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Telangana govt signs pact with Ambani-backed Vantara for new Future City zoo

Hyderabad: The Telangana government on Monday signed an agreement with the Ambani family-operated Vantara Zoo for establishing a new zoo in the Future City.

The agreement was signed at the Telangana Rising Global Summit. The State government has earmarked 200 acres for establishing the new zoo. It is being dubbed as an Ecotourism and Zoological Development Zone.



Salman Khan Ventures to develop Rs 10,000-crore township, film studio in Telangana

Hyderabad GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Bollywood actor Salman Khan's Salman Khan Ventures Pvt Ltd has announced plans to develop a Rs 10,000-crore integrated township and film studio in the



State.

According to an official press release, the township will feature a championship golf course, high-end leisure amenities, a race course, curated nature trails and premium residential spaces. There will also be a state-of-the-art film studio complex designed to support large-format productions, OTT content, post-production facilities and talent development programmes.



Hyderabad Police Bust Nepali Dacoity Gang Linked to Gunrock Enclave Robbery, Gold and Cash Recovered

Hyderabad, GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Hyderabad City Police as the Commissioner's Task Force, North Zone Team and Karkhana Police jointly arrested a Nepalese dacoity gang responsible for a violent robbery at the residence of Capt. D.K. Giri (Retd) at Gunrock Enclave, Karkhana, Secunderabad.

The gang forcibly entered the house on the night of 15/16 November 2025, tied the victim's hands and legs, assaulted him, and looted gold, silver, cash, and valuables before fleeing in multiple directions.

The case was booked under Cr. No. 196/2025 of Karkhana PS.

How the Dacoity Was Executed: Inside the Planned Conspiracy

Investigations revealed a deeply coordinated plot that began when the complainant approached a domestic worker agency to hire a Nepali couple.

Key Conspiracy Steps

Agency contacted Mahendra Shahi and Upendra Shahi, who decided to plant fake workers inside the victim's home.

Two individuals — Raj Bahadur Shahi (A1) and Rekha Devi Rawal (A6) — posed as husband and wife and began working at the house from 21 October 2025.

Meanwhile, all conspirators held meetings at various locations in Hyderabad to prepare for the robbery.

Telangana inks 35 MoUs worth Rs 1.88 lakh crore at Global Summit

Hyderabad: The State government on Monday said it had signed 35 agreements with investment commitments worth over Rs 1.88 lakh crore at the Telangana Rising Global Summit.

In the deep tech and digital infrastructure sector, an agreement of Rs 75,000 crore investment commitment from the Brookfield / Axis Ventures Pvt Ltd consortium was the marquee agreement, it said, adding that this fund was dedicated to developing the Bharat Future City.

Telangana Rising Global Summit: CM Revanth Reddy outlines vision for state development

HYderabad, GNS News Agency, Dec 8

At the Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 on Monday, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy proclaimed that the state is poised for significant development, with ambitious goals set for 2047. Speaking at Telangana Rising Global Summit 1025 in Future City, he articulated the vision to transform Telangana into a three trillion-dollar economy and expressed gratitude to all those involved in drafting this vision document.

Inviting suggestions from industrialists and economists, CM Reddy stressed the importance of creating a comprehensive roadmap for Telangana's future, inspired by historical figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He highlighted the long-standing struggle of the Telangana people for a separate state, a dream realised in 2014 under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and then-Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Looking ahead, CM Reddy aims to position Telangana as the most developed state in India and a leader on the global stage within the next decade. He noted that with India's centenary of independence approaching in 2047, now is the time to evaluate the nation's achievements.

Reflecting on the essence of Telangana's cultural practices, he mentioned the importance of seeking blessings and support from the community when embarking on significant ventures. To this end, he has engaged officials, governmental agencies, the Indian School of Business, and experts from NITI Aayog to refine their aspirations.

In closing, CM Reddy expressed his gratitude for the diverse representation at the summit, recognising the contributions of business leaders, policymakers, diplomats, and experts, and emphasised his openness to their insights and recommendations.

Nehru compromised on Vande Mataram to appease Muslim League: Modi in Parl



New Delhi, Dec 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Congress under Jawaharlal Nehru's presidency betrayed Vande Mataram, compromising its spirit under the Muslim League's pressure and "the party's same appeasement policy later had it accept India's Partition too".

Opening the special discussion on "the 150th anniversary of the national song" in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister spoke of Mahatma Gandhi's high deference to Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's composition and of Nehru dis-

regarding that to associate with Muslim League leader MA Jinnah's opposition to Vande Mataram.

Quoting Gandhi's high praise for the song, Modi asked why Vande Mataram was betrayed. The PM's reference was to the October 29, 1937, Congress Working Committee resolution adopting the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram as the national song and dropping the rest that featured references to Hindu deities.

Writing in Indian Opinion, a South Africa-based weekly, Gandhi on December 2, 1905, said, "Vande

Mataram composed by Bankim Chandra has become extremely popular in Bengal. During the swadeshi revolution, Bengal witnessed mass rallies with lakhs congregating and singing Bankim's song. The song has become so popular, it has become our national anthem. Its sentiments are lofty and it is sweeter than the songs of other nations, its sole objective being to inspire us to win freedom. The song sees India as a mother and inspires us to worship it."

Modi recalled the genesis of Vande Mataram in

1875 when Chatterjee first wrote it and asked if the song was so great as to unite Indians across regions in pursuit of freedom against the British, "why was it betrayed in the bygone century?"

"Why was injustice done to the national song? Which powers got the better of Gandhi's views on the song? Which forces dragged Vande Mataram into controversies? Present generations must know the factors because of which Vande Mataram was betrayed," said Modi amid applause from the treasury benches.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was absent as the House opened the debate.

The PM, referring to Jinnah's October 15, 1937, remarks opposing the song, said Nehru was unsettled by the Muslim League's resistance to Vande Mataram and "saw his chair shaking".

"Instead of dismissing the Muslim League's baseless statements and pledging commitment to Vande Mataram, Nehru, the then Congress chief, did the opposite. He began investigating the song itself. On October 20, 1937, Nehru wrote to Netaji Bose associating with Jinnah's senti-

ments and noting that Vande Mataram's Anandmath context could irritate the Muslims," Modi said.

He quoted Nehru as writing to Bose: "I have read the background of Vande Mataram. I feel that this background can provoke the Muslims."

On October 29, 1937, the Congress in its working committee session in Bengal adopted only two stanzas of Vande Mataram as the national song.

"The character of a nation is judged by how it responds in crises. Through decades, Vande Mataram has united Indians against odds. Leaving aside some spells of history, the nation has always united to surmount challenges," the PM said referring to how farmers fought off food insecurity with the Green Revolution, how the Emergency imposed by the late Indira Gandhi had to be lifted, how the Indian armed forces drove off enemies in wars and how the nation defeated Covid-19 and moved on.

The Prime Minister, however, described challenges to the national song as a passing phase in India's journey and noted that Vande Mataram's spirit had always united the country against adversities.

"The Congress chose Bankim Babu's Bengal to review Vande Mataram. The nation was shocked, patriots agitated. But the nation's misfortune was that on October 29, the Congress compromised on Vande Mataram, truncated it, shattered it to pieces and justified all this in the name of harmony," Modi said.

The PM said the Congress succumbed to the Muslim League on Vande Mataram as part of its policies of appeasement.

"Under the compulsions of appeasement politics, the Congress buckled and agreed to fragmenting Vande Mataram, and this (appeasement) was why one day the Congress buckled again and agreed to the Partition of the coun-

try. Congress' policies continue along the same lines and the INC has now become MMC (Muslim Maoist Congress). The Congress and its allies continue to stir disputes over Vande Mataram," said Modi.

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Describing Vande Mataram as the fountainhead of national strength, Modi called for everyone's support in India's onward journey along the path to self-reliance and a developed nation by 2047.

Congress appeasement damaged Vande Mataram, contributed to Partition: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi, Dec 8

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday addressed a special discussion in the Lok Sabha marking the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, describing it as the immortal song of India and a mantra that inspired generations.

Speaking during the Parliament's Winter Session, Singh accused the Congress party of following a politics of appeasement that, he said, damaged the spirit of the song and contributed to the Partition of the country.

He recalled that in 1906, India's first flag was designed with Vande Mataram inscribed at its centre, and in the same year, a newspaper titled Vande Mataram was launched in Bengal to raise public awareness.

"Vande Mataram is complete in itself. But attempts were made to make it incomplete. Every time, however, it has remained the immortal song of our nation, and it will remain so," he declared.

Singh emphasised that future generations must understand the mentality of those who undermined the song, calling it an injustice to India's cultural and national identity.

He underscored that Vande Mataram was not just a word; it was a feeling, a source of motivation, and a poem," he said.

The Defence Minister highlighted that the song was not confined to Bengal but resonated across the country, from east to west, and even beyond India's borders, where people also chanted it as a symbol of unity and resistance.

He underscored that Vande Mataram became the pulse of the nation, em-

bodying sacrifice, courage, and the collective spirit of freedom.

Singh further noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country would celebrate the 150 years of Vande Mataram with the respect and status it deserves.

He stressed that the song continues to inspire India's resolve for self-reliance and progress, reminding citizens of the sacrifices made during the freedom struggle.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAQIUDDIN S/O SYED MOHIUD-DIN (old name) born on 20-06-1974 at Adilabad earlier was Holding Passport No. J6324715 DT: 15-07-2011 hereby changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as SYED RAQIUDDIN S/O SYED MOHIUDDIN (new name) H.No. 3-3-405, Brahmanwada, Adilabad -504001 Telangana State.

DECLARANT.

SYED RAQIUDDIN S/O SYED MOHIUDDIN

Place: Adilabad
Date: 04-12-2025

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Sampoorna Swachhata remains elusive

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has evolved significantly beyond its initial symbolism. What began as a call to clean streets is now shaping how India approaches public health, women's dignity, and environmental responsibility. The Mission has made significant strides in advancing public health and sanitation management nationwide, yet the goal of "Sampoorna Swachhata" remains elusive. Phase-II of the Mission seeks to achieve comprehensive sanitation facilities through solid and liquid waste management, while also sustaining open defecation-free status.

Various programmes are being implemented by respective departments through urban and rural local bodies under SBM-Urban and SBM-Rural. According to SBM(U) data, urban India generates approximately 1.59 lakh tonnes per day (TPD) of waste, of which only 1.29 lakh tonnes are processed. However, this is a remarkable leap from just 16 per cent waste processing in 2014 to over 81 per cent today. Waste management has emerged as a central pillar of the Swachh Bharat Mission, marking a paradigm shift from mere disposal to sustainable utilisation of resources. Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, and Puducherry are the only States processing all of their collected solid waste. The Solid Waste Management Rules of 2016 aim for "zero waste to landfill" by mandating recycling, reuse, and the reclamation of old dumpsites through biomining and bioremediation.

Sankashta Hara Chaturthi: A Sacred Tithi Revered by Devotees of Lord Ganesha

...P.S.ASHOKAN...KARIMNGAR BUREAU...The Chavithi Tithi, deeply cherished and revered by Lord Ganesha, holds immense spiritual significance for devotees. It is widely believed that the observance of the Sankashta Hara Chaturthi Deeksha dispels obstacles, mitigates hardships, and brings divine grace into one's



life. Every month, the Chavithi Tithi that follows Pournami is observed as Sankashta Hara Chaturthi, an auspicious day dedicated to the remover of obstacles, Sri Vighneshwara. This sacred observance assumes even greater importance during the month of Margashira, in the Shukla Paksha, especially when it falls on a Monday. On this occasion, the moonrise occurred at 8:17 PM, and since the Chavithi Tithi prevailed at the time of moonrise, the day was recognized as the authentic Sankashta Hara Chaturthi. A large congregation of devotees thronged the Sri Mahaganapati Temple located on Thammicheruvu Katta Street in Manthani town to offer prayers and seek divine blessings. On this auspicious day, Lord Ganesha was worshipped in the sanctified form of 'Agurata Mahaganapati.' Special rituals and offerings were also performed at the Sri Durga Peetham, adding to the spiritual grandeur of the occasion. Devotees undertake this sacred Deeksha with the conviction that it alleviates the trials and tribulations encountered in daily life. According to long-standing tradition, no auspicious activity commences without invoking the blessings of Lord Vighneshwara. The faithful firmly believe that with His divine grace, difficulties are warded off, obstacles are removed, and life is filled with harmony and prosperity.

Patient Jumps to Death from Gandhi Hospital Emergency Block

... Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, December 8 ...A tragic incident occurred at Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad, in the early hours of Monday when a patient undergoing treatment jumped from the third floor of the Emergency Block and died on the spot. According to Chikalguda Inspector Anudeep and SI Rakesh, the deceased was identified as Pappula Narendra (37), a resident of Vangapalli village in Yadagirigutta mandal. Narendra, who worked as a welder, had been supporting his family through daily labor. Burdened by mounting debts and pressure from bank officials to repay the loan, he reportedly consumed pesticide on the 1st of this month in an attempt to end his life. Family members immediately shifted him to Gandhi Hospital, where he was admitted to the AMC ward on the third floor of the Emergency Block. While undergoing treatment, Narendra repeatedly told his wife and brother that he did not want to live and insisted he would end his life, police said. At around 2 a.m. on Monday, he told his brother that he needed to use the washroom. His brother accompanied him to the bathroom door, after which Narendra went inside. Moments later, he reportedly climbed out through the window and jumped from the third floor, suffering fatal injuries and dying on the spot. Narendra is survived by his wife Lavanya, a four-year-old daughter, and a two-year-old son. Police have registered a case and begun investigation.

Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkata Rao Resolves Issues During Visit to Endowments Colony



"...KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 8 (Indian Chronicle):"Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkata Rao conducted a visit on Monday to Endowments Colony in Ramanthapur Division, accompanied by concerned department officials, to address various civic issues. Residents informed the corporator that drinking-water supply had been irregular in recent days due to low pressure, and that sanitation problems had also increased. Responding immediately, the corporator summoned the respective departmental officers to the colony and inspected the affected areas. Upon observing the

severe sanitation problems, she instructed the sanitation staff to be mobilized and ensured that the area was thoroughly cleaned. Colony residents expressed satisfaction with the prompt action. Regarding the low-pressure drinking-water issue, officials explained that a technical fault had caused a temporary disruption and assured the corporator that the problem would be completely resolved from Tuesday's water supply onwards. HMWSB Manager Ravinder, Sanitation SFI Chandrakant, and local residents Prabhakar, Sudarshan and others participated in the program.

Dindigala attends Shashtipurthi.

"...Illandu, December 8 (Indian Chronicle):"BRS movement senior leader and former chairman of the district library Dindigala Rajender attended the Shashtipurthi program on Monday. After being invited to the Shashtipurthi celebration of the leader of the movement, Dindigala Rajender, a fan of Akbar's uncle and aunt, he reached Akbar's uncle's house in Hyderabad as per the fan's request and participated in the program. Later, the movement leader was felicitated with Vedic mantras. Leader Thotakuri Srikanth and others participated along with him. [4:25 PM, 12/8/2025] +91 91333 99996: End....



Free Dental Medical Camp Held at St. Matilda's Model School, Uppal



"...KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 8 (Indian Chronicle):"A free dental medical camp was organized at St. Matilda's Model School, Vijayapuri Colony, under the joint initiative of Sri Siri Multi Speciality Dental Clinic, Swaroop Nagar Colony, and SVR Medical. Dr. Soujanya participated in the camp and conducted dental check-ups for students suffering from oral health issues. She created awareness among the students about various dental problems and explained the precautions to be taken for proper dental care. She advised the students to consult a doctor before dental issues worsen, brush regularly, prevent plaque formation, and visit the clinic once every six months for a routine check-up. She also elaborated on gum diseases and emphasized the importance



of maintaining oral hygiene. On this occasion, School Principal Johnson John Mathew stated that students should take greater care of their health and must not ignore any health-related issues. He said the camp helped students get dental examinations and receive valuable medical guidance. The organizers expressed their gratitude to the school staff for making the programme a success.

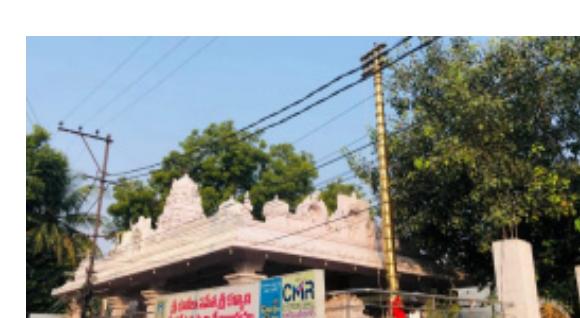
Chillancherla Krishnaveni Appointed as Telangana State Vice President of Head World Human Rights Council



"...Kishore Vaddepalli, Hyderabad, December 8 (Indian Chronicle):"The Head World Human Rights Council, which has been actively operating in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, has appointed Chillancherla Krishnaveni as the Telangana State Vice President. The appointment orders were issued by the Council's Chairman Madhav on Monday, who formally handed over the appointment letter to her. Speaking on this occasion, Krishnaveni expressed gratitude to Chairman Madhav for reposing faith in her and appointing her to this key position. She also thanked National General Secretary Satish Devarakonda for his efforts in facilitating her appointment. Krishnaveni affirmed that she would work to the best of her abilities for the growth of the organization and stand as a strong support system for victims in need. She stated that she would fight to ensure justice for the aggrieved and resolve issues brought to her notice, contributing actively to the protection of human rights. She further assured that she would work towards the successful implementation of the organization's programs and take up all necessary activities as per the directions of the leadership. She reiterated her commitment to the protection of human rights on behalf of the Head World Human Rights Council. On the occasion of her assuming office, members of the organization and local prominent personalities felicitated Krishnaveni and conveyed their best wishes.

Auction for Coconut & Puja Material Shop on 15th of This Month

"...KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 8 (Indian Chronicle):"The Endowments Department has announced that Shop No. 1, meant for selling coconuts and puja materials at the Ramantapur Indira Nagar Sri Rama Sahita Satyanarayana Swamy Temple, will be auctioned on the 15th of this month. According to Executive Officer Vijayabharathi, the lease period will be from December 20 this year to March 31, 2027, and the auction will be held in the temple premises at 11:30 AM on the specified date. Interested individuals may contact 9676565742 for further details, the EO stated.



The Kolatam team wins first place

"...Illandu, December 9" Several cultural competitions were organized on the occasion of Semi Christmas under the auspices of the Dornakal President Mandal of the



South Indian Association in the Dornakal Mandal of the Mahabubabad district. In the competitions held at the Dornakal Committee Hall, the Pasham Raja Rohit Kolata team from Illandu showed excellent talent and won the first prize. The prizes were received by the Kolata team from the hands of Bishop Reverend K. Padma Rao. The team that stood first was congratulated. The Pasham Raja Rohit Kolata team consists of Tarun, Bablu, Ricky, Jessie, Reena, Priyanka, and Meghana.

Let's make Vijay Diwas a success



"...Illandu, December 8" Former MLA Haripriya Naik said on Monday that Vijay Diwas will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 9, when the central government has already announced the start of the Telangana state formation process in response to the fast-unto-death undertaken by former Chief Minister KCR during the Telangana state formation process. He urged constituency leaders and activists to participate in large numbers in the programs starting from 9 am as per the instructions of Rashtra Samithi Working President KTR to make it a success.

