

## Kandi Sravan Kumar Reddy Meets Chief Minister Revanth Reddy



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 1 (Indian Chronicle):”“Former Youth Congress President of Medchal–Malkajgiri district, Kandi Sravan Kumar Reddy, met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat and extended New Year greetings. On the occasion, Kandi Sravan Kumar Reddy felicitated the Chief Minister as a mark of respect.

## Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy meets CM Revanth Reddy

“Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, January 01:”“Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy and TTUC State President Shobhan Reddy paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the State Secretariat in Hyderabad on Wednesday. On the occasion, the couple extended New Year greetings to the Chief Minister and expressed their best wishes for the successful implementation of government programs aimed at the welfare



and development of the people of the state. They conveyed their hope that the government's initiatives would bring progress and prosperity to Telangana. They also informed that brief discussions were held with the Chief Minister on issues related to urban development, labour welfare, and the resolution of public problems. The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere.

## Sri Sita Rama Kalyana Mahotsavam Celebrated Grandly at Sri Ramachandra Swamy Temple



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 1 (Indian Chronicle):”“On the occasion of the English New Year, the Sri Sita Rama Kalyana Mahotsavam was celebrated in a grand and devotional manner at the Sri Ramachandra Swamy Temple in Uppal on Thursday. The celestial wedding of Lord Sri Rama and Goddess Sita turned into a visual delight for devotees, who thronged the temple in large numbers to witness the auspicious event. The sacred ceremony was conducted with traditional Vedic rituals and spiritual fervor, creating a festive atmosphere throughout the temple

. Devotees participated with deep devotion and enthusiasm, making the event a memorable spiritual experience. The temple's hereditary trustees Motkuru Raghavadasu, Krishna Sharma (Devi Prasanna Sharma), Venkateshwara Sharma, Prasad Sharma, Vijayendra Harish Kumar Sharma, Akshay Sharma, and others actively took part in the celebrations.

## Dr. R.S. Praveen Kumar Promises to Create Doctors, Engineers from Regulaguda

“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, January 1 (Indian Chronicle):”“Kaghaznagar: BRS State General Secretary Dr. R.S. Praveen Kumar criticised previous administrations for neglecting Regulaguda village for two decades and promised to transform the village into a hub for future government officials, doctors and engineers. He was speaking after the Regulaguda Deputy Sarpanch and four ward members joined the BRS on Thursday. Welcoming them into the party, Dr. Praveen Kumar said leadership with vision was essential for village



development. Four ward members from Basanta Nagar's Bengali Camp Nos. 3 and 4 also joined the party on the same day.

# 2026 Is a God-Given Opportunity for Renewal and Expansion: PJS Paul

Life Changing Revival Church Welcomes New Year with Watch Night Service



“Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, January 1, 2026: “Life Changing Revival Church, under the aegis of P. J. Stephen Paul Ministries, welcomed New Year 2026 with a spiritually uplifting Watch Night Service and New Year Mass, attended by over 20,000 believers. The service began on the night of December 31 and continued into the early hours of January 1, featuring heartfelt worship, fervent prayers, and deep spiritual reflection. Devotees from diverse backgrounds gathered to seek God’s guidance, blessings, and direction for the year ahead. Delivering the message, Pastor P. J. Stephen Paul emphasized the New Year as a God-



given opportunity for renewal, restoration, and strengthened faith. He highlighted the living hope and abundant blessings promised to believers and their relevance in daily Christian life. Special prayers were offered for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the nation, its leaders, and citizens, reflecting unity and love for the country. As midnight struck, the congregation united in prayer and thanksgiving, welcoming 2026 with faith, gratitude, and trust in God’s plans. The service stood as a testimony of unity and collective prayer, setting a strong spiritual foundation for the year ahead.

## District Collector Koya Sri Harsha Inspects Proposed Site for TTD Temple in Manthani.



“P.S.ASHOKAN.“KARIMNAGAR BUREAU.“District Collector Koya Sri Harsha has stated that site inspections are underway in Manthani for the proposed construction of a temple by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). On Thursday, the District Collector visited Manthani to examine suitable locations on the outskirts of the town for the establishment of the TTD temple. As part of the inspection, the Collector also visited the Gudem Gutta area on the outskirts of Lakkepur. Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Koya Sri Harsha said that the objective of the inspection was to identify an appropriate site for submitting a formal proposal to TTD for the construction of a grand temple and a Kalyana Mandapam to serve the spiritual and cultural needs of the Manthani region. The District Collector was accompanied by Manthani RDO Suresh, Tahsildar Arifoddin, and other concerned officials.



