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Bomb threat emails trigger heightened security at Hyderabad airport

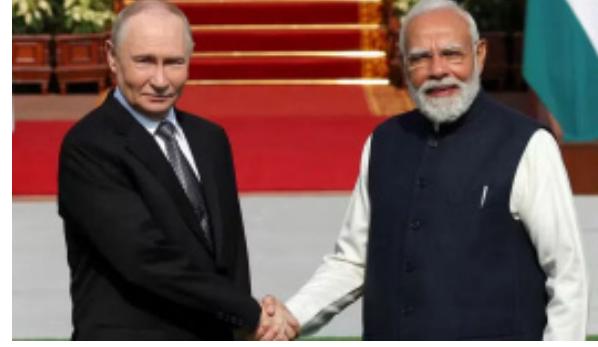
Hyderabad: The anti-sabotage teams at the RGI Airport are in a tizzy following a spate of bomb threat calls to various flights over the last four days. On Saturday, the airport customer support team received an email warning of a bomb threat to two flights — Heathrow to Hyderabad BA 277 and KU 373 Kuwait-Hyderabad. While the flight from Heathrow landed safely at RGI Airport at 5.25 am, before the security agencies conducted a thorough check of the aircraft to find nothing, the other flight, KU 373 Kuwait-Hyderabad, returned to the departure airport after authorities communicated the threat message to the crew.

Modi-Putin summit underscores India's tightrope between Washington and Moscow: US media

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Washington: Powerful US media outlets framed the New Delhi summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin as a high-stakes display of India's strategic balancing act. Reporting on the Modi-Putin summit, these media outlets highlighted how energy defence, Washington's geopolitical pressure, and the personal chemistry between the two leaders shaped the visit. In its coverage, The Wall Street Journal reported that the Modi-Putin meeting took place amid pressure on India's reliance on discounted Russian crude due to US secondary sanctions.

The paper said the energy relationship — described as central to the partnership since 2022 — now faces "strain" as Washington targets traders tied to Rosneft and Lukoil, forcing Indian refiners to assess their purchases. It noted that both leaders nevertheless signalled continuity, citing President Putin's assurance that Russia is "ready to continue uninterrupted shipments of fuel," and PM Modi's description of energy security as a "strong and vital pillar" of the relationship. The Washington Post cast the summit as a pivotal moment for New Delhi's foreign policy, saying it tested India's effort to maintain longstanding ties with Moscow even as Washington pushes for a Ukraine peace settlement and seeks greater alignment from partners. The Post pointed to PM Modi greeting Putin with a bear hug and highlighted the announcement of an economic cooperation program to raise bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030. It said the United States has increasingly pressed India to pare back Russian oil imports, noting that President Trump earlier this year doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent. Analysts quoted by the Post argued that the Moscow visit "underscores New Delhi's strategic tightrope walk between the West and the rest," with India now balancing its Russia partnership against crucial trade negotiations with



the US and the European Union. The New York Times emphasised the personal rapport between the two leaders, reporting that PM Modi praised his "deep and unbreakable relationship" with Putin, and compared India-Russia ties to a "North Star." The Times said the summit showcased India's assertion of "strategic autonomy," even as New Delhi's relations with Washington have been strained by tariffs and by Western sanctions that have sharply reduced India's intake of Russian crude. The newspaper also noted the symbolism surrounding the visit — from PM Modi's warm airport welcome to the Indian media's celebratory portrayals of the partnership — and cited analysts who said Russia increasingly sees India as a hedge against its "colossal dependence" on China. Across the coverage, US outlets agreed that New Delhi is seeking to protect its energy supplies, manage pressure from Washington and Europe simultaneously, and maintain a working relationship with Moscow amid global uncertainty. For India, US reports suggested, the task ahead lies in sustaining a historic partnership with Russia while keeping the doors open to deeper economic and strategic cooperation with the United States.

BRS vows nationwide fight against Centre's four labour codes



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Hyderabad: Declaring total opposition to the Centre's four new labour codes, BRS working president KT Rama Rao announced that the party would lead a nationwide resistance if the Congress government in Telangana attempts to implement them. Speaking at a round table conference of trade unions at Telangana Bhavan on the death anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, Rama Rao said that blocking the implementation of the labour codes in Telangana would set an example for the entire country.

"If we stop these codes here, it will become an example for the nation," he said, adding, "We will start the fight from here. We will meet the union Labour Minister and members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee in Delhi. Until the implementation of these codes is halted, we will stall the proceedings of the Assembly and Legislative Council." Rama Rao accused both the BJP and Congress of colluding to pass anti-worker laws in the absence of BRS representation in the Lok Sabha. "Because BRS has no MPs in Parliament today, BJP and Congress are joining hands to bring such laws," he said. Drawing parallels with

the recent five-day chaos caused by IndiGo flight cancellations, Rama Rao warned that the new labour codes would spread similar exploitation across all sectors.

"What happened with IndiGo due to monopoly and labour exploitation will happen in every industry if these codes come into force," he said, noting that airports had turned into bus stations and railway stations because of the Centre's delayed response. He criticised the one-size-fits-all approach of copying American and European laws under the idea of a global village and free trade agreements without considering India's social realities. "This country has the world's richest billionaires and the poorest of the poor. Ninety two per cent of people still hold white ration cards," he pointed out.

The BRS leader praised former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's pro-worker policies, citing the Rs 3,500 crore spent over 10 years on Bathukamma sarees that saved Sircilla's handloom workers. He questioned the Congress government's double standards. "Sonia Gandhi opposed these very bills in Delhi. How will the Congress government in Telangana implement them now?" he asked, adding that the BRS-affiliated Bharat Rashtra Trade Union was ready to work with any trade union opposing the codes, regardless of political affiliation. "There are no elections now. BRTU can work with anyone," he said. The round table, attended by representatives of various central trade unions and state-level federations, paid rich tributes to Ambedkar. The BRS has indicated that it will intensify protests in the coming weeks and is preparing to take the battle to the streets of Telangana and the corridors of power in New Delhi. Former MP B Vinod Kumar slammed the Centre for introducing the codes without consulting workers or trade unions and called for united pressure on the government.

Babri masjid demolition anniversary under heavy security, mosque project awaits approval in Ayodhya

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Ayodhya (UP): Ayodhya remained under an extensive security blanket on the 33rd anniversary of the demolition of the Babri Masjid on Saturday, with no organised political or religious mobilisations — a sharp contrast to earlier years when rival groups marked the day with symbolic demonstrations. Security personnel were on high alert and carried out checking drives across the holy town, especially around the newly constructed Ram temple, railway station, bus stands and major roads, and other sensitive areas in Uttar Pradesh, including Varanasi and Mathura, with mosque-temple disputes, stopping vehicles at multiple checkpoints, verifying IDs and strengthening vigil. "December 6 is always a sensitive date for Ayodhya. This year, we are ensuring no breach of peace or security," said Superintendent of Police (City) Chakrapani Tripathi. He said that strict directives had been issued prohibiting public gatherings or rallies, while hotels had been asked to maintain detailed visitors' records. Bomb squads and dog squads also carried out checks at railway station parking areas along with Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel, he said.

Unlike previous years, there were no organised politi-

cal or religious mobilisations. Local activists and residents said it reflects both the administrative curbs imposed after the Supreme Court's 2019 verdict and the passing away of the once-key leaders from both sides of the dispute. "The government has banned observing 'Black Day' or 'Victory Day' (Shaurya Diwas) after the final verdict," said Indu Bhushan Pandey, a social activist in Ayodhya. The BJP posted messages on its X handles paying tributes to those associated with the Ram Temple movement on "Shaurya Diwas" — observed by Hindu outfits to mark the demolition in 1992. "Jai Shri Ram, On Shaurya Diwas, a hundred salutations to the Sanatanis who, by offering their lives in the Shri Ram Mandir movement, paved the way for the cultural renaissance of the nation," a post on the official handle of the BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit said. Many prominent figures associated with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, including Ashok Singh, Kalyan Singh, Bal Thackeray and Mahant Avaidyanath, have either passed away or faded from public life. Leaders from the Babri Masjid Action Committee, such as Zafaryab Jilani, Syed Shahabuddin, Abdullah Bukhari and Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi, are also no longer alive. Even the main litigants, including Hashim Ansari and Triloki Nath Pandey.

Hyderabad woman dies in US apartment fire; body to be flown home

HYDERABAD: A cyber security professional from Hyderabad died of severe burn injuries while another man suffered severe burns after a fire broke out in a two storied residential building on Western Avenue in Albany, United States, on Thursday. The victim is identified as Sahaja Reddy Udmula, (24) of Jodimetla locality near Uppal.

The victim a native Gudur in Jangaon district, completed her master's in cyber security from the University at Albany a year ago and was working in Albany. Her father Udmula Jayakar Reddy is a software professional, and her mother Maria Shailaja is a teacher in Hyderabad.

9th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha to be held in January 2026, registrations open

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

The ninth edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's annual Pariksha Pe Charcha will be held in January 2026, the registrations to which are open till January 11, according to Ministry of Education officials. "Pariksha Pe Charcha is back with its ninth edition. Students, parents and teachers from India and abroad will engage with the Prime Minister to discuss exam stress and also celebrate examinations as an utsav [festival], as an integral part of life," said a senior official. For selection of participants, an online competition with multiple choice questions is being organised on the MyGov portal from December 1 to January 11. Students from Classes 6 to 12, teachers and parents can take part in the competition. The eighth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha was telecast on February 10 this year. The interaction was held in an innovative new format at Sunder Nursery in the national capital. It brought together 36 students from across States and union territories, representing government schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Sainik schools, Eklavya Model Residential schools and CBSE schools.

The edition also featured seven separate episodes covering topics such as sports, discipline, mental health, nutri-



tion, technology, finance, creativity and positivity, offering inspiring insights from renowned personalities. In 2025, Pariksha Pe Charcha set a Guinness World Record, drawing participation of students from more than 245 countries, teachers from 153 countries and parents from 149 countries. The programme has grown from just 22,000 participants in the first edition in 2018 to 3.56 crore registrations in the eighth edition in 2025. Along with this, 1.55 crore people took part in the nationwide Jan Andolan activities related to Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025, bringing the total participation to nearly 5 crore.

KTR pays tributes to Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Hyderabad: On the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar's death anniversary, grand tributes were paid by the BRS to the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao, paying rich tributes to Ambedkar on his 69th Mahaparinirvan Diwas, said Article 3, incorporated in the Constitution on Ambedkar's initiative, had greatly contributed to the formation of Telangana as a separate State. The nine-and-a-half-year BRS rule progressed on the path shown by Ambedkar for the upliftment of oppressed sections. Not only was a 125-foot statue of Ambedkar installed in the heart of Hyderabad city, but the then Chief Minister, K Chandrashekhar Rao, also bestowed the highest honour upon him by naming the new Secretariat after him. On the occasion of Ambedkar's



death anniversary, he called for rededicating ourselves to the realisation of his ideals.

IndiGo cancels over 800 flights; focuses on refunds and restoring operations



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Mumbai: Domestic carrier IndiGo has said it cancelled over 800 flights on Saturday, much lower compared to Friday. The airline's teams are focused on stabilising schedules, reducing delays, and supporting customers through this period, it said, adding, "We are also working closely with all airports and partners to ensure timely updates are provided to customers at terminals, on our website, and via direct notifications." For refund assistance, the airline said, customers can visit its website or contact the customer support. Earlier in the morning, the civil aviation ministry directed the airline to complete the ticket refund process for cancelled flights by Sunday evening, and ensure baggage separated from travellers are delivered in the next two days following large-scale disruption in its services. The ministry said any delay or non-compliance in refund processing will invite immediate regulatory action. The refund process for all cancelled or disrupted flights must be completed by 8 pm on Sunday, the ministry said in a statement. "Airlines have also been instructed not to levy any rescheduling charges for passengers whose travel plans were affected by cancellations," it said. IndiGo has also been instructed to set up dedicated passenger support and refund facilitation cells.

India, U.S. seek additional punitive measures against LeT, JeM and their backers

GNS News Agency, Dec 6 India and the U.S. have sought additional punitive measures like asset freeze and arms embargo by the UN against Pakistan-based terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, their proxy groups and backers.

The two sides also called for additional designations of ISIS and al-Qa'ida affiliates. These terror groups were designated by the UN and they have already been facing various punitive actions under the global body's sanctions regime. India and the U.S. deliberated on boosting cooperation to combat terrorism at a meeting of their joint working group (JWG) on counter terrorism as well as during deliberations at 'designations dialogue', held on December 3 in New Delhi. In the talks, the Indian side thanked the U.S. State Department for designating the Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of LeT, as both a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). The TRF had taken responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack. The two sides emphasised that confronting terrorism requires concerted action in a sustained and comprehensive manner, according to a joint statement released on Saturday.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BARKHA ALI AHMED YAFAI W/O ALI AHMED YAFAI (old name) born on 10-05-1972 at utnoor earlier was Holding Passport No. L6290926 DT: 22-11-2013 hereby changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as BARKHA W/O ALI AHMED YAFAI (new name) H.No. 13-16, Shad nagar, Adilabad 504001, Telangana State.

DECLARANT.

BARKHA

W/O ALI AHMED YAFAI

Place: Adilabad

Date: 04-12-2025

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Veerashaiva-Lingayat row

On 25 September 2025, a Karnataka High Court bench declined a petition seeking intervention in the Socio-Economic Survey conducted across the State. The petitioners had argued that the survey violated Article 21 of the Constitution. Even as the State government proceeded with the household survey, several gatherings and processions were held across Karnataka, especially in the Kalyana Karnataka region, demanding separate religious status for the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community.

The community, much like Jain, Buddhist or Sikh groups, seeks a different identity separate from the Hindu religion. At present, Veerashaiva-Lingayats are listed within the Hindu religion in official records such as Census, though they are assigned a separate code. The demand for the separate religious status has become a site of political contestation for the Karnataka government.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah remarked that "Basavanna launched a separate religion" aimed at uprooting the caste system. His comments came during the closing ceremony of the Basava Cultural Campaign organised by the Lingayat Mutt seers in Koppal district. A day later, the Chief Minister clarified his position, stating: "I have no stand (on demand for separate religious status or Lingayats). Some Virakta Mutt seers are demanding it. The stand of the people is my stand. We will write what they say their religion is during the survey." Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwara Khandre said: "Our stand is clear: Lingayat and Veerashaiva are the same. Shivakumara Swami (late Siddaganga Mutt pontiff) and all Mahasabha presidents have clarified that Lingayat and Veerashaiva mean the same".

Quality Standards Must Be Maintained in Development Works: Ramanthapur Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkata Rao



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 6 (Indian Chronicle):" "As part of the ongoing development activities in Ramanthapur Division, Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkata Rao on Saturday inaugurated CC road works at Kamakshipuram Road No. 7, Endowment Colony, and RTC Colony." Speaking on the occasion, the Corporator instructed officials to strictly adhere to quality standards in all development works. She reminded them that it is their responsibility to stay present at the work sites, supervise the execution, and ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience during construction. She further directed the officials to take necessary steps to ensure the road works are completed within the stipulated time. The Corporator mentioned that nearly 90% of the development works in the division have already been completed. She added that she has approached the concerned authorities to secure the required funds to complete the remaining works at the earliest." GHMC officials D.E. Nagamani, A.E. Mounika, Work Inspector Mahender, along with Bandaru Venkata Rao, Pasula Prabhakar Reddy, Chintuji Srinivasachary, Prahallad, Kandakatla Dayanand Reddy, Sankoori Kumaraswamy, Kalmakalla Lingam, Thammali Ravi, Durgesh, Nasu Satish, and others participated in the program.

We will not sell our vote for money and alcohol..

We will elect leaders who work for the development of villages with honesty... Women voters who put up boards in front of their houses:- Women responded to the call of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao."(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- Women voters who put up boards in front of their houses saying that we will not sell our vote for money and alcohol and that we will elect leaders who work for the development of villages with honesty.. Seeing the scenes of women responding to the call of District Collector Hanumantha Rao, the people of the respective villages are responding more and more. Our vote is for the development of the village...not for the money given by the leaders for one day.. The call of District Election Officer Collector Hanumantha Rao, who took up voting rights awareness programs in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, received a good response from the voters. In the context of awareness programs on voting rights being conducted in the 6 mandals where the first phase of Gram Panchayat elections will be held on Friday morning, the District Collector provided extensive awareness to women on voting rights at the Bommala Ramaram Mandal Center. All the women voters were made to pledge that they would use their votes for village development and that they would not sell their votes for alcohol or money, but would use their votes to elect leaders who would develop the village. The women, who had gained awareness, today put up boards in front of their houses asking some voters from Jalalapur village in Bommala Ramaram Mandal to voluntarily sell their votes for money and gifts, and to vote voluntarily with integrity.

Demand for Implementation of 42% Reservation for BCs – BC JAC Pays Rich Tributes to Martyr Sai Eshwar Chari



"CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, DECEMBER 06, INDIAN CHRONICLE:" "Leaders of the BC JAC paid rich tributes to martyr Sai Eshwar Chari, who sacrificed his life by self-immolation, distressed over the non-implementation of 42% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs). A large number of leaders from various BC associations and caste organizations participated in the program held in Karimnagar on Thursday." Speaking on the occasion, BC JAC leader Sridhar Raju said, "This is nothing short of a government-sponsored murder. The government must immediately announce an ex-gratia of ₹50 lakh to the family of Sai Eshwar Chari and provide a government job to his wife." Nagula Kanakaiah Goud criticized the Congress government, stating, "Before coming to power,

the party announced in the manifesto under the Kamareddy Declaration that it would provide 42% reservation for BCs and deceived BC communities for votes. After coming to power, the government is conducting local body elections without implementing the promised reservations, which is causing serious resentment among BC organizations." Aadi Mallesh Patel said, "The Chief Minister, Ministers, and MLAs promised that elections would be held only after implementing 42% reservations. Failing to fulfill that commitment reflects the inefficiency of the government." He demanded that reservations be implemented legally before holding elections." Bollam Lingamurthy stated that the BC community has lost faith in the Congress party due to its failure to honor its commitments." Narsinguji Srinivas Chari demanded that the government introduce the BC Reservation Bill in the ongoing winter session of Parliament and include it in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution through an amendment, ensuring legal protection for 42% BC reservations. He warned that if the government fails to respond, BC organizations will intensify the movement and obstruct Congress public representatives everywhere and are even prepared to dethrone the government if necessary." BC leaders Bollam Lingamurthy, Kesipeddi Sridhar Raju, Aadi Mallesh Patel, Nagula Kanakaiah Goud, Narsinguji Srinivas Chari, Naroju Rakesh Chari, Doggali Sridhar, Nallagoni Srinivas, Lingampalli Srinivas, Umamaheshwar, Devarakonda Santosini, and several others participated in the program.



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- Along with Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, who paid homage to the Ambedkar statue at Bhuvanagiri Vinayaka Chaurasta, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Ajev Chisti, former Municipal Chairman Potham Shetty Venkateswarlu, DCC Delegate Tangallapalli Ravikumar, Kukkadugu Somaiya, Kura Venkatesh, Sewadal District Secretary Pittala Balaraj, Gas Chinna and others participated.

