Medical and Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha were held on Friday in Bhuvanagiri district headquarters under the auspices of Barre Jahangir Bhuvanagiri, former Municipal Chairman. To celebrate his birthday, he organized an Annadanam program at Sahridaya Orphanage in Raigiri along with the ranks of the Congress party. Later, a cake was cut and birthday wishes were extended to Minister Rajanarsimha. Later, sweets, fruits and breads were distributed. Speaking on this occasion, the former Municipal Chairman of Barre Jahangir said that the first guide to the formation of Telangana state was Damodara, who was the first to establish the state of Telangana. In the then united Andhra Pradesh, in Telangana, through Andhra investment, political systems, water, appointments, and funds, the people of Telangana were being treated unfairly. He wished him a happy birthday, wishing him the blessings of that Yadagiri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, who convinced the Congress party's highest branch, the CWC, through a power point presentation. Simi-



larly, the brave man who solved the problem of SCs through ABC classification for many years, the social divide between the 59 SC castes, the creator of the SC ST sub-plan in united Andhra Pradesh, and the health minister. He established a dialysis center in Bhuvanagiri district and earned a good name in the minds of the people of the district.



# Legal action will be taken if liquor is sold in violation of government rules in the wake of Gram Panchayat elections:

District Profession Excise Officer (dpeo) M. Vishnu Murthy “



“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 5):- District Profession Excise Officer (dpeo) M. Vishnu Murthy stated that legal action will be taken if liquor is sold in violation of government rules in the wake of Gram Panchayat elections. On Friday (with Indian Chronicle..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Mandava Srisailam), he said that there are 82 win-

eries and 12 bars in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, and although the newly established wineries are the same as the wines that existed last year, new tenders have been organized as per government rules, and this new license will be in force for them from December 2025 this month to November 2027. In the wake of the Gram Panchayat elections, he warned that strict action will be taken against the wineries officials if they sell alcohol contrary to government rules and they will be seized as per government rules. He explained that during the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections, his staff recently inspected the respective villages and seized four belt shops and registered cases against them, and similarly, a case has been registered against three people who were selling alcohol illegally. He said that the excise staff has been divided into teams of 45 staff, 5 CIs and 9 SIs, who will regularly roam around every mandal level and every village, and legal action will be taken against them if they are found selling alcohol anywhere. He said that during the first phase of the elections, liquor shops will be closed 48 hours before the elections, and these government regulations will be as per the orders of the district collector, and the owners of the respective wineries should follow these regulations. As part of this, special inspections were recently conducted in Pantangi, Gudur and Tollgate and 200 grams of intoxicants were seized and a case was registered against six people, and 150 grams of ganja was seized and two people were arrested. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District (DPEO) Prohibition Excise Officer M. Vishnu Murthy said that if wineries or bars are opened and liquor is sold during the elections, legal action will be taken against them as per the government regulations.

# CEA Meeting Reviews Compliance of Private Medical Establishments in District

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 5, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““The District Medical and Health Department conducted a Clinical Establishments Authority (CEA) meeting today to review the implementation of CEA norms across private medical establishments in the district. The meeting focused on registration and renewal procedures, inspection findings, and follow-up actions. The committee stated that all private healthcare facilities must complete mandatory CEA registration or renewal to operate legally. It was decided that action will be taken against institutions functioning without valid registration. The committee finalized detailed guidelines to be issued to private medical establishments, covering CEA regulations, record maintenance, inspection standards, essential equipment, human resources, and documents required for registration. A total of 24 renewal applications were examined and approved. These applications have been forwarded to the District Collector for further orders. The meeting also held detailed discussions on PCPNDT, surrogacy regulations, and Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP), and suggested mea-



sures for strict compliance. Participants included Dr. Uma Gouri (District Medical and Health Officer), Venkata Ramana (Additional DCP, Malkajgiri), E. Ravikiran Reddy (ACP, Kompally), Dr. Vamshi Krishna (Indian Medical Council representative), Dr. Geetha (Program Officer, CEA & PCPNDT), Vasanth Reddy (Deputy DEMO), and CEA division staff.

# DGP Shivadhar Reddy Reviews Security Arrangements for Global Summit at Future City



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 5, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““DGP Shivadhar Reddy inspected the security arrangements and overall bandobast being made for the upcoming Global Summit scheduled to be held at Future City in Kandukur mandal, Rangareddy district. The DGP conducted a detailed review along with Additional DGPs Mahesh Bhagwat and D.S. Chauhan, Fire Services DG Vikram Singh Mann, TG IIC M.D. Shashank, and IG Ramesh Reddy. Speaking after the inspection, Shivadhar Reddy said that preparations for the Global Summit, being organised as a major event by the state government, are in

full swing. Around 3,000 national and international delegates are expected to attend. Entry for delegates will be allowed only on the 8th and 9th of this month, while the venue will be opened to the general public for the following four days. He said that all Law & Order related stalls and arrangements were personally examined. A three-tier security system will be deployed around VIP delegates. Nearly 1,000 CCTV cameras are being installed across the summit zone, connected to a central police control room for round-the-clock monitoring. All arrangements will be completed by tomorrow evening, he added. The DGP instructed officials to maintain strict coordination and ensure that no lapses occur in the bandobast. As the summit is being held on an international scale under the supervision of the state government, he emphasised the need for tight security measures. He also held discussions with officials regarding essential facilities required for the summit, including barracks, mess, kitchens, restrooms, and other basic infrastructure. For traffic management, about 1,000 traffic police personnel will be deployed. Traffic marshals will be appointed for route diversions, barricading, and vehicle parking management. Strong traffic bandobast will be in place to avoid any disruptions. Route diversions will be implemented for two days, and motorists have been advised to follow the alternative routes.

# Joyalukkas Announces ‘Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show’ at A.S. Rao Nagar from December 5 to 21

““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 5, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Joyalukkas, the world’s favourite jeweller, is set to captivate Telangana with its exclusive Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show, scheduled from 5th to 21st December 2025 at the Joyalukkas A.S. Rao Nagar showroom. This much-awaited exhibition promises a grand showcase of craftsmanship, elegance, and innovation in fine diamond jewellery. The exhibition features an exquisite range of crea-



tions from luxurious bridal sets to stylish contemporary designs perfect for everyday wear. Each piece blends timeless tradition with modern artistry, offering customers a rare opportunity to explore exclusive designs available only during the show period. Speaking about the event, Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman of the Joyalukkas Group, said: The Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show is our tribute to the enduring charm of diamonds and our commitment to excellence in jewellery design. A.S. Rao Nagar holds a special place in our journey, and this festive sea-



son exhibition will give customers an exclusive chance to discover jewellery that reflects beauty, individuality, and unmatched craftsmanship.To celebrate the occasion, Joyalukkas is offering a free gold coin with every diamond jewellery purchase worth Rs.1 lakh and above during the exhibition, adding an extra sparkle to the festive shopping experience. The Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show will run exclusively at the Joyalukkas A.S. Rao Nagar showroom until 21st December 2025. Visitors are invited to step into a world of dazzling diamonds, where every creation tells a story of luxury, love, and timeless elegance.

# Talasanani Slams Congress for Failing to Implement 42% BC Reservation



““ Indian chronicle, Secunderabad,December 5:““Sanathnagar MLA Talasanani Srinivas Yadav strongly criti-

cized the Congress government for failing to implement the promised 42% Backward Classes (BC) reservation, calling it a major betrayal of BC communities. He visited Sai Eshwar, who attempted self-immolation over the BC reservation issue, at Gandhi Hospital and enquired about his health.“Talasanani assured full support to Sai Eshwar’s family and urged the government to provide the best medical treatment. He demanded ?50 lakh financial assistance for the family and the immediate implementation of the 42% BC reservation.“He also alleged misuse of power, financial inducements, intimidation, and highhandedness by the Congress during the recent panchayat elections, citing incidents of violence, threats, and forced unanimous declarations in several Gram Panchayats.“Talasanani appealed to BC youth not to resort to extreme steps and instead continue their fight through democratic means.“If you want, I can also give a shorter or more formal media version.

# Idol Installation Ceremony Held Grandly at Sai Baba Temple in Peerzadiguda



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 5, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““A grand idol installation ceremony of Lord Subrahmanya Swamy and Naga Devata was held at the Sai Baba Temple located on Road No. 7, 40-Foot Road, Peerzadiguda. Devotees from the locality participated in large numbers, creating an atmosphere of devotion and spiritual fervour. The event was organised under the supervision of the Temple Committee comprising: Anil Singh (Chairman), Bondugula Krishna Reddy (Secretary), and other temple members. Several prominent leaders attended the ceremony, including: Ex-Mayor Amar Singh, Ex-Deputy



Mayor Kurra Shiva Kumar Goud, Ex-Corporators Bheemreddy Naveen Reddy, Yugender Reddy, Kaude Pochayya, Co-option Member Ram Das Goud, senior Congress leaders and local colony representatives. Speaking on the occasion, Temple Chairman Anil Singh stated that the support and cooperation of devotees made the sacred installation ceremony successful. He expressed hope that the blessings of Subrahmanya Swamy and Naga Devata would remain with the community. Special rituals and traditional pujas were performed as part of the ceremony. The event concluded with prayers for the well-being and harmony of all residents.

# Study with planned effort... become high-ranking officers““Osmania University Registrar Professor Gaddam Naresh Reddy



Indian Chronicle OU December 05:The Civil Service Academy at Osmania University organised a free training inaugural programme today for students preparing for Civil Services and Groups examinations, along with awareness classes on various competitive exams by subject experts. The programme was held under the chairmanship of Civil Service Academy Director Dr. Konda Nageshwar.““During the session, Civils Academy Coordinator Dr. Vijayakumar explained the details of the activities conducted by the Academy and invited the guests onto the dais.““Speaking on the

occasion, Osmania University Registrar Professor Naresh Reddy, who attended as the chief guest, stated that students can turn the impossible into possible by investing their valuable time wisely and working consistently with dedication.““Civil Service Academy Director Dr. Konda Nageshwar remarked that students coming to Osmania University from rural areas with great hopes and aspirations must utilise their precious time to achieve their life goals. Determination, continuous discipline, and unwavering self-confidence are, he said, the cornerstones of success.““As resource persons, eminent faculty experts addressed the gathering. Dr. Prabhakar Reddy elaborated on the national and state polity syllabus and advised students to study the subject analytically. Science and Technology Resource Person Dr. Prasanna Harikrishna urged students to study various scientific and technological fields thoroughly and continuously upgrade themselves. Economics faculty member Sri Vijay Kumar stated that to truly understand economics, students must develop a liking for the subject and study it analytically.““On this occasion, the Registrar of Osmania University felicitated the subject experts who participated in the programme. Nearly 800 students from Osmania University attended the event and clarified their doubts.““From Monday onwards, classes will be conducted daily at the Civils Academy from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., said Civils Academy Coordinator Dr. Vijay Kumar.““Academy Director Dr. Konda Nageshwar and Coordinator Dr. Vijayakumar congratulated the students for attending the awareness classes in such large numbers at a time when the State Government is about to announce the job calendar.““A large number of Civil Service Academy staff, university faculty members, students, and scholars participated in the programme.

# Demolition of illegal constructions in Defense lands.

““ Secunderabad Cantonment. December 5 (Indian Chronicle):““On Friday, the officials of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board razed the illegal structures on the lands of the Defense Department to the ground. Some of the B-3 category bungalows of the Defense Department under the cantonment are under court dispute. Among them, Surrender Bhatia took bungalow number 207/A on lease and rented it out for about 30 years for illegal constructions in this place for lakhs of rupees, knowing that illegal constructions should not be taken up in such a place, should not be rented out to others, especially that per-



son should not do business in this place. Many times in the past the board officials have given notices to vacate the bungalow.

In this order, they approached the court and despite the board’s regulations

that no constructions were carried out in the bungalow area belonging to the defense department, as some people were using it for encroaching businesses, they acted negligently even though the authorities gave

notices to vacate the bungalow area. Board official Devendra said that With The Order Of Cantonment Board Ceo Aravind Drivedind, Board officials Phani Kumar, Uma Shankar, along with Staff participated in the demolition



# Decoding brain bleeds: evolving treatments promise encouraging results



A stroke takes place when the brain suffers irreversible damage due to a sudden interruption of blood flow. Strokes are predominantly of three types – ischemic strokes, intracerebral haemorrhages and subarachnoid haemorrhages. An ischemic stroke is the blockage of blood vessels causing brain damage due to lack of blood flow. An intracerebral haemorrhage refers to bleeding inside the brain, usually resulting from the rupture of very small blood vessels due to high blood pressure. A subarachnoid haemorrhage refers to bleeding over the surface of the brain. A subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) is probably the least known stroke type because of its lower incidence compared to the other two, but it is also possibly the most devastating type of stroke. One of the most common reasons for a subarachnoid haemorrhage is a brain aneurysm occurring in the absence of any head injury. Before modern medical management, the mortality rates for an SAH were as high as 45% and many patients would remain disabled for life after experiencing one.

This condition gained a lot of attention recently when Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke revealed that she suffered an SAH twice during the initial seasons of the popular show. She made a remarkable recovery both times and successfully completed all eight seasons of the show. Basic Instinct star Sharon Stone in her memoir 'The Beauty of Living Twice', has also written about her near-death experience when she suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage in 2001. She recovered fully, but it took seven years, she revealed in her memoir.

A brain aneurysm is a balloon-like outpouching or protrusion affecting the blood vessels of the brain. A haemorrhage happens when the wall of the balloon becomes weak and ruptures. Brain aneurysms usually go undetected until they rupture and cause a subarachnoid haemorrhage. When the haemorrhage occurs, patients develop sudden severe headaches often termed as "thunderclap headaches" or "the worst headache of life". This is usually accompanied by nausea or vomiting. In most cases, the point of rupture becomes sealed temporarily after some blood leakage. However, in such cases, there is a high chance that the blood vessel may rupture again. When the amount of blood leakage is high, patients become unconscious and many unfortunately succumb even before reaching the hospital. Aneurysms can also produce less intense symptoms such as vision problems, drooping of eyelids, mild

headaches, etc. According to data from a large study published in The Lancet involving patients from multiple countries, the prevalence of unruptured aneurysm in the group was 3.2% without any other known diseases. The average age at aneurysm diagnosis is 50 years, and overall, it is more common in women. Causes and diagnosis

The precise reasons behind aneurysm formations are still not fully clear. However, uncontrolled high blood pressure and smoking are known to be prominent risk factors for aneurysm development and rupture. In some cases, a family history of brain aneurysm also plays a significant role. Patients with polycystic kidneys or connective tissue disorders are prone to aneurysm development too. When symptoms point to an aneurysm, the diagnosis is usually confirmed by a CT or MRI scan with an angiography. In high-risk patients such as those with a family history, periodic brain scans are recommended even in the absence of symptoms. Once the diagnosis is established, a catheter angiography is often required for treatment planning. Here, interventionists introduce a catheter (thin tube) into the blood vessels of the neck through a pinhole made in the leg artery or artery at the wrist. Detailed images of the aneurysm are then acquired in the specialised X-ray machine (cath-lab/angio-suite) after an injection of radio-opaque dye through the catheter. Treating brain aneurysms

The treatment of an aneurysm depends on whether it was detected after minor symptoms, it ruptured or if it was a subarachnoid haemorrhage. In the case of a subarachnoid haemorrhage, treatment is done on an emergency basis. In other cases, it can be planned or elective treatment. Unfortunately, there is no medicine that can dissolve the aneurysm and heal the abnormal blood vessels. Broadly, there are two ways in which an aneurysm can be treated: one, via opening the skull surgically and two, via a minimally invasive or endovascular route through a pinhole in the leg artery. In open neurosurgical procedures, a metal clip is placed at the base of the aneurysm to prevent the blood from flowing inside the aneurysm. The most common endovascular option is coiling, where soft platinum coils are placed and aneurysm is packed. While the first open surgical clipping dates back to 1938, it has only been three decades since coiling was used. Now however, coiling has been established as an option as well. The choice of whether clipping or coiling is better in a given case is decided based on the location and shape of the aneurysm. The science of aneurysm treatment is changing rapidly now. Newer endovascular treatment options such as flow-diverters or flow-disrupters are emerging as promising treatment modalities with very high cure rates in difficult-to-treat aneurysms. A subarachnoid haemorrhage due to a brain aneurysm used to be challenging for surgeons. However, medical science is advancing by leaps and bounds and minimally invasive procedures and sophisticated devices are now available to help doctors take on these conditions and treat them with encouraging results. What this means for patients who suffer from strokes, is that there is hope. Getting help at the earliest through a proper diagnosis and right treatment is crucial.