“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, January 1 (Indian Chronicle)“Kaghaznagar: Former Sirpur MLA Koneru Konappa demanded that the government immediately address the problems of municipal contract workers, whose strike over unpaid wages and non-deposit of ESI and PF entered the 11th day on Thursday. Addressing the workers at the

protest site, he said the strike had resulted in garbage piling up across the town, leading to unhygienic conditions. He called upon the government and senior officials to clear all dues at the earliest. Mr. Konappa assured the workers of his continued support and later shared a meal with them. BRS leaders, party workers and municipal employees attended the programme.

# Information Minister Releases TWJF New Year 2026 Diary at Secretariat



“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, January 1 (Indian Chronicle)““Hyderabad: The New Year 2026 Diary of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) was formally released by State Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Thursday at the State Secretariat.““On the occasion, TWJF representatives conveyed New Year greetings to the Minister and presented

him with a copy of the diary.““The programme was attended by State Founder President and State Convener Mamidi Somaiah, State Co-Conveners P. Anandam, Bandi Vijay Kumar, Tanneeru Srinivas, Vallala Jagan, Kudutadi Bapurao, and National Council Members Padmanabha Rao and Gopal, among others.

## New Year Celebrations Held at Chilakalaguda Congress Party office



““Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad”, January 01:““On the occasion of the New Year celebrations, cake cutting was organized at the Chilakalaguda Congress Party office under the leadership of Greater Hyderabad Congress Committee Vice President Naguluru Saibaba. Party workers and supporters participated enthusiastically in the celebrations.““Several party leaders and activists, including Anji, Anjaneyulu Devudu, Venkat, Manohar Babu, Rupesh, Chinna Sheenu, Ramu, Pramod, and Satish, were present on the occasion. The event was marked by a festive atmosphere as party members welcomed the New Year with unity and optimism.

## Felicitation to Sampath on Winning as Sarpanch



““Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 1:““Vasarla Sampath, a resident of Dattatreya Nagar Colony, Mallapur, has been elected as the Sarpanch in the recent Gram Panchayat elections held in Chouduru village, Devaruppula Mandal, Palakurthi constituency, Jangaon district—his native village.““On this occasion, TRS party leaders from Mallapur and Corporator Devender Reddy felicitated Sampath in a grand manner. By profession, Sampath is a car driver. He has been residing in Dattatreya Nagar Colony, Mallapur, for the past ten years. Along with earning his livelihood, whenever he found time, he consistently worked for the development of his native village and remained accessible to the people.““The residents of Mallapur Colony and the villagers expressed happiness over his journey from being an ordinary party worker to becoming a Sarpanch. Sampath thanked the party leaders and supporters who stood by him and helped him reach this position.

# Philanthropic Gesture in Memory of Late Sri Hari: Portable Sound System Donated to Sadashaya Foundation



“P.S.ASHOKAN”KARIMNGAR BUREAU. “In a noble gesture commemorating the memory of her late husband, eye donor Late Sri Hari, Odela resident K. Rajeshwari graciously donated a portable sound system to support the service activities of the Sadashaya Foundation. “The sound system was formally handed over on New Year’s Day to the team led by Dr. Merugu Bhishmachari, National Secretary of Sadashaya Foundation, through the hands of Akula Mahender, former Sarpanch of Odela. “Speaking on the

occasion, former Sarpanch Akula Mahender recalled that Late Sri Hari, who passed away some time ago, had not only donated his eyes after death but had also contributed a sound system to the Sadashaya Foundation’s Odela unit nearly a decade earlier. He noted that upon learning the earlier system had become non-functional due to repeated repairs, Mrs. Rajeshwari, with great generosity and compassion, chose to donate a new sound system. He described the act as a highly virtuous and commendable deed and extended his