Prepare Proposals for Pending Works in Chilkanagar Division: CORPORATOR BANNALA GEETHA PRAVEEN

"...KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 8 (Indian Chronicle):"Chilkanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj held a review meeting on Monday at her office with officials from the GHMC Engineering Department regarding the pending development works in the division. She directed the officials to prepare fresh proposals for all pending works in the division and ensure that contractors commence work immediately after the inauguration of tendered projects. She further instructed them to make all necessary arrangements for the immediate inauguration of newly sanctioned works. The Corporator emphasized the need to speed up



the outlet works of the storm water drain pipeline from Mallikarjun Nagar Colony and Chilkanagar hill area, as well as the completion of Adarsh Nagar Model Graveyard development works at the earliest. She also directed officials to finalize all arrangements for the foundation stone ceremony of the 1000 mm diameter storm water drain pipeline project, to be constructed at an estimated cost of 96 crore, from the Vivekananda statue at Chilkanagar junction to Kaveri Nagar culvert. Geetha Praveen instructed officials to ensure that new proposals for CC roads, storm water drain works, and community halls in various colonies and bastis are completed without delay. She also stressed the need to complete the trunk line works carrying overflow water from Nacharam Cheruvu to Mallikarjun Nagar Colony. She asked the officials to prepare fresh proposals for open gyms and play equipment in the remaining parks across the division. The Corporator directed staff to regularly monitor the ongoing CC road construction and civil works in parks, ensuring strict adherence to quality standards. DE Vineel Goud, AE Radhika, and Work Inspector Kedar participated in the review meeting. "If you'd like, I can also format this for print layout, short version, or headline options."

India Watches COP11 Debate on Tobacco Harm Reduction and WHO Policies

Hyderabad

The 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in Geneva has become a hotbed of debate, raising doubts about the World Health Organization (WHO)'s response to scientific evidence on tobacco harm reduction and the tobacco control direction for member states.

Scientific Community Raises Concerns Ahead of COP11

On the eve of COP11, the tobacco control scientific community has spoken out against the WHO's position. More than 50 independent experts in the fields of pharmacology, toxicology and public health policy said that the WHO's strategy of equalizing the toxicity of smokeless tobacco products and traditional cigarettes could



cause the world to miss out on the opportunity to reduce up to 8 million deaths a year from smoking.

Experts cite a Cochrane review, considered the "gold standard" of medical evidence, which found that smokeless products are more effective at helping people quit than nicotine patches or gum. However, the WHO maintains that harm reduction is a tobacco industry concept rather than an evidence-based public health strategy.

Concerns Over Funding Scale and Extreme Measures Leading to Global Impact

According to sources, WHO's current tobacco control budget is about more than 1 billion USD. However, WHO is now calling for an increase in funding of up to \$9 billion to achieve the goal of eliminating the use of all nicotine products, an increase of 800% in the context of economic and health crises in many countries.

At COP11, nine European Union (EU) countries – Italy, Greece, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Cyprus, Portugal and the Czech Republic – expressed concern that excessive controls and lack of a clear scientific basis could inadvertently pave the way for increased smuggling, rather than contributing positively to the goal of protecting public health.

The WHO and some countries are pursuing an extreme approach to tobacco control, with unprecedented budget increases and comprehensive bans. This is happening at a time when the world is still facing the threat of new epidemics and the need to recover from COVID-19, raising questions about the balance of resources. Excessive policies not only create financial pressure but also promote the black market, which in turn leads to crime and security risks.

Khanapur MLA leaves public meeting after being questioned by locals in Mancherial

Mancherial: Khanapur MLA Vedma Boju continued to face public anger against the Congress government during his campaign in Jannaram mandal, and was forced to walk out of a public meeting at Devuniguda village on Monday when locals confronted him over unfulfilled poll promises.

Men and women at the meeting raised questions on his performance since winning the Assembly election, asking why he was now seeking support for Congress candidates when his earlier promises were yet to be met. Unable to respond, Boju abruptly halted the campaign and left the venue, visibly irritated.

This follows a similar incident on Saturday at Khanapur mandal centre in Nirmal district, where he was grilled by electors. Locals demanded to know why he had not visited the area after the election and why enhanced crop investment support was not extended. Women present argued with him, prompting the MLA to lose his temper and declare he would not sanction Indiramma houses to beneficiaries. Residents criticised his behaviour, saying an elected representative should listen to public concerns instead of getting agitated and threatening to deny welfare benefits.

Yes Visa Solutions Hosts First of Its Kind Real-Time Student-Alumni Connect for Global Education Aspirants

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Challenges and effective solutions

Distinguished alumni such as Mr. Nikhil Annareddy, Mr. Harshvardhan, Mr. Vara Prasad, along with current Master's students Mr. Divyanshu, Mr. Praneeth, Mr. Hanunjai, Mr. Siva, and others, shared their experiences on academics, internships, finances, and building networks overseas.

The event was graced by Dr. Surendhar Babu, President of the AP TPO Consortium, and members of the Telangana TPO Consortium, adding significant value and highlighting the importance of structured overseas education awareness.

On this occasion, Mr. Viswa K Reddy, Managing Director of YES VISA SOLUTIONS, thanked the alumni for guiding new aspirants. He said, "These real-time interactions give students genuine, ground-level understanding—something no seminar or presentation can match."

Historic Milestone: Telugu American Sunny Reddy Ascends to Key Leadership Role in U.S. Politics



"P.S.ASHOKAN" KARIMNGAR BUREAU: "In a moment of exceptional pride for Telugu people worldwide, Sunny Reddy, a distinguished Telugu American hailing from Shadnagar in the former Mahabubnagar district of Telangana, has been unanimously elected as the Co-Chair of the Michigan Republican Party. His elevation has been celebrated enthusiastically by the global Indian diaspora, marking a significant milestone in the community's political presence in the United States. "With this influential appointment, Sunny Reddy now becomes an integral member of President Donald Trump's strategic leadership team, further amplifying the voice of the Indian American community within the highest corridors of power." "Recognized for his exemplary leadership, unwavering integrity, and deep commitment to public service, Reddy was selected from among distinguished contenders. The Republican Party appoints one Co-Chair from each of the 50 U.S. states, each entrusted with providing key insights and recommendations to the President. Remarkably, Sunny Reddy stands as the only Telugu individual across the nation to secure this prestigious position, a testament to his merit and dedication." "Adding another feather to his cap, Reddy recently achieved a sweeping victory to become a Member of the Board of Governors at Wayne State University. In a fiercely contested election, he outperformed several seasoned candidates, earning a resounding mandate from the voters. Having completed his Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Wayne State University in 1994, he has now created history as the first alumnus to return as an elected Governor of the same university." "For several years, Reddy has played a pivotal role in advancing education, economic progress, and social development across Michigan. His campaign commitments—such as reducing college tuition costs, promoting non-partisan educational reforms, and enhancing career guidance opportunities through alumni outreach—resonated strongly with voters, ultimately securing their overwhelming support." "Sunny Reddy also maintains a longstanding association with the American Telugu As-



sociation (ATA), where he currently serves on the Board of Trustees. Beyond community leadership, his humanitarian efforts stand out: he collaborated with the American Red Cross during the devastating hurricanes in Houston (2017), Kentucky (2021), and Florida (2024), leading significant fundraising drives for relief operations. "Indian American groups across the United States have hailed his inclusion in President Trump's leadership network as a moment of immense pride. Community leaders noted that Sunny Reddy's achievements symbolize the growing influence, dedication, and excellence of the Telugu and broader Indian community in American public life.

We will develop the village till the last breath



"K Sadanand" "Independent candidate Ganapuram Saili" "Nangunur, December 8" "Saili from Nangunur mandal Ganapuram, who is contesting as an independent candidate for Sarpanch, said that if he wins as Ganapuram Sarpanch, he will make Ganapuram village number one in the state. "He said that none of the Sarpanchs in the past had developed the village, many tasks were incomplete and he would go ahead to complete them. "He asked everyone to give him a chance to develop the village as a dealer.

Ayyappa's Blessings Should Be Upon Everyone: TPCC General Secretary Uppala Srinivas Gupta

"Kishore Vaddepalli, Hyderabad, December 8 (Independent Chronicle):" "Ayyappa Swamy's divine blessings should be upon everyone, said TPCC General Secretary, International Arya Vaishya Federation National



Working President and State President Uppala Srinivas Gupta." "He, along with his family, participated in the Ayyappa Maha Padi Puja held at the residence of Pulluri Upender Gupta in Champapat and at the residence of Ravinder Goud in Nagole Cooperative Bank Colony." "Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Ayyappa Padi Puja is a significant ritual performed by devotees of Lord Ayyappa, especially during the Sabarimala pilgrimage period. It is an important and sacred tradition observed at the Sabarimala Devasthanam as well as in various Ayyappa temples across the region. IVF First Lady Uppala Swapna, IVF women representatives, youth representatives and several devotees participated in the programme.

Hyderabad post 256 against Punjab in Cooch Behar Trophy under-19

Hyderabad: Fine knocks by T S Rama Krishna (81) and Wafi Kachchhi (70) helped Hyderabad score 256 against Punjab on the first day of the Cooch Behar Trophy (under-19) cricket championship league match at NFC Ground here on Monday.

For Punjab, Anmoljeet (7/75) was the pick of the bowlers.

Fullscreen

The scores: At Hyd: Hyderabad 256 in 74.4 overs (T S Rama Krishna 81, Wafi Kachchhi 70, Anmoljeet 7/75) vs Punjab 58/0 in 13 overs.



ever, the proposal was cancelled after the family came to know that he was addicted to alcohol. Since then, Uma Shankar had been frequently picking quarrels with the family over the issue. "On Monday, the family returned home from Vijayawada after a temple visit. Around noon, Uma Shankar arrived at the house, confronted them, and started arguing. In a fit of rage, he pulled out a knife he had carried with him and stabbed Pavitra in the neck, killing her on the spot. "Leaving behind the knife and his mobile phone at the scene, Uma Shankar fled immediately. The tragic incident plunged the neighborhood into shock as the family members broke down in grief. "Upon receiving the information, Warasiguda Police and the CLUES team inspected the crime scene and registered a case. Police stated that special teams have been deployed to trace the absconding accused.

YES VISA SOLUTIONS Hosts First of Its Kind Real-Time Student-Alumni Connect for Global Education Aspirants

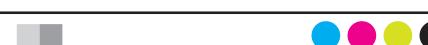


Hyderabad: YES VISA SOLUTIONS, one of India's leading overseas education consultancies, held a special Student-Alumni Interaction Forum during its 2nd Anniversary Grand Gala. The session took place at the YES VISA SOLUTIONS Head Office in Ameerpet, Hyderabad, on 7th December 2025.

The event offered aspiring students a rare chance to interact directly with alumni and current students who previously processed their applications through YES VISA and are now studying or settled in Australia, the UK, and the USA. The discussions provided honest, practical insights—far more valuable than brochures or online information.

*Key Topics Covered:

Campus life in international universities
Academic workload and cultural adaptation
Part-time jobs and workplace norms abroad
Accommodation and cost-of-living planning



Trump is no longer leading; he is being led by MAGA forces



A year after riding a MAGA— Make America Great Again— wave to win a second term as President of the U.S., Donald J. Trump is no longer leading the movement. He is being led by it. Mr. Trump is now being accused by many of his former followers of turning into a mouthpiece of what he once berated as the "Washington establishment". The MAGA champions are not only questioning their idol, but are also finding common ground with progressive Democrats on pushing back against him. On Tuesday (November 18, 2025), a bipartisan initiative by Republican and Democratic lawmakers forced their respective leaderships to fall in line with their call for complete transparency in the Jeffrey Epstein case. Epstein, a convicted sex-trafficker who died in custody by suicide in 2019, was linked to several leading political figures of the country, including Mr. Trump. The House of Representatives and the Senate voted with near unanimity for the release of investigative files related to Epstein. Mr. Trump, who had earlier resisted the release of the files, on November 17, made a volte-face and publicly called on House Republicans to vote for the Bill, saying "we have nothing to hide".

Earlier, Republican lawmakers who challenged Mr. Trump did so from conventional positions in opposition to MAGA, and they paid a heavy price for it. At least four Republican lawmakers who voted for Mr. Trump's impeachment after the January 2021 Capitol Hill insurrection lost their primaries to MAGA-backed candidates. Among them was Liz Cheney, the daughter of former

Vice President Dick Cheney and herself a vocal neconervative. Mr. Trump personally held the veto power on behalf of the MAGA world and few Republicans survived his ire. His new challenge is coming from the political universe that created him and he helped create. In an emerging trend, Mr. Trump is echoing "establishment" positions and aligning more closely with traditional Republicans, while his base appears open to deserting him. Nothing proves this more than his bonding with South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, who will be facing a re-election battle in 2026.

A strident Trump critic in 2016, Mr. Graham later aligned with Mr. Trump. After the Capitol riot of MAGA followers, Mr. Graham declared he was "done with" Mr. Trump. A champion of all the causes that Mr. Trump and the MAGA crowd had questioned, Mr. Graham is now a favourite of the former. The President's first fundraiser in the 2026 election cycle was a golf tournament for Mr. Graham, with him. And Mr. Graham is being challenged in the primary by a MAGA candidate promoted by influencer Tucker Carlson. There is no indication yet of the contest turning serious for Mr. Graham, but given the rapidity of populist revolts in the country that does not mean much. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Republican Congresswoman from Georgia, went head-on against Mr. Trump on the Epstein-files issue — and as it turned out, won the day. She has been an early champion of MAGA causes and Christian nationalism, but the President now calls her a "traitor". She has taken on Mr. Trump, leading the Congressional campaign for the release of the Epstein files, alongside Republican Thomas Massie and Democrat Ro Khanna. Mr. Massie also raises all issues that animate the MAGA base such as state accountability and transparency and opposition to wars. Mr. Trump is also facing the ire of the MAGA base for his revised position that the H-1B visa programme is essential for the U.S. to bring in talent from foreign countries. Ms. Greene is now canvassing for legislation to restrict the H1B programme. She is also holding her ground, supported by Mr. Carlson, in opposing Israel's Gaza war. Mr. Trump has bent on the Epstein issue, and it remains to be seen how he will deal with the revolt in the MAGA camp on Israel and the H-1B visa programme.

U.N. says verdict against Hasina 'important' step for victims but regrets death penalty

The United Nations has said that the verdict against Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on charges of crimes against humanity is an "important moment" for the victims, but expressed regret over the imposition of the death penalty. U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres "fully" agrees with U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk on the position that "we stand against the use of the death penalty in all circumstances," the U.N. chief's spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said at the daily press briefing here on Monday. Mr. Dujarric was responding to a question on the Secretary-General's reaction to a Bangladeshi court sentencing Hasina to death in absentia. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Monday (November 17, 2025) found Hasina guilty of crimes against humanity committed during the widespread protests against her government in July last year. Sheikh Hasina, 78, who has been living in India since her government was toppled on August 5 last year, was sentenced to death in absentia by the tribunal. Hasina's aide and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was also sentenced to death on similar charges. Mr. Dujarric referred to a statement issued by Turk's office on the verdict, noting that U.N. human rights officials have been calling "diligently for perpetrators, including individuals in positions of command and leadership, to be held accountable".

"Accountability is critical. It is, of course, very important that people remain calm in Bangladesh following the assurance of the verdict and for all to exercise restraint in response to these developments," he said. Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said in a statement that the verdicts delivered by the tribunal against Sheikh Hasina and the former Home Minister mark "an important moment for victims of the grave violations committed during the suppression of protests last year". "We also regret the imposition of the death penalty, which we oppose in all circumstances," Ms. Shamdasani said. Ms. Shamdasani noted that since the U.N. fact-finding report was published in February, "we

have been calling for perpetrators, including individuals in positions of command and leadership, to be held accountable in accordance with international standards. We have also called for victims to have access to effective remedies and reparations." The U.N. rights office report estimated that up to 1,400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 during the student-led mass protests as the Hasina-led government ordered a sweeping security crackdown. Ms. Shamdasani said while the U.N. Human Rights office was not privy to the conduct of Hasina's trial, "we have consistently advocated for all accountability proceedings, especially on charges of international crimes, to unquestionably meet international standards of due process and fair trial. This is particularly vital when, as was the case here, the trials have been conducted in absentia and led to a capital punishment sentence". Underlining Turk's call for calm and restraint, she said, The High Commissioner hopes Bangladesh will move forward with a comprehensive process of truth-telling, reparation and justice as the pathway to national reconciliation and healing. "This should include meaningful and transformative security sector reform, which respects international standards, to ensure that these violations and abuses are never repeated," Shamdasani said, adding that the U.N. stands ready to support the government and people of Bangladesh in these endeavours.

What changes are planned for the plant variety Act? | Explained

will propose the amendments in relevant sections of the PPV&FRA Act of 2001.

What are major topics of discussion?

Though officials maintain that consultations are at the preliminary stage, discussions with farmers include amendments to the definition of 'variety needs' that could be modified to include 'combination of genotypes' so that it could be at par with the draft Seeds Bill of 2019. It was also proposed to include seedlings, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes, roots, tissue culture plantlets, synthetic seeds and other vegetatively propagated material in the definition of seed. There is a proposal to define the term "institution" occurring in the definition of 'breeder' to include both public and private establishments in the seeds sector. The committee also has questions for stakeholders on the Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) test. Stakeholders are being told about the importance of trait and the necessity to include it in DUS guidelines. Further, there are discussions to define "abusive act" so that acts such as producing, selling, marketing, exporting and importing a variety which has the same or an identical denomination of another variety can be made punishable.

What are the concerns?

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) founding leader K.V. Biju, who attended the meeting, said the Act should have provisions to register all community-developed seeds. He said that seeds which went through DUS tests should not be allowed to register under a farmers' or an individual's name. "This is to prevent the misuse of the ownership of the seeds in future by private companies and to avoid monopolisation of seeds. The government should make it a priority that seeds developed by the farmers should remain under community control," he said. Mr. Biju added that there are suspicions of the misuse of the DUS test. He said farmers' groups suspect that in the case of njavara, a paddy seed from South India, proper DUS testing was not followed before registration.

Unpacking the global 'happiness' rankings



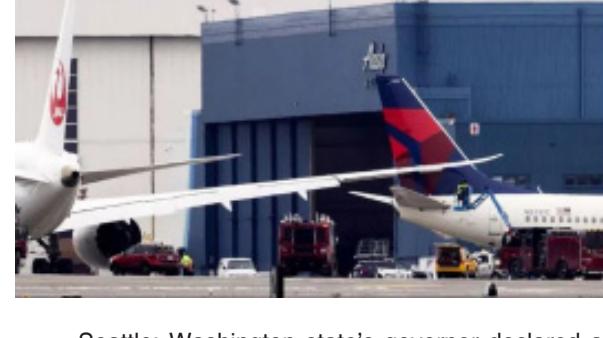
Why is Finland the happiest country in the world for the eighth year in a row while India languishes at 118? How can Pakistan, which is struggling with political instability and recurring International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailouts score higher than India, the world's fastest-growing major economy? What does this really say about how we define "happiness"? The World Happiness Report 2025, by the Wellbeing Research Centre at Oxford, again places Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden at the top. India's score is 4.389 of 10, averaging 124 over the years; Pakistan is 109. The contrast seems puzzling against the economic and social realities of both nations. India, with a \$3.7 trillion GDP, is the world's fifth-largest economy; Pakistan's \$375 billion GDP is barely 10% of that. India's digital economy is booming, and its infrastructure is expanding, whereas Pakistan survives on repeated bailouts. Yet, Pakistan appears "happier"?

