

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Global outrage over Grok

The outrage over the disturbing images generated by Grok, the artificial intelligence chatbot of the social media platform X, highlights the growing global concerns over the rogue application of new technologies. American billionaire Elon Musk-owned Grok allows its users to 'digitally undress' people without their consent and post sexually explicit images of celebrities and even underage children. This is a despicable and abhorrent trend that needs to be stopped at all costs. Regulators around the world, including India, are exploring options on how to check the latest menace, which is a result of the combination of X's lax content moderation policies and the accessibility of powerful generative AI tools. In August last year, xAI launched an image-generating feature, called Grok Imagine, with a "spicy" mode that was reportedly used to generate explicit images. Grok seems to be unique among major chatbots in its permissive stance and apparent holes in safeguards. Users discovered that Grok has been creating fake, sexually suggestive edits of real photos of women and girls on request. According to one estimate, Grok generated one non-consensual sexual image every minute. Alarming, Grok makes such content easier to produce and customise. And the real impact of the bot comes through its integration with a major social-media platform, allowing it to turn non-consensual, sexualised images into viral phenomena. Following the central government's recent directive, X has now blocked over 3,500 pieces of content and deleted over 600 accounts and has promised operations in compliance with the country's online content laws.

India is not alone in objecting to the generation of explicit content using Grok AI. Indonesia recently suspended the chatbot over concerns about AI-generated pornographic content, and the UK, France and Malaysia have also pushed back against the content generation in the past. The recent case presents a regulatory challenge that extends beyond X. Under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, platforms enjoy safe harbour immunity from liability for content posted by users, provided they comply with due diligence requirements. But generative AI systems like Grok occupy an ambiguous space —they are neither passive platforms transmitting user content nor traditional users creating content independently.

Corporator RAJITHA PARAMESHWAR REDDY Participates in Swami Vivekananda's 163rd Birth Anniversary Celebrations

""Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):""Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar



Reddy participated in the Swami Vivekananda 163rd birth anniversary celebrations held at the Swami Vivekananda



Committee Hall in Chakali Basti, Uppal. She attended the program as the chief guest at the celebrations held on Monday. On the occasion, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy garlanded the portrait of Swami Vivekananda and paid floral tributes. Addressing the gathering, she said that Swami Vivekananda was a great visionary and an inspiration to the youth. As a disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, he attained profound spiritual knowledge and introduced India's rich cultural heritage to the world. She emphasized that Swami Vivekananda taught that true personality is formed only when physical strength, mental strength, and spiritual strength come together. Education, she added, is not merely for securing employment but for building one's life and character. The program was attended by Uppoji Madhuchari, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Mudigonda Ravi, Boothkuri Rajesh Goud, Nagula Suresh Neta, Boothkuri Naveen, Era Rakesh, Boothkuri Sainath Goud, Raju, Nursing, Srinivas, Ravinder, Boothkuri Ganesh, and several others.

Toopran DSP Narender Goud Unveils Praja Jyothi calendar

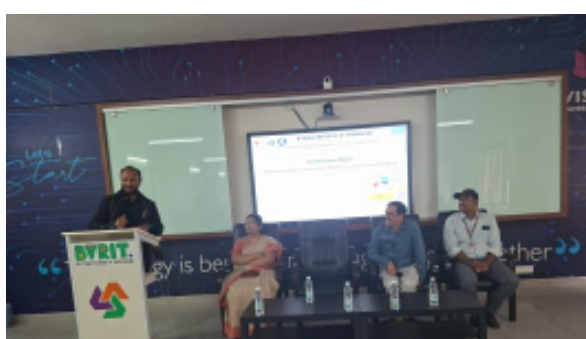
""Ind,jan10,medak incharge nr goud.""At the Toopran DSP Office, the Praja Jyothi Calendar was ceremoniously unveiled by DSP Narender Goud under the leadership of Praja Jyothi reporter Suresh Goud, representing the combined mandals of Tupran and Veldurthi. "Speaking on the occasion, DSP Narender Goud appreciated the responsible role played by Praja Jyothi in highlighting public issues and bringing people's problems to light. He lauded the services and values upheld by Praja Jyothi and extended his congratulations. "DSP Narender Goud further stated that the role of the media is crucial in providing truthful and impartial information to society, and commended Praja Jyothi for consistently responding to public concerns and serving the community with integrity.



FDP & STTP on 3D Printing Successfully Conducted



""Ind,jan10,medak incharge nr goud.""The Departments of Pharmaceutical Engineering (PHE) and Biomedical Engineering (BME) successfully organized a Faculty Development Program (FDP) and Short-Term Training Program (STTP) titled "3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing: Applications in Engineering and Healthcare" from 05 to 10 January 2026. "The five-day program witnessed the participation of 90 faculty members and students from various institutions including JNTU Hyderabad, Adhiyamaan College of Engineering (Autonomous), Government Institute of Electronics, East Marredpally (054), Sri Indu Institute of Pharmacy, Shree Saraswati Institute of Pharmacy (Tondavali), along with VIPER. Participants represented diverse disciplines such as Pharmaceutical, Biomedical, Chemical, Mechanical Engineering, and Pharmacy. "The program was enriched



by expert talks and sessions delivered by resource persons from IIT Hyderabad (IITH), NIPER Hyderabad, NIPER Kolkata, Osmania University, and North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU). The sessions highlighted the latest advancements and applications of 3D printing and additive manufacturing in engineering and healthcare sectors. "The program aimed to enhance technical knowledge, promote interdisciplinary learning, and encourage research collaborations. The FDP & STTP received an enthusiastic response with active participation and meaningful interactions throughout. "The organizers expressed their sincere gratitude to the Management, Director Dr. Lakhmi Prasad, Principal Dr. Sanjay Dubey, HOD-Pharmaceutical Engineering Dr. P. Vishnu, HOD-Biomedical Engineering Dr. H. Sujana, Sri. Bapiraju, and extended thanks to all the resource persons, coordinators, organizing committee members, and the support team for their valuable guidance and continuous support, which contributed to the successful conduct of the FDP & STTP. "Principal,"Dr.Sanjay Dubey

Excelling in Politics Through Awareness of Laws

State Police Complaints Authority Member Varre Venkateshwarlu at Sarpanch Felicitation Ceremony



""Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 12: "" Dr. Varre Venkateshwarlu, Member of the State Police Complaints Authority and former Right to Information (RTI) Commissioner, called upon the Yadav community to remain united and take proactive steps toward attaining political leadership and authority. He emphasized that unity is essential for overcoming challenges and achieving collective goals. "Dr. Venkateshwarlu spoke as the chief guest at a felicitation program organized for newly elected Yadav Sarpanches at A. N. R. Garden, Nacharam, under the leadership of K. Y. Vision. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the crucial role of Sarpanches in the political system, stressing that they serve as the backbone of grassroots democracy. "He advised the newly elected Sarpanches to manage their responsibilities effectively, lead with integrity, and work in a manner that brings respect and recognition to their positions. Dr. Venkateshwarlu further stressed the importance of understanding the Constitution and the laws thoroughly. According to him, a strong knowledge of legal provisions fosters a questioning mindset and helps leaders make informed decisions, which is essential for political and social progress. "The program also featured speeches by MLAs Srinivas Yadav and Naveen Yadav, who encouraged youth and socially conscious individuals to enter politics. They emphasized the importance of bringing together other Backward Class (BC) communities to collectively work toward development. They reminded the



Sarpanches and the audience that unity is the key to achieving any goal and that leaders should earn public appreciation through their dedicated service. "Several prominent leaders and representatives of the Yadav community attended the event, including State Yadav Sangham leaders Chinna Srisailem Yadav, Kiran Kumar Yadav, Ramulu Yadav, Osmania University Professor Ram Shepherd, and community leaders Doodimetla Balaraj Yadav, Krishna Yadav, Eshwari Bai, Anil Kumar Yadav, and Mahesh Yadav. "The ceremony concluded with the felicitation of the newly elected Sarpanches by Dr. Varre Venkateshwarlu, who congratulated them on their victory and encouraged them to uphold the values of service, responsibility, and legal awareness while performing their duties. The event underscored the importance of community unity, legal knowledge, and active participation in politics for the development and empowerment of the Yadav community.

Youth Should Follow the Footsteps of Swami Vivekananda

District Council Member Sangishetti Ravindrasagar

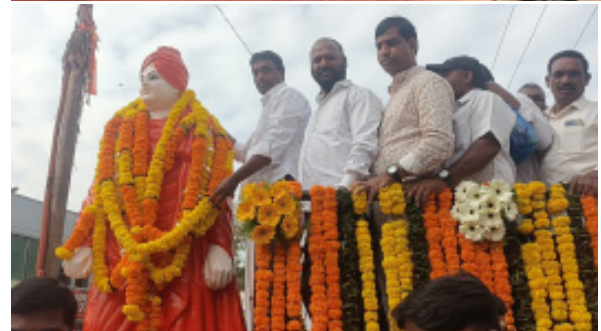


Swami Vivekananda introduced Vedanta and Yoga to the world and inspired generations with motivational messages such as "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached. "The event saw the participation of senior BJP leaders including P. Lingam Goud, Division Secretary Punyavati, senior leaders Srinivasan, and several other party functionaries and workers. The program aimed to motivate young people to embrace the ideals of discipline, knowledge, and service exemplified by Swami Vivekananda.

""Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 12: "" District Council Member Sangishetti Ravindrasagar emphasized that the youth should walk in the footsteps of Swami Vivekananda, who showcased Indian culture to the world. "On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti, a grand celebration of National Youth Day was organized in Shakti Sai Nagar Division, under the Nacharam Circle, by BJP Medchal-Malkajigiri District Council Member Sangishetti Ravindrasagar. "He highlighted that

Strive to Realise the Ideals of Swami Vivekananda: Chilukanagar Congress President Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj

""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):""On the occasion of the 163rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Chilukanagar 7th Division Congress Party President Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj participated in the celebrations held at Chilukanagar, following an invitation from the Swami



Vivekananda Yuvak Sangh. "Rajesh Mudiraj paid floral tributes to the statue of Swami Vivekananda and offered his respectful homage. On this occasion, representatives of the Swami Vivekananda Yuvak Sangh felicitated him and presented a memento in recognition of his participation. Several local leaders, party workers, and youth activists attended the programme, including Burugula Ramesh, Oats Pentaiah, Nallavelli Mahender Mudiraj, Gandikota Ganesh, Manchala Raghu, Dandugula Shankar, Shiva, B.M. Kiran, youth leaders Gandikota Bharat Kumar, Naresh, Sandeep, P. Swamy, Suresh, Sona, and others. "Addressing the gathering, Chilukanagar Division Congress President Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj described Swami Vivekananda as a great visionary who continues to inspire the youth of the nation. He said that Swami Vivekananda's teachings serve as a guiding force for national development and social transformation. He urged the youth to imbibe Vivekananda's ideals in their daily lives and take the lead in serving society.

Everyone Must Strive to Realise the Ideals of Vivekananda: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):""On the occasion of the 163rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, grand celebrations were held on Monday at Chiluka Nagar Crossroads in the Uppal constituency under the auspices of the Swami Vivekananda Yuvak Sangh, Chiluka Nagar. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and paid floral tributes to the statue of Swami Vivekananda. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the messages given by Swami Vivekananda to the youth continue to inspire the present generation. He emphasized that the role of youth is crucial in the development of the nation and called upon everyone to work towards achieving Vivekananda's ideals. "Several lead-



ers and members participated in the programme, including BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj; Swami Vivekananda Uppal-Chiluka Nagar Yuvak Sangh President Erelli Ravinder Reddy; the General Secretary and committee members; BRS senior leaders Rajkumar, Yeddula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Jalli Mohan, Ashok, Kola Ravi, MD Shafi, MD Mohammed Hanif, Ravinder Goud, Sundar, Muddam Srinivas Yadav, Balakrishna Goud, Pedda Pentanna, Jillaala Praveen, Balender, Kumar, Nursing Neta, Sakinala Chandu, Fareed, along with BRS leaders and party workers.

BJP Organizes Rangoli Competition in Shakti Sai Nagar Division

““Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 12:““On Sankranti”On the occasion of Sankranti, the BJP, under the leadership of Medchal-Malkajgiri District Council Member Sangishetti Ravindrasagar and women leader Lalitha, organized a Rangoli (Muggu) competition at the BJP office in Mallikarjuna Nagar, Shakti Sai Nagar Division.”The event was graced by BJP state leader and former MLA of Uppal, Shri N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he appreciated the enthusiastic participation of women, noting that a total of 164 Rangolis were created. He remarked that it is heartening to see Telangana’s culture being celebrated vibrantly in both villages and urban areas, with women skillfully creating traditional patterns such as Gobbemmas and Basavannas related to Sankranti. He further noted that around 500 to 600 participants attended the event, and the women participants enjoyed the festival celebrations immensely.”As part of the competition, prizes were awarded as follows: First Prize – ₹5,000, Second Prize –



₹3,000, Third Prize – ₹2,000, Fourth Prize – ₹1,000, and every woman participant received a saree as a token of appreciation.”The program saw the presence of senior BJP leaders including G. Anjaneyulu Sagar, Division Women President Sabitha Yadav, senior leaders Aparna Goud and Akila Sagar, leaders Mutyam Reddy, Division Secretary Ramesh Sagar Punyavati, along with several other party workers and community members.”The event successfully highlighted the cultural spirit of Sankranti while encouraging women’s participation in social and cultural activities.

Congress Leaders Submit Petition to Uppal Deputy Commissioner Seeking Removal of Water Hyacinth and Mosquito Control Measures

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):““Congress leaders from the Habsiguda Division of Uppal constituency on Monday submitted a representation to Uppal Deputy Commissioner Raju during the Prajavani programme, urging immediate removal of water hyacinth from Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu and the implementation of urgent measures to control the mosquito menace in Habsiguda Division.The leaders explained to the Deputy Commissioner that residents across all colonies in Habsiguda Division are facing severe mosquito problems, causing daily hardships, especially during night hours. They requested that, as an immediate step, anti-mosquito spraying be carried out in all colonies and that proper sanitation be ensured by deploying sanitation workers effectively to prevent the accumulation of garbage.They also specifically appealed to the GHMC authorities to take strict and timely action to address the issue and protect public health.Those who participated in the programme included Uppal constituency Habsiguda Division Congress senior leaders Janampalli



Venkateshwar Reddy, Tavidaboyina Giribabu (Contested Corporator) and Ramanthapur Congress Party In-charge, Uppal constituency Congress senior leader Gaddam Ravikumar, Uppal A Block Congress Party General Secretary Survi Murali Goud, Pabaju Naveen Chary, and others.”Responding to the petition, the Deputy Commissioner directed AE Naresh Reddy to take special interest and ensure speedy resolution of the issues raised.

Asmita Yogasana Second-Day Events Held Grandly at Delhi Public School



““Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 12:““The second-day events of the Asmita Yogasana program were held in a grand manner at Delhi Public School (DPS). BJP State President Shri N. Ramachandra Rao attended the second day of the program as the chief guest.”On this occasion, Shri N. Ramachandra Rao paid floral tributes to DPS Chairman and Yogasana Bharat Secretary Shri Nandanam Krupakar. Addressing the gathering, DPS Chairman and MLC Shri Malka Komaraiah stated that yoga has gained global recognition and influence after the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He emphasized that if yoga is made a part of the academic curriculum, students would have opportunities to participate in events such as the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, and could also adopt yoga as a profession.”Shri Komaraiah highlighted that yoga involves very minimal expenditure and can be practiced by anyone at home, even in small spaces such as flats. He also informed that scholarships worth approximately ₹7 lakhs are available in the field of sports. He further stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisions India becoming one of the world’s top five nations by 2047, and such yoga competitions are being organized as part of that vision.”Speaking as the chief guest, Shri N. Ramachandra Rao extended his congratulations to all



the participants of the yoga competitions. He specially appreciated DPS Chairman Shri Komaraiah for organizing such a meaningful and well-structured program. He described yoga as a scientific practice that helps maintain good health and overall well-being.”Shri Ramachandra Rao expressed happiness that the event was organized on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda’s 164th Jayanti, noting that Swami Vivekananda always encouraged physical fitness and sports. He observed that yoga is being widely practiced by people across the world, especially in Europe and Australia. He also expressed joy that the South Zone yoga competitions were being held at his friend’s institution.”Welcoming participants from various regions, he remarked that Hyderabad is popularly known as the “City of Pearls” and is also synonymous with biryani, and extended a warm welcome to everyone to the beautiful city. He concluded by urging everyone to continue promoting the ideals of Swami Vivekananda and the encouragement he gave to sports and physical fitness.”The event concluded on a positive note with enthusiastic participation from students, organizers, and guests, reflecting the growing importance of yoga in education and society.