heartfelt congratulations. “Dr. Merugu Bhishmachari stated that when he informed Mrs. Rajeshwari about the sound system being unusable, she immediately responded with her consent to provide a replacement. He praised her benevolence, stating that she not only appreciated the Foundation’s ongoing service activities to society but also expressed her wish to be part of such noble causes. On this occasion, she further conveyed her consent to donate her eyes after her lifetime, which he de-

scribed as a shining testament to her elevated moral values and humanitarian outlook. “The programme was attended by Mandal President Kondra Venu, Late Mallesham, Ippanapalli Venkateswarlu, Merugu Sarangam, Polozu Ramesh, Balasani Santosh, Merugu Ram Narayan, and Jeedi Naveen. All the participants extended their congratulations and expressed sincere gratitude to Mrs. Rajeshwari for her generous contribution and exemplary spirit of service.

## The Kaghaznagar Town Police extend their heartfelt New Year greetings to the people of Kaghaznagar town and to our press and media friends.



“Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, January 1 (Indian Chronicle) “We sincerely wish that the New Year brings peace, security, happiness, good health and prosperity into everyone’s lives. “With the objective of ensuring public safety and maintaining law and order, the Kaghaznagar Town Police remain vigilant and committed to their duties round the clock (24x7). We believe that a peaceful environment in the town can be sustained only with the active cooperation of the public

“We also extend our special gratitude to the press and media fraternity, who are key partners in upholding peace and public awareness. “As we step into the New Year, we appeal to everyone to continue cooperating with the police, respect the law, and contribute towards a peaceful and harmonious society. “? Happy New Year 2026 ?— Kaghaznagar Town Police ??

# Incident-Free, Accident-Free New Year Celebrations in Malkajgiri Commissionerate

## Special Drive Against Drunk Driving on New Year Night



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, January 1, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): To prevent road accidents and other untoward incidents during New Year celebrations, the Malkajgiri Traffic Police conducted an extensive special drive against drunk driving on the night of December 31 and the early hours of January 1. As part of this drive, 36 traffic police teams were deployed across the Malkajgiri Commissionerate

limits. During the operation, 605 persons were caught driving under the influence of alcohol, and cases were registered against them. All offenders will be produced before the court after the filing of charge sheets. Their driving licences will be seized and forwarded to the respective Regional Transport Authorities for suspension under Section 19 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. According to police data, around 230 individuals recorded alcohol levels exceeding 100 mg

per 100 ml of blood, while eight persons were found with alcohol levels above 300 mg. Most drunk driving cases were reported from LB Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Uppal, and Kushaiguda areas. Due to strict enforcement measures and effective traffic and road safety planning by the Malkajgiri Traffic Police, no major road accidents were reported anywhere in the commissionerate during New Year celebrations. The Malkajgiri Police ex-

pressed gratitude to citizens for their cooperation in maintaining road safety and ensuring peaceful celebrations. Police officials stated that special drives against drunk driving will continue across the commissionerate limits as part of the Zero Tolerance policy towards drunk driving. Citizens were urged to act responsibly and avoid dangerous behavior on roads to ensure the safety of all road users.

## Dense fog disrupts flights across North India; airlines issue advisory

New Delhi: Flight operations across several parts of northern and eastern India, including Delhi, were affected on Thursday as dense fog engulfed large swathes of the region, sharply reducing visibility and prompting airlines to issue advisories for passengers.

Low visibility conditions led to disruptions at multiple airports, including those in Delhi, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati, with airlines cautioning travellers to remain alert and check flight updates to avoid inconvenience.

Delhi began the New Year under a thick blanket of fog, pollution and biting cold, as air quality continued to remain in the ‘very poor’ category. Dense fog combined with low temperatures further tightened its grip on the national capital, worsening already poor environmental conditions.

According to the latest data re-

leased by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi’s Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 372, indicating persistently high pollution levels across the city. Air India, early on Thursday, issued an advisory on X warning passengers that low visibility conditions in parts of north India, including Delhi, could disrupt flight operations.

“Weather forecasts for tomorrow morning indicate low visibility due to fog in parts of northern India, including Delhi, which may impact flight schedules across the network,” the airline said. The carrier added that its ‘FogCare’ initiative was in place to assist travellers.