Is happiness an economic measure, a perceptual one, or a proxy for something else?

The report relies on the Gallup World Poll's Cantril Ladder, where people rate their lives from 0 to 10, linked with six variables — GDP per capita, social support, life expectancy, freedom, generosity and corruption perception. But perceptions are slippery. Societies with low expectations often report higher happiness because people adapt to hardship. In vibrant democracies such as India, rising aspirations and constant media scrutiny can lower perceived satisfaction even as well-being improves. When citizens expect better governance or cleaner cities, dissatisfaction reflects higher expectations, not misery. That paradox explains why the United States has fallen to 24 despite record wealth, while the Nordic nations with high taxes but deep social trust dominate. The report itself admits that "belief in community kindness" and social trust predict happiness better than income. India's challenge, then, is not growth but connection. Nearly 19% of young adults globally say they have no one to rely on — up 39% since 2006. With migration and digital life reshaping relationships, Indians too face shrinking real-world networks and expanding virtual ones — prosperity without proximity.

The politics of perception Critics note that global indices rest on perception-based biases. A 2022 paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (Sanjeev Sanyal and Aakanksha Arora) showed that indices such as Freedom House and V-Dem depend on small, opaque pools of western "experts". Their subjective views skew results. A one-party state may appear freer simply because dissent is absent; media-controlled regimes look "stable" because citizens voice fewer com-

Washington's governor declares emergency so Seattle airport will get fuel despite pipeline leak



Seattle: Washington state's governor declared an emergency on Wednesday to ensure enough jet fuel gets to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport after a leak shut down a major fuel pipeline. The order temporarily waives and suspends state regulations limiting the number of hours commercial vehicle operators can drive when transporting jet fuel, Gov. Bob Ferguson's office said in a news release. The proclamation ensures safe-driving measures

are in place, the release said.

The Olympic Pipeline was shut down on Nov. 11 because of a leak north of Seattle, between the cities of Everett and Snohomish. Operators notified the state of the leak and were working with state and federal agencies to contain, clean and repair it, the governor's office said. There was no estimate for when the pipeline would resume delivering fuel normally. But if it doesn't start back up by Saturday, the governor's office said airport operations would be "significantly affected." The office did not share details on what that impact would look like. The airport "has limited fuel on hand to sustain operations," the governor's office said, and since last week, airport officials have told incoming flights to fuel up to capacity before arriving because of the pipeline shutdown. The 644-km-long Olympic Pipeline is operated by BP Pipelines North America, Inc. It carries gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other petroleum products from refineries in northwest Washington to points in Washington and Oregon. It is the primary way petroleum is delivered to fuel distribution terminals in the Pacific Northwest west of the Cascades.

Corruption scandal pressures Ukraine's Zelenskyy to show greater accountability

Kyiv: Pressure is mounting on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to take stronger action to show accountability in the face of a corruption scandal presenting the greatest threat to his government since Russia's full-scale invasion. Last week, Zelenskyy dismissed two top officials and imposed sanctions on close associates after government investigators revealed that US\$ 100 million had been embezzled from the country's energy sector through kickbacks paid by contractors.

But that hasn't quieted the political storm. After more than three years of war in which Ukrainians face regular power outages as a result of Russia's fierce bombardment, corruption in the energy sector isn't sitting well with the public. Calls are growing for Zelenskyy to remove his longtime chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, who many consider to be Ukraine's de facto vice president. Neither Zelenskyy nor Yermak have been accused of any wrongdoing by those leading the corruption investigation. Yet Zelenskyy's political opponents — as well as allies worried the scandal could weaken their parliamentary governing coalition — say more senior leaders need to be held accountable to restore public trust.

Zelenskyy's critics say it's also important to bolster credibility with Ukraine's Western allies, whose support is vital to the war effort and in eventually negotiating an end to the conflict. "It's really hard to imagine that all this is happening at the behest of people from the outside without political support." Anastasia Radina, the head of parliament's anti-corruption committee, said on Facebook on Wednesday. "No cutting ties with Yermak, Zelenskyy is provoking an even greater internal crisis," she said.

The country has been plagued by corruption since gaining independence, and Zelenskyy was elected on a

mandate to eliminate graft. Two officials in Zelenskyy's office say the president has not made any decision to dismiss Yermak. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief journalists. Zelenskyy dismisses top officials, sanctions close associates. The investigation conducted by Ukraine's anti-corruption watchdogs implicated high-ranking Ukrainian officials in pressuring contractors to pay up to 15% kickbacks in exchange for construction business with Ukraine's state-owned nuclear energy company, Energoatom. The investigation involved over 1,000 hours of wiretaps of individuals using code names and cryptic language to discuss the scheme. In some conversations, references were made to a powerful figure operating under the alias "Ali Baba," though this person's identity has not been made public, if it is even known.

After the scheme was made public, Ukraine's parliament approved Zelenskyy's dismissal of the country's energy and justice ministers, and the president's office imposed sanctions on close associates who were implicated, including Tymur Mindich, a co-owner of Zelenskyy's media production company. The scandal landed just as Russian airstrikes had left millions of Ukrainians without power, which only intensified the furor. Earlier this year, Zelenskyy faced criticism for trying to weaken the watchdog agencies leading the investigation. Zelenskyy's political opponents say it is hard to believe that such a huge corruption scheme could have taken place without the knowledge of Yermak — the presidential adviser who has towered over Ukrainian politics for six years — though they have not provided any evidence to support the allegation.

Maharashtra govt allots Sion plot to VHP for 30 years for medical, educational activities



GNS News Agency, Dec 8

In addition, the organisation must pay a one-time premium of Rs 9.72 crore, calculated at 25 per cent of the usual rate applicable to such long-term occupancy. The civic body will set the payment schedule for both the annual rent and the premium. In addition, the organisation must pay a one-time premium of Rs 9.72 crore, calculated at 25 per cent of the usual rate applicable to such long-term occupancy. The civic body will set the payment schedule for both the annual rent and the premium. The Maharashtra government Thursday approved the allotment of a 7,658.33-square-metre plot in Sion to the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) for 30 years, converting the land from a leasehold plot into mukta (occupancy) tenure. The decision follows a proposal from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) Improvements Department ad has been cleared under provi-

sions of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act. In October, the BMC submitted a proposal to the Urban Development Department (UDD), led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, seeking approval to allot the plot to the VHP for medical or educational purposes. On December 4, the UDD approved the proposal and clarified that occupancy will officially begin on June 25, 2025, the date the civic body granted its approval for a 30-year period. The government has fixed an annual ground rent of Rs 10,186, payable by the VHP for the entire 30-year period beginning June 25, 2025. In addition, the organisation must pay a one-time premium of Rs 9.72 crore, calculated at 25 per cent of the usual rate applicable to such long-term occupancy. The civic body will set the payment schedule for both the annual rent and the premium. As per the Development Control and Promotion Regulations (DCPR), 2034, the plot is subject to various reservations. Only medical or educational activities are allowed on this land. The responsibility of ensuring that the land is used strictly as permitted and that all reservations are followed lies with the BMC commissioner. This condition means that any construction or activity on the plot must fall within these two categories, and the civic body must verify that the rules are not violated. The plot, located in F/ North ward, was earlier on leasehold. The BMC's Improvements Department forwarded a proposal to the state government recommending that it be converted into mukta land and granted to the VHP for institutional work. After examining the proposal, the state approved it and issued its sanction through an official government resolution.

How parents can spot early signs of stress in kids — and what to do about it

GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Counsellors in schools across Delhi are reporting heightened levels of stress and earlier onset of anxiety among students. An eminent senior clinical and child psychologist, Dr Bhavna Barmi, also the founder of Happiness Studio, analysed the patterns of behaviour that are visible across age groups, and listed the steps families can take to build emotional safety at home. What emotional and behavioural issues are most commonly seen among primary and senior school children these days? In primary school children aged 6-11, increased anxiety (separation, school performance), somatic complaints (stomach/headaches), temper/defiant outbursts, sleep problems, toileting/regression (in younger children), and attention/ peer problems are the most common.

Among secondary students aged 12-18, the concerns often include social anxiety, depressive symptoms, self-critical/ perfectionistic behaviour, academic stress, risky online behaviours, impulsive conduct and occasional self-harm ideation or attempts. All these issues have evolved — and we now see faster escalation and earlier onset of anxiety/ depression, more school-related performance and humiliation stress, and digital-fuelled peer comparison. The problems are often amplified by continuous social media exposure and reduced unstructured peer play. Why do children appear more sensitive or fragile today compared to a few years ago? Several forces shape this. Intense academic pressure and high-stakes testing, ubiquitous social media, constant comparisons, curated lives, and cyberbullying. Also, reduced free and unstructured play, and less face-to-face coping practice. Parenting styles matter: both overprotection and performance-focus can limit resilience development among children.

There is the issue of stigma and low mental-health literacy in some schools and communities, so problems go unnoticed until they have worsened significantly. As clinicians, we emphasise early, low-stigma conversations and routine emotional check-ins — small, steady parental curiosity and validation protect children more than grand interventions done too late. In what specific ways can parents monitor children's digital lives without becoming controlling? Parents should co-create digital rules: negotiate screen times, public vs private content, and 'no-phone' zones (meals/ bedtime). The focus should be on behaviour



and well-being, not spying. They should ask about online experiences and friends; show interest in what the children enjoy. Use collaborative monitoring — agree on apps/ devices that allow parental oversight transparently. Teach children privacy, critical thinking, and online safety skills rather than only forbidding platforms.

Intervene when online interactions cause distress. Remove or restrict access temporarily while discussing alternatives. What harm can overprotective or 'helicopter' parenting cause to children, and how can parents find a balance? Such parenting reduces children's problem-solving practice, fosters dependence, increases anxiety when facing failure, and can diminish self-efficacy. The balance comes when parents support and scaffold rather than solve. Give graded responsibilities, allow safe failures, and celebrate effort over outcomes. Step in for safety risks, step back for manageable everyday problems. After a distressing school incident, what should parents do at home to create safety and openness? Parents must pause media exposure of the incident, and protect children from graphic details. Provide the child reassurance with words like 'You might be worried... What's on your mind?', and validate their emotions and normalise seeking help from a school counsellor or a therapist. What are the early-warning signs that parents should never ignore? Red flags could include talk of hopelessness, 'I wish I weren't here', etc. A sudden, sustained withdrawal from family or friends, or loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities, are signs. Watch out for significant changes in sleep, appetite, academic performance, or marked mood swings. Also, increased substance use, aggressive outbursts, or giving away prized possessions.

Opposition 'directionless', LoP decision rests with presiding officers: Fadnavis



GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Terming the Maharashtra opposition "directionless", Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said the decision to appoint the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and the Council falls under the jurisdiction of the respective presiding officers and the government has nothing to do with it. "The state government has no say in it. Whatever decision is taken by the presiding officers of both Houses is acceptable to his government," the CM said, addressing a press conference on the eve of the winter session of the state legislature. The opposition had earlier slammed the government for not appointing the LoP and had boycotted the customary government tea party over the issue.

"The opposition's press conference appeared full of frustration and theatrics. It is not the government's role to announce the Leader of Opposition. Only the Speaker and the Council Chairman have the authority to do so," Fadnavis said. The CM also claimed the opposition had submitted a representation regarding their boycott but it was without signatures from the NCP (SP) leader. Fadnavis said the session will last for a week as the model code of conduct is in place for the local body polls. "Despite the short duration, we plan to do maximum business and take decisions in the interest of Vidarbha and Marathwada," he said. On farmer issues, Fadnavis said 92 per cent of rain-affected farmers have received financial aid, while the remaining will get it after their Know Your Customer (KYC) details are updated. "The Opposition is making accusations without studying the issue. My government is ready to debate on any issue raised in the legislature," he said. He also informed report-

ers that Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who was in Bahrain for his son's wedding, has landed in Pune and will arrive in Nagpur by tonight. Deputy CM Eknath Shinde said the delay in counting of votes for the local body polls held on December 2 had saved the opposition from loss of face in the session. "The Mahayuti contested together in some places. In some other places we had friendly fights. We will win more than 70 per cent seats," Shinde said. Responding to Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar's remarks that he should focus on the development of Vidarbha, Fadnavis said the government had already prioritised regional issues. "Wadettiwar has made comments without any study. He seems eager to project Maharashtra as a financially mismanaged state, but that is far from reality," he said. Fadnavis said Maharashtra was among the top states adhering to Union government fiscal norms despite financial stress. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde also criticised the opposition for "lacking seriousness" about Vidarbha's concerns. "The opposition seems more interested in creating spectacles outside Vidhan Bhavan than raising real issues inside it," he said.

Three Hyderabad-bound flights receive bomb threats; all found to be hoax

Hyderabad: Yet again, tension prevailed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport after authorities received bomb threat emails targeting three incoming flights on Sunday.

The flights that received the threat include IndiGo flight 6E-7178 from Kannur, Kerala to Hyderabad, Lufthansa flight LH-752 from Frankfurt to Hyderabad and the British Airways flight from London to Hyderabad.

As per information available, all three aircraft were allowed to make safe landings at Shamshabad airport. Following standard protocol, airport officials immediately evacuated the passengers and shifted them to isolation areas for safety checks.

Telangana government to name Hyderabad roads after Ratan Tata, Donald Trump



GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Telangana is set to name several roads in Hyderabad after prominent personalities and global corporations. Telangana is set to name several roads in Hyderabad after prominent personalities and global corporations. The Telangana government on Sunday announced that it will name several roads in Hyderabad after prominent personalities and global corporations. The upcoming greenfield radial road at the proposed RRR will be named after the late industrialist Ratan Tata, whereas a high-profile road along the United States Consulate General in Hyderabad will be named 'Donald Trump Avenue', the government said in its release. The state government will inform the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the US Embassy about these plans.

Earlier this year, while addressing the annual US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) conclave in Delhi, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had proposed to name key roads in Hyderabad after leading global corporations. A prominent stretch in the city will be named 'Google Street' to recognise the tech giant's global impact. The road alongside Google's upcoming campus in Hyderabad's Financial District, which is set to be the company's largest outside the United States, will receive the recognition, said the government release. Microsoft and Wipro are also expected to receive recognition in the city's topography. Wipro Junction, to honour the tech mogul's contribution to the city and Microsoft Road, which is a part of the state's initiative to position itself as a hub for innovation-driven development. Union Minister and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar hit out at Reddy, stating that Hyderabad should be "renamed back to Bhagyanagar". Rename Hyderabad back to Bhagyanagar. If the Congress government is so eager to change names, they might as well start with something that actually has history and meaning. "If the Congress government is so eager to change names, they might as well start with something that actually has history and meaning," he said in a post on X. He slammed Reddy for renaming places after "whoever trends". "What a sad state of affairs we're living in — one side has #Twitterillu busy making AI statues of KCR who's very much alive, and on the other is Revanth Reddy renaming places after whoever trends.

"Doing everything except teaching": Schools go empty as hundreds of Punjab teachers put on zila parishad poll duty; women sent to far flung stations

GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Punjab's government schools are set to be adversely impacted this week as hundreds of teachers have been pulled out for zila parishad and panchayat samiti election duty, prompting protests from staff. The Democratic Teachers Front (DTF), in a statement issued late on Sunday, said they will meet deputy commissioners in several districts to protest what they called "unjustified" deputing of women teachers to far flung polling stations. Some teachers also said they might "boycott" duties if the orders were not corrected by Monday.

Rehearsals begin Monday and polling is on December 14. Lists from several districts show 30 to 40 teachers from a single school have been assigned duty, including those teaching math, science and commerce. Women teachers have been posted 70 to 100 km from their stations, with no clarity on where they will stay overnight or how they will return after polling concludes. This comes barely two months after education minister and senior AAP leader Harjot Singh Bains wrote to the chief secretary asking to "stop deployment of teachers for non-academic work," saying their presence in classrooms was "non-negotiable." Pulling them out as an "easily available tail-end workforce," he said, compromised children's Right to Education. Dapinder Singh Virk, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Bains told The Indian Express: "Several times we have raised this matter with the district administrations and other departments that teachers should not be put on non-academic duties as they are already overburdened. The minister has also written to the chief secretary previously to raise it. We are not in favor of such duties for our teachers. Many of those now on poll duty are already on SIR duty. Why should we do double election duty including on Sundays," asked a teacher from Ludhiana.

Several women teachers said the issue was not the duty but the distances they must travel. Even widows with no one to accompany them have been posted far from home. Teachers in Jagraon have been sent to Khanna; those in Khanna to Raikot. Teachers must report for rehearsals on December 8 and 11, then again on December 13 for dispatch and on December 14 for polling. Many will have to stay overnight. "Earlier women teachers were at least given duties within their own block but now we have been asked



to report 80 km away," said a teacher from Khanna deputed to Jagraon. A political science lecturer from Ropar, posted nearly 100 km away in Raikot, said: "Has the government made any arrangement for my safety? Will any vehicle drop me home in Morinda on the night of December 14 when work ends after 9 pm? My husband is also on poll duty and cannot pick or drop me. The local administration is not ready to listen to us." A widow from Khanna posted in Jagraon said: "My children are abroad. Who will pick or drop me at night? Where will I stay on December 13?"

Thirty-one teachers from Government Senior Secondary School, Basti Jodhewal alone, and 34 from PM-SHRI Government Senior Secondary School, Dehlon, have been deputed. An English lecturer from Raikot said: "My duty is in Khanna. We are doing everything except teaching. Padhaan taan ditta hi nahi jaanda (We are just not allowed to teach)." Another teacher posted 80 km away in Machhiwara said she is arranging a taxi from her own pocket. "This is punishment in the name of poll duty," "School khaali ho gaya hai (Our school has gone empty)," said a teacher from Ludhiana's Haibowal, posted 60 km away in Malaud. "All teachers including history, Punjabi, commerce, political science and science are on duty." Dharamjit Singh, finance secretary, Lecture Cadre Union, said "women staff were being mentally harassed" and that such distant postings were unprecedented. Punjab, secretary, education Anindita Mitra said: "I have already contacted various district administrations where certain issues have been flagged." Asked why teachers are still being put on non-academic duties despite the minister's instructions, she said: "I will not be the right person to comment on it."

BMC aims for a climate-resilient Mumbai by setting up bioswales

GNS News Agency, Dec 8

To mitigate Mumbai's flooding woes, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to construct a series of bioswales in Mumbai, as part of its Rs 12,705-crore proposal submitted to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to re-engineer city's aging drainage infrastructure and enhance its climate resilience. A bioswale is a vegetated shallow area or ditch designed to naturally filter and treat accumulated rainwater or stormwater by removing pollutants such as silt, oil or construction debris. These bioswales comprise a sunken base with slopes through which the accumulated rainwater gets collected in the base and seeps underneath, recharging the ground water levels. Beside bioswales, the amount will be utilised for construction of sponge park for Rs 200 crore, setting up of sluice gates at Rs 2,000 crore, construction of permeable pavements at Rs 120 crore, as well as construction of pumping stations at Rs 700 crore.

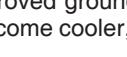
The move comes as Mumbai continues to grapple with increasingly incidents of intense rainfall. According to BMC data, the city has seen a sharp rise in downpours with the average very heavy rainfall within a 24-hour period climbing from 132 mm to 182 mm over the past six years. This surge in precipitation has led to frequent flash floods, disrupting life and transport across the city. Between March and August this year alone, Mumbai was repeatedly brought to a halt due to relentless rain. Being an island city, Mumbai has an array of chronic flooding spots. Speaking to The Indian Express, Abhijit Bangar, additional municipal commissioner (projects), said the idea behind the project is that if surface water during heavy rainfall is reduced, it will reduce waterlogging in low-lying areas.

