

## New Year Greetings from Sheikh Chand Pasha

““Sherilingampally: Sheikh Chand Pasha extended New Year greetings to



the people of the Telugu states, the people of the Sherilingampally constituency, party workers, corporators, colony association members, and media friends for the year 2026. On this occasion, he said that with new hopes, new aspirations, innovative beginnings, fresh ideas, memories of the past, moments of shared joy, and lessons from bitter experiences, we welcome another milestone... He wished that all your dreams come true and that you achieve success throughout this year. These greetings were conveyed by senior Congress party leader Sheikh Chand Pasha.

## Sundar Kalluri appointed as State Vice President of Telangana Journalists Welfare Association

““(Mandava Srisailem... Hyderabad... Indian Chronicle... December 31):- Sundar Kalluri, who has been appointed as the State Vice President of the Telangana Journalists Welfare Association, issued an ultimatum stating that he will be at the forefront in questioning the government on behalf of journalists. In this context, Anam Chinni Venkateswara Rao, the president of the Telangana Journalists Welfare Association, appointed Sundar Kalluri, who has the experience of working as a PRO in two governments after the formation of Telangana, as the State Vice President of the association. “On this occasion, Sundar Kalluri said... “He expressed his special thanks to the honorable president Anam Chinni Venkateswara Rao and the fellow executive committee members for appointing him as the State Vice President of the Telangana Journalists Welfare Association, which was formed for the welfare of journalists. He stated that he will be at the forefront in questioning the government on behalf of journalists and will work tirelessly for the welfare of journalists, and that he will do justice to the responsibility entrusted to him.



## ACB Traps Mandal Surveyor While Accepting Bribe in Nirmal

““Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 31 (Indian Chronicle)““Nirmal District: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials have arrested a Mandal Surveyor for demanding and accepting a bribe in connection with land demarcation work. “According to ACB officials, the accused, N. Balakrishna Varma, who is working as a Mandal Surveyor at the Rural Tahsildar Office in Nirmal district, demanded a bribe of ₹15,000 from the complainant for fixing boundaries and issuing the panchanama related to land belonging to the complainant’s relative. “The officials stated that the surveyor had already received ₹5,000 earlier and was caught red-handed while accepting ₹7,500 from the remaining amount through his private assistant, Pola Nagaraju. “A case has been registered in this connection, and legal action will be initiated against the accused as per law, ACB officials confirmed. “The ACB has urged the public not to hesitate to report instances where government officials demand bribes. Citizens are advised to immediately contact the ACB toll-free helpline number 1064 in such cases.



## Chirra Ravinder Yadav extends New Year greetings to the people of Serilingampally

““Serilingampally Indian Chronicle: BRS senior leader Chirra Ravinder Yadav extended New Year greetings for 2026 to the people of the Serilingampally constituency, party workers, corporators, colony association members, media friends, public



representatives, community leaders, and newly elected Sarpanches. On this occasion, he said that with new hopes, new aspirations, innovative beginnings, fresh ideas, memories of the past, moments of shared joy, and lessons from bitter experiences, let us welcome another milestone... Chirra Ravinder Yadav wished that all your dreams come true and that you achieve success throughout this year.

## Congress Failed to Keep Promises to Guest Faculty, R.S. Praveen Kumar

““Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 31 (Indian Chronicle)““BRS State General Secretary Dr. R.S. Praveen Kumar has strongly criticised the Congress government, alleging that it has failed to implement the assurances given to guest faculty and has instead betrayed their trust. “He recalled that during the election campaign, the Congress party had made clear promises regarding the continuation of guest lecturers, salary security and job assurance. However, after coming to power, the government has allegedly sidelined these commitments and pushed guest faculty into uncertainty, he said. “Dr. Praveen Kumar stated that during the previous BRS regime, guest lecturers were provided with respectable wages and job security, whereas the present Congress government is “playing with their livelihoods.” “He demanded that the government immediately implement all assurances made to guest faculty and ensure justice to them. Failing this, he warned that the BRS party would launch statewide agitations under its leadership in support of guest faculty rights.





# Tributes paid to the mortal remains of senior journalist Lakshman Rao:

**`TWJF Federation Founder President and State Convener Mamidi Somaiah**

**`Lakshman Rao's death is an irreparable loss to journalism.**

**` Federation Founder President and State Convener Mamidi Somaiah**



“(Mandava Srisailam... Hyderabad... Indian Chronicle... December 31):- Leaders of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) paid tributes to the mortal remains of senior journalist TK Lakshman Rao, who passed away due to illness. Federation Founder President and State Convener Mamidi Somaiah visited his residence in the Journalists Colony in Gopannapalli on Wednesday afternoon and paid his respects by placing a garland on Lakshman Rao's body. Along with him, Federation State Co-Convener and IFWJ Secretary Pulipalupula Anandam, and state leader K. Panduranga Rao also paid tributes to Lakshman Rao's mortal remains. On this occasion, they consoled Lakshman Rao's wife Lakshmi Prasanna and son Sharath Chandra, who were in deep sorrow. “Senior journalist, former chairman of the Press Academy, and State BC Commission member Tirumalagiri Surender, “fellow journalists Raman Rao, Maharathi Dayanand, Yajulu, “Srinivas Reddy, and others also paid their respects. Lakshman Rao's last rites were performed in Mahaprasthanam at Film Nagar in the evening. Laxman