# Louvre director acknowledges failure after jewel heist and says she offered to resign

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

The Louvre's director acknowledged a "terrible failure" at the Paris tourist attraction after a daylight crown jewel heist over the weekend, and said that she offered to resign but it was refused. The world's most-visited museum reopened earlier in the day to long lines beneath its landmark glass pyramid for the first time since one of the highest-profile museum thefts of the century stunned the world with its audacity and scale.

In testimony to the French Senate, Louvre director Laurence des Cars said that the museum had a shortage of security cameras outside the monument and other weaknesses exposed by Sunday's theft. Under heavy pressure over a heist that stained France's global image, she testified to a Senate committee that she submitted her resignation, but that the culture minister refused to accept it. "Today we are experiencing a terrible failure at the Louvre, which I take my share of responsibility in," she said. The thieves slipped in and out, making off with eight pieces from France's Crown Jewels — a cultural wound that some compared to the burning of Notre Dame Cathedral in 2019. Late detection The theft — steps away from the "Mona Lisa" and valued at more than \$100 million — has put embattled President Emmanuel Macron, Culture Minister Rachida Dati, des Cars and others under new scrutiny. It comes just months after employees went on strike, warning of chronic understaffing and not enough resources for protection, with too few eyes on too many rooms. "We did not detect the arrival of the thieves soon enough," des Cars said.

She said that the museum's alarms had worked properly, but that it currently doesn't have full video surveillance of the perimeter outside the museum, though there is a plan to provide full coverage of all the Louvre's facades. She also suggested barriers to prevent vehicles from parking directly alongside the museum's buildings, and said that she would push for a police station inside the museum, which welcomes 30,000 visitors a day and 2,300 workers. In Focus podcast | Can the stolen Crown Jewels from the Louvre ever be recovered? Disbelief among visitors Three days on, the jewels remain missing and the thieves are still at large — and reactions are divided. "For a place like the Louvre, it's unfathomable," said Amanda Lee, 36, an art teacher from Chicago. "I heard it took under four minutes. How is that possible here, with no police in sight?" Others were unperturbed. Claire Martin, a 41-year-old French lawyer from Versailles visiting with her two children during a school holiday, said that "we saw the masterpieces" even though the Apollo Gallery was shut. "We told the kids it's a history lesson. We came for the art," she said. "The police can deal with the thieves." France acknowledged failings Authorities say the thieves spent less than four minutes inside the Louvre on Sunday morning: a freight lift was wheeled to the Seine-facing facade, a window was forced open and two vitrines were smashed.

Then came the getaway on motorbikes through central Paris. Alarms had gone off, drawing agents to the gallery and forcing the intruders to bolt. As it reopened, the Louvre declined questions from The Associated Press to detail any reinforced protocols. It said that no uniformed police were posted in the corridors. With school holidays swelling demand, the day was fully booked and access limited. "I didn't notice extra security — guards as always, and no police inside. It felt like a normal day," said Tomás Álvarez, 29, a software engineer from Madrid. The loot The thieves made away with a total of eight objects, including a sapphire diadem, necklace and single earring from a set linked



The Louvre's director acknowledged a "terrible failure" at the Paris tourist attraction after a daylight crown jewel heist over the weekend, and said that she offered to resign but it was refused

to 19th-century Queens Marie-Amélie and Hortense. They also made off with an emerald necklace and earrings tied to Empress Marie-Louise, Napoleon Bonaparte's second wife, as well as a reliquary brooch. Empress Eugénie's diamond diadem and her large corsage-bow brooch — an imperial ensemble of rare craftsmanship — were also part of the loot. One piece — Eugénie's emerald-set imperial crown, with more than 1,300 diamonds — was later found outside the museum, damaged but recoverable. Fears the jewels will be destroyed Prosecutor Laure Beccuau valued the haul at about 88 million euros (\$102 million), a "spectacular" figure that still fails to capture the works' historical weight. She warned that the thieves would be unlikely to realize anything close to that sum if they pry out stones or melt the metals — a fate curators fear would pulverize centuries of meaning into anonymous gems for the black market. Beccuau said that expert analyses are underway; four people have been identified as being present at the scene, and roughly 100 investigators are mapping the crew and any accomplices, in addition to forensics experts. Security overhaul All this comes after Macron announced new measures in January for the Louvre — complete with a new command post and expanded camera grid that the Culture Ministry says is being rolled out. It also raises hard questions, including whether Sunday's breach is tied to staffing levels, and how uniformly the upgrades in the overhaul are being applied. Protection for headline works is airtight — the "Mona Lisa" is behind bulletproof glass in a climate-controlled case — yet the break-in exposed seams elsewhere in a 33,000-object labyrinth. For many French, the contrast is a public embarrassment at the landmark. It touches a raw nerve: the issue of swelling crowds and overstretched staff. In June, a staff walkout over overcrowding and chronic understaffing delayed opening. Unions argue that mass tourism leaves security lacking and creates pressure points where construction zones, freight access and visitor flows intersect. On Wednesday, the Louvre's other star attractions — from the Venus de Milo to the Winged Victory of Samothrace — were open again. But the cordoned-off vitrines in the Apollo Gallery, guarded and empty, told a different story: one of a breach measured not just in minutes and euros, but in the fragility of a nation's patrimony

# We need to talk more about Post-Polio Syndrome



It is common knowledge that poliomyelitis or polio for short, can cause acute paralysis, and fortunately, global vaccination efforts have made the disease vanishingly rare in many places. But what is less talked about is what happens years or even decades after recovery from polio. Survivors of polio may develop an insidious condition known as Post-Polio Syndrome (PPS). A light must be shone on this "long tail" of polio, because for many, the story doesn't end after the immediate recovery. Long-term consequences

The poliovirus attacks motor neurons in the spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness or paralysis in some victims. Many survivors recover significantly, thanks to the nervous system's capacity to "sprout" compensatory connections. However, decades later, that very compensation may start to fail. PPS is typically defined as the appearance of new muscle weakness, fatigue, muscle or joint pain, sometimes breathing or swallowing problems, occurring 15 to 40 years after the original polio infection. Estimates suggest PPS may affect anywhere from 25% to 40% of polio survivors, although depending on the criteria used it could range more widely (some reports say up to 80 %).

Why does PPS happen? There is no clear answer as of yet, but the leading hypothesis is this: after the acute infection, surviving motor neurons expand their innervation territory (they sprout new axonal branches) to pick up the slack for destroyed neurons. Over the years, these "supercharged" neurons get overworked and eventually start to fail. In addition, normal ageing, added stress, disuse or overuse of muscles, may all contribute. Some research shows structural changes such as spinal cord grey matter atrophy in PPS patients that correlate with functional decline. At my clinic, I frequently hear polio survivors say: "I was fine for many years, but now, I am not able to walk as far any more,

# Respect the health rights of India's children

The deaths of 25 children linked to contaminated cough syrup has shocked the conscience of the nation. In a news cycle that often highlights 'man bites dog' sensationalism, the general public is largely aware of two things: that 25 children died, and that a paediatrician in Madhya Pradesh who defiantly prescribed the syrup to the children is said to have received a paltry commission of ₹2.54 a bottle; thus the cost of each of those young lives was ₹2.54.

That all this happened despite the Union Health Ministry having banned certain cough syrup formulations for children under the age of four years — as recently as April 2025 — citing the risk of contamination, is shocking. There has also been much discussion on responsibility — which agency failed in its duty to monitor and prevent the distribution of the syrup. The regulatory agencies in India responsible include the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India which handles large manufacturers of drugs and export approvals, and State drug control officers who handle the regulation, care, manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs by small- and medium-scale manufacturers.

Where the focus needs to be Rather than apportion blame, it would be wise to allow the law to take its course. The focus must be on the regulatory framework behind the distribution of paediatric medicines in India, and the challenges India faces in ensuring the protection it has guaranteed to its children in Article 39(f) of the Constitution, which is also listed as an important Directive Principle of State Policy.

Children (the age group under 18 years) make up 39% of India's population. There are a catena of laws and policies in India — approximately 13 — that are specifically designed to protect children, from the seminal National Policy for Children 1974 to the India Newborn Action Plan 2014. There are also about 10 pieces of legislation with special provisions for children such as the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act to The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act. Significantly, while these are critical interventions, they focus heavily on protecting children in the workforce (labour laws), and preventing and punishing the sexual exploitation of children. There are important initiatives for children in health and education, but the specific area of pharmacovigilance in the dissemination of paediatric drugs requires far more oversight and also the development of robust infrastructure.

In a similar context, Dr. Harry Shirkey called children "therapeutic orphans". Children are not small adults. The pharmacodynamic responses of children and adults are vastly different due to a spectrum of different physiologies. Further, clinical trials of drugs are usually conducted on adults and for ethical and other reasons almost never on children, resulting in an alarming lack of paediatric guidelines of dosage and administration. All too often, the dosage and administration of drugs for children are extrapolated from guidelines for adults, leaving children in much danger of overdosage and more serious consequences. Special development strategies of drugs for children are a cornerstone of their health-care needs, particularly public health care. Overseas, the regulatory framework for children-related pharmaceuticals is an eye-opener. In the European Union, it is under the Paediatric Use Marketing Authorisation and in the United States, under the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act (BCPA). Inter alia, such legislation also provides incentives for research into paediatric drugs. India does not have a specific policy or legislation and operates on general guidelines. Since children are totally dependent on their parents or guardians for their health needs, it is necessary that the government frames clear guidelines. Health-care-related financial burdens often cause many impoverished families to fall into deeper poverty, making it even more vital that the pharmaceutical needs of children are made affordable. The essential medicine concept

Therefore, the introduction of the essential medicine concept in the health-care sector contributes significantly to the greater availability and affordability of life-saving medi-

I am fatigued more easily, my polio leg is weaker again, and I have more joint pain." These often are the classic symptoms of PPS: continuing weakness may occur in limbs previously affected by the original illness and, at times, in limbs that have never been affected. Fatigue, muscle cramps, joint pain and muscle pain, difficulties sleeping and cold intolerance also occur. While PPS rarely causes loss of life, significant muscle involvement may result in serious complications, such as falls, fractures, or issues with breathing or swallowing. PPS is a growing concern around the world. Since the severe polio epidemics of the 1940-60s led to millions of people surviving polio, many of these people are now older adults experiencing PPS. From a functional perspective, the decline in function can impact mobility, independence, work ability and quality of life. Currently, there is no cure for PPS. Treatment is symptomatic and supportive. Care for post-polio syndrome (PPS) predominantly aims at managing symptoms in order to allow individuals to maintain mobility. Gentle physical therapy and low-stress exercises help maintain muscle function without excessive exertion, because the more a person exerts themselves, the more fatigued they will become. Simple things such as taking breaks, pacing the day's activities, or using a cane or walker will save energy. A combination of physiotherapy, heat, and mild medication usually provides moderate-to-profound relief for pain and improvements in walking ability, offering a glimpse of better options ahead for those living with PPS. As the polio survivor population ages, clinicians and health systems need to be aware of PPS — it is frequently under-diagnosed or mis-labelled as "just ageing" or "arthritis." Vigilance involves asking about a past history of polio in older patients with new weakness/fatigue; evaluating for other causes, and then implementing a multidisciplinary care plan. From a public health perspective, it is also a reminder of just how powerful—and long-lasting—the benefits of vaccination are: preventing polio in the first place means you avoid not just the acute illness, but the decades-later burden of PPS. Surviving polio doesn't always mean you are done with it. Many people come through the acute phase, recover well and then decades later hit a second curve of new problems. As doctors, we must bring PPS into our radar, treat it with respect, and help our patients adapt their lives rather than suffer passively. For survivors, the message is: if you had polio, and you're noticing new fatigue, weakness or pain — don't just shrug it off as "ageing" — ask your doctor about PPS, get the right rehabilitation and support, and make sure mobility and quality of life remain in your hands.



# There needs to be a holistic framework to monitor medicine use for children

Essential medicines are those which satisfy the priority health-care needs of the population, are intended to be available in all health-care systems and are of quality and affordable. Several years ago, the World Health Organization (WHO) introduced an essential Medicine list for children (EMLc). This is used by policy makers to update the EMLc lists in their own countries. Although EML for adults are periodically revised, the EMLc for children is not addressed regularly. This requires immediate attention of policymakers. Other basic safe practices in the distribution of children's pharmaceuticals include constant education for care-givers and pharmacists, and making it mandatory to read the label, dispense the correct dosage and watch for side-effects particularly when buying over-the-counter medication. Regulation of over-the-counter medication for children especially for cough, cold and fever is an important dimension of public health care. The use of OTC medication varies in rural and urban areas, but is more common in an urban setting.

Public health-care outlets are another area of focus where clear guidelines need to be enforced in dispensing pharmaceuticals to children. A zero tolerance policy must be adopted against substitute or substandard medication. In the case of teenagers, attention must be paid to prevent the misuse of drugs. Over the last three years, WHO has issued several warnings on contaminated cough syrup. Some of these are related to cough syrup made in various places in India. Children have also died in the Gambia, Uzbekistan, Indonesia and Cameroon as a result of these contaminated syrups. India has emerged as the pharmacy to the Global South with huge exports of cough syrups, but this carries with it a responsibility to ensure the absolute safety of the medicines exported. Need for India data India's health policy with regard to paediatric medicines cannot be framed only on the basis of data on children available from other countries. Our genetics are unique to us and our research needs to be based on wholly Indian data. Nor should data on paediatric medicines be extrapolated from data that is related to adults. We owe a fiduciary duty to our children to take care in framing a health policy for them. We expect responsible policymakers to take into account diverse factors including awareness of environmental pitfalls such as how toxicity of a cough syrup may be exacerbated by malnutrition in children. Thus, adult medicines modified during administration to children can only be considered as off label and unlicensed. They should not be used at all since they are contraindicated in terms of formulation, age and indicators. Clearly, monitoring safe medicine use in children is of utmost importance. The use of medicines not proven to be safe for children is a violation of the rights of voiceless children. India urgently needs a robust and holistic infrastructure to monitor and promote awareness of safety protocols with regard to medicines given to children.



# Google’s new AI for drug discovery is a win for scientific discovery



Google’s launch of a suite artificial intelligence (AI) tools, which its researchers reported to be successful at not only suggested a new drug combination for cancer therapy but even stood up to early tests in the laboratory, is a signal that research-scientists ought to be integrating AI into the process of scientific discovery.Built on the Gemma family of open models, the Cell2Sentence-Scale 27B (C2S-Scale) is a 27-billion-parameter foundation model designed to “understand” the language of individual cells.“This announcement marks a milestone for AI in science,” Shekoofeh Azizi and Brian Perozzi, staff scientists at Google DeepMind and Google Research respectively, in a post accompanying the announcement.“C2S-Scale generated a novel hypothesis about cancer cellular behaviour and we have since confirmed its prediction with experimental validation in living cells. This discovery reveals a promising new pathway for developing therapies to fight cancer,” they added.

The C2S-Scale model was trained on a large dataset of real-world patients and cell-line data, based on which it suggested a drug called silmitasertib could be used to improve the immune system’s ability to identify cancerous tumours when they were nascent.To be sure, silmitasertib (CX-4945) is currently in several clinical trials to treat multiple myeloma, kidney cancer, medulloblastoma, and advanced solid tumours. In January 2017, the US Food and Drug Administration granted it orphan drug status for advanced cholangiocarcinoma.However, the novelty of Google’s effort was not in (re)discovering the drug but that it had scanned the vast cancer biology literature to suggest a novel use for a drug candidate. Pharmaceutical companies in their usual course spend billions of dollars and employ highly trained personnel to reveal similar insights.“It’s a nice result and was a well-chosen problem to test the capabilities of an LLM [large language model],” Sunil Laxman, systems biologist at the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine, Bengaluru, told The Hindu. “This would, in the usual course, have taken a focussed team of dedicated researchers several months to suggest such a use of the drug.”“It’s very good”Dr. Laxman however underlined that the model hadn’t suggested something that couldn’t have occurred to a trained biologist nor had discovered something new about cancer biology.