Floral tributes paid to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on his death anniversary at Habsiguda Crossroads under the leadership of the Division Congress Party

"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 6 (Indian Chronicle):" "On the occasion of the death anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, Congress leaders of Habsiguda Division in the Uppal constituency paid rich tributes by garlanding Ambedkar's statue at Habsiguda Crossroads." Former councillor Kandi Aagi Reddy, B. Sudhakar Reddy, former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy, Habsiguda Division Congress President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, Division General Secretary and Endowments Department Director Dharmendra Naik (Dharma), senior leader Nursing Rao, State SC Cell Secretary Solomon Babu, Habsiguda Division Youth Congress President Vasu Naik, Indiramma Committee member Gundu Rajanna, and Division leaders Dharmaraju, Sai Kiran, Ramu, Sai Babu, Ravi Sai Kumar, Khaleel, and others participated. On this occasion, former councillor Kandi Nagireddy and Congress leaders said that people should continue to uphold the ideals of Babasaheb Ambedkar. They described Ambedkar as a great personality who gifted the nation its very soul – the Constitution. They praised him as



a leader who fought for social justice and the upliftment of the poor and weaker sections. They added that giving greater importance to responsibilities rather than just rights would be the true tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Chilkanagar Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Pays Rich Tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 6 (Indian Chronicle):" "On the occasion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's death anniversary, Chilkanagar Division Corporator and former

GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, along with BRS party leaders of the division, paid rich floral tributes to the statue of Dr. Ambedkar. The programme was organized under the auspices of the Chilkanagar Scheduled Castes Seva Sangham." Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen said that Dr. Ambedkar was a great visionary, economist, jurist, and statesman who relentlessly fought against untouchability and social discrimination. She praised him as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a guiding force who dedicated his life to the upliftment of Dalits and Bahujans." The event was attended by Chilkanagar SC Seva Sangham President Kondra Ramulu, committee members, BRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, senior leaders Eddula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Masa Shekhar, Balaram, Cheryala Srinivas, Yadagiri, Sundar, Ravinder Goud, Mahmood, Srisailam, Srinivas Yadav, M.D. Hanif, M.D. Shafi, Mudra Srinivas Yadav, and SC Seva Sangham members Anjan Kumar, Parnandi Nursing Rao, Dr. Ashok Ramachander, and several others.

PCC General Secretary Potnak Pramod Kumar gave a grand welcome to PCC President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud who was going to visit Yadadri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President Sri Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud was given a grand welcome and felicitated with shawls at the New Vivera Hotel on the Bhuvanagiri Town Bypass Road on the occasion of his going to visit Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy. Speaking on the occasion, Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud said that as the Congress government in the state has completed two years, the promises made in the elections have been delivered one by one to the people through various welfare schemes and the government has been working together to make Telangana a developed state and number one in the country by solving public problems. He said that the previous TRS government has been implementing the promises made to the people by cleaning up the state, which had become a pile of debt, and organizing a global summit on the 8th and 9th of this month, inviting representatives from all over the world to invest in Telangana and to further develop the state. He said that all the people should participate in the program. Former Municipal Chairman Barre Jahangir, former councillors Rachamalla Ramesh, Eerapaka Narasimha, Padigela Pradeep, "Dargai Hari Prasad, Pittala Balraj, Kausar Attaah, Akhil Kalyan, Stalin Dakru Prakash, Dasari Madhu, Gas Chinna, Upender Chari, Patnam Praneeth Nihal Manchukanti Krishnamurthy.



Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, December 6: "Tekki Rajashekhar, state that GHMC officials, along with their staff, came to my house (4-7-26/2) and seized it alleging that it was an illegal construction. We purchased this old house in 2002. As the old structure had become dilapidated, we reconstructed the house in 2013 and have been residing in it since then. However, our neighbour Damodar Reddy, out of personal grudge, got the house sealed by falsely claiming it as an illegal construction." Despite paying all taxes for several years, the municipal authorities high-handedly sealed the house stating it was an unauthorized structure. Protesting against this unjust action, Dalit organisations and various political parties extended their support to Rajashekhar. On Saturday, Dalit organisation leaders staged a protest condemning the attitude of the municipal officials. They demanded that all illegal constructions in Nacharam division be demolished immediately.

They warned that the agitation would be intensified if action was not taken. They also cautioned that if the illegal constructions were not demolished, a massive siege would be staged at the Kapra Municipality office. Senior leaders Gaudelli Ramakrishna, Mallela Narsinga Rao, Erpula Nagaraju, Korapaka Anji Madiga, Haribabu, Erpula Narsinga Rao, Erpula Lakshminarayana, Bhupati Ganesh, Aak Pogu Pramod Maharaj, Vittal Yadav, Buchchi Goud, Ramakrishna Reddy, Rebel Raju and others participated in the programme.

1.98 Crore Sanctioned for Trunk Line Desilting Works; Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge Parameshwar Reddy Thanks CM Revanth Reddy



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 6 (Indian Chronicle): "Once again, substantial funds have been sanctioned for development works in Ramanthapur and Habsiguda divisions. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has approved 1.98 crore for desilting works in the trunk line. These works

will be taken up using Super Sucker machines."Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy expressed gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for extending support and sanctioning the funds, thereby contributing to the development of the region."As part of the project, desilting works will be carried out in the following stretches: 900 mm sewer line from KTR Nagar Kaman to Medplus Sri Rama Colony, Ramanthapur** 600 mm sewer line from Medplus Sri Rama Colony to Vasavi Nagar Street No. 4** 450 mm sewer main from Vasavi Nagar Street No. 4 to Ram Reddy Nagar Street No. 9."These works will be executed using advanced technology with Super Sucker machines equipped with 4000 cm/hr vacuum capacity and leak-proof carting containers for safe removal of silt."On Saturday, Parameshwar Reddy personally handed over the sanction letters to residents of various colonies in Ramanthapur and Habsiguda divisions. He stated that the works will commence very soon. Residents of Ramanthapur and Habsiguda divisions participated in the programme.

Legend School Student Selected for State-Level Swimming Competitions

- Congratulated by Correspondent Rajayya"CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, DECEMBER 06, INDIAN CHRONICLE:"Sreshtha Nandini, a student of Legend High School located in Bhagath Nagar, has been selected for the state-level swimming competitions."She will be participating in the 36th South Zone Aquatic Championship, scheduled to be held in Adilabad for three days starting from December 8. Sreshtha Nandini, who is studying in Class 8 at Legend High School, received appreciation from the school correspondent Rajayya, who expressed happiness over her selection to the state-level swimming event. A special program was organized at the school to felicitate her."Speaking on the occasion, Correspondent Rajayya stated that students should excel in sports and that participation in sports strengthens both physical and mental fitness. He added that physical education instructors at the school provide training and prepare students to participate in various competitive events."He further said that the school is providing necessary resources to students to promote sports and bring out their hidden talent. School principal, teachers, and students participated in the program.



Hyderabad Metro Engaged in Irregular Commercial Activities on Uppal Ring Road, Allege Farmers



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 6 (Indian Chronicle): "Farmers of Bhagat in Uppal have strongly objected to the alleged irregular constructions being carried out by the Hyderabad Metro Rail authorities on the main Uppal Ring Road."According to the farmers, the then government, in 1979, proposed the Inner Ring Road and acquired land from farmers for a 200-feet road. Initially, two-lane roads were developed on both sides, later expanded

to four lanes. Keeping future traffic requirements in mind, the government had left additional buffer land on both sides of the road."The farmers allege that the Hyderabad Metro Rail authorities have now occupied this government-left buffer land for metro-related activities and are further leasing it out to private individuals for commercial purposes. They expressed shock that such large-scale commercial exploitation is taking place under the guise of metro construction."

The farmers criticized the GHMC authorities for completely ignoring these alleged violations by the Metro Rail authorities.Village elders and Bhagat farmers — Mekala Madhusudan Reddy, Dubba Narasimhareddy, Mekala Shivar Reddy, Salla Veerareddy, Mekala Venkatarami Reddy, Charla Ramireddy, and Ramakrishna Reddy — told the media that, on the other hand, landowners and house builders on both sides of the Uppal Ring Road (from Uppal Little Flower School to Nagole Flyover) are being issued four to five notices every year, causing unnecessary anxiety.Meanwhile, locals are surprised to see the Metro Rail authorities constructing huge sheds along the main road while claiming they possess all required government permissions.The farmers demanded that the GHMC intervene immediately, stop the illegal constructions, and take strict action against the violators.

Food Festival Enthralls at Chaitanya Bharati School



Somashekar, and Srinivas—participated in the event and congratulated the students for their enthusiastic involvement in the Food Festival.

Senior Police Officials Conduct Comprehensive MCC Awareness Drive Across Key Gram Panchayat Polling Stations

"P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNAGAR BUREAU: "In view of the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections, the Hon'ble ACP Godavrikhani, the Circle Inspector of Manthani, SI-II Sagar, and I undertook an extensive inspection of the polling stations located in Puttapaka, Adavisonapalli, Vilocharam, and Potharam villages."During our visit, we engaged with

local residents and thoroughly elucidated the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). We also imparted detailed awareness regarding the essential guidelines to be adhered to during the electoral process, including the recommended practices (DOs) and the prohibited actions (DON'Ts), ensuring that citizens are well-informed and prepared to participate in the elections responsibly and lawfully.



Tributes Paid to Martyr Sai Eshwara Chari at Uppal Crossroads by BC JAC



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 6 (Indian Chronicle): "The BC JAC of Uppal Constituency paid tributes to Sai Eshwara Chari, who sacrificed his life demanding the implementation of BC reservations. A protest demonstration was held at the Uppal Ring Road in his memory."Speaking on the occasion, Uppal BC JAC leader Nerdham Bhaskar Goud said that the self-sacrifice of Sai Eshwara Chari, who fought for BC reservations and ended his life after realizing the government's alleged betrayals, would not go in vain. He stated that their struggle will continue until the goal of achieving BC reservations is fulfilled."He criticised political parties in the state and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's administration for promising 42% reservations to BCs but allotting only 17% in the recent local panchayat elections, thereby insulting the Backward Classes."Bhaskar Goud added that proper implementation of BC reservations in employment, politics, and education would provide opportunities for BC youth to become IPS officers, judges, MLAs, Sarpanches, MPs, and secure



medical and engineering seats."Condemning the government's attitude, he said that the grievous act of Sai Eshwara Chari pouring petrol and ending his life was a result of deep distress caused by the government's deceptive assurances, holding the government responsible for his death."BC leaders and members cutting across political parties and caste organizations participated in the program. Among them were BC Balachander, Puppala Venkatesh, Ravinder Mudiraj, Ambati Jagadish, Pittala Naresh, Sampath, Sathyaraj, Jalli Mohan, Kompalli Raju, Goni Srikanth, Gaddam Sai, Telangana Sampath, Kompalli Ravinder, Sangi Swami Yadav, Kompalli Raj Kumar, Bod Vidhyasagar, Nagarjuna, Ashok Chari, Koyyada Prasad Goud, Seetharamulu Chari, Matta Ramesh Goud, Kavali Narasimha, Gurrala Malesh, Krishna Mudiraj, Dhanunjaya Chari, and many others.

WJI Urges Governor to Intervene for Comprehensive Redressal of Journalists' Long-Pending Grievances.

"P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNAGAR BUREAU: "The Telangana State Unit of the Working Journalists of India (WJI), affiliated with the BMS, formally presented a detailed representation to Hon'ble Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, seeking decisive intervention to resolve the persistent challenges confronting journalists across the state."A delegation comprising State Honorary President Nandana Kripakar, President Rana Pratap (Raju Bhayya), General Secretary Ravikanti Srinivas, Vice President Taduru Karunakar, Secretary Shivanadhuni Pramod Kumar, Kappara Prasad, along with other senior members, met the Governor at Lok Bhawan and submitted the appeal."The delegation apprised the Governor of the inordinate delay—spanning nearly two years—in the issuance of press accreditations in Telangana, which has severely impeded professional functioning. They appreciated the Central Government's reformative inclusion of electronic, digital, and web media within the ambit of the newly introduced four Labour Codes, replacing the former 219 labour laws. The WJI urged that the Telangana Media Accreditation Policy be correspondingly updated to extend accreditation privileges to digital and web journalists as per national guidelines."The Union representatives further underscored the gross negligence in implementing the journalists' health insurance scheme, which has disproportionately affected rural reporters, turning access to healthcare into a formidable challenge. They appealed for the prompt issuance of health cards to all eligible journalists statewide."Highlighting another long-standing concern, the delegation pointed out that housing site allocations for jour-



nalists in several districts remain unresolved for years, thereby depriving many of their aspiration to own a home. They requested the Governor to advise the State Government to expedite a favourable and permanent resolution."Additionally, the WJI appealed for free metro travel facilities for journalists operating in and around Hyderabad, along with concessional toll-free provisions at national highway toll plazas."To safeguard the sustainability of district and local newspapers, the delegation urged the government to accelerate the empanelment process within the Information and Public Relations Department. They further requested that empanelment of all eligible publications be completed at the earliest and that revised rate cards be issued in accordance with escalating production costs, ensuring fair and viable support for regional print media.

Official invitation to Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu for Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 to be held in Hyderabad Future City on 8th and 9th of this month



Telangana State Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy.. Government Vippu Aleru MLA Beerla Ilaya.. "(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- On behalf of Telangana State, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was invited to the Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 to be held in Hyderabad Future City on 8th and 9th of this month.. Telangana State Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy.. Government Vippu Aleru MLA Beerla Ilaya presented the invitation letter on Saturday. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu was cordially called on by Telangana State Roads, Buildings and Cinematogra-

phy Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Telangana State Government Whip and DCC President Beerla Ayilaiah and presented an official invitation on behalf of Telangana State to the Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 to be held in Hyderabad Future City. It was explained to the Andhra Pradesh CM that world and national level industry leaders, business organizations, financial experts and policy makers will participate in this global summit, which is being organized on the model of Davos Economic Forum. On this occasion, Beerla Ayilaiah requested Chief Minister Chandrababu to visit Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy in Yadagirigutta, and Chief Minister Chandrababu said that he would visit Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy in the month of January.

Ambedkar Death Anniversary Observed at Vignan Grammar High School, HB Colony, Moula Ali: Chintala Nirmala Reddy

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 6, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "On the occasion of the death anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, Vignan Grammar High School in HB Colony, Moula Ali, Medchal district, conducted a commemorative program."The school's director, Chintala Nirmala Reddy, along with teachers, paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. Ambedkar. Speaking on the occasion, Director Nirmala

Reddy said that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was a great visionary, freedom fighter, constitutional expert, and a guiding force for social justice. She stated that Ambedkar's life continues to inspire millions across the nation. His relentless struggle for equality, human rights, and social reform paved the way for a progressive India. She added that Ambedkar's ideas exposed social inequality and injustices, motivating generations to work towards an ethical and inclusive society. She appealed to everyone to strive to uphold and follow Ambedkar's ideals for the betterment of the nation.

Sai Eswarachari's suicide is unfortunate.. The government will do justice to his family.. The Congress government will do justice to the BCs.. Don't commit suicide in a hurry



- TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud "Vishwakarma Sangha requests Sai Kumar's family to provide a job and financial assistance of one crore rupees... TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud "(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Sai Eswarachari's suicide while demanding reservation for BCs is unfortunate and there is no need to doubt that the Congress party will do justice to the BCs. He spoke at a media conference in Vivera Ota after visiting Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy with his family on Saturday and returning to Hyderabad. On this occasion, members of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Goldsmiths' Association and District Vishwa Brahmin Association organized a rally in Bhuvanagiri to pay tribute to the death of Eshwarachari and submitted a petition to PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, seeking financial assistance of Rs. 1 crore by providing a job to one of the family. Speaking on the occasion, the PCC President said that the government would do justice to the Chari family and ap-

pealed to the youth not to indulge in such heinous acts regarding reservations. He made it clear that the BC brothers should recognize that it is a Congress party that is doing justice to the BCs. He asked the PC brothers to recognize that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had passed a bill in the assembly with the aim of providing 42 percent reservation to the BCs and sent it to the Center. He said that only the Congress party, which is sincere towards the BCs, has the right to do so. He said that if he is the state president of the Congress party today, there are many examples of how the party is doing justice to the BCs in every way, even if he knows the opportunity. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is working as per the suggestions given by their leader Rahul Gandhi to provide opportunities to the BCs in all ways and that they are working towards the political development of the BCs by working tirelessly to provide justice to them. He assured the Vishwakarma leaders that justice will be done to the family of the Vishwakarma, especially the Vishwakarma family, who committed suicide for EC reservations. A petition was handed over to the PCC presidents under the auspices of the District Goldsmiths Association and Vishwakarma United Association. Those who submitted the petition include District Goldsmiths' Association President Kondaparthi Balachari, Vice President Solleti Govardhanachari, District United Association President Devarakonda Narasimhachari, Bhuvanagiri Town Goldsmiths' Association President Itikala Devendrachari, General Secretary Tangellapalli Srinivasachari, Treasurer Muniganti Saikanth, All India CC Number Keesara Srikant, Honorary Advisors of the District Goldsmiths' Association Chitlou Venkat Narayana, District General Secretary Tangellapalli Giridharachari, District Secretary of Vishwakarma United Association Namouj Raju, District United Association Media Incharge Mahankali Suresh Chari, and others.

Let Us Strive to Fulfil Ambedkar's Ideals: Uppal Government Degree College Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar



Chandrasagar, and Dr. V. Srinivas Rao highlighted Ambedkar's contribution in securing strong labour laws and women's rights. NSS PO Viswanath Kumar, Dr. P. Venkateshwarlu, and Nanda Kishore presented songs on Ambedkar. A book review competition on Ambedkar's writings was also announced. The programme concluded with the National Anthem.

Suspension is inevitable for those who do not attend election duties and training classes

strictly follow the rules and regulations without any disputes or mistakes and perform their election duties carefully. He said that the returning officers will have to play an active role in the conduct of the Gram Panchayat elections. He said that if the elections are conducted with vigilance and strictly following the time regime as per the guidelines of the State Election Commission, there will be no possibility of any problems. He said that the polling and counting processes should be planned so that they run smoothly, the polling material should be carefully checked once and twice, and special care should be taken especially in the matter of ballot papers. He advised the ROs to provide complete understanding of the rules and regulations to all the election staff in their team regarding the election duties. He said that they will be able to complete the election process smoothly without any room for mistakes anywhere. He said that they should reach the polling stations on time and inspect the facilities, and ensure that the voting compartment, sitting arrangements, etc. are in accordance with the rules. He advised that the points indicated in the training classes should be followed strictly and if there are any doubts, they should ask the officials and resolve them. They were advised to carefully examine the ballot paper, carry out the election management responsibilities smoothly without any confusion, and bring a good name to the district. Zonal officers, returning officers, presiding officers, etc. participated in these training classes.

Hyderabad Police launch 'Operation Kavach' to curb anti-social activities

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad police as part of "Operation Kavach" conducted a large scale vehicle checking and frisking exercise in the city on Friday night.

As part of the operation 5000 policemen drawn from Task Force, City Armed Reserve and local police participated in the operation.