“Our FogCare initiative provides advanced alerts to passengers on flights most likely to be affected. It offers the option for you to either reschedule your flight at no extra cost or receive a full refund,” Air India informed passengers late Wednesday. The airline also advised travellers to check the latest flight

status on its official website and to allow additional time for travel to the airport due to prevailing conditions.

IndiGo airline also flagged weather-related disruptions, stating in a post on X, “Low visibility and fog over #Ranchi and #Bhubaneswar have impacted flight schedules. We are keeping a close watch on the weather and doing our best to get you where you need to be, safely and smoothly.” The airline urged passengers to remain updated on their flight details through official channels. “We request you to stay updated on your flight status via our website or app. Be assured, our teams are here to assist you at every step and ensure support. Here is hoping clearer skies help us serve you better soon, and thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time,” IndiGo said.

As fog continued to linger over parts of the Northeast, IndiGo also

alerted passengers about slower aircraft movement at Guwahati airport. “Departures and arrivals to and from the city, as well as certain routes across our network, may experience short delays as we work through the weather conditions,” the airline stated. Visibility dropped sharply in Guwahati as fog and haze covered the skies over the Assam capital, affecting normal flight operations. SpiceJet, meanwhile, informed its passengers about adverse weather conditions in Uttar Pradesh’s Ayodhya and Himachal Pradesh’s Dharamshala, cautioning that the situation could impact flight operations at both airports. Lucknow airport also recorded low visibility early on Thursday. According to forecasts, visibility at the airport is expected to improve to around 1,200 metres, with the India Meteorological Department predicting further improvement to nearly 2,000 metres between noon and 2 pm.

# Design solutions for a sustainable Bengaluru

I was recently in Panaji at the Serendipity Arts Festival, that has changed the perception of the city internationally. Through the involvement of the creative community, Goa and Panaji in particular, have an arts festival and a film festival that are counted as world-class. Goa over the years has encouraged an influx of creative professionals making Goa a creative hotspot from its earlier reputation as a cheap holiday destination for backpackers. There is a clear link between the creative industries and the economy. The British Council India, in a recently released study, showed Durga Puja's contribution to West Bengal's economy to be 2.5% of the state's GDP. Generated by a festival that has religious, artistic and creative-cultural overtones, the festival is now a major earner for the state.

The creative economy is a major contributor to overall GDP, and can be leveraged into business, investment, sustainable development, built environment and overall attractiveness of a city if nurtured and allowed to grow. During the Bengaluru Design Week 2023, which was held to coincide with the Unbox BLR Habba, Bengaluru's equivalent to the Kochi Biennale or Goa's Serendipity Festival, two major initiatives were launched by the design community. First, the World Design Protopolis, a nomination from the World Design Organisation that recognised Bengaluru as the world's First Design Protopolis, (Prototype + Megalopolis), uses design to shape government and private sector spending using design processes to make the city more livable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of its citizens. Bengaluru hosted the first Protopolis Conclave from December 7 to December 9, 2023. The conclave focused on some of the pressing issues the city faces.

Second, the start of several pilots and prototypes that are aimed at changing the experience of the city over the next five years. The first of them was the Folklu Folk Festival, a combination of folk music, folk performance arts and folk arts that have been influenced by designers to have contemporary meaning and relevance. Performances and music were curated by Vasu Dixit a contemporary musician whose music is very much shaped by folk and the vernacular, and folk arts curated by Rashmi Singh an experienced designer and crafts practitioner. The projects that the World Design Protopolis introduces make possible for an integrated and systems design approach to solving some of the complex issues the city faces.

Design, citizens and the cityDesign has always been seen as a problem-solving activity, but for a city's managers, design is an engineering process for the implementation of solutions, very rarely stopping to seek the right questions as to what problems need to be solved.