“It’s very good. Not great. The average laboratory in India will not have access to a vast library of chemical compounds where they can be tested. This one had, and while it has certainly shortened the time [in this case] for a potential discovery, it isn’t a path-breaking discovery.”LLMs are at the core of AI and are trained on human-annotated data to understand human language and solve problems.Drs. Azizi and Perozzi have contended that their results demonstrate that it’s possible to create LLMs that don’t have to be trained on the rules of biological systems. Instead, they wrote, the models can be encouraged to figure the rules out just by having their successes ‘rewarded’ and failures ‘punished’. This is how some of the most powerful chess-playing LLMs were trained.Good reasoningIndian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, mathematics professor Siddhartha Gadgil interpreted the findings as significant and reckoned that the best AI models in mathematics were today at the level of a “skilled mathematician but not at genius-human levels”.He said there were “no reasons” to suppose that AI development would one day not be able to solve the most challenging maths problems.

“We can’t say when an AI model will solve the Riemann Hypothesis but there’s no reason to suppose it never can. Already there are several initiatives and even companies that are tackling unsolved mathematical problems and they do come up with novel hypotheses.”Dr. Gadgil cited the International Mathematical Olympiad 2025, where OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, said an “experimental reasoning model” had figured out answers to the questions, which, if it were a human, would have won it a gold medal. The model followed the same time limits as human participants.Significantly, this model wasn’t trained for the Olympiad but was a general-purpose reasoning model with sufficiently good reasoning powers.This said, the Olympiad’s problems aren’t representative examples of the problems professional mathematicians work on; they’re intended for talented high-schoolers and constitute a gold standard test of mathematical talent.The Riemann hypothesis on the other hand is a problem many mathematicians are working on. It’s a statement about the nature of prime numbers whose proof has eluded mathematicians for over a century. The Clay Mathematical Institute in the US has promised to reward its solver with \$1 million.’Still divided’Given the vast literature to which these LLM are exposed, they’re expected to come up with novel and useful ideas about how to approach a mathematical problem an equivalent human expert wouldn’t always immediately see, he added.Prof. Gadgil, who embraces LLM tools in his own research, added that his field is “still divided” on incorporating them. According to him, there were several good models that “showed no signs of plateauing and had a lot of latent capabilities that still weren’t fully explored”, and therefore ought to be encouraged as tools that a working researcher ought to be incorporating.

# Gogji for a broken heart

It was a late September afternoon. Autumn had taken hold; the earth had shed her vibrant costumes from spring and summer, and was getting ready for some much needed rest. I was sitting on the verandah watching Phuphee pottering about in her kitchen garden. She walked towards me with a small kraenjul (wicker basket) full of turnips and a big smile on her face.‘Walle, gogji rogan josh rannao [come, let’s cook turnip rogan josh],’ she said, walking towards the kitchen. Inside, I watched her perform her magic and turn the humble turnip into a dish fit for a wedding feast. She was nearly done when one of the helpers came in to inform her that a lady was waiting for her. She motioned for me to join her and directed the helper to cook extra rice for lunch.

In Phuphee’s room, a woman was waiting. She lived locally. Her name was Asma. She was the headmistress of a small girls school on the outskirts of the village. After greeting her, Phuphee asked her how she could help.For a while the woman was quiet, but you could see the storm clouds gather in the corners of her eyes until they could no longer be held back and they fell in reams. Phuphee watched her for a while and then slowly got up and went to sit next to her. She put her arm around her and held her close while she cried.

When Asma had exhausted all her tears she spoke. She was married and lived with her husband and two children. She had two brothers whom she loved dearly, but for the past decade or so everything had gone wrong in her relationship with them. She still spoke to the elder one, though he had stopped making any effort to be in her life. While the younger one, whom she had been very close to, had not only stopped speaking to her, but had at different points in time abused her trust and broken her heart.She told Phuphee it had happened when he got married. She was sure his wife had cast some spell on him or poisoned his ears. Phuphee listened as Asma continued to speak about how she sometimes dreamt about the happier times they had when they were children and how much her heart ached for her brother. She asked Phuphee if she could give her a taaveez (talisman) to undo whatever spell had been cast on her brother. Or, if that wasn’t possible, could she be given something to make the pain stop.

When Asma had finished, Phuphee called out for the helper and asked her to serve lunch for everyone. Spells could not be broken and hearts cannot be mended on an empty stomach, she said.The helper served the gogji rogan josh with hot rice and all of us had a second helping. As we ate, Phuphee talked about random things — the state of the



roads, the weather, and everything that was happening in the world. When we were done, she turned to Asma and said, ‘When someone very dear to us does cruel things, unthinkable things, it is natural to look for reasons why. After all, we are not supposed to hurt the people we love, at least not intentionally.’‘You know my dearest Asma, of course it is possible that some of the blame can be laid at your sister-in-law’s door, but not all of it. Your brother is not a child. He is a grown man with a will of his own, And while you hold your sister-in-law responsible, you must not absolve him of the accountability he has in his actions. Your heart hurts because you have lost your brother. You know, it sometimes happens that people die before they actually die. The brother you had, who was loving and kind, has gone. The person he is now is not your brother in any real sense. The memories you have, hold them close and honour them. Do not ever feel yourself to be weak because you feel hurt or you still feel the love, because it stems from a reality you once lived. You are not deluded, you are human.’We sat quietly. I had so many questions, but I didn’t ask. I hoped Asma would ask Phuphee some more questions, but she didn’t. After lunch, they walked to the gate while I watched from the window. Phuphee handed her a small bag and bid her goodbye.Later that day, I sat thinking about what Phuphee had told Asma and I struggled to make sense of it. Twenty years later, on an autumn day, I too would come to understand that sometimes you can lose people without them dying. In that moment all you could do was acknowledge and honour the love you once felt for a person who, though still physically alive, was dead in every other way. And despite the confusion that ensued this terrible situation, you had to honour the person you once loved and grieve the person no longer present.

# Apple foldable iPhone expected in 2026 could make foldables mainstream

New Delhi: Apple’s foldable, expected around late 2026, could redefine consumer expectations and push foldables into a new mainstream adoption phase, according to a new report.The biggest structural shift is expected in late 2026, when Apple’s first foldable iPhone is expected to debut.According to the Counterpoint Research report, Apple’s entry would instantly expand consumer awareness and accelerate replacement demand across high-income segments.Given Apple’s ecosystem influence, its launch year could dramatically reshape brand dynamics, lifting total market volumes.

The report predicts the US foldable smartphone market to grow 68 per cent (on-year) in 2025, as it enters a period of solid growth after several years of experimentation.The growth is being driven by broader form factor adoption, improved durability of foldable designs and more diversified portfolios from multiple brands. This year,

portfolio expansion and ecosystem readiness are defining the market.Samsung is set to maintain its leadership with the refreshed Galaxy Z Fold and Flip lineup, having added an FE variant to broaden accessibility, while also preparing to unveil its long-awaited tri-fold device later in the year.Meanwhile, Motorola is rapidly scaling its Razr series through wider carrier partnerships in the prepaid market, narrowing the share gap with Samsung faster than in prior cycles.According to the report, Google’s Pixel 10 Pro Fold, launched in October 2025, sits between Samsung’s premium offerings and Motorola’s lifestyle-driven designs, testing how effectively the brand can turn its AI-first Android experiences into tangible hardware differentiation.Liz Lee, Associate Director at Counterpoint Research said that while Samsung continues to lead in maturity and ecosystem strength in 2025, Motorola’s rapid expansion in the clamshell segment and Google’s AI-driven approach are reshaping competition.

# If you really must protest



As a nationalist who loves his country like crazy, I ponder the same question as I go to bed every night: how to improve Indian democracy. One epiphany I got: ban all protests. Be ‘One Nation, One Opinion’. Why can’t we simply lock up any and all dissenters? I know most of you feel this way. And yet, we patriots are helpless, faced with the pseudo-democratic posturing that even certified autocrats can’t seem to do without. The older I get, lesser the patience I have for imported, zero-tariff luxury items like dissent, privacy, and human rights. If I ever become the Supreme Leader of any country, I will give two options to anyone who thinks I’m wrong and they are right. One, agree with me publicly and unequivocally; two, keep applying for bail. People at protest sites are typically on a journey towards option 2, and I’m sorry to say I’ve known a few in my lifetime.The other day, I got a call from Balu, an anarcho-syndicalist- turned-Trotskyist-turned- corporate honcho-turned-reptile rights activist. “Which is the best place in Delhi to stage a protest,” he wanted to know.“It should be centrally located,” he said. “With ample parking, easy access to cholera-free drinking water, and clean washrooms, preferably stocked with Charmin Ultra Soft toilet paper.”“Well,” he paused to think. “It would be good if there are decent pubs within walking distance, so we can unwind with a drink or two after a long day of protesting.”“I see,” he said. “I once did a major anti-corruption protest there back in 2013, with someone called Thambi Hazare.”“For some reason, I always thought it was Anna Hazare,” I said. “How did it go?”“We won,” Balu said. “People became aware. They

# Navi Mumbai airport and the making of a city

Like greenfield airports around the world that created tremendous opportunities for their regions and led to the making of global cities around them, the recently inaugurated and soon-to-open Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) is poised to have a similar impact. Set up by Adani Airports and state entity CIDCO, it is expected to transform the Ulwe-Panvel corridor into an emerging global city and a real estate gold mine.

This airport was first conceived about 35 years ago. It is expected to not only ease the burden on Mumbai’s existing airport but also to emerge as the epicentre of economic and real estate transformation.“We are seeing a pattern of building new airports in India emerging from Navi Mumbai to Noida’s Jewar and earlier in Hyderabad and Bengaluru. It begins with rapid-fire infrastructure upgrades such as expressways and Metro connections, and then proceeds to the development of aerocities,” said Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Group.

“These include commercial office spaces, hotels, retail, and logistics hubs within a 5km to 10km radius. Housing demand rises by between 20% and 30%, more or less in tandem with the rate of job generation. Naturally, this results in prices rising by anywhere between 10% and 20% annually in the first few years,” he said.“Such airport-based ecosystems emulate the best practices seen around the world and gradually become self-sustaining economic zones in their own right. They will draw in massive aeronautical and non-aeronautical revenue over the coming years,” he added.Obviously, early investors in micro-markets near airports have a strong first-mover advantage and will turn very decent profits as India’s aviation industry continues to grow, he pointed out.With the NMIA, the second airport in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) is becoming a reality. The real estate price in the airport’s catchment area, which is already galloping, is headed for sky-rocketing growth.

As more airport staff and airline crew would soon populate this region, the added demand would be created for residential real estate. Demand for commercial real estate would also see a quantum jump, sending the prices upwards.Earlier this month, the airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The flight operations have been scheduled to commence from December.“Navi Mumbai is poised to further elevate its status as a premier global metropolitan destination,” said Karan Singh Sodi, senior managing director (Mumbai MMR & Gujarat) and head-alternatives, India, JLL.He said the integrated infrastructure — encompassing rail, road, and metro connectivity — would unlock unprecedented avenues for growth across all segments of real estate.“The seamless last-mile connectivity and strategic positioning of the airport are setting new benchmarks for urban development, economic opportunity, and global connectivity, reaffirming Navi Mumbai’s emergence on the world stage,” he emphasised.As per recent data released by Magicbricks, a real estate platform, the average property rates have climbed from ₹9,981 per sq.ft. in Q3 2023 to ₹14,299 per sq. ft in Q3 2025, marking a remarkable 43.26% increase.In the last two quarters alone, prices have jumped by 15%, underlining the city’s emergence as a high-growth investment corridor.“During the last quarter, with the news of the new airport starting soon, the buyer demand rose 6.4% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ), while supply declined 10.7% QoQ, underscoring heightened competition in a tightening market,” the platform mentioned.Popular micro-markets such as Panvel (₹14,400 psf), Kharghar (₹16,900 psf), and Taloja (₹9,500 psf) have emerged as top choices, attracting first-time buyers and investors alike, analysts said.Stating that the inauguration of the airport would redefine the growth trajectory of the MMR, real estate developer and president of CREDAI-MCHI, Sukhraj Nahar, said that now with the airport, Navi Mumbai’s stature would be truly realised as a ‘global city.’According to him, the reduction in travel time between key nodes such as Panvel, Kharghar, Ulwe, Dronagiri and Mumbai’s core business districts, would further strengthen the region’s economic fabric.Tata Realty and Infrastructure, a major player in residential and commercial real estate, is of the view that the airport would be a game-changer for the region, driving an expected 3% capital value appreciation till 2027 specifically for the IT sector.Its aeropolis-style development, integrating business, housing, retail, and logistics — creates one of India’s most efficient, future-ready, and economically vibrant hubs,” said Sanjay Dutt, MD & CEO, Tata Realty and Infrastructure Ltd.“We are already seeing strong traction across commer-

voted out all corrupt leaders in 2014. Since then India has enjoyed a clean government led by caring politicians who are not at all dynastic or nepotistic.”Exactly,” I said. “So where is the need for protests?”“Still, some harmless protests are needed to maintain the façade that we are a democracy.”Don’t disturb tourists! wasn’t convinced. Even if we do need performative protests, do they have to be in a public place? Jantar Mantar, a tourist attraction, is now listed on Google as a ‘protest site’. Its rating of 4.4/5 would have puzzled Maharaja Jai Singh II. As it is, tourist traffic is falling. Now, even the two-three foreigners who come to see Jantar Mantar will go back thinking injustices are rampant in a great country like India. Is that necessary?History tells us that all bad things — like communism, human rights, MGNREGA — came from protests. That’s why the British banned protests in New Delhi. Now even the British are gone. So why do we need protests at all?But I understand some people are temperamentally protest-prone. They can’t help it. Fine. Protest if you must. But then do it in ways that benefit the nation. Protest by paying more tax, or by donating your EPF money to the government. But don’t occupy a public space and make a nuisance — that’s the old way. There are a thousand new ways that don’t require a protest site.Build your life around injusticeFor instance, if you are as great as you think you are, you must have won some award by now — return that award in protest. If you have no awards to return, then work hard to win one, then return it. So many people won Nobel Prizes this month. If you’ve won any, you could decline it in protest. Or, if you’re looking for something easier than the Nobel, you could win an Oscar, like Satyajit Ray did, and turn your acceptance speech into a protest speech that will reverberate around the world.But if you can’t win a Nobel or an Oscar or any other return-worthy award, then shut up and sit down, or take a knee, like the Indian cricket team did. If you can’t take a knee because of arthritis, take a boat, like Greta did. And that’s what I told Balu also.“C’mon,” he said. “Have you never been to a Bono concert? Surely you know that protesting against injustice can also be fun, with singing, dancing, catching up with old friends?”“No,” I said. “I am not the protesting type. Injustice is a part and parcel of life. If you’re smart, instead of protesting it, you’ll build your life around injustice.”



cial, residential, retail, and data centre segments. Commercial segment has already witnessed a notable uptick in demand from domestic corporates as well as global players looking to set up GCC units in the market,” Dutt said.Highlighting that commercial demand would likely be fuelled by the development of logistics parks, offices and hotels, Anshuman Magazine, chairman & CEO, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said the airport would catalyse transit-oriented development, further amplified by its synergy with other mega-projects like Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), and Navi Mumbai Metro Line 1.As per estimates by PropEquity, over 1 lakh units each have been launched and sold in Navi Mumbai in 2022-2025 (till August).Close to 75% of the units launched and 80% of the units sold were priced under ₹1 crore in 2024. The share of the affordable segment is the largest in launch and absorption in 2024. The majority of consumers are more inclined towards affordable segment houses (₹50 lakh).According to the firm, the demand for homes is so high that the inventory overhang reached a historic low of 14 months in 2024, the lowest since 2020.This greenfield airport will further accelerate the growth, driving sustained demand and significant price appreciation, presenting lucrative long-term investment opportunities,” said Vimal Nadar, national director & head of research, Colliers India.“Further, Navi Mumbai’s strategic positioning as a sub-dollar office market [monthly leasing rates below a dollar], coupled with enhanced connectivity and global access offered by the airport, is expected to drive heightened office leasing activity in the area over the next few years,” he added.The proposed aerocity in the vicinity, designed to seamlessly integrate top-notch commercial, residential, and recreational spaces, will foster a new urban ecosystem that blends work and lifestyle, he added.“The market response has been strong, with apartment prices in the Panvel region rising by nearly 74% between FY 2021 and FY 2025, compared to 45% growth across the rest of Navi Mumbai. The airport is set to drive the next wave of value creation, reinforcing Panvel’s position as one of the most promising growth hubs not only within the MMR but beyond,” said Deepak Khandelwal, principal partner and chief sales officer, Square Yards.NMIA’s inauguration comes at a time when Navi Mumbai and its surrounding growth corridors are witnessing unprecedented infrastructure development.Enhanced mobilityThe Atal Setu (MTHL) — India’s longest sea bridge — has already bridged the gap between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, cutting travel time to less than an hour.Complementing this will be the Mumbai Metro Line 8, connecting T2 of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) to the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), offering smooth intra-city mobility.The Panvel-Karjat railway line, currently under advanced development, will strengthen linkages between Navi Mumbai, Raigad, and the hinterland, paving the way for new residential and industrial clusters.Together, these mega infrastructure projects are positioning the Navi Mumbai region as one of the most promising investment destinations in India’s real estate landscape, according to analysts.Big urban centreAmong the biggest beneficiaries of this infrastructure wave is Panvel, which has steadily evolved from a peripheral suburb to the next big urban centre.With its proximity to the airport and connectivity via the MTHL, Metro, and rail corridors, Panvel is now emerging as the preferred choice for integrated townships and self-sustained communities.Navin Makhija, managing director of The Wadhwa Group, said, “The inauguration of the Navi Mumbai International Airport marks a transformative moment for Navi Mumbai and the Panvel region. The region’s accessibility, connectivity from the main Mumbai city and infrastructure undertaken within the region have made it an ideal destination for large-scale development, and its growth is inevitable.”“



# Four firms owned by Arunachal CM Pema Khandu’s family got 146 govt contracts in Tawang



Arunachal CM family firms: Four firms, two owned by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu’s wife Tsering Dolma, and one each by his brother Tashi Khandu and sister-in-law Nima Drema, were awarded 146 work contracts worth Rs 383.74 crore by the state government in Tawang district alone between 2012 and 2023, as per an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court.