VC Sajjanar Hyderabad Police Commissioner said the operation is aimed at controlling the anti social activities and movement of unsocial elements in the city. "It is the largest operation being done to instill a sense of safety and security among citizens. It is aimed to bring fear in unsocial elements," said VC Sajjanar. The police deployed 10 drones to monitor the operation.

Officials performing first phase election duties should exercise their voting rights through postal ballot



- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao "(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao made an announcement today that officials performing first phase election duties should exercise their voting rights through postal ballot. ROs, AROs, POs, OPOs, Zonal Officers, Police, Staff and other staff assigned election duties participating in the polling in Aleru, Bommalaramaram, Yadagirigutta, Rajapet, Turkapalli, Atmakur mandals where the first phase of polling will be held in the Gram Panchayat elections can exercise their voting rights through "Postal Ballot" Staff Date: 07.12. The District Collector said that voters should exercise their right to vote by filling Form-14 (Postal Ballot Application) at the MPDO office in the mandal center of the Gram Panchayat where they have their vote on 2025 (Sunday). In this regard, the MPDOs of the 6 mandals where elections will be held in the first phase have been instructed to prepare a model polling center and be ready.

Election code to be implemented in the district till the completion of Gram Panchayat elections



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao "(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- District Election Officer and Collector Hanumantha Rao said in a statement on Saturday that the election code will be in force till the completion of Gram Panchayat elections in the district. He said that since the Gram Panchayat elections are being held in three phases, the election code will be in force till the completion of the final phase of the election process. He said that the election code will remain in force even in unanimous Gram Panchayats. "As per the guidelines of the Election Commission, the election code will be in force till the final phase of the election process, no one should violate the election code of conduct, and action will be taken against those who violate it as per the law. He instructed the officials to strictly implement the election code until the completion of the final phase of the Gram Panchayat elections. He suggested that the officials performing election duties should monitor to ensure that the model code of conduct is not violated. He said that the election code has come into effect with the release of the Gram Panchayat election schedule by the State Election Commission and that the election

code should be strictly implemented until the final phase results are announced. He said that elections for the Sarpanch and ward posts in the Gram Panchayats in the district will be held on the 11th, 14th and 17th of this month.

Every student should study hard for annual exams and achieve hundred percent pass results



- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao "(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that every student should study hard for annual exams and achieve hundred percent pass results. The District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the midday meal at the Zilla Parishad High School in Rajapet Mandal Center on Saturday. On this occasion, the District Collector... asked the students how the midday meal provided to the students under the midday meal scheme was and whether they were being served delicious food according to the daily menu. He wanted them to eat well on time and improve their memory. "He asked to know to what extent the syllabus of the subjects had been completed. He asked whether the teachers are conducting special classes every evening and if there are any doubts in the subjects, they should ask the teachers. He advised the students to study hard every day from now on as there

are only two months left for the annual exams. He said that if they study hard, they will rise to a higher level in the future. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Farmers cheated by fake seeds can resort to consumer law:- District Legal Service Authority Secretary V. Madhavi Latha



-(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- As per the instructions of District Legal Service Authority Yadadri Bhuvanagiri President and District Chief Justice A Jayaraju, the organization's secretary V. Madhavi Latha informed the farmers of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society in Husnabad about their legal rights and informed them that

those cheated by fake seeds can resort to consumer law. If any legal assistance is required, they can call 15100 or approach the legal service agency themselves. If there is any loss in weight or other matters, they can take legal advice from the free legal advice agency and get legal justice. Pamphlets on agricultural laws were handed over to the farmers. Next, the girls of Kasturba Gandhi Girls' School were given information on child rights, prohibition of child marriage, Right to Education Act, Child Labor Act. They explained the issues of eradication, legal aid, and the scheme prepared for children by the National Legal Service Organization, and answered the legal doubts raised by the girls. In the program, Sahaja Foundation team members V. Sailaja and Vijayalatha taught the students about education, values, how to overcome mental stress, and how to motivate them to behave well. School teachers and students participated in this program and visited Balasadan and Grace Children's Home in Bhuvanagiri and made appropriate suggestions.

BC Representatives Pay Tributes to Martyr Sai Eshwara Chari at Chilkanagar



-(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. December 6):- Under the leadership of the BC JAC, tributes were paid to Sai Eshwara Chari, who sacrificed his life demanding 42% BC reservations for the Backward Class movement. At the Chilkanagar junction, BC leaders garlanded his portrait and paid homage, recalling how he poured petrol on himself and set himself ablaze for the cause. "Later, at the Uppal crossroads, BC representatives staged a protest by blocking the Warangal Highway and holding a sit-in on the main road, expressing solidarity with the movement and demanding the implementation of BC reservations. "Leaders who participated in the program included Neredham Bhaskar Goud, Gajjela Satya Raj Goud, Ambati Jagadish Mudiraj, Jalli Mohan, Gona Srikanth, Puppala Venkateshwarlu, Gaddam Sai, Bal Chandar, Telangana Sampath, Pittala Naresh Mudiraj, Komppally Ravinder, Sangi Swamy Yadav, Komppally Raj Kumar, Bod Vidhyasagar, Nagarjuna, Ashok Chari, Koyyada Prasad Goud, Seetharamulu Chari, Matta Ramesh Goud, Kavali Narsimha, Gurrala Mallesh, Krishna Mudiraj, Dhanunjaya Chari, and several others.

'Could have booked a round trip at this price': Airfares in Pune skyrocket amid IndiGo crisis



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

Airfares from Pune surged dramatically on Friday after at least 46 IndiGo flights were cancelled on Friday due to disruptions caused by the airline's crew-duty scheduling crisis. With passengers scrambling to find alternatives, carriers such as SpiceJet, Akasa Air and Air India saw heavy overbooking, and fares rose to nearly four to six times normal levels. "IndiGo cancelled 16 flights between 12 am to 8 am today," an airport official said.

The surge in fares affected multiple domestic routes. Flights from Pune to cities such as Lucknow, Jaipur, and Varanasi, which normally cost between ₹5,000 and ₹7,000, reportedly cost ₹24,000 to ₹30,000. Shorter routes to cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad also saw sig-

nificant price spikes. SpiceJet tickets from Pune to Delhi, which normally cost ₹5,000 to ₹6,000, were being sold at ₹24,000. Similarly, an Akasa Air flight from Pune to Bengaluru, normally priced around ₹7,000, was listed at ₹36,000. Air India officials said fares for domestic flights to popular destinations such as Lucknow, Jaipur, etc. ranged between ₹25,000 and ₹35,000. "Flights to Delhi, Varanasi, Jaipur, and Dubai were overbooked within hours," said a SpiceJet ground staff member. "Passengers are asking for any flight that's available," he added. Safina Huned was to fly to Dehradun to embark on a trek. "But the check-in counter is closed. Air India and SpiceJet flights cost ₹30-35k for a domestic flight to Dehradun. I could have booked a round-trip at this price. I can cancel my plans and go home, but what about people who need to travel?" she asked.

Like Huned, many passengers in Pune missed cancelling their travel plans while others faced long queues, closed check-in counters, and uncertainty about seat availability. Shadab Azam's IndiGo flight 6E 2587 from Pune to Delhi was cancelled. "My IndiGo ticket cost around ₹5,000-₹6,000, but now a SpiceJet ticket is being sold for ₹24,000. Kuch toh karna padega, kal exam hai (I have to do something, I have an exam tomorrow)," Azam, a PhD student, said. Simran Bhutoria, who was to travel to Bengaluru, was stunned at the surge in airfare. "It's astronomical. Akasa shows ₹36,000... normally, it's ₹7,000. This is crazy," Bhutoria said.

UP's rich culinary map gets a reboot as CM Adityanath pitches 'One District, One Cuisine' 2.0



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

UP's rich culinary map gets a reboot as CM Adityanath pitches 'One District, One Cuisine' 2.0. The Chief Minister said that together, ODOP and ODOC (One District One Product) will put Uttar Pradesh firmly on the path of "local to global". 'One District, One Cuisine' (ODOC) must be implemented to give each district a unified identity of its distinctive culinary heritage, said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a meeting with top officers Friday. He said, "The ODOP initiative, now a defining feature of brand Uttar Pradesh, is set to advance to its next phase, ODOP 2.0, which will further boost local industries, self-employment, and exports... The aim of ODOP 2.0 is to ensure that the state's traditional products become a strong foundation for larger markets, increased exports, and sustainable livelihoods." He added, "Every region of UP boasts a unique food tradition, some renowned for their halwa, others for their dalmoth." Mapping each district's signature dishes, Yogi said, should be accompanied by efforts to improve their

quality, hygiene, packaging, branding, and marketing. The Chief Minister said that together, ODOP and ODOC (One District One Product) will put Uttar Pradesh firmly on the path of "local to global".

The Chief Minister also instructed that ODOP products should not remain confined to traditional markets but integrated into major retail chains and modern marketplaces. He directed the establishment of dedicated ODOP sections in Unity Malls (PM Ektा Malls) being set up across various states and emphasised the need to coordinate with major retail networks to ensure prominent placement of Uttar Pradesh's products. 'One District One Product' officials informed that over 1.25 lakh toolkits have been distributed, loans exceeding ₹6,000 crore have been sanctioned, and more than 8,000 entrepreneurs have received direct marketing support. Thirty Common Facility Centres (CFCs) have been approved, and 44 ODOP products have been granted Geo tags. ODOP products are now sold on leading e-commerce platforms and account for more than 50% of the state's total exports. The scheme has also earned a national award for the second consecutive year. Speaking about ODOP 2.0, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of prioritising units and entrepreneurs who performed exceptionally well in the first phase, enabling them to further scale their businesses. He added that future plans must empower Uttar Pradesh's products across four key areas: technology, packaging, quality, and market reach. It was informed that ODOP products will receive certification and enhanced brand value through reputed institutions to further strengthen their identity. This will enable the state's products to establish a distinctive presence in global markets.

At least 46 IndiGo flights from Pune cancelled on Friday; chaos intensifies



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

The situation at Pune Airport worsened on Friday as at least 46 IndiGo flights (23 arrivals and 23 departures) were cancelled, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded. Long queues, missing baggage, repeated rescheduling, and confusion at airline counters pushed flyers to a breaking point. "Some people are stranded here for two days. Our flight got cancelled, but the luggage had gone forward. Flights keep getting rescheduled or cancelled, so now we have to stand here, fight and try to claim the refund," said Shantanu Chandajkar, who was travelling from Pune to Dehradun via Jaipur on flight (6E-6117), which was eventually cancelled.

Some passengers reported waiting for hours with no assurance of an alternative. "We are here for four hours. Our 12 pm flight to Jodhpur (6E-133) was cancelled. They are saying it will take at least 10 to 15 days to get any other flight," said Deepali Shinde. Others decided to abandon travel

altogether. "I had a flight to Nagpur yesterday (Thursday) at 5 am. They rescheduled it to 11 pm and kept delaying it. Now I don't want to go. I'm here for the refund, and I'm standing in the line for two hours; it's so frustrating," said Suraj Ghatkamble.

For many, the struggle stretched well beyond half a day. "My 1 am flight to Bengaluru (6E-361) was moved to 1 pm, and now it's cancelled. I've been at the airport for more than 12 hours," said Adil Mustaqueen. Some passengers faced health risks. "Our Pune to Goa flight (6E-919) was at 11.55 pm (on Thursday), and they kept delaying it till 4 am. I'm pregnant, it was extremely difficult for me to wait that long, so we finally left," said Jaya Rajwani, who returned to the airport to retrieve her baggage. The cancellations also disrupted major family events. "We were supposed to travel from Pune to Bengaluru (6E-133) for my cousin's son's wedding. I was here from Canada just for the wedding. We had to cancel 15 tickets. Lakh rupees are gone," said Ravi Bhutoria. Delayed landings also added to the airport chaos, worsening the confusion for passengers already struggling with cancellations. "My parents' 9 pm Pune to Kolkata flight (6E-476) left this morning at 9.35 am, but four hours later, we still don't know where the flight is, and these people are of no help," said Anuk Chowdhury. Jagdish Urkude, Joint General Manager (Ops), Airports Authority of India, said, "We can't let other airlines suffer due to IndiGo's mismanagement. We have had 46 cancellations up to 4 pm... we are still trying to accommodate IndiGo, we are handling their situation case-wise, today was the worst hit day with maximum cancellations. The situation will be comparatively normal from tomorrow."

Bakra choking on silt, may vanish in 30 years, says Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has told Parliament that the Bhakra reservoir in Himachal has lost 2,568 million cubic metres (MCM) of its original storage capacity due to sedimentation, even as the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) is yet to begin de-siltation work at its two major reservoirs, Bhakra and Pong. The data was placed in the Lok Sabha in response to an unstarred question by Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari on the status of de-silting in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. According to the National Register of Specified Dams, the three states together have 42 major dams. The annexure furnished by the Centre shows that Bhakra's current gross storage capacity has dropped from 9,868 MCM to 7,300 MCM, while the Pong (Beas) reservoir has lost 1,190 MCM. Several medium and small reservoirs in Punjab's Kandi region have also lost substantial capacity, with Perch and Mirzapur reservoirs retaining barely a fraction of their design storage. Tewari later told The Indian Express that the figures reveal a crisis that demands urgent intervention. "I had

asked about the decreasing capacity of dams in Punjab and Haryana due to a lack of proper de-silting. Look at the capacity lost by the Bhakra Dam and other such hydel ponds. If things go on like this, the Bhakra Nangal Dam will cease to exist in 25 to 30 years," he noted. Responding to Tewari, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary said that BBMB had "not initiated de-silting activities" in Bhakra and Pong so far, but a pilot project for de-silting of Bhakra is on cards under Phase II and III of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). The pilot is proposed on a revenue-generation model, so no separate fund requirement has been projected, he said. Punjab, meanwhile, has started de-silting 13 of its dams and has sought forest clearances for nine more. The minister added that both Punjab and BBMB joined DRIP Phase II and III only in October 2025, under which Punjab is rehabilitating 12 dams with an allocation of ₹442 crore, and BBMB is rehabilitating two dams with an allocation of ₹230 crore. Haryana and Himachal Pradesh are not part of the scheme.

Sheetal Tejwani arrested in case of irregularities in sale of Mundhwa land to Parth Pawar's firm Amadea



GNS News Agency, Dec 5

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Pune City Police — which is investigating alleged irregularities involving two separate land parcels in Bopodi and Mundhwa — on Wednesday arrested Sheetal Tejwani, who held the power of attorney for 272 wadars of Mahar watan land in Mundhwa for its sale to Amadea Enterprises LLP, a firm in which NCP president and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, Parth, is a partner.

The Pune land deal has been embroiled in a controversy as the land in Mundhwa, that fell under the category of Mahar Watan land and was leased to the Botanical Survey of India, was sold to Amadea Enterprises LLP — in which Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth is a partner — without the mandatory approval of the state government. Sheetal Kishanchand Tejwani was arrested by the EOW on Tuesday afternoon as part of the probe into the First Information Report (FIR) registered at Khadak police station on November 7. She will be produced before a court in Pune on Thursday where her custody remand will

be sought," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber and EOW) Vivek Masal. "The grounds of arrest have been given to her. She was called for questioning multiple times and after gathering sufficient evidence against her, she was arrested. Further investigation will be conducted based on the aspects that come to fore in Tejwani's investigation." DCP Masal added, Tejwani was questioned by Pune police in the third week of November multiple times. Pune City Police have earlier clarified that FIR registered at Khadak police station which was subsequently transferred to the EOW — pertains to alleged irregularities involving two separate land parcels in Bopodi and Mundhwa, linked by a common factor: suspended tehsildar Suryakant Yewale, who is accused of issuing wrong orders in both cases.

Officials said that the case registered at Khadak police station mentions names of total nine accused. Six have been named in connection to the offence related to land parcel of Survey Number 62 in Bopodi of area five Hectares and 35 Acres. While two others — Tejwani and Parth Pawar's partner Digvijay Patil in connection to the Survey Number 88 in Mundhwa of area 17 Hectares and 51 Acres. Suspended Tehsildar Suryakant Yewale has been named in connection to both the cases as the wrong orders for both cases have been issued by Yewale. The land parcel in Mundhwa which was earlier a Mahar Watan — a hereditary land grant — was currently in possession of the government and was leased to the Botanical Survey of India. A separate FIR has been registered in connection to Mundhwa land parcel at Bawdhan police station under the Pimpri Chinchwad police against Patil, Tejwani and Ravindra Taru, the now-suspended sub-registrar who registered the deal in May earlier this year.

ASI introduces 'virtual' tour in Pune's Pataleshwar Caves, LED wall to act like 'teaser'



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

The project marks the beginning of a wider digital push across Kanheri, Elephanta and Shaniwar Wada. The ASI has launched a QR-based virtual tour for Pune's Pataleshwar Caves, offering immersive narration and digital visuals to make the ancient site more accessible. Hidden in the busy heart of Pune, the Pataleshwar Caves often slip past the attention of people who live here. The ancient rock-cut monument sits right off a busy road, yet many visitors step in without knowing the history of the site. Now the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has introduced a 'virtual' tour that hopes to change the way Pune residents look at the site. The ASI has added a QR code-aided guide for the monument. Dr Abhijeet Ambekar, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, says the idea is to make the experience simple and accessible. Visitors can scan the code and listen to a clear narration that explains the story of the caves. The guide shares the history of the site, the meaning behind its carvings and the reasons it was built.

The project is technologically supported by GloriTel Digital, a Pune-based company. Together with the ASI, it has created a "digital walk-through" that includes a screen at the entrance. The screen offers a short visual tour, and the link gives visitors a chance to explore the whole site

from one place. The service is free. Dr Ambekar says the aim is to bring heritage and digital tools together in a way that supports conservation. He adds that the ASI is preparing to take up structural work on the Mandir Mandap section of the monument, with the focus on preservation and not reconstruction.

The new effort is part of a wider plan. Dr Ambekar says the upcoming work includes similar digital experiences at Kanheri and Elephanta. At Shaniwar Wada, the ASI is working on a laser-based hologram to show the lost structure of Ganesh Mahal. He explains that restoring the original building might damage what survives today. Instead, a hologram built from historical data could offer a safer and clearer option. Nitin Menavaikar from GloriTel Digital says the Pataleshwar tour uses a 360-degree camera and a set of visual tools that create a one-of-a-kind experience. He believes that the LED wall built by the team will be like a "teaser" to the whole site. He also mentions that the latest technology of VR goggles has been used in this project. The narration is multilingual, and the team is also working on expanding it to include German, Russian and French for foreign tourists. He adds that the goal is to draw in younger visitors who respond well to interactive formats. Pataleshwar is 12 centuries old and has many stories carved into its stone. The team has highlighted the rare rain-harvesting system inside the cave and has also shown a superimposed view of the parts that remain incomplete. Menavaikar says every stone has a story, and the project helps narrate it with clarity. He adds that the narration is written by the ASI, so it keeps the facts accurate. He also says that digital guides are helpful when trained human guides are not available. GloriTel plans to add sign language videos for visitors with hearing disabilities at Shaniwar Wada in Pune. The company is also preparing for the next round of projects at Kanheri and Elephanta. Menavaikar says that the Pataleshwar project will prove to be a role model on how heritage properties must be conserved.