Rao's services are unforgettable” - Mamidi Somaiah “Senior journalist T.K. Laxman Rao was an extremely gentle person, and his services to the field of journalism are unforgettable, said Mamidi Somaiah, founder president and state convener of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF). He said that Laxman Rao, who worked in several prominent newspapers for over forty years, supported many journalists and mentored many, shaping them into excellent journalists. He praised Laxman Rao, who held high positions in the newspapers Udayam, Vaartha, and Sakshi, for being an inspiration to many journalists. He recalled that Laxman Rao stood by journalists in undivided Andhra Pradesh and contributed to the establishment of the Andhra Pradesh Working Journalists Federation. He paid tribute to Laxman Rao, stating that his death is an irreparable loss to the field of journalism and the profession.

## Clothes Distribution to Pastors at MLA Camp Office

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 31 (Indian Chronicle): “A clothes distribution programme for pastors was organised at the MLA Camp Office. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and distributed clothes to the pastors. “Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that pastors who stand at the forefront of social service play a vital role in promoting unity and

brotherhood among the people. He stated that the welfare of people from all sections of society is his primary objective and assured that he would continue to stand by and support everyone in need. “As part of the programme, clothes were distributed to 29 pastors from the Chilkanagar Division, including the Chilkanagar and Beerappa Gadda areas, in coordination with BRS Party State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj. “Later, along with



the pastors from the Chilkanagar Division, BRS Party State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj honoured the MLA by draping a shawl and also organised a Christmas cake-cutting ceremony. The programme was attended by corporators, former corporators, BRS party leaders Edulla Kondal Reddy, Masa Shekhar, Banti Goud, local leaders, representatives of Christian organisations, party workers, and others.

## Nacharam BJP Leaders Extend Greetings to Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 31 (Indian Chronicle): “Nacharam BJP leaders, led by Medchal–Urban District Official Spokesperson Pothagani Gopal Goud, paid a courtesy visit to Radhika Gupta, who has



been appointed as the Zonal Commissioner of Uppal Zone, at the Uppal Zonal Office and conveyed their congratulations. “Following the bifurcation of GHMC wards, Uppal has been formed as a separate zone, and Radhika Gupta has been appointed as its Zonal Commissioner. On this occasion, Pothagani Gopal Goud submitted a representation requesting the establish-

ment of the newly formed Nacharam Circle Office in Nacharam. “District Council members Chandramouli and Raji Reddy, Division Vice President Nenavath Venkat Nayak, along with Kandari Venkatesh, Surender, Balaraj, Chandrayya, Kranti Kumar, Manjulavani, Parvathi, and several other party leaders and workers participated in the meeting.



# BJP Leaders Demand Division of Uppal Division into Two



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, December 31 (Indian Chronicle): “BJP leaders from Uppal Division submitted a memorandum to Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, demanding that Uppal Division be bifurcated into two separate divisions for better administrative convenience. Speaking on the occasion, BJP leaders stated that while most GHMC divisions have been reduced in size for effective governance, Uppal Division continues to remain unusually large. They pointed out that most divisions have around 30,000 to 40,000 voters, whereas Uppal Division has nearly 70,000 to 80,000 voters, making it extremely difficult for a single corporator to serve such a large population efficiently. “The leaders questioned how adequate civic services and development activities could be delivered to such a vast electorate by one corporator and how the allocated funds would be sufficient for a division of this size. They urged the authorities to re-examine the division boundaries and take corrective action at the earliest. The BJP leaders also strongly opposed the merging of colonies from other consti-

## Beri Ramachander Yadav Extends New Year Greetings

“Serilingampally: Telangana State BC Association President Beri Ramachander Yadav extended New Year greetings to the people of Telangana state. Beri extended his New Year wishes to the people of the state, public representatives, media friends, leaders of BC associations, presidents of colony associations, and newly elected Sarpanches. On this occasion, he stated that BC associations must be strengthened, and everyone should strive towards the goal of BCs governing the state government. He emphasized that unity is strength and that the time has come for all BCs to unite. “With new hopes, new aspirations, innovative beginnings, fresh ideas, memories of the past, moments of shared joy, and lessons from bitter experiences, welcoming another



milestone... Telangana State BC Association President Beri Ramachander Yadav wished that all your dreams come true and that you achieve success throughout this year.



cies into Uppal Division, particularly the inclusion of areas that belong to Ramanthapur, stating that such changes are unrelated to Uppal and create administrative complications. “They reiterated their demand that Uppal Division should be split into two divisions to ensure better governance, effective public service delivery, and fair distribution of development funds. “Prominent BJP leaders present at the programme included senior BJP leader and former Municipal Vice Chairman Gorige Krishna, OBC Morcha State Leader Mahankali Laxman Mudiraj, OBC Morcha Uppal Assembly Convener Ravula Balakrishna Goud, former BJP Presidents Reddigari Devender Reddy, OBC Morcha District Spokesperson Kollu Bal Raj, Asuri Yadagiri, Meesala Jangaiah, District Spokesperson Singaram Karthik, Varkala Rajender Goud, Yuva Morcha leaders Borampeta Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Gorige Venkatesh Kuruma, Fakir Narsireddy, Tallapalli Srinivas Goud, Uppu Shankar Gupta, Erra Srinivas, Basavaraj, Narasimha, Ramesh, Vijay Goud, Idulakanti Naveen Goud, Gorige Srikanth, Ravula Akhilesh Goud, Gunde Poonender, Janni Venkatesh, Gorige Bharat, Sriram Jyothi, Bhagyamma, Madhavi, Naga Mani, Ram Baki, Hari, Bhoopathi Reddy, and several others.