Providing Free Medical Services Is Commendable MLA Lakshma Reddy Unveils Calendar

““Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 12:““Uppal MLA Shri Bandari Lakshma Reddy stated that it is highly commendable for colony representatives to organize and provide free medical services to the public. He made these remarks while attending a free mega medical camp organized under the joint leadership of Bhavani Nagar Welfare Association President Shri Ragiri Mohan Reddy and General Secretary Shri Kancharla Madhusudan Reddy, within the limits of Nacharam Division.”The medical camp was inaugurated by Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy along with the local Corporator Shri Shanti Sai Jan Shekhar, who participated as chief guests. On this occasion, the MLA also underwent a blood pressure check at the camp.”The camp was conducted with the support of Medicovert Hospital, where residents of the colony availed free sugar (diabetes) tests. Essential medicines were distributed free of cost to those in need.”During the event, the New Year calendar was formally unveiled by the MLA along with colony representatives.”Several colony elders and residents participated in the program, including Beerreddy Haranath Reddy, C. H. Vinod Krishna Reddy, Anand Kumar, Surender, Y. Sathyanarayana, T. H. Rayudu, Venkatesh, V. Madhusudan Reddy, P. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Bhavani Ashok, Ramulu, Sudhakar Reddy, Dasu,



Bal Reddy, Sridhar Reddy, Vivek, and Venkatachalam.”The event concluded with appreciation for the organizers and a collective commitment to continue such welfare activities for the benefit of the community.

Ramanthapur Division Congress President Mohammed Rafiq Distributes Letters on 200 Units Free Power Scheme



““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):““In line with the promise made by the “Telangana State Government, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has successfully implemented the scheme providing free electricity up to 200 units per month for domestic consumers. As part of the implementation of this welfare scheme, letters were distributed to beneficiaries who received zero electricity bills by consuming less than 200 units.”The programme was organised in Ramanthapur Division under the leadership of



Ramanthapur Division Congress Party President Mohammed Rafiq, with the cooperation of Uppal Congress In-charge Parameshwar Reddy and officials from the Electricity Department.Speaking on the occasion, party leaders stated that the implementation of the scheme as promised by the Chief Minister has significantly reduced the financial burden of electricity expenses on poor and middle-class families. Residents of Ramanthapur Division expressed happiness and satisfaction over the effective execution of the free power scheme.Mallikarjuna Swamy Devasthanam Chairman Nam Raji Reddy, Bestha Bhaskar, Poosa Sattaiah, Mohammed Nayeem, Lagusani Srinivas Goud, Madhu, Suri, Icon Swamy, Sai, Mohammed Jangir and several others participated in the programme.

Nacharam Reddy Sangham New Year 2026 Calendar Unveiled



““Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 12:““The New Year 2026 calendar unveiling ceremony was held under the leadership of Nacharam Reddy Sangham President Shri Erra Srinivas Reddy and General Secretary Shri Namilikonda Bhupal Reddy.”Uppal MLA Shri Bandari Lakshma Reddy and former MLA Shri Bethi Subhash Reddy attended the program as chief guests and formally unveiled the calendar.”Several prominent members and leaders participated in the event, including Ragiri Mohan Reddy, Immadi Ramachandra Reddy, Bekkari Ravinder Reddy, Pogula Venkata Ramana



Reddy, Kesara Raghavender Reddy, Anumula Vijayalatha Reddy, M. Pala Anitha Reddy, Varalakshmi, Guntuka Krishna Reddy, Mamidala Raji Reddy, Erramu Hanumanth Reddy, Nadapa Shankar Reddy, Ram Reddy, Gajjala Naveen Reddy, Methuku Srinivas Reddy, Harinath Reddy, Chencharam Krishna Reddy, Etteti Venkata Reddy, Kancharla Madhusudan Reddy, Damodar Reddy, Virupaksha Naveen Reddy, Namilikonda Sunil Reddy, Sandeep Reddy, Bal Reddy, Nirmala Reddy, Saraswathi, Sridhar Reddy, Narasimha Reddy, and many others.”The program was conducted in a cordial and festive atmosphere, with participants exchanging New Year greetings and reaffirming their commitment to unity and community development.

Bulldozers over Bullet bikes... Police crush silencers of 30 bikes



““Vikarabad District, Tandur(Indian Chronicle)12,Jan)““In Vikarabad district’s Tandur town, the police came down heavily on Royal Enfield (Bullet) motorcycles that were causing noise pollution. As modi-



fying Bullet bikes has become a fashion, many youngsters were changing the silencers and riding through the town creating loud, ear-splitting noise and public nuisance. Taking note of this, the police initiated action against.Tandur DSP nursing yadaiah, Town CI santosh kumar, Town Si and police participated.

Revanth Reddy Government Implementing Election Promises: Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy



““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):““Former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy stated that the Congress government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is effectively implementing the promises made to the people during the elections.On Monday, he distributed 200 Units Free Electricity (Gruha Jyothi) scheme cards to beneficiaries in the Habsiguda Division, along with electricity department officials and Congress leaders. Speaking on the occasion, Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy said that thousands of families in the Gandhi Girijana Basti of Habsiguda Division, Uppal constituency, are benefiting from the Gruha Jyothi scheme.”He emphasized that the Revanth Reddy government is taking all necessary steps to fulfill every promise made by the Congress Party during the elections. He further stated that thousands of families in Habsiguda Division are also benefiting under the Gruha Lakshmi housing scheme.”As per the instructions of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, greeting cards sent by Deputy Chief



Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka were distributed to Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries in Gandhi Girijana Basti by Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy.He clarified that eligible poor and middle-class families consuming less than 200 units of electricity per month are receiving power supply free of cost under the zero-bill system. He also highlighted that under the Mahalakshmi Scheme, the Revanth Reddy government has already provided free RTC bus travel for women across the state.The program was attended by DE Dasarath, AE Ganesh Reddy, Habsiguda Division Congress President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, ST Cell President Ganesh Naik, Division General Secretary and Endowments Department Director Dharmendra Naik (Dharma), SC Cell leader Solomon Babu, Kishan Naik, Indiramma Committee members Gundurajanna, Habsiguda Ramalayam Chairman Chintala Babu Rao, Mallu Naik, Ramesh, Division Secretary Suman Naik, Lingam Naik, Dharmaraju, Sai Kiran, Lakshminarayana, Sai, and several other party workers and local residents.

Grand Celebrations Kudarai Festival



“Secunderabad Cantonment. January 12 (Indian Chronicle):“As part of the Dhanurmas celebrations, grand celebrations were organized at Venkateshwara Sami Temple in the famous New City Colony of Bowenpally. This is the main part of the worship done to Godadevi, Sri Krishna or Srimannarayana in the month of Dhanurmasam , in which Godadevi wants to offer herself to Sri Krishna. This indicates the determination to marry Godadevi Srranganathuddha and usually happens on the first day of Bhogi. In this, special pujas made with milk, rice, wheatgrass and coconut were offered as sacred offerings to the Lord in 108 Gangalas, and in this order, special pujas were organized by the devotees at Shri Venkateshwara Swami Temple in Bowenpally with devotion. On the occasion of the completion of the 27th Paasura Pathanam composed by Godadevi, the priests of the temple dedicated to the worship of Lord Venkateshwara Swamy, specially decorated with 108 Gangaals. Due to this, there was a quarrel with the devotees and the temple premises became infected with Jai Shriman Naaraayna Jai Jai Shriman Naaraayna Naamsmarans. On Wednesday evening, the temple committee members announced that a grand celebration would be held in the premises of the temple along with anointments, auspicious prayers and chanting of mantras and blessings of the goddess Shri Venkateshwara Swami kalyanam . Temple members Naarayana, Yadaiya, Lakshman, Archakalu Deepak, Sridhar, etc. participated in this programme.

Grihajyoti scheme is proof of the welfare regime of public government.

“Secunderabad Cantonment. January 12 (Indian Chronicle):“Jampana Pratap, Vice President of All India Cantonments said that the Grihajyoti scheme is a proof of the welfare regime of the public government. The Government of Telangana is implementing Zero Bill Grihajyoti scheme to reduce the burden on the people. In this context, in order to reach out to the beneficiaries more, as per the orders of the State Deputy CM Mallu Battu Vikramarka, the officials of the power department are going to the beneficiaries, conveying their New Year and sankranthi greetings and bringing awareness to the people regarding this scheme. Jampana Pratap, Vice President of Boards, Ade Haque and ade Mounika were present and started this program. Jampana Pratap spoke on this occasion. As part of the six guarantees given by our public government, through the Griha Jyoti scheme, free electricity is provided to your family up to 200 units per month, the government pays the electricity bill directly to the electricity companies. Now the money spent on electricity bills can be used for children's education, health and family needs, he said “After that DE said. Along with your family, 52,82,498 families in the state are benefiting from zero



electricity bills. Since the beginning of this scheme till date, the government has fully borne the amount of Rs.3,593 crores owed by the people and directly paid to the power companies on behalf of the beneficiaries. “This not only reduces the financial burden on the people, but also proves the welfare regime of the public government. The government is committed to the development of the state by continuing such welfare programs in the future as well. May you and your family members celebrate this Sankranti festival with more joy. Prakash, Narsimha, Raju, Sriniva in the program

Kuruma Sangham New Year Calendar–2026 Unveiled



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):“The Kuruma Sangham New Year Calendar–2026 was ceremoniously unveiled at Venkata Reddy Nagar, Ramanthapur. The event was presided over by Mr. Gotike Satyaiah, President of the Venkata Reddy Nagar Kuruma Sangham. “State Kuruma Sangham Secretary Mr. Goraghe Mallesh and Uppal Zone Kuruma Sangham President Mr. Repu Krishnaiah attended the programme as chief guests. Mr. Suddala Suresh, General Secretary of the Kuruma Sangham, served as the programme in-charge, while Treasurer Mr. Badapatla Yellaiah acted as the master of ceremonies. Committee members, community elders, and Sangham members participated in large numbers and made the event a grand success.



Swami Vivekananda Jayanti Celebrated with Fervour in Kushaiguda



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, January 12, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“On the occasion of National Youth Day, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated with enthusiasm in Kushaiguda Division. The programme was organised under the leadership of Kushaiguda Division BJP President Challa Prabhakar. Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar attended the event

as the chief guest. As part of the celebrations, floral tributes were offered to the statue of Swami Vivekananda. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest called upon the youth to follow the ideals and teachings of Swami Vivekananda and emphasised the relevance of his message, “Strength is life, weakness is death,” in today's society. He urged young people to adopt discipline, confidence, and dedication in their personal and social lives. He also highlighted Swami Vivekananda's vision of cultural pride and national awakening, stating that his thoughts should serve as an inspiration for future generations. Several BJP leaders and party workers participated in the programme, including Surender Goud, D. Nadam, Uppal Assembly Media Convener Thalla Anand Goud, R. Venkateshwarlu, BJP Division General Secretary Pawan Kumar, Lakshmi Narayana, Ashok, Ganesh Goud, Brahmachari, Dayanand, Bola Srinivas, Venkatesh Yadav, Harinayak, Sahadev Goud, Srikanth, Bharat, Srisailam, Vidyasagar, Ratnapuram Venkatesh, V. Rambabu, Bandari Anil, Kiran, and women leaders Chandrakala and Kalavathi, among others. BJP leaders, women representatives, party workers, and a large number of local residents attended the event and recalled the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, contributing to the successful conduct of the programme.

I Will Extend My Full Support for the Development of the Community

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, January 12:“Uppal MLA Shri Bandari Lakshma Reddy has assured that he would extend all possible support and cooperation for the overall development of the Padmashali community. He made these remarks while attending the 10th annual celebrations of the Markandeya Padmashali Sangham, which were held in a grand manner on Sunday at Ambedkar Bhavan, Mallapur. “The program was conducted under the chairmanship of Sangham President Shri Bimini Anantharam. MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy participated in the event as the chief guest and addressed the gathering. In his speech, the MLA highlighted the importance of unity and collective effort in strengthening community organizations. He urged the members to actively participate in social, educational, and cultural activities for the progress of future generations. “Responding positively to the request made by the Sangham representatives, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy assured that



suitable land would be allocated for the construction of a permanent Sangham building. He stated that such infrastructure would help in organizing community programs and welfare activities in a better manner. “On this occasion, the New Year calendar was officially unveiled by Akhila Bharata Padmashali Sangham President Shri Kandagatla Swamy and Greater Hyderabad Padmashali Sangham President Shri Kathula Sudarshan, along with leaders Sai Jan Shekhar and other prominent Sangham representatives. “Several senior leaders and representatives of the Padmashali Sangham from Mallapur, Nacharam, Kapra, Boduppall, Bolliguda, and nearby areas attended the event in large numbers. The participants expressed happiness over the assurance given by the MLA and thanked him for his continued support towards the Padmashali community. “The event concluded with cultural interactions and a collective commitment by the members to work towards the growth and unity of the Sangham.

Rangoli Competitions at Ramanthapur Chinna Cheruvu

Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge Parameshwar Reddy Attends as Chief Guest



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):“As part of the Sankranti festivities, a rangoli (muggulu) competition was organized under the leadership of the Ramanthapur Working President and was held grandly on Monday at Ramanthapur Chinna Cheruvu. Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Parameshwar Reddy attended the event as the chief guest. A large number of women from the colony partici-

pated enthusiastically, creating vibrant and colorful rangolis that added to the festive grandeur of Sankranti. Prizes were awarded to the top three winners—Srujana, Saketh, and Navyashree—for their attractive rangoli designs. In addition, consolation prizes were presented to all women participants. On the occasion, gratitude was expressed to all the women who made the program a success by showcasing rich traditions, as well as to the Colony Welfare Association members, colony residents, and the event organizers. Those present at the program included Taufiq, Rafiq, Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, Jaleel Pasha, Shravan Reddy, Raji Reddy, Poosa Satanna, Garika Sudhakar, Upender Reddy, Narasimha Reddy, Muthyala Babu, Samuel, Bullet Ashok, Mittu, Harish, Sandeep, Bhaskar, Kashamalla Shankar, Satish Goud, Jillu, Ashok, Srinivas Goud, Pentayya, Yadagiri Reddy, Uday, G. Swamy, K. Swamy, Shaag Sridhar, Nayim, Chintu, Yogi, Menga Ravi, Gautham, Kiran, Sharath, Kishore, Harish Reddy, Vijay, Kanna Yadav, Mallesh Yadav, Sanjeev, Raju Kumar, Saleem, Mallikarjun, Menga Shobha, Ambika, Bejjim Shobha, Naveen, Shreyas, Ramakrishna, Sai, Mani, Malli, Balaraju, along with the Colony Association President and other colony residents.

Swami Vivekananda Jayanti Celebrated with Grandeur in Ramanthapur

Former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar Attends as Chief Guest



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 12 (Indian Chronicle):“Swami Vivekananda Jayanti celebrations were held in a grand manner at the Mini Tank Bund in Ramanthapur Division under the auspices of the Samajika Samarata Vedika, Ramanthapur Nagar. “Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar attended the programme as the chief guest and paid floral tributes to the statue of Swami Vivekananda. Speaking on the occasion, Prabhakar said that the ideals and teachings of Swami Vivekananda are a great source of inspiration for the youth. He recalled that the Government of India declared Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary as National Youth Day in 1984, and since then the Jayanti has been celebrated across the country. He urged today's youth to follow the path shown by Swami Vivekananda and actively participate in the nation's development. The programme was attended by Ramanthapur Corporator Bandaru Srivani, Ramanthapur Division President Vangala Santosh Gupta, senior BJP

leaders Tinderu Hanumantha Rao, Muthineni Jagadish, Revu Narasimha Kuruma, Vemulakonda Somasekhara Goud, Vallapu Jagan Yadav, Gaddam Saikiran, along with RSS leaders Teertha, Purushottam, Jagadish, Srinath Reddy, Bharat, and several BJP leaders, party workers, and activists.