Here's how much Bengal govt has spent on Lakshmir Bhandar till now. A hint — It's the highest among all social welfare programmes



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Among the Mamata Banerjee government's schemes over the last 50 months, it has spent the highest amount on its flagship Lakshmir Bhandar scheme — a programme widely believed to have yielded maximum political dividends for the ruling Trinamool Congress. According to state government data, ₹74,000 crore has so far been spent on Lakshmir Bhandar, with 2,20,25,342 women receiving monthly assistance. Of them, 29,45,972 are from Scheduled Castes and 4,78,427 from Scheduled Tribes.

Ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections held during the Covid period, Mamata Banerjee promised ₹500 per month for all women. After returning to power, the government launched the scheme in September 2021 and initially covered 1.39 crore beneficiaries. At the time, women from the general category received ₹500 per month, while women from the SC and ST categories received ₹1,000. Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the 2024 Budget raised the monthly assistance for general-category women from ₹500 to ₹1,000. For SC/ST women, it was increased from ₹1,000 to ₹1,200. According to the state's Women and Child Development and Social Welfare department, the government spent ₹5,754 crore on Lakshmir Bhandar between September 2021 and March 2022. This rose to ₹12,000 crore in 2022-23, ₹13,500 crore in 2023-24, and ₹25,900 crore in 2024-25. From April 2025 to date, nearly ₹18,000 crore has been spent, taking the cumulative expenditure to ₹74,000 crore in around four-and-a-half years.

A senior minister in Banerjee's cabinet said, "It has not only helped to improve the social parameters of the state but has also helped create a secure vote bank for Trinamool

Congress, which helped us win the 2021 Assembly election and the 2024 Lok Sabha election. We are expecting that the amount of Lakshmir Bhandar will increase before the 2026 Assembly election also, which will pave the way for our win again." On Tuesday, the Chief Minister said her government has spent "thousands of crore rupees" on several social welfare programmes, including Kanyashree, Rupashree, Sasthya Sathi and Lakshmir Bhandar. She said, "Even after the central government's non-cooperation, we are running 95 social welfare programmes." She added that the government has spent over ₹5,000 crore on Rupashree, ₹13,000 crore on Sasthya Sathi, and over ₹10,000 crore on Kanyashree. Lakshmir Bhandar, however, accounts for the largest expenditure. The government has recently linked Lakshmir Bhandar with the state's old-age pension scheme. Women receiving Lakshmir Bhandar will automatically shift to an old-age pension once they turn 60. Currently, 7,85,683 women receive pension under this provision. State Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Minister Sashi Panja said, "The uniqueness of this

Telangana govt may take back possession of unoccupied 2BHK houses

Hyderabad: Double bedroom house allottees, especially those who have not occupied their units, are likely to lose them as the State Government is planning to take back possession of such units. The previous Government had constructed 15,660 double bedroom houses at Kollur at a cost of nearly ₹1,485 crore. However, about 6,500 of these houses are yet to be occupied by the allottees. Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has now said that a majority of the allottees were living in different areas and were not willing to shift to Kollur. For instance, under Jubilee Hills constituency limits, many poor people were allotted houses in the Kollur housing project. But due to several reasons, especially distance and challenges in running their petty businesses, about 6,500 beneficiaries have kept the doors locked for a long time, he said, adding a few have even sold their houses to locals of Kollur.

How Trishna went from a pre-Independence lunch home to South Bombay's sought-after seafood destination



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Among Kala Ghoda's most iconic restaurants is Mumbai's legendary crab-and-pomfret institution, Trishna. For decades, everyone who's anyone has dined here: actors, politicians, musicians, industrialists, expats, NRIs visiting during winters, tourists — and even chefs. Chef Varun Totlani of Masque has lost count of the number of visits, as well as the number of chefs he has brought along. Though the restaurant took on the name Trishna and underwent a revamp in 1991, its roots reach much further back.

In the early 1920s, a young S V Anchan decided he would never return to school after a teacher struck his knuckles with a ruler. When a group from his village, Beluvai near Mangalore, was leaving for Bombay, he tagged along. He was just 14. "There was somebody from his village who ran Matrubhoomi Lunch Home — a rice-plate joint serving Mangalorean-style mutton sukka, chicken or fish with unlimited rice and gravy," recalled his son, Ravi Anchan. The lunch home operated like an affordable canteen for office-goers in Fort and dock workers at Lion's Gate.

Anchan found a job there and worked tirelessly, rising through the ranks and saving every rupee. When the owner decided to wind up and return home, he offered the business to Anchan. Sensing an opportunity, Anchan partnered with a co-worker and bought him out in the 1940s. When the partner later wished to leave, Anchan purchased his share and became the sole owner. "In the 1990s, when the building had to undergo repairs and we had to shut for about a year, I decided to revamp it," said Ravi. The menu received a major upgrade, including modern takes on Mangalorean seafood — think butter pepper garlic crab and lobster chilly garlic. Even back then, the menu listed 10 sauces. Today, there are 21, alongside Chinese and Mughlai dishes. The food was far more expensive than the old rice plates, which meant Trishna needed a new clientele. "Initially, my father cribbed. He would complain to my mother, but what could she do? Every new space needs time," Ravi said. The turning point arrived after six months, when the late journalist and humourist Behram Contractor chanced upon Trishna and wrote about it. Soon after, a leading cricketer visited, loved the food, especially the butter pepper garlic crab, a mildly spiced dish with an orange-red mud crab served in a generous pool of butter. And the word spread.

Over the years, Trishna has hosted the who's who of the city, from Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle to Mumtaz, Jeetendra, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sushmita Sen, Kajol,

'Compensate Karnataka for GST rationalisation losses, share pan masala cess': CM Siddaramaiah to PM Modi



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking compensation for losses incurred by the state after the recent GST rationalisation and to protest the Centre's decision to impose a cess on pan masala despite the item falling under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) bracket with states eligible for a share of the tax. "The states supported the rate reductions in the larger public interest of easing the burden on citizens and to stimulate economic growth. This was despite the strong apprehensions regarding the potential fiscal shock these measures could create to the states," he has stated. According to the Karnataka CM, data now confirms that apprehensions were well-founded and the gross GST collections for November 2025-26 had seen a two per cent decline, compared to a robust 9.3 per cent growth in November 2024.

"For the period from September to November 2025-26 (for the three months affected by rationalisation), the year-on-year growth in gross GST collections has slowed to 3.3

per cent, as against 9 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year," Siddaramaiah stated. "The actual revenue; ie net domestic GST growth rate for the country, has registered a 1.7 per cent year-on-year growth for the three months affected by rationalisation (September to November 2025-26) as against a healthy growth rate of 8.9 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year," read the CM's letter to the PM. "This is a huge 7 percentage point decline post rationalisation. If the same trend continues for the remainder of the financial year, against an estimated net GST collection of Rs. 15.5 lakh crore (10% growth rate as of the previous year), we may register a collection of Rs 14.6 lakh crore, which is a shortfall of Rs 85,000 crore for the current year alone," the letter stated. The losses in revenue for the entire financial year could translate into a Rs 1.2 lakh crore shortfall and "the impact on states will be further amplified through a reduction in their devolution share," the letter read.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah highlighted that Karnataka's GST numbers also reflect the pattern of severe reduction in GST collections. "The state recorded 3.1 per cent growth in net GST collections (September to November 2025-26), and based on current trends, we foresee a revenue shortfall of Rs 5,000 crore this year. For the entire financial year, this translates into Rs 9,000 crore of shortfall," Siddaramaiah stated. The losses in revenues for the state would be in addition to a loss of approximately Rs 9,500 crore due to the non-merger of the compensation cess," the Karnataka CM stated. "The base year for the revenue collections may be fixed at 2024-25, grossed up for the collections under the compensation cess, as this would reflect the revenue potential of the states," he has stated.

MP Manish Tewari moves Bill seeking directly elected Mayor with 5-year tenure for Chandigarh

Chandigarh Member of Parliament Manish Tewari Friday introduced a comprehensive amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha seeking to give Chandigarh a directly elected Mayor, Senior Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor with a fixed five-year tenure — ending the city's unique and controversial system of electing its civic leadership for just one year. The bill brings a restructuring of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation where he sought that the role of elected representatives in the civic body be strengthened. He tabled the amendment Bill in the anti defection law. A Mayor in Chandigarh is elected from amongst the elected councillors for a one-year term. Every year in January, the Mayor elections take place in 'City Beautiful'. All these years it is the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976 that is extended to Chandigarh and governs all the civic body in Chandigarh. However certain laws of the Punjab MC act have also been diluted that are extended in Chandigarh. In Panchkula, the Mayor is elected directly from amongst the public and for a period of five years. In Chandigarh, all executive powers rest with the Commissioner of the civic body, while the Mayor has none. The Mayor has just one power, which is to convene a House meeting or any meeting or just decide on

which all agendas to bring in the General House meeting. All the previous Mayors have been complaining that despite them and the councillors being the only elected representative in the Union Territory (UT), they have no powers to get residents' works done. A councillor or a Mayor has to request the administration officials and ensure a good bond to see that work is done. In case if there is a Mayor in council as well with a five year term, the Mayor and committee chairpersons will have powers at par with that of the Minister of State. The Mayor and chairpersons will have a say in every policy matter — a decision which at present is with the bureaucrats. The Mayor, the Senior Deputy Mayor and the Deputy Mayor would be removed only by motion supported by a two-third majority of the elected Councillors present and voting. The Mayor, the Senior Deputy Mayor and the Deputy Mayor shall function as Mayor in Council. All decisions of the Council shall be taken by consensus. If a consensus is not achieved, the decision will be made by a 2:1 majority and the decision shall be put into an agenda item for the consideration of the full house of the Municipal Corporation which shall be decided only by the elected members of the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh through a simple majority of those present and voting.

Karnataka drops 1,777 acres' acquisition for Aerospace Park expansion, keeps its promise to farmers



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

The Karnataka Government has officially decided to drop acquisition of 1,777 acres of land in Channarayapatna village near the Bengaluru International Airport, for the creation of Phase-II of an Aerospace Park, in the wake of protests and an assurance given by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to protesting farmers in July. The decision to drop the controversial acquisition of land was taken at a Cabinet meeting on Thursday and was announced by Law Minister H K Patil in a press briefing.

The first phase of the Aerospace Park, which has been developed at Devanahalli, features a Special Economic Zone for manufacturing, research and development, and testing and is home to companies like Boeing, Airbus, HAL, Wipro and other MNCs. A proposal was placed before the state Cabinet on Thursday "to issue a notification under Section 4 of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Act to delete/exclude a total 1777-021/2 acres/guntas of land in 13 villages of Devanahalli Taluk, Channarayapatna Hobli, Bengaluru Rural District from land acquisition processes and to declare this entire area as a "Permanent Special Agriculture Zone" in order to continue it as a green zone." The Cabinet has approved the proposal to drop the land acquisition process despite some of the process reaching the final stages, the law minister said. The Chief Minister, after a meeting with protesting farmers on July 15, announced that the state would not acquire the 1,777 acres of farm land, which was notified as an industrial area. The preliminary notification for the land acquisition was issued on August 27, 2021 during the regime of the BJP Government for the development of the Aerospace Park-Phase-II in 13 villages of the Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk.

The final notification was issued on June 28, 2024 and April 19, 2025 by the Congress government for the acquisition of 1,281 of the 1,777 acres of land identified in 10 villages. The final notification was not issued for 495 acres of land in three villages. Farmers and various organisations opposed the land acquisition for the Aerospace Park and staged protests for nearly three years to scrap the

project. Following the decision of the Karnataka CM to comply with the demands of the farmers, the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) decided to declare the entire area as a "Permanent Special Agriculture Zone". "Since the farmers have stated that they are cultivating this land and are dependent on it and since the CEO & EM, KIADB has requested the Government to declare the entire area as a "Permanent Special Agriculture Zone" to continue as a green zone, the Urban Development Department (BIAPPA) should notify this area as a "Permanent Special Agriculture Zone" in its Master Plan," read the Cabinet note on Thursday. The farmers' protests in the Devanahalli-Channarayapatna region had reached a flash point on June 25, after the police allegedly used force to disperse a protest and arrested some leaders. Several national farmers' unions, including the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and the Kisan Sangharsh Samiti objected to the use of police force. "The KIADB had already acquired 6,000 acres from surrounding villages for the Haralur Industrial Area. Thousands of farmers and villagers were evicted in those earlier acquisitions but no rightful compensation was awarded to them. In this context, the farmers, under the banner of 'KIADB Land Acquisition Resistance Struggle Committee', strongly opposed the acquisition attempt for another 1,777 acres from the beginning," an SKM statement said in July. The farmer unions had accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress Government of following in the footsteps of the BJP Government despite an assurance ahead of the 2023 state polls about withdrawing the notification for land acquisition if the Congress was to be voted to power. "This is a gross violation of the 'Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation Act-2013' brought by the UPA-II government led by Congress," the SKM said amid the protests earlier this year. "There is no precedent for exclusion of land once notified for acquisition for such a purpose. But in this case, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Industries Minister M B Patil have made a pro-farmer decision," a Congress minister in charge of the region, K H Muniyappa, said earlier. "Karnataka has generated an ecosystem for setting up and operating aerospace and defence companies, which contribute 25 per cent to India's aircraft and spacecraft industry. Nearly 67 per cent of all aircraft and helicopters produced for defence services are manufactured in Karnataka. Karnataka contributes 65% to the country's Aerospace-related exports," read the Cabinet note. The State Government has announced the Aerospace and Defence Policy, 2022-27 to attract more investments in the aerospace and defence sectors. "The policy aims to attract investments of 45,000 crore and create employment opportunities for 60,000 people," the cabinet was informed. The expansion of the Aerospace Park at Devanahalli was proposed by the state to achieve the objectives set out under the Aerospace and Defence Policy.

Mumbai's Byculla Zoo loses two tigers in two months



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Rudra was born to Shakti and Karishma in November 2022. Civic officials said Rudra's immunity was very weak since birth, to the extent that he had to be hand-held after he was born. "Rudra's size was smaller and he was also underweight. In comparison, the other three-year-old cub, Jay, was very healthy. Rudra's health parameters remained below the normal level. At the age of three months, Rudra contracted a Trypanosoma infection which led to temporary loss of vision. His vision was restored in less than a month. Following this, all the four tigers including Rudra, Shakti, Karishma and Jay were inoculated with the Trypanosoma vaccine," said an official. The official said that in the past two years, Rudra contracted infectious diseases twice, and each time his body became weaker after recovery. Officials added that zoo veterinary staff had hand-raised him as Rudra did not receive adequate maternal milk due to his frail health. "Since his immunity was low, he contracted infections regularly and the problem of his blindness also came back. In October, we carried out a blood test that showed that parasitic remains continued to stay in his blood. He was under veterinary supervision and he died just days before his birthday," the official added. At present, Karishma and Jay are the two surviving tigers in the zoo. The zoo authorities had brought Karishma and Shakti from the Sambhaji Nagar zoo in Maharashtra under an exchange programme. At the time, Karishma was three years old and Shakti was four. Two years later, the tiger couple gave birth to two cubs — Jay and Rudra.

"As per the protocols, the administration had informed the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) as well as the state government immediately after the incident. The cub was ill for

Star-studded match as budding footballers join Tiger Shroff

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

The Shooting Stars event kicked off Friday evening with Tiger Shroff engaging in a warm up session with selected students, followed by a match between two teams whose players comprised players from ISL leagues, coaches and young talents. The Shooting Stars event kicked off Friday evening with Tiger Shroff engaging in a warm up session with selected students, followed by a match between two teams whose players comprised players from ISL leagues, coaches and young talents. (Express Photo by Sankhadeep Banerjee)

A game of football unfolding at Cooperage stadium, as part of Project Mahadeva, turned into a star-studded event on Friday as Tiger Shroff joined budding footballers in a friendly match at the Shooting Stars event. The Shooting Stars saw a friendly celeb match between two teams, Team Orange led by Tiger Shroff and Team Blue led by the coach of the Western India Football Association. The match was held in a bid to raise awareness about Project Mahadeva, an initiative aimed at overhauling sports infrastructure and to spot emerging talent across Maharashtra. The project seeks to identify young football talents including 30 boys and 30 girls who will be selected and provided with technical training, educational support and international exposure in the game. The project seeks to identify young football talents including 30 boys and 30 girls who will be selected and provided with technical training, educational support and international exposure in the game. The Shooting Stars event kicked off Friday evening with Tiger Shroff engaging in a

warm up session with selected students, followed by a match between two teams whose players comprised players from ISL leagues, coaches and young talents. So far, 120 students have been shortlisted for the Mahadeva programme, of which 60 students are set to be selected in the coming days, who will be awarded with a five year residential scholarship from the Government of Maharashtra on December 14, mentored by footballer Lionel Messi. The selected footballers arrived in Mumbai earlier on November 27, where they have been practicing daily for one-and-a-half hours in the morning and evening. Tanvish Khairnar, a 13-year-old footballer who was selected in Pune, said, "In Pune, we would get to play with the best players there and now, we are getting the opportunity to play with the best player of the entire state. The aggression of the game here in Mumbai is much more and we are getting the opportunity to play with the best of the coaches." Maneet Badrewar (13), a Sambhajinagar based footballer said, "We don't have any such opportunities and projects back home. We don't even have proper grounds, but here, we are getting that experience and even the craze for the game is much more." Devyani Shinde, a 13-year-old shortlisted footballer from Pune, "While playing with other girls our age, you find out where you stand. You get a sense of your own endurance and agility as the intensity is much more. This project is very beneficial for us as the scholarship will give us the scope to play with the best of the teams." As the match unfolded Friday evening, elated parents of the shortlisted youngsters filled the stands at Cooperage to cheer on the group. Thirteen-year-old footballer,

New York woman charged with smuggling individuals from India into U.S.



A 42-year-old woman has been charged for her role in an international smuggling conspiracy under which individuals primarily from India were brought illegally to the U.S. across the border from Canada. Stacey Taylor of Plattsburgh, New York, appeared for an arraignment this week after a federal grand jury in Albany returned an indictment in October charging her for her role in the smuggling conspiracy, according to an official statement on Friday.

(December 5, 2025). Court records show that U.S. Border Patrol agents interdicted Ms. Taylor's vehicle near Churubusco, New York, near the Quebec border in the early morning hours in January, and found four foreign nationals inside her vehicle. The four men — three Indian nationals and one Canadian national — had crossed the US-Canadian border illegally, without inspection. When law enforcement later examined Ms. Taylor's cellphone, they observed text messages that indicated that she had been involved in multiple other smuggling ventures in the days prior. Since her January 2025 arrest, she was implicated in a smuggling conspiracy as recently as September this year.

According to the indictment, Ms. Taylor is charged with conspiring with others to engage in alien smuggling and four counts of alien smuggling for profit, with three counts being second or subsequent offences. If convicted, she faces a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison per count of alien smuggling for profit, and additional time for second and subsequent offences. Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department's Criminal Division Matthew Galeotti said in the statement.