Several cities in the world now have a chief design officer attached to the municipal government whose job very often is to see that solutions proposed are what citizens need and to have the citizens' voices heard and responded to in planning and implementation. It's a two-way flow in that as the citizen realises she has a voice, an equal demand can be made for her participation in the city, moving from

being a passive consumer of its services, to being an active participant with responsibilities and accountability equally being part of a citizens' rights and contribution. Change at scale can only happen if the citizens as well as the government is involved. Change at scale can only happen if the citizens as well as the government is involved. | Photo Credit: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Change at scale can only happen if the government is involved and while working with the government isn't easy, it is perhaps the only way that lasting change can be made. Citizens increasingly complain that Bengaluru has lost its charm and is becoming unlivable, but the experience of a city to a large extent is defined by the behaviour of its citizens. Here then is an opportunity for the city government, citizens, professionals and the organizations and institutions in the city to make a concerted change for the future.

Design systems and urban planningDesign can help shape a city and today it's of utmost importance that we shape a city sustainably. Cities would find it very difficult to be net zero contributors of carbon but can effectively reduce their footprint, whilst improving the quality of life for its inhabitants. Providing infrastructure such as roads, flyovers and metro systems without the added infra of publicly accessible last-mile connectivity very often exacerbates congestion. Bengaluru has a very active sustainability movement championed by individuals, citizens groups and civil society organisations, further, several start-ups work in the circular economy space and continue to spring up through Bengaluru's robust start-up ecosystem. The tipping point will come if there is coordinated and collaborative action across public, private, plural and people's groups. Design and consequenceOur cities needIntegrated planning that looks at the consequences of our design and policies examined before making them.

Take for example the numerous metro projects that have been undertaken across the country with much less than projected ridership. Working in departmental silos that haven't planned last-mile and first-mile connectivity with Metro nodes, and without the simultaneous development of public road transport has meant that metros cannot be standalone solutions. Bus Rapid Transit systems (BRTS) that have worked well in other global south cities haven't worked in India without the level of inter-departmental coordination and collaboration required, though BRTS coupled with Metro can bring down the overall costs of public mass transportation and make it more flexible. The DULT- (Directorate of Urban Land Transport) coordinating with BMRCL (Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation), BMTC (Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation), KSRTC (Karnataka Road Transport Corporation), The SWR (South Western Railways) and the K-Ride (Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development project will all come together under the Protopolis program for cocreation of coordinated solutions. Frugal Design

The cities of the Global South can't opt for the same model of development as that of the cities in the Global North or even Southeast Asia. The planet certainly does



not have the resources for it. Frugal, effective, adaptable solutions have to be built that use minimal resources. Frugal design for instance might focus on local decentralised solutions for everything from water to waste management. Rainwater harvesting to improve the water table, and revival of open wells (not bore wells) in localities may prove less expensive than pumping water over great distances and heights. Bengaluru is today dependent on water from the Cauvery River that has a horizontal transit of 100 km and a vertical lift of close to 1000 metres. Small nature-based sewage treatment plants may work better than large, centralized sewage treatment plants and return treated water back

into the local ecosystem. Bengaluru has several experts and institutions in this area such as Biome, MOD Foundation, IISC, IIHS, Srishti Manipal Institute, Ayala Aquatech, and countless individuals. Their work needs to be recognised and scaled for impact.

In India, given our biggest resource is human capital, how might we leverage it to progress?

The demographic advantage we have currently has to be provided with the right skills and opportunities. Bengaluru's development as a premier education capital started more than 100 years ago with the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science.

## Ksheerasagaramadhanam is an impressive dance performance in Rabindra Bharati



The Vempati Natya Medha program at Rabindra Bharati for the last two days under the auspices of Abhinayavani Nrythyaniketan in memory of late Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinasatyam ended on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, prominent dance teacher Central Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Professor Ramalingasastri said that culture, tradition and dance are a celebration of heritage. The efforts of dance teacher

Balatripura Sundari, who has been training many students for the past two decades and safeguarding this ceremony, is commendable. Before that, a dance form called Ksheerasagara Madana was performed. \*HCU Professor T. Anuradha, former Prime Minister PV Narsimha Rao's daughter Sharada Devi, Kirthi Reddy, founder of Gaudium School, Balatripurasundari founder of Abhinayavani Nrythyaniketan participated.