## Munnuru Kapu Sangham – Peerzadiguda Corporation Limits: New Year 2026 Calendar Unveiled

“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, December 31 (Indian Chronicle): “The New Year 2026 calendar unveiling ceremony was held at Shankar Nagar in Peerzadiguda under the leadership of Ballepu Chandrashekhar Patel, President of the Munnuru Kapu Sangham. The calendar was formally unveiled by the chief guest, Warangal–Nalgonda–Khammam Graduates’ MLC Teenmar Mallanna. On this occasion,



Pothamsetti Bharat Kumar Patel, Vice President of the Munnuru Kapu Sangham, Peerzadiguda Corporation Limits, was elected to the executive committee of the Medchal–Malkajgiri District Munnuru Kapu Sangham. In recognition of this achievement, MLC Teenmar Mallanna felicitated him and conveyed his congratulations. The

programme was attended by Ballepu Chandrashekhar Patel (President), Akula Shravan Kumar Patel (Treasurer), Pothamsetti Bharat Kumar Patel (Vice President), advisors Akula Madhukar Patel, Pasham Sattaiah Patel, Veeramalla Jagannatham Patel, Koneti Venkat Patel, Joint Secretary Vaddepalli Naresh Patel, Pasham Raju Patel, Manne Somaiah, Singam Laxman Patel, Trustee of Sri Veeranjaneya Devasthanam, along with a large number of executive committee members, community members, and well-wishers.



## Collector Inaugurates Sulabh Complex, Urges Public to Use Facility

“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 31 (Indian Chronicle)““District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre has urged the public to make effective use of the newly con-



structed Sulabh Complex to promote cleanliness and public convenience. “The Collector, along with Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Deepak Tiwari, Asifabad MLA Kova Laxmi, and Asifabad Revenue Divisional Officer Lokeshwar Rao, inaugurated the Sulabh Complex on Wednesday near the auto stand in the bus stand area of the district headquarters. The facility has been constructed under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model by the Valmiki Safai Karmachari Seva Sangh. “Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that as part of the Swachh Municipality initiative, the Sulabh Complex would be highly beneficial for the public and traders visiting the district headquarters. He appealed to citizens to utilise the facility responsibly and maintain cleanliness. “Municipal Commissioner Gajanan, along with municipal staff and others, were present at the programme.

## District to Observe Road Safety Month from Jan 1: Collector Dhotre

“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 31 (Indian Chronicle)““District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre has called upon all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the successful conduct of Road Safety Month in the district from January 1 to January 31, 2026. “A coordination meeting was held on Wednesday at the conference hall of the Integrated District Collectorate building, jointly chaired by the District Collector and Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant. Officials from the Police, Revenue, National Highways Authority, Panchayat Raj Engineering, Roads and Buildings, Education, Medical and Health, Labour, Transport, Electricity, Municipal, and RTC departments participated in the meeting. “Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stressed the need to organise extensive awareness programmes on road safety and traffic rules in all schools and colleges. He said drivers of all categories, including taxi, auto and two-wheeler riders, should be educated on speed regulation, wearing of seat belts and helmets, and the dangers of drunken driving. He



also suggested conducting essay writing and quiz competitions for students to enhance awareness. “The Collector directed National Highways Authority officials to identify accident-prone zones on national highways and take measures for speed control, including the installation of clear signage and indicators. He also instructed officials to ensure the availability of ambulances and asked Roads and Buildings and Panchayat Raj Engineering officials to undertake necessary repairs to prevent accidents on roads under their jurisdiction. “He further stated that special road safety programmes would be conducted across the district throughout the month. “Addressing the meeting, the SP said that 10 accident-prone black spots had been identified in the district and noted that the number of road accidents in 2025 had decreased compared to 2024. She said inspections were being conducted regularly and assured that the police department would coordinate with all agencies to make Road Safety Month a success. “National Highways Project Director Ajay Manikumar, Kaghaznagar DSP, and officials of various departments were present.