Frank Gehry, the most celebrated architect of his time, dies at 96



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Frank Gehry, who designed some of the most imaginative buildings ever constructed and achieved a level of worldwide acclaim seldom afforded any architect, has died. He was 96. Gehry died on Friday (December 5, 2025) in his home in Santa Monica after a brief respiratory illness, said Meaghan Lloyd, chief of staff at Gehry Partners LLP. Gehry's fascination with modern pop art led to the creation of some of the most striking buildings ever constructed. Among his many masterpieces are the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain; The Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and Berlin's DZ Bank Building.

He also designed an expansion of Facebook's Northern California headquarters at the insistence of the company's CEO, Mark Zuckerberg. Gehry was awarded every major prize architecture has to offer, including the field's top honour, the Pritzker Prize, for what has been described as "refreshingly original and totally American" work. Other honours include the Royal Institute of British Architects gold medal, the Americans for the Arts lifetime achievement award, and his native country's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Canada. Years after he stopped designing ordinary looking buildings, word surfaced in 2006 that the pedestrian Santa Monica mall project that had led to his career epiphany might be headed for the wrecking ball. Gehry admirers were aghast, but the man himself was amused. "They're going to tear it down now and build the kind of original idea I had," he said with a laugh. Eventually the mall was remodelled, giving it a more contemporary, airy outdoor look. Still, it's no Gehry masterpiece. Gehry, meanwhile, continued to work well into his 80s, turning out heralded buildings that remade skylines around the world.

The headquarters of the InterActiveCorp, known as the IAC Building, took the shape of a shimmering beehive when it was completed in New York City's Chelsea district in 2007. The 76-story New York By Gehry building, once one of the world's tallest residential structures, was a stunning addition to the lower Manhattan skyline when it opened in 2011. That same year, Gehry joined the faculty of his alma mater, the University of Southern California, as a professor of architecture. He also taught at Yale and Columbia University.

Not everyone was a fan of Gehry's work. Some naysayers dismissed it as not much more than gigantic, lopsided reincarnations of the little scrap-wood cities he said he spent hours building when he was growing up in the mining town of Timmins, Ontario. Princeton art critic Hal Foster dis-

missed many of his later efforts as "oppressive," arguing they were designed primarily to be tourist attractions. Some denounced the Disney Hall as looking like a collection of cardboard boxes that had been left out in the rain.

Still other critics included Dwight D. Eisenhower's family, who objected to Gehry's bold proposal for a memorial to honour the nation's 34th president. Although the family said it wanted a simple memorial and not the one Gehry had proposed, with its multiple statues and billowing metal tapestries depicting Eisenhower's life, the architect declined to change his design significantly. If the words of his critics annoyed Gehry, he rarely let on. Indeed, he even sometimes played along. He appeared as himself in a 2005 episode of "The Simpsons" cartoon show, in which he agreed to design a concert hall that was later converted into a prison. He came up with the idea for the design, which looked a lot like the Disney Hall, after crumpling Marge Simpson's letter to him and throwing it on the ground.

After taking a look at it, he declared, "Frank Gehry, you've done it again!" Some people think I actually do that," he would later tell the AP. Ephraim Owen Goldberg was born in Toronto on February 28, 1929, and moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1947, eventually becoming a U.S. citizen. As an adult, he changed his name at the suggestion of his first wife, who told him antisemitism might be holding back his career. Although he had enjoyed drawing and building model cities as a child, Gehry said it wasn't until he was 20 that he pondered the possibility of pursuing a career in architecture, after a college ceramics teacher recognized his talent. "It was like the first thing in my life that I'd done well in," he said. He went on to earn a degree in architecture from the University of Southern California in 1954. After serving in the Army, he studied urban planning at Harvard University.

Hyderabad woman dies in US apartment fire; body to be flown home



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

HYDERABAD: A cyber security professional from Hyderabad died of severe burn injuries while another man suffered severe burns after a fire broke out in a two storied residential building on Western Avenue in Albany, United States, on Thursday. The victim is identified as Sahaja Reddy Uduvala, (24) of Jodimeta locality near Uppal. The victim a native Gudur in Jangaon district, completed her master's in cyber security from the University at Albany a year ago and was working in Albany.

Her father Uduvala Jayakar Reddy is a software professional, and her mother Maria Shailaja is a teacher in Hyderabad. Family members said that they received information that a fire broke out around 11.40 am (US time) while Sahaja, had returned from a night shift, and was asleep. The fire started near Sahaja's room and spread rapidly in the building. The victim suffered serious burns was rescued by firefighters and taken to a hospital. According to reports, the Albany fire department received a call around 11.50 am, reporting a blaze at 241 Western Avenue, which soon spread to the adjoining building at 239 Western Avenue. Fire chief Joseph Gregory described the scene as a "wall of fire up the front of the building," adding that firefighters battled tough weather and strong winds. "It was a difficult operation for our firefighters. Weather conditions are tough. Wind

doesn't help us at all. The members did an outstanding job getting the victims out, getting them to the hospital, and putting the fire out," Gregory told reporters. A dog was also rescued from the site. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The New York state fire investigations unit has joined the probe into the cause of the blaze. The American Red Cross is assisting 13 displaced residents, including several University at Albany students. Family members said efforts are being coordinated by the Telugu Association of North America and Sahaja's relatives in the US to send her body to Hyderabad.

West Ham hold Manchester United to 1-1 draw at Old Trafford

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Manchester: Soungouotou Magassa's first goal for West Ham United salvaged a point in a 1-1 draw with Manchester United at Old Trafford. United had chances throughout, with Joshua Zirkzee seeing an effort cleared off the line before Bruno Fernandes hit the post in the first half. But West Ham profited from a set-piece late on, thanks to Magassa's composed finish, ensuring they did not leave Manchester empty-handed. United missed the chance to move up to fifth, but they did leapfrog Liverpool to go eighth. West Ham, meanwhile, remain 18th, two points behind Leeds United. West Ham started brightly but only had a sliced, off-target El Hadji Malick Diouf effort to show for their early pressure after he was left unmarked on a corner. Bryan Mbeumo saw a dipping curler tipped over the crossbar by

Alphonse Areola before Zirkzee's instinctive finish was cleared off the line by Aaron Wan-Bissaka. Fernandes' volley on the rebound then scraped the left post on its way wide. At the other end, Jarrod Bowen provided a threat on the counter-attack. He skipped past several challenges down the right, only for his tame shot to deflect off Luke Shaw and into Senne Lammens' gloves. In the 58th minute, United found the breakthrough. Casemiro was rushed into a shot on the edge of the box, but it deflected to Dalot, who took a touch before poking his effort into the bottom-left corner. But the hosts failed to add to their tally, and they were punished when an unmarked Magassa slotted in after Nouraïs Mazraoui had cleared Bowen's flick-on off the line from a corner seven minutes from time. United manager Ruben Amorim said after the draw, "The

Pak, Afghan forces trade fire along Chaman border: Report



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Islamabad: A heavy exchange of fire between Pakistani and Afghan forces was reported from the key Chaman border, according to a media report on Saturday. Injuries were reported from the district hospital, but no fatalities occurred, the Dawn newspaper reported. Officials from both sides accused each other of instigating the flare-up late on Friday night across the border in the Balochistan province.

While Pakistani officials said that Afghan forces had fired mortar shells on the Badani area, Afghan Taliban

spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid claimed it was Pakistan that launched an attack on Spin Boldak, alleging that their forces were responding. Pakistan's official sources told Dawn that Pakistani forces retaliated against the Afghan aggression and returned fire. There were also reports of fighting on the Chaman-Kandahar highway, but these could not be immediately verified. A senior official in Quetta confirmed on condition of anonymity that the exchange of fire started around 10 pm and continued until late at night. The medical superintendent of Chaman district hospital said that three injured, including a woman, were brought to the medical facility. There was neither any official word from the Inter-Services Public Relations — Pakistan Army's media wing — nor from the Foreign Office. The Chaman border crossing, also known as Friendship Gate, connects Balochistan province to Afghanistan's Kandahar. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have deteriorated amidst regular allegations by Pakistan regarding the failure of the Afghan regime to deny safe havens to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan terrorists. The two countries had agreed on a ceasefire following tensions last month, but the Foreign Office said last month that technically there was no truce as it was contingent on the Afghan Taliban stopping terrorist attacks in Pakistan, which they had failed to do.

U.K. sanctions British Sikh businessman, group over pro-Khalistan terrorism in India

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

The U.K. government has announced sanctions against a British Sikh businessman and a group associated with him in the first use of the country's 'Domestic Counter-Terrorism Regime' to disrupt funding for the pro-Khalistan militant group Babbar Khalsa. Gurpreet Singh Rehal, linked with the Panjab Warriors sports investment firm, faces an asset freeze and director disqualification as he is suspected of belonging to organisations involved in terrorism in India, the U.K.'s Treasury department said on Thursday. Alongside, it also announced an asset freeze against "Babbar Akali Lehar" for promoting and supporting the same terrorist group. "We will not stand by while terrorists exploit Britain's financial system," said Lucy Rigby, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

"This landmark action shows we are prepared to use every tool at our disposal to choke off funding for terrorism — wherever it occurs and whoever is responsible. The U.K. stands firmly with peaceful communities against those who promote violence and hatred," she said. His Majesty's (HM) Treasury said it assesses Rehal to be involved in Babbar Khalsa and Babbar Akali Lehar's terrorist activities, including promoting and encouraging, carrying out recruitment activities for, providing financial services to, as well as supporting and assisting those organisations, including through purchasing weapons and other military material. "HM Treasury also assesses that Babbar Akali Lehar is associated with, and involved in, Babbar Khalsa's terrorist activities by promoting and encouraging and carrying out recruitment activities for the group and itself," the department states.

Under this week's crackdown, all funds and economic resources in the U.K. owned, held or controlled by Rehal or Babbar Akali Lehar are now subject to an asset freeze. These designations will prevent all U.K. persons and entities from dealing with any funds or economic resources owned, held or controlled by either Rehal or Babbar Akali Lehar; or making funds, economic resources and financial services available to or for their benefit. This includes any of the entities they own or control, without a licence from HM Treasury or an applicable exception. "Rehal is also subject to director disqualification sanctions which prohibit him from acting as a director of a company or directly or indirectly taking part in or being concerned in the promotion, formation or management of a company," the Treasury said.

This week's action is said to be the result of close collaboration between the Treasury and policing partners, as part of what the British government said is its determination to protect both national security and the peaceful communities affected by terrorism. Under the Counter-Terrorism



(Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, HM Treasury can freeze assets and impose restrictions on individuals and entities suspected of involvement in terrorism. This helps prevent terrorist financing and protects the U.K.'s financial system from abuse. Violations of sanctions imposed under this law come with penalties of up to seven years' imprisonment on indictment, or civil penalties of up to 1 million pounds or 50% of the breach value — whichever is greater. The Treasury noted that Babbar Khalsa, which also uses the name Babbar Khalsa International, is a proscribed terrorist organisation and its assessment views Babbar Akali Lehar to be an "involved person" under the regulations.

The sanctions against Rehal extend to organisations owned by him, namely: Saving Punjab, Whitehawk Consultations Ltd and unincorporated organisation/association Loha Designs. Panjab Warriors, a London-based global sports investment firm, in June completed the purchase of Morecambe Football Club (FC) in Lancashire, north-west England. "This is more than a business venture; it's a commitment to the fans, the town, and the future of Morecambe FC," Gurpreet Singh Rehal said on behalf of Panjab Warriors at the time. Morecambe FC and Panjab Warriors issued a joint statement soon after the government's sanctions announcement on Thursday to claim that Rehal held a "consultancy role" and is no longer affiliated with either organisation. "Following recent serious concerns that have come to light, we took immediate and decisive action, and his association with both organisations has been fully removed," the statement read. "Both organisations operate under strict governance and compliance standards, and we have used this moment to further strengthen our internal processes, including enhanced due diligence checks for key personnel. We will continue to work closely with the relevant authorities and in full alignment with all regulatory requirements," it added.

U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether Trump's birthright citizenship order violates Constitution

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed on Friday (December 5, 2025) to take up the constitutionality of President Donald Trump's order on birthright citizenship, declaring that children born to parents who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens. The Justices will hear Mr. Trump's appeal of a lower court ruling that struck down the citizenship restrictions. They have not taken effect anywhere in the country. The case will be argued in the spring. A definitive ruling is expected by early summer. The birthright citizenship order, which Mr. Trump signed on January 20, the first day of his second term, is part of his Republican administration's broad immigration crackdown. Other actions include immigration enforcement surges in several cities and the first peacetime invocation of the 18th-century Alien Enemies Act. The administration is facing multiple court challenges, and the High Court has sent mixed signals in emergency orders it has issued. The Justices effectively stopped the use of the Alien Enemies Act to rapidly deport alleged Venezuelan gang members without Court hearings. But the Supreme Court allowed the resumption of sweeping immigration stops in the Los Angeles area after a lower court blocked the practice of stopping people solely based on their race, language, job or location. The Justices also are weighing the administration's emergency appeal to be allowed to deploy National Guard troops in the Chicago area for immigration enforcement actions. A lower court has indefinitely prevented the deployment. The birthright citizenship is the first Trump immigration-related policy to reach the court for a final ruling. His order would upend more than 125 years of understanding that the Constitution's 14th Amendment confers citizenship on everyone born on American soil, with narrow exceptions for the children of foreign diplomats and those born to a foreign occupying force. In a series of decisions, lower courts have struck down the executive order as unconstitutional, or likely so, even after a Supreme Court ruling in late June that limited judges' use of nationwide injunctions. Judges reject Trump's Executive Order despite Supreme Court's ruling. The Supreme Court, however, did not rule out other Court orders that could

have nationwide effects, including in class action lawsuits and those brought by States. The Justices did not decide at that time whether the underlying citizenship order was constitutional. Every lower court that has looked at the issue has concluded that Mr. Trump's order violates or likely violates the 14th Amendment, which was intended to ensure that Black people, including former slaves, had citizenship. The birthright citizenship automatically makes anyone born in the U.S. an American citizen, including children born to mothers who are in the country illegally, under longstanding rules. The case under review comes from New Hampshire. A federal judge in July blocked the citizenship order in a class action lawsuit including all children who would be affected. The American Civil Liberties Union is leading the legal team representing the children and their parents who challenged Trump's order. "No president can change the 14th Amendment's fundamental promise of citizenship," Cecilia Wang, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) national legal director, said in a statement. "We look forward to putting this issue to rest once and for all in the Supreme Court this term," she added. The administration had also asked the Justices to review a ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The Appeals Court, also in July, ruled that a group of Democratic-led States that sued over Trump's order needed a nationwide injunction to prevent the problems that would be caused by birthright citizenship being in effect in some States and not others. The Justices took no action in the 9th Circuit case. The administration has asserted that children of non-citizens are not "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States and therefore not entitled to citizenship. "The Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause was adopted to grant citizenship to newly freed slaves and their children, not to the 'children of aliens illegally or temporarily in the United States,'" top administration top Supreme Court lawyer, D. John Sauer, wrote urging the High Court's review. 24 Republican-led States and 27 Republican lawmakers, including Senators Ted Cruz of Texas and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, are backing the administration.

Bold and brave, a tribute to armed forces heroes of Telangana



After more than three years of painstaking effort, the Directorate of Sainik Welfare, Telangana, has compiled a definitive record of the names and gallantry deeds of armed forces personnel from the State. Titled 'Bold and Brave: Honouring Telangana's Heroes of Valour, Sacrifice and Pride', the book is an initiative of Col. Ramesh Kumar, director of Sainik Welfare and chronicles the courage of over 50 commissioned officers and other ranks across various wars fought by India. In a fitting tribute, the compendium was officially launched by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday, coinciding with Armed Forces Flag Day. Beyond celebrating heroism, the book offers readers a deeper understanding of soldiering, highlighting the discipline, etiquette and unwavering service ethos essential for leading troops in both peace and war.

Records from the Sainik Welfare Directorate show that nearly 50 personnel from the erstwhile unified Andhra Pradesh and those who later settled in Telangana have been honoured with gallantry awards. These include the Ashok Chakra awarded to Lt. Col G. Krishna Iyengar, three Maha Vir Chakras to Major General C. Venugopal, Air Vice Marshal C.V. Parkar and Major Padmapani Acharya (posthumously). Additionally, 18 were awarded Vir Chakras, five Kirti Chakras and 18 Shaurya Chakras. Inspiring the youth

Speaking to The Hindu, Col. Ramesh Kumar said: "Through this compilation, I aim to commemorate the courageous deeds of these soldiers and pay tribute to their families, who continue to embody resilience and pride. By tracing their journeys, from childhood to military service and even life after retirement, I hope to inspire today's youth to consider a life of service in the Armed Forces and encourage parents to support their children in this noble pursuit." He added that over the past three years, he meticulously iden-

tified gallantry award winners by combing through official records, contacting officers and personnel from various regiments, exploring social media and verifying accounts online. "I wrote to their units and headquarters, interviewed nearly all of them and documented detailed life stories, including family backgrounds, schooling, college, motivations for joining the Armed Forces, and the rigours of their training," he said.

The book also highlights remarkable contributions of officers and soldiers, whether on the battlefield or during natural calamities/disasters. Among them is Army Havildar A. Somaiah of the Artillery Centre, Hyderabad, who, on the night of September 27-28 in 1954, saved dozens of passengers when an express train en route to Kazipet was swept away by the floodwaters of the swollen Yashwanthpur river following a bridge collapse. Another inspiring story recounts the courage of Major Md. Ahmed Zaki of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment during the 1965 Indo-Pak War. The book also references the heroic roles of Lt. B.V.R. Rao of the Gorkha Rifles (Vir Chakra), Squadron Leader Farokh Jehangir Mehta (Vir Chakra), Major Padmapani Acharya and Air Marshal Parkar among dozens of other war heroes.

Reactions from gallantry awardees and their families have further motivated Col. Ramesh Kumar in his work. Aparajita Acharya, daughter of Major Padmapani Acharya, said, "Though physically no more, he lives in me and his spirit in all of us." Vir Chakra awardee Lt. Gen. Zaki noted, "Soldiering is in our blood. My brothers are Brigadier MM Zaki (Mechanised Infantry) and Group Captain MH Zaki (Fighter Pilot)." Half a dozen of his close relatives still serve in the armed forces. Ashok Chakra awardee Hav Somaiah's children, now settled in the US and Australia, remember him as a devoted father who valued education and righteous living. Air Marshal Cecil Parker (Mahavir Chakra, Vayusena medal) recalled, "I used to admire British Air Force aircraft taking off and landing on the airstrip opposite our school and developed a passion to join the Air Force. Though my father was initially reluctant, my mother secretly gave me 228 from her savings to help me apply." Lt. General K. Surendra Nath, former Army Commander of the Army Training Command, described Col. Ramesh Kumar's Bold and Brave as "a poignant tribute to Telangana's valiant heroes, extolling their courage, valour and sacrifice in the defence of our nation".