‘If passed, Karnataka will oppose it’: Siddaramaiah warns Pinarayi Vijayan on Malayalam Language Bill



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to his Kerala counterpart, Pinarayi Vijayan, expressing “serious concern” over a proposed Malayalam Language Bill that would make Malayalam the compulsory first language even in Kannada-medium schools in border districts like Kasaragod. In a letter written on January 8, Siddaramaiah stated, “India’s civilisational strength has always rested on plurality without fear. Languages in our country have flourished not through compulsion, but through mutual respect and organic coexistence. Border regions like Kasaragod are living examples of this ethos, where Malayalam, Kannada, Tulu, Beary and other languages have harmoniously shaped everyday life, education and identity for generations.”

“For linguistic minority communities, language is not merely an academic choice; it is identity, dignity and access to opportunity. Any policy that compels a single linguistic pathway risks placing an undue burden on children, weakening minority-run educational institutions and unsettling long-standing educational ecosystems that have served these communities with trust and continuity,” he added. Saying that the Constitution offers “unequivocal protection” to linguistic minorities, Siddaramaiah said, “Articles 29 and 30 guarantee the right to conserve language and administer educational institutions of choice. Article 350A mandates facilities for instruction in the mother tongue, and Article 350B entrusts the State with safeguarding minority linguistic interests. Any legislative measure must reflect not only constitutional legality, but constitutional morality.”

Karnataka, Siddaramaiah added, took immense pride

in Kannada, a language shaped by social reform, equality and inclusive thought. “At the same time, we have always upheld the principle that promotion of one’s language must never become an imposition on another. This belief has guided our policies and our commitment to harmony,” he further stated. The Karnataka chief minister called for the Kerala government to reconsider the Bill and conduct broader engagement on it as it would reinforce India’s unity while preserving the dignity of every language and every citizen. “If this Bill is passed, Karnataka will oppose it by exercising every constitutional right available to us, in defence of linguistic minorities and the plural spirit of our Republic. This position flows not from confrontation, but from our duty to the Constitution and to the people whose voices must never be marginalised,” Siddaramaiah stated. Incidentally, Karnataka currently has a policy for English and Kannada to be the first or second language for school students up to Class 10, but it is not enforced by law. ‘Karnataka, a convenient ATM’

Siddaramaiah’s letter to Vijayan comes amid criticism by the BJP that Congress leaders were in deference to the Kerala lobby in the Congress party and not protecting the interests of Kannada. “Now that Kannadigas are facing discrimination, threats to their language, and erosion of their rights, will @priyankagandhi stand with Kannadigas by opposing the Kerala Malayalam Language Bill–2025, which seeks to impose Malayalam as the first language even in Kannada-medium schools, affecting lakhs of Kannadigas in the border districts?” BJP leader of opposition in Karnataka, R Ashok, said on social media while referring to the Wayanad MP. “The Kerala lobby of @INCIndia continues to treat Karnataka like a convenient ATM and a political bargaining chip. Kannada pride, self-respect, and cultural identity are repeatedly compromised for Congress’ political convenience,” the BJP leader said. Earlier, Siddaramaiah had said on social media that the proposed Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, was an “attack on the freedom of language guaranteed by the Constitution”. This came a day after the Karnataka Border Areas Development Authority (KBADA) petitioned Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, urging him to reconsider the legislation. The Bill enacted in October mandates Malayalam as the first language from Classes 1 to 10 in all government schools. This was expected to impact the Kannada-medium schools located in the border areas of Kerala, such as Kasaragod, with a sizeable population of Kannada speakers.

Karnataka hands over New Year Day Ballari clash case to CID

GNS News Agency, Jan 13

The Karnataka Government has transferred four cases in connection with the January 1 violent clashes that occurred in Ballari to the Crime Investigation Department (CID) unit of the state police. Clashes broke out outside the house of BJP MLA G Janardhan Reddy, over a banner dispute during a Valmiki community event, which resulted in the death of a Congress worker in a firing during the incident. Karnataka police chief Dr M A Saleem on Friday ordered the transfer of the cases registered at Brucepet police station “to CID for further investigation with immediate effect”. The cases were registered based on the complaints by the relatives of the deceased worker Rajashekhar Reddy, local Congress leaders, the local police, and BJP MLA Janardhan Reddy.

“The Director General of Police, CID, Special Units and Economic Offences, Bengaluru, may please arrange to take up further investigation. After the completion of the investigation of the case, a detailed report may be sent to this office,” read the order by the state police chief. In response to the development, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Saturday, “Let an investigation be done and let the truth come out”.

Rajashekhar Reddy, 28, was killed in the January 1 firing that occurred near the house of G Janardhan Reddy, the BJP MLA for the Gangavathi region, after Congress and BJP supporters clashed over a Valmiki statue inauguration banner, outside the BJP MLA’s house in the Havamabhavi area of Ballari city. Based on medical evidence and the post-mortem report, senior police officers have indicated that the Congress worker was hit by a bullet from a private gun. The police have arrested Gursharan Singh, an armed bodyguard of a local Congress leader, Sathish Reddy, as he was seen wielding a shotgun and firing in videos of the clashes. As many as 35 others have also been arrested for the clashes.

According to preliminary investigations, there were three separate incidents of clashes that occurred on January 1 outside the house of Janardhan Reddy, which escalated over a period of around six hours. The first incident is reported to have occurred in the early evening hours of January 1, when Congress workers reportedly put up a banner outside Janardhan Reddy’s house to announce the January 3 inauguration of a Valmiki statue at the city centre in Ballari.

Subsequently, it was reportedly removed by workers at the BJP MLA’s house, which resulted in a second incident of clash in the evening, when Sathish Reddy — who is allied with Congress MLA of Ballari, Nara Bharath Reddy — arrived with his supporters and demanded that the banner be reinstalled. As the second incident escalated with stone pelting and scuffling, Sathish Reddy’s bodyguard is reported to have fired his personal weapon, and the bullet from it struck Congress worker Rajashekhar Reddy.

A third incident is reported to have occurred later in the night with the arrival of the Congress MLA Bharath Reddy



to the scene after reports spread of the death of a Congress worker. Saint Valmiki is revered by the Valmiki Nayak Scheduled Tribe, who make up a large chunk of the population of Ballari, and are tapped by all political parties for electoral gain in the impoverished district.

Rajashekhar Reddy’s younger brother filed a police complaint naming Janardhan Reddy, his close aide – MLA B Sriramulu, his brother Somashekhar Reddy, and others as being responsible for the death. The Arms Act has been invoked in the case. Meanwhile, Chanal Shekhar, a Congress worker, has filed a similar complaint to that of the victim’s family. A deputy superintendent of police for the Ballari region has filed a third complaint naming Janardhan Reddy, his brother Somashekhar Reddy, close friend Sriramulu, and also the Congress leader Sathish Reddy for the clashes.

Janardhan Reddy points fingers at Congress MLA Bharath Reddy. However, Janardhan Reddy, in his complaint, has stated that he was enroute to Ballari from Gangavathi when the trouble erupted and has claimed that a bullet fired at him by a Congress leader in the second incident had hit a Congress worker. Reddy has accused Congress MLA Bharath Reddy, his associate Sathish Reddy, and others of attempting to storm his house and attack him over the banner incident. The police have taken five firearms belonging to the private bodyguards of politicians for forensic examination. They are yet to ascertain whether the bullet that killed Rajashekhar Reddy was intended to cause the death of the Congress worker in the clash. Ballari BJP leader and former minister B Sriramulu had earlier demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe or judicial inquiry in the case. “The bullet was fired by Bharat Reddy’s gunman, and the government has tried to suppress the information. The police need to arrest Bharat Reddy,” Sriramulu said. Local Congress leaders in Ballari, along with the district in-charge Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, visited Rajashekhar Reddy’s house and assured compensation for the family. Karnataka Deputy CM D K Shivakumar also visited Ballari last week, triggering suggestions from JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy of interference in the home ministry, which comes under the purview of Minister Parameshwara. The Congress government has postponed the event for the installation of the Valmiki statue in Ballari, which was scheduled for January 3.

said. There was no railing, barricading, or fencing around the duct, the police added.

“Sneha Sparsha Heights is a building under construction. Yet people are residing in the building till the fifth floor. Construction work of the sixth floor is yet to be completed,” Assistant Police Inspector Bhojling Dodmise, the investigation officer of the case, said.

After receiving the information, a team from Ambegaon police station rushed to the spot. On Friday, a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged against the builders of Sneh Sparsha Heights on charges of death by negligence, as per sections 106 (1) and 3 (5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Punjab cuts flood damage claim to Rs 11,855 crore in final report to NDMA



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Punjab cuts flood damage claim to Rs 11,855 crore in final report to NDMA. According to a Punjab government officer, the final assessment was carried out under the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) framework, which applies once a state is declared severely flood-affected. (file) Punjab has revised its flood damage assessment for the second time, reducing its final relief demand to Rs 11,855 crore, as the state government sent its final report to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) earlier this month.

The assessment has been scaled down from Rs 13,289 crore in the preliminary memorandum to Rs 12,905 crore in October 2025, and now to Rs 11,855 crore in January 2026 — a reduction of Rs 1,050 crore from the October estimate. According to a Punjab government officer, the final assessment was carried out under the Post Disaster

Needs Assessment (PDNA) framework, which applies once a state is declared severely flood-affected. “We took the assistance of IIT Roorkee. The damage has been calculated scientifically, and we are now seeking compensation for the actual losses suffered,” the officer said.

The assessment was finalised after several central teams visited the flood-hit areas. The exercise had earlier triggered a political controversy after Union minister Shivraj Chouhan blamed illegal mining for causing floods in Punjab. Centre-state relations hit a new low when the Punjab government alleged that not a single rupee had been released by the Centre towards flood relief, while the Centre sought details of nearly Rs 12,000 crore lying in the state’s disaster management fund. “The earlier memorandum was based on approximations. This report reflects actual damage, and the figures were finalised in agreement with the central teams,” the officer said, adding that it took nearly three months to complete the report. The report sent to the NDMA seeks Rs 11,855.65 crore for rebuilding public infrastructure. This includes Rs 3,949 crore for road repairs, Rs 3,034 crore for agriculture and horticulture, Rs 2,077.61 crore for the Water Resources and Irrigation Department, Rs 1,137 crore for schools and colleges, and Rs 1,135 crore for hospitals and dispensaries. Additional allocations sought include Rs 149 crore for animal husbandry, Rs 37.20 crore for the power department’s infrastructure, Rs 34.51 crore for fisheries, Rs 22.01 crore for water supply and sanitation, and Rs 3.6 crore for the forest and environment department. The state has also sought an additional Rs 274 crore under other heads

Pune citizens losing Rs 900 cr a month to traffic jams: Ajit Pawar bats for free public transport system

GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Ajit Pawar said on Saturday that Pune citizens were losing Rs 900 crore every month due to traffic chaos in the city, and this could only be stopped by providing a free public transport system. “Everyone must be surprised how free public transport service is being promised. It is possible, and I have planned it with consultation from field experts,” he said. “There are 30 lakh private vehicles in the city, and considering that 15 lakh of them are on the road every day. A traffic jam leads to an hour of travel for every citizen every day, which means half a litre of fuel is consumed, which is Rs 50 per day for each vehicle,” he explained. For 30 days, this fuel expense loss is Rs 7.5 crore per day, and the loss of one man-hour is a loss of Rs 250 per person, which amounts to a loss of Rs 22.5 crore per day. It means Rs 30 crore per day of citizens’ money is lost due to travel in traffic, which amounts to Rs 900 crore per month and Rs 12,800 crore in a year,” Pawar further elaborated.

Pawar’s remarks were made at an event where the NCP and the NCP(SP) jointly unveiled their manifesto for the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) election, scheduled for January 15. After discussions with Pune Metro and Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML), the free service will require payments of ₹5 crore and ₹20 crore to each, respectively, every month, Pawar said. “The total of ₹25 crore per month and ₹300 crore annually funded by the civic body for Metro and PMPML is affordable, considering the budgets of ₹12,600 crore for PMC and ₹9,600 crore



for Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation,” he added. Pawar said that, just as the Ladki Bahin and free power schemes for farmers are manageable at the state level, a free bus service in Pune is possible by strengthening PMPML operations and improving Metro services. “It has additional benefits, as free service would discourage the use of private vehicles, helping to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, while saving public money and conserving natural resources. This scheme has already been successfully implemented in Luxembourg, Estonia, and some cities across the United States and France,” Pawar added. NCP(SP) working president Supriya Sule said the traffic issue is the biggest concern of the city and last-mile connectivity is important for ensuring maximum use of Metro rail, which would be handled efficiently by the NCP and NCP(SP). “The plan for an effective public transport system is ready,” she said.

UP voters can now ‘Book-a-Call with a BLO’ for electoral roll updates. Here’s how it works



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Voters in Uttar Pradesh can now ‘Book-a-Call with a BLO’ for help with electoral roll-related requests such as adding their name, removing incorrect entries, or correcting personal details before the final publication of the voter list on March 6. The draft electoral roll for the state was published on January 6, following the second round of the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, which excluded 2.89 crore voters and retained 12.55 crore voters. Claims and objections can be filed till February 6. How does the facility work? According to a statement from the EC, which launched the facility, voters can now book a phone call with their respective booth level officer (BLO) to seek information or assistance related to the electoral roll, including inclusion, deletion or correction of their details. “The service is available through the ECI portal — voters.eci.gov.in — and the ECINET mobile application. After logging in with a registered mobile number or completing the sign-up process using an OTP, voters can book a call by entering their EPIC or reference number. Alternatively, they can provide details such as their state, district, assembly constituency and booth number. The BLO concerned will contact the voter

within 48 hours. UP Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa has appealed to voters to make maximum use of the facility for queries related to the SIR exercise and the electoral roll.

Claims and objections received In the draft electoral roll, the total number of electors in the state decreased by nearly 19%, from 15.44 crore to 12.55 crore — 14.06% deletions are on account of electors being declared absent or shifted, 1.65% enrolled at multiple places and 2.99% deceased. Of the 12.55 crore voters on the draft list, 1.04 crore will receive notices as their mapping has not been completed, Rinwa had said. According to the SIR daily bulletin issued by the UP CEO, the claims and objections period under the SIR is open from January 6 to February 6. Eligible voters may submit claims for inclusion and objections for deletion of names from the draft electoral rolls by following the prescribed procedures. The bulletin noted that political parties have appointed Booth-Level Agents (BLAs) to collect claims (Form 6) and objections (Form 7) from the public and submit them with the required declarations. As per the bulletin, 1,334 claims and objections were received from national and state parties against the draft electoral roll. Till Friday, among national parties, the ruling-BJP had submitted the highest claims — 1,214 — for inclusion of names in the electoral roll. The main opposition Samajwadi Party (SP) filed 82 claims and objections. The Congress and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have filed 19 each; these claims are for inclusion of names in the electoral roll. No party has so far filed any claim or objection for exclusion of voters. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), CPI(M) and Apna Dal (S), which are active in UP and have deployed their BLAs for the SIR, have not submitted a single claim or objection so far. The bulletin said after the publication of the draft rolls, 32,290 claims and objections were also received directly from electors for inclusion.