## Expedite Completion of Development Works: Addl Collector Deepak Tiwari

“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, December 31 (Indian Chronicle)““District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Deepak Tiwari has directed officials to expedite the completion of all ongoing development works in the district. “A review meeting was held on Wednesday at the conference hall of the Integrated District Collectorate building with officials from various departments, including Project Director, Housing Department P.D. Prakash Rao, District Welfare Officer Adepu Bhaskar, District Tribal Development Officer Ramadevi, District Panchayat Officer Bikshapathi, and Superintending Engineer (Electricity) Uttam Jade, along with Mandal Parishad Development Officers, Mandal Panchayat Officers, Mandal Education Officers, APOs, engineering officials and electricity department officials. “Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tiwari instructed officials to complete the construction of sanctioned Indiramma Houses at the earliest and keep them ready for inauguration. He emphasised the need for coordination among MPDOs, MPDOs, Housing Assistant Engineers and Panchayat Secretaries to personally contact beneficiaries who have not yet commenced construction and ensure immediate commencement of works. “He also directed officials to promptly start housing works sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Man (PM-JANMAN) scheme. Stressing the importance of infrastructure in government schools, he called for the early completion of works related to drinking water supply, electricity, separate toilets for boys and girls, and compound walls. “The Additional Collector said steps are being taken to provide electricity connections to Anganwadi centres and school buildings under the Pradhan Mantri JUA scheme. He further instructed officials to prepare an action plan to ensure adequate workdays for eligible labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). “Mr. Tiwari urged all departments to work in coordination to ensure that development works taken up across the district are completed swiftly. “Officials concerned and staff attended the meeting.





# Society should take responsibility to eradicate child labour



Hyderabad Smt, Usha DCP Woman Safety Wing, Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate has called for the eradication of the child labour system which spoils the childhood of children who should be happily studying and playing.

The convergence meeting of Operation Smile-XII was held today at Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate Office, Neredemet. Speaking in the occasion, stated that the child labour system has become a disease in the society and opined it is destroying the childhood of many innocent children. DCP madam said that the root cause of child labour is mainly due to the poverty of the parents that the children are caught in the clutches of begging and losing their golden future as well. He said that there is a possibility that children who get caught in the clutches of anti social elements due to poverty sometimes become juvenile criminals and there is also a probability of anti-social forces using young children for committing crimes and advised the parents not to push their children into the labour market regardless of their financial situation, government is offering many free welfare programs and schemes for the education of the children and advised to

take advantage of them. She called for public participation in eradication of child labour and opined that people should also consider it as their moral responsibility.

In this convergence meeting DCP Women Safety Usha Rani, CWC Chair Person viz., Sri A.M. Raja Reddy,

Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Smt. M. Chandana, Member, SCPCR, P. Suseendra Rao, DEO, Ranga Reddy District, G. Manohar, MEO, Malkajgiri, Dr. Lavanya Reddy, Dy. DMHO, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Sri A. Venkateshwarlu, State Co-ordinator, Association for Voluntary Action,

DCPO's Sri Md. Imtyaz Rahim of Medchal, Sri G. Praveen Kumar of Ranga Reddy, Sri P. Sai Suman, Sri S. Anjaneyulu, Asst. Labour Officers and other Revenue, Health, Education departments officials, NGOs officials, Operation Smile-XII divisional team members, Sri P. Venkateshwarlu, ACP She Teams, Sri S. Devender, Inspector, AHTU and staff participated.

## Fresh influx of refugees into southern Mizoram reveals new complications in western Myanmar

The Mizoram Post, citing sources, reported that more than 40 Myanmar nationals had entered a village in southern Mizoram's Lawngtlai district on 30 April from Paletwa in southern Chin State. According to the report, the asylum seekers fled after the Arakan Army (AA), an ethnic armed organisation at war with the Myanmar junta, tried to forcefully conscript them into its ranks. While Mizoram's home department is yet to confirm the influx, the reported development shows how an increasingly messy conflict landscape in western Myanmar can affect India by aggravating the refugee crisis along its borders and destabilising its cross-border economic interests. Emerging frictions in south-

ern Mizoram Since the military overthrew the civilian government in Myanmar in 2021, thousands have fled across the border into Mizoram. According to a recent Economic Times report, the recent arrivals have put the official refugee figures at 34,332. Unofficial estimates stand at some 50,000. Most of the refugees are Chins who share close ethnic ties with the Mizos, which is why they have been given shelter in Mizoram. However, the Mizoram government and civil society remain wary of the asylum situation, which has put additional stress on the state's limited finances and public service infrastructure, especially along the border districts. There are also local concerns around an upsurge in cross-

border narcotics smuggling because of the conflict next door. Beyond these, stray incidents of violence between Myanmar nationals and locals have sparked tensions in southern Mizoram. In March 2023, Mara Thyutlia Pi, a local civil society body representing the Mara tribe in Siaha district, decided to 'seal' the India-Myanmar border after accusing Chin armed groups of murdering three people from the adjoining Lawngtlai district who had crossed over and were found charred to death inside Myanmar.

Weeks later, they accused the Chin Defence Force (CDF)'s Mindat unit of committing the murders and directed the group to hand over the accused to India.



# What Binance's \$4 billion fine and CEO resignation mean for crypto | Explainer

The story so far: The U.S. government this week slammed Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, with a \$4 billion fine after confirming serious protocol failures as it frequently violated U.S. sanctions. On November 22, Binance's CEO and one of the crypto industry's most powerful players, billionaire Changpeng Zhao, announced his resignation. The crypto market is extremely susceptible to even minor shakeups; the latest update has shocked thousands of traders worldwide who rely on Binance (legally or illegally) to conduct their crypto trades.

Why is Binance's CEO stepping down?