"Slow rainfall creates maximum percolation, but high rainfall doesn't allow smooth percolation of water because the surface of Mumbai has become so impermeable with time. The rainwater that doesn't percolate gets accumulated and creates waterlogging. Therefore, our target is to increase Mumbai's percolation capacity," Bangar said. "Creation of bioswales is a cost-effective measure. Once they become operational, the percolation capacity of Mumbai's surface

will increase. Even if we are able to increase the percolation by 10 per cent, then it will reduce the overall waterlogging in Mumbai by a significant margin," he added. In total, the BMC intends to set up 800 bioswales in Mumbai's parks and open spaces, however, initially they will be set up in chronic flooding areas like Dadar, Matunga, Santacruz, Andheri and Vakola where more waterlogging is reported. "Our initial plan is to set up the bioswales in traditional flooding spots or low-lying areas. We are setting them up in gardens, because in Mumbai there is a scarcity of open land. The idea is to earmark a portion of land in a civic garden and then to modify it to a bioswale so that it increases percolation of water, in a way that the intensity of waterlogging in a given area is reduced or brought under control," said Bangar.

He added that the overall project will be funded by the Union Home ministry — the parent department of the NDMA. Bangar said that earlier this week, BMC officials had a meeting with the department officials and early next year, a team is likely to visit Mumbai to verify the plan. Following the visit, a detailed project report for executing the plan would be made. Speaking to The Indian Express, civic officials said that initially Rs 100 crore has been earmarked for this project with the construction of each bioswale costing Rs 12-15 lakh.

"Patches of bioswales will also be created along the roads and traffic medians. This will slow down the rainfall stormwater and direct it into the drains after filtration," an official said, adding each pit will comprise native vegetation and layered filtration comprising sand, gravel and geotextile. Civic officials said the bioswales would reduce micro-flooding or waterlogging in a given natural area, increase ground water retention capacity, improve biodiversity pockets, act as natural dust suppression mechanism as well as lead to cleaner footpaths and pedestrian zones. "Once an interconnected network of bioswale is activated, the city will start seeing bigger results. Firstly, due to improved percolation of ground water, the intensity of waterlogging will reduce, secondly due to improved ground water level the surface temperature may become cooler," a civic official said.



'Ma'am... may I share something?': Growing up online and alone, why Delhi's teens are reaching out



GNS News Agency, Dec 8

One morning a couple of months ago, a 15-year-old walked into the counselling room of a well-known school in South Delhi. The counsellor noticed that the child was wearing long sleeves; her eyes were trained to register oddities immediately. It was too warm for a full-sleeve shirt buttoned at the wrists. What the counsellor heard next was not surprising or unexpected – it was a story that is increasingly familiar to counsellors in schools across Delhi. "Children are resorting to self-harm to curb unstoppable thoughts, or when they feel worthless," the counsellor told The Indian Express. "It had taken this child months to gather the courage to open up to an adult." Cases such as the 15-year-old's were fewer until a few years ago, the counsellor said – things are different now, and more children are talking. "There is growing awareness... It is encouraging students to reach out, they know confidentiality will be respected," she said. A board outside the counsellor's room says, "What you say here stays here unless someone is hurting you... You want to hurt someone... You want to hurt yourself." Counsellors describe a generation that walks into their rooms unfiltered and unmasked, using mental-health vocabulary that teens from some years ago discovered only in adulthood.

They will barge in saying, "Ma'am, I'm having a panic attack; my exam is next period," or collapse into chairs unable to accept that a close friend had chosen to sit with someone else during break. Many of them carry smartphones loaded with adult content, have vocabularies from OTT shows, and anxieties sharpened by their parents' inability to set proper boundaries for them, say counsellors. In the days after a Class 10 student of St Columba's School died by suicide last month, The Indian Express reached out to counsellors in several of the capital's top schools. From that series of conversations emerged the portrait of a city full of teenagers grappling with significant emotional stress – the result of lingering pandemic scars; of life on the Internet that is simultaneously intimate and remote, understanding and impersonal; and of trying to cope in the adult physical world whose pulls and pressures they cannot yet understand. Names of students, counsellors, and schools have been withheld to protect identities. A veteran counsellor at a major school in West Delhi said she has never seen parents being as careful with their children as now. This counsellor has spent 18 years at her current job, which she took up after working at two of South Delhi's most prestigious schools.

She remembered a father who was a teacher himself, telling her: "Ma'am, if we say anything to him, he locks himself in his room. What if he harms himself? Please tell us what to do." Student counselling Parents protest outside St Columba's after a Class X student died by suicide last month. Archive This powerlessness that many parents feel is the outcome of "overly pampering" their children through their growing-up years, the counsellor said. "In the nuclear family set-up, parents fulfil all irrational demands to show their love, rather than teach the right life skills and values to make their children worthy citizens of the country," she said.

In despair, these parents sometimes reach out to schools, the counsellor said. They will request teachers to confiscate their teens' phones because they are unable to do it themselves, or call to maybe say their child is refusing to get out of bed for school. The general irreverence of today's children seems to be devoid of an awareness of gradation, she said – many do not seem to understand the difference between teasing and bullying, and they will casually call their teachers and parents names that previous generations would not even imagine. Some of this behaviour can be traced to the pandemic, the counsellor said. "In the two years of isolation, the student-adult relationship flattened. Adults can no longer claim an automatic authority to im-

pose decisions or enforce obedience." A young counsellor at a school in south-central Delhi recalled an occasion when a 14-year-old had googled every symptom that she thought she had. The counsellor who had prepared to gently help children identify and name their feelings was instead faced with a young teen who was able to articulate emotional nuance with a sophistication not many adults have. "I was stunned," the counsellor said. She realised that in some cases at least, the children's problem was not ignorance, it was saturation.

"These children consume complex narratives on OTT platforms before they have had a chance to understand their own real worlds. The Internet has offered them a language, maybe even support of some kind. But it has also created children who come for counselling because they are struggling with too many answers," said the counsellor. Third and fourth graders can startle you with talk about "consent", "dignity", and "boundaries", she said. She recalled one especially "boundaried" eight-year-old who knew exactly what she liked and disliked, what she would and would not accept; another who could describe internal emotional states with a clarity not seen even in middle-school children five years ago.

The counsellor from the South Delhi school who had spoken to the student in long sleeves at the top of this report recalled the time she had spent with a child who had thrown a sexually explicit phrase at a classmate, seemingly innocently. After stonewalling her for an hour, the student confessed he had picked up the expression from content that some older boys had shown him on their phones. "Age-appropriate information and careful adult supervision are essential," said the counsellor. She said she frequently discovers the secret late-night digital lives that many children have. "Long hours spent online, switching between [computer games such as] Roblox and Minecraft and social media, frequently contribute to increased impulsivity." Issues of body image, seen in teens or older children until recently, seem to be now appearing in primary school. A counsellor recalled a little girl with a perfectly proportionate body for her age wanting to lose 10 kilograms because she wanted "praise from everyone". Then there are issues of interpersonal behaviour. Many students refuse to take responsibility for their actions, react sharply to peers, and find it difficult to repair bruised friendships, counsellors said. In several schools, counsellors have sessions on resolving conflict and disputes, and on reflection and accountability. A counsellor at another South Delhi school identified clear pre- and post-Covid phases in her decade of working with children. The post-Covid generation, she said, returned to school sans entire layers of developmental scaffolding.

Many could not sit through a full school day; they would request "half-days" because a long time spent with peers overwhelmed them, she said. Conflicts over the smallest matters escalated because children had lost the muscle memory that guides face-to-face relationships. Many children lost a parent to the virus, some lost both parents. The counsellor said she also started to notice a tendency towards self-harm, "a Blue Whale Challenge [online 'suicide game']-like behaviour" in which children snapped rubber bands on wrists, or punched walls until their knuckles bled. "They don't know how to express what they feel," she said. "So they copy what they see." Once, caught with a vape, a student told the counsellor, "What's the big deal? I found this in my father's drawer." Another excitedly announced in school that her parents had promised to celebrate her 16th birthday with wine. "It took me a while to comprehend. I did not know how to respond," the counsellor said. And yet, in the majority of cases, the core of childhood remains unchanged, agreed all counsellors. Children still seek a place where they are not identified by their failures, where their anger is not punished, and where they can articulate heartbreak aloud. This is why counselling rooms often feel like the heart of a school – "despite all that has changed, children still crave security," one of the counsellors quoted above said. For parents, the counsellors have a prescription: reclaim your authority, but not through fear; encourage boundaries to the extent your children can lean on them; build environments for exploration, not perfection; privilege emotional grounding over emotional vocabularies; rebuild communication; teach children to navigate conflict instead of fleeing from it. In the end, all counsellors agree on the critical need for collaboration – with parents and other stakeholders – to make things easier for a generation in school that is growing up too fast and yet not fast enough.

'Why Parth Pawar being let off?': Opp to raise Mundhwa land deal issue

GNS News Agency, Dec 8

mahesh tapase latest news today NCP (S-P) spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said while the issue of farmers not getting the desired price for their produce and distressed farmers dying by suicide will figure in the Winter Session, the Mundhwa land is one of the prominent issues the Opposition will take up.

With the Winter Session of the Maharashtra Legislature set to begin in Nagpur on Monday, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which boycotted the Mahayuti government's customary tea party held on the eve of the session, has decided to rouse Pune's Mundhwa land deal involving Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar. Atul Londhe, chief spokesperson of the Maharashtra Congress, told The Indian Express on Sunday, "The government will have to answer the way it has gone all out to protect Parth Pawar, who is Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's son."

Londhe said no FIR has been filed against Parth Pawar, despite the fact that he held 99 per cent of the stakes in the company, which bought the government land. "While the one partner who has one per cent stake is facing the FIR, the one who has the maximum stake has been allowed to walk free. What kind of justice system does the Fadnavis government have? Open violations of rules and regulations are happening but the government seems to be hand in glove with the perpetrators. We are going to grill the government on this issue," he said.

NCP (S-P) spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said while the issue of farmers not getting the desired price for their produce and distressed farmers dying by suicide will figure in the Winter Session, the Mundhwa land is one of the prominent issues the Opposition will take up. "There has been blatant stamp duty evasion in the Mundhwa land deal. It has now emerged that instead of paying Rs 21 crore stamp duty, the purchasers had paid only Rs 500. What happened to the so-called notice issued to the party by the government department? What happened to the announcement

made by Ajit Pawar that the deal has been cancelled? If the deal is cancelled, Parth Pawar's firm will have to pay Rs 42 crore stamp duty. There is complete silence on this aspect from the government. We will seek to know the full update of the land deal," said Tapase. Maharashtra vice-president of AAP Vijay Kumbhar said, "Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar has already conveyed to me that the Mundhwa land deal issue will be taken up. The Opposition is going to demand filing of an FIR against Parth Pawar. Is he being let off because he is the son of the Deputy Chief Minister? Are there different laws for different people in Maharashtra? I have also written to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis that all those involved in the land deal should face action. So far, only Sheetal Tejwani, the power of attorney holder, has been arrested. Why have others not been arrested? Are they getting protection from the state? The Chief Minister will have to clarify it in the house..." he said. Congress leader Gopal Tiwari said, "It is surprising that despite the fact that the IGR committee has submitted its report highlighting the blatant evasion of stamp duty to the tune of crores, all those guilty have still not been arrested. The Congress will continue to raise the issue in the Legislature as well outside."

In the Mundhwa land deal, two FIRs have been filed so far—one with Bawdhan police, which comes under Pimpri-Chinchwad police, and another with Khadak police, which comes under Pune police commissionerate. The Pune police city transferred the case from Khadak police to the Economic Offences Wing. In the Mundhwa land case, FIRs have been filed against Sheetal Tejwani, Digvijay Patil, who is Parth Pawar's partner in the firm and tehsildar Suryakant Yewale, who has secured anticipatory bail from the Bombay High Court. Tejwani was arrested earlier this week. Meanwhile, Parth Pawar refused to speak on the issue and has remained out of bounds. His father Ajit Pawar has firmly stood by him, arguing that Parth did not know that the land he was purchasing belonged to the government.

Thailand launches air strikes against Cambodian military: Army



GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Thailand launched air strikes on its neighbour Cambodia on Monday (December 8, 2025), the Thai Army said, with both sides trading blame for the latest eruption of fighting on their disputed border which killed a Thai soldier. After Cambodian troops fired on Thai forces early on Monday morning in Ubon Ratchathani province, "the Army received reports that Thai soldiers were attacked with supporting fire weapons, resulting in one soldier killed and four wounded", Thai Army spokesman Winthai Suvarae said in a statement.

Mr. Winthai also said Thailand had begun "using aircraft to strike military targets in several areas" to suppress attacks by Cambodian forces. Cambodia's Defence Ministry spokeswoman Maly Socheata said Thai forces launched

an attack on Cambodian troops in the border provinces of Preah Vihear and Oddar Meancheay early Monday morning, accusing Thailand of "firing multiple shots with tanks at Tamone Thom temple" and other areas near Preah Vihear temple.

Met Measpheakdey, a Cambodian spokesman for the Oddar Meancheay provincial administration, said gunfire was reported in the areas of the centuries-old Tamone Thom and Ta Krabei temples, and a "number of villagers who live near the border are fleeing to safety". Thailand's Second Army Region said in a statement that around 35,000 people in Thailand have been evacuated from areas along the border with Cambodia since the renewed fighting. Both sides reported a brief skirmish on Sunday, which Thailand's military had said left two soldiers wounded. At least 48 people were killed and an estimated 3,00,000 temporarily displaced during the July clashes, which saw the exchange of rocket fire, heavy artillery and airstrikes. The border dispute had erupted into a five-day war in July, before a ceasefire deal brokered by U.S. President Donald Trump and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Trump witnessed the signing of an expanded ceasefire deal between the two countries in Kuala Lumpur in October. The Southeast Asian neighbours have contested sovereignty for more than a century over undemarcated points along their 817-km (508-mile) land border, first mapped in 1907 by France when it ruled Cambodia as a colony.

Lure of Bollywood, easy forex deal: How a Kolkata man conned people with a promise of making film deals



deal. Crime Branch officers said Sharma has been previously involved in at least four other cases, in Amboli and Vakola in Mumbai, and one at Connaught Place in Delhi. In 2023, he allegedly cheated a woman of Rs 45 lakh by promising to arrange the signing of a Bollywood actor.

The police said Sharma was booked in a case last year at the Connaught Place Police Station, Delhi, where the complainant, Shivam Pandey, alleged that while collecting money from Sharma, he was given a glass of water after which he lost consciousness. When he recovered, a bag that had \$25,000 was missing. The police said the group operated from luxury hotels, travelled frequently by air, and paid for flights and hotel rooms in cash. Members used multiple mobile phones and SIM cards, as well as internet-based calling apps such as Zangi. Officers also recovered information indicating the use of items like chilli spray and chloroform during operations. "Sharma pretended to be involved in the film industry and falsely represented himself as a film businessman to gain the trust of professionals. He convinced the victims that he could arrange meetings with film actors for upcoming film projects, thereby gaining their confidence and cheating them out of large sums of money. In this gang, Krishna's nephew Mayank and several others, such as bouncers, makeup men, and others, participated in the crime," said DCP Indora. To win the confidence of businesspeople and forex traders, the gang allegedly booked rooms in five-star hotels, and created elaborate setups with accomplices posing as bouncers, makeup artists, and staff. Victims were asked to hand over dollars or euros, after which gang members would enter a bedroom on the pretext of verifying the currency with a manager, only to flee through another exit, said the police. According to the police, Sharma was born in Kolkata in 1994. He completed his schooling and later graduated with a BCom (Hons) from Calcutta University in 2016. A year later, he founded an event management company, Ace Entertainment, and is said to have produced a music video with a major label in 2019. Officers said that after suffering heavy losses during the pandemic, he turned to large-scale forex fraud, travelling across metro cities to target traders and business owners.

A black Friday for aviation safety in India

In the aftermath of the crisis in India's aviation after private airline Indigo cancelled flights, the Minister of Civil Aviation posted on X, the following: "The FDTL [Flight Duty Time Limitations] orders issued by [the] DGCA have been placed under abeyance with immediate effect for now to stabilize operations and prioritise relief for affected passengers." Prior to this, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had issued an appeal to pilots' associations and pilots to cooperate and ensure that flights were back without delays, with a subtle direction to dilute the FDTL (a Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) to comply with a High Court order). These acts, by the Minister and the DGCA, make a mockery of flight safety and make India the laughing stock as far as aviation safety is concerned. The commercial interests of Indigo have taken priority over crew fatigue and the safety of passengers. CARs have been modified to suit commercial aviation's requirements. Safety be damned. The dilution of a good safety measure

In 2007, the DGCA issued a very good CAR, addressing the issue of fatigue and the rest period of operating crew. But airline owners complained to the Minister, who issued orders to the DGCA to keep the CAR in abeyance. In an order dated May 29, 2008, the DGCA wrote: "The competent authority in the Ministry of Civil Aviation has decided to keep CAR Section 7, Flight Crew Standards, Series J, Part III dated 27th July, 2007 in abeyance". In 18 years, the mindset continues to favour the commercial interests of airlines and ignoring the dangers of fatigue and inadequate rest periods of crew.

The pilots association filed a writ in the Bombay High Court (Writ petition 1687 of 2008) against this order. The High Court granted interim relief and slammed the aviation authority for putting the lives of pilots and passengers at risk. The Court pulled up the Aviation Ministry and the DGCA for arbitrarily and irrationally playing with the duty hours (flying hours) of pilots. "To overcome the acute shortage of pilots, the authorities and airlines should decrease the number of flights and not increase the pilots' duty hours," the High Court observed. It said, "It is apparent that [the] safety of flights has been overlooked for protecting the financial interests of a few airline operators. The ministry in charge is duty-bound to protect the safety of pilots and passengers." Strangely, it was the same High Court that reversed the order and upheld the action of the Civil Aviation Ministry. The owner of Indigo knew, for more than a year, that the new regulations would kick in from November 1, 2025. The DGCA was also aware of this deadline. Yet, both were in deep slumber that resulted in chaos across India with thousands of passengers stranded. They may get refunds for cancelled flights but who will compensate them for the losses incurred on expenses such as hotels and



transportation arrangements? The malaise can be directly connected with the DGCA's CAR Series 'C' Part II Section 3 Air Transport dated April 19, 2022. It says: "The applicant shall have on his regular employment sufficient number of flight crew and cabin crew but not less than three sets of crew per aircraft. The flight crew should hold current licences issued by [the] DGCA with appropriate endorsements of the type of aircraft operated. The cabin crew should have appropriate authorization/endorsements as per the requirements of [the] DGCA". Even with the existing, but unsafe, FDTL and rest period rules that were in existence, one needs a minimum of six sets of pilots an aircraft for domestic operation and not less than 12 sets of pilots an aircraft for widebody, long haul operations. Airlines appear to have taken advantage of the CAR and, deliberately, underemployed qualified sets of crew. Indigo appears to be a major player in this misuse. The judiciary has shown a total disregard for aviation safety and has been playing second fiddle to the government for more than 20 years. In 2006, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had identified in its audit report the need for India to have an independent civil aviation authority and not a puppet regime under the control of the government. Almost 20 years later, this has been proved right with the complete lack of safety oversight by the DGCA over the past few years and the arrogance of airline owners to flout safety norms, knowing well that the government and the DGCA will look the other way. On December 5, 2025, there was graphic proof of this. As referred to earlier, the DGCA issued an appeal for "... full cooperation of all pilot bodies, associations and pilots across India." A few hours later, the Aviation Ministry issues an order keeping in abeyance the CAR on FDTL and rest period, mandated by the High Court. Even third world countries would not dilute safety norms to this extent. The order even mentions February 10, 2026 as the outer limit. Indigo has not complied with even one clause of the earlier CAR enforced by the High Court, for more than a year.

