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ATMA Committee Chairman Patlolla Shankar Reddy Honored

Indian chronicle, Tandur (January 26) Patlolla Shankar Reddy was sworn in as the ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) Committee Chairman of Tandur constituency. To mark the occasion, the Swami Vivekananda Committee of his native village, Reddy Ghanpur, honored him with a bouquet and shawl. "Speaking on the occasion, various individuals praised Shankar Reddy's appointment, stating that it has brought prestige to his village and constituency. They expressed confidence that he will serve the farmers of Tandur constituency and aspire for higher positions in politics." The event was attended by Dandoti Srinivas Mudiraj, Mangali Govind, Myathari Balu Maharaj, E Reddypalli Ashok Mudiraj, Talari Basant, Chakali Ashok, and others.



SI Chiranjeevi Receives Award from Medchal District Collector and Uppal Zone DCP

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle): "On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day celebrations, Uppal Sub-Inspector Chiranjeevi received the State Government's Meritorious Award at a function held on Monday at the Medchal District Collectorate Complex. The award was presented by Medchal District Collector Manu Chaudhary and Uppal Zone DCP Suresh Kumar. "On receiving the award, senior officials, police station staff, close associates, and journalists congratulated SI Chiranjeevi. Expressing his happiness, SI Chiranjeevi said that with hard work and determination, anything can be achieved."



'Telangana Rising 2047' to radically transform state's image: Governor

Hyderabad, Jan 26

The "Telangana Rising 2047" vision aims to radically transform the image of Telangana and position the State as a key driver of India's progress by 2047, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma said on Monday.

Addressing the 77th Republic Day celebrations after hoisting the national flag at the Secunderabad Parade