Zhao announced he was stepping down, admitting he had made "mistakes" and that he was doing what he felt was best for the company. In Seattle, Zhao pleaded guilty to violating the Bank Secrecy Act by not maintaining an effective anti-money laundering programme. He will have to pay a \$50 million fine and his resignation is part of a legal deal. "Today, I stepped down as CEO of Binance. Admittedly, it was not easy to let go emotionally. But I know it is the right thing to do. I made mistakes, and I must take responsibility. This is best for our community, for Binance, and for myself," posted Zhao on X on November 22. He named Richard Teng, previously Binance's Global Head of Regional Markets, as the new CEO. Teng has over 30 years of financial services and regulatory experience spanning across Abu Dhabi and Singapore, Zhao said. The former Binance CEO stressed that U.S. agencies did not accuse the exchange of misappropriating user funds or engaging in market manipulation. Zhao also said he would probably be a passive crypto investor focusing on decentralised finance (DeFi), and perhaps train other upcoming entrepreneurs, apart from taking a break. However, he will continue to be a Binance shareholder who is available for company members to consult, Zhao confirmed. Legal experts have pointed out this still leaves the Canadian national with considerable influence over the company he founded in 2017.

What did Binance do to warrant the fine?

Binance was charged with not maintaining a working anti-money laundering programme, as well as running an unlicensed money transmitting business, and violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, per court documents dated November 14. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that the exchange did not report suspicious transactions and it told employees to keep information from law enforcement bodies. That meant millions of dollars in crypto transactions involving criminal actors like the Russia-based dark net marketplace Hydra and users based in sanctioned nations such as Iran were not reported, "allowing illicit actors to transact freely, supporting activities from child sexual abuse, to illegal nar-

cotics, to terrorism, across more than 100,000 transactions." Transactions "associated with terrorist groups like Hamas's Al-Qassam Brigades, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al Qaeda, and ISIS" were also unreported. "Binance processed these transactions, but it never filed a single suspicious activity report. And it also allowed over 1.5 million virtual currency trades that violated U.S. sanctions," said Yellen in an official statement on November 21. The Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network settlement agreement assessed a \$3.4 billion penalty while the Office of Foreign Assets Control assessed a penalty of around \$1 billion, bringing the total to above \$4 billion. This marked the "largest enforcement action" in the Treasury's history, according to Yellen.

Has Binance faced legal issues before?

Binance has faced legal and compliance issues in a number of countries, but swiftly moved past most barriers under Zhao's audacious leadership style, with the company loudly expressing support for regulation while also pulling out of the jurisdictions which tried to regulate or probe its activities. However, the U.S. Treasury alleged that Binance had lied about exiting the U.S. years ago, and that it retained U.S. users as well as "significant" ties with the country. In June this year, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) hit Binance with a lawsuit, claiming that it was comingling and diverting customer assets to a third party linked with Zhao, and that the exchange broke federal securities laws by "illegally conducting unregistered offers and sales of securities to U.S. investors." How will this affect crypto investors and the sector? While U.S.-based individuals are barred from using the Binance platform, it remains to be seen whether this policy will be strictly enforced under the company's next CEO. Binance has been ordered to completely exit the country and will be strictly monitored from here on.

BNB, the cryptocurrency that helps facilitate trades on the Binance exchange and is native to the BNB blockchain ecosystem, fell by more than 10% to a price of around \$234 as the news of Zhao's resignation broke. However, it slowly began recovering. As more crypto exchanges with U.S. customers come under regulatory pressure, they may decide to comply with the country's registration requirements (even if just on paper alone), or exit the country completely. Some exchanges try to evade legal action by basing their headquarters in foreign tax havens. However, crypto investors who do not want their transactions monitored by centralised authorities or the U.S. government may explore the riskier DeFi route or transact through non-regulated decentralised exchanges (DEXs).

What did Binance's CEO say about FTX?

On December 9 last year, Zhao fired off tweets criticising the collapsed FTX



crypto exchange headed by former billionaire and CEO Sam Bankman-Fried, who was found guilty of financial fraud on multiple counts this October. "You don't have to be a genius to know something don't smell right at FTX," Zhao said and called attention to the company's "reprehensible

misuse of customer funds." But almost a year later, Zhao apologised for his own actions and is leaving behind his crypto exchange which was condemned by U.S. regulators in the harshest terms for criminal practices. This is yet another case which illustrates just how quickly the illusion of stability can shatter in the crypto sector.

## With looming TikTok ban in the US, the death of the global internet

The history of the global internet is the history of local apps that strove to become big, fulfilling promises of global connectivity. Our current spate of digital applications stands on the graves of a large number of platforms, applications, environments, products, and tools that were once in vogue. I remember the world before Google, where the only way to find credible information online was through a p2p network of carefully maintained links to discussion forums which were not just digital dumpster fires. There was a time before Facebook where we had just discovered blogging and were finding communities that were experimenting with user generated content. Before Twitter, there were enough spaces on the internet which were fuelled by rage and hate. We didn't have to wait for Instagram to go and get ourselves bullied, negged, and sexualised — there were enough spaces for whoever wanted it, where the most vulnerable people were constantly being violated and attacked. Our social media practices are so overwhelming and encompassing that we forget how new and temporary they are. Many of the legacy apps have already wrapped up. The more persistent ones have evolved so much that they bear almost no resemblance to their original versions. The breathless air of innovation and disruption and the desperate search for something new constantly bombard us with the next big thing which is going to make everything else obsolete. Once the hype dies, the initial curiosity falters and most of these disruptors find their space in the digital ecosystem, with things more or less scrolling along. If there is one unwritten rule of the internet that is rooted in information and