Fighting Superbugs: Inside the pushback against rising Antimicrobial Resistance



lates. The report also identified 11 Colistin-resistant XDR isolates, and two Enterococcus isolates resistant to both vancomycin and linezolid, indicating the emergence of highly drug-resistant strains.

The GUJSAR Surveillance Network data was taken from 14,685 isolated samples which included six government medical colleges, 13 run by the Gujarat Medical Education and Research Society (GMERS) and 3 run by municipal corporations (two in Ahmedabad, one in Surat). This is the first state-scale data accumulated and submitted to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) of the Government of India. This network also shares data with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) of the WHO. A Gujarat government AMR report, citing a 2022 statewide study by Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), notes how about 60% of samples tested were resistant to more than one class of antibiotics, and nearly 5% were pan-drug resistant. "The study also revealed that sources of resistant organisms spanned across sectors – 52% from human health, 27% from animal and fisheries sources, and 21% from the environment – underscoring the fact that AMR is not just a hospital or medical issue but a broader health concern," the report said. This shows that efforts need to be made in all three sectors to make sure that drug resistance does not increase in the ecosystem.

In January, Medical Superintendent at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital Dr Rakesh Joshi put out a mandate that high level microbials would be "authorised" for resistant infections alone, and would require approval. The need to prescribe them would have to be verified by culture sensitivity tests prior to authorisation for use. These included eight potent drugs including Colistin, with the scope of expanding this rule to four more medications.

Dr Joshi says, "These antimicrobials will be available for use by patients even in the middle of the night but the need for them have to be justified with culture sensitivity tests. Most patients reach a tertiary hospital like ours after getting treatment elsewhere and many of them already have resistance to several lines of treatment. Additionally, this will also help us get AMR data that will help in the effort to curb resistance to these drugs."

Executive Director of the State Health System Resource Centre of the Gujarat Health department Dr AM Kadri sets an 18-month deadline to train and sensitise district hospitals to contain AMR and create a network of hospitals as part of the State Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (SAPCAR-G), which was initiated in May 2024. Notably, Gujarat became the sixth state in India to develop a dedicated state-level plan for AMR containment. Gujarat is taking a top-down approach in stewardship where it is trying to reduce antibiotic consumption at the tertiary level and then go down to secondary level and then to primary healthcare at the micro level. Dr Kadri said, "Apart from the AMR Stewardship Programme (AMSP) already running in 19 medical colleges and their associated tertiary level civil hospitals, we are also trying to bring in private sector hospitals who are doing it voluntarily. We are using AMR surveillance and culture sensitivity and antibiotic consumption data to get a consolidated picture of the entire state from tertiary care healthcare centres." In the second phase, the 19 tertiary hospitals will sensitise and mentor district hospitals and then go down to sub-district level. On strengthening of testing labs in new medical colleges in peripheral districts, Dr Sumeeta Soni, Associate Professor of Microbiology at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital and Nodal Officer at GUJSAR, told The Indian Express, "In Phase-2 of the AMR, Superbugs and One Health Project, frontlined by the Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM), we have added microbiology labs in peripheral medical colleges as testing and surveillance centres for the state. They are being strengthened with equipment, manpower, financial support as well as data validation and verification processes. These new centres have tertiary hospitals in Valsad, Vadnagar, Godhra and Jamnagar. Three other hospitals in Ahmedabad Medcity (the expanded Civil hospital campus) including UNMICRC, IKDRC and GCRI have also been added to the reporting list." On December 2, the Gujarat health department held a meeting on developing a modular course on training of trainers who can take the Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme (AMSP) down to the lower rungs of healthcare.

Dr Chetna Desai, Head of Department of Pharmacology at BJ Medical College, said the common goal is to reduce AMR and promote responsible use of antimicrobials. "We are currently deciding the course modules for various cohorts, including clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, post-graduate students, and even MBBS students. There are different course plans for all which will be followed by training in their respective institutions. To ensure uniformity, we have made a committee of faculty from various medical colleges," she said. In the long run, said Dr Kadri, the state hopes that all major private hospitals join in the AMR Stewardship effort so that the AMR patterns can be identified down to the district scale so that even private medical practitioners and general physicians can know the resistance in their field of practice and geographical jurisdiction. For this purpose, the state is also building an AMR dashboard so that data can be seen by government officials and doctors and action can be taken at each level.

Regarding the inclusion of private sector hospitals in the race against AMR, Dr Chetna Desai said, "Currently, most of the larger corporate hospitals already have AMR programmes in place. We are trying to tie up with doctors' associations and regional medical groups to see how we can rope in general practitioners and spread awareness among them as well." Dr Mehl Shah, who is also President of the Gujarat State Branch of the Indian Medical Association (IMA-GSB), told The Indian Express, "The private sector makes up for 80% of healthcare in Gujarat and unfortunately, the message about AMR hasn't reached tier-3 cities and towns. We need preventive awareness at the grassroots level among the four pillars including small hospitals, pharmacies, patients and nursing homes. All four stakeholders need to be engaged in their particular niche. Today, we not only need a one-year roadmap but a 10-year strategy on how to make forward on this subject." He added that a national conference at the end of this year will also have AMR in its core discussion.

Sarpanch contestant found dead in Congress leader's farmhouse in Sangareddy

Sangareddy: A sarpanch contestant was found dead under suspicious circumstances at the farmhouse of the Congress mandal president of Raikode mandal on Monday.

The political overtones in the a apolitical Nuh padyatra



to be part of the padyatra. She highlights the significant participation of women in the march. "Women in Nuh usually stay away from social and political events but they've turned up in large numbers to be part of this procession," says Aslam, her face beaming with pride.

She recalls a gathering three days ago where over a thousand women attended, showering flowers on the padyatris, preparing food, taking pictures, and giving interviews to the media. "There's a growing awareness among women about their rights and education and it's amazing to see," adds Aslam, secretary, Vande Sardar Ekta Aayojan Samiti, the organising committee. Underlying the significance of the padyatra, Sabila Jung, another woman participant, says that even today, Mewat lacks basic infrastructure: there's no university, no railway line, no canal water. Additionally, there are long-pending demands, such as extending the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway to Nuh near Marora and upgrading Nagina to a sub-division, she says, adding that the padyatra has become a means of bringing these fundamental issues into discussion.

In the afternoon, the padyatra halts outside a village for lunch arranged by the panchayat. In an interaction with the media, Vashisth, emphasises that the padyatra is a social initiative and is completely apolitical.

"A group of young people met me saying that there is a narrative that portrays Mewat negatively, saying people here don't sing Vande Matram, don't wave the tricolour, or don't sing the national anthem," says Vashisth, pointing at the young men and women surrounding him, all part of the committee who are organising the padyatra. He mentions they asked the youth to fill out Google forms, receiving 287 responses. "We didn't take support from the police. The administration had offered, but we didn't want to hold it under the shadow of the police," he says. All arrangements for food, lodging, and night stays are made by the village or social activists, he claims. Vashisth vehemently denies that the padyatra has a BJP agenda. He says that it aims to shatter myths and promote Mewat's cultural and historical legacy. "Many industrialists, including Gurgaon Industrial Association president K.K. Gandhi, have also been part of this yatra. It will help the image makeover for this region and also attract investment. All are welcome to the yatra except those who support fanaticism," he states, adding that the event was kicked off with a Sarv Dharma Sabha.

Praise for the BJPA few minutes into the conversation, Mukesh blames the Congress and the previous political parties for neglecting the region, crediting the BJP government for promoting education and opening colleges. "Manohar Lal during his 10-year tenure as Chief Minister opened the ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes), but there are no jobs because there is no industry. Those who ruled for 70 years never thought about it. There were no colleges offering post-graduation courses before a few institutes introduced it during the Manohar Lal government," says Vashisth.

He adds that the people of the region were treated as "political slaves" during the previous governments. Addressing a nukkad Sabha (street-corner meeting) Vashisth appeals to the crowd to vote for the party and the candidate that gives them colleges and universities and talks about industry. "Don't sell your votes for laddoos. Worry about the future of your children," he proclaims. The padyatra's "social" label has been met with scepticism by the locals. Imran Khan, a Pinangwan village shopkeeper, says, "It's a saffron political agenda wrapped up in a social message." He points out that the inclusion of Vande Mataram and Sardar Patel's images are clear nods to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and BJP ideologies, while Raja Hasan Khan Mewati's reference is a calculated move to win over local Meo Muslims and boost the padyatra's credibility.

Haryana Gau Sewa Aayog's lone Muslim member Aas Mohammed, a former BJP block-level president, says that the yatra initially faced opposition in some areas with the locals threatening to pelt stones and not allowing it to enter the villages but the situation was brought under control. The padyatra's organisers had touted big-name attendees, including Union Minister Manohar Lal and Chief Minister Nayab Saini, but both failed to show, fuelling speculation about the event's lukewarm reception. Some suggest the organisers deliberately avoided a high-profile presence to downplay the event's political undertones.

Nuh, one of 112 Aspirational Districts identified by the Niti Aayog, remains Haryana's most backward — struggling with education, health, financial inclusion, agriculture, and basic infrastructure. The district has an over 90% Meo Muslim population and has been a Congress stronghold, with the party sweeping the three Assembly constituencies in the 2024 polls. The Meo Muslims also hold the key to Sohna and Hatin Assembly constituencies in Gurugram and Palwal districts. The BJP's attempts to break into this stronghold have been unsuccessful, with only a handful of high-profile defections, including Zakir Hussain, Naseem Ahmed, and Aizaz Ahmed, joining the saffron camp. The history of lynching and communal violence hasn't helped the BJP's cause in the region.

Elon Musk refutes reports that SpaceX is raising \$800 billion

New Delhi: Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Sunday refuted reports that SpaceX is raising money worth \$800 billion or NASA gives subsidies to his space company. The Wall Street Journal reported that SpaceX is kicking off a secondary share sale that would value the rocket maker at \$800 billion, surpassing OpenAI to make it the most valuable US private company.

"There has been a lot of press claiming @SpaceX is raising money at \$800B, which is not accurate. SpaceX has been cash flow positive for many years and does periodic stock buybacks twice a year to provide liquidity for employees and investors," said the billionaire in a series of X posts.

He further stated that valuation increments are a function of progress with Starship and Starlink and securing global direct-to-cell spectrum that greatly increases our addressable market. "And one other thing that is arguably most significant by far," he added.

Musk said while he has great fondness for NASA, they will constitute less than 5 per cent of our revenue next year. Commercial Starlink is by far our largest contributor to revenue. Some people have claimed that SpaceX gets 'subsidised' by NASA. This is absolutely false, said Musk. "The SpaceX team won the NASA contracts because we offered the best product at the lowest price. BOTH best product AND lowest cost. With regard to astronaut transport, SpaceX is currently the only option that passes NASA safety standards," he added.

How is Australia setting standards on training AI? | Explained



ators when their works are used for AI training. The aim is to establish a regime that balances technology-driven innovation with real value exchange so creators can decide how their works are used, and receive payment for the intellectual property.

How has the creative industry responded?

The decision represents more than a win for artists and media agencies as many see it as step in the right direction. Industry bodies see it as an important step in the right direction. For instance, Annabelle Herd, CEO of Australian Recording Industry Association, said in a LinkedIn post that the decision to "rule out a text and data mining exception for AI training of music and other copyright material is a critical step in the right direction. It is a win for creativity and Australian culture and First Nations culture, but it's also a win for common sense." She noted that the current copyright licensing structures are the foundation of the creator and digital economies and that IP laws drive innovation.

"Artists deserve the right to decide how their work is used and to share in the value it creates. Protecting that agency is how we safeguard Australia's creative sovereignty and keep our culture strong," she asserted. Media executives have widely endorsed the move, underscoring the need to let creators have control over their content. Some see Australia's position in the broader AI debate as a defender of creator rights in an era of technological upheaval, while others view this as a signal to other democracies grappling with the same issues. Australia's decision comes at a time when, around the world, tech companies are seeking to negotiate or sidestep copyright laws in pursuit of data to power ever larger, smarter AI models. Yet the backlash from cultural and media groups highlights a growing unease with the notion that transformative technology should override established rights and undermine creative economies.

Why does this matter now?

As AI becomes increasingly capable of generating content, reproducing styles, and even mimicking unique voices, the line between inspiration and appropriation blurs. Creators, authors and media organisations fear loss of agency, financial harm, and the cultural dilution that comes with unchecked content mining. In addition, smaller players and independent artists, those with the least number of resources, are the most exposed to this AI onslaught. For such groups, meaningful copyright protection is synonymous with survival, creative integrity, and fair market participation. Australia's ruling is significant not simply for its immediate legal consequences, but for its deeper message that technological advancement must coexist with respect for creators, for culture, and for the economic infrastructure that sustains both. The government's next steps on potentially replacing voluntary licensing with a mandatory, paid system could set the standard for ethical AI development, championing genuine value exchange and fostering trust between innovators and the creative sector. As other democracies wrestle with the question of who benefits from the AI revolution, Australia's stance should remind them that innovation need not come at the cost of fairness, culture, and human creativity. Australia's position signals that technology works best when it amplifies human creativity rather than exploit it.

What is at the heart of the issue?

At the heart of this controversy is the question of whether AI firms should be allowed to use copyrighted material, like books, music, artworks, and journalistic content, to train their AI systems without obtaining explicit permission from the creators. The issue came to a head after the Productivity Commission, a government-backed independent agency, which takes inputs from industry bodies and big tech firms, suggested an exemption to existing copyright laws to mine text and data. In its report titled 'Harnessing Data and Digital Technology', the commission advocated for open access to vast troves of text data and voluntary industry standards in terms of guardrails. The commission argued that easing restrictions could unlock billions of dollars in foreign investment and bolster Australia's economy.

This prompted immediate and vocal opposition. Authors, artists, trade unions, and media organisations called the proposal a way to get access to original content without paying for it. The commission's interim report, published in August, further stoked anger by revealing it had not consulted with creatives nor modelled the real impact on Australia's artistic economy before recommending the change.

How is the government responding?

In response to criticism from creatives, Attorney General Rowland said that "Australian creatives are not only world class, but they are also the lifeblood of Australian culture, and we must ensure the right legal protections are in place." She emphasised that technology's advancement must not come at the expense of those who generate the culture AI seeks to emulate or understand. Recognising the economic potential of AI, Ms. Rowland still asserted, "Australian creatives must benefit from these opportunities too." To chart a way forward, the government has convened a Copyright and AI Reference Group (CAIRG) to consider alternatives. These include the possibility of a new paid licensing framework under the Copyright Act, which replaces the current voluntary system, and fairly compensates cre-

Francesca Orsini: Scholar of the east



'A literary historian working primarily with Hindi and Urdu materials' is how Francesca Orsini describes herself in her official profile on the website of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London. This benign description though overlooks the seminal nature of her work for Hindi language and in particular on the making of the Hindi public sphere in the early 20th century, say fellow academics. When the Italian scholar was denied entry into India and deported for violating visa rules from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, there were both surprise and shock in literary circles.

For they feel Ms. Orsini is not known to make political statements and nor is there any known controversy attached to her works. Her range of work includes studies of Hindi periodicals, oral traditions like Bhojpuri songs and 'katha', and cultural and social dimensions of 'Hinglish', Hindi-English language mixing in media and everyday life. After a BA in Hindi from Venice University in Italy, she studied in Delhi at the Central Institute of Hindi and Jawaharlal Nehru University before going to SOAS for her doctorate for which she worked on the Hindi literary sphere of the 1920s and 1930s.

She then found her interest in book history and worked on commercial publishing in Hindi and Urdu in the 19th century, which interestingly saw a proliferation of "oral-literate" genres printed in both Hindi and Urdu scripts just as modern rigid language ideologies consolidated. Back at SOAS after teaching for several years at Cambridge, Ms. Orsini ran a research project on 'North Indian Literary Culture and History' that sought to rethink the history of early modern north Indian literature from a sustained multilingual perspective. The scholar, currently professor emerita at SOAS, is now finishing a book on the multilingual literary history of Awadh from the 15th century to the early 20th century. She is also a fellow of the British Academy and a member of the Steering Committee of the British Comparative Literature Association and of the Institute of World Literature. In 2013-14, she was a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, and has also had visiting positions at Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. Noted works She is the author of The Hindi Public Sphere (2002) and Print and Pleasure (2009), and editor of Love in South Asia: A Cultural History (2006) and Before the Divide: Hindi and Urdu Literary Cultures (2010). Her edited volume on Hinglish (with Ravikant) has recently appeared with Orient Black Swan, New Delhi (2022). "One could disagree with her views but cannot take away the academic value of her work. Blocking her entry is a loss for academia more than for her. Of particular interest has been her work in exploring the evolution of her work in how Hindi and Urdu evolved into distinct languages from the same roots," Purushottam Agrawal, a noted writer and literary critic, told The Hindu. Ms. Orsini had a valid five-year tourist e-visa when she was deported. She arrived in India via Hong

Kong, prior to which she attended a conference in China. She last visited India in October 2024. Although Ms. Orsini had a tourist visa, she was "regularly violating" visa conditions. This is a standard global practice that if a person is found violating visa conditions, he/she can be blacklisted, the government said. According to an official, the Italian national, while on a tourism e-visa in 2024, spoke at a university, and conducted research, which was considered a violation of the terms of her visa. A section of political leadership and academia though feels that the move was reflective of the government's growing "intolerance" towards the understanding of India's composite cultural heritage as evidenced by Ms. Orsini in her work on the origin and development of Hindi and Urdu cultures. "The decision to bar her [Orsini] from the country is not a matter of immigration formality but a symptom of the Modi government's hostility towards independent, serious-thinking, professional scholarship," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh wrote in a post on X.

ISRO to launch heaviest communication satellite CMS-03 onboard LVM3-M5

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh): ISRO's over 4,000 kg communication satellite CMS-03 is all set to be launched from this space port on Sunday and the countdown is progressing. The satellite, weighing about 4,410 kg, will be the heaviest to be launched from Indian soil and into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), the space agency said. The satellite will travel on board a LVM3-M5 rocket, dubbed 'Bahubali' for its heavy-lift capability. The launch vehicle has been fully assembled and integrated with the spacecraft, and it has been moved to the second launch pad here for taking up pre-launch operations, the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said on Saturday. The 43.5 metre tall rocket, dubbed as 'Bahubali' for its ability to carry heavier payloads weighing up to 4,000 kg, is scheduled for a 5.26 pm lift-off on November 2. LVM3- (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) is the new heavy lift launch vehicle of ISRO and is used for placing 4,000 kg spacecraft in GTO in a cost-effective manner, ISRO said. While it is being claimed that satellite's applications include military surveillance, there has been no official word from ISRO on the matter. This three-stage launch vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons (S200), a liquid propellant core stage (L110), and a cryogenic stage (C25) gives ISRO full self-reliance in launching heavier communication satellites that weigh up to 4,000 kg in GTO. LVM3- is also termed by ISRO scientists as Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk III. The LVM3-M5 is the fifth operational flight, ISRO said. The space agency had previously launched its heaviest communication satellite GSAT-11 on December 5, 2018, from Kourou launch base, French Guiana by Ariane-5 VA-246 rocket. Weighing about 5,854 kg, GSAT-11 is the heaviest satellite built by ISRO. Sunday's mission objective is that the CMS-03, a multi-band communication satellite, will provide services over a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass, ISRO said. The previous mission of the LVM-3 mission was the successful launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, wherein India became the first country to land successfully near the lunar South pole in 2023, according to ISRO.