Of this, 59 contracts worth Rs 16.83 crore were awarded directly through work orders without a tender being floated. At least 11 of these work orders exceeded the Rs 50 lakh limit set in 2020 for contracts issued without tenders, which was meant to promote local professionals and entrepreneurs in the state. The contracts were for the construction or maintenance of roads, bridges, drains, irrigation channels, power lines, retaining walls, community halls, cultural centres, residential quarters, office and commercial buildings, tourism facilities, a war memorial, etc.

The Indian Express reviewed the list of contracts submitted in an affidavit by the Arunachal Pradesh government, after the Supreme Court directed the state to furnish the details this March. In a PIL filed last year, Save Mon Region Federation and Voluntary Arunachal Sena had alleged that government work orders were awarded to firms linked to the chief minister’s family. The two Arunachal-based organisations have sought the court to direct an investigation by the CBI or an SIT into the award of contracts. On December 2, the apex court took note of the submission of the petitioners’ counsel, Prashant Bhushan, that the information provided by the state was not “complete/up to date” and directed the Arunachal government to file a comprehensive affidavit covering all the districts, including Tawang, pertaining to the period 2015 to 2025 within eight weeks. There are 28 districts in Arunachal. Emails and messages sent to Khandu and his office remained unanswered.

In the affidavit, the state named four firms: M/s Frontier Associates and M/s Brand Eagles owned by Pema Khandu’s wife Tsering Dolma; M/s RD Construction owned by Pema Khandu’s brother Tashi Khandu; and M/s Alliance Trading Company owned by Nima Drema, wife of Pema Khandu’s brother and Tawang MLA Tsering Tashi. In

Tawang district alone, M/s Frontier Associates and M/s Brand Eagles bagged 42 contracts worth Rs 209.6 crore, while M/s RD Construction secured 13 orders worth Rs 29.1 crore and M/s Alliance Trading Company 91 orders worth Rs 145.04 crore, the affidavit states. Of these, 59 contracts were awarded without a tender. As per the affidavit, contracts were awarded to firms owned by Khandu’s wife by the Public Works Department, the Rural Works Department, and the Water Resources Department in Tawang, as well as the PWD and the Block Development Office in the district’s Jang subdivision.

In 2015, the state government passed a law to give preference to local professionals and entrepreneurs “to secure equitable distribution of state development work” as part of the government’s policy. An amendment in 2020 specified the list of works requiring “no special technical know-how” and “costing up to Rs 50 lakh” through work orders, without tenders, at justified rates to local contractors. However, 11 work contracts awarded to the four companies prior to the 2020 amendment exceeded the Rs 50 lakh limit, while another five were capped at Rs 50 lakh, the affidavit shows. For example, the work contract for “establishment of government college in Tawang” issued to M/s Alliance Trading in 2018 was worth Rs 2 crore.

In its affidavit, the state sought to explain the awarding of contracts through work orders, stating that it is normal practice in Arunachal Pradesh given “the historic development of the transition of the state of Arunachal Pradesh from predominantly tribal way of life to a modern-day state”. Stating that the land for developmental activities in villages is given by villagers free of cost for employment in the contract work, the state’s affidavit says, “The normal practice adopted here is that the government contract work is initially allotted to one contractor who is accustomed and used to the concerned village and is eligible, available and willing to undertake the contract work. The villagers normally prefer the contract firm provided by their elected representatives as they have maximum trust and flexibility to carry out the work under such contract firms.” It states that the tender system is adhered to “wherever complicated works require high competence, skill and capability is involved.” The affidavit also stated that 95% of the contracts awarded to firms and individuals concerned were through the process of open tender. “Since almost all the contracts were awarded through the process of open tender after inviting and evaluation of technical and financial bids, there can be no allegations of pick and choose or that undue favours were made to the respondents or firms/individuals related to them,” it states. The Supreme Court Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta remarked that the allotment of these many contracts to the CM’s family is a “remarkable coincidence”. The next hearing is scheduled on February 3.

# Who was Major Mohit Sharma, why his family claims ‘Dhurandhar’ is based on him

Dhurandhar controversy explained: The upcoming Bollywood movie Dhurandhar, starring Ranveer Singh, ran into legal trouble after the family of a highly decorated Army officer claimed it is based on his life without due acknowledgement. Major Mohit Sharma laid down his life battling militants in J&K in 2009. He was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra, India’s highest peacetime gallantry award. His parents approached the Delhi High Court against Dhurandhar, scheduled for release on December 5, seeking protection of their son’s legacy and persona. They also wanted the film privately screened for the family before its release.

Filmmaker Aditya Dhar has said the movie is fictional and not based on the Major’s life. The censor board on Tuesday (December 2) gave its go-ahead to the movie. Who was Major Mohit Sharma, what did he win his gallantry award for, and what are his family’s objections to Dhurandhar?

Who was Major Mohit Sharma?

Major Mohit Sharma was a Special Forces (SF) officer. Before the Ashok Chakra, he had been awarded a Sena Medal for gallantry, for infiltrating a terrorist group in J&K and killing two militants. Major Mohit Sharma Major Mohit Sharma’s wife Major Rishima Sharma receives his Ashok Chakra from then President Pratibha Patil on January 26, 2010. (Photo: Wikimedia Commons) Born in Rohtak in 1978, Major Mohit Sharma joined the National Defence Academy (NDA) in 1995. He was commissioned in December 1999 in the 5th Battalion of The Madras Regiment after passing out from Indian Military Academy (IMA). After a stint in J&K in Rashtriya Rifles, Major Sharma volunteered to join the Special Forces. After training and probation, he finally joined 1 Parachute Battalion (Special Forces). It was during his tenure with this battalion that he earned the Sena Medal for gallantry. He is said to have successfully infiltrated a Hizbul Mujahideen group under cover in 2004. In 2009, Major Sharma was again deployed with a Special Forces unit in Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir. He took part in an action in which several militants were killed, but in the process he was grievously injured and lost his life. For acts of bravery beyond the call of duty, Major Mohit Sharma was awarded the Ashok Chakra posthumously. Why is Dhurandhar being linked to Major Mohit Sharma?

The family members of Major Mohit Sharma have al-



leged that Ranveer Singh’s character is based on him. This character infiltrates a terrorist network in Pakistan and destroys it. They have stated that no permission was sought from the family before using the story and actions of Major Sharma in the movie.

On social media, speculation has been rife that various other characters in the movie are also based on real-life persons. Sanjay Dutt is supposed to be playing Chaudhary Aslam Khan Swati, an ‘encounter specialist’ of the Karachi police, who was killed in a bomb blast carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in 2014. Akshaye Khanna’s character is also said to be based on Sardar Abdul Rehman Baloch, a well-known criminal based out of Karachi’s Lyari locality who was killed in 2009. Another character allegedly resembles National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, a former intelligence officer. The petition came up for hearing on December 1. The plea said that ‘Dhurandhar is being publicly promoted with a view to create a perception that it is based upon the life, persona and operations of Major Mohit Sharma. It was alleged that the same is being done without any consent, consultation or authorisation from the family. The director, screenwriter and co-producer of the movie vehemently denied that the film is being promoted as having been inspired by Major Sharma’s life. It was stated that the film is purely a work of fiction and though inspired by true events, bears no connection with the Major. (i) The Central Board of Film Certification shall consider all relevant aspects of the matter, including the concerns articulated by the petitioners, before granting requisite certification for the release of the film. (ii) If considered apposite, the censor board will refer the matter to the authorities concerned of the Indian Army before taking a final decision.

# Worried about data tracking? Here are some open-source alternatives for all Google apps on your phone

If you are an Android user and are worried about Google tracking your data through its apps such as Chrome, Maps and Photos, this article is for you. We have listed alternatives for Google apps that may have you concerned about your privacy and the safety of your data. Cromite can be your option for browsing if you feel that Google Chrome works like a tracking tool which runs background connections you never asked for. Cromite’s UI is very similar to Chrome and makes browsing easy for Chrome users without forcing them to change their habits. LibreTube (Alternative for YouTube): LibreTube connects you to YouTube through a privacy-friendly backend, letting you watch YouTube videos without using Google’s servers. This option is also helpful for users who are tired of ads before and during videos. Organic Maps (Alternative for Google Maps):

Although Google Maps is a very useful tool, it is slowly turning into a space filled with sponsored location listings. If you do not like seeing such listings on Maps, try Organic Maps, which is based on OpenStreetMap data. It lets you download entire regions for offline use. Heliboard (Alterna-

tive for GBoard):

Heliboard is a good option for those who want an alternative to GBoard, which some users may not realise can be a privacy risk. Since keyboards know everything you type, from your address to your passwords, they can pose silent risks on your phone. Heliboard, an open-source keyboard based on OpenBoard, is safer as it needs no internet permissions. Its clean layout, which feels similar to GBoard, is also easy to adapt to. Kvaesitso launcher (Alternative to Google launcher): Google’s stock launcher is designed to keep you within the Google ecosystem. The Discover feed is a swipe away, the search bar is linked to Google Search, and many features guide you to Google services. Kvaesitso changes this by designing the home screen around your usage instead of Google’s needs. It is an open-source launcher that can improve your Android experience if the device feels slow or cluttered. Thunderbird for Android (Alternative to Gmail): Gmail works well, but features like labels, smart sorting and promotion tabs often tie you to one platform’s way of handling email.

# Economic offenders who fled the country owe 39000 crores to indian banks



Just nine Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEOs) owed Indian banks over ₹58,000 crore in principal and interest. Despite having arrest warrants issued against them, these FEOs have left India and refuse to return to avoid criminal prosecution. Of this, the principal amount owed is ₹26,645 crore, while interest accounts for ₹31,437 crore. To date, banks have recovered just over ₹19,000 crore — roughly 33% of the total dues. Earlier this week, the Ministry of Finance informed Parliament that 15 individuals had been declared FEOs as of October 31. Nine of them are involved in large-scale financial fraud, and the amounts they owe have been made public.

State Bank of India (SBI) is owed over ₹22,000 crore, followed by Punjab National Bank and Bank of India. The chart below shows the Amount owed to the banks and the amount recovered. Notably, the SBI has achieved the highest recovery rate among these lenders, retrieving close to

52%. This is largely attributed to effective recovery measures, including liquidation, in Vijay Mallya’s account. In contrast, the recovery rate for other banks remains below 40%.

In terms of total dues owed initially (principal plus interest), businessman Mallya tops the list with nearly ₹27,000 crore. The chart below shows the amount owed by the offenders and the amount recovered. He is followed by the Sandesara family (Sterling Group) and Nirav Modi. Over 56% of amount owed by Mallya has been recovered till date, date show, while for others, the rate is much lower at 17% for the Sandesara family and 7% in the case of Modi. The charts below detail the loan exposure and recovered amount for the top offenders. SBI led in exposure to Mallya, whereas PNB bore the brunt of Modi’s defaults. For the Sandesara family, the exposure was shared among multiple banks. The chart below details the loan exposure of various banks and the recovered amount in accounts related to Vijay Mallya. The chart below details loan exposure and the recovered amount in accounts related to the Sandesara family. The chart below details loan exposure and the recovered amount in accounts related to Nirav Modi. The data for the charts were sourced from Parliament Questions and Answers. This analysis includes the two fugitive economic offenders who have negotiated loan settlement under One Time Settlement (OTS). In the graphs, members of the Sandesara family refers to amount borrowed by/recovered from Nitin J. Sandesara, Chetan J. Sandesara, and Dipti C. Sandesara as mentioned in the parliament document

# Does Google’s Quantum Echoes bring Q-day closer?

Using a 65-qubit Willow superconducting processor, Google researchers measured how quantum information spreads and refocuses within an entangled system. This technological leap in quantum computing was called Quantum Echoes. Unlike the 2019 Sycamore experiment, which claimed “quantum supremacy” for completing a random-number task faster than any supercomputer, Quantum Echoes was not a speed race but a test of understanding. Scientists measured out-of-time-order correlators (OTOC) — tiny echoes that reveal how disturbances travel through a network of qubits.

The method resembles giving a material a microscopic “poke,” reversing time evolution, and listening for the returning echo. The echo’s strength reveals how quickly information disperses, offering insight for chemistry, materials science, and superconductivity. Despite its scientific importance, the experiment does not bring the world closer to breaking encryption or to Q-day.

“Harvest now, decrypt later”

Q-day refers to the day a cryptographically relevant quantum computer becomes powerful enough to break public-key encryption. It would not instantly expose all secrets, but any encrypted data stored today could be decoded later if intercepted now — a risk known as “harvest now, decrypt later.”

Governments and researchers are already preparing. The U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has standardised new post-quantum cryptography (PQC) algorithms — CRYSTALS-Kyber for encryption and Dilithium for digital signatures. These rely on mathematical problems that are believed to resist both classical and quantum attacks. Experts expect that machines capable of breaking RSA-2048 will need millions of logical qubits, which could take 5 to 8 years to build. [RSA-2048 is a commonly used standard for public-key cryptography.] Until then, Q-day remains a theoretical horizon, but one the cybersecurity world takes seriously. Public-key cryptography secures nearly all online communication. RSA encryption works by multiplying two large prime numbers to create an enormous product. Multiplication is easy, but reversing it and finding the original primes is so difficult that even the fastest classical computers would need billions of years to solve it.

Machines that test multiple possibilities Quantum computers operate under the laws of quantum mechanics. Their building blocks, called qubits, exploit superposition — the ability to exist as both 0 and 1 simultaneously — and entanglement — where qubits influence each other instantly, even when far apart. These features let quantum machines test many possibilities at once rather than sequentially. This aspect of existing in multiple places at the same time powers Shor’s algorithm, which converts the hard task of factoring numbers into one of finding repeating patterns, or periods, in modular arithmetic. To expose those patterns, the algorithm uses the Quantum Fourier Transform (QFT), a mathematical tool that acts like a detector of hidden rhythms within a signal. Scaling this method to large RSA numbers would let a quantum computer find their prime factors exponentially faster than classical machines.

Craig Gidney and Martin Eker of Google Research



estimated in 2019 that factoring a 2,048-bit RSA key would need about 20 million physical qubits and eight hours of computation, assuming perfect error correction. Current processors, such as Google’s Willow and IBM’s Condor, have only a few hundred noisy qubits. A true fault-tolerant quantum computer would require millions of logical qubits, which are stable, error-corrected versions capable of long calculations. That scale remains far beyond present technology. Shor’s algorithm and encryption systems in theory, Shor’s algorithm is a computational tool designed to factor large numbers efficiently. Its purpose is mathematical and, eventually, cryptographic: it challenges the foundations of today’s encryption systems.