attention economies, it is that this too shall pass. Apps will come and go, with digital life cycles that are more akin to that of fruit flies than tortoises. Given the ephemeral nature of these apps, it does come as a surprise that so many governments around the world keep on trying to control one which has recently been on an upswing — TikTok. In India, we have already mourned the death of TikTok, and a slew of old and new apps have evolved to replace it, grabbing the mindless, repetitive, memetics-driven interactive video-platforming space that TikTok ushered in. The Indian users, devastated when the app first got banned, along with the hyperbolic analysts and speculators who warned us that it was the beginning of the end, have all survived the great loss. As the United States government now considers the banning of TikTok, the questions have come to the fore again — what is it about TikTok that seems to trouble so many people so profoundly? The usual arguments about the brokenness of the internet — misinformation, manipulative algorithms, immersive frivolous content that shapes political decisions, rampant hate and violence, radicalisation of young people on ideological grounds, exploitation of users by selling their data, targeted messaging that makes people vulnerable through AI analytics, and polarisation of societies intensified by filter bubbles — do not work. This is because TikTok doesn't have a monopoly or uniqueness on any of these. If these are the reasons why TikTok has to be banned, we might as well shut down the internet, wear tinfoil hats and wait for the rapture. There is nothing exceptional about TikTok and its policies around content curation, data brokerage and ownership.

# Are gallstones linked to an increased risk of Gallbladder Cancer (GBC)? Health expert answers

Gallstones have long been recognised as a significant factor associated with gallbladder cancer (GBC), particularly in regions like northern India where the incidence of both conditions is high but it involves a complex interplay of genetic predisposition, environmental factors and chronic inflammation. While gallstones serve as a risk factor for GBC, health experts reveal that it is essential to recognise that not all individuals with gallstones will develop cancer.

What are the factors associated with Gall Bladder Cancer?

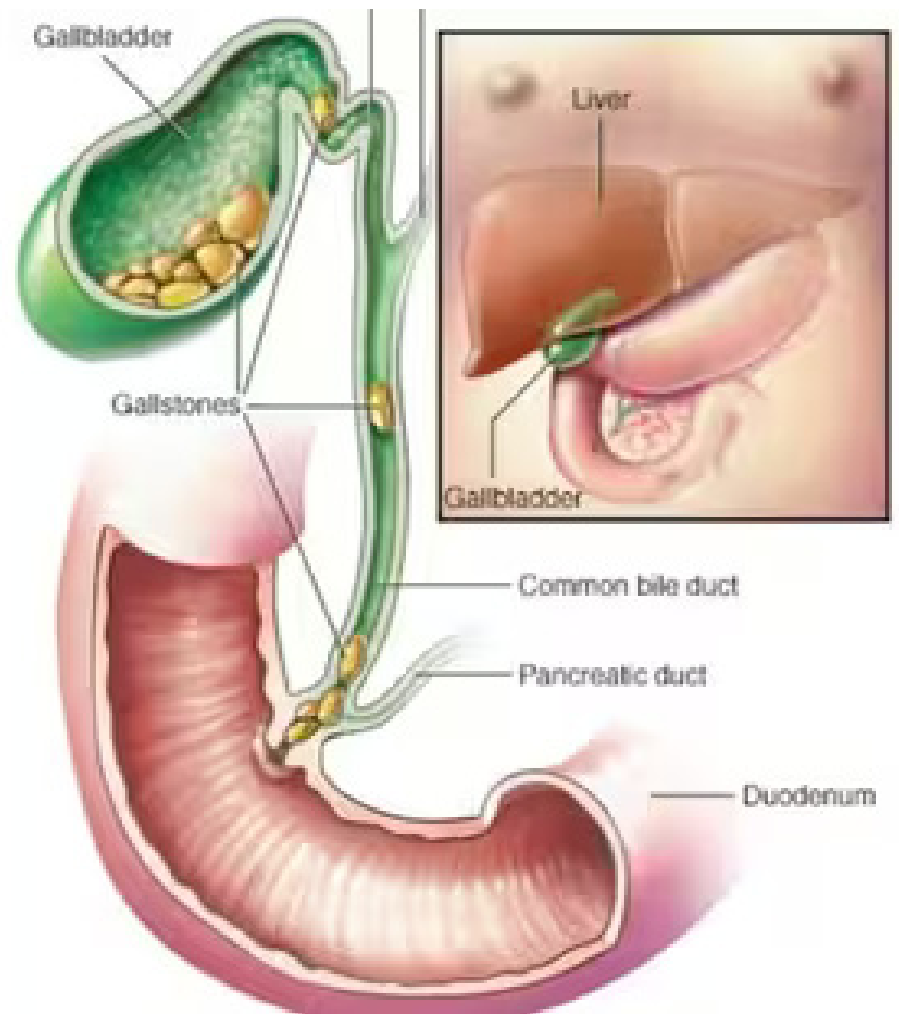
In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Shivendra Singh, Senior Consultant and Chief of GI Oncosurgery and Liver Transplant Services at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCIRC), explained, "Gallstones are often detected during examinations for gallbladder cancer, and often, it remains a reason for misdiagnosis. Various studies in India have documented presence of gall stone in 70–90% of patients with GBC. The pathogenesis of GBC is influenced by various co-factors, including age, gender, socio-economic status, and comorbidities such as chronic infections with *Salmonella typhi* or *Helicobacter pylori*. Furthermore, environmental factors like exposure to pollutants, heavy metals, and dietary habits also play a role in carcinogenesis." He shared, "It has been observed that middle aged women around 40 and above with a demographic profile, often referred to as 'fat, fertile, female over forty' are generally the subset which is mostly affected with gall stone disease. Additionally, the type of gallstones prevalent in different regions also contributes to the varying incidence of GBC. For instance, in northern India, where cholesterol/mixed stones are predominant, the association with GBC may be more pronounced compared to regions like South