# Bosnian river's floating waste dump threatens health, tourism

Visitors to the otherwise picturesque historic town of Visegrad in eastern Bosnia are first greeted by the sight of a huge floating waste dump caught in the deep turquoise waters of the Drina river canyon. The tons of floating garbage, mostly plastic bottles, are a threat to the local tourism-based economy and there are also fears about the impact on people's health when it is eventually burnt. The Drina winds its way through Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia, where the Visegrad hydro-power plant built a makeshift barrier out of old oil drums in the depths of the canyon some 20 years ago, protecting its dam from the debris carried by the river.

"There are about 5,000 cubic metres of different kinds of waste," said Eko Center Visegrad's Dejan Furtula, pointing to the trash barrier. "It comes from all sides and this scene repeats each year, unfortunately." Furtula says the rubbish, which also includes the occasional home appliance, is carried from the Drina's up-

stream tributaries where rising water levels after heavy rains or snow wash garbage from nearby waste sites into the river.

"You can find literally anything you can think of in the Drina river...dead animals, medical waste, car parts," Furtula said. "We are like a sort of a regional waste depot because this trash has not been produced by Visegrad citizens but by those living in towns upstream." He said toxic waste threatened the river's delicate ecological system and when it is burnt also the air Visegrad citizens and visitors must breath.

"This is a big disaster and shame for all of us, we are showing the world a bad picture," Furtula said, adding that ecologists suspect the river is also contaminated by heavy metals, and that a thorough water analysis will be undertaken this year. Owners and employees of hotels and restaurants in Visegrad, known for its Ottoman-era bridge made famous by Yugoslav Nobel literature prize winner Ivo Andric,



also complain that the waste dump is hurting tourism. "Tourists first spot the garbage dump in the Drina and make negative comments - this influences both the tourism and the people who live here," said Dijana

Rajic, chief receptionist at the Andricev Konak hotel.

The Visegrad hydro-power plant could not immediately be reached for comment over a holiday period.

## significant climate records milestones of the year



From registering the hottest summer on record to some significant steps at the yearly United Nations Climate Summit, 2023 was a year of climate extremes. The Hindu takes a look at some climate-related milestones that occurred during the course of the year. **Hottest year on record**

2025 saw temperature records being broken month after month, and the year is all but set to be declared the hottest in history. According to Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2025 was 0.1°C warmer than the ten-month average for 2016, currently the warmest calendar year on record, and 1.43°C warmer than the pre-industrial reference period from January

to October. In October 2023, average surface air temperature reached 15.30°C, 0.85°C above the 1991-2020 average for October. "We can say with near certainty that 2025 will be the warmest year on record, and is currently 1.43°C above the preindustrial average," said Samantha Burgess, C3S's Deputy Director, in a statement in November. **Highest sea surface temperature ever recorded**

Marine heat waves, which are periods of unusually warm ocean temperatures (warmer than 90% of the previous observations for a given time of year), were widespread in 2023. According to an analy-

sis by the U.S. National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 48% of global oceans saw marine heat waves in August 2023, which is an area larger than for any other month since the start of the record in 1991. Global sea surface temperatures (SST) are usually at their highest in March. However, according to C3S data this year, global average SSTs remained at record high levels for the time of year throughout April, May, June, and July 2025, with the largest SST anomaly for any July on record.

"Over the long term, we're seeing more heat and warmer sea surface temperatures pretty much everywhere. That long-term trend is almost entirely attributable to human forcing — the fact that we've put such a huge amount of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere since the start of the industrial era," said Gavin Schmidt, the director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. **Lowest Antarctic Sea ice extent** Sea ice extent is the area of ice that, in this case, covers the Antarctic Ocean at a given time. In 2025, Antarctic Sea ice maintained record low ice growth since April. According to NOAA, sea ice in the Antarctic reached an annual maximum extent of 16.96 million square km on September 10, 2023, setting a record low maximum in the satellite record that began in 1979. This year's maximum is 1.03 million square km, below the previous record low set in 1986. **Record carbon dioxide levels**

Global carbon dioxide emissions (one of the main greenhouse gases) from burn-

ing fossil fuels are predicted to have hit a record high in 2023, up 1.1% from 2022. The Global Carbon Budget Report, published in December 2023, also added that overall CO2 emissions, which reached a record high last year, have plateaued in 2023 due to a slight drop from uses of land like deforestation. **Loss and damage fund** While 2023 saw many climate extremes breached, it also saw the creation of a loss and damage fund for the first time ever. The fund, which is aimed at helping developing countries mitigate impact of climate change, was first announced at the conclusion of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, last year. The COP28 member countries agreed to make a loss and damage fund operational, right on day one of this year's Climate Summit in Dubai. The fund will be based at the World Bank but managed by an independent secretariat.