Chile's lesson for India's coal conundrum

Despite dramatic gains in renewable energy, India dropped 13 places to 23rd in the Climate Change Performance Index released during COP30 in Brazil in November 2025. The main reason is the lack of progress to phase out coal. Coal presents a conundrum of the worst kind because its phaseout presents a loss of jobs and the supply of low-cost electricity in some States, while the current trajectory means the loss of lives and livelihoods from runaway global warming and air pollution. This trade-off draws attention to Chile's experience in tackling it. A comparison

The big Indian picture is that coal, as a source of the use of all energy, makes up over half while renewables (solar, wind, hydro, nuclear) are still a minority share. At the same time, the good news is that India doubled clean energy capacity during 2021-25. Now, the share of renewables in total installed power capacity is one half, although only one-fifth of electricity was actually generated using them in 2024, with coal contributing 75% of electricity generation. What is more, India is increasing domestic production of coal. In comparison, coal's share of Chile's electricity generation fell from 43.6% to 17.5% during 2016-24. Today, renewables (especially wind and solar) make up over 60% of the country's power mix. This shift was driven by decisive government actions, first by a 2014 tax of \$5 a tonne of carbon emissions. The government imposed stringent emission standards on coal plants, raising construction and compliance costs by 30%. Competitive auctions for wind and solar power helped push renewables. Chile has also aggressively built out energy storage systems to stabilise the grid, and committed to phase out all coal by 2040. All this makes the case that even economies with coal dependence can accelerate a transition. That said, coal occupies a smaller share of Chile's energy when compared to India, giving it fewer plants to shut down and a smaller dependent workforce. The transition was also enabled by a political environment that allowed swift, market reforms following privatisation of key sectors.

Crucially, Chile had already begun developing alternative industries, particularly in renewables, creating pathways to absorb displaced workers and capital. In contrast, India's far deeper coal dependence and limited economic alternatives in coal regions make its transition more complex. Many districts in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal could face social risks from abrupt closures. But it is worth remembering that coal phaseout constitutes a "no regrets" policy. That is to say it is part of averting the damage from climate change. One estimate is that by 2100, climate change would sap 3%-10% of India's GDP through heat stress and declining labour productivity. It is also part of stopping massive health damage: by one estimate, a one GW increase in coal-fired capacity corresponds to a 14% increase in infant mortality rates in districts near the plant site. Focus on decarbonisation



government support is directed toward community welfare and workforce reskilling, while private investors lead the expansion of clean energy infrastructure. The District Mineral Foundation corpus can be strategically used to foster entrepreneurship and economic diversification in coal-dependent regions. Considering the high stakes, a phaseout of coal needs to become a top political priority. Renewable energy gains show tremendous promise, but without an actionable plan to replace coal, climate ambitions would remain hollow. The time has come for a coal exit road map, one that enshrines delivery timelines, financing of social protection, market reform, and learning from peers such as Chile. Mansi Dhangra is former Consultant, Asian Development Bank. Vinod Thomas is Distinguished Fellow, Asian Institute of Management

U.S. deportation flight with 172 migrants lands in Venezuela's Caracas

A plane from the United States carrying 172 expelled undocumented Venezuelan migrants arrived on Friday (December 5, 2025) in Caracas, after the South American country reauthorized deportation flights to land despite President Donald Trump's declaration that Venezuela's airspace was "closed".

The aircraft from Phoenix, Arizona was the second flight to transport deportees to Venezuela from the U.S. this week amid a massive American military buildup in Caribbean waters. The Trump administration has been mounting a campaign targeting what it calls drug-trafficking operations with alleged ties to leftist Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and has deployed military forces to Latin America, including the world's largest aircraft carrier. U.S. forces in recent months have conducted more than 20 strikes in the

Caribbean and the Pacific that have resulted in at least 87 deaths, but without providing evidence of their connection to drug trafficking. Mr. Maduro has asserted that the U.S. deployment is part of a campaign to overthrow his government and seize his country's big oil reserves. At the end of November, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration notified carriers to "take extreme precautions" when flying over Venezuela, leading almost all international airlines to suspend their flights. Mr. Trump, whose fight against undocumented immigration to the United States is one of his top priorities, soon after stated that Venezuelan airspace should be considered entirely closed. Friday's (December 5, 2025) deportation flight carried five children, 26 women, and 141 men, Venezuelan authorities said. According to official figures, that brought the number of Venezuelans repatriated on so-called "return to the homeland" flights to 18,260, including over 14,000 from the United States.

The issue of financeFinancing the transition will benefit from a blended model of public and private capital, where

What do 'Stranger Things', John Lennon and Malayalis have in common



Hollywood actors Tom Holland and Zendaya clicked at Munnar in Kerala. It was an edited photo and a prank which went viral. This was before AI, and thus brought a lot of attention to the page," says Geoffery, who also points out how these campaigns, bring more attention to their pages where other content which is more about timeless aspects about Kerala such as its nature, culture, trade and so on.

One of the Kerala Tourism's recent popular campaigns was a homage to John Lennon, commemorating his 85th birthday, stating the lyrics of the 1971 track 'Imagine' — 'Imagine all the people living life in peace', with girls dressed in traditional wear often attributed to different religions, crossing the street — a re-enactment of the Abbey Road album cover. The post was about weaving globally-recognised cultural icons into the State's narrative of harmony, peace, and coexistence. "Such tributes went far beyond standard travel content, tapping into a shared cultural vocabulary that resonates across borders. The John Lennon post, especially, struck a deeper chord: the UK remains a major market for Kerala, and the Beatles are an enduring pillar of British pop culture. The reference felt natural, familiar, and instantly attention-grabbing," says Roy Mathew, managing director and co-founder of Stark Communications Pvt Ltd

By leaning on universally relatable symbols, Kerala Tourism expands its audience, makes its messaging emotionally intuitive, and positions the State as a destination engaged in a wider global conversation, not just promoting places, but also participating in culture. An apt example for this instance would be, a popular post which came out in June featuring the characters Young-hee and Chul-su from the Korean series Squid Game, seen boating near the mangroves in Kerala, for a break. The Travel for Peace campaign, a series of social media posts about welcoming guests to Kerala, positioning itself as a meeting point of identities, sent the message of reaching out to different cultures and travelling with intrigue, which might make the world a better place to live in. "The campaign was built on the belief that Kerala could be framed through a universal human value rather than any political lens," says Roy. At a time when brands stop making statements through their work and the world feels increasingly fractured, the "ad was a reminder that movement, discovery and human connection can soften divisions. By anchoring the narrative in peace, Kerala Tourism showed how a destination can speak empathy, healing and humanity, while remaining firmly above the political fray," says Roy.

A growing shadow over digital constitutionalism

In an unprecedented move, the central government revoked its order to mobile phone manufacturers to install 'Sanchar Saathi', a government app, from 2026. The rollback came in 48 hours following widespread concerns raised by most stakeholders about ambiguous data collection methods, the lack of consent, surveillance and unlimited data storage. Reuters broke the story and Apple refused to implement the policy.

These foreign entities may have played some sort of a backstage role as the government cannot afford to lose Apple and its manufacturing in India. Although the government's move to have the app installed was apparently aimed as a safety measure — cybercrimes increased from 15.9 lakh cases in 2023 to 20.4 lakh in 2024 — to help mobile users and the police, legitimate questions were raised during the pushback against the government's move about surveillance, state power and data misuse. These issues can be regarded as a significant step to understand the urgent need of what may be termed as digital constitutionalism. What digital constitutionalism entails

Digital constitutionalism signifies the extension of constitutional principles such as liberty, dignity, equality including non-arbitrariness, accountability and rule of law in the digital space. These values are being threatened in the world where data collection, artificial intelligence (AI) and surveillance technologies take the lead. Modern governance is becoming an invisible system, whether it is biometric databases, predictive algorithms or both. In the absence of strong constitutional protection within these systems, humans are likely to be exposed to abuse of authority. Everyday life is now being influenced by digital governance. Automated processes mediate Know Your Customer (KYC) verification, welfare distribution, job applications, health-care records, and even political expression in social media. These technologies tend to operate without any significant revelation or approval from people.

Consequently, the concentration of power takes place in the hands of tech designers, law enforcement agencies and private companies. This generates an unequal state where the citizens are passive data subjects but not active right-holders as they are supposed to be in liberal democracies. There has also been a worrisome development in surveillance which even George Orwell could not imagine in the celebrated and futuristic 1984. It has ceased to be visible and immediate. These days it is being performed with the help of metadata gathering, location tracking, biometric identification, behavioural modelling and predictive analytics. This kind of silent and constant surveillance can chill free speech, discourage dissent and disrupt democracies. People start censoring themselves when they are aware that they are under observation. Self-censorship is the new normal. The right to privacy is now considered to be one of the basic rights in India. This was affirmed in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) And Anr. vs Union of India And Ors. (2017) by the Supreme Court of India. More recently, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, was passed by Parliament. Although it was supposed to safeguard the data of the citizens, the law has some significant flaws. It gives broad exemption to the government, is not well overseen by the independent body, and has weak remedies for individuals. It places administrative convenience and national security over individual autonomy and dignity, rendering it inadequate as a constitutional protection. Efficiency but less personal control

Data-fication has entered every sector. Banks rely on behavioural analytics. Hospitals and insurance agencies depend on digital medical records. Education is delivered through online platforms. Social media do profile users constantly. These developments create efficiency, yet they also reduce personal control over information. Consent has become a routine "click-through" process, not a genuine voluntary choice. Purpose limitation is often ignored. Consequently, privacy loss is no longer just about isolated breaches. It is about the gradual erasure of personal control over identity and decision-making. Surveillance technologies now form part of public places. Closed circuit cameras, biometric scanners and digital identifiers constantly



monitor people. Accordingly, facial recognition has been prohibited or severely limited in a few cities in the United States because of racial discrimination, surveillance and false identification. Facial recognition misidentification has led to wrongful arrests abroad. Digi Yatra data (at Indian airports) too is not with the government. Research has found that these systems at times adversely work against people of colour, women, and minority groups. Thus, facial recognition technology basically leads to discrimination rather than assisting crime prevention which like Sanchar Saathi, is its stated objective. While such technologies are still growing and are being used in India. There is no comprehensive law on surveillance. There is a lack of effective judicial control. Transparency is rare. This poses a serious disproportion between authority and responsibility. Unchecked surveillance may end up transforming a democratic state into a monitoring state like Big Brother. Algorithms determine who receives welfare, is profiled by police, has their content removed, and who gets a job or a loan application shortlisted. Such systems are commonly known as black boxes as their decision-making functions are obscure. In cases when a benefit is not provided to a person, or a person is suspected, there is no explanation. It also lacks a clear-cut mechanism of appeal. There are real consequences. Algorithmic failures have excluded deserving families from welfare schemes. Automated content moderation has silenced legitimate voices. Indeed, technology can quietly violate the constitutional principles of equality, reasonableness and natural justice. An inadequate legal systemThe legal system that is in place in India, including the Information Technology Act, 2000, and emerging digital laws, is mainly aimed at controlling technology and governing platforms. It is not doing enough to defend citizen's liberties in general and privacy in particular. Few guidelines have been provided by courts, but these are disjointed and provisional. When it comes to high-risk algorithms and surveillance orders, there is no external institution with the ability to audit them or even review them. To the majority of tech-savvy citizens, remedies are slow and expensive and unreachable. Masses are unaware of dangers.

This gives rise to a paradox in the constitution. Rights, freedoms and state power are now being shaped by the digital system, just like the government institutions. These are not, however, subjected to constitutional discipline. This is an incongruity that undermines democracy. To find the appropriate model of digital constitutionalism, it will have to be more than being merely theoretical. It should develop institutional protection. Violations should be inquired into by creating an independent digital rights commission that will ensure accountability. The law should restrict surveillance except in grave situations of national security, which can be determined by necessity and proportionality. Public transparency reports and parliamentary scrutiny, and judicial warrants must be obligatory. Risky AI devices should be audited and bias-tested on a regular basis. Citizens should be granted the right to explanation and the right to appeal to the automated decisions. The tight control of purpose, limited collection and severe punishment of abuse should be reinforced to ensure better data protection.

Digital literacy too is to be considered as a constitutional empowerment. Individuals should be in a position to criticise, challenge and oppose digital power structures. Rights are mere theories without knowing. Digital technologies have become an integral part of citizenship.

Signals from Maharashtra: Is the state's fractured polity becoming space for de-ideologised politics?



person, but of Shinde's Shiv Sena. This time, the BJP, besides nominating 152 candidates, has parked 17 of its leaders as candidates of allied parties. What is to prevent them from siding with the BJP when it comes to choosing the CM, if the ruling Mahayuti is in a position to form the government again? While the election is being fought under the leadership of Shinde, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule skirted the issue of who would be the Mahayuti CM if the alliance returned to power. All he was prepared to say was that it was "not on (the) agenda right now" — and was an open question.

Or take former Minister Nawab Malik's nomination from the Muslim-dominated Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar seat on an NCP ticket. Ajit Pawar's decision to nominate Malik was frontally opposed by the BJP, which called the former state minister a terrorist associated with gangster Dawood Ibrahim. By refusing to campaign for Malik, the BJP sent a suitable message to its core constituency all over Maharashtra. By fielding Malik despite the BJP's opposition, Ajit Pawar was cocking a snook at his ally. It enabled Malik to distance himself from the BJP, a move calculated to confuse and divide Muslims who stood rock-like with the MVA in the Lok Sabha polls. They were expected to vote for the Samajwadi Party's Abu Azmi in Mankhurd, a seat he has been winning since 2009. Maharashtra today is sending more than one message. An industrial and financial hub that thrives on political stability, the state may be moving towards an increasingly fractured polity. The large number of political players in the fray also reflects India's diversity, growing aspirations, and assertion by every group for their share of the pie. But they also underline the growing use of fear, government agencies, and big money as tools to bring about political allegiance. It may be rare for a Republican to become a Democrat, or vice versa, in the US where presidential elections are underway. But it is easier in India, and indeed in Maharashtra, for an NCP or a Congress leader to move to the BJP, or the Sena (UBT) to join hands with the Congress it opposed all along, underscoring the de-ideologised politics we are increasingly heading towards. Shifting individual loyalties apart, even parties themselves are slowly transforming. Today Uddhav Thackeray's hard Hindutva has mellowed and he has found acceptance even amongst the Muslims who voted for him in the Lok Sabha elections. Should this be read as a growing acceptance, even though it may not be openly acknowledged, that a centrist, middle-of-the-road approach is ultimately the way to go in a country as diverse as India? Despite differences (as on V D Savarkar), the Congress agreed to do business with the Sena, which it had opposed.

After the tussle over seat-sharing, and this is not without significance, the Congress finally agreed to contest only 11 of the 36 seats in Mumbai to observe "coalition dharma" when it fought 30 seats in 2019. And yet, apart from keeping the BJP at bay, the Opposition has yet to evolve a well-articulated, alternative narrative that glues its pieces together. Sympathy for Uddhav and Pawar, a desire for the revival of the Congress to counter the BJP, the fear of Dalits about losing reservation, and the Maratha yearning for reservation, took the MVA story to an impressive 30 Lok Sabha seats earlier this year. But Assembly polls are a ball game different from a Lok Sabha election. The ruling Mahayuti has been quick to course-correct to offset its Lok Sabha losses, with the Ladki Bahin Yojana to give money in the hands of women, the consolidation of OBC support, and the spate of social welfare schemes the Shinde government announced before the code of conduct kicked in. "It is a cut-to-cut situation today," a Mumbaikar remarked matter-of-factly. In such a situation, who covers the last mile faster will count. On this count, the BJP, with its organisational machinery, is better prepared.

It would be naïve to believe there is no method to this madness. Politics being an art of "jugaad", Indian politicians are adept at it. Shaina N C moved at the last minute to become a candidate in Mumbadevi, not of the BJP that she represented night after night on TV screens as its spokes-

person, but of Shinde's Shiv Sena. This time, the BJP, besides nominating 152 candidates, has parked 17 of its leaders as candidates of allied parties. What is to prevent them from siding with the BJP when it comes to choosing the CM, if the ruling Mahayuti is in a position to form the government again? While the election is being fought under the leadership of Shinde, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule skirted the issue of who would be the Mahayuti CM if the alliance returned to power. All he was prepared to say was that it was "not on (the) agenda right now" — and was an open question.

Or take former Minister Nawab Malik's nomination from the Muslim-dominated Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar seat on an NCP ticket. Ajit Pawar's decision to nominate Malik was frontally opposed by the BJP, which called the former state minister a terrorist associated with gangster Dawood Ibrahim. By refusing to campaign for Malik, the BJP sent a suitable message to its core constituency all over Maharashtra. By fielding Malik despite the BJP's opposition, Ajit Pawar was cocking a snook at his ally. It enabled Malik to distance himself from the BJP, a move calculated to confuse and divide Muslims who stood rock-like with the MVA in the Lok Sabha polls. They were expected to vote for the Samajwadi Party's Abu Azmi in Mankhurd, a seat he has been winning since 2009. Maharashtra today is sending more than one message. An industrial and financial hub that thrives on political stability, the state may be moving towards an increasingly fractured polity. The large number of political players in the fray also reflects India's diversity, growing aspirations, and assertion by every group for their share of the pie. But they also underline the growing use of fear, government agencies, and big money as tools to bring about political allegiance. It may be rare for a Republican to become a Democrat, or vice versa, in the US where presidential elections are underway. But it is easier in India, and indeed in Maharashtra, for an NCP or a Congress leader to move to the BJP, or the Sena (UBT) to join hands with the Congress it opposed all along, underscoring the de-ideologised politics we are increasingly heading towards. Shifting individual loyalties apart, even parties themselves are slowly transforming. Today Uddhav Thackeray's hard Hindutva has mellowed and he has found acceptance even amongst the Muslims who voted for him in the Lok Sabha elections. Should this be read as a growing acceptance, even though it may not be openly acknowledged, that a centrist, middle-of-the-road approach is ultimately the way to go in a country as diverse as India? Despite differences (as on V D Savarkar), the Congress agreed to do business with the Sena, which it had opposed.

After the tussle over seat-sharing, and this is not without significance, the Congress finally agreed to contest only 11 of the 36 seats in Mumbai to observe "coalition dharma" when it fought 30 seats in 2019. And yet, apart from keeping the BJP at bay, the Opposition has yet to evolve a well-articulated, alternative narrative that glues its pieces together. Sympathy for Uddhav and Pawar, a desire for the revival of the Congress to counter the BJP, the fear of Dalits about losing reservation, and the Maratha yearning for reservation, took the MVA story to an impressive 30 Lok Sabha seats earlier this year. But Assembly polls are a ball game different from a Lok Sabha election. The ruling Mahayuti has been quick to course-correct to offset its Lok Sabha losses, with the Ladki Bahin Yojana to give money in the hands of women, the consolidation of OBC support, and the spate of social welfare schemes the Shinde government announced before the code of conduct kicked in. "It is a cut-to-cut situation today," a Mumbaikar remarked matter-of-factly. In such a situation, who covers the last mile faster will count. On this count, the BJP, with its organisational machinery, is better prepared.