India, where pigment stones are more common."

Should you opt for gallbladder removal due to fear of cancer?

Dr Shivendra Singh revealed, "It's important to note that gallbladder issues, including the presence of gallstones, do not always lead to gallbladder cancer. While gallstones are a known risk factor for cancer development, the majority of people with gallstones will not develop cancer. It's crucial not to generalize the need for gallbladder removal solely based on the presence of gallstones or fear of cancer. Each case should be evaluated individually, considering the patient's symptoms, medical history, and overall health." He asserted, "It's essential to weigh the risks and benefits on an individual basis, considering factors such as age, overall health, and the presence of red flag symptoms. Regular screening and surveillance may be warranted for individuals with known risk factors, especially those with a family history of GBC or other biliary tract malignancies. A comprehensive understanding of the underlying mechanisms, coupled with personalised risk assessment, is crucial for effective prevention and management strategies. Chronic irritation caused by gallstones has been linked to gallbladder cancer, presenting symptoms such as loss of appetite and stomach fullness. However, pain is uncommon in gallbladder cancer, typically occurring only during inflammation due to cholecystitis."

Pointing out that gallbladder cancer may not show much symptoms as such because it spreads very fast, Dr Shivendra Singh said that patients may face certain discomfort and while symptoms can vary, there are some common signs to be aware of: Warning signs include nausea, vomiting, weight loss, and discomfort in the right hypochondrium or lower right side of the



chest wall. In some cases, gallbladder problems can lead to jaundice, a condition characterized by yellowing of the skin and eyes. Jaundice occurs when bile flow from the liver is obstructed, often due to gall-

stones or inflammation of the gallbladder. Some individuals may notice a lump or heaviness in the right upper abdomen. This sensation can be accompanied by discomfort or a feeling of fullness.

# Are you parenting your partner? Therapist drops truth bombs that we should be aware of

In a relationship, two people create their own dynamics – the kind of relationship pattern that they are comfortable with. This is also based on the attachment style that they have. From avoidant attachment to anxious attachment, a partner can have any of the four types of attachment styles, or a combination of multiple ones. This further decides the behavioural patterns in the relationship. However, when we start to parent the partner and take care of them without them doing it for us, it can lead to a dip in emotional intimacy and connection. This can slowly turn frustrating. "Together we'll go through a 4-step process to figure it out. How you and your partner are incompatible and if there are any deal breakers you might be ignoring? Whether your emotional connection is compromised and what you can do about it? Whether you're

trapped in a doomed dynamic that's never going to go anywhere? If you have inner love blocks that sabotage your relationship without you knowing," wrote Relationship Coach Marlena Tillhon. Signs of parenting the partner: Reminding them: We are constantly reminding them of things that they need to take care of – from their responsibilities to their meetings. Paying for them: Paying bills for them and allowing them to be financially immature is a toxic pattern in a relationship. Walking on eggshells: We constantly walk on eggshells around them because we cannot predict their mood and do not want to overwhelm them. Not sharing needs or feelings: We think that they will not be able to understand how we are feeling, hence we try to stop ourselves from sharing our needs and feelings. Harsh reality we need to know: Enabling immaturity:





# 'Outstanding work': IIT-M team makes mineral nanoparticles with water

Water drops are ubiquitous around us and come in different sizes. They can be as large as a raindrop or as small as aerosol particles released from a spray can. They can be even smaller — invisible to the naked eye — when they come as microdroplets. The latter are just a thousandth the size of a typical raindrop. "We think that droplets are very tiny, and they are not important enough," Thalappil Pradeep, a chemist at IIT Madras, told The Hindu. Dr. Pradeep led a study recently published in the journal *Science* that showed microdroplets of water can break minerals down into nanoparticles. The team involved researchers from IIT Madras and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. "This outstanding work adds significantly to the growing body of evidence that water droplets enable chemical transformations that bulk water does not make possible," Richard Zare, a chemist at Stanford University who wasn't involved in the study, told The Hindu. Eccentricity of water microdroplets In a bucket of water, water molecules at the surface can participate more easily in chemical reactions than those in the bulk. But even at the surface, they'll need to be supplied some energy before they can participate. The water molecules of microdroplets do one better: because they have so little room and are packed closely together, they're more eager to participate in chemical reactions. The water in microdroplets thus engage more readily in exotic chemical reactions that also proceed faster, up to a million-times in some cases. This isn't possible with water molecules in bulk.