And Quantum Echoes is an experiment in physics. Instead of solving equations, it studies how quantum information spreads and re-emerges within entangled particles. While both — Shor’s algorithm and Quantum Echoes — use quantum hardware, they serve very different goals. Shor’s algorithm seeks computational advantage; Quantum Echoes seeks physical understanding. So, the Willow experiment differs as its results can be verified through repeated measurements and signal-to-noise analysis. It represents progress in scientific reproducibility rather than in cryptographic power. But experts caution that some entities may already be storing encrypted information today to decrypt in the future once quantum machines reach the necessary scale. To prepare, as mentioned earlier, the U.S. NIST has introduced post-quantum algorithms, while companies like Google and Cloudflare are adopting hybrid encryption to secure internet traffic. Regulators, including India’s central bank, are urging organisations to transition to quantum-safe systems before the end of the decade. But most networks remain unprotected until that migration is complete. So, what does this preparation by regulators and advances in quantum hardware tell us? Simply put, it will take a long time to break encryption using quantum computers. Google’s Quantum Echoes does not bring Q-day any closer. But it does mark a scientific milestone in understanding quantum behaviour. The experiment shows that quantum processors can now verify complex physical interactions within entangled systems — a sign of maturity in quantum science rather than a cybersecurity threat. As quantum technology evolves, its real promise may lie less in defeating today’s encryption and more in unlocking the secrets of nature itself. Ensuring our digital infrastructure evolves just as thoughtfully will determine how securely we enter the quantum era.

# Health security se National security: Why does Centre want to levy cess on tobacco?

Story so far: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025 on Thursday (December 4, 2025), kicking off the Centre’s reform agenda for Parliament’s Winter session. The Bill proposes to levy cess on “machines installed, or other processes undertaken in the manufacture of pan masala” to fund India’s ‘health and national security’. The Lok Sabha has already passed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the amended Manipur Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill, 2025 while the above-mentioned Bill is currently slated for debate and passage. Introduced as a money Bill, the Health security se National security Cess Bill, 2025 need only be passed by the Lok Sabha. The Upper House has 14 days to provide its recommendations on such a Bill which may or may not be accepted by the Lok Sabha.

What does the Bill propose?

Termed the ‘Health Security se National Security Cess’, the Centre proposes to tax all those people who have machines installed for production of pan masala. The machines include fill and seal machines and any packing machine used to fill pan masala in pouches, tins or other containers.

The cess will be decided as per number of pouches (tins or containers) produced by the machine per minute and pan masala weight packed in a pouch, tin or container.

It will be collected at the beginning of each month, but no later than the seventh. Those paying the cess can self-declare the machine installed or processes undertaken in their factories producing pan masala. Centre can exempt anyone or any class from this cess, if it deems necessary in public interest. The cess has been classified into four categories based on the number of pouches it produces per minute — upto 500, 501-1000, 1001-1500 and above 1500. Correspondingly based on the weight of pan masala packed in each pouch (varying from 2.5 grams to above 10 grams), the cess varies from ₹101 lakh per month per machine to ₹2.5 crores (approximately). It also criminalises any violations upto 5 years imprisonment. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2), nearly 42% of men and 14% of women in India use tobacco. Moreover, India amounts to 70% of the world’s smokeless tobacco (SLT) users i.e. gutkha, pan masala and among smoked tobacco, bids are preferred over cigarettes, especially in rural and lower income families. As both SLT and smoked tobacco use increase cancer risk in lung, head, neck, stomach, and pancreas, India ranks first globally in male cancer deaths. Experts found that the economic cost of both SLT and smoked tobacco amounted to ₹1.77 lakh crore in 2016-17. Centre’s ban on use of gutkha has more or less remained ineffective as the tobacco industry has ensured wide accessibility of its products via policy interference, pricing tactics, targeted marketing and dense tobacco shop networks.



# China cracked down on coaching classes. Should India also do it?



The market reaction was instant and brutal. Billions of dollars in value were wiped from education giants like TAL Education and New Oriental. Stocks plummeted by as much as 60% in days. For Chinese families, this was a shock. The \$100 billion industry was suddenly gone. An ecosystem built on the hopes and fears of the middle class was dismantled by decree. But, this move did not come from nowhere. It was a response to a deep national crisis. The tutoring industry was only a symptom of a much deeper problem. At the heart of this pressure is the Gaokao, the national college entrance exam. It is a “single-plank bridge” that decides a student’s entire future. Success is the only path to a good university and a good job. The first test, the Zhongkao, cuts the student body in half at age 15. Only about 50% go to academic high schools. The rest are sent to vocational schools, a path widely seen as a failure. This created a phenomenon known in China as *neijuan*, or “involution.” It is an arms race where everyone works harder just to stay in the same place. If one child gets tutoring, all must. The private tutoring industry grew to feed this anxiety. It became a parallel education system, fueled by billions in venture capital. Marketing preyed on a parent’s deepest fear: that their child would “lose at the starting line.” This created a triple burden. Students lost their childhoods to endless homework and classes. Mental health issues soared. Parents faced a crushing financial burden. The high cost of education was also blamed for China’s falling birth rate. This was a direct threat to long-term national security.

The state saw this as a loss of control. The industry was creating inequality, as the rich could buy a better education. It also undermined the Communist Party’s ideological control over the young. And thus, the resultant “Double Reduction” policy was not a reform. It was a regulatory guillotine. Its core rule was simple: all tutoring firms for core subjects must become non-profits. This instantly killed the business model. The government also banned new licenses. It cut off all access to capital, banning IPOs and foreign investment. Publicly listed firms could no longer invest in the sector. It also banned tutoring on weekends, holidays, and summer vacations. These were the industry’s most profitable times. The goal was clear. This was part of President Xi Jinping’s “Common Prosperity” campaign. It was a move to curb the “disorderly expansion of capital.” It was a

reassertion of state control. The government, not the market, would control the education of China’s youth. The results were devastating. The industry collapsed. Within a year, 95% of offline tutoring firms were gone. New Oriental, a market giant, saw its value drop by 90%. It laid off 60,000 employees. The company pivoted to selling agricultural products on live streams just to survive. Other giants like TAL and Gaotu met similar fates. Millions of young, educated tutors lost their jobs overnight. The winners and losers: The policy created clear winners and losers. The losers were middle and lower-income families. They could no longer afford the group classes that gave their children a chance. The winners were the wealthy. They were unfazed by the ban. But, the policy’s most predictable outcome was a new black market. The government destroyed the supply of tutoring but did nothing to reduce the demand. This underground market is secretive, unregulated, and incredibly expensive. Tutors are disguised as “nannies” or “family consultants.” The policy’s greatest irony is that it massively increased inequality. It took a widely available service and made it accessible only to the rich. Did the policy work? On the surface, some students got more sleep. Anxiety briefly fell. But the core problem was never touched. The Gaokao and Zhongkao still loom over every family. The pressure did not disappear - it just changed form. The government misdiagnosed the problem. It attacked the symptom, the tutoring industry, while leaving the disease, the high-stakes exam system, untouched. Lessons for India: And, this story is an urgent lesson for India. We see the same pressures here. Our system is also built on high-stakes exams like the JEE and NEET. These are our “single-plank bridges.” This has fueled our own massive coaching industry. Cities like Kota are symbols of this pressure. And, the toll is devastating. The parallels to pre-crackdown China are impossible to ignore.

But, the most important lesson is that a China-style sledgehammer on coaching centers would be a disaster for India. It would not stop the demand. It would simply create an expensive, underground black market. This would lock out middle-class and poor families. It would make our education system more unequal, not less. In this context, India seems to be choosing a different, wiser path. In 2024, the government released guidelines to regulate coaching centers, not annihilate them. This framework bans misleading ads and enrollment of young children. It aims to curb the worst excesses. This is a pragmatic short-term step. But regulation alone is not enough. The only true, long-term solution is deep, systemic reform. We must cure the disease, not just manage the symptoms. This is the promise of India’s National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The NEP aims to focus on critical thinking and holistic learning. It calls for reducing exam pressure and creating multiple, respected pathways to success. It tries to break the idea that one exam defines a life. Thus, if you think of it, India stands at a fork in the road. The government must pursue a two-pronged strategy. First, it must enforce its new regulations on the coaching industry. Second, it must commit to the long, difficult task of implementing the NEP’s vision.

# The orthodontist who built a museum of cameras in Chennai

Back in 1997, a Chennai-based orthodontist held his first twin-lens reflex camera at a flea market in the city, and that find set off a lifelong passion. All these decades later, it has grown into a collection of about 5,800 still photography cameras, earning him a Guinness World Record for the largest collection of cameras and the most distinctive assemblage of film cameras. Each piece, from rare Polaroid models and box and folding cameras to pocket-sized miniatures, finds its place in his camera museum in Kovalam. Behind this vast collection, A.V. Arun balances his hobby while practising dentistry full-time since the 1990s. “I have clearly kept my profession and passion distinct,” says Dr. Arun. “Practising dentistry is simply essential. It helps me run my life and sustain it. However, what makes it worth living is always my passion.” Dr. Arun’s collector’s instinct was a part of him even before he arrived at dentistry. It started with bottle caps when he was in school, then miniature perfume bottles, and somewhere along the way, it evolved into a camera museum.

Whenever his dentistry conferences take him to other parts of the world, the orthodontist finds himself at the local flea markets after work. “Once, in Australia, I picked up about 40 cameras for a throwaway price,” he says. “So, you will find pieces in the museum from all the crannies of the world.” The precision and patience that dentistry demands seems to spill over seamlessly into his world of cameras too. When asked how he manages to juggle between both, he says the answer is simple: “No one’s ever too busy.” “After clinic hours, I come home to reading about cameras, cleaning them, tinkering with them -- sometimes even until 1 a.m.” For someone surrounded by thousands of cameras, curiously, Dr. Arun doesn’t take too many photos himself.



“Not many develop film these days,” he says. “It’s too expensive. But I’m more of a collector than a photographer.” Collector’s eye When Dr. Arun first started collecting film cameras, there was not much competition, but that changed over time. “Once, someone from Chandigarh called me up saying he had a completely wooden, British-made camera,” he recalls. “Since it was made that way, courier wasn’t ideal, and I took a train all the way there to bring it back myself.” Well, that camera, dating back to the 1870s, is one of the oldest in his collection. “These days, collecting cameras is slowly making a comeback among young people too. And it is quite true -- what is useless to one person could be treasure to another. Only a true collector can see that.” The camera museum in Kovalam opens only on Sundays, and only by appointment, to welcome fellow camera aficionados. Alongside, he also visits colleges to give talks on the history and mechanics of cameras, because some passions, as it turns out, deserve their own aperture of time.

# Government orders inquiry against officials involved in construction of Periyanaickenpalayam flyover in Coimbatore

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

The Tamil Nadu government has appointed an authority to inquire against officials who were involved in the construction of a flyover at Periyanaickenpalayam in Coimbatore district. In an order dated September 30, 2025, the Highways Secretary R. Selvaraj said the government has appointed D. Baskara Pandian, Project Director, Tamil Nadu Road Sector Projects, as the Inquiry Officer, who will submit a report in 45 days.

“The said Inquiry Officer is directed to conduct the inquiry following the procedure laid down in rule 17 (b) of the Tamil Nadu Civil Services (Disciplinary and Appeal) Rules and send the report to the Government expeditiously,” the order said. The disciplinary proceedings are quasi-judicial in character, it added. The authority is appointed following a representation from the secretary of the Coimbatore Consumer Cause to the Prime Minister’s office about “faulty design against IRC norms and improper connection of service road to the flyover.” On April 21, the PMO wrote about appointing an inquiry authority. The secretary of the consumer organisation K. Kathirmathiyon alleged in a letter to the PMO in January this year that the public face safety issues and several difficulties due to poor planning and execution of the 1.8 km flyover constructed at ₹115 crore. The officials claim that it is due to “site condition”. The pre-



The move follows a representation from the secretary of the Coimbatore Consumer Cause to the Prime Minister’s Office regarding “faulty design against IRC norms and improper connection of service road to the flyover”.

opening -- road safety audit by EcLat Engineering consultant, Hyderabad, said to be carried out on December 6, 2023 does no mention about the “serious safety lapse i.e. merging of the service road with the main carriageway -- at the end of the down ramp, though it is at “0” point by sharp right turn at 90 degrees and is totally against IRC norms.” The storm water drains are not constructed and there are no streetlights on the flyover, he alleged.

# AWS outage: How Amazon cloud outage affected the global internet



The story so far: On Monday (October 20, 2025), one of Amazon Web Services (AWS) data centre, located in the east coast of the U.S., began experiencing “increased error rates and latencies.” By next morning several issues were reported across AWS data centres, many of which are located in Northern Virginia. The affected data centre cluster, US-East-1, is AWS’ biggest and most active. The disruption took down digital services of over 2,000 companies, according to Downdetector. Services of Amazon, Snapchat, Signal, ChatGPT, Perplexity, Canva, Roblox, Duolingo, Fortnite, Coinbase and Epic Games online services were affected. The issue was eventually “fully resolved” by 6:53 PM ET, AWS said in a blog post.

What was the reason behind the incident?

In a status update, AWS informed users that the outage originated from a DNS error affecting the DynamoDB database application programming interfaces in the US-East-1 region. After some time, Amazon advised users experiencing issues resolving the DynamoDB service endpoints in US-EAST-1 to flush their DNS caches. The Domain Name System (DNS) essentially functions as a lookup mechanism that translates a web URL into its corresponding IP address. For instance, the IP address for the domain www.instagram.com is 57.144.150.34. When DNS fails, there’s no way to retrieve the address, so even if a service appears to be operational for users running the platform, there’s no incoming traffic. Consider trying to contact a friend whose phone number keeps changing, and you don’t have any of these numbers memorized.

The DynamoDB database service was used by AWS to store data for Amazon’s own services as well as several other customers including Amazon retail, Amazon Alexa, Lyft, Snapchat and Signal etc. DNS errors have become frequent due to various factors. It could happen in case a company failed to renew registration or during a faulty automated update or in the most common instances where the DNS service provider is changed or updating the domain address. Although DNS errors could be caused by malicious actors, this specific outage was not. It was a case of “availability,” cybersecurity experts said, where the system couldn’t correctly decide which server to latch on to, which led to a ripple effect. Despite how centralised cloud sys-

tems have become over time, AWS’ US-East-1 region is relatively infamous for causing massive disruptions. Built in 2006, US-East-1 is also the default for swathes of services and users given it was the first AWS region. There are some global AWS services run from US-East-1 depending on its endpoints, which includes DynamoDB Global Tables among others. This could mean that services used in even Europe have infrastructure features located in US-East-1 and can be susceptible to a chain reaction.

Have there been past AWS outages?

After two prominent outages in September and December of 2021, customers were furious, calling US-East-1 a “systemic risk.” The outage in December is often cited as the most severe in AWS history. It laid bare how fragile cloud dependencies could be. Lasting almost seven hours and costing S&P companies \$150 million, the outage was caused to a typo in a command entered while debugging an issue. Following the backlash, Amazon confirmed that new architectures were being rebuilt for both the AWS support case management system for customers to chat with technical support and the health dashboard. But, in June 2023, the region faced another outage taking down 100 services for around four hours with customers grappling with a recurring issue of not being able to reach out to AWS Support quickly, despite the changes. Notably, every AWS region has a minimum of three different availability zones (AZ) that are all connected separately. And while customers were suggested to allow their apps and platforms to run in different availability zones to control risks of impact, the entire region has been prone to going down taking everything with it. Will there be more outages like this in future?

Some experts have predicted that cloud outages could increase due to the push towards introducing AI capabilities in enterprises that lead to an increased ingestion of data into the cloud, increasing the load on hyperscalers. (Global cloud computing is largely dominated by AWS, followed by Microsoft’s Azure and Google Cloud.) As most experts have been warning repeatedly, the outage is a stark reminder that the over-reliance on these dominant cloud providers could bring global online companies down to their knees. Gergely Orosz, author of the newsletter, ‘The Pragmatic Engineer,’ listed some unlikely cases of fallout from this outage, which included Postman, an API development tool, and Eight Sleep, a sleep fitness company. “In both cases, things should have worked locally! It’s what customers assumed, and it should have been possible. But clearly the dev teams found it simpler to take on a cloud dependency - and made no prep for an AWS region outage. So now customers know these are cloud products,” he said in a X post. Amazon released a report with a detailed summary of the 15-hour outage saying it will be temporarily disabling DynamoDB DNS Planner and that it will add “additional protections” to prevent DNS errors in future. The AWS team will also work on improving their internal testing to look for more such problems that stretched the outage.