Jadumani Singh sets up final clash with Pawan Bartwal at National Boxing Championships

Hyderabad: Boxing World Cup Finals silver medalist Jadumani Singh dominated 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medalist Amit Panghal in the semi-finals of the men’s 50-55kg category to set up a summit clash against Pawan Bartwal in the Elite Men and Women National Boxing Championships at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, on Friday. This is the first time that the men’s and women’s National Championships are being held simultaneously at the same venue, with 600 boxers from across the country participating in 10 weight categories each. In the semi-finals, Jadumani registered a dominant 5:0 win over Amit, while Pawan scored an identical win over Victor Singh of

Manipur. Meanwhile, world champion Minakshi (women’s 45-48kg) of All India Police defeated Madhya Pradesh’s Malika Mor 5:0, while Nikhat (48-51kg) won her semi-final with a 4:1 split decision against UP’s Kusum Baghel. Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain also advanced to the final of the women’s 70-75kg category, beating Imroz Khan of Uttar Pradesh 5:0, while Preeti (51-54kg) outclassed Uttarakhand’s Aarti Dhariyal 5:0 to reach the final. In the men’s section, Sachin (55-60kg) defeated Punjab’s Bhupinder Singh, while Rajasthan’s Vivek was no match for Hitesh Gulia (65-70kg).

Four ways to understand what’s going on with U.S., Denmark, Greenland



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Various European leaders have expressed their concern but haven’t been able to formulate a coherent response to the betrayal by a supposed ally. Since the September 11 attacks in 2001, Danish governments have willingly participated in U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan (2001-2021) and Iraq (2003-2007). The rightward movement across the Danish political spectrum had led to Denmark rejecting some Nordic and EU cooperation in favour of pro-U.S. transatlanticism. However, the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine led to a rethink of Danish foreign policy. The country joined the EU’s common security and defence policy and tightened cooperation with recent Nato members Finland and Sweden.

And when Donald Trump came to power [U.S. President] for the second time, the chaotic rightward swing of U.S. foreign policy left Denmark reaching out for support from its EU colleagues over the challenge to Greenland. Trump says U.S. needs to own Greenland to deter Russia, China. While a member of the European Union, Denmark has placed itself at the bloc’s periphery since copying the U.K. in opting out of the euro and from cooperation in justice and home affairs. But any U.S. invasion of Greenland is likely to break Denmark’s fixed exchange rate policy with the euro (and before that the deutschmark) that has been in place since 1982. So there are economic implications as well as territorial implications. The fallout from the U.S.’ threats, and certainly any U.S. intervention in Greenland, goes much further than Denmark. While the EU tried to stay in step with the U.S. in its support of Ukraine during Joe Biden’s presidency, since the re-election of Mr. Trump, EU member states have very much fallen out with the U.S. During 2025, the U.S. and EU clashed over trade and tariffs, social media regulation, environment and agriculture policies. But the latest developments demonstrate that Mr. Trump’s U.S. can no longer be trusted as a long-term ally – to Greenland and Denmark, the EU and Europe. This is a crisis engulfing many countries and triggered by many drivers. In order to understand this complex situation, we can use four different analytical approaches from academic thinking. These can help us contextualise not just the Greenland case, but also the emerging multipolar world of “might makes right”. Trump weighs military option to acquire Greenland

1. Realism
Currently, the most popular approach comes from within the conservative tradition of “realism”. This predicts that every state will act in their own national interest. In this framing, Mr. Trump’s actions are part of the emergence of

a multipolar world, in which the great powers are the U.S., China, India and Russia. In this world, it makes sense for Russia to invade Ukraine to counter the U.S., for the U.S. to seize assets in Venezuela and Greenland to counter China, and for China to invade Taiwan to counter the U.S. 2. The new elites

Many think that to understand the events of the past few years, including Mr. Trump’s return and Russian President Vladimir Putin’s foreign policies, you need to look beyond conservative or liberal explanations to seek out who holds power and influence in the global superpowers. That means the wealthy families, corporations and oligarchs who exert control over the politics of the ruling elite through media and campaign power and finance. In the cases of Venezuela and Greenland, there are two factors at work – the U.S. rejection of the rule of law and the desire for personal wealth via energy resources. But the timing is also important. The operation in Venezuela has been the only story to eclipse the Epstein files in the news in many months.

3. The decline of the liberal order Many academic explanations see these recent events in the context of the decline of a “liberal order” dominated by the U.S., Europe, the “developed world” and the U.N. In this view, the actions of Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump are seen as the last days of international law, the importance of the U.N., and what Western nations see as a system based on multilateralism. However, this approach tends to overlook the continued dominance of the global north in these systems. The lack of support for the U.S. and EU’s defence of Ukraine has been repeatedly demonstrated in the unwillingness of many countries, including China and India, to condemn the Russian invasion in the U.N. General Assembly. It would be interesting to see how such voting would play out if it related to a U.S. invasion of Greenland. Greenland purchase an active discussion, Trump is committed to NATO: White House 4. The planetary approach The final – and most important – view is found in the planetary politics approach. This approach is based on the simple observation that so many planetary crises, such as global heating, mass extinctions of wildlife, climate refugees, rising autocracy and the return of international conflict are deeply interrelated and so can only be understood when considered together.

From this perspective, it is Greenland’s sustainability and Greenlanders’ lives that must shape the understanding of Denmark’s and other European responses to Mr. Trump’s claims. It is through acknowledging the deep relationship that indigenous people have to their ecology that solutions can be found. And Greenlanders have already expressed their vision for the future. Living on the frontline of the climate crisis, they want an economy built on resilience – not on ego-driven political drama. While it’s quick and easy to judge the events in Venezuela or Greenland in terms of the daily news cycle, the four perspectives set out here force people to think for themselves about how best to understand complex international crises. There is, however, a final observation to emphasise. Only one of these perspectives is likely to bring any way of thinking ourselves out of our planetary political crisis. Ian Manners is professor, Department of Political Science, Lund University. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here.

Trump says U.S. needs to own Greenland to deter Russia, China

GNS News Agency, Sept 21

“We are going to do something on Greenland whether they like it or not. Because if we don’t do it, Russia or China will take over Greenland, and we’re not going to have Russia or China as a neighbour,” Mr. Trump told reporters at the White House while meeting with oil company executives. Mr. Trump said the U.S. must acquire Greenland, even though it already has a military presence on the island under a 1951 agreement, because such deals are not enough to guarantee Greenland’s defence. The island of 57,000 people is an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark.

“You defend ownership. You don’t defend leases. And we’ll have to defend Greenland. If we don’t do it, China or Russia will,” Mr. Trump said. Mr. Trump and White House officials have been discussing various plans to bring Greenland under U.S. control, including potential use of the U.S. military and lump sum payments to Greenlanders as part of a bid to convince them to secede from Denmark and potentially join the U.S. Leaders in Copenhagen and



throughout Europe have reacted with disdain in recent days to comments by Trump and other White House officials asserting their right to Greenland. The U.S. and Denmark are NATO allies bound by a mutual defence agreement. On Tuesday, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Britain and Denmark issued a joint statement, saying only Greenland and Denmark can decide matters regarding their relations.

China, Russia, Iran start 'BRICS Plus' naval exercises in South African waters



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

China, Russia and Iran began a week of joint naval exercises in South Africa’s waters on Saturday (January 10, 2026) in what the host country described as a BRICS Plus operation to “ensure the safety of shipping and maritime economic activities”. BRICS Plus is an expansion of a geopolitical bloc originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – and seen by members as a counterweight to U.S. and Western economic dominance – to include six other countries. Though South Africa routinely carries out naval exercises with China and Russia, it comes at a time of heightened tensions between U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration and several BRICS Plus countries, including China, Iran, South Africa and Brazil. The expanded BRICS group also includes Egypt, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates. Chinese military officials leading the opening ceremony said Brazil, Egypt and Ethiopia participated as observers. “Exercise WILL FOR PEACE 2026 brings together navies from BRICS Plus countries for ... joint maritime safety operations (and) interoperability drills,” South Africa’s military said in a statement. Lieutenant Colonel Mpho Mathebula, acting spokesperson for joint operations, told

Reuters all members had been invited. Mr. Trump has accused the BRICS nations of pursuing “anti-American” policies, and last January threatened all members with a 10% trade tariff on top of duties he was already imposing on countries across the world. The pro-Western Democratic Alliance, the second largest party in South African President Cyril Ramaphosa’s coalition, said the exercises “contradict our stated neutrality” and that BRICS had “rendered South Africa a pawn in the power games being waged by rogue states on the international stage”. Mathebula rejected that criticism.

Trump repeats claim of stopping India-Pakistan conflict, says Obama ‘didn’t do anything’ to win Nobel



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Claiming yet again that he solved the conflict between India and Pakistan, U.S. President Donald Trump has said that “no one in history is more deserving than him” of the Nobel Peace Prize, as he criticised former President Barack Obama for getting the honour even though he “didn’t do anything”. Mr. Trump, during a meeting in the White House on Friday (January 9, 2026) with oil and gas executives to discuss plans for the Venezuelan oil reserves, also reiterated his claim that eight jets were shot down in the conflict in May last year without clarifying to which country they belonged.

“Look whether people like Trump or don’t like Trump, I settled eight wars, big ones. Some going on for 36 years, 32 years, 31 years, 28 years, 25 years, some just getting ready to start like India and Pakistan, where already eight jets were shot out of the air,” Mr. Trump said. The U.S. president also said that Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who had visited the White House last year, credited him for saving millions of lives by stopping the conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. This is the second time in as many days that Mr. Trump has claimed credit for stopping the conflict between India and Pakistan, an assertion he has now made innumerable times since May 10 last year when he announced on social media that the two countries agreed to a “full and immediate” ceasefire after a “long night” of talks mediated by Washington. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civil-

ians.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. India has consistently denied any third-party intervention. Mr. Trump further said that no one in history is more deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize than him since he has stopped eight wars within eight months of his second term in the White House. He rebuked Mr. Obama for getting the Nobel Peace Prize shortly after assuming office in 2009 even though he “didn’t do anything”. “I can’t think of anybody in history that should get the Nobel Prize more than me and I don’t want to be bragging, but nobody else settled wars. Obama got the Nobel Prize. He had no idea why. He still has no idea. He walks around, he says, ‘I got the Nobel Prize’. Why did he get a Nobel Prize? He got it almost immediately upon attaining office, and he didn’t do anything, and he was a bad president,” Mr. Trump said. Mr. Trump asserted that one should get a Nobel Prize for “every war you stopped. These were major wars. These were wars that nobody thought could be stopped”.

Mr. Trump claimed that Russian President Vladimir Putin told him he had been trying to stop two of the wars for ten years and wasn’t able to do it. “He couldn’t believe it. So in theory, you should get the Nobel Prize for every war you stopped. Every one of them was major. But I don’t care about that. What I care about is saving lives. I’ve saved tens of millions of lives,” he said. Mr. Trump was asked about Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado, who dedicated her Nobel Peace Prize last year to him, and has said she wants to give the honour to him. Mr. Trump said Ms. Machado will be coming to Washington next week and “pay her regards to our country, really to me, but you know I’m a representative of the country, nothing else, and she’s coming in sometime next week”. He said “it’s very nice” that Ms. Machado wants to come in, “and that’s what I understand the reason is because Norway is very embarrassed by what took place. I mean, they’re getting decimated”, referring to Ms. Machado’s offer to give her Nobel Prize to him when the Oslo-based Nobel committee did not honour him last year. “But I’m honoured that she’s coming here. I look forward to meeting her,” he said. A day earlier, in an interview to Fox News, Mr. Trump said again that he stopped the war between India and Pakistan, the two nuclear powers “ready to go at it big”.

Syrian authorities urge civilians to evacuate Aleppo neighbourhoods as clashes with Kurds continue



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Syrian authorities warned civilians to leave a contested area in the northern city of Aleppo on Thursday (January 8, 2026) and opened a corridor for them to evacuate for a second day as clashes continued between government and Kurdish forces. The government of Aleppo province gave residents until 1 p.m. local time to evacuate in coordination with the army. State news agency SANA, citing the army, said the military would begin “targeted operations” against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in the neighbourhoods of Sheikh Maqsood, Achrafieh and Bani Zaid half an hour after that deadline.

The military later issued a series of maps with the areas under evacuation order. An Associated Press journalist at the scene heard sporadic sounds of shelling as civilians streamed out of the area Thursday (January 8) morning. As of Wednesday (January 7), more than 46,000 people had been displaced across the province, according to Aleppo’s Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour. The complex struggle for ‘Kurdistan’

Mohammad Ali, operations director with the Syrian Civil Defence in Aleppo, said some 11,000 more fled Thursday (January 8). “There’s a large percentage of them with difficult medical issues, elderly people, women and children,” he said. The SDF has said that at least eight civilians were killed in the Kurdish-majority neighbourhoods, while government officials reported that at least five civilians and one soldier have been killed in the surrounding government-controlled areas in the fighting that broke out on Tuesday (January 6). Dozens more on both sides have been wounded. St. Ephrem Syrian Orthodox Church in Aleppo city was hosting about 100 people who had fled the fighting. Parishioners had donated mattresses, blankets and food, priest Adai Maher said.

“As soon as the problems started and we heard the sounds (of clashes), we opened our church as a shelter for people who are fleeing their homes,” he said. Among them was Georgette Lulu, who said her family is planning to travel to the city of Hasakeh in SDF-controlled northeast Syria when the security situation allows. “There was a lot of bombing and loud noises, and a shell landed next to our house,” she said. “I’ve been through these circumstances a lot, so I don’t get frightened, but my niece was really afraid, so we

had to come to the church.” Hassan Nader, a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs in Aleppo, said about 4,000 were staying in shelters in the city while tens of thousands had gone to other areas of the province, and the ministry was working with NGOs to supply them with food, medicine and other necessities. The clashes come amid an impasse in political negotiations between the central State and the SDF.

The leadership in Damascus under interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa signed a deal in March with the SDF, which controls much of the northeast, for it to merge with the Syrian army by the end of 2025. There have been disagreements on how it would happen. In April, scores of SDF fighters left Sheikh Maqsood and Achrafieh as part of the deal. Officials from the central government and SDF met again on Sunday (January 4) in Damascus, but government officials said that no tangible progress had been made. Some of the factions that make up the new Syrian army, formed after the fall of former President Bashar Assad in a rebel offensive in December 2024, were previously Turkey-backed insurgent groups that have a long history of clashing with Kurdish forces. In the city of Qamishli in the Kurdish-controlled northeast, thousands of protesters gathered Thursday (January 8), chanting in support of the SDF and against the government offensive. International concerns

The SDF has for years been the main U.S. partner in Syria in fighting against the Islamic State group, but Türkiye considers the SDF a terrorist organisation because of its association with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, which has waged a long-running insurgency in Türkiye. A peace process is now underway. Despite the long-running U.S. support for the SDF, the Trump administration in the U.S. has also developed close ties with al-Sharaa’s government and has pushed the Kurds to implement the March deal. A U.S. State Department official said in a statement Thursday (January 8) that the U.S. “is closely monitoring the situation” and urged “restraint on all sides.” It said U.S. envoy Tom Barrack is trying to facilitate dialogue between the two sides. “All parties should focus on how to build a peaceful, stable Syria that protects and serves the interests of all Syrians, rather than pushing the country back into a cycle of violence,” the statement said. Türkiye’s Ministry of National Defence said Thursday (January 8) that the “operation is being carried out entirely by the Syrian Army” while Türkiye is “closely monitoring.” “Syria’s security is our security,” the statement said, adding that “Türkiye will provide the necessary support should Syria request it”. The United Nations has expressed concern at the violence. U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters Wednesday (January 7) that Secretary General Antonio Guterres “is alarmed by reports of civilian deaths and injuries following hostilities in Aleppo”. “We call on all actors to immediately de-escalate, exercise maximum restraint, and take all measures to prevent further harm to civilians” and to “promptly resume negotiations in order to fully implement the 10 March agreement,” he said.