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Why I hope India participates in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan next year



I have never been directly involved with the complexities of India-Pakistan relations. But I have followed its twists and turns and have always hoped for a redemptive initiative that might alter the course of our two countries' sclerotic past. My hopes have been conditioned by family and friends. I was, therefore, pleased to read about the visit of our Minister of External Affairs to Islamabad to attend the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and to see pictures of him with his Pakistani counterpart and his handshake with the Pakistani PM. I was particularly happy to note the speculation that the Indian cricket team might participate in the Champions Trophy in Lahore in February next year.

I have had a long-standing relationship with Pakistan, indirectly through the lens of my grandfather and father and directly through friends and a brief professional tenure. The learnings from these vignettes are the reason I have not accepted the argument that the differences between our two countries are irreconcilably wide and that efforts to bridge them would be exercises in futility. My grandfather, Mohan Singh Mehta, was India's High Commissioner to Pakistan for nearly five years in the 1950s. Over long walks, he shared anecdotes of how he and his Pakistani interlocutors navigated the crosscurrents of official distance and personal proximity. Several like Shah Nawaz Bhutto (father and grandfather of Pakistan Prime Ministers Zulfikar and Benazir Bhutto) were acquaintances from pre-Partition India. Bhutto and my grandfather were both diwans (ministers) of princely states and used to meet under the auspices of the Chamber of Princes. None of his anecdotes were built around the searing tragedies that followed Partition. All were related to his efforts to leverage the logic of geography and the commonalities of civilisation, history and culture to normalise relations.

My father, Jagat Singh Mehta, offered more tangibly positive anecdotes. One in particular has contemporary relevance. Soon after his appointment as foreign secretary in 1976, he led a delegation to Islamabad to restore ambassadorial ties. Diplomatic relations had been downgraded to the level of charge d'affairs after the Bangladesh war. On arrival, he surprised newsmen with the remark that the real reason for his visit to Pakistan was to meet and salute his former commanding officer, Lt Hamidullah Burki. Burki was his immediate senior on the naval ship on which both served during the war. This public reference by an Indian foreign secretary to a relationship with a Pakistani national made front-page news the following day. More significantly, it helped bring negotiations to a successful close. Burki was a close confidante of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the "back channel" so created was one factor in overcoming the blockers to the finalisation of the agreement. The immediate outcome was the upgradation of diplomatic relations and the resumption of overfly rights for civilian aircraft. The result was the

lowering of political temperatures that then contributed to ending the hijacking incident of an Indian Airlines aircraft to Lahore in August 1976 without loss of life or aircraft. It also expedited the conclusion of the long-pending talks on the Salal hydroelectric project which subsequently added about 700MW of electricity to the North Indian electricity grid. My personal association with Pakistan has been at two levels. At the personal level, I was a university classmate and friend of Benazir Bhutto and Imran Khan. At the professional level, I was on the Board of Pakistan Burnham Shell (PBS), the largest private sector oil/gas company in Pakistan for two years. My nationality did cause disquiet initially. But once I joined, nationality became my greatest asset. I was socially feted more so than any of the other London-based directors and it never intruded into my fiduciary responsibilities. This backdrop is the reason I am hopeful that India will participate in the Championship trophy. I do not know whether there is substance to this speculation or indeed the politics behind any such initiative. But I do know that if there is any one "non official" force that could alter the patterns of behaviour that have locked our two countries into a rut of mutual suspicion, paranoia and conflict, it is cricket. I have been witness to the strength of this force. In the anecdotal spirit of this article, let me share one experience. In August 2018, I was one of two Indians who attended Imran Khan's investiture as PM of Pakistan. The cricketer/politician Navjot Sidhu was the other. Imran had also invited members of the Pakistan cricket team that had won the World Cup in 1992 under his captaincy.

A couple of hours after he was sworn in, all of us private guests gathered in the ante room of the PM's office. Imran had invited us to meet him and we were waiting for him to arrive. None of the Pakistanis knew who I was and no one particularly cared. And just as well. For my anonymity allowed me to observe uninterrupted a bunch of retired household heroes engage in joyful remembrance of their playing days with Sidhu in convivial reflection of their rivalry on the pitch and of friendships forged off it. I

Contrary to popular belief, American power is not diminishing



with Washington. Differentiating between Western and American decline is crucial. Non-Western actors are rising at Europe and Japan's expense, which face economic slowdowns and demographic declines. Meanwhile, the US has long maintained its share of global GDP at about 26 per cent. The Eurozone, once seen as an economic peer to the US, has been steadily losing ground; its current GDP is about \$15 trillion. Europe declines and China slows, while the US's share of global GDP is likely to increase.

Another argument supporting American decline suggests the fragmentation of the US-backed "liberal international order" (LIO). However, LIO is an academic invention. The notion of a broad set of rules governing the post-Cold War world was never a reality. The US has consistently improvised rules to suit its strategic aims, evident in how it transformed the "sacred" nuclear non-proliferation regime to forge a new strategic partnership with India (2005-08). Washington also violated an essential norm of the global financial order when it persuaded the reluctant G7 to seize Russian financial assets worth \$300 billion in Western banks after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Rules are important, but they are drafted and revised by those who dominate the power distribution. Despite its numerous challenges, the US remains a superpower, thanks to its robust economy, formidable military, and a massive ecosystem of scientific research. The current phase of intense political polarisation and systemic dysfunction tend to mask the entrenched American capacity for self-renewal. As we look forward to the next administration, the issue isn't so much American decline as it is the growing American temptation towards unilateralism. We have seen this under both Trump and Harris. While Trump's unilateral approach is well-documented and widely criticised, it's noteworthy that President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, developed unilaterally, has been drawing European capital to the US. Biden has intensified the American weaponisation of the global financial system and the dollar's role as a reserve currency to mount pressure on America's adversaries. Its allies and partners get caught in the crossfire of secondary sanctions, but they have no option except to adapt.

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev asserted in 1955 that the socialist camp would outlast and surpass the capitalist West. Chinese leader Mao Zedong was more elegant than Khrushchev when he stated that the "East wind will prevail over the West wind". More recently, in 2021, Xi Jinping declared that the West was in decline, and that a rejuvenated China will lead a post-Western world. However, with China experiencing an economic slowdown, the assumption that it will inevitably surpass the US is under doubt. As China's population declines and its economic momentum stalls, it's uncertain whether China can match the US, let alone overtake it. Recent arguments about American decline focus on structural shifts in the international system, suggesting the rise of non-Western powers and the emergence of a "multipolar world" replacing the US-led unipolar order after the Soviet Union collapsed. Yet, the arrival of new influential actors doesn't necessarily establish a multipolar world. Only China, with its current economic size of \$18 trillion among the existing powers approximates a pole in the international system; but China's deceleration complicates its status. Other nations, including India, are far from achieving true pole position.

It is also impossible to bridge the differences within the emerging powers and unite them against the US, despite their shared resentment against American power. As we know from the "collective action problem", each member of the anti-American coalition is open to a separate deal. Together, Trump and Biden have broken away from the global trading order established by the US in the late 20th century. As India prepares for the next administration, three major challenges stand out. Under the last five presidents — Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden — the US has emerged as India's most valued partner. Still, India cannot take Washington for granted. Delhi should focus on assessing the sources of structural change in the US polity and find ways to deal with them. Despite perceived ideological differences, both Trump and Harris will wield power decisively and unilaterally when needed. The liberal Harris administration might sugarcoat its exercise of power, but Trump is prone to the rough and ready. It is hard to counter American power through countervailing coalitions like the BRICS or the mobilisation of the non-Western world. The focus instead must be on engaging the diverse actors within the American polity. America's internal dynamics constitute the primary constraints on the unilateral exercise of American power. This demands investing more political energy and diplomatic effort into engaging domestic US constituencies to secure favourable outcomes for India's interests with the upcoming administration. An accurate assessment of global power distribution is a precondition for successful foreign policy. India's national strategy must adapt to the reality of growing American power in relation to China, Russia, and Europe.

Do populist schemes win elections? As PM Modi leads attack, a lot for Congress to chew on

It is election time and the revdi (freebies) versus welfare schemes political debate is back. It is just that one party's revdi is another party's welfare and vice versa. But the feverish squabble over semantics apart, several questions merit attention. Do populist schemes automatically translate into votes, especially for the incumbent, and should there be a debate on the efficacy and reach of at least some of these schemes? More importantly: what has happened to the Election Commission's (EC) directive two years ago asking political parties to spell out ways and means of raising additional resources to finance their manifesto promises and the impact it would have on the fiscal sustainability of the state or the Central government? In October 2022, the poll body came out with a standardised disclosure proforma for parties to declare details of the extent and expansion of the coverage of the promised scheme, quantification of physical coverage and financial implications and ways and means of raising resources for meeting the additional expenditure to be incurred in fulfilling the promises. The latest debate was triggered after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar hinted at a revision of the free bus ride scheme for women in his state. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge publicly chided Shivakumar and much to his party's discomfiture revealed that the party leadership had asked its state units to make only those promises that were fiscally doable. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP were quick to lap up Kharge's remarks, saying he has now realised that the Congress should not make reckless announcements. Modi said the Congress now stands badly exposed in front of the people and that the people should be "vigilant against the Congress sponsored culture of fake promises".

The finger-pointing apart, no party can claim it was above board. On Monday, Prime Minister Modi himself amplified the BJP's manifesto promises for Jharkhand while addressing a rally in Garhwa. He said the BJP's manifesto promised initiatives such as the Gogo Didi scheme, which would provide women with Rs 2,100 each month and an unemployment allowance of Rs 2,000 for the youth under the "Yava Sathi Bhatta" programme. He said gas cylinders would be available for Rs 500, with two free cylinders provided during festivals. In fact, it was Prime Minister Modi who triggered the debate on freebies in 2022 when he derided the "revdi" culture, a reference to freebies offered by political parties, triggering a war of words between the BJP and Opposition parties. The Congress had made similar promises regarding unemployment allowance and financial assistance for women in Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh. And the Prime Minister criticised the Congress for making reckless promises. Among the 10 promises the Congress made in Himachal Pradesh was a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 crore for women. In Karnataka, the party promised Rs 2,000 monthly assistance for women heads of family, and Rs 3,000 allowance for unemployed youth with a graduate degree. In Telangana, the Congress made promises including Rs 2,500 each month for women heads of families. The Congress government in Himachal has been able to implement only five of the 10 welfare promises announced in the manifesto. One of the promises was to provide 300 units of free electricity per household. Owing to financial constraints, the government in July decided to discontinue an existing power subsidy scheme of providing 125 units of free electricity to all households for all consumers falling under the tax-paying group. But one question is does directionless populism win votes? Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy learnt the hard way in Andhra Pradesh earlier this year and so did K Chandrasekhar Rao, popularly known as KCR, in Telangana last year. Both Reddy and Rao were heavily banking on their governments' welfare schemes to see them through in the elections. Jagan, in fact, recounted all the welfare schemes his government had rolled out — among them social security pension, Rythu Bharosa scheme, Amma Vodi scheme, YSR Asara, YSR Cheyutha, YSR Matsyakara Bharosa — and said it was unfathomable how he could lose despite all that. KCR's Bharat Rashtra Samithi was equally perplexed. On the other hand, the BJP retained power in Madhya Pradesh last year riding on the welfare initiatives, including the Ladli Behna scheme that is now replicated elsewhere by parties. There is also a debate on the reach and efficacy of some of the schemes. "The free bus ride scheme for women in Karnataka should be limited to those in the BPL category. I had pointed it out to the high command ... There is no logic to allow free bus rides to all women including income taxpayers," said a senior Karnataka Congress leader. He then added, "It is not in our hands ... the high command is pushing it ... and the leadership perhaps believes such guarantees (promises) are a winning formula." Agreed a senior Congress leader from Maharashtra. The Congress is set to come out with its manifesto for Maharashtra on Wednesday. "There will be five guarantees but we are not aware of the exact details. The high command is fine-tuning it and they will let us know," he said. Despite Modi targeting the Congress over populist schemes, the BJP is heading into the elections in Maharashtra this month with its campaign built around the Eknath Shinde government's welfare schemes (one of the centrepieces of the campaign is the "Ladli Bahin Yojana").



'Those responsible for IndiGo flight cancellations will pay': says Aviation Minister as Centre launches probe



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

DGCA FDTL rules: Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarpur Ram Mohan Naidu discusses the ongoing disruptions caused by the delays and cancellations of IndiGo flights, in New Delhi on Friday. (Ram Mohan Naidu Media/ANI Photo)DGCA FDTL rules: Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarpur Ram Mohan Naidu discusses the ongoing disruptions caused by the delays and cancellations of IndiGo flights, in New Delhi on Friday. IndiGo flight cancellations: Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has warned that an inquiry has been launched into the IndiGo flights fiasco and those responsible will "pay for it." He said the Centre's inquiry committee will submit its findings on the IndiGo flight disruptions, after which appropriate action will be taken.

"We have formed a committee which will inquire into all this so that they can establish where things went wrong and who did it wrong. We are going to take necessary action on that also. This thing shouldn't be left unattended. We are taking strict action on this," Naidu said. Naidu also said

'Volatility happens': RBI Governor plays down rupee fall as currency breaches 90



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Even as the rupee depreciated by over 5 per cent to beyond 90 against the dollar, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday said the central bank was well placed on the currency front. "This volatility does happen, can happen," he said, adding that the market is very "efficient" and "deep". After cutting the repo rates by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.25 per cent on Friday, Malhotra said, "we allow the markets to determine, I mean, we don't target you any price levels or any bands."

"We believe the markets, in the long run especially, are very efficient. It's a very deep market. We saw this earlier in February. The rupee to dollar (rate) had climbed to almost 88 and within a period of three months, it came back to below 84 so these fluctuations, this volatility does happen, can happen," Malhotra said at a press conference. "Our effort has always been to reduce any abnormal or excessive volatility, and that is what we will continue to endeavour... in our external sector — as I also mentioned in my statement, is very strong going forward — we do believe that we are having sufficient reserves," he said. A 5 per cent depreciation leads to 35 bps rise in retail inflation, he added.

The RBI governor said the current account is very manageable, at about 1 per cent or so. Given India's strong fundamentals, we should get good capital flows going forward. "So, I think we are in a very comfortable situation insofar as the external sector position is concerned," Malhotra said. The rupee, which crossed 90-mark again mid-session on Friday, recovered marginally and closed at 89.95.

Amid IndiGo flights cancellations, Railways adds 116 coaches in 37 trains for 114 trips



The Indian Railways Friday announced that a total of 116 coaches have been added in 37 trains to facilitate the stranded passengers amid ongoing air traffic disruptions caused by the cancellation of multiple IndiGo flights.

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authorities are prioritising bringing back normalcy to civil aviation services and "provide all the support to the passengers". Naidu added that the Centre is observing the new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms that triggered the cancellation spree on Friday.

Check all the latest updates around the IndiGo flight disruptions and progress in normalisation of operations here. "We are deeply observing this, the FDTL norms, and scheduling network. We will thoroughly look into this and ensure that all airlines follow due diligence," Naidu said. The disruption on Friday occurred due to crew shortages triggered by the rollout of the second and final phase of the FDTL norms last month. Following reports of the incident, the government issued an order to keep the rules in abeyance.

Naidu noted that no issues were observed in civil aviation services over the last month, since the new crew rest and duty rules kicked in, and that other airlines, including Air India, SpiceJet and Akasa, had adjusted accordingly. He said the issue in IndiGo was "unanticipated" and snowballed into the current crisis owing to "mismanagement." The largest domestic airline, accounting for over 60 per cent of domestic passenger traffic, IndiGo operated only 19.7 per cent of its flights on time on Wednesday (December 3), down from 35 per cent on Tuesday and around 50 per cent on Monday. The disruption has led to chaos at various Indian airports, from Delhi to Chennai to Srinagar. Social media was replete with IndiGo passengers expressing their frustration at long delays and cancellations. The airline's CEO Pieter Elbers issued an apology and promised complete restoration of services between December 10 and 15. Elbers anticipated cancellation of less than 1,000 flights on Saturday.

Why the afternoon period — between 1-3 pm, is a 'biologically challenging time for the body'



You might think your afternoon slump is just about feeling tired, but it's much worse than that. After lunch, the body tends to experience a natural dip in energy levels due to factors such as digestion and insulin release. This can lead to feelings of drowsiness in both men and women. Dr Mukesh Batra, Founder-Chairman Emeritus, Dr Batra's Healthcare, said that many are not aware that the late afternoon period, between 1 pm and 3 pm, is indeed a very biologically challenging time for the body. This is the phase when our circadian rhythm naturally declines, affecting alertness, metabolism, and even microcirculation.

"When the circulation of the body drops, reduced hydration and a spike in stress hormones during sluggish afternoon hours can make the skin appear dull, tired, and more prone to breakouts," he shared, adding that this post-lunch drowsiness is often called the 'postprandial dip.' According to Lovneet Batra, clinical nutritionist and founder of Nutrition by Lovneet, people often feel drowsy during this time due to factors such as a high-salt, high-carb lunch, irregular sleep patterns, excessive screen time before bed, and compromised sleep quality. Hormones like melatonin, which promote sleep, also play a role. These factors, combined with a heavy meal, trigger the urge to nap in the early after-

noon, which is pretty dangerous for productivity. Her one solid advice to beat the mid-day blues? Never skip breakfast. Instead, she recommended having one made with complex carbohydrates from whole grains, such as millet porridge, brown rice pooha, brown rice idlis, or dosa. For those working around the clock, taking time out to indulge in a quick afternoon nap can seem like a distant dream, but that should not mean you slog through the day feeling tired and weary. Beat the afternoon slump. Hormones like melatonin, which promote sleep, also play a role.

What can help?

"Opt for snacks that contain a mix of lean protein, fibre, and healthy fats," said Batra, warning against having snacks like namkeen, biscuits, soft drinks, and excessive tea or coffee, as these can lead to glucose spikes and subsequent crashes. Batra also suggested some snack options to beat the 3pm blues: Sprouts: Rich sources of protein and fibre. Protein helps build and repair tissues, while fibre aids digestion and promotes feelings of fullness, helping prevent energy crashes. Boiled egg: A good source of protein and healthy fats, boiled eggs can help stabilise blood sugar levels and keep energy levels steady. Fruit with soaked nuts: Combining fruits with nuts provides a mix of carbohydrates, protein, and healthy fats, offering a quick energy boost and prolonged satiety. Boiled chana chaat: Chana (chickpeas) are high in protein and fibre, making them a nutritious and filling snack option to ward off fatigue. Sattu coconut water mixer: Sattu, a traditional Indian flour made from roasted grams, mixed with coconut water, provides hydration, electrolytes, and sustained energy to combat afternoon fatigue. She also recommended cutting down on your sugar intake, as it can lead to an energy crash when blood sugar levels drop. "Get enough sleep to feel energised the next day, drink enough water and stay hydrated to help the overall functioning of the body," she suggested. Another pro tip? Exercise regularly to make your cardiovascular system more efficient and remain energetic throughout the day, concluded the nutritionist.