Delhi UPSC aspirant murder: Partner and two others held after CCTV footage surfaces



In an electrical shop in north Delhi's Gandhi Vihar, Geeta Devi sits hunched on a worn out revolving chair, eyes glued to her smartphone. Exhausted with the swarm of reporters thronging the neighbourhood for the past week, she looks up with exasperation at a man who has stopped at her shop. She's half-expecting to be questioned about the alleged murder of a 32-year-old man in the neighbourhood. It turns out the person at her counter is a potential customer. Relieved that the customer is a local, she rushes into a conversation on the incident that has become a subject of discussion in the area. "Dekhiye aaj kal ki ladkiyon ko (Just look at this generation's women)," she says. "He was a nice boy. The only vice I could see in him was that he would sit on the steps of shops and smoke." She adds that she hadn't known him personally. On October 6, Ramkesh Meena's body was found in a burnt down flat in Gandhi Vihar. Within two weeks, police said they had traced the death to his partner Amrita Chauhan and her associates Sumit Kashyap and Sandeep Kumar. Gandhi Vihar is a neighbourhood where single-room flats with little ventilation dominate. Here, every second house is inhabited by migrants preparing for government examinations. It lies next door to Mukherjee Nagar, once the hub of coaching centres. Many live here for years, picking up books from bookstores that dot the markets, clustering in groups to discuss the future, or just grabbing a bite from roadside stalls for sustenance.

Familiarity is often limited to facial recognition and observable habits and mannerisms. Ramkesh led a life similar to all other government job aspirants. He was preparing to write the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination that offers those who clear it entry into India's civil services. He had an engineering degree from Netaji Subhas University of Technology, Delhi. While Geeta Devi recalled him as a smoker, the owner of a nearby shop recalled him as a tea lover. Now, he is discussed as the man who was allegedly killed after he refused to delete intimate videos of his partner despite her asking him to do so several times. On the intervening night of October 5 and 6, black fumes choked the tightly packed houses lining the narrow lanes of the neighbourhood. Awakened by the thick smoke, the neighbours alerted the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) at 2.56 a.m. A fraction of a minute later, the neighbourhood was shaken by a blast in a flat on the fourth floor, impacting the adjacent walls and waking up even those in deep sleep.

When firefighters reached the spot, high flames engulfed the flat, says Kalpanthi, a senior DFS official who led the rescue operation. "After hours of firefighting, we found a body. A part of the torso was found and some bones; it was completely charred," says Kalpanthi. The officers wrapped the remains in a sack and after scanning the spot, handed it over to Delhi Police.

At first, the death seemed to be an accident. "Our suspicions arose because there was a gas cylinder in the bedroom. So, we started to investigate if it was a death by suicide," says a senior Delhi police officer. The police spoke to Ramkesh's family that hails from Dausa district of Rajasthan. The family ruled out the possibility of suicide, the officer says. "His father, who is a farmer, was in disbelief. Later, his brother pointed out the involvement of Ramkesh with a woman named Amrita," says the officer. However, the investigation only changed course when the police scanned several CCTV cameras around the house. In the footage from Ramkesh's neighbour's CCTV camera, the police saw two people with their faces covered holding bags and leaving the building right before the flat caught fire. "That was the moment we realised that neither was this another fire incident nor a suicide," says Raja Bantia, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North). The police then went through Ramkesh's call detail records and traced Amrita's number. He had made multiple calls to her number in the past few days. "There were calls made to his family members and friends. One number was saved by the name Amrita. We traced the geographic location of all recent calls and found that Amrita's device was near his house before the fire," says Bantia. The police began the hunt for Amrita. "Ramkesh's relative confirmed that Amrita was his present girlfriend and showed us her social media

account. We then showed her photographs to the neighbours who recognised her as someone who would frequently visit his apartment. However, none of them knew her," says the officer. Through human intelligence and technical surveillance, the police reached the house where Amrita was taking shelter along with Kashyap, her alleged former boyfriend, in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad.

The police detained Amrita on October 18. Kashyap and Kumar were picked up on October 21 and 23. At first, they denied the allegations. "We showed them the footage of the two of them stepping out, minutes before the flat caught fire. Seeing this, they confessed," the DCP adds. During interrogation, Amrita confessed that she went to Kashyap for help after Ramkesh refused to delete an intimate video, he says. "Amrita was alarmed when she realised that Ramkesh did not want to delete the video. She was afraid that he would use it against her," he adds. Police say Amrita had asked Ramkesh multiple times to delete the video and tried to take the hard disk in his absence. "He would always carry the hard disk even when he went for tea," says a police officer in charge of the investigation. Amrita allegedly confided in Kashyap. Together, they hatched a plan that would make Ramkesh's murder look like an accident, the police say based on Amrita's alleged confession. They say on September 20, Amrita and Kashyap decided to coerce Ramkesh into handing over the devices and threatened to kill him if he didn't. "Subsequently, they rented a flat in south Delhi's Chattarpur and moved into it on October 2," a police officer adds. On October 4, Amrita allegedly left for Ramkesh's house. The visit came as no surprise to him. "She would come and stay with him for a few days and then leave. They were dating and not in a live-in relationship," says the police officer. Amrita told the police on October 4 that she and Ramkesh were physically intimate. The following day, Ramkesh stepped out of his house around 5.30 p.m. and came back by 9.45 p.m. Meanwhile, Amrita stepped out once to collect vegetables, as per CCTV footage, police say. By 8 p.m., both Kashyap and Kumar reached the neighbourhood. Only after Ramkesh returned did they quietly go up to the flat, police say. "On corroborating the statements of all three accused, we learnt that they first beat up Ramkesh, seized all his devices, and strangled him to death," says the DCP. According to the initial probe, Ramkesh's time of death has been ascertained as 10 p.m. While Kumar fled to Moradabad, Amrita and Kashyap stayed put till about 2 a.m. "To ensure that no fingerprints or evidence remained, they poured wine, ghee, and oil on Ramkesh's body and left an open cylinder next to his head," a police officer says. Both Amrita and Kashyap tried to pass off an alleged murder as a fire-related accident. "Amrita had studied forensic science at a university in Moradabad and Kashyap used to run his family business of distributing LPG cylinders. They placed the cylinder next to his head to ensure that the carbon monoxide emitted during the fire would enter his oesophagus and it would be declared as the cause of death," the police officer says. It was also to ensure that all signs of strangulation and physical assault that tied them to the crime would disappear, he adds. The trio has been booked on charges of murder, criminal conspiracy, and arson under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita. The police have sent the hard disk for forensic examination. They say there were also 16 intimate videos of other women in it. A relative, who does not want to be named, says the allegations levelled against Ramkesh are "unbelievable". "I accept that his hard disk has videos of multiple women, but they were all recorded with consent," he says, adding that the police had shown him the videos. It is "not unusual" to record videos during periods of intimacy, he says. The police confirm that the videos were recorded on smartphone cameras. Preliminary investigations reveal that the women were not recorded using hidden cameras. The relative also feels that Kashyap "wanted revenge" from Ramkesh "because he had established physical ties with Amrita". He alleges that while Kashyap was married and had a child, he continued to be in a relationship with Amrita. Once Ramkesh entered her life in May this year, the distance between them grew, he adds. Amrita's family, based in Moradabad, refuses to speak about their daughter. However, a newspaper declaration dated 2021 read that they had severed ties with her after she "married Kashyap in a temple". "The family was against Amrita's choice of marrying him, so they filed a complaint against him. However, since Amrita was an adult, she told the police that she had left her house by choice," a senior Delhi Police officer says. Amrita made her living by taking Biology tuition classes for students of Classes 8 to 12. While she was first enrolled as a forensic science student in a college in Moradabad, she quit after a year and enrolled in a college in Bijnor to pursue computer science, police say. Meanwhile, Kumar, who was preparing for a government entrance exam, has been implicated in a murder that police say he did not help plan.

U.P. school merger: Is pairing the same as shutdown?

For Sachin, 8, the last few months were full of difficulty. His parents protested against the school merger, submitted a memorandum to the authorities asking to reopen his school. Finally, though the decision to merge schools has not been rolled back in its entirety, some school's were reopened after protests. A relief for Sachin. Residing in Sahpurva village under Bakshi Ka Talab (BKT) block in Lucknow district, Sachin's primary school was closed in July during the merger exercise. Virendra, 24, from Sahpurva, whose nephew is also enrolled in the same school, said, "We protested and forced the reopening of the school; the road towards the proposed new school passes through sugarcane fields where jackals are in high numbers; we can't see our children suffer." The story of Sachin is not an isolated case; the Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Department's exercise of merging primary schools, or what it described as pairing in June 2025, led to chaos, confusion, fear and anxiety for marginalised poor families. They were concerned about the outcome of the decision and brought structural questions of learning gaps to the forefront. The decision led to the merger of approximately 10,000 primary schools in the State. Schools having fewer than 50 students were considered for the exercise, and the criterion was that the distance between paired primary schools did not exceed one kilometre. In the Bakshi Ka Talab (BKT) block under Lucknow district, 64 primary schools were considered for pairing, with at least 20 being paired in the process. "All the schools, over one lakh, that we have under the Basic Education Department remain fully operational. If the distance of the schools that have been merged is more than one kilometre and the students are facing any kind of inconvenience, then all those schools will be unpaired again," said Sandeep Singh, the Basic Education Minister. U.P. government. Mr. Singh said the vacant

school buildings are put to creative use, with balvatikas (play school) being opened in them. "This is a meaningful step towards strengthening pre-primary education and preparing children mentally for Grade 1. Health and nutrition-related activities will be carried out in coordination with other departments," he said. On August 15, 2025, 5,118 Balvatikas (play school) were ceremoniously inaugurated and equipped with child-friendly furniture, colourful classrooms, outdoor play equipment, learning corners, and activity-based wonder boxes. The decision introduced by the Uttar Pradesh government is based on the recommendations of the National Education Policy-2020, which advocates for the integration of smaller schools with nearby, better-resourced institutions. A correspondence from the Ministry of Education, dated June 5, 2024, indicated that the consolidation of schools with fewer than 50 students could greatly enhance the learning environment and the quality of education. Subsequently, during a meeting led by the Director General of School Education on October 23, 2024, districts were instructed to prioritise the assessment and merger of schools having low enrollment. Addressing apprehensions about job losses, the State government said, "All sanctioned posts will remain intact, no posts are being removed. In fact, the scheme mandates that schools with up to 50 enrolled students must have three appointed teachers. If needed, we will appoint new teachers to maintain the required pupil-teacher ratio," Mr. Singh said. Critics remain unconvinced by the merger decision. "The distinction between permanent and temporary closure is merely superficial. Such modifications, in light of the current situation, will undermine the entire educational framework in U.P., which is already grappling with a shortage of qualified teachers, as evidenced by surveys that reveal significant deficiencies in foundational skills and learning gaps among primary school students."

DGCA allows IndiGo CEO Elbers, COO Porqueras one-time 24-hour extension to respond to show-cause notices on flight disruptions



expected to be taken on the basis of the report of the four-member inquiry committee that was set up by the DGCA on Friday. The panel has two weeks to submit its report. The massive disruption at IndiGo—India's largest airline that commands over 60 per cent of the domestic market share—has thrown commercial flight operations out of gear all over the country for the better part of this week. The DGCA on Friday granted IndiGo a temporary one-time exemption from some night operations-related changes in the new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms for its Airbus A320 pilots. The temporary rollback, which will be in place till February 10, is likely to help IndiGo—caught grossly unprepared for the new crew rest norms—to get its act together and stabilise operations from hereon. The DGCA has also granted a few other temporary relaxations to IndiGo.

Meanwhile, the crisis-stricken airline is limping back to normalcy with the carrier expected to operate over 1,650 or its 2,300-plus scheduled flights on Sunday, with an overall on-time performance (OTP) of around 75 per cent, according to data shared by IndiGo. The airline also said that it now has "growing confidence" that it will achieve the stabilisation of its network by December 10, against the earlier communicated timeline of December 10-15. While the operation of 1,650 flights means that the airline cancelled over 650 flights on Sunday, the number of cancellations is lower than the previous three days. On Saturday, IndiGo had operated around 1,500 flights, more than double of Friday's around 700 flights, when cancellations were "well over 1,000". Friday was the worst day in IndiGo's network-wide disruption this week, as the airline had decided to "reboot the network, systems, and rosters" to mitigate the widespread delays and flight cancellations. Its OTP was 20.7 per cent on Saturday, up from Friday's all-time low of 3.7 per cent on Friday, as per data from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA). According to the ministry, by Sunday evening, IndiGo had processed refunds worth Rs 610 crore to passengers hit by the disruption. In a message to IndiGo staff on Sunday, Elbers said that the carrier—which commands over 60 per cent of domestic air passenger volumes—is getting back on track "step by step". The primary reason for this disruption is crew shortages in the wake of the new FDTL rules, which IndiGo did not plan for properly. As per the DGCA, IndiGo informed it that the disruptions "have arisen primarily from misjudgement and planning gaps in implementing" the second phase of new FDTL rules, with the airline accepting that the actual crew requirement for the new rules exceeded what it had anticipated. Although the new FDTL rules apply to all domestic airlines, IndiGo has been the most severely-affected carrier. The factors that have made IndiGo more vulnerable, according to industry sources, include its massive scale of operations, a high-frequency network, significant number of night and wee hour flights, and high aircraft and crew utilisation levels, leaving little elbow room for the airline to manage crew shortages. With its fleet of over 400 aircraft, IndiGo operates over 2,300 flights a day. By contrast, the next biggest airline group—Air India—operates less than half the number of flights IndiGo operates.

"The DGCA has cautioned that failure to submit a complete and comprehensive reply within the extended timeline will result in the regulator proceeding ex parte, based on the available records," a senior official said. According to sources in the know, the notices said that the large-scale operational failures at IndiGo indicate significant lapses in planning, oversight, and resource management, and prima facie reflect non-compliance by the airline on some provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and the new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules. The notices also stated that IndiGo failed to provide the affected passengers proper information and facilities that are mandatory in the case of flight delays and cancellations. "Whereas, as the CEO, you are responsible for ensuring effective management of the airlines but you have failed in your duty to ensure timely arrangements for conduct of reliable operations and the availability of requisite facilities to the passengers," the DGCA's notice to Elbers is learnt to have said.

Sources indicated that stringent action could be in the offing for India's largest airline and its top executives in view of the disruption due to which scores of flights have been cancelled on a daily basis this week, leaving thousands of passengers stranded at airports across India. The action is

RBI's monetary policy need not be hostage to rupee; sliding core inflation telltale sign of excess capacity: JP Morgan's Jahangir Aziz



With the rupee sliding to record lows, Jahangir Aziz, Head of Emerging Markets Economic Research, JP Morgan, is of the view that the exchange rate depreciation is a good thing and not a bad thing as it's allowing the built-up depreciating pressures to vent off. "And therefore, monetary policy doesn't have to be held hostage to the exchange rate. It can now focus on domestic issues..." In an interview with Aanchal Magazine, Aziz said that the downward trend in core inflation for a protracted period is proving to be a telltale sign of excess capacity. Ad hoc factors should not be blamed for the underperformance of private corporate investments, he said, adding that it should be conceded that the drivers are structural and "look for structural reforms to get private investment going." Aziz also spoke about the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) data, the "serious statistical methodological issues underlying India's construction of real GDP" due to usage of wholesale prices and not producer prices to deflate nominal GDP, suggesting that implied services inflation from GDP data might be understated. "The RBI will have to address the question why it is necessary to ease monetary policy when the recorded official growth rate is 8.2%." Edited excerpts:

In the backdrop of the rupee slide, what were the challenges before RBI just ahead of the monetary policy.

The exchange rate depreciation is a good thing, not a bad thing. It is allowing the built-up depreciating pressures to vent off. And therefore, monetary policy doesn't have to be held hostage to the exchange rate. It can now focus on domestic issues rather than constantly being worried about what might happen on the exchange rate front.

If you leave aside the external side of the economy, the rupee depreciation etc. and if you focus on just the domestic part of the economy, which is typically the dominant driver of monetary policy decisions, for at least close to two years, core inflation in India has been sliding. People have been talking about inflation falling in the last few months, but core inflation has been sliding for much longer. And when core inflation keeps sliding for such a protracted period, it is almost always a sign that there is a lot of excess capacity in the economy. But as core inflation keeps slowing, it is also a sign that excess capacity is increasing, not declining. There are other factors in play that people talk about and I'm not denying their importance such as falling Chinese import prices etc., but they are not large enough to explain this persistent decline. One can have episodic declines in core inflation because of some shock in the economy, but you can't have a systematic decline taking place over such a long period of time without that being a telltale sign of excess capacity. And it is a sign that the excess capacity is worsening rather than improving.

Turning to the exchange rate, I think the RBI is trying to disassociate the interest rate from the exchange rate by letting the depreciation pressures work themselves out. That's how I make sense of the timing. Once you let those pressures out, then you can cut interest rates without fearing a large exchange rate reaction. This allows monetary policy to focus on the domestic economy. So if there is such huge excess capacity, then the expectation of private sector investment picking up sooner is unlikely. It would actually be much later than sooner...

Yes, this is also the reason as to why private investment hasn't picked up. But private investment not picking

Gold gains, silver drop as traders await Fed policy outcome

New Delhi: Gold prices edged higher to Rs 1,30,638 per 10 grams while silver futures eased to Rs 1,82,600 per kg on Monday as investors turned cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's final policy meeting of the year. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for February 2026 contract increased by Rs 176, or 0.13 per cent, to Rs 1,30,638 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 13,134 lots. Last week, the precious metal appreciated by Rs 958, or 0.74 per cent. However, silver futures depreciated by Rs 808, or 0.44 per cent, to Rs 1,82,600 per kilogram in 14,281 lots. On Friday, the white metal had surged by Rs 7,096, or 3.98 per cent, to hit a record of Rs 1,85,234 per kilogram, before settling at Rs 1,83,408 per kg on the MCX. Over the past week, silver had skyrocketed by Rs 8,427, or 4.81 per cent. "Silver, which rose more than 3 per cent last week, saw some early-week profit-taking but remains underpinned by tightening inventories in London and China and a structural deficit expected to persist into 2026," Manav Modi, Analyst – Precious Metal -Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Ranchi's ICAR-Research Complex says farmers benefitting from its two soybean, snow pea varieties

GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Ranchi: Two soybean and snow pea varieties developed by the ICAR-Research Complex here are rapidly gaining acceptance among farmers and earning recognition at national and international levels for their taste and high nutritional value, a scientist said. These improved varieties are the result of continuous research conducted over nearly three decades at the centre located in Ranchi's Piplan, Horticulture and Vegetable Science's principal scientist RS Pan said.