# Remembering Piyush ‘Earthy’ Pandey

I was invited to Ranjan Kapoor’s home (the erstwhile Head of Ogilvy & Mather) for a party, as Sunitha, my wife, was handling the Cadbury business in O&M at that time. My wife introduced me to Piyush: “Piyush, meet my husband, Suresh. He is with Lintas,” and quick came the reply from Piyush: “Oh, but I thought you told me he was in advertising!” That was Piyush for you -- quick-witted, cheeky, spunky, and combative. I have, since then, had the opportunity of meeting him and interacting with him on several occasions throughout the last 25–27 years.

In my brief stint at Ogilvy & Mather as a planner, I played cricket for the O&M team and guess who my captain was. Well, you guessed right. He was an avid cricketer and a good one at that. He played Ranji Trophy for Rajasthan during 1977–79. He was a wicketkeeper and batted one down. And his sledding skills were legendary. I remember once -- it was a CAG Shield semifinal against an agency called Trikaya (some of you may have heard the name) -- and we lost two quick wickets at the top, and he sent me in three down. I stuck around, steadied the ship for a few overs, but could not force the pace. When I got out and came back, he barked at me, “Well played, but MC, BC, are you a stroke-less wonder?” I, of course, shrunk into the dugout with my tail between my legs. Another example of how passionate, involved, and competitive he was. Incidentally, we won that match. I am not going to go on and on about Piyush being a creative genius or about Fevicol, or Googly Woogly Woosh (Ponds), or ZooZoo (Vodafone), or Har Ghar Kuch Kehta Hai (Asian Paints), or many, many such wonderful pieces of work which have now become folklore and are enshrined in the archives of the advertising world. One of them, of course, was the Cadbury “Kuch Khaas Hai” commercial in 1993, based on his favourite subject -- cricket. A young woman savours her chocolate while anticipating a six, and when it comes, she breaks all convention by running onto the field, unabashed and joyous. Almost 30 years later, that same ad was reinvented with the roles reversed -- a woman batter hitting the six and her partner rushing in to celebrate -- quietly signalling how Indian society has evolved. Now tell me, where else would you see an ad being reinvented decades later and still remain charming and relevant. That, truly, was the genius of Piyush -- adjusting his strokes as the pitch turned with society.

He was a son-of-the-soil, sleeves-rolled-up, let’s-do-it kind of guy. He was focused, brimming with ideas, and constantly thinking about how he and Ogilvy could add value to the client’s business. He was a darling of all clients he handled. Most CEOs and MDs of large MNCs would come to the ground-floor reception of the building to receive him and see him off post the meeting -- a respect that he, on his own merit, and agencies used to command once upon a time. Now agencies are commodities, vendors, and suppliers -- but that is for another day. Today is about reminiscing about the incandescent Piyush Pandey. He was a power-house, yet very friendly; he was a giant, yet he would put a hand around your shoulder; he was combative, yet empathetic; he took Ogilvy to dizzying heights, yet at a personal level, he used to do a lot of pro bono work for good causes. A couple of years ago, at a Sportstar Conclave, I was the moderator on a panel with him, Harbhajan Singh, and a couple of marketers who had invested heavily in cricket. I remember, while the two marketers were trying to get a word in sideways, Harbhajan and Piyush were having a blast on stage reliving some old memories (they had worked together in the past), and in his choicest Hindi, Piyush had the crowd in splits. Having said that, I could even at that time sense his frail health and weak body. In spite of that, he agreed to be part of the panel because (I like to believe) I requested -- no, pleaded -- with him, and he actually travelled to Delhi with his male nurse. It is also coincidental that Ogilvy has been the agency of The Hindu Group (my organisation) for the past 10 years. We had an agency review/pitch meeting at Chennai about a year ago, and while



the whole Ogilvy team turned up physically, Piyush insisted that he wanted to be a part of the review and joined online. Piyush is the one who created the memorable Hindu campaign “Behave Yourself India, the youth are watching” some years ago and was very passionate about this account. Even in the review meeting, he was brimming with ideas and chomping at the bit to get in with some great work for us. That was the involvement and passion of the man. The advertising industry has lost an icon, but he has left behind a body of work and a legacy that will far outlive most of us. Piyush ‘Earthy’ Pandey has transcended the earth today, but he remains in our memory as a man who would always shoot for the stars.

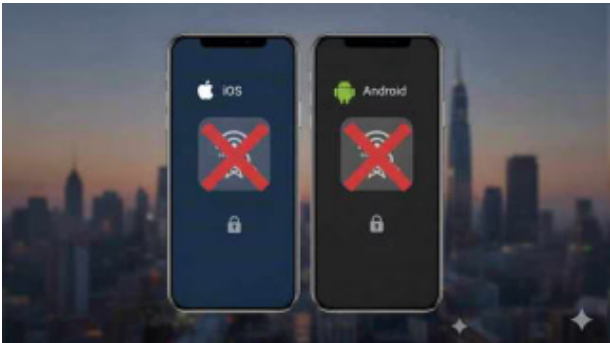
# Calcutta High Court withdraws protection to BJP's Suvendu Adhikari for registration of FIRs against him

In a setback to Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, the Calcutta High Court on Friday (October 24, 2025) lifted a protection granted to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader against registration of FIRs against him.

While ordering quashing of 15 FIRs against Mr. Adhikari, Justice Jay Sengupta lifted the protection granted by the High Court to the Opposition leader in 2022 against registration of FIRs against him. As per the earlier order by Justice Rajasekhra Mantha in December 2022, the permission of Calcutta High Court was necessary before lodging an FIR against the Nandigram MLA. In the order on Friday (October 24), Justice Sengupta also directed the transfer of investigation in four cases registered against BJP leaders to a joint special investigation team (SIT) comprising officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the State police. The development, which comes ahead of Assembly polls in the State, has evoked strong political reactions with the Trinamool Congress lauding the development. Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh said the development reflects the stand of the party that no person can be granted protection against registration of FIRs against them for an indefinite period of time. Several leaders of Trinamool Congress had expressed their displeasure against the protection granted to Mr. Adhikari. The State government challenged the Calcutta High Court’s order in the Supreme Court. However, the top court did not interfere with the High Court’s decision in this regard. Reacting to the development, Mr. Adhikari said it was his “personal legal battle” and he welcomed the order as FIRs have been quashed in 15 cases against him.



# Sanchar Saathi app: Apple, Google set to push back citing privacy and system security concerns



Sanchar Saathi is a state-developed cybersecurity application and allows users to report fraudulent calls, messages, and stolen mobile phones. Industry sources aware of the companies' point of view said the phone-makers have no history or precedent of preloading state-owned applications to their devices anywhere in the world. The change poses operational challenges since it could require them to customise iOS and Android specifically for India.

Both Apple and Google are expected to figure out "less intrusive" means of distributing the Sanchar Saathi app, the source said. Samsung is evaluating its options and reviewing the government order, but has not made a decision yet, it is understood. Last week, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) sent a confidential directive to smartphone companies including manufacturers and importers, to pre-install Sanchar Saathi, and insisted that the app's functionality cannot be restricted or disabled. India has over 1.2 billion mobile phone users, of which more than 650 million are said to have a smartphone, making it one of the largest phone markets in the world. Civil society activists are raising alarm bells over the potential implications on people's privacy by mandating the app, since preloading it defeats the principles of choice and consent, while leaving the potential for 'func-

tional creeping' in the future. 'Functional creeping' refers to a gradual expansion of a system beyond its original purpose.

The government has, however, argued that the Sanchar Saathi app allows users to check the genuineness of their phones through their IMEI number, and in a press statement released on Monday said, "Mobile handsets bearing duplicate or spoofed IMEI pose serious endangerment to telecom cyber security." Apple, Samsung and Google did not respond to a request for comment until publication. Reuters first reported that Apple was not going to comply with the government's order. Companies are considering several options and "a legal challenge is not out of the question," if private discussions with the government to overturn the directive aren't successful, one of the sources said. A second industry executive said implementing the government's order would mean that Google would have to create a custom version of Android specifically for India, with the Sanchar Saathi app pre-loaded. This will not be acceptable to the company, the executive said. Android, the operating system for smartphones controlled by Google, powers most phones in the country. A third executive said for Apple, it would mean violating its internal policy of not pre-loading iPhones with third-party software. These people spoke on condition of anonymity as the companies' pushback plans are currently private. Smartphone makers fear that following the Indian government's order could set a precedent that they were open to preload government-backed apps on their devices, and that could trigger similar requests in other jurisdictions they operate in. While such a move would be unusual in most Western democracies, it is not entirely without precedent. Russia recently directed smartphone companies to preinstall the state-backed messaging platform MAX, a rival to WhatsApp, which critics say could be used to track users.

# Credit card customer complaints spike 20% in FY25, pvt banks log most cases

The rise underscores the growing pressure points in private banks' customer-facing operations, especially as they expand aggressively in retail lending and digital banking. The rise underscores the growing pressure points in private banks' customer-facing operations, especially as they expand aggressively in retail lending and digital banking. Credit cards emerged as a major source of customer complaints in FY2025, with grievances in this segment rising far more than in other areas of banking, according to the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Scheme 2024-25 released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Overall credit card complaints surged by 20.04 per cent to 50,811 cases during the year. Private sector banks dominated this space by a wide margin, driven by their strong push into unsecured lending and the rapid expansion of their card businesses. They recorded 32,696 complaints — far higher than the 3,021 complaints received against public sector banks, the report said. One of the key reasons behind the growing pile of grievances is the fact that private banks are far more active in the credit card market, leaving PSU banks with a relatively small share. With more cards in circulation and heavier usage, private banks naturally attract a larger number of customer issues.

Interestingly, even as credit card complaints climbed, other categories showed encouraging improvement. Complaints related to ATM and debit card transactions fell sharply by 28.33 per cent to 18,082 cases in FY25. Issues tied to mobile and electronic banking declined by 12.74 per cent year-on-year. These trends indicate that digital systems are becoming more reliable, although the sheer volume of digital transactions handled by private banks continues to create pressure points. Pension-related complaints fell by 33.81 per cent to 2,719, those of remittances & collection of instruments declined by 9.73 per cent and para banking by 24.16 per cent. However, complaints on deposit accounts rose by 7.67 per cent and loans & advances by 1.63 per cent, according to the report. Overall, the numbers reflect a broader shift in the banking landscape. Private sector banks — now holding around 40 per cent of India's banking assets — have emerged as the largest source of



customer grievances. From a total of 2,96,321 complaints received by the banking system in FY25, up 0.82 per cent year-on-year, those against private sector banks saw a sharp rise from 34.39 per cent in FY24 to 37.53 per cent in FY25, amounting to 1,11,199 grievances. The rise underscores the growing pressure points in private banks' customer-facing operations, especially as they expand aggressively in retail lending and digital banking. In contrast, public sector banks, long perceived as complaint-heavy because of their large customer base, saw a notable decline. Their share of complaints dropped from 38.32 per cent in FY24 to 34.80 per cent in FY25, though the absolute number still stood at a sizeable 1,03,117 cases, as per the report. The shift indicates that the burden of dissatisfaction is gradually tilting toward the private sector as its market share and product footprint increases.

Of the total grievances received by the Ombudsman in FY25, individuals accounted for the overwhelming majority, filing 2,58,365 complaints or 87.19 per cent of the total, according to the report. Loans and advances remained the single largest area of dispute, drawing 86,670 complaints during the year, reflecting the widespread nature of lending-related issues across the banking ecosystem. Small finance banks, though smaller in scale, recorded the most dramatic surge. Complaints against them jumped 42 per cent year-on-year, signalling operational strains as these banks broaden their reach in underserved markets.

# Rupee breaches 90-mark against dollar: US-India trade deal uncertainty, FPI outflows weighing on sentiments



The Indian rupee continued its free-fall, breaching the 90-mark for the first time on Wednesday against the dollar, weighed down by uncertainty around the US-India trade deal, persistent equity selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and weak supply of the US currency. The rupee hit the record low of 90.16 against the dollar, after opening at 89.96 against the previous close of 89.97. It was trading at 90.12 against the greenback at 10:46 am. In the current year, the Indian currency has fallen by around 4.4 per cent. "Lingering uncertainty over the Indo-US trade deal is keeping sentiments fragile. FPI outflow from equities and early signs of Japanese yen carry trade unwinding are putting pressure on the rupee," Anindya Banerjee, Head Commodity and Currency, Kotak Securities.

The domestic equity market has been witnessing selling from overseas investors for the major part of 2025. So far in this calendar year, FPIs have sold Rs 1.48 lakh crore of shares. In the first two days of December, they have offloaded Rs 4,335 crore of equities, putting pressure on the currency. Forex market participants that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was active in the market to moderate

the fall in the rupee, though its intervention seems limited. "The RBI has consistently stated that its focus is on managing rupee volatility. It is intervening in the market today but not defending any specific exchange rate level," said an analyst. The rupee's slide beyond the 90 mark has increased hedging costs, with forward premiums jumping as both corporates and leveraged traders rushed to secure protection against further weakness.

The one-year USD/INR forward premium rose another 7 basis points (bps) on Tuesday — over 12 bps in just three sessions — while the 1-month tenor spiked to a seven-month high near 19.5 paise. "The move reflects a mix of genuine hedging demand and expanding speculative positions, underpinned by the growing perception that the RBI may allow a deeper adjustment after the currency broke below the previously defended 88.80 level," said Dipti Chitale CEO Mecklai Financial Services Pvt Ltd. The depreciation has also widened the India-US 10-year yield spread to nearly 250 bps, the largest in almost a year. Investors are demanding a higher cushion for currency risk as foreign appetite softens amid tariff uncertainty and a heavy domestic bond-supply calendar, she said. According to Bank of Baroda's Chief Economist Madan Sabnavis, depreciating rupee will help exporters at the margin but is not good for importers or inflation.

The domestic currency is likely to remain weak in the near term. However, any progress on the US-India trade agreement could trigger sharp directional moves. With the RBI policy announcement on Friday (December 5), markets expect clarity on whether the central bank will step in to stabilize the currency, said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst — Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. "The market is talking of 91, though we think post policy there should be a correction back to 88-89 levels. But it is guesswork all the way — as it has been ever since we crossed the Rs 88 mark," said Bank of Baroda's Sabnavis.

# ‘No matter how much water I drink, I remain thirsty, even when my stomach is almost full. What could this potentially be?’



Imagine drinking gallons of water, feeling full beyond measure, and still feeling thirsty. Even as your stomach rumbles and can't accommodate any more H<sub>2</sub>O, your relentless thirst keeps pushing you to chug in more. One internet user had a similar experience, leading him to turn to the online forum Quora for answers. So, we reached out to Dr Narendra BS, Lead Consultant — Endocrinology & Diabetology, Aster Whitefield, to get to the root of this unusual condition. "Unrelenting thirst is a very real issue, and this symptom should definitely be given a proper medical check-up," Dr Narendra cautions, sharing the first ideas that came to his mind immediately after listening to the case: High blood glucose due to diabetes: As the body excretes sugar and water in the urine, you stay thirsty

Diabetes insipidus: A hormonal disorder in which the kidneys are unable to concentrate urine, thus one produces large amounts of very diluted urine and remains thirsty Primary or psychogenic polydipsia: A condition in which the thirst is abnormal; sometimes associated with psychiatric diseases or a change in the brain's thirst centre Some of the less likely causes, as per Dr Narendra, include electrolyte disorders (such as hypercalcaemia), certain drugs (diuretics, lithium, some psychiatric meds), or dry mouth conditions that mimic thirst. "In case you are drinking a lot but are still thirsty, and if you happen to urinate frequently, lose weight, or feel very tired, it is about time you visited a doctor," he advises, explaining that blood and urine tests will most likely give a quick diagnosis.

Could it be diabetes?