According to Simon Stiell, head of UN Climate Change, it has received pledges of \$792 million from governments, though billions of dollars are still needed to meet its purpose. **COP28 declaration on climate impact on food systems** For the first time in the history of Climate Summits, 134 countries at COP28 signed a declaration pledging to tackle the climate impacts of the food industry. These countries represent over 5.7 billion people, 70% of the food we eat, nearly 500 million farmers, and 76% of total emissions from the global food system. However, observers have noted that the declaration contains no quantified targets and does not take note of livestock.

# Aviation professionalism which India must draw from

The aviation accident, on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, where a Japan Airlines (JAL) Airbus A350 aircraft collided with a Japanese Coast Guard Bombardier Dash 8 aircraft at Tokyo's Haneda airport while landing, in which all 379 passengers on the JAL plane escaped but with five fatalities on the smaller aircraft, is a perfect example of this. There was a notice to airmen issued for Haneda indicating that the stop bar, a set of red lights that come on at taxi holding point for that runway, was not available. The Coast Guard plane was cleared to the holding point, which was acknowledged by the pilot to Air Traffic Control (ATC). The ATC tape transcript also shows the JAL flight being cleared to land, which was acknowledged by the pilots. The investigation report will indicate what made the Coast Guard pilot enter the runway. Did he miss the notice to airmen? Did he not hear the ATC issue landing clearance to the JAL aircraft? The investigation report will identify these and we can expect the preliminary report in a fortnight, unlike accident reports in India which take months and years.

Aircraft manufacturers are required to demonstrate that an aircraft, in maximum density configuration, can be completely evacuated within 90 seconds using only half the total number of emergency exits. The world witnessed the highest quality of discipline and crew training, which saved 379 people in the fiery accident. It was an amazing display of orderly evacuation from the burning wreckage that the JAL cabin crew executed. All passengers followed the safety instructions and left the aircraft without carrying their hand bags or crowding around after coming down the aircraft evacuation slides. Only three exits were available for evacuation. The cabin public address system was not working and the crew used megaphone and voice announcements for the evacuation.

On August 2, 2005, Air France flight, AF 358, from Paris, France, to Toronto over-shot the runway while landing in heavy rain and caught fire. All 309 passengers were evacuated safely, though 11 received injuries. Images of the evacuation showed several passengers leaving the burning aircraft with their hand luggage. Similar action by passengers on an Emirates flight (EK 521) from Thiruvananthapuram to Dubai, on August 3, 2016, that crashed while landing, showed a complete lack of discipline on the part of passengers who were grabbing their hand luggage, thus delaying the evacuation. The aviation world should learn a lot from the absolutely high professional standards in JAL's training of its crew. Air passengers worldwide should also realise that pre-flight emergency procedure instructions should be followed seriously.

The Japanese authorities have already made the ATC transcripts public. Contrast this with what would have been several months of silence and secrecy in India. Take the case of an extreme hard landing done by the crew of an Air India

Airbus flight from Kochi to Dubai on December 20, 2023. The news surfaced only after a tracking site showed the aircraft flying to Mumbai on December 27 at an altitude of 9,000 ft instead of the normal 31,000-plus ft. Eventually, the news was that the flight had made a 3.5g landing at Dubai and was on ground for more than a week. To put that in simple language, 'g' is acceleration due to gravity. If an aircraft does a 1g landing, the weight on the wheels equals the weight of the aircraft. A 3.5g landing means the weight on the wheels of the aircraft at touchdown is 3.5 times its landing weight for that flight. Landing gears are not designed for such an impact and the resultant damage to crucial aircraft parts can be serious. The plane was permitted to depart as an unpressurised flight and was allowed just one take off and one landing. Did the captain report the hard landing in the aircraft tech log? Did he file the flight safety report within 24 hours, a mandatory requirement by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)? What action did Air India take upon learning of the very hard landing? Why did it take more than 10 days to report this serious event? Was there an attempt to hush up this serious accident?