"Soybean variety 'Swarna Vasundhara' and snow pea variety 'Swarna Tripti' have gained nationwide recognition. Their popularity among farmers is steadily rising," he said. The soybean variety was introduced in Jharkhand and other States to provide nutritional and livelihood security among the farmers. "Based on the recommendation of the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties for Horticultural Crops, the variety is now being supplied to farmers in 14 States," Pan said. Farmers gave a positive response to the soybean variety in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, he said. "Swarna Vasundhara" has now become a widely recognised identity of Jharkhand, the scientist said, adding that its promotion aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for India to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses. The main objective behind developing this soybean variety was to address nutritional deficiencies across all age groups, he said. "The original germplasm of the soybean was imported from the World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan, and later improved through selection and experimental cultivation in Ranchi. And it is a source of proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, essential fatty acids and minerals," Pan said.

Additionally, it also contains isoflavones, which are anti-cancer compounds, and is beneficial for people suffering from osteoporosis (knee pain) and heart-related ailments, he said. It could also be preserved in the form of frozen soybeans for a year at -20 degrees Celsius, the scientist said. Processing units have been set up in Pune and West Bengal to produce soya milk, curd, paneer, rasgulla and other value-added products from the soybean. "Local farmers are directly benefiting from this. A farmer from Nagri in Ranchi district is cultivating 'Swarna Vasundhara' on a large scale and supplying the agro produce to Pune and other locations. Another cultivator, Emileen Kandulna, is also producing various value-added products from the crop," Pan said.

Dr Raushan Kumar, who is working as the agriculture advisor to cricketer M S Dhoni, said, "He has cultivated Swarna Vasundhara, a high-yielding improved soybean variety. One kg of seed was brought to the farm from ICAR,



Plandu, for trial during this Kharif season. The crop matured in about 3-4 months and gave a very good yield. From next year, we will definitely cultivate it on a large scale. The taste of this soybean is better than the earlier varieties." He also added that 1 kg of Swarna Tripti seed was also cultivated on the farm. Anil Mahto, a farmer from Nagri, also cultivated Swarna Vasundhara on 50 decimals of land. He said, "I purchased 10 kg of seed for Rs 1,500 and my expenses were Rs 5,000 on ploughing, Rs 5,000 on bed preparation, Rs 6,500 on mulching, Rs 2,500 on manure and fertilisers, and Rs 20,000 on labour (80 people). In all, I invested around Rs 60,000. After selling the produce in the market, I earned Rs 1,50,000 and made a net profit of Rs 90,000."

A farmer, Rupesh Pahan, from Ranchi district said, "This year, in May, I cultivated Swarna Vasundhara on 63 decimals (0.63 acre) of land. The seed quality is very good. I have been growing this variety for the last two years and earned a net profit of Rs 80,000. My total produce was around 15 quintals, and the current market price is approximately Rs 110 per kg." Another farmer, Bhola Oraon, of Thakurgaon in Ranchi district, said he is cultivating Swarna Vasundhara for the first time this year. "The seed quality is excellent and the yield is much higher than previous varieties. I cultivated it on about 70 decimals of land. My total investment was around Rs 50,000, and I earned a net profit of Rs 1,50,000. Along with me, five other farmers in the village are also growing Swarna Vasundhara this year," he said. The main objective behind developing this soybean variety was to address nutritional deficiencies across all age groups, Dr Pan said. "Swarna Tripti" is a relatively new variety, and its tender pods can be eaten whole in salads, used in sandwiches or cooked with vegetables. It is rich in protein and minerals, he said. "Both varieties have been tested and evaluated for their nutrient content. We are popularising them among farmers, and they are being accepted gradually as farmers realise their nutritional benefits and economic potential as cash crops," Dr Pan said. The improved varieties are currently being supplied to Odisha's Sambalpur Krishi Vigyan Kendra and in northeastern states such as Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

Madhuri Dixit on her 'vibe' with husband Shriram Nene: 'He didn't understand Hindi at that point'; why meeting without any 'filters' matter



He can make friends anytime. He knows everything about everyone, shared Madhuri Dixit on Dr Shriram Nene

Madhuri Dixit went down memory lane, getting candid about life and meeting her husband, cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Shriram Nene. "I could meet him without any pre-conceived notions about me or how I should be. Because when people watch my films, they have certain thoughts about how I will be in real life. I have my bad days, good days too. When I met him, it was very refreshing to just vibe with someone on a personal level. There was no filter of a star. It was like two people meeting, just talking and getting to know each other. It was wonderful," Madhuri, 58, recalled.

Talking about Dr Nene's roots, Madhuri said he was born in London and moved to the US when he was 7. "He used to come to India on vacation when he was little. Once he was in grade 8, it was less and less, and then he was in college...and Maharashtrians are not so much into movies. So it was all about getting a good education. He didn't watch (my films), and he didn't know Hindi. He knew Marathi because his grandparents didn't know English, so he used to talk to them in Marathi. So he was good with Marathi but didn't understand Hindi at that point. Now he does," added the Total Dhamaal actor.

Admitting that, unlike popular perception that she is social while he is not, Madhuri said, "He is so friendly. He is amazing. He can make friends anytime. He knows everything about everyone. I call him my goodwill ambassador everywhere. I am the one who is quiet and shy." She also opened up about living a non-celebrity life in Los Angeles and Denver, where Dr Nene was working before deciding to move back to India on her parents' wish, adding that Dr Nene and the children love India.

When Madhuri Dixit spoke about meeting her husband for the first time, what stood out was not the celebrity angle, but the simplicity of two people meeting without any filters. This is more profound than it seems. In a world where people are constantly evaluated through curated lives, old narratives and social labels, meeting someone who sees you instead of the version the world has created can feel like

emotional oxygen. That is the foundation of a healthy partnership, said psychotherapist and life coach Delnna Rrakesh. "Relationships flourish not because of shared interests or attraction alone, but because two people feel emotionally safe to show their authentic selves without performance or pressure. What Madhuri described is not luck. It is emotional alignment," added Delnna. When someone meets you without past narratives, fan perceptions, family expectations or social projections, three things happen psychologically.

* You relax into your truth: When the other person has no agenda about who you should be, your nervous system softens. You show your real personality instead of your protected one. * You mirror authenticity: We naturally respond with genuine behaviour when we are not being watched, judged or evaluated. * Authenticity invites authenticity. Connection forms on character, not image: The relationship builds on emotional compatibility, not a pre-conceived story. This creates long-term stability. Dr Nene's personality also reveals another essential ingredient. She describes him as friendly, warm, and able to make friends anywhere, while she is quieter and shyer. This balance is not accidental. "Couples often thrive when their temperaments complement each other," said Delnna.

* Meet people with curiosity, not assumptions. Let the person reveal themselves instead of mentally writing their story beforehand. It lowers emotional pressure on both sides. * Lead with your truth early. Say what you feel. Express your values from the start. Hiding parts of yourself only creates future cracks. * Observe who you are around them. The right person will make you feel more yourself, not less. If you feel like you must perform, that is not safety. That is survival mode. * Create a friendship foundation. Shared laughter, comfort, and ease are stronger predictors of long-term stability than passion alone. * Let differences complement, not collide. If one is social and one is gentle, let that be an expansion of both worlds rather than a conflict.

How India were outplayed by Germany in the semifinals of FIH Junior World Cup



Indian player after losing 1-5 to Germany in the semi-final of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 at Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai. (PHOTO: PTI)

On a night when pretty much everything that could go wrong went wrong — the oft-repeated pithy version of Murphy's Law — India were outplayed physically and tactically by a superior German side in the semifinals of the men's FIH Junior World Cup in Chennai. The seven-time champions will get to defend their title after a 5-1 win as PR Sreejesh's wards were left to rue to a poor start to the match and multiple errors in both sides of the pitch at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium where fans turned up in good numbers once more, but didn't have much to cheer other than a late consolation goal when the match was all but done. The onslaught began in the first minute. Within the first 30 seconds, Germany registered their first circle entry after India carelessly lost the ball in the midfield, a recurring theme for the rest of the night. Not long after, captain Rohit hit an aerial ball from the left flank deep from India's territory, straight to a German forward who was pressing high and the hosts were lucky not to concede. Inside the first 8-9 minutes, Germany had registered five circle entries, compared to India's one.

But the pressure eventually told as Germany won a Penalty Corner with 80 seconds left in Q1. Paul Babic's strong dribble through the middle was met with a careless late stick from Ankit Pal, another midfield error leading to a set piece. Ankit was once again caught in the crossfire as the drag flick hit his body as he was manning the post, resulting in a Penalty Stroke that Lukas Kossel converted.

If India had hoped to limit damage, they conceded again with barely any time left on the clock, failing to manage the game when a little common sense in retaining possession would have helped. Titus Wex hit a low cross from inside the circle and it took a deflection of India's defender and went past Princedeep Singh, with the goal standing after a review that showed the initial shot was hit from within the circle. Germany will take on Spain in the FIH Junior World Cup after beating India 5-1 in the semifinals. (PHOTO: Hockey India)

Germany will take on Spain in the FIH Junior World Cup after beating India 5-1 in the semifinals. (PHOTO: Hockey India)

'My mum could play his bowling': England's Geoffrey Boycott questions "hit and giggle batsman" Will Jacks' abilities as Test all-rounder

GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Dettered by England's poor cricket which saw them getting thrashed by Australia in the first two Tests of the ongoing Ashes series — Perth and Brisbane — legendary England cricketer Geoffrey Boycott went on a ranting spree, thrashing the Ben Stokes side for their performance Down Under. Boycott spared none of the English cricketers, calling Stokes' claim of having a blueprint for playing in Australia a load of bull****. He questioned all-rounder Will Jacks' abilities and skills as a Test cricketer and called him "a hit and giggle batsman in T20". Jacks had replaced injured pacer Mark Wood in the playing XI for the Pink-Ball fixture at the Gabba in Brisbane. Boycott said even his mum could play Jacks' spin bowling.

"Will Jacks took an amazing one-handed catch to get rid of the dangerous Steve Smith and in the second innings he made a gutsy 41. But if he is a Test match cricketer... no disrespect intended but he is a hit and giggle batsman in T20 and my Mum could play his bowling with my proverbial stick of rhubarb. There is no oomph or variation," Boycott wrote in his column for The Telegraph. Will Jacks scored 19 in the first innings and 41 in the second with the bat. He bowled 11.3 overs in the first innings and picked Australia's last wicket of Brendan Doggett.

"In that energy sapping heat, when the ball got soft and old, a proper spinner was required to save flogging the quicks. England had three fast bowlers and Stokes to bowl seam. What they required was a quality spinner and for me England made a mistake in selection," added Boycott. On Stokes, he said: "Ben Stokes said England had a blueprint. They had been planning this tour for four years and know what they are doing. What a load of bulls***. We can't be-

Hockey India) The second quarter saw India briefly enjoy a sustained spell of possession but every time Germany attacked, they looked like they would score — in complete contrast to India's attacking play, as they kept losing possession inside the opponents' attacking third. Passes were being mishit or overhit, dribbles went into defensive cul-de-sacs, and aerial balls didn't breach Germany's deep defence, as their goalkeeper Jasper Ditzer was barely called into action in the first half. Ajeet Yadav's pass was miscontrolled by Manmeet Singh, Sunil Bennur controlled an aerial but hit a cross into the circle more in hope than with conviction, and Gurjot Singh's through ball with 90 seconds to go was nowhere close to the forward ahead of him. Indian players started to put up their hands up in frustration at this point. Germany were able to slice open India's defence with half turns in midfield time and again, a simple touch forward and a quick spin was enough to beat the press. One such move led to another Penalty Corner late in the half, and this time Kossel beat Rohit's first rush and went low to Bikramjit Singh's left. 3-0 before half-time. Near silence in the stands.

From there, a comeback seemed highly unlikely, even though India finally managed to test Ditzer in the third quarter with a couple of early attempts, as Ajeet and Arshdeep Singh had some threatening moments. But it was 4-0 for Germany with five mins to go in Q3. Shortly after Arshdeep did well to force a save from Ditzer, Germany countered at pace and again cut through India's midfield with Jannik Enaux — one of the many towering German players who was able to outmuscle his Indian opponents — powering past a few defenders. There was a hint of luck about the goal as it seemed to come off a mishit that lobbed over Princedeep but Germany had earned it. Captain Ben Hasbach made it a five-star performance early in the fourth quarter, dribbling through 1-vs-1 as India left empty spaces in defence. The Chennai crowd got one moment to cheer at least as India finally won a PC late in Q4 that Ammol Ekka converted. As Sreejesh would rue later, they needed a few more of those earlier in the match. We didn't play well, that's it," he told reporters. "We gave them easy opportunities, silly mistakes to concede goals, and it was quite hard for the guys to bounce back from that. You can't give them space. The one thing I told our players is that don't allow them to get into the centre, and they allowed that. They just played through the centre repeatedly and created opportunities. That's the one area where I felt really bad." While India's plans never really took shape, Germany — with their cliched but ubiquitous efficiency — executed theirs to perfection from the first whistle. "It is an overwhelming feeling right now," Germany's head coach Mirko Stenzel said, letting the moment, and the margin, sink in before going on to explain how the demolition came about. "To be honest, this is the first time this tournament we defended as we planned. We had a lot of energy in our defensive tackles. To beat the individual-skilled players from India the way we did is incredibly hard. (Midfield dominance) is one of the key elements of the game. Priority was defence, and we planned that in the first 10 minutes, we needed to play with a very high intensity. Our plans don't always work, but today they did."

But the pressure eventually told as Germany won a Penalty Corner with 80 seconds left in Q1. Paul Babic's strong dribble through the middle was met with a careless late stick from Ankit Pal, another midfield error leading to a set piece. Ankit was once again caught in the crossfire as the drag flick hit his body as he was manning the post, resulting in a Penalty Stroke that Lukas Kossel converted.

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lieve anything Ben or his team say. None of them want to listen to anyone outside of their own camp. They are up their own backsides convinced that Test cricket has changed so much that only they know anything about the modern game. 'I am just a has-been who did four England tours' "But what do I know? I am just a has-been who did four England tours of Australia winning two Ashes series and drawing the other two," he added while taking a dig at Stokes' comment calling former English cricketers "has-beens." Ahead of the Australia tour, Stokes had said: "Cricket has changed so much. Preparation is nowhere near as simple as it used to be. You could come out on a tour two months before the first game started. We've been preparing for this tour not over the last three weeks, but putting a lot of thought and process into this for a few years now. I don't know what else we're expected to be able to do." "There are quite a few factors that go into why we can't prepare how the has-beens maybe prepared in the past. It's all changed. We're very comfortable with how we prepare because we leave no stone unturned."

'Finally come to life when the 2nd Test is gone': Ricky Ponting slams Jofra Archer for fiery Steve Smith exchange at Gabba

GNS News Agency, Dec 8

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting slammed England pacer Jofra Archer for his late surge during the Ashes 2025 defeat at Gabba, getting involved in a war of words and fiery exchange with Australia captain Steve Smith shortly before the hosts romped to an eight-wicket win. Ponting, on commentary duties, didn't mince his words as he tore into Archer's antics well after the game had sailed from England's grasp, pushing them down 0-2 in the five-match series.

Shortly before Smith wrapped up the win with a quickfire cameo with a six and four behind the square off Archer, the England quick attempted a jibe at the Aussie No. 4. "You only play those shots when there's not much on the score, mate," Archer was quoted as saying to the stand-in Aussie captain. Smith's riposte would go viral on social media. "[You only] Bowl fast when there's nothing going on, champion," he snapped back at Archer. Ponting would approve of Smith's response before proceeding to lambast Archer. "I like it, I like it. Jofra's finally come to life, six days

into the series, when the second Test match is gone — he starts chirping. Too late for that, champ. That's what Smithy said to him as well, 'Bowling quick now, mate, when the game is over — good on ya,'" said Ponting while commenting for Channel 7. "Now they've all started. Too late, boys. You've had your chance for four days. You haven't been good enough, (and) it's too late to start," he added. Ponting said he would not want to jinx Smith's superior record over Archer even if the general perception would still be that the England bowler has had the wood over him. During their first Test meeting six years ago at Lord's, Archer had famously felled Steve Smith with a rip-snorting bouncer, taking him out of the Test with a concussion. However, Smith has still not been dismissed by Archer across 220 deliveries in Test cricket, amassing 130 runs. "I'm not going to say anything because I don't want to jinx it. I'm just going to let everyone read exactly what it is. The perception going around, certainly around the UK, is that Archer's had the wood on Steve Smith — well, that is factually incorrect," said Ponting. "It's game on now."

Hockey, Junior World Cup: Hina Bano adds to her goal tally as India beat Wales in the classification match after missing out on quarterfinals



GNS News Agency, Dec 8

India recorded a commanding 3-1 victory over Wales in their 9/16 qualification match at FIH Junior Women's World Cup match at the Centro Deportivo de Hockey Césped, Estadio Nacional, Santiago, on Monday. Hina Bano (14'), Sunelita Toppo (24'), and Ishika (31') scored for India, while Eloise Moat (52') netted the lone goal for Wales.

India began the game on the front foot, asserting themselves on the opposition with a Penalty Corner in the first 30 seconds. They played between the lines to create opportunities regularly, but couldn't find the opening goal early on. Wales had the opportunity to get their noses in front with a penalty stroke, but were denied by Nidhi as she made a sharp stop to keep the scores level. India eventually managed to break the deadlock towards the end of the first quarter, courtesy a tap-in from Hina, after some neat work by Sakshi Rana. With that goal, Hina is now the joint-second goalscorer in the tournament, tied on 5 goals with quite a

few other players, while the Netherlands' Noor van den Nieuwenhof is at the top with 7. Looking to double their advantage, India maintained the pressure with another Penalty Corner at the start of the second quarter. They continued to create chances regularly and were rewarded for their persistence, doubling their lead after Sakshi Rana's initial shot fell into the way of Sunelita, who made no mistake from close range. With 14 circle penetrations in the first half, India held a deserving 2-0 lead at the break.

India extended their lead to 3-0 early in the second half as Ishika found the back of the net after a rebound from the Welsh goalkeeper fell her way. Jyoti Singh's side controlled the tempo of the game, stretching the Welsh defense by playing between the lines and pressing high. They continued to create chances, pushing Wales back in their own half to close out the third quarter. With the lion's share of possession, India remained in pursuit of more goalscoring opportunities to further increase their advantage in the final quarter. Wales had an opening on the other end and Moat (52') made it count, pulling one back for her side. However, that only proved to be a consolation goal as India held firm to secure a well-deserved 3-1 win. Earlier, despite winning two matches out of three in their group to reach six points with an impressive goal difference of 15, India missed out on a place in the quarterfinals as their defeat against Germany proved costly. While India finished with two big wins, two other groups had teams unbeaten from three matches to reach seven points. In a 24-team tournament, expanded to this number for the first time, six pool winners gain automatic qualification for quarterfinals. The remaining two spots were reserved for two best second-placed teams which went to Argentina and England.