"Definitely, blood sugar needs to be monitored without fail," Dr Narendra tells indianexpress.com, pointing out that polyuria (excessive urination), polydipsia (excessive thirst) and sometimes polyphagia (excessive hunger) are among

# Sara Ali Khan reflects on her bond with mother Amrita Singh: ‘I don’t have any comfort zone’

Sara Ali Khan recently opened up about her bond with Amrita Singh, while expressing her admiration for her mother. "I don't have any comfort zone. But that also comes from a very secure comfort zone that I come from. Because every film set is different. Every set's vibe is different. I love travelling. I have studied in New York, then shot in Kedamath. So as far as movement is concerned, I don't have a restricted comfort zone," the actor said.

Speaking about her mother, Sara told Mirchi Plus, "But I go home and hug Amrita Singh every day. That is my comfort zone, and it gives me the strength every day to tackle different things. Like Ganga flows from everywhere, but she starts at Gangotri, so is my mother (for me)." Drawing on her personal experiences, let's explore how people, especially mothers, can be a source of comfort and support for their children. A person can become a comfort zone by offering love, understanding, and a sense of safety to the child, affirmed Dr Santosh Bangar, senior consultant psychiatrist, Gleneagles Hospitals, Parel Mumbai. For a child, this bond tends to form naturally with the mother. "A mother's familiar voice and encouraging words create an environment where a child feels secure and accepted," added Dr Bangar.

He mentioned that children often seek comfort from their parents. "Even small moments of connection in day-



to-day life, like sharing a meal, baking your favourite desserts, hugs, or some nice conversation, can help support the child's emotional well-being, while also allowing the parent to connect at a deeper level," said Dr Bangar. No matter the age, a parent's, especially a mother's, presence could offer assurance and support on a day-to-day basis, especially during testing times. "For every child, the mother is a comfort zone wherein one can share the problems, happiness, or any emotional difficulty," said Dr Bangar. According to Dr Bangar, having an emotionally available environment helps one become more confident, mentally healthy, and emotionally clear adults.

# Mira Kapoor praises husband Shahid’s ‘discipline’, says he wakes up ‘before sunrise’: ‘If he has gone to Delhi...’

Mira Kapoor recently reflected on her husband and actor Shahid Kapoor's role in supporting her and her dreams. "I have also learnt a lot of professional discipline. The way he wakes up before sunrise, has his day, makes sure he is back home to spend time with his kids, even if he is travelling... speaking to them every day, being in touch with family. If he has gone to Delhi, he will make it a point to meet my parents, my family," Mira, 31, said during a conversation with content creator Masoom Minawala on her YouTube podcast.

Apart from that, "I think, listening... sometimes, you just want to come home and talk about your day". "You just want to vent. You need a place where someone is not judging you, but also not being a blank wall, because they know when you are vulnerable and not looking at it the right way. That's the room you want to be in. You want to be in a room where someone says, Yes, I understand, but... that's the reality check you need sometimes. It is the tag teaming that works," she shared.



Mira's reflection on Shahid's discipline is not just about an actor waking up early; it highlights a deeper truth about modern relationships. "In a world where everyone is exhausted, overstimulated, and stretched thin, the greatest act of love is consistency. Not flowers. Not grand gestures. But showing up every single day through your habits," described psychotherapist Delnna Rrajesh, who is also a life coach. When someone wakes up early to create more time for their partner or

children, what they are really communicating is simple. "You matter enough for me to reorganise my life around what nurtures us. This is emotional generosity in a very practical form," shared Delnna. Listening without judgement, being a safe space, giving reality checks without crushing the other person — these skills separate emotionally healthy relationships from the ones that drain you, said Delnna. "A lot of couples do not need therapy because they lack love. They need therapy be-

cause they lack emotional structure. One person is venting into a vacuum. The other is absorbing without support. And slowly, both feel unseen," said Delnna. True tag teaming is not about splitting housework. It is about splitting emotional load, said Delnna. "One listens. One grounds. One vents. One stabilises. Then you switch. This makes a relationship feel lighter, safer and more resilient." Here are small but powerful ways couples can build this kind of emotional discipline.



# Hockey, Junior World Cup: Spain’s short players bank on technical skill, show heart for a fight to enter semifinals



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

At the end of the first quarter, everything was looking rosy for the Red Sticks. Having entered the quarterfinals as the second best team in the pool stage, including an impressive 2-0 win against Belgium in Madurai, Spain were off to a rousing start in Chennai against New Zealand, racing to a 3-0 lead. And then, in what turned out to be a slow-cooked thriller, New Zealand progressively got better, kept clawing their back into the match, and made it 3-3 with less than a minute to go. The joy in the New Zealand dugout, however, was short lived as Spain won a Penalty Corner with three seconds to go in the match – albeit controversially – and ended up converting it for an incredible 4-3 win in the first quarterfinal, making it to the last four of the FIH Men’s Junior Hockey World Cup for the second straight edition.

“Not happy with how things went after the first quarter. Only happy for the path to the semifinals, but not for the match we played. This is not Spain. I think Spain only played in the first quarter,” was head coach Oriol Puig Torras’ post-match assessment. “After that, we lost a lot of balls and we defended very badly inside the D. When your defence is like that at this level, the result is what you see here. Well, it was our good luck that we got that last penalty corner. But not the best sensations as we reach the semifinals.” The 2023 JWC bronze medallists (after beating India) have since gone on to end a 16-year-wait for a podium finish at the

EuroHockey U21 Championships when they beat power-houses Netherlands in Terrassa last year. Players like Aleix Bozal, Pablo Román, Nicolás Álvarez have already made their senior debut. And the squad in Chennai look primed to go all the way, despite the blip they encountered against New Zealand. Unlike the other European powerhouses – Netherlands, France and Germany to name three – the Spanish squad has predominantly shorter players. Their receiving of the ball is slightly different to other teams, as they kneel for a very low center of gravity. “Ya, we are Spanish in the end,” Torras quipped. It’s not uncommon in their sporting setup as even their legendary football teams of the 2000s had shorter but technically skillful players. “Yes, the Spanish culture is fast, technical players. If we can get stronger and physical, we’ll do better. At this level, U21, it is difficult to go to the gym at the University. The players in the national team are professionals, but in the junior team, we have mostly students.” Smaller players face difficulties defending against bigger opponents like New Zealand’s tall forwards “Ya, we are Spanish in the end. The Spanish culture is fast, technical players. The best thing is my players are very technical to move the ball, pass the ball, drive the ball.” “The best thing about that is my players are very technical, to move the ball, pass the ball, drive the ball. But the bad thing is that in defence, our players are small compared to the big New Zealand players,” Torras added, when asked about the height makeup of his squad. The winner of the match, however, was struck by their big man Bruno Avila. Spain’s recent success at the U21 level augurs well for the senior team too, who are constantly improving under Max Caldas, having heartbreakingly finished fourth at the Paris Olympics after losing against Harmanpreet Singh’s India. The secret? “There is no secret, it is hard work everyday,” Torras said, before adding: “We have good luck with the team because there are a lot of Catalan players, and I am from that region as well, so we can train every week twice together. With the distance in Spain, it is difficult to play with Madrid and Santander players. Here I think we have 15-16 Catalan players in the squad.”

## Indian equestrian riders win five medals at FEI Asian Equestrian Championships 2025

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Indian equestrian riders ended their campaign at the FEI Asian Equestrian Championships 2025 with five medals. Of those five, Shruti Vora claimed three medals while Ashish Limaye played a role in two, including a gold medal. Vora’s medals came in dressage, where she finished with three silver medals – one in the individual event, another in intermediate freestyle-I and the third in the team category. She was part of the dressage team along with Divyakriti Singh and Gaurav Pundir. Meanwhile, Ashish Limaye claimed an individual gold in eventing besides combining with Shashank Kanumuri, and Shashank Kataria, to claim the silver medal as well in the team event at the continental event held at Thai Polo and Equestrian Club in Pattaya.

Over 80 athletes from 13 countries were in competition at an event that was originally scheduled for 2023, was moved to 2025 following the rescheduling of the Asian Games to 2023. This was the second edition of the Asian Equestrian Championships; the inaugural FEI Asian Championship was held in 2019. The event will now be held every two years. It is designed to offer competition during the years between the Olympic and Paralympic Games, FEI World Championship and Asian Games.

“This was a very emotional win for us because the last Asian Games didn’t turn great for us. So, I think it was a huge redemption kind of feeling and a big relief,” Ashish Limaye told SAI Media (Sports Authority of India). “My horse



‘Willy Be Dun’ is a 13-year-old Anglo-European. I think it would have been impossible to bag this gold without him because he really fought for us and he was always giving 100 percent to come here. I think he knew that we were at a championship and he was really different and special!” Limaye added: “It has been a long journey, but today it all seems worth it. Especially after the last Asian Games when I was leading and had a blank moment – it felt like I let everyone down. Today, this feels like a redemption. I am glad that Jitu Virwani, the Embassy Group, and Silva Storai of Embassy International Riding School still believed in me and my efforts.” A 16-member delegation (including six athletes, six grooms, 2 coaches and one vet and a ferrier), travelled for the championship in Pattaya.

## Coach Thomas Tuchel says he’ll consider leaving England subs in locker room in case of rising temperature during World Cup



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Earlier this year, football fans were treated to an unusual image where the Borussia Dortmund bench watched the first half of their match against South Africa’s Mamelodi Sundowns from inside the locker room. This was due to a severe heatwave affecting the United States with the temperature that afternoon touching 36 degree Celsius (with a real feel of 39). The next FIFA World Cup which is scheduled for 2026, returns to the same country i.e. the USA with the conditions expected to remain the same as during the Club World Cup in June-July this year. England coach Thomas Tuchel recently opened up about if he would consider leaving his subs in the dressing room in case of the heat.

“If this is what helps us later in the match when they come on, we have to consider this as a possibility. Nobody likes it because I want the players to be out there, to feel the energy and to give us energy from the bench, onto the field. But I saw what you mean, I saw teams doing this in the Club World Cup. Hopefully we can avoid it. It’s always better if they can be with us outside,” Tuchel said in an interaction with BBC Sport. England will know their fate on which group they’ll be in during the World Cup draw on Friday. FIFA has said the top four teams in the rankings – Spain, Argentina, France and England – will avoid each other until the semifinals if they finish first in their first-round groups.

The world’s top 11-ranked teams have all qualified, with No. 12 Italy among 22 nations competing in playoffs for the final six berths to be decided March 31. Led by captain Lionel Messi, who turns 39 during the tournament, Argentina seeks to become the first nation to win consecutive

## Tanay Thyagarajan’s 50 powers Hyderabad past J&K in Kolkata



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Hyderabad: Tanay Thyagarajan scored a brisk 50 to help Hyderabad beat Jammu and Kashmir by four wickets in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 match in Kolkata. With this win, Hyderabad now tops the Group B table with 16 points. Left-arm spinner Nitin Sai Yadav bagged three wickets while Milind returned figures of 3/31 to restrict Jammu and Kashmir to 112 all out in 19.3 overs. Chasing the mod-

est target, Hyderabad were reeling at 38/4 as Tanmay, Aman, Simha and Rahul Buddhi fell cheaply. However, Pragnay Reddy (31) and Thyagarajan (50 off 33 balls) guided Hyderabad to victory.

In another Group B match, Bhuvneshwar Kumar helped Uttar Pradesh register a 40-run win over Chandigarh. The 35-year-old seasoned bowler returned excellent figures of 3/23 in four overs to restrict Chandigarh to 172/8 after UP posted a competitive 212/7 at Eden Gardens. Sameer Rizvi top-scored for UP with a blistering 70 off 42 balls, while opener Madhav Kaushik struck 67 off 41 balls. Jammu and Kashmir 112 all out in 19.3 overs (Shubham Khajuria 35; Nitin Sai Yadav 3/17, Milind 3/31) lost to Hyderabad 115/6 in 15.1 overs (Tanay Thyagarajan 50; Murugan Ashwin 2/16, Yudhvir Singh Charak 2/18) by 4 wickets. Uttar Pradesh 212/7 in 20 overs (Sameer Rizvi 70, Madhav Kaushik 67; Sandeep Sharma 4/26) beat Chandigarh 172/8 in 20 overs (Manan Vohra 41; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3/23) by 40 runs. Bihar 180/7 in 20 overs (S Gani 60, Vaibhav Suryavanshi 46, Akash Raj 40; Deepraj Gaonkar 4/38) lost to Goa 184/5 in 19.5 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 79, Kashyap Bakhale 64; Suraj Kashyap 3/24) by 5 wickets.

## Hockey, Junior World Cup: Spain’s short players bank on technical skill, show heart for a fight to enter semifinals



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

At the end of the first quarter, everything was looking rosy for the Red Sticks. Having entered the quarterfinals as the second best team in the pool stage, including an impressive 2-0 win against Belgium in Madurai, Spain were off to a rousing start in Chennai against New Zealand, racing to a 3-0 lead. And then, in what turned out to be a slow-cooked thriller, New Zealand progressively got better, kept clawing their back into the match, and made it 3-3 with less than a minute to go. The joy in the New Zealand dugout, however, was short lived as Spain won a Penalty Corner with three seconds to go in the match – albeit controversially – and ended up converting it for an incredible 4-3 win in the first quarterfinal, making it to the last four of the FIH Men’s Junior Hockey World Cup for the second straight edition.

“Not happy with how things went after the first quarter. Only happy for the path to the semifinals, but not for the match we played. This is not Spain. I think Spain only played in the first quarter,” was head coach Oriol Puig Torras’ post-match assessment. “After that, we lost a lot of balls and we defended very badly inside the D. When your defence is like that at this level, the result is what you see here. Well, it was our good luck that we got that last penalty corner. But not the best sensations as we reach the semifinals.” The

## ‘Message must have gone inside Virat that ‘Are you people doubting my ability?’: Ashwin on Kohli’s celebrations post ODI centuries against South Africa



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

With his knock of 102 runs against South Africa in the second ODI at Raipur, Virat Kohli scored his second successive century of the series in as many matches. Kohli’s century at Raipur was also the 11th time that the Indian batsman scored back-to-back hundreds in ODI cricket and the 37-year-old celebrated both centuries in his all aggressive style pumping up the fists and jumping. With all the talk about him now playing in only one format and Kohli also playing in Vijay Hazare trophy later this year, former Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin believes the celebrations are to answer the cricketing world about ‘doubting Virat Kohli’ and the cricketer answering the doubts with the centuries.

“We understand what’s the journey inside him. Let’s not forget to understand why is Virat celebrating like that? What is he thinking? What has he gone through? Let’s not forget that Virat left Test cricket. And Virat and Test cricket have been very very synchronous. He likes Test cricket very much. He always wants to play but he has left the Test cricket format. It’s not only about his requirements. Right? Whatever discussions were going on and obviously he did not score many runs in Test cricket. Given an opportunity with good communication, for all you know we don’t know what he wanted to do but to leave the sport is a very big decision. And there were also talks. Right now he has said yes to play Vijay Hazare. Clearly communication is happening. But there is a lot of conversation and in many ways such. Message must have gone inside Virat that ‘Are you people doubting my ability?’ Because Virat is a very competitive person. Because of that competitive nature, he has performed so well. So the thought must have gone inside him that there is a doubt on my ability, my skill. I will

now show by doing,” Ashwin said on his Youtube channel Ash ki Baat.

The century at Raipur was Kohli’s 53rd ODI century. It was also the seventh time that Kohli hit an ODI century against South Africa, the highest for any other batsmen in the world. In India, Kohli has scored four ODI hundreds against South Africa in his last five ODI matches against the country in India. Wednesday’s century also meant that Kohli has now scored an ODI hundred at 34 venues across the world. Sachin Tendulkar, who hit 49 ODI hundreds in his career, also has ODI tons at 34 different venues across the world. Ashwin again reiterated that Kohli is telling himself that ‘you doubted me. I did it.’

He looks in a good space. Looks like he had good practice. His mind is in good space. He has scored two centuries. He is telling not the world. He is telling himself. You doubted me. I did it. I have got in me and that is what I saw when he celebrated,” added Ashwin. Kohli has shared his hundred at Ranchi about how it’s about enjoying his cricket and how he visualises batting. “I just wanted to play the ball and enjoy the game of cricket. It was about enjoying and when you get a start, then the experience kicks in and you’re able to build an innings. I’ve never been a believer of a lot of prep. All my cricket has been mental. I work physically very hard, as long as my fitness levels are up and then you visualise batting and feeling well, it’s good,” Kohli had said after the match in Ranchi.