Trump pitches Venezuela oil to U.S. majors; hits scepticism

exploiting its own resources. Despite Mr. Trump’s assurances, ExxonMobil Chief Executive Darren Woods struck a note of scepticism. “We’ve had our assets seized there twice, and so, you can imagine, to re-enter a third time would require some pretty significant changes,” he said. “If we look at the legal and commercial constructs and frameworks in place today in Venezuela – today, it’s uninvestable,” Mr. Woods said. The White House meeting came less than a week after U.S. forces seized Mr. Maduro, with Mr. Trump making no secret that control of Venezuela’s oil was central to his actions. Opening the session, he said the talks would focus on how U.S. companies could rapidly rebuild the country’s dilapidated oil industry and boost production by millions of barrels a day. Vice President J.D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Energy Secretary Chris Wright attended alongside executives from Chevron, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Halliburton, Valero, Marathon,

Shell, Trafigura, Vitol Americas and Repsol, among others. A spokesman for ConocoPhillips said CEO Ryan Lance appreciated the discussion about “preparing Venezuela to be investment-ready.” Speaking after the meeting, Mr. Trump said participants had “sort of formed a deal,” but offered no specifics. He claimed oil companies were prepared to invest “at least 100 Billion Dollars.”

Analysts told AFP that Mr. Trump’s push to revive Venezuela’s oil industry rests on shaky economic and strategic ground. Experts warned that vast reserves on paper do not translate into quick or profitable production, citing outdated infrastructure, political instability, the high cost of extracting heavy crude, and investor unease in a world shifting away from fossil fuels. “There’s lots of talk about the size of the reserves – 300 billion barrels of proved reserves – but what’s often missing from the conversation is how realistic it is for those to be economically extracted,”

Kurdish fighters refuse to leave Syria's Aleppo after truce



Google rolls out Gemini-powered AI Inbox, new smart features for Gmail users

Akon to A P Dhillon: Delhi gears up for 30 mega shows in 80 days, targets 3,000-crore windfall



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Featuring pop sensations such as Akon, AP Dhillon, and Papon, and stand-up comics such as Anubhav Singh Bassi, and Zakir Khan, Delhi is gearing up to host 30 major entertainment and music concerts over the next three months. The events , scheduled from October 18 are expected to generate Rs 3,000 crore in revenue, said officials. This comes after the Sports Authority of India (SAI) last month reduced the booking fees for major stadiums like Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) and Indira Gandhi Stadium.

The city is no longer just the national capital but is rapidly evolving into India’s “Creative Capital”, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Thursday while addressing a press conference. Amid efforts to make Delhi an “event-friendly city,” Gupta said, the rental rates for major stadiums and auditoriums have been significantly reduced, and these venues are being upgraded to meet international standards. Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra, also present at the press conference, highlighted that one of the major barriers to hosting large events in Delhi was the high rental cost of venues. “Realising that the Capital was losing potential revenue, we proposed to the Centre to reduce the tariff rates of major stadiums in Delhi. After several rounds of meetings, the SAI revised the booking charges last month,” Mishra said. The booking charges for the JLN main arena for non-sports events have been reduced from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 25 lakh per day, while the price for IG Stadium has been revised from Rs 20 lakh (including electricity and other consumption charges) to Rs 16 lakh, officials

DU students’ union joint secretary slaps professor, teachers demand university-level probe



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

A disciplinary committee convener and faculty member at Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar College of Delhi University was allegedly slapped by Deepika Jha, the Delhi University Students’ Union (DUSU) Joint Secretary and an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) leader, inside the Principal’s office on Thursday afternoon. Following the incident, which has triggered a huge row, the faculty member, Professor Sunil Kumar, resigned from the committee as other members demanded a university-level inquiry. Even as Jha apologised to “the entire teaching community” in a statement later, she alleged that Kumar had misbehaved with her — the professor, however, rejected the claims. Around 50 students, the Democratic Teachers’ Front (DTF) alleged, entered the college along with DUSU President Aryan Maan and Joint Secretary and “mistreated teachers and demanded the resignation of the disciplinary committee convener.” The DTF said, “The Joint Secretary slapped Professor Sujit Kumar in the Principal’s office, CCTV footage of which is available.” Condemning Jha’s action, the DTF warned, “..This mobocracy and hooliganism mentality must be stopped immediately, otherwise DU will be plunged into violence.”

Speaking to The Indian Express, Professor Sujit Kumar, who heads the disciplinary committee, said, “I only

No early release for Priyadarshini Mattoo’s killer

GNS News Agency, Jan 13

1996 Priyadarshini Mattoo rape murder, IPS officer son rapist Santosh Kumar Singh, Delhi University student Mattoo rape murder, Sentence Review Board, Hemant MattooAfter the Delhi High Court had referred the case to the SRB in July, Mattoo’s Canada-based brother Hemant too had raised an objection against the decision. The Sentence Review Board (SRB) on Thursday rejected the plea of Santosh Kumar Singh, convicted in the 1996 Priyadarshini Mattoo rape-murder case, for an early release. The Indian Express has learnt. Mattoo, a Delhi University law student, was raped and killed by her senior Santosh Kumar Singh in 1996. Even as a lower court had acquitted him in 1999 for lack of evidence, despite the judge saying that he was guilty, the Delhi High court awarded him the death penalty in 2006.

The Supreme Court in 2010, however, had commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment. Nearly three decades later, on July 1, the Delhi High Court directed the Sentence Review Board to consider afresh Singh’s case for premature release. Holding the SRB’s decision to deny Santosh, along with two other prisoners, premature release as suffering from “material procedural and legal infirmities”, the HC highlighted several lacunae in the current process undertaken by the board while deciding applications for early release of prisoners. Government sources confirmed the latest development. On July 27, a delegation from the All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS), an organisation that voices the issues of Kashmiri Pandits, met Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood, objecting to Singh’s premature release. Welcoming the decision, Ravinder Pandita, President, AIKS, on Thursday said, “We are happy that the government has rejected the plea. It was a heinous crime, which doesn’t deserve anything less than a capital punishment. The judiciary and other agencies involved should take suo motu cognisance

confirmed. “Travis Scott had previously cancelled his events in Delhi due to high rental charges. However, following the revised rates, he has rebooked and will perform on October 18 and 19 at JLN,” Mishra noted.

Gupta also acknowledged the challenges faced by the city’s entertainment economy. “There was a time when organisers hesitated to hold large concerts and events in Delhi due to inadequate facilities and lack of institutional support. Recognising this, the government has taken a significant step to reduce the tariff rates of all major stadiums under both the Central and Delhi governments, and to upgrade their facilities to international standards,” she said. She emphasised that the “concert economy” is a vital economic sector for states and deserves serious attention. Highlighting that India’s live entertainment industry is currently valued at around Rs 150 billion, Gupta said Delhi is projecting revenue of Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000 crore in the coming years. Commenting on revenue targets, Mishra said, “We will actively promote these events. Our target is Rs 3,000 crore in revenue from these concerts. People currently travel to other cities for such experiences, but now they won’t have to. Instead, people from other states will come to Delhi, boosting the city’s revenue through GST on tickets, food, accommodation, and more.” Mishra added that Delhi began to re-emerge as a hub for grand, large-scale events as soon as the decision to reduce booking prices was implemented.

“This is just the beginning. The Delhi government has a broader roadmap that will bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision and the CM’s farsighted plan to life,” he said. He added that the roadmap will elevate Delhi’s standing in the fields of art, culture, language, and tourism. To ensure smooth organisation of these events, Gupta also announced the introduction of a single-window system for event permissions, logistics, and security processes, aimed at further promoting the city’s live entertainment industry. The initiative is being jointly undertaken by the Delhi government, the Event and Entertainment Management Association (EEMA), and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), to ensure that these events maintain high standards, run efficiently without administrative or logistical hurdles, and offer complete enjoyment to the audience, the CM said.

took action against an ABVP candidate because he was misbehaving with an NSUI candidate. ... I was not favouring a particular party. I think that is what bothered the ABVP members who slapped me today.” He said the incident took place around 4 pm in the Principal’s room. “I was slapped by the DUSU Joint Secretary. I was also asked to resign from my position. ... Action needs to be taken against such students who misbehave with teachers or else it will become very difficult for teachers to teach,” he said, adding that no such incident had occurred in his 30 years in the college. A purported video shows that the incident occurred in the presence of police officers. “A complaint has been received. The matter is being enquired, accordingly action will be taken,” said an officer. Meanwhile, Jha claimed that she was called by students who complained of “politically motivated abuse and assault” by the professor. “In the Principal’s room, in the presence of police, Professor Sujit threatened and abused me. I complained to the police, but the police officers present took no action,” she said. She alleged that the Professor “had come to the college in an inebriated state” and that his “repeated threats, staring at me, and making indecent remarks made me feel unsafe” . “Consequently, in a fit of rage, I resorted to assaulting him. I regret this incident and apologise to the entire teaching community. ... My intention was not to hurt the sentiments of the teaching community, but I am concerned about the safety of female students on the campus.” In a statement, the NSUI called the incident “ABVP-led DUSU hooliganism” and said no action had been taken despite CCTV evidence. “Jha slapped a senior professor inside the principal’s office — in the presence of Delhi Police personnel. Disturbingly, the DUSU President was also present during this act of hooliganism,” it said. NSUI National President Varun Choudhary stated, “This act of violence. ... is not just an attack on a professor but on the dignity of the entire academic fraternity. ... The silence of the administration and Delhi police shows the political pressure exerted by the BJP.” NSUI demanded the “immediate arrest of all those involved, including the DUSU Joint Secretary and President.”



Mattoo, a Delhi University law student, was raped and killed by her senior Santosh Kumar Singh in 1996. Even as a lower court had acquitted him in 1999 for lack of evidence, despite the judge saying that he was guilty

and reconsider their decision of life imprisonment.” After the Delhi High Court had referred the case to the SRB in July, Mattoo’s Canada-based brother Hemant too had raised an objection against the decision. Speaking to The Indian Express, he had said, “I want to know what signs of reformation he has shown. Has he apologised to my family? Has he apologised to his own family? He’s never even approached us. He still maintains his innocence.”

On January 23, 1996, while Priyadarshini was alone at home, Santosh was seen by a neighbour entering her house in the evening. She was later found lying under her bed, with a room heater’s cord wrapped around her neck — she had been brutally raped and murdered. Singh, an IPS officer’s son, had been pursuing her relentlessly in the months leading up to her death.

Why has Noida been seeing a sharper spike in pollution during evenings?



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Noida pollution, Noida spike in pollution during evenings, Noida spike in pollution, Central Pollution Control Board, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairsThe India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast mist and haze in the mornings for the next two days, with the overall AQI expected to stay in the ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’ range across Delhi-NCR over the weekend. Even as Delhi’s air quality slipped into the ‘poor’ category on Thursday, Noida has been recording sharper, late-evening surges in PM2.5 levels, pointing to a possible rise in local emissions from traffic and early use of firecrackers, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and air-quality analysts.

Delhi’s average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 245 (‘poor’) on Thursday, up from 233 a day earlier. In comparison, Noida recorded 288 (‘very poor’) and Greater Noida 272, while Ghaziabad remained in the ‘very poor’ category at 307. A day earlier, Noida had recorded the highest pollution levels in the country at 318 (‘very poor’). The pollution build-up in Noida has been peaking between 7 pm and midnight — a pattern distinct from Delhi where spikes tend to occur later at night. “If this was due to stubble burning, Delhi would have seen similar spikes, which it hasn’t,” said Sunil

In pre-SIR exercise in 7 Bengal districts, nearly 50% names not in benchmark 2002 voters’ list



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Before kickstarting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound West Bengal, the Election Commission (EC) has started comparing this year’s voters’ list with that of 2002, when the last revision exercise was conducted in the state. This process of “matching-mapping” is being done by the EC in every electoral district of the state. Sources in the EC said that so far, it has completed matching-mapping in seven districts and found that 40% to 45% names in the 2025 list were not matching with the 2002 list. In Jhargram district, only 51.36% of the names in the two voters’ lists matched — the lowest among the seven districts — whereas in the hill district of Kalimpong, the matching was the highest at 65.27%. In Alipurdwar, it was 53.73%, Kolkata North 55.35%, Malda 54.49%, Purulia 61.29%, and Midnapore 62.94%.

“The big and highly populated districts are in South and North 24 Parganas, Kolkata South, and Nadia. In these

Congress asks EC to call all-party meeting on SIR, says release findings of matching-mapping exercise



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Subhankar Sarkar, Prasenjit Bose, Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, sir electoral rolls, electoral rolls sir, Election Commission, West Bengal Assembly elections, Indian express news, current affairs”The deletion of names of permanently relocated migrants should be mandatorily accompanied by re-enrollment in their current place of residence,” it added. With the Election Commission all set to start the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll in poll-bound West Bengal, the state unit of the Congress on Thursday asked the poll panel to convene an all-party meeting at the national level to review the experience of the SIR process in Bihar. In a deputation submitted to the state Chief Electoral Officer, the party asked the EC to convene the meeting at the earliest, before notifying the SIR schedule in the state.

The party also said the ‘matching-mapping’ process (comparing the voters list of 2002 when the SIR was last held in the state with that of 2025) should be completed first and its results “be disclosed in a transparent manner”. The deputation was submitted by state Congress president Subhankar Sarkar, Prasenjit Bose, the chairperson of the state Congress Committee to Safeguard the Right to Vote & Citizenship, and other leaders. “The EC should also conduct software-based demographic de-duplication and prepare a list of Demographically Similar Entries. Duplicate or multiple enrollments should be deleted only after due verification in the enumeration phase,” the party said. It said the EC should also collect data on registered deaths from the Registrar of Births and Deaths and link them with the base electoral roll to identify and enlist possibly dead electors. Similarly, specific guidelines need to be framed for ascertaining an elector as “permanently shifted”, especially for married women and other migrants. “The deletion of names of permanently relocated migrants should be man-

Dahiya, lead analyst and founder of Envirocatalysts. “The timings of these peaks overlap with traffic congestion and bursting of firecrackers, suggesting strong local contributions.” Calm winds and rising humidity have further trapped pollutants near the surface. Within Noida, Sector 125 and Sector 116 witnessed the highest spikes. The pattern has been evident at least for four days now. On October 13, PM2.5 in Sector 125 rose from 68 µg/m³ at 5 pm to 247 µg/m³ by 8 pm — a spike, Dahiya said, cannot be explained by meteorological conditions alone. Dahiya added that the intensity and timing of the peaks indicate a mix of vehicular emissions and local celebratory activity, with morning spikes between 7 and 9 am likely linked to commuter traffic. Stubble burning woes Meanwhile, even as local emissions remain a dominant factor, stubble burning has also begun to rise across neighbouring states.

A total of 889 burning events were detected in six states between September 15 and October 16, according to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). Of these, Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest share, with 403 fires, followed by Punjab (188), Madhya Pradesh (171), Rajasthan (96), Haryana (28), and Delhi (3). Govt launches winter action plan Six new Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) will be operational in Delhi by March 2026 as part of the Delhi government’s Winter Action Plan 2025-26, launched Wednesday that comprises 25 targeted measures under seven themes, including road dust, vehicular emissions, industry and power, waste and open burning, agricultural residue, citizen engagement, and innovation. Steps include use of Green Delhi App, real-time monitoring in green war room, use of mechanical road sweepers, water sprinklers and anti-smog guns, 578 enforcement teams from Transport department checking PUC norms for vehicular emissions control. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast mist and haze in the mornings for the next two days, with the overall AQI expected to stay in the ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’ range across Delhi-NCR over the weekend.

four districts, we will have to see what percentage of the data will match. That will be significant,” a senior EC official said. In Bihar, the only state where the SIR has been conducted so far, the latest voter list was compared to the 2003 list, when the revision exercise was last carried out there. All those who did not figure in the 2003 list were required to submit a list of documents for enrolment, which is likely to be implemented in Bengal too. Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharati, who visited West Bengal after the Durga Puja to take stock of the preparations for the SIR, had directed all the district magistrates to complete the matching-mapping process by October 15. However, only seven districts have been able to complete the exercise. A string of festivals in the state has put a temporary halt to the process, and the SIR of electoral rolls will now most likely begin in November, sources in the EC said. The EC’s decision to halt the SIR this month comes days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had questioned the “haste shown” by the EC in conducting the exercise even as the state was celebrating a string of festivals. She had also accused the poll panel of acting like a “rubber stamp” of the BJP. After concluding his two-day visit to the state, Deputy Election Commissioner Bharti had expressed concern over the pace of work and questioned the district administration’s justification for Puja holidays. According to sources, Bharti had stressed that since SIR was being implemented across the country, there should not be any further delay in conducting it in West Bengal. The ruling TMC and the Opposition BJP are at loggerheads in the state over conducting the SIR. While the TMC has warned against the deletion of voters’ names, the BJP has argued that SIR would help in weeding out illegal migrants from the voters’ list.