For the same reason, microdroplets are also good carriers of electric charge. Dr. Pradeep said they're easy to encounter in this form. Go to the beach, and close to the shore, microdroplets from the spray of water could carry an excess of ions from the salt in the water and settle on your skin, he said. A microdroplet can also become electrically charged in other ways. For example, when a larger droplet loses some water by evaporation and shrinks, the water molecules left behind are pushed closer together, and establish (weak) hydrogen bonds between themselves. This often results in a water molecule shedding one of its hydrogen atoms and becomes a negatively charged hydroxyl ion ( $\text{OH}^-$ ). The freed  $\text{H}^+$  is essentially a proton. This process happens in bulk water as well — but because each molecule is surrounded by other water molecules, the protons can't move around much. In microdroplets, the protons easily reach the surface, rendering the surface more acidic and creating fertile ground for chemical reactions. Researchers have shown that amino acids use free protons on their surfaces as an intermediary to form peptide linkages. The new study reported microdroplets have yet another ability. An explosive experiment Dr. Pradeep & co. were interested in whether water microdroplets could break bonds in crystals like silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) and alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) to create nanometre-sized pieces. Spoorthi Bhat, then a PhD student under Dr. Pradeep



and one of the paper's coauthors, set up an experiment to confirm this hypothesis in crystals of quartz (silica), ruby, and fused alumina. She pressed a battery terminal against the outside of a capillary tube. The terminal delivered a few thousand volts to mineral microparticles suspended in water inside the tube. The voltage elongated the suspension, squeezing it out of one end, and sending it flying through the air as a mist of microdroplets. They were still airborne when, in just 10 ms, the mineral microparticles broke up into nanoparticles.

The researchers had a few ideas about what could have caused this break up. The free protons could have squeezed themselves into crystal layers, which they scraped the mineral off from within if supplied some energy. The study suggests the electric fields produced by the charged surface could have provided this energy. Surface tension — the force that keeps droplets spherical — could have been involved as well. In the experiment, a contest between surface tension, which is attractive, and like charges on the surface repelling each other could have set off shockwaves that blew up the microdroplets. "This is a striking and non-intuitive result," Shashi Thutupalli, a biophysicist at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, who was not involved in the study, said to The Hindu. "It seems quite plausible that the high electric field within the droplets could cause the particle breakup." He added that the findings could be useful to the study of proto-cells, the precursors to cells as we know them today. Scientists are interested in proto-cells because they could have played an important part in the processes that first created life on the earth. "For me personally, the relevance of these results to the context of the origins of life is very

exciting." He said the microdroplets could mimic proto-cells by being little compartments in which biochemical reactions play out. Making a green paradise The formation of nanoparticles from microparticles, Dr. Pradeep said, is "related to the origin of life, the problem of agriculture, ... to issues as large as water itself. Another problem as big as water is food. It is in this context that soil is probably an interesting thing."

Silica makes up half of sand. Plants absorb silica in the form of nanoparticles to help them become taller. The rice crop usually has high levels of silica. Supplying

soil with silica nanoparticles could thus have a positive impact on agriculture. "Here is a way to convert unproductive soil, unproductive fields or even desertified areas into productive areas," Dr. Pradeep said. He implored scientists to investigate whether water microdroplets react with minerals to form nanoparticles as part of atmospheric processes, in the form of 'microdroplet showers'. Dr. Pradeep was optimistic they do. Karthik Vinod is a freelance science journalist and co-founder of Ed Publica. He has masters' degrees in astrophysics and science, technology and society.

## "The lifeblood": 42% of startups in California founded by immigrants

Washington: As many as 42 per cent of all startups in California are founded by immigrants who are the lifeblood of the Golden State, its Governor Gavin Newsom told a group of eminent Indian Americans at a fundraiser. Newsom, a senior Democratic Party leader, made these remarks in Massachusetts on Monday. "Forty-two per cent of all startups in California are founded by immigrants, and they are the lifeblood of our State. Amid the vitriol, xenophobia, and nativism that permeates much of our politics, particularly from figures like Donald Trump, we in California have endured and emerged stronger," Newsom said at a fundraiser in Massachusetts. he Vaccine War' based on true achievements of Indian scientists: Pallavi Joshi and Vivek Agnihotri "We overcame the divisive rhetoric of Prop 187 in the 1990s, and today, we celebrate our diversity rather than merely tolerate it. As a result, we lead in manufac-

turing, boast the highest number of scientists, researchers, and Nobel laureates, and continue to drive innovation globally," he said. Hosted by US India Security Council president, Ramesh Viswanath Kapur and his wife Susan at their home in Winchester on July 8, the fundraiser was attended by eminent Indian Americans from in and around Boston. Kapur in his remarks expressed gratitude to Newsom for his decisive veto of the proposed SB 403 bill, which aimed to ban caste discrimination, and for his interest in visiting a Hindu temple in Florida in the coming months. The room, filled with many Indian-origin attendees, entrepreneurs, and young people, erupted in applause, recognising Newsom's steadfast support for entrepreneurial initiatives and his principled stance on critical issues. Kapur also stated that he feels the Governor has a good chance of being the 47th President of the USA.