'If someone like Kriti Sanon is making sleep non-negotiable, what's our excuse?': Nutritionist decodes actor's daily routine



Ever wondered what fuels Kriti Sanon through dance rehearsals, action scenes, and 12-hour shoots? Celebrity nutritionist Ryan Fernando decoded her sleeping habits, and the answer comes as a surprise to no one. "From energy balance to recovery hacks, her day is a science-backed blueprint," said the expert, who pulled up an old interview of the actor, where she was heard saying, "I like sleeping at least 8 hours, if I don't have work, sometimes I can go 9-10 hours as well." Fernando continued that Sanon's sleeping habits underscore the fact that the human body requires adequate rest and recovery before jumping into a hectic workout or facing a day of chaos.

"If you are a person into fitness, it's not just about eating right. Recovery matters too. And that's where sleep comes in. Poor sleep messes with hormones, slows metabolism and even ages your brain faster. You can eat correctly, but if you are not sleeping correctly, your nutrition is going to waste. Get both in order," he said, adding, "If someone like Kriti, who's working back to back and releasing multiple movies a year, is making sleep non-negotiable, what's our excuse?"

Decoding Kriti Sanon's sleeping habits Sanon's choice to sleep 8 to 10 hours a night reflects a deeper understanding of her body and its needs. Dr Narander Singla, lead con-

sultant in internal medicine at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, shared that the ideal sleep duration for most adults falls within a sweet spot of 7 to 9 hours per night. "This range helps ensure optimal rest, supports memory consolidation, and promotes physical recovery. Everyone's sleep needs are slightly different, so personalising your routine is key to feeling well-rested and energised," he said. Dr Singla also emphasised the importance of sleep quality, in addition to the number of hours one sleeps. "Nighttime disruptions, high stress levels, or an uncomfortable sleep environment can all negatively affect how refreshed you feel the next day, even if you sleep for the recommended duration," he added. In fact, the quality of your waking hours is highly dependent on the quality of your sleep, which ultimately makes uninterrupted sleep a priority for smooth day-to-day functioning.

Why is sleep important for staying active?

Dr Vajala Shrawani, MPT, fitness and Pilates expert at Tone30 Pilates, told indianexpress.com that sleep is essential for recovery before and after a rigorous workout. "When you sleep deeply, growth hormone release peaks, muscles repair microscopic damage, and your nervous system resets. Inadequate sleep disrupts all these processes, leading to slower recovery, higher inflammation, and increased injury risk," she said, adding that it also alters metabolism, reducing insulin sensitivity, elevating cortisol, and making fat loss or muscle gain harder.

Over time, chronic sleep deprivation can elevate resting heart rate, increase blood pressure, and compromise cardiovascular health. "You cannot out-train poor sleep; it's the invisible pillar that supports every visible result in fitness," said Dr Shrawani. To sleep better, experts recommend establishing a consistent routine by waking up and going to bed at the same time every day. Avoiding stimulants like coffee, tea, energy drinks, or alcohol is best as they can negatively impact the quality and duration of your sleep. Sleeping in complete darkness and listening to relaxing music can also help improve sleep at night, they said.

Experts clarify whether you absolutely need to have protein within 30-45 minutes of working out

Lately, protein has taken centre stage in conversations about health and fitness. From the best animal and plant-based sources, to the optimal quantity men and women should incorporate in their diet, protein is everywhere. As such, if you hit the gym regularly and find yourself wondering how soon you should have protein, we are here to solve all your queries. indianexpress.com spoke to health experts to learn which is the best time to have protein after a workout, and here's what we found. CV Aishwarya, a clinical nutritionist and lecturer at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai, clarified that it is not strictly necessary to consume a protein shake immediately after a workout. However, ensuring adequate protein intake within a reasonable timeframe does support better muscle repair and recovery.

"Earlier research proposed a narrow 30 to 45 minute 'anabolic window' post-exercise. More recent evidence shows that this window is much broader, extending up to 2 hours, and in some cases even 4 to 6 hours, depending on when you had your last protein-rich meal," she told us. How soon should you have protein after a workout? A well-planned plant-based diet can still furnish muscles with the necessary building blocks. (Source: [Freepik](http://freepik.com)) Protein-rich foods to have after a workout Aishwarya said that proteins that are easily digested by the body are those with high bioavailability and fast absorption rates. Here are a few options to include in your post-workout diet for optimum results: Whey protein is the fastest-digesting option, as it is quickly absorbed and rich in leucine, which strongly stimulates muscle recovery. Egg white is another highly digestible, lactose-free, complete protein that is gentle on the stomach. Among plant-based choices, pea protein is one of the most easily digested and is also hypoallergenic. Collagen peptides are extremely easy to digest because they are already broken down into small peptides, although they are not a complete protein for muscle building.



Kanika Malhotra, a consultant dietitian and diabetes educator, suggested animal proteins like eggs, chicken, and dairy as top choices for post-workout meals, along with plant-based options like lentils, tofu, and quinoa to help build muscle quite effectively. "A well-planned plant-based diet can still furnish muscles with the necessary building blocks despite animal proteins being somewhat more effective, mainly owing to the presence of essential amino acids," she said. Having protein post-workout enhances muscle protein synthesis and improves recovery, with greater efficiency. Instead of focusing only on protein sources during lunch or dinner (the heavier meals of the day), Malhotra added that starting the day with a protein-rich breakfast helps repair muscles quickly after overnight fasting. While eating an adequate amount of protein and switching between animal and plant-based sources can lead to muscle gains, Malhotra added that consistently challenging muscles with resistance training builds muscle pretty effectively regardless of protein source. According to her, "distributing high-quality protein intake fairly evenly throughout each day and consuming 20-30g within a couple of hours post-strength training" matters.

Harlem Globetrotters @100: Inspired Obama, stopped war, were ridiculously talented and slap-stick funny



GNS News Agency, Dec 6

A travelling chimpanzee trained to ace ten-pin bowling would have a suite in the hotel but there was no room for a very popular team of black basketballers known for their jaw-dropping skills and laugh-a-minute entertainment. This was America in the early part of the last century. Racism was rampant and the discrimination against Blacks was nauseatingly inhumane. Sports too, back then, was ghettoised. The blacks weren't allowed on courts with whites, were told to play in their 'hood and their competitions were officially called Negro Major League.

But the team that was once seen less worthy than a chimp went on to change the world. That's the Harlem Globetrotters, the pioneers of magical basketball, the kings who also doubled as court jesters. They were show-boaters and tricksters with incredible ball-skills. They didn't win World Championships, but conquered hearts and ruled the minds of the world. Even decades after its birth in Chicago, the Harlem Globetrotters brand has survived. Estimates say they have put up shows in 127 countries and entertained close to 148 million fans. In about a week's time, they kick-off their '100 year tour'. As their website announces - 'This is a once-in-a-century celebration of 100 years of jaw-dropping "No Way!" moves, 100 Years of "Wow!" and 100 Years of Heart-Pounding Thrills!'

In their storied journey, the Harlem Globetrotters didn't just shoot hoops and wowed fans, but integrated the race divide at home and became America's trusted soft power at the height of the Cold War. They were their country's trusted ambassadors who eased geopolitical tensions. Messi, Bolt, Neymar have been their guest players while Henry Kissinger, Whoopi Goldberg, Nelson Mandela and Pope John Paul II their honorary members. Once on a South America tour, two warring nations declared a temporary truce so they could watch the Trotters play. The feud commenced after the Pied Pipers in tight shorts left. It's all because of those 'no way' moves. Search the net for early Trotters to understand this. Look for grainy footage of tall black players in stars and stripes-themed gear. The creativity they showcase would jump out from the screen and leave one in a daze. For the dazzling dribblers, it wasn't just about beating an opponent but making them look inadequate. Since they mostly played whites, this was payback time, their chance to make 'them' feel what they had for years.

The Trotters loved clowning. This wasn't some easy comic routine, a basketball trickery mastered over many years. They would throw blind hooks from the foul line, tease defenders by going for a free throw only to stop at the final moment, just to expose the eagerness of their opponents. There would be no-look tries from half-court and this would invariably be followed by the sweet 'swoosh' sound of the ball cleanly going through the hoop and the

Easy group for Argentina, ceremony overshadowed by peace prize for Trump from gleeful friend Infantino

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

The fickle fingers of fate were kind to defending champions Argentina in the World Cup 2026 Draw, the main event overshadowed by musical interludes, tedious montages, and FIFA bestowing the US President Donald Trump with its inaugural peace prize. Lionel Scaloni's men (which hopefully includes his more famous namesake) would face Algeria, Austria and debutants Jordan. Coached by Ralf Rangnick, a dynamic Austria could be the lone stiff opponent in the group stage for them to navigate. But football has savoured dramatic David humbling Goliath storylines. Portugal, the side of Lionel Messi's greatest competitor and contemporary, Cristiano Ronaldo, is tagged in a relatively stress-free cluster with Colombia, Uzbekistan and the winner of the Congo-Jamaica-New Caledonia play-off. Provided Argentina and Portugal helm their groups and win the rounds of 32 and 16, they would duel in the quarterfinals.

The first big game of the tournament would be the opening Group C fixture, between record champions Brazil and Morocco, who robustly reached the semifinals in Qatar. Since their seminal moment, they overcame a brief slump and claimed the AFCON last year. Brazil's form has fluctuated; they scraped through the qualifiers, but are just finding their tune under Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti.

For the cynics wondering about the lopsidedness of group-stage games in a bloated World Cup, tasty matchups were drawn. France are pitted in the same group as Senegal, dusting up memories of the African nation spinning one of the greatest upsets in the tournament, in 2002. Few would be surprised if history repeats, for Senegal has emerged as an African powerhouse. Another burst of nostalgia sprang when Croatia was dragged into England's group, a repeat of the 2018 semifinal. The opening fixture of the tournament—between Mexico and South Africa on June 11—would be a repeat of the 2010 edition opener. Uruguay-Spain clash has ample historical resonance too. There might not be a blazing group of death yet—the closest could be Group I, featuring France, Norway and Senegal. But the groups are far from a cruise for most teams. Germany have to tussle Ivory Coast and Ecuador. Brazil have to tread past a plucky Scotland too. England has to contend with Ghana, apart from Croatia. Among the co-hosts, the US has the lightest group (Paraguay, Australia and one of Turkey, Romania, Slovakia or Kosovo). Mexico have South Korea; if the Republic of Ireland or Denmark qualify through play-offs, the group could be intense. Canada could potentially end up facing Italy (if they qualify), apart from Switzerland, leaving Qatar as the lone weak team.

But for much of the night, the draw seemed a sideshow. The night's theme was Trump winning FIFA's peace



prize. At exactly the stroke of the 28th minute, just after Robbie Williams and Nicole Scherzinger had sung the World Cup anthem Desire, the screen broke into a montage, among the several they beamed, showing FIFA's peace initiatives. Towards the middle, the theme became clearer. It would announce the first FIFA Peace Prize. The lone challenger was Donald Trump. Minutes later, his gleeful friend Gianni Infantino handed over the shiny gold bauble of two hands holding the weight of the world, gold medal, which he immediately wore, just over his scarlet tie, and a certificate. "We want to see hope, we want to see unity, we want to see a future," Infantino would say. "This is what we want to see from a leader and you definitely deserve the first FIFA Peace Prize. You can always count on my support to help you make peace around the world." Trump, in a shockingly short speech, shorter than Infantino's ode to Trump before the peace prize shenanigan, repaid the praise in kind. He said it is one of the biggest honours of his life. He dwelled on the "millions and millions of lives we saved." "The fact that we could do that, so many different wars that were able to end in some cases right before they started, it was great to get them done," he said. Minutes later, before the draw, he had another shot with the microphone. A little while ago, Infantino would straddle through his immense linguistic expertise, addressing the gathering in several tongues. He termed FIFA, the organisation he helms, as the "official happiness provider of humanity for the last 100 years." He repeated almost the same words he uttered in the draw ceremony of the Qatar World Cup. "This will be the greatest FIFA World Cup ever. It is much more than a sporting event, it is simply the greatest event that humanity will ever see," he said, in between trying to match Kevin Hart in trying to tickle the funny bones.

Most of the performers and the celebrity guests had a personal connection with Trump. Village People's YMCA is his favourite campaign song, even though only one member (Victor Willis) remains of the original band.

Three-time Asian Games medallist Seema Antil suspended for doping

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Former Asian Games discus throw gold medallist Seema Antil has been banned for 16 months by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for failing a dope test. The 42-year-old Punia's suspension will be effective from November 10, as per the updated list of doping sanctions put up on the NADA website. NADA hasn't specified the substance found in Punia's sample but The Indian Express understands that it was a masking agent found in a test conducted in 2024.

Punia's last major medal came at the 2022 Asian Games where she won the bronze medal at the age of 40. It was her third medal at the continental showpiece. Before 2022, she medalled at the 2014 and 2018 editions with a gold and bronze respectively. However, Punia has a long history with doping dating back to her junior days. At the 2000 Junior World Championships, she lost her gold medal after testing positive for pseudoephedrine. Before the 2006 Asian Games, she tested positive for steroid stanazolol and



missed the edition held in Doha. Distance runner Pooja Yadav (four years), shot putter Manjeet Kumar (six years) and middle-distance runner Nikesh Dhanraj Rathod (four years) were also suspended for failing dope tests. Also suspended for four years were marathon runner Kuldeep Singh and woman steeplechaser Chavi Yadav.

Hockey Women's Junior World Cup: Sakshi Rana's solo strike the highlight in India's 4-0 win against Ireland, but quarterfinal chances bleak

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

India will have to wait for the rest of the day—or even longer—as the group-stage matches wind down, to see if they can sneak in as one of the two best second-placed teams but it appears unlikely. (Photo Credit: Hockey India) India will have to wait for the rest of the day—or even longer—as the group-stage matches wind down, to see if they can sneak in as one of the two best second-placed teams but it appears unlikely.

In India's 4-0 win against Ireland at their final Pool C match of the FIH Junior Women's World Cup, the highlight was Sakshi Rana—who has already made her senior debut on the back of an impressive Hockey India League season—as she lifted the ball from the turf down the left channel, dribbled into the circle, cut in and unleashed a fine low strike. But the reaction after the goal was telling—there was barely a hint of celebration, despite the scoreline reading 3-0. Because, India know their chances of progressing to the quarterfinals are bleak despite winning two of the three matches in their group. India will have to wait for the rest of the day—or even longer—as the group-stage matches wind down, to see if they can sneak in as one of the two best second-placed teams but it appears unlikely.

India made a bright start in the first quarter and showed great attacking intent, winning an early Penalty Corner in the first 12 seconds of the match, however, their attempt didn't reach the goal post. India continued to pile on the pressure winning their second Penalty Corner in the tenth minute



but the chance was squandered again. However, two minutes later, Sakshi was the provider, as she played the perfect pass to Kanika inside the circle, who went around the charging Irish goalkeeper and slotted the ball into an open net to break the deadlock. However, India's attacking moves lacked cohesion as they failed to convert the early goal into a bigger lead. It would only be in the 42nd minute that they'd score again as Sakshi Shukla recycled well from a mistrapped PC to find Purnima in front of goal as she deflected the ball into the net. The fourth quarter saw Ireland fight back as Eabha Curran was through on goal and took a shot towards the bottom right corner of the post however, her attempt was stopped by a superb stick block by Nandini. In the 57th and the 58th minute, India scored back-to-back goals to further build on their lead. First was Sakshi's fine use of 3D skills from the left flank. This was followed by Purnima's second goal of the match as she did well to calmly deflect the ball over the goalkeeper.

Washington Sundar 'still learning when it comes to batting' late in ODIs, says India assistant coach Ten Doeschate

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

Washington Sundar has been among the all-rounders at the heart of the debate surrounding India's approach under head coach Gautam Gambhir, with a number of former players flagging the lack of clarity he has over his role, particularly with the bat. India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has however said that the recent rough ride has had little effect on Sundar's mindset. "No, it won't affect his confidence, he's had a very good 12 months, even more in the last 16 months. He has played some good cricket in the two games where he hasn't given up," Ten Doeschate told reporters on the eve of the decisive third ODI between India and South Africa.

The Dutchman said that Washington is still learning the ropes when it comes to batting in the death in ODI cricket. He fell for just 13 runs in the first ODI and for one in the second. In both matches, India slowed down significantly with the bat towards the end of their innings after a strong show in the middle overs, powered largely by Virat Kohli who scored centuries in both matches. "I think Washi is still learning when it comes to batting, it's becoming a very specialised role now coming in late overs, and there's certain things he wants to work on," Doeschate said during the pre-match press meet ahead of Saturday's series-deciding



third ODI here. However, Washington has also been deprived of regular bowling in the white ball formats. He has played just five ODIs in 2025 and bowled his full quota of 10 overs in only one match. Doeschate offered a reason for that. "I think when it comes to a finger spinner you always need to get match-ups for a left-hander, right-hander and essentially Washi is one of the six bowlers," Doeschate said. "Washi and Jaddu (Jadeja) are the three spinners along with Kuldeep. There's always going to be....in those conditions particularly, we are not going to bowl more than 20 overs of spin," he added.

'What I saw today was a team that looked jaded...' Michael Vaughan's take on England's dropped chances against Australia

GNS News Agency, Dec 6

With Australia ending the second day of the second Ashes test at Brisbane 44 runs ahead of England with four wickets in hand, it was an eventful day for the visitors. While England fought back to make Australia slump to 378 for 6 from 291 for 3, the Ben Stokes-led side also dropped five catches during Australia's innings on Friday. With England not taking their chances, former England captain Michael Vaughan called the team 'that looked jaded'.

"I would have done things completely differently. What I saw today was a team that looked jaded. These fielding drills—they're fantastic, but you know the ball is coming to you. In a game, you have no clue when it is coming to you and it is completely different. The art of taking chances is concentration. If you're not out there on a regular basis practising for many hours, when that chance comes you have to be concentrating to take that opportunity. The only way you get good at that is by training the brain to do it," Vaughan told the Test Match Special podcast.

Wicket-keeper Jamie Smith dropped Travis Head off the bowling of Jofra Archer in the ninth over before Ben Duckett dropped Alex Carey first ball at gully in the 57th over after Green's dismissal. Carse would pick the wicket of Smith in the same over with Will Jacks taking a stunning

catch 25m from the boundary in the same over. Josh Inglis was then dropped at 21 at the gully by Duckett off the bowling of Ben Stokes in the 64th over before Stokes clean bowled Inglis in the same over.

Carse then dropped Michael Neser on six at cover in the 69th over bowled by Jofra Archer before Carey was dropped by Joe Root at slips on 25 off Gus Atkinson in the 70th over. Root talked about how the team had five training sessions at Brisbane with two sessions under lights. "We worked as hard as we could," said England batter Root. "We did a huge amount of catching and making sure we utilised those two sessions under lights well. Sometimes the catches just don't stick. You've got to keep applying yourself and wanting the ball so you're ready when that next opportunity comes."

That's one of the nuances of the game and this pink-ball Test match. It's never going to be perfect. All you can do is give yourself the best possible chance and I think we've done that. In the lead-up to this game we've got used to conditions, we've got used to the heat, we've got used to the surfaces. We've caught under lights, we've caught in daylight and tried to catch in twilight as well. We're not perfect, we're all human and we're going to make mistakes," Root told the media after the end of the day's play.