Will sack teacher accused of sexual harassment, Ramjas College tells High Court

GNS News Agency, Jan 13

teacher accused of sexual harassment, Ramjas College, delhi high court, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairsThe minor had filed a complaint with the ICC in December 2024 and an FIR was filed in May this year for offences under the POCSO Act. Ramjas College on Monday (October 13) informed the Delhi High Court (HC) that its governing body has decided to terminate the services of a professor who was accused of sexually harassing a minor in 2024.

The HC has now directed Delhi University to “urgently consider the matter and take requisite steps” within three weeks, after the college informed it that it has also sent a communication to the varsity on the governing body’s decision. The submission came before Justice Sachin Datta in a petition by the survivor, seeking the court’s directions to Delhi University and Ramjas College to act on the recommendations of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) dated June 18 under provisions of the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015. The professor had resigned in January following protests by students on the campus over alleged inaction by the college administration on the issue. The minor had filed a complaint with the ICC in December 2024 and an FIR was filed in May this year for offences under the POCSO Act.

India proactively forging partnerships, strategies to secure national interest: Shaktikanta Das



In an increasingly changing world order, India's stance is clear: the country stands for a "co-operative and rules-based global system", a top aide to the Prime Minister said Friday. At the same time, India is "proactively forging partnerships and strategies to secure national interest in a world where power is more diffused", Principal Secretary to PM Shaktikanta Das said here.Stating that traditional multilateralism is under severe strain, Das said key international institutions are struggling to deliver on their mandates..He said that multilateralism is increasingly being sidelined by geopolitical rivalries, protectionism and fragmentation, with critical sectors like semiconductors, rare earths, energy and pharmaceuticals being leveraged as tools of influence and exposing vulnerabilities, especially in dependent economiesDas was speaking on the theme 'Indian economy, a story of rising credibility' at the inaugural Bibek Debroy Memorial Lecture. Debroy, former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), was a contributing editor for India stands today at the cusp of a historic journey – from being an incredible India to a credible India, Das said. Noting that there will be headwinds and challenges emanating from "known and unknown sources", he said the Indian economy is speeding ahead on "multiple cylinders".

Youthful demographics, digital public infrastructure, the deepening financial inclusion, and technological and artificial intelligence (AI) potential are India's multiple strengths that are coming together in a historic confluence, he said. "...with the policies that the country has adopted, the wind is in our sails. We are indeed on our path to Viksit Bharat," he said.

The Indian economy remains resilient and is expected to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world despite multiple and overlapping global shocks since the Covid-19 pandemic, Das said. "The Indian economy rebounded after the COVID-19 pandemic with an average growth of 8.2 per cent from 2021–22 to 2024-25, driven by resilient private consumption and investment. In 2025–26, the real GDP is expected to grow at 7.4 per cent as per the projections of the National Statistics Office. Further, India is projected to contribute around 18 per cent to the global GDP growth in 2025-26," he said.Pointing out that the share of trade in global GDP has stagnated, Das said it signals a

shift from hyper-globalisation to regionalisation, which have resulted in certain vulnerabilities for the emerging countries. "At a certain level, these trends may result in rising costs and inefficiencies. Emerging markets, and within that the Global South, is particularly vulnerable. For them, economic volatility is getting amplified and opportunities for convergence are getting slimmer," he said.In this fluid global landscape, India has embraced Atmanirbharta, a vision of self reliance, as the overarching principle of its policies. "Atmanirbharta is not being isolationist, but a strategy to build core competence and resilience. Economic Atmanirbharta means developing the capacity to produce critical goods and technologies at home and reducing over-reliance on foreign sources," he said.Das further said that the idea of Atmanirbharta has been built upon the tripod of — stability, reforms and schemes — that address certain structural gaps in the economy. India has maintained macroeconomic and financial sector stability, brought inflation under control, and is committed to the path of fiscal consolidation, he said.

"The general government's gross debt-to-GDP ratio declined to 81.6 per cent in 2024-25 from the peak of 88.4 per cent in 2020-21 which saw the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The IMF has projected it to decline further to 76.9 per cent in 2030-31. This commitment to fiscal prudence is restoring headroom for future counter-cyclical policies and keeping the public debt levels sustainable," he said.

Das noted that the government has enacted and implemented several landmark reforms across taxation, financial architecture, labour regulations and business facilitation including Goods and Services Tax, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act along with the adoption of the flexible inflation targeting framework, which mandates the Reserve Bank of India to maintain inflation between 2-6 per cent. Commenting on the recent notification of the four labour codes, Das said these reforms are important because they aim to reduce regulatory complexity, encourage formalisation of the workforce, attract investment, and generate higher employment by offering greater labour-market flexibility along with strengthening wage protection and improving social security coverage.Referring to government schemes such as production-linked incentives, National Critical Minerals Mission, the Electronic Component Manufacturing Scheme, among others, Das said these schemes and initiatives are not random schemes, but are parts of a larger strategy to build domestic capacities in critical areas and make India self-reliant.Das said India's demographic dividend can not be on autopilot and it must be steered and its potential imaginatively harnessed. Also, in areas of technological innovation and AI, machine learning, blockchain, space, biotech, pharma, etc., India has significant potential. "Building on our strong base of STEM talent, as India produces the highest number of engineers and science graduates in the world, we are positioning ourselves at the forefront of the new tech revolution," he said.

RBI Governor calls on regulated entities to jointly develop tools to combat digital fraud

"The purpose of enforcement actions undertaken by the Reserve Bank is generally not punitive. The intent is largely to correct," he said."The purpose of enforcement actions undertaken by the Reserve Bank is generally not punitive. The intent is largely to correct," he said. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday called on all regulated entities to work together in developing analytics and tools to proactively prevent the rising incidences of digital fraud.

"While banks and other regulated entities individually should continue to improve their tools, techniques and processes in preventing and tackling digital frauds, this is an area where we need to collaborate with each other to build analytics and tools to detect mule accounts and suspicious transactions timely and pre-emptively," Malhotra said during his address at the third annual Global Conference of the College of Supervisors.Mule accounts are commonly used by fraudsters to channel proceeds of frauds. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) — a subsidiary of RBI — has developed an artificial intelligence (AI)/machine learning (ML)-based model called MuleHunter.AI to detect and flag mule accounts in near real-time.Malhotra said digital channels help in improving financial inclusion and convenience, but without guardrails. They can also facilitate opaque pricing, weak disclosures and inappropriate recovery practices.

"The aim should be to ensure that digitalisation and innovations are aligned with fair outcomes for consumers, and a key element of this endeavour should be to protect customers from the menace of rising digital frauds," he said."For all of us, protecting customers' interest is not just a priority — it has to become the cornerstone of a sustainable and resilient financial system," Malhotra said.He added



that the RBI's supervisory action and enforcement actions, often viewed as the most visible aspect of regulation and supervision, should be seen as part of a continuum of supervisory tools, and not as a standalone response."The purpose of enforcement actions undertaken by the Reserve Bank is generally not punitive. The intent is largely to correct," he said.These actions, Malhotra said, serve two purposes — signal to those against whom such measures have been initiated, and make others aware of our acceptable standards of conduct and expectations.The recent Financial Stability Report (FSR) showed that during June-November 2025, the RBI undertook enforcement action against 134 regulated entities (one public sector bank, four private lenders, one payments bank, one foreign bank, one regional rural bank (RRB), 113 co-operative banks, seven NBFCs, one payment system operators, and five housing finance companies) and imposed an aggregate penalty of Rs 6.99 crore for non-compliance with/contravention of statutory provisions and/or directions issued.



he said.In December 2025, inflows into equity-oriented mutual fund schemes declined 6.2 per cent to Rs 28,054.06 crore, as against Rs 29,911.05 crore on a m-o-m basis.Flows into small cap funds slipped 13 per cent to Rs 3,823.82 crore from Rs 4,406.9 crore. Inflows into mid-cap and large-cap funds declined 7 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively. Flexi-cap funds continued to attract strong inflows of nearly Rs 10,000 crore."We are also seeing investors turn selective rather than exit the market completely, with continued interest in certain equity categories. The standout trend in December was the sharp surge in defensive allocations," said Ankur Punj, MD – Business Head, Equirus Wealth.Debt-oriented schemes witnessed outflows to the tune of Rs 1.32 lakh crore. Liquid funds saw the highest outflows at Rs 47,307.9 crore, followed by Rs 40,464.36 crore withdrawn from money market funds.

Dietitian recommends you go to bed slightly hungry; here's why



That slight rumble when you hit the pillow might be the secret to your weight loss. Online health coaches claim that going to bed slightly hungry means you hit a calorie deficit, leaving your body no choice but to tap into stored fat overnight. Edwina Raj, Head of Services – Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore, said that many health coaches say going to bed slightly hungry can help the body, and there is some truth to this, but it needs balance.

"When you stop eating a few hours before sleep, insulin levels slowly fall. Low insulin helps the body use stored fat for energy instead of storing more fat. During sleep, growth hormone levels increase, supporting fat burning, muscle repair, and overall recovery. A light feeling of hunger can also improve digestion and sleep quality because the body is not busy processing a heavy meal," she explained, adding that some people wake up feeling lighter, with better hunger control and steady energy the next day.However, "slightly hungry" does not mean starving.

"If you go to bed very hungry, stress hormones like

cortisol can rise. This may disturb sleep, cause early waking, and increase cravings the next day. Poor sleep can slow fat loss and harm overall health," said Raj. So, the goal is a gentle calorie gap, not extreme restriction.should you go to bed slightly hungry Going to bed slightly hungry can support fat loss (Source: Freepik)

What happens if you eat too much before bed?

Eating too much and going to bed has its own problems. According to Raj, a heavy or late meal keeps insulin levels high, encouraging fat storage. Digestion continues during sleep, which can reduce sleep quality and cause bloating, acid reflux, or heartburn.Poor sleep can affect hormones that control hunger, leading to overeating the next day. Over time, this pattern may increase weight gain, blood sugar issues, and fatigue.According to Dr Jinal Patel, dietitian, Apollo Spectra Hospital, Mumbai, doing so tends to "slow down the body's metabolism" and can lead to certain chronic diseases."The body finds it difficult to digest carbohydrates if consumed right before sleeping; as a result, you may gain weight and also experience acidity problems. One may also have abdominal pain, discomfort, constant heartburn and acidity — ultimately leading to Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).To add to that, those who eat late at night are prone to obesity, heart problems, and diabetes. "Binge eating junk food, especially late at night, will further narrow down and clog arteries because of cholesterol and fatty deposits (called plaque)," explained Dr Patel.In short, going to bed slightly hungry can support fat loss and better sleep for some people. It works best when dinner is balanced, eaten early, and includes enough protein and fibre. Listening to your body is key, because good sleep matters as much as diet.

Saif Ali Khan reveals his current reading list: '...I bought the rights to the book'



What are our favourite Bollywood stars busy reading all year round? An avid reader, Saif Ali Khan's taste in literature reflects an eclectic mix of murder mysteries, thrillers and spine-chilling horrors. In fact, even his wife Kareena Kapoor Khan shared his love for "crazy crime thrillers," as revealed in an interview with The Nod Mag.While Kareena was busy reading Jessica Bull's latest crime thriller, A Fortune Most Fatal — a period crime drama with a World War II setting; the Sacred Games actor gave us a peek into all the titles sitting on his To Be Read (TBR) list, during a recent conversation with Esquire India.

Black River by Nilanjana S. RoyAccording to Khan, it's a police procedural murder mystery, but it's also really emotional and moving. "It's about the murder of a very young little girl. And I love the story so much, I bought the rights to

This unique hotel lets you sleep in France and Switzerland at the same time



If travel is synonymous with making unique memories and ticking off quirky bucket list activities, we've got a gem for those who love European history! The Logis Hôtel l'Arbezie Franco-Suisse offers an exceptional experience for tourists who wish to toe the line between two neighbouring countries literally. Built directly on the border between France and Switzerland in the Jura Mountains, the hotel is near Les Rousses and the Canton of Vaud, and just a few kilometres from Geneva.

The international line runs right through the building, separating two beds in the honeymoon suite. You can go to sleep in France and wake up in Switzerland! The hotel dates back to the 1860s and even played a role in WWII history, as people could legally take refuge upstairs on the Swiss side.A perfect getaway spot for nature lovers and adventure junkies, the hotel is a stone's throw from hiking trails, Lake Les Rousses, the ski slopes in the area, and iconic locations like La Dôle, Fort des Rousses, and Espace des

Mondes Polaires. Whether you are visiting during summer or winter, there are endless activity options like cross-country skiing, mountain biking, golf, paragliding, and snowshoeing to keep you and your loved ones entertained. You can also visit the authentic and exotic villages of Haut-Jura for a culturally immersive experience.

hotel arbez The hotel has cozy rooms, brasserie and a restaurant featuring French and Swiss cuisine full of local and seasonal specialties. (Source: Instagram/@francetravelers)

How did this hotel come to be?

Hôtel l'Arbezie Franco-Suisse's construction is built upon the history of a dispute between France and Switzerland over Vallée des Dappes, south of La Cure. The valley offered an accessible military route, and possession would provide a significant military advantage. Initially annexed by France, it was returned to the Swiss, but the French kept asking for it back. Finally, in 1862, the two countries signed a treaty, with France agreeing to offer Switzerland a sizable portion of their territory in exchange for the valley.Even though La Cure was entirely within French borders, the new boundary cut the village in half. However, the treaty stipulated that all existing establishments were to be left alone, which gave a local businessman the idea to build a three-story building on that plot of land, which is known today as Hotel Arbez.The hotel has cosy rooms, a brasserie and a restaurant serving French and Swiss cuisine, featuring local and seasonal specialties. A private parking, a bed and breakfast and free Wi-Fi make it an ideal option for those looking for a romantic, family or business stay.

Google rolls out Gemini-powered AI Inbox, new smart features for Gmail users

New Delhi: Google has announced to introduce new Gemini-powered experiences, including AI Inbox, for more helpful and personalised insights for its users. The new capabilities have started rolling out in the US to Gmail users as well as Google AI Pro and Ultra subscribers, said the company."We're starting with English and excited to roll out more languages and to more regions in the coming months," said Blake Barnes, VP Product, Gmail, in a blog post.AI Inbox is like having a personalised briefing, highlighting todos and catching you up on what matters.

"It helps you prioritise, identifying your VIPs based on signals like people you email frequently, those in your contacts list and relationships it can infer from message content. Crucially, this analysis happens securely with the privacy protections you expect from Google, keeping your data under your control," said Barnes."We're giving trusted testers access to AI Inbox before making it more broadly available in the coming months," he added.

Just like Google Search, AI Overviews turn information into answers without the digging.When you open an email with dozens of replies, Gmail synthesises the entire conversation into a concise summary of key points."And when you ask your inbox a question, we use Gemini to generate a simple AI Overview with the answer," said Google. AI Overview conversation summaries are rolling out for everyone at no cost.Starting today, everyone can use 'Help Me Write' to polish emails or draft them from scratch. There are also new Suggested Replies (an update to Smart Replies) which use the context of your conversation to offer relevant, one-click responses that match how you write.Help Me Write and Suggested Replies are also rolling out to everyone at no cost. The Proofread feature is available for Google AI Pro and Ultra subscribers.Next month, the company will update Help Me Write with better personalisation by bringing context from your other Google apps.Today, 3 billion users rely on Gmail to connect.