A disturbing fact is the failure of the Air India management to act proactively on a report by the instructor who trained the captain. He was a copilot on the airline's Boeing 777 fleet and was brought to the Airbus A320 fleet for his first command. The minimum hours on type that is required for first command were bypassed. Let me quote from the letter that the instructor had sent to the Chief of Training, Operations and also Safety of Air India. "Sir, they are facing difficulties in exercises which require manual flying skills and raw data flying and had to be recommended for corrective training twice. This I feel can be attributed to their lack of experience in the same, as they both are from the B777 fleet." God forbid if there is an incident/accident involving one of these pilots from the [airline's] 777/787 fleet, many questions will be raised, and we will not have any reasonable answers."

It was a case of shooting the messenger and the instructor pilot was sacked from Air India. Today, the airline has several questions to answer. The DGCA and Air India should look at the accidents caused by confusion of flying different types of aircraft, especially when fatigue and stress are involved. One can go back to October 12, 1976, when an Indian Airlines Caravelle flight from Bombay to Madras (IC 171) crashed shortly after take-off at Bombay and while attempting an emergency landing, killing all 95 passengers on board. The pilots had endorsements on their licences to fly the Boeing and the Caravelle. The switch positions for certain functions worked differently in each aircraft, which was highlighted in the court inquiry in the Indian Airlines Airbus crash at Bangalore, on February 14, 1990, where there were 92 fatalities, the pilots were fresh from conversion training for the air-



craft.

In the TAM Airlines Airbus crash in São Paulo, on July 17, 2007, this was the fourth sector of the day. Even though the flight was within duty time, one cannot discount the fatigue factor for the crew. The ATC calls on the wet runway condition were more in line with Boeing terminology. The aircraft also had one thrust reverser unserviceable. One of the pilots had flown previously on Boeing aircraft. The thrust lever action on a Boeing where the reverse thrust lever in the cockpit is wire locked is different from that on an Airbus. All on board the flight literally burnt to death.

In the Asiana crash in San Francisco, on July 6, 2013, the captain had flown previously on Airbus aircraft. On final approach for landing, he was lulled into thinking that the auto thrust would respond like in the Airbus he was so used to, forgetting that he was on a different aircraft. Focus on standards Air India has had a long history of covering up serious incidents and accidents with the blessings of the DGCA. The hard landing accident at Dubai should serve

as a wake-up call for the airline. The airline has just inducted a new aircraft, the Airbus A350, and the criterion for the crew selected to fly it should be based on very high standards and not on seniority. While the first lot of captains are Airbus experienced, the second lot being sent for conversion are from the Boeing fleet. Both the DGCA and Air India should insist on a hard copy of the simulator proficiency check report/certification of the pilots training on this aircraft. Merely stating that safety is paramount when so many incidents are being swept under the carpet will not improve the reputation of the airline. India can claim to be among the fastest growing aviation markets but where do we stand on the passenger safety count? The Air India management needs to do some soul searching when it comes to operations, training and safety. India and its airlines have much to learn from the Japan Airlines incident. Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

## After Android, Microsoft has launched its AI-powered Copilot app for Apple iOS and iPadOS users.

San Francisco: After Android, Microsoft has launched its AI-powered Copilot app for Apple iOS and iPadOS users. Both versions of the Copilot app (formerly Bing Chat) are now available to download from the Apple App Store.

The app works similarly to OpenAI's ChatGPT mobile app. "Improve your productivity with Copilot your AI-powered chat assistant. Copilot is a pioneering chat assistant from Microsoft powered by the latest OpenAI models, GPT-4 and DALL-E 3,"

according to the app description.

Unlike the free version of ChatGPT which runs GPT-3.5, Copilot lets you access GPT-4, the latest large language model (LLM) from OpenAI, for free. The Copilot app on iOS allows access to chatbot capabilities, image generation through DALL-E 3, and the ability to draft text for emails and documents. These advanced AI technologies provide fast, complex, and precise responses, as well as the ability to create breathtaking visuals from simple text descriptions.