## Osmania University falls to MDU in Khelo India tennis final

GNS News Agency, Dec 5

**teleHYDERABAD:** Osmania University lost to Maharshi Dayanand University in the final of the Khelo India Inter-university women’s tennis championship at Jaipur. Saumya won the first singles for OU, defeating Reny Singh 6-2, 6-2, but Chevila lost to Anjali Rati 2-6, 5-7 in the second singles.



## IndiGo flights cancellation, delays: Lauren Gottlieb, Jay Bhanushali blasts airlines; Aly Goni calls out ticket price hike



Jay Bhanushali, Lauren Gottlieb, and Aly Goni react to IndiGo flights cancellations and delaysJay Bhanushali, Lauren Gottlieb, and Aly Goni react to IndiGo flights cancellations and delaysMass cancellation and delay of IndiGo flights in India over the past three days has led to furious customers to crowd at different airports. While the airline has issued apologies twice, expressing regret over the ongoing situation, the anger of stranded passengers has only gotten worse. Several celebrities were also affected by flight delays and cancellations, including dancer-actor Lauren Gottlieb and actor Jay Bhanushali.

Lauren Gottlieb, who was supposed to fly to Dubai on Friday, told the paparazzi outside Mumbai airport that her flight had been cancelled. While talking to the paparazzi after exiting the airport with her luggage, Lauren said, "This is

public service announcement. Do not take IndiGo. Everything you are seeing online, is so... what's happening. It looks like the apocalypse inside." Lauren was in a foul mood after her plans were disrupted. "All the flights to Dubai, where I am going- cancelled! Everything cancelled. There are hundreds of people in there. It looks like some disaster has happened and I feel trauma right now. Do not fly IndiGo, especially now, maybe not ever. But especially now. Just don't do it!" she added.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Jay Bhanushali shared a couple of Stories to express his frustration. The actor revealed that he had to take a short road trip to cover the distance and take a late night flight back to Mumbai from Pantnagar. In another Instagram Story, he wrote, "After so many hours of travel I deserve to be welcomed with this song.. Thank you Indigo for the unplanned extended trip." Jay Bhanushali's Instagram Story Jay Bhanushali's Instagram Story Jay Bhanushali's Instagram Story Jay Bhanushali's Instagram Story Jay Bhanushali's Instagram Story Jay Bhanushali's Instagram Story On the other hand, Aly Goni also voiced his opinion regarding the matter on social media, calling a competitor airline a 'thief' for increasing the ticket prices. "It's high time India should have one more domestic airlines... poore desh ki buri halat kardi @IndiGo6E ne... Aur sone pe suhaga Baaki airlines ne prices triple kardiya. kya chor aviation hai yaar humaare yaha.. unreal (the aviation in India are thieves for hiking the flight ticket prices, have made the condition of the country worse)." In another Instagram Story, the actor shared a video of himself, urging everyone to show some sympathy towards the ground staff. "Indigo ka fault hai.. ground staff ka nahi.. idiot log (Ground staff isn't at fault)," he wrote. Earlier, actor Naresh Vijaya Krishna, actor Nia Sharma and singer Rahul Vaidya had also revealed overpaying for Air India flight tickets to reach their destinations. More than 1,000 IndiGo flights have been cancelled over the past four days. The cancellations have hit major hubs including Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, where hundreds of departures and arrivals have been scrapped in rapid succession. According to news agency PTI, the delays and cancellations are being caused due to 'operational issues' and 'crew shortage'.

## Dhurandhar movie review: Ranveer Singh's ambitious spy thriller works only in flashes

Dhurandhar movie review: All you never wanted to know about the Lyari gang world of Karachi, now you will never ask. After 3 hours and 34 minutes of giving us a speed read of this neighbourhood – purportedly the nucleus of Pakistan's ticking atom bomb – Aditya Dhar, the writer, director, producer, and chronicler of the new "ghus ke maarange" India, is not even done. For Dhurandhar ends with that pregnant ellipsis... 'To be continued'. Just as well, for Dhurandhar doesn't really begin at the beginning either. It's an amalgamation of all the "wrongs" done by Pakistan on India, from the Kandahar hijacking to the Parliament attack to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, which have led India's deeply troubled Intelligence Bureau chief Sanyal (Madhavan, as a barely disguised Ajit Dovel) to devise a plan to infiltrate an agent deep inside Pakistan's terror networks.

A loyal aide is a sole recipient of Sanyal's many lamentations about how "Indians are Indians' worst enemies", how ministers are only lining own pockets, how "we have to wait for a government that thinks like us", how R&AW officials such as a floppy-hair A S Dulat lookalike are delusional about peace, even how "Bharat Mata ki Jai" can be a rallying cry, etc etc, to make things right.

From 1999 Kandahar, and a very bloody beheading of Rupin Katyal therein, to 2001 Parliament attack and a security woman's last gasping breath on a stretcher, to 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and the real recording of an exchange between the terrorists and their handlers, Sanyal is at the heart of every big and small thing. So someone must be doing something right, at least by him. Sanyal's primacy having been established, the film spends most of its time in Karachi's Lyari, and on India's 007 Hamza, an undercover Indian agent played by long-maned, flowing-beard, muscle-ripped, tight-Pathan suit, light mountain eyes, and man-bun swagger by Ranveer Singh (yes, he is hardly "blending in"). He is posing as a Baloch, in a neighbourhood where they and Pathans have a bloody rivalry, and he must inveigle his way into the good books of gang leader Rehman Baloch (Khanna), who controls Lyari, for his mission. To give credit where it is due, despite the many, many characters Dhurandhar introduces to give us a sense of Lyari's power, crime, political and family dynamics, the plot is fairly comprehensible. Khanna taps into his hidden Michael Corleone to play a slender, sensitive, family man gangster, who gradually loses his way to ambition. Pandor is impressive as his loyal cousin and the second-in-command Uzair, and Bedi is a delight as the venal politician Jameel, who will break bread with anybody for a slice of power. The very jarring



note is Arjun, who plays the unnecessary role of Jameel's daughter. Purportedly an aspiring doctor, she drops all that and her father's riches to romance with Hamza, who is little more than a henchman. And even after he has used her as a bait to get to Jameel.

Once in a while Hamza does send intelligence back to India, once in a while a dash of reality elevates this fiction, and once in a while we see the purpose of India's "great game". Most of the time though, Dhurandhar I is all about which of the three current and ageing hunks – Ranveer Singh as Hamza, Rampal as the ISI's Major Iqbal, and Sanjay Dutt as Karachi police encounter specialist Choudhary Aslam – can land and stand how much blood and gore. Karachi (or what stands for it) provides a new, interesting backdrop, the amount of references to Benazir Bhutto and her party are a good surprise, Ranveer does his thing as he does his things, it's nice to see Khanna hitting his stride, and it's even better to see Bedi steal the show as the oily, groveling politician who can be counted on to be the last man standing. Dhurandhar movie director: Aditya Dhar Dhurandhar movie cast: Ranveer Singh, Akshaye Khanna, Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, Sara Arjun, Rakesh Bedi, Madhavan, Danish Pandor Dhurandhar movie rating: 2.5 stars



experience and she said, "When it took off, I was holding on the sides and people around me were looking at me. But I felt relaxed once we were in the air. Esa lag raha tha ki baadlon par chal rahe hai (It felt like we were walking in clouds)."

## Kalamkaval movie review: Mammooty once again shows he's the biggest threat to stardom; but the crime thriller fails him



Kalamkaval Movie Review & Rating: Prior to the release of the movie, when actor-screenwriter Santhi Mayadevi asked him during an interview if she was talking to the hero or the villain of Kalamkaval, Mammooty decisively replied, "Neither; you are talking to an actor." If only his contemporaries and a large section of his successors had their priorities set similarly, Indian audiences would have been fortunate enough to relish many more memorable performances, rather than half-baked, futile attempts by "beloved stars" to offer them transient adrenaline rushes. With the crime thriller Kalamkaval, helmed by debutant Jithin K Jose, Mammooty has once again proven why he is the ultimate "people's superstar," who goes the extra mile to ensure that the masses who love him aren't offered a mere rehash of everything that they have seen him in so far. Instead, he has presented them with a "Mammooty like never before," going toe-to-toe with the beast that is superstardom, which often steers many away from taking on roles that challenge the actor within them. Nonetheless, the question that remains is: Has Kalamkaval made the best use of the uninhibited actor/star and offered an unprecedented experience to the audience? The answer to that might not be as gratifying.

In the first few scenes itself, Kalamkaval makes a few things quite clear. The character played by Mammooty, whose name is withheld from us for a long time, is a middle-class family man. He loves his old Honda Accord car and vintage Tamil songs. He smokes quite often, and that too, quite stylishly. Although he shares a seemingly warm bond with his wife, Nisha (Seema Sindhu Krishnan), he also has a girlfriend, Deepa (Shruti Ramachandran). One night in 2005, he sneaks out from home to be with Deepa, and they spend the hours in a lodge room. Post sex, as they are engaged in conversation, he 'innocently' shares with her his obsession with murder, noting, "What gives the greatest pleasure is killing a human being." He then strangles Deepa to death, showing his dark side. As Kalamkaval progresses, it is revealed that Mammooty's character is a serial killer who targets women, particularly divorcees, widows, or those who are still single even after crossing the socially mandated age to settle down. Despite committing several murders over the years, he roams around free, always on the hunt for his next victim, as the authorities haven't even deduced that these cases have a pattern and that one person might be behind everything. However, once the case reaches Jayakrishnan (Vinayakan), a shrewd police officer, things begin to change, and he sets out to hunt the psychopath. Yet, the criminal is always one step ahead, and his identity remains unknown.

Despite a strong story, which evidently draws on the life of real-life serial killer Cyanide Mohan, Kalamkaval disappoints by failing to keep viewers glued to the screen. From the very beginning, the script, penned by director Jithin and Jishnu Sreekumar, fails to build tension or raise the stakes. Although the writers use Deepa's murder to pull the audience into the film's world and offer an early close-up of the notoriety of Mammooty's character, the way this sequence is crafted — relying heavily on dialogues — leaves it flat. Not only does it fail to send a chills down viewers' spines, but it doesn't even evoke a feeling of heaviness in their chests. Instead, it simply passes off as an impactless opening sequence, which would have completely fallen flat if not for Mammooty's presence.

## Star kid launches fashion label after struggling in Bollywood; sells kaftan for Rs 25,000, couture gown for nearly Rs 4 lakh

Actor Shekhar Suman entered Bollywood decades ago, making his debut opposite the legendary Rekha in the film Utsav. The movie was produced by Shashi Kapoor and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Girish Karnad. Over the years, Shekhar established himself in the industry, transitioned to television, and went on to judge several reality shows. Today, he owns a European-style home in one of Mumbai's most upscale neighbourhoods.

However, his son Adhyayan Suman couldn't replicate the same success. After a lukewarm Bollywood career, he has now stepped into the fashion industry with his own label, Duchess Kumari. Adhyayan, who made his acting debut in 2008 with Haal-e-Dil, has appeared in only 12 films and four web series over 17 years. His limited success eventually pushed him to explore entrepreneurship, leading to the launch of his fashion brand in March this year. Since its debut, Duchess Kumari has already styled celebrities such as Twinkle Khanna, Kajol, and Anushka Sen — the latter even wore one of the brand's creations for her Cannes red carpet debut. The latest celebrity to discover the label is filmmaker and choreographer Farah Khan, who visited Shekhar Suman's home for her YouTube vlog. While browsing through the outfits, Farah asked Adhyayan, "How did you do this?" When he struggled to answer, Shekhar stepped in playfully: "Just like how Farah is a choreographer, filmmaker, and now a vlogger — just like that." Farah laughed and folded her hands, saying, "Please forgive me!"

Adhyayan Suman launched the brand in partnership with Miss Universe India Divita Rai and his mother Alka Suman, with Shekhar Suman supporting them

In fact, Kalamkaval suffers from being too dialogue-oriented throughout, with almost every scene coming across as if crafted for various characters to deliver their lines and leave. The few that deviate from this pattern belong to Mammooty, who does all the heavy lifting there, as if the makers decided to lean back and relax, confident in the actor's ability to elevate moments. For instance, there is a scene in which Mammooty and Vinayakan's characters meet face to face for the first time and share a ride in a police vehicle. Although the nature of this moment doesn't allow Jithin to create something like the iconic restaurant scene from director Michael Mann's Heat (1995), featuring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, it still had elements that could have heightened tension or tightened the atmosphere, considering this scene comes immediately after a cleverly executed plot twist right before the interval. However, not only did Jithin and Jishnu rely heavily on dialogues here, too, but the lines lack intrigue and fail to leave an impact. In fact, there are quite a few moments across the movie where it seems that Jithin has underplayed or watered down things. But why? Only he can say.

Although the director could have compensated for these shortcomings with a sharper visual language that set audiences' nerves on edge or create a sense of unease, let alone build pressure, Kalamkaval never gets it. Instead, the movie often gives the impression that the director was focused solely on capturing exactly what was written in the script, along with all that Mammooty could offer as an actor, rather than on creating a more impactful visual aesthetic. Thus, the thrill and intrigue that are missing from the script become palpably absent on screen as well, particularly since the makers haven't taken any refreshingly new approaches with the film in its technical aspects. All these make Kalamkaval a middling affair overall. In all honesty, the movie is yet another run-of-the-mill serial killer thriller. What makes it different is that it doesn't resort to graphic depictions of violence solely to offer voyeuristic pleasure to certain members of the audience. Although it follows the storytelling pattern of director Anurag Kashyap's Raman Raghav 2.0 (2016), in which the narrative is split into multiple chapters, this approach comes across as forced rather than organic in Kalamkaval, in contrast to the Hindi psychological crime thriller. Weirdly enough, Mammooty's movie also made me appreciate Raman Raghav even more. Although the 2016 film wasn't extraordinary, Anurag Kashyap and Vasan Bala's writing was so effective that they ensured ample detail in even the minutest instances and actions of the characters. Without making anything appear staged, they left their creative signature all over Raman Raghav's screenplay and visuals, where everything had a purpose, deeper meaning, or contributed to what was about to transpire.

However, in Kalamkaval, even the characters of Mammooty and Vinayakan are uneven. For instance, albeit the track "Nilaa Kaayum Velicham," an eerily excellent composition by Mubeeb Majeed, is portrayed as having great significance in the serial killer's psyche, its odd placements detract from the experience. The same can be said about the character's obsession with blowing smoke rings using cigarette smoke. Put plainly, neither of them contributes anything meaningful. Amid all the shortcomings, one can undoubtedly attest that it's Mammooty's courage to take on such a devilish character, without giving two hoots about his stardom, and his sharp performance — although it never reaches great levels due to the lack of well-crafted moments that could have helped him showcase his A-game — that keep viewers engaged with Kalamkaval. Considering that the last few years have shown that Indian stars' obsession with grand spectacles and opening/collection records is backfiring, with many such movies failing to impress audiences, Mammooty's embrace of the actor who made him a star is a lesson for all. In fact, he is a threat to the concept of superstardom, I feel. What if fans of all the stars decide that they will no longer follow them unless they deliver strong performances that prove their acting talents? How many of our "A-listers" would survive then? While Vinayakan gives a decent performance as the cop, he too struggles due to the script's lack of substance and his character's lack of depth. Shajie Naduvil's production design and Abhijith C's costumes, however, deserve special praise for brilliantly avoiding the familiar and presenting a distinctive overall aesthetic. Although Mubeeb Majeed's songs are memorable, the loud background score at certain junctures has played spoilsport.



The star kid first debuted in Bollywood about 17 years ago. However, he couldn't replicate the success of his father.

financially. Farah Khan seemed genuinely impressed with the designs. Pointing to one outfit, Adhyayan told her, "We debuted at Cannes this year with this gown." On asking who wore it, he revealed it was Anushka Sen. The gown — titled the Amara Gown — is a deep-plum, strapless couture piece adorned with the classic Tree of Life motif. According to the brand's website, it is priced at Rs 3,50,000. Farah then asked jokingly, "What do you have in store for me?" After browsing through several outfits and trying on a few, she didn't purchase anything. For dinner, however, she dressed in the Noorani Kaftan, priced at Rs 24,444 (currently discounted to Rs 21,999 on the brand's website). Post dinner, Farah Khan thanked the Suman family for their hospitality and added humbly, "Thank you for the mind-blowing food, and this mind-blowing dress — which I'm going to return to you because it's very expensive."