‘We act as if nothing affects us’: Najmul Hossain Shanto on uncertainty over Bangladesh’s participation in T20 World Cup in India



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Bangladesh’s Test skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto said that even though the uncertainty around the team’s participation in the upcoming T20 World Cup in India is affecting the players, they are acting as if everything was ok. Shanto also slammed Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Director M Najmul Islam for calling former captain Tamim Iqbal an agent of India. “First of all, if you look at our World Cup results, we’ve never really played consistently good cricket. Last year, we did play well, but there were even better opportunities, and we couldn’t capitalise on them. But you’ll see that something always happens before every World Cup. I can say this from my experience of three World Cups – it does have an effect. Now, we act as if nothing affects us, that we are fully professional cricketers. You guys also understand that we are acting – it’s not easy. Of

course, it would be better if these things didn’t happen, but this is partly beyond our control,” he said on Saturday. Bangladesh’s involvement in the showpiece event is under a cloud after the board demanded that their matches be moved to Sri Lanka after pacer Mustafizur Rahman was released from the IPL on instructions of the BCCI, which cited unspecified “developments all around” to justify the decision.

“I don’t know the details of how it happened, or how it could have been controlled. Still, I’d say that even acting in such circumstances (is difficult). With the right mindset if we go to the World Cup and play anywhere, we should focus on how to do our best for the team,” Shanto said. The World Cup gets underway on February 7 and Bangladesh are scheduled to play four games (three in Kolkata and one in Mumbai) in India. Shanto also expressed deep anguish over BCB director M Najmul Islam calling former captain Tamim Iqbal “an Indian agent”. “Very sad, very sad because such comments were made about a cricketer – a former captain, and in my opinion one of Bangladesh’s most successful cricketers whom we grew up watching. As players, we expect respect – whether someone is a former captain, a regular player, successful or not. At the end of the day, a cricketer hopes for respect,” he said. Shanto the BCB is “is supposed to be our guardian” but ended up making an unacceptable statement. “Parents should correct you at home, not in front of everyone. So such a comment from someone who is supposed to be our guardian is very difficult to accept. I completely reject it as a player,” he concluded.

Neeraj Chopra splits with Czech coach Jan Zelezny

GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra on Saturday announced an end to his partnership with Czech coach Jan Zelezny after just one season, which the Indian said was marked by “progress, respect, and a shared love for the sport.” Chopra did not specify the reason for ending the stint with Zelezny, a bonafide legend of the sport who holds the world record and under whose tutelage the Haryana-lad breached the 90m mark last year. Reflecting on their work, Chopra said to learn directly from an athlete he had admired since childhood was a dream come true and gave him a completely new “toolbox of exercises, technical ideas, and fresh perspectives”.

“Working with Jan opened my eyes to so many new ideas. The way he thinks about technique, rhythm, and movement is incredible, and I learned a lot from every single session we had together,” Chopra said. “What I’m most proud about is the friendship I’ve built with someone who has been my idol all my life. Jan is not only the best javelin thrower of all time, but also one of the best human beings I have ever met,” he added.

The 59-year-old Zelezny also reflected warmly on the partnership and the progress they made together. “Working with an athlete like Neeraj was a great experience. I’m glad we met and were able to work together, that I got him to break the 90-metre barrier for the first time. “Apart from the World Championships, he finished at worst second and that is not a bad record. Unfortunately, the back injury 12 days



before Tokyo significantly affected his chances,” he said in a press release. Zelezny said Chopra has huge potential for the coming years. “Our relationship is very positive also on the human side and we will continue to stay in touch, we will definitely meet at some training camp or, for example, on vacation with our families in Europe or India,” Zelezny said.

Looking ahead, Chopra said he plans to take the lead in shaping his own coaching direction. “I’m looking forward to what 2026 has in store. I started my preparation in early November. As always, the goal is to stay healthy, and I am already excited to be competing again soon,” Chopra said. “At the same time, I’m especially looking ahead to the year with the World Championships in 2027, and the big goal beyond that is the Olympic Games in 2028,” he added. Chopra had finished eighth in the world event after the 90m high achieved in the Doha Diamond League last year.

Jemimah Rodrigues says Virat Kohli’s words rang in her head during World Cup semi-final winning knock



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Indian cricket team star Jemimah Rodrigues has revealed that Virat Kohli’s words about his own match-winning knock against Pakistan at the T20 World Cup in Melbourne were ringing in her ears during her game-changing innings at the recent Women’s World Cup when she dragged India to the final with an unbeaten 127 against Australia. India were chasing a target of 339 runs set by the formidable Australian team, when Rodrigues joined forces with captain Harmanpreet Kaur (89) put on 167 for the third wicket on the way to completing the highest successful run-chase in women’s ODI history. Rodrigues

Kohli had dragged India to victory over arch-rivals Pakistan with an unbeaten 82 from 53 balls in a game of the T20 World Cup in 2022. What had been remarkable about that innings was that Kohli had dragged India to victory from being 31/4 at one stage while chasing 160. “I once spoke to Virat Kohli about this. I asked him about that Melbourne knock. I said, ‘You know, this knock is something else... it was a crazy knock. What was going on in your head? How did such a knock even happen?’ What he told me was, ‘You know Jemimah, even if I want to take credit for that knock, I can’t. If you ask me to replicate that knock, I can’t. I was just grateful that God chose me at that moment to be the person to take India through.’ “And when that World Cup semifinal happened, I just remembered what he said. Because I didn’t change anything in my practice. My preparation was the same. Everything was the same, but it’s just... you know, you are just chosen for that moment. And things just happen. I think that was one moment for me where I can’t take credit,” Rodrigues said in an interview for Break-fast With Champions. Rodrigues said that when she was batting in that semi-final against Australia, she had gone into “Zen mode”.

“When I was playing that match, it was just like... sometimes you go into a ‘Zen mode’ where you don’t know much about what’s happening around you. You are just so focused on, ‘Oh, we just have to win this match and make it happen.’ Usually, you know when you’re about to win—like when there are two runs left in nine balls, you know you’re supposed to cross the line. Usually, I always have a

celebration ready—I’ll jump, I’ll do this or that. But until that final run was scored, I had nothing. I was blank. And the moment that ball went for a boundary—Amanjyot hit that shot—I hugged her, I picked her up, and I just burst into tears. I hadn’t planned that. I didn’t even think I would cry. But I don’t know, it was just that moment: a World Cup semi-final at home, in front of my home crowd, with my parents there. After everything that happened over the last month, I think all of that was just bottled up and it finally came out,” Rodrigues said.

“One thing that happened before the semifinal was that when we found out we’d be playing Australia after we played New Zealand, there was a different kind of peace about it. Someone even spoke about it, saying, ‘Actually, Australia is more vulnerable in a semifinal than a final.’ They lost to South Africa in a T20 semifinal in Dubai, and when Harman scored that 171, they lost in a semifinal too. So we were like, ‘Maybe everything that has happened is for the best.’ That was the conversation we had. Rodrigues said: “Honestly, even when Australia scored 339 in the semifinal... when Phoebe Litchfield and Ellyse Perry started batting the way they were, I was like, ‘Man, it’s going to be 400 today.’ Genuinely! I started stressing out a bit because it’s a do-or-die game. It’s a semifinal. I was thinking, ‘How will we chase 400?’ Then I told myself, ‘I can’t control that. Don’t think so far ahead. Just field and let’s see what happens.’ “But then, for our bowlers to pull it back the way they did in the last 10 overs—even against such a strong batting order—and hold them to 339, it became a matter of perspective. I was like, ‘Oh no, I was preparing for 400, but I got a 339 discount!’ It felt feasible. It didn’t feel too bad. Even when I went in, and I think Richa was there, we were like, ‘Actually, they are 20 runs short.’ That was the conversation,” Rodrigues said.

Fourrise Premier League Hyderabad launched

Hyderabad: Fourrise Sports LLP officially launched the first season of the Fourrise Premier League (FPL) – Hyderabad on Friday night.

The official FPL poster was unveiled by the chief guest Mr. Ch. Kiran Kumar Reddy, MP, in the presence of senior corporate leaders, sports administrators, and dignitaries. Mr. Paidi Rakesh Reddy, MLA, Armoor, also graced the occasion and extended his support to the league’s vision of promoting corporate sports alongside social responsibility.

The league is founded and promoted by Mr. Nangi Devendar Reddy, Chairman & Founder, and Dr. Sniprakash Vinnakota, Founder & President, FOURRISE Sports LLP, with a vision to build a transparent, professionally managed corporate cricket ecosystem across the Telugu States.

England’s Ashes debacle prompts ‘WILD thought’ from Kevin Pietersen for Brendon McCullum’s replacement: ‘He gets Test cricket’



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Kevin Pietersen knows a thing or two about how a bad Ashes can end careers. Although his final dismissal from the England squad was seen as a culmination of multiple events in the years leading up to it, the fact remains that the management pulled the plug on him after they received a 5-0 drubbing in the 2013/14 Ashes. Another casualty of that tour was then-head coach Andy Flower, with whom Pietersen had a tumultuous working relationship. However, the 45-year-old has now said that maybe it is time that Flower returned to the role after England’s 4-1 defeat to Australia in the 2025/26 Ashes. “This is a WILD thought. I reckon one of my wildest,” Pietersen posted. “Can England bring back

Andy Flower now that he’s changed and in line with the modern day player? He gets Test Cricket. I’ve been told by many players that he’s changed his ways since our drama. He’s winning leagues so really does get the modern day player. VERY IMPORTANT! Wild, I know! Thoughts?”

Pietersen’s post comes amid uncertainty over the future of England’s current head coach Brendon McCullum. The England and Wales Cricket Board announced a “thorough review” of a campaign in which the players have been accused of ill discipline at various levels. England’s decision to not play any proper practice game in Australia before the series was question throughout the duration of the Ashes, with the number of catches they dropped being seen as a symptom of poor preparation. Their mid-series trip to Noosa, a beach town, and rumours of a drinking culture within the team have also come up. All if it was only exacerbated by the emergence of news that star batter Harry Brook had got into an altercation with a bounce outside a club during England’s ODI series in New Zealand that preceded the Ashes. “We will take many lessons from this tour and are determined to improve quickly. Our focus is on regaining the Ashes in 2027. A thorough review of the campaign is already underway. This will cover tour planning and preparation, individual performance and behaviours, and our ability to adapt and respond effectively as circumstances require,” said ECB chief executive Richard Gould in his statement.

‘That’s your job’: James Anderson tears into Ben Stokes’ comments on England players’ efforts during Ashes

GNS News Agency, Jan 13

Questions continue to be asked of the overall culture prevalent in the England cricket team after their 4-1 humbling at the hands of Australia in the Ashes. There was a considerable gulf in quality between the two sides, with England playing almost no warm-up games in the run-up to the series and consequently being accused of slacking off between the Tests in terms of discipline. Fast bowling great James Anderson has said that he was puzzled with captain Ben Stokes appreciating the efforts of the players in his squad.

“When I saw Stokes come out and say, the way (Josh) Tongue and (Brydon) Carse have just run in like consistently, I had a Roy Keane moment,” said Anderson on BBC Radio. “I was like, that’s your job. If you’re not willing to run in all day for your team, don’t bother. You’re in the wrong sport.” Anderson took the example of Australia pacer Mitchell Starc, who was player of the series for taking 31 wickets and even scoring 163 runs. “Starc, for me, was the absolute standout of the series. He bowled on Day 5 of the final Test as quick as he had bowled all series long. He was consistent with his speeds. But that is what you expect from all your bowlers. That is the standard. It always annoys me (when someone says) ‘can’t fault your efforts’. Well, the



effort shouldn’t be a thing. It should just be in you.” Stokes had said in the press conference after the fifth Test that England’s efforts in the Ashes can’t be questioned and that they lost due to shoddy execution. “We’ve dropped a lot of catches on this tour which have been very costly to the overall situation of the games. In terms of stepping up, I can never fault anyone’s commitment or energy that they’ve given into this. We haven’t performed well, we know that, we hold our hands up to that. But no one should question the care and commitment to try and go out there and give it your absolute best. It’s just been down to the lack of execution,” Stokes said.

Shubman Gill breaks silence on getting omitted from T20 World Cup squad: ‘I am where I have to be’



GNS News Agency, Jan 13

India’s Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill has said that he respected the selectors’ decision to omit him from the T20 World Cup squad last month. The 26-year-old, who was made the T20I vice-captain last August, was omitted from the 15-member squad with Axar Patel reinstated as the deputy to Suryakumar Yadav. “I respect the selectors’ decision. All the best to the team for the T20 World Cup. I am where I have to be, and whatever is written in my destiny, no one can take that from me. A player always believes he will try his best for the country, and the selectors have taken their decision,” Gill told reporters before the first ODI against New Zealand. Gill took over India’s ODI captain in October, but has been out of 50-over action after suffering a neck injury in the Test series against South Africa. The 26-year-old said that it was frustrating to be on the

sidelines and watch the team play while being out injured.

“Never easy, especially whenever you get injured, watching your team play, and you feel like you are missing out on all those games, especially when you have just been named the captain.” “There are so many things that you want to do, and when you set out, it is definitely very frustrating, but at the same time, you just have to focus on what are the things that you need to do in that moment and kind of build on that,” Gill said.

The right-hander revealed that he had suggested more practice in red-ball cricket, especially when the team was shifting from white-ball cricket. “One of the suggestions that I was very keen on is that, if you would see in the last two test series that we played, we didn’t have that much time to prepare. It’s not easy playing in India and playing another match in a different country on the fourth day. Especially when you are travelling on long tours.” “And yes, I feel even if we would have won the series against South Africa, it still wouldn’t have made that much of a difference because we know we need to prepare well to be able to win test matches all over the world. And preparation for me is really big and I didn’t think that we had that much time to prepare when we came back from Australia, or even after the Asia Cup, when we played the West Indies series. I think it’s important to at least have some bit of preparation, some time.” “Especially changing from the white ball format to red ball. So this was one of the things that I was very keen on, and I think we’ll take some action and we’ll keep it in mind to be able to prepare well before the start of any red ball series,” Gill said.

‘Started regaining confidence after implimenting what Mahi bhai told me’: Axar Patel reveals MS Dhoni’s role in his batting transformation

GNS News Agency, Jan 13 Axar Patel has gone from being considered a spinner who can bat and a backup to Ravindra Jadeja to a senior all-rounder himself, particularly in T20Is where he has been sent as high up as No.3 in recent games. The 31-year-old has said that legendary former India captain MS Dhoni, under whom Axar had started his international career, had a role to play in getting him to change his attitude towards batting.

“I started as a batter but became a full-time spinner when I reached the NCA. In my early days I didn’t do well with the bat and started doubting myself,” Axar told the Times of India. “When I got dropped in 2018, I worked very hard on my batting. When MS Dhoni was mentor of the 2021 T20 World Cup team, he told me that in my earlier days, under his captaincy, I put pressure on myself by thinking I had to perform all the time, rather than simply believing that I was a capable batter. Slowly I started implementing what Mahi bhai had told me and I regained my confidence”

Axar’s reliability as a batter was on full display in the

final of the 2024 T20 World Cup. India were in dire straits batting first, having lost three wickets inside the first five overs for 34 runs. Axar then struck up a 72-run partnership off 54 balls with Virat Kohli which steadied the Indian ship. He was expensive with the ball but took one wicket as well, all of which contributed to India’s remarkable victory in the final. “After the T20 WC final, I never thought I would be dropped again,” said Axar. India’s current approach of having a flexible batting order has resulted in Axar playing in a variety of positions.

However, he has been trusted to play in and around the top order more often than not in recent games and Axar says that in those moments, the team management trusts him to provide stability. “If I’ve been sent up the order, that means the team trusts me and I have the talent to perform this role. When I go out to bat, I don’t think I am a floater. The team management tells me that I’m not sent to blindly accelerate the scoring or play out a difficult spell or target a particular spinner. I am given a role like any other specialist batter,” he said.