'Don't pick up so many fights': Gautam Gambhir's former teammate shares advice but says India head coach's 'heart in right place'

GNS News Agency, Dec 8

After another press conference outburst where he slammed reporters and an IPL team owner post the ODI series win over South Africa, India head coach Gautam Gambhir has received some friendly advice from his old Delhi teammate, Aakash Chopra. The former India opener said that even though the India head coach has his heart in the right place, Gambhir's flurries in press conferences do not make for pleasant viewing. In a chat with reporters after India's 2-1 ODI series win in Visakhapatnam, Gambhir hit back at his critics for the 0-2 Test debacle against the Proteas. "People said things that have nothing to do with cricket. An IPL team owner also wrote about split coaching. It's important for people to stay in their domain. Because if we don't go into someone's domain, they also don't have the right to come into our domain," Gambhir said. Chopra suggested that Gambhir tone down his words in media interactions to keep himself out of hostile environments in the wake of defeats. "Gautam came and he was very fiery. You expect that with Gautam. When he comes to press conferences, he speaks his heart out. I have a suggestion for Gautam. When you come so fiery, and when you go after an individual or something, people then start waiting for Gautam to fail. At times, it seems like you are setting yourself up for this kind of criticism," Chopra said on his YouTube channel. "It cannot be his (Gambhir's) mistake only when the team loses. One thing is certain with Gautam. His heart is at the right place, and he is a very passionate guy. He is always ready to fight for the country and the country's team. My only suggestion is don't fight. You have to please nobody. Don't pick up so many fights," he added. "Agree with him on Gill's absence."

Reflecting on the Test series defeat, Gambhir had said India had missed the services of their injured captain Shubman Gill during their narrow defeat in the first Test at



Eden Gardens. "He said that we lost by 30 runs in the Kolkata Test, in which our main batter, who has scored 1,000 runs in the last seven months, wasn't available in both innings, and why is no one talking about it? I concur because we had spoken about it that if Shubman had played in both innings, he would have scored 30 at least. However, we also criticized the pitch," Chopra said.

"He said if you don't have the domain expertise, don't talk about it. I felt it was slightly unnecessary. However, sometimes we fail to understand the undercurrents behind it. I am not trying to defend him. However, at times, you feel bad about someone because you know that guy's opinion about you had been different earlier as well, so let me just fire it back," he added. "That might have been the case with that one person. Otherwise, I don't think there is merit in this argument that you don't need to speak about something if you are not the domain expert. Just like the incredible thing Indigo has done. I am not an aviation expert, but I can talk. I don't think someone doesn't have a moral right to talk. However, that one thing might have had a slightly deeper, bigger meaning," Chopra remarked.

'What a load of bull****,' 'Can't believe anything Stokes or his team says': Geoffrey Boycott hammers England after Gabba drubbing



should have done differently," wrote Boycott. "All we ever hear from the captain is attack and from the coach keep the faith. After some of those dismissals my Yorkshire captain Brian Close would have stood at the top of the pavilion steps with steam coming out of his ears waiting to give you a 'knuckle sandwich,'" he added.

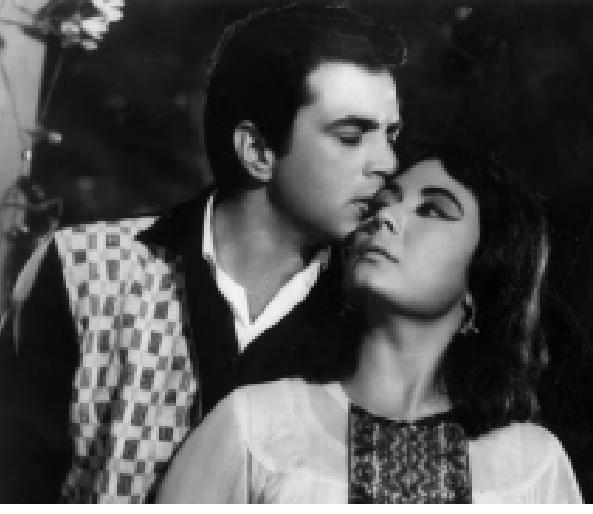
After putting on 334 on board in the first innings of the Pink Ball fixture at the Gabba, England bowlers let Australia put up a massive 511 on the board. In the second innings, all England were playing the catch-up game and could only manage to score 241, giving the home team a 65-run target. 'Rubbish bowling' Boycott also called England's bowling rubbish in the first innings. "I thought our first innings bowling was rubbish. Far too short with more than 250 runs scored in the third man and fine leg area."

ACA earns praise for fan-friendly conduct at Vizag ODI

HYDERABAD: For all the fans who soaked in the victory celebrations as KL Rahul-led India clinched the three-match one-day series at the ACA-VDCA International Stadium in Visakhapatnam last Saturday, it was just not another match which they witnessed in the 'City of Destiny' which also happens to be the favourite and lucky venue for the Indian team over the years.

Unlike in many other centers across India, the entire atmosphere is fan-friendly with no hassles for a free entry into the stadium. The usual harakiri or the high-handedness of the authorities seen at other centers was clearly missing. Importantly, they were allowed to witness the post-match presentations unlike in Hyderabad where they are just shunted out.

Dharmendra worshipped 'star' Meena Kumari, tried to curb her drinking; she loved him 'passionately': 'Most beautiful...'



he was the rock who could help her get through this rough patch in her life, and so he did.

They signed a couple of more films with each other, and while none of these films were anything close to what she had done on screen before, it gave them a chance to spend some time with each other. Purnima released and sank without a trace. Here, the two played star-crossed lovers who are forced to marry other people, but in a strange twist, they come back together again after their respective spouses die. They also worked together in Kaajal, where they were not romantically paired together, but shared a strange bond that seemed romantic at first, but was later revealed to be that of a brother and sister.

When Dharmendra said, 'I don't like women drinking' The on-screen relationship might not have been working for the audience, but off-screen, they were starting to become each other's confidantes. Dharmendra would frequently visit her at Janki Kutir and while people might believe that he accelerated her drinking habit, that wasn't the case. As per her biography, he actively tried to curb her drinking, and to some extent, it worked as well. She would not drink much in his company, but as soon as he was gone, she would gulp down whatever was in front of her. Years later, when Dharmendra was asked during Aap Ki Adalat if he encouraged Meena to drink, he just said, "I don't like women drinking." Their closeness was starting to get apparent in front of the world as well, and unlike her contemporaries, Meena did not believe in hiding relationships behind closed doors. If she liked someone, she made it known, and thus, their relationship soon became tabloid fodder. She was famously married to Kamal Amrohi and so naturally, there was more attention given to this relationship.

She was a mentor-like figure to him as she helped him navigate the corridors of stardom, and he was like a project to her, someone who needed her guidance. It was widely believed that Dharmendra somehow used his relationship with Meena to get better film offers, but that wasn't really the case as Dharmendra was doing just as many, or probably more films, with actors like Mala Sinha as well, who were also more popular than him.

'I would just keep looking at her' As Meena and Dharmendra's relationship rumours increased, the tabloids started printing stories of her reciting shayari for him at cocktail parties, or Meena losing her patience when she wasn't around him, but stories like these were unverified and could have been the product of anyone's imagination. While Dharmendra tried to stay mum on the subject for almost all of his life, he once admitted his love for Meena as a star. At Aap Ki Adalat, when Rajat Sharma asked him if he was in love with her, he said, "It wasn't love, I was her fan. As a fan, I would just keep looking at her. If you call the relationship between a fan and a star love, then call it love." Their next film, Phool Aur Pathar, in 1966, was another run-of-the-mill story, but luck favoured Dharmendra here, and after this, he was a star. His fortune changed, and he was now the next big Bollywood star. Meena's fortune was starting to change as well, as her glory days were now behind her. She had given in to alcoholism completely and was now starting to look visibly sick. Their next film was Hirshikesh Mukherjee's Majhli Didi, which was almost a precursor to Amar Prem, had Meena giving a beautiful performance, but much like all of their other films, this one disappeared soon after the release as well. Their last two films – Chandan Ka Palna and Baharon Ki Manzil – were just as forgettable. And after 1968, the two never worked in any film together, and the unnamed relationship they shared with each other also ended. Around that time, Kamal came back into Meena's life and they restarted work on Pakeezah, upon Sunil Dutt's insistence. Kamal was yet to cast the male lead of the film, and Dharmendra was in the running for that role. But, Kamal did not want to cast someone who was close to his wife. When Dharmendra was asked about this by Rajat Sharma, he just laughed and said, "People were jealous." Meena's health was deteriorating with every passing day, and Dharmendra was no longer a part of her life. It was almost as if she had expected her husband to be there for her at this juncture of her life, but he disappointed her once again. And it was probably this disappointment that made her believe that Dharmendra was there for her with absolutely no ulterior motives. In 1972, after Meena died, Dharmendra paid his respects at her funeral, and Nargis wrote an open letter where she finally declared Meena's love for him. "If Meena has ever loved anyone passionately, the person is Dharmendra. If Meena ever turned crazy in love for someone, it was Dharmendra." Describing it as the "most beautiful" phase of her life, Nargis made it clear that Dharmendra was nothing but a positive influence on her.

Meena, in this stage of her life, was going through some terrible marital problems. Her rocky marriage with Kamal Amrohi was hanging on by a thread as they had just gotten separated. She had left her husband's home and moved into Paradise, Mehmod's house, as her sister was married to Mehmod's brother. After living with them for a while, she moved away and bought herself a new house, Janki Kutir. It was here that an occasional brandy turned into a debilitating habit, and her health worsened. When Dharmendra walked into her life, she was lonely. The love of her life, Kamal, had abandoned her, and her family, who had gotten used to the money she made, hardly gave her the love and attention she craved. Dharmendra's charming presence reminded her of what she had lost after years of being in a business where she was now seen as a commodity. He too, was married to Prakash Kaur, who was still back in Punjab. Meena knew that, but she also knew that

Dharmendra landed in Mumbai with the prospect of becoming a movie star in the late 1950s, and while the idea was wildly exciting, he had no idea how to actually be one. He had seen Dilip Kumar on the silver screen and had spent years idolising the star, but in those early years, Dharmendra didn't know how to casually walk into a frame and just make his presence felt. He had worked with Bimal Roy in Bandini, and Chetan Anand in Haqeeqat, and while both these performances were praised, Dharmendra was yet to mark his arrival in the movies.

During the same era, when Dharmendra was a newbie trying to establish himself as a mainstream working actor, Meena Kumari was at the peak of her career. After films like Baiju Bawra, and Parineeta, she had appeared in Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam, and had completely changed how Hindi cinema heroines were seen on screen. And while her life looked like a bed of roses from afar, she was struggling in her personal life with her bad marriage with filmmaker Kamal Amrohi. It was during this phase that she met Dharmendra. For him, she was a star who probably had the Midas touch, and she, perhaps, saw him as the innocent man who was yet to be consumed by the corrupt society around them. She believed he genuinely cared for her, unlike those who just saw her as a "meal ticket."

Meena and Dharmendra first met each other on the set of Purnima, which released in 1965. This was the first of the seven films they worked on in a span of four years. Dharmendra was a novice, and she was a star, and he was naturally nervous when he was first told that he would be working alongside the "tragedy queen". As per 'Meena Kumari – The Classic Biography' by Vinod Mehta, first published in 1972, Dharmendra was "petrified" at the thought of facing her in front of the camera and would go around asking other members of the unit, "What is Meena ji like?" He was "unsteady" and was told by someone that he should, perhaps, touch her feet when he first saw her, because after all, she was his senior. She had been in the movies since the 1930s, and while she was only a couple of years older than him, the wealth of experience she carried was unmatched. It is unknown if he actually touched her feet, but she was quoted as saying, "This boy will rise. He is not the routine entry." Meena and Dharmendra's first release was a film called Main Bhi Ladki Hoon. The plot here was excessively regressive as it had Meena wearing blackface as she tried to get in the good books of her husband, played by Dharmendra. This was the time in the movies where they were quite brutal in declaring that someone with a darker complexion was unlucky, as opposed to a fair person, who was constantly called beautiful. The film was forgettable, and if Dharmendra and Meena's friendship was not flourishing during that era, no one would have even looked it up in hindsight.

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Salman Khan cries on national television as he remembers Dharmendra: 'We lost the most amazing man'



imagine what Sunny and his family must be going through. Their prayer meet was held with such grace and honour. Everyone was crying, but there was decorum—a celebration of life.

If veteran star Dharmendra were alive today, he would have been celebrating his 90th birthday today—a milestone his family had been eagerly looking forward to after he was discharged from the hospital just a couple of weeks earlier. But fate dealt a heartbreaking blow. On 24 November, the legendary actor passed away and was quietly cremated at Pawan Hans in Mumbai. Two days later, his family, including his sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol, hosted a prayer meet to honour his extraordinary life and legacy. Now, actor Salman Khan, who shared a deep and affectionate bond with Dharmendra, has openly expressed his grief. During the grand finale of Bigg Boss 19, which he hosted on Sunday, Salman broke down on national television while remembering the star. "Dharam ji died on my father's birthday," he said, his voice trembling. Several clips of a teary-eyed Salman have since emerged online, resonating with fans who know how close the two were.

During the episode, Salman said, "We lost the He-Man. We lost the most amazing man. I don't think there is anyone better than Dharmji. The way he lived life was king-size. He gave us Sunny, Bobby, and Esha. Since the day he joined the industry, he only wanted to work. He did so many roles. My career graph—I have only followed Dharmji. He came with an innocent face and a He-Man's body. That charm stayed with him till the end. Love you, Dharmji. Will always miss you." He added, "The main thing is he died on 24 November, that's my father's birthday, and tomorrow is his birthday as well as my mum's. If I'm feeling like this,

Rhea Chakraborty quit acting to start clothing brand, achieved valuation of Rs 40 crore in less than a year



arrested, my T-shirt read: 'Roses are red, violets are blue, let's smash the patriarchy, me and you.' It spoke for me when I couldn't." That moment sparked the idea of turning clothing into a medium of expression, and a pathway back to her career. Reflecting on their journey, she said, "When we went through what we went through, we both sort of lost our careers. I stopped getting acting calls, and Showik had scored 96% in CAT and was set to attend a prestigious college. But he went to jail around the same time, and by the time he came out, the first trimester was over—and so were his MBA plans and future prospects." She added, "It was at this moment that we wanted to create something that gives people their voice—something that helps people feel seen and heard. That's how this idea was born."

Rhea Chakraborty launched Chapter 2 Drip online in August 2024, and in June this year, they opened their first offline store—despite her initial hesitation. "I didn't even have the guts to open a store because overheads naturally increase. Rents on Bandra's Linking Road are ridiculously high. We were doing well online, and I wanted to stay that way, but Showik found the space and convinced me. We were building a community, and a community needs a headquarters. We wanted to host events, meet people, talk to them about their Chapter 2. That couldn't happen if we stayed only online." The brand received Rs 1 crore in seed funding from retail pioneers Kishore and Ashni Biyani, and quickly reached a valuation of around Rs 40 crore. Recalling the unexpected moment that led to the investment, Rhea said, "I invited them on our podcast for a chat, thinking we would just get some insights. But while we were talking and I asked sir for advice, he suddenly said, 'You can give us free equity.' I said, 'One second—I don't want to give you free equity, but we will give you equity.' She continued, "I was confident about my numbers. If your brand isn't bringing in revenue, nobody will invest in you. But we were generating revenue, we were profitable. I didn't go for a 5X valuation." Today, Chapter 2 Drip sells denims for Rs 5,500, the viral "indifferent" white T-shirt for Rs 2,290, Anti-Everything Club vests for Rs 1,790, and co-ord sets priced up to Rs 7,990.

Speaking to CNBC-TV18, Rhea recalled, "When I was

Dileep claims conspiracy against him began with ex-wife Manju Warrier's remark: 'Real conspiracy was to make me accused, destroy my career and life'

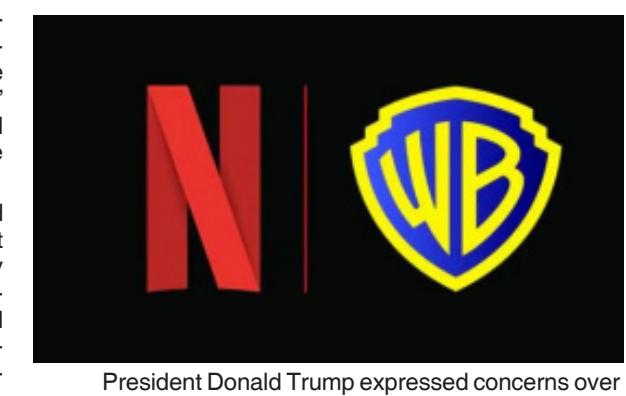


the criminal conspiracy behind the incident must be investigated. A senior officer at that time, along with a team of criminal-minded police personnel chosen by them, orchestrated this action against me. For this purpose, they supported the main accused in the case and the co-accused who were lodged in prison with him, and together this police team created a fabricated story." It may be recalled that during a solidarity meet organised at the Durbar Hall ground in Kochi on February 19, 2017, two days after the incident shook Kerala, Manju Warrier had said, "There has clearly been a criminal conspiracy behind this crime." However, she hadn't named anyone at that time. Industry bigwigs like Mohanlal and Mammootty, as well as Dileep, were present on the occasion.

2017 actress abduction and assault case timeline | From the day that shook Kerala and Dileep's arrest to the verdict

Dileep added while talking to reporters, "Then, with the help of certain media organisations and a few journalists who were ready to support them, this fabricated narrative was widely circulated through social media. Today, in court, this fake story created by that police team has collapsed. The real conspiracy in this case was to make me the accused, to destroy my career, my image, and my life in society." Although Dileep dubbed the case against him as fabricated and claimed that "truth has won," it may be recalled that the survivor in the case had previously approached the Kerala High Court more than once seeking the transfer of the case to another court, alleging she was not satisfied with the trial proceedings conducted by Judge Honey Varghese, who eventually pronounced the verdict on December 8, 2025. According to The News Minute, the survivor had questioned why the judge did not disclose in court that she had received a forensic report indicating that the visuals of the sexual assault had been illegally accessed by someone while in the court's custody. She also stated that the judge treated prosecution witnesses "rudely." It may also be recalled that two special public prosecutors assigned to the case had earlier resigned, stating that it had become untenable to continue working with the judge. However, the HC dismissed the survivor's petitions.

Trump says Netflix deal to buy Warner Bros. 'could be problem' because of size of market share



Washington: President Donald Trump said on Sunday that a deal struck by Netflix to buy Warner Bros. Discovery "could be a problem" because of the combined market share. "There's no question about it," Trump said, answering questions about the deal and various other topics as he walked the red carpet at the Kennedy Centre Honours.

The Republican president said he will be involved in the decision about whether the federal government should approve the USD 72 billion deal. If approved by regulators, the merger would put two of the world's biggest streaming services under the same ownership and join Warner's television and motion picture division, including DC Studios, with Netflix's vast library and its production arm. The deal, which could reshape the entertainment industry, has to "go through a process and we'll see what happens," Trump said.

"Netflix is a great company. They've done a phenomenal job. Ted is a fantastic man," he said of Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos, noting that they met in the Oval Office last week before the deal was announced Dec. 5. "I have a lot of respect for him, but it's a lot of market share, so we'll have to see what happens."

Asked if Netflix should be allowed to buy the Hollywood giant behind "Harry Potter" and HBO Max, the president said, "Well, that's the question." "They have a very big market share, and when they have Warner Bros., you know,

that share goes up a lot, so, I don't know," he said. "I'll be involved in that decision, too. But they have a very big market share." Sarandos made no guarantees at their meeting about the merger if it is approved, Trump said, adding that the CEO is a "great person" who has "done one of the greatest jobs in the history of movies and other things." He repeated that a merger would create a "big market share" for the company. "There's no question about it. It could be a problem," Trump said.