Parasakthi movie review: Sivakarthikeyan-starrer deserved stronger writing, Ravi Mohan steals the show



Parasakthi movie review and rating: Among the many things that director Mani Ratnam's magnum opus Iruvar (1997) etched in the minds of viewers are the lines "Udal mannukku uyir thamizhukku; Ithai urakke solvoam ulagukku" (The body is for the soil, life for Tamil; let us say this loudly to the world). These lines not only highlight one's devotion to their homeland but also emphasise how interconnected one's identity is with their roots and how the mother tongue is the string that holds it all together. That's why any attempts to snap that through the imposition of another language is always met with violent reactions. As Chezhiyan (Sivakarthikeyan) rightly points out, the protests are "only against the imposition of Hindi; not against Hindi or its native speakers." And director Sudha Kongara's Parasakthi offers an impactful semi-fictional depiction of the anti-Hindi agitations that rocked Tamil Nadu in the 1950s and '60s.

The leader of the Purananooru Padai, a student organisation with members from various states fighting against the imposition of Hindi, Chezhiyan's (Che) life changes when he comes face to face with the KGB-trained, cold-blooded officer Thirunaadan (Ravi Mohan). While Che loses a dear friend during the confrontation, Thirunaadan aka Thiru ends up losing his right index finger, leaving permanent scars in their hearts. Years later, Che makes a living as a railway employee, while Thiru is still on the hunt for the masked, unidentified man (Che) who snipped his finger. Marked by inherent rage against Tamils, stemming from a disgust towards his father, Thiru is determined to suppress both – the anti-Hindi movement and smoke out Che – no matter how violent the measures he must employ. In Che's place now is his younger brother, the college-going Chinnadurai (Atharvaa), who leads the protests with the help of Ratnamala (Sreeleela), who is also Che's girlfriend, much against the former's warnings. As time passes, the agitations intensify, and Che is forced to confront his past and his mortal enemy. But it's not just a battle between two individuals; it's also a struggle between the all-powerful few and the powerless millions – a resistance against oligarchy, against attempts to usher in an unfair homogeneity, and against a state-sponsored initiative to undermine India's core principle of "unity in diversity."

Parasakthi is, without doubt, an extremely important and pertinent movie in the current sociopolitical environment, offering a reminder that history has a tendency to repeat itself, and the makers deserve credit for even considering making this film. The sheer number of dialogue mutings imposed by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) on it, thus effectively butchering the film to an extent, stands as a testament to how even an intensely cinematic portrayal of the subject can rattle the ruling class. However, had it been at least a slightly better movie, the themes Parasakthi attempts to address would have resonated more. Instead, they are drowned out by the overall lack of flair, primarily caused by mediocre writing.

The major shortcoming in the script is its lack of flow, with each scene feeling disjointed from the ones before and after, almost as if each scene exists to serve a single purpose rather than contribute meaningfully to the overall narrative. The lack of emotional impact in moments that clearly deserved it also hinders the movie from striking a chord.

Bobby Deol got irritated after giving 10-15 takes for The B***ds of Bollywood, says Gautami Kapoor: 'Aryan Khan is a stickler for perfection'



Speaking to Siddharth Kannan, Gautami said, "During the reading of the show, was the first time I met Aryan. I was waiting to see what he does. We were 25 actors in a room, he came, started the reading and the clarity he had for each and every character, big small doesn't matter, the clarity he had was staggering. My mouth was open. I was like oh my god at 24-25, he has this kind of clarity and maturity about a project that he has written and is going to direct."

Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan received rave reviews for his debut show The B***ds of Bollywood. Recently, Gautami Kapoor, who plays a pivotal role in the series, opened up about her experience of working with Aryan and shared how the star kid was clear-headed, confident, and hands-on from the very beginning. She revealed that Aryan was deeply involved not just in staging scenes but also in performing stunts himself and demonstrating exactly what he wanted from the actors. Speaking to Siddharth Kannan, Gautami said, "Dur-

For instance, in the opening sequence, we see that Che is a beloved and fearless leader. However, he soon gives up the revolution after his friend is killed during a protest. While Sudha and co-writer Arjun Nadesan stick to minimalism and use only a few creative tools to convey the impact of this incident on Che, which prompted him to back off, these elements do not land as intended, leaving the character somewhat undercooked. This issue persists across the film. From Thiru's contempt for the Tamil and servility towards authority to the Che-Ratnamala romance, we are shown only certain aspects of these, never their vital roots. While these issues could have been fixed with impactful filmmaking, Sudha Kongara manages to achieve this only rarely. The handling of the emotional moments, in particular, is too unimpressive.

However, where the writing does not play a massive role, such as in action sequences and protest scenes, Sudha elevates Parasakthi to impressive heights, offering a glimpse of what the movie could have been had it been backed by better writing. The agitation sequence leading up to the interval is supremely impressive, with almost every technical aspect reaching its peak, providing an experience we were denied for well over an hour. The same holds true for a couple of scenes in the second half. But it is the dramatic moments in between that fall flat and pull us away from the movie. While Parasakthi attempts to present itself as a docu-fiction at times, the efforts to clarify that it is more fiction than documentary have, unfortunately, backfired, weakening its essence moment by moment. For instance, while naming the cameo character played by Rana Daggubati, Michael Reddy (reminiscent of the real-life George Reddy) is a good creative choice, the unnecessary watering down of such elements – perhaps to lessen the number of controversies – has done more harm than good. Nonetheless, the movie is held together by the work of cinematographer Ravi K Chandran, production designer MR Karthik Rajkumar, and art director S Annadurai, who manage to evoke the era's ethos and the events with extraordinary power, giving the audience a sense of witnessing everything in real time. Although the colour-grading can be overbearing at times, the technicians' impressive work ensure that we don't focus on that shortcoming for too long. While GV Prakash's background score during the more mundane and romantic moments is below average, he shines in the adrenaline-fueled sequences, and his songs also deserve commendation.

Ravi Mohan steals the show as the draconian and ruthless Thiru, delivering his finest performance thus far. Although the character lacks layers and could have benefited from better development, Ravi astoundingly breathes a nefarious soul into Thiru, shining the most when he exudes and delivers a devilish aura in a calm manner, sending chills down the spines of both the characters opposite him and the audience. Although Sivakarthikeyan impresses as the revolutionary leader Che, his performance falters when he is just Chezhiyan – the sole earning member of his family, a caring brother, and a loving boyfriend. One of the most disappointing and costly mistakes Sudha has made in Parasakthi is perhaps casting Sreeleela as Ratnamala, a Telugu-born woman raised in Tamil Nadu who lands a job at the National Radio with her MP father's recommendation and is pro-anti-Hindi-imposition movement. There's no denying that the character had enough potential at its core, as Ratnamala isn't envisioned merely as the sole female presence in a young revolutionary man's life, as is often the custom, but is instead an active participant in the protests, and goes above and beyond for her comrades. However, beyond these few occasions, the character is weakly developed, at times bordering on traits associated with the manic pixie dream girl (MPDG) archetype. What's even worse is Sreeleela's extremely amateurish performance, which fails to appear authentic in Ratnamala's "cute" or intense moments. It is also disappointing on Sudha's part that she forced a 24-year-old Sreeleela

ing the reading of the show, was the first time I met Aryan. I was waiting to see what he does. We were 25 actors in a room, he came, started the reading and the clarity he had for each and every character, big small doesn't matter, the clarity he had was staggering. My mouth was open. I was like oh my god at 24-25, he has this kind of clarity and maturity about a project that he has written and is going to direct." Gautami admitted that many people found it difficult to believe that Aryan had directed the show himself. She addressed the speculation and praised his dedication, saying, "A lot of people asked 'has Aryan directed it himself or someone has ghost directed it?' We shot for 20 hours for that. The way he has directed it hats off to him. Let me be clear, each and everything done in the show is done by Aryan. So many of the stunts he used to do it and show actors." She further lauded Aryan's upbringing and warm nature, drawing parallels with his father Shah Rukh Khan. Gautami shared, "He is such a well brought up child. Every time I go to the Red Chillies office and if Aryan is there, he would hug me and drop me to the lift." Recalling an incident that highlighted Shah Rukh Khan's humility, she said, "When we went for the screening of first two episodes of the show, my daughter accompanied me. She had to leave in the middle of the screening, and Shah Rukh Khan got up and walked with her to the lift. He even had a conversation with her regarding her studies and other things. There is no need for him to do all this. He doesn't know my daughter, he doesn't know me, but he still got up from his chair and took my daughter all the way to the lift, escorted her down. My daughter was nervous, trembling. There is no need of that, he is Shah Rukh Khan, but amazing. So much to learn from these people." Gautami also spoke about her experience working with Bobby Deol and how the actor reacted to Aryan's perfectionist approach. She shared, "He is calm and reserved person. We had a lot of scenes together, but he never made me feel like 'I am the Lord Bobby Deol', nothing like that, he was very normal. He used to get as irritated... Aryan is a stickler for perfection, so it was never 1-2 takes, it was always 10-15 takes. We were all at it, whether it was Bobby Deol, Manoj Bawa, or anyone."

Ranbir Kapoor doesn't like to look like a 'beast', Aamir Khan would train at 3 am, says fitness trainer: 'Amitabh Bachchan is always on time'



Every time a film poster is released, the transformation an actor has undergone becomes a topic of discussion. For instance, when Ranbir Kapoor's Animal hit the screens, it became a blockbuster despite facing criticism. The character he portrayed motivated countless men to sculpt their bodies like his. However, according to his trainer, Shivohaam, there's much more to learn from the actor than simply obsessing over his physique.

Shivohaam shared, "Ranbir Kapoor doesn't like to look like that [Beast] all the time. He's very normal right now—he's a father, a husband, and a son. His transformations were done with a specific purpose for each film. Once the

role is over, he moves on, and people should do the same." He emphasised, "If you want to learn something from Ranbir, it's his discipline. The man is punctual to the T." He went on to share his experiences working with other stars, saying, "I have had amazing experiences with everyone I have worked with—Ram Charan, Amitabh Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez. Even at this age, Amitabh Bachchan is always on time, unless he has a meeting."

Turning back to Ranbir, the trainer continued, "I can count on my fingers the number of times Ranbir has been late. And even if he's five minutes behind, he always sends a message saying, 'Sorry, I'm running five minutes late.' That's something to learn from and aspire to. He's a beautiful human being—his body language, the way he speaks... You call him 'Khandaani' for a reason. He's genuine." In the same conversation, Shivohaam reflected on the dedication required in the acting profession, emphasising that success doesn't come easily. "I remember when I was working with Aamir Khan for Laal Singh Chaddha—it used to take him 2-3 hours to put on the beard and makeup. We trained at 3 AM because after that, he had to sit for makeup and do his shift." He added, "With Ranbir, if he has a 7 AM shift, he will still make time to train for at least half an hour. We set up a small gym on set so he could train during lunch." Shivohaam concluded, "They are not successful because of anything other than their passion and discipline. Luck may favour you for a brief period, but after that, it's all about what you make of it. People think shooting is glamorous, but it's not—it's a lot of hard work."

Vidyut Jammwal buries himself in snow, climbs trees in the wild; fans call him a 'legend'

Vidyut Jammwal is once again making headlines for a bold Instagram post in which he is seen climbing a tree bare-bodied. Sharing the video, the actor revealed that the act was part of his yogic practice of Sahaja. The post received mixed reactions online—while some hailed him as a legend, others questioned his action. However, Vidyut has been practising this ritual for over a decade and has always remained unapologetic about it. On Saturday, the actor shared a video showing him bare-bodied while climbing a tree and later burying himself in a snow-filled region—both part of his annual routine as a Kalaripayattu practitioner.

Explaining the practice, Vidyut wrote, "As a Kalaripayattu practitioner, I delve into the yogic practice of Sahaja once a year. Sahaja means returning to a state of natural ease and instinct, fostering a deeper connection to nature and inner awareness." He further added, "Scientifically, it activates numerous neuroreceptors and proprioceptors, enhancing sensory feedback and improving balance and coordination. This leads to greater body awareness, heightened mental focus, and a profound sense of grounding."

The post drew reactions from fans as well as industry friends, including Kubbra Sait. While Kubbra commented "Maad!" in awe, a fan wrote, "U r real life inspiring man such extraordinary man always proud as Indian and last not least such a great actor good luck." Another fan added, "Always in your own league, doing your own thing!"

Several fans also came out in Vidyut's defence, warning trolls against misinterpreting the post. One comment read: "For all the negative people: Before turning discipline into jokes or sexualising something you don't understand, pause and read the context. This is not about nudity or shock value—it's about training, awareness, and mastery over the body and mind. Mockery often comes from ignorance, and sexualisation comes from a lack of self-control—both reflect the commenter, not the practice."

When Vidyut Jammwal shared a similar post in 2023, this is not the first time Vidyut has gone viral for similar reasons. In 2023, he shared a series of pictures calling it his "retreat to the Himalayan ranges." The post showed him sitting bare-bodied, taking a dip in icy waters, and cooking his own meals. He claimed the retreat had been part of his routine for the past 14 years. "My retreat to the Himalayan



ranges—the abode of the divine—started 14 years ago. Before I realised, it became an integral part of my life to spend 7–10 days alone every year," he wrote.

That post, too, attracted severe backlash. However, Vidyut stood by it, and it still remains on his Instagram page. Speaking about the virality of such posts, Vidyut said in an interview with Faisu on his YouTube channel, "As humans, we often get used to luxury and comfort. Especially when you become an actor, you don't find time for yourself. So once a year, I take out a few days where I live in the woods. I pitch my own tent and live that life." Vidyut Jammwal has been trained in Kalaripayattu since the age of three at an ashram in Palakkad run by his mother. Before entering films, he travelled to several countries training with martial artists across disciplines, many rooted in Kalaripayattu. Kalaripayattu is one of the oldest Indian martial arts, originating on the southwestern coast of India around the third century.

Jana Nayagan vs CBFC: Kamal Haasan demands 'reasoned justification' for every suggested edit, says 'cinema lovers deserve openness'



As uncertainty continues to loom over the release of Jana Nayagan, the final film of actor Thalapaty Vijay, actor-politician Kamal Haasan has criticised the ongoing censor board controversy. Taking to X, Kamal shared a strong statement highlighting the urgent need to re-evaluate the film certification process and introduce clearly defined timelines. In his post, Kamal Haasan wrote, "India's Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, guided by reason and never diminished by opacity. This moment is larger than any one film; it reflects the space we accord art and artists in a constitutional democracy."

He further emphasised that cinema is a collective effort, stating, "Cinema is not the labour of an individual alone, but the collective work of an ecosystem of writers, technicians, performers, exhibitors, and small businesses whose livelihoods depend on a fair and timely process."

Highlighting the maturity of audiences, Kamal added that cinema lovers bring passion, discernment, and matura-

ty to the arts and deserve openness and respect from institutions. Underlining what he termed as the need of the hour, the veteran actor wrote, "What is required now is a principled relook at certification processes with defined timelines, transparent evaluation, and written, reasoned justification for every suggested cut or edit." He also urged the Indian film industry to unite and engage in meaningful, constructive dialogue with government institutions. According to him, "Such reform will safeguard creative freedom, uphold constitutional values, and strengthen India's democratic institutions by affirming trust in its artists and its people." Kamal Haasan's statement comes a day after the Jana Nayagan hearing was pushed to January 21 by Madras HC, effectively preventing the film from releasing in theatres on Pongal. The Jana Nayagan team is currently battling a case against CBFC for delaying the issuance of the certification, which led to the abrupt postponement of the film. Notably, Parasakthi was also left in limbo until the last minute, adversely affecting its advance bookings. Sivakarthikeyan's Parasakthi received its censor certificate just a day before its scheduled release, and that too after 25 cuts, earning a U/A rating. Speaking about the last-minute censor clearance, Sivakarthikeyan told India Today: "We received the changes at the last minute. After that, we had to make the suggested changes and upload them to QUBE. Our main focus was to release the film as we were chasing a release date. The Censor Board functions according to their own regulations, and we didn't have time to analyse whether it was an advantage or disadvantage." He added: "If we had more time, we might have explained to them the context of certain dialogues that they asked us to mute. We were running after a release date, so we ensured that the core of the story remained unaffected while implementing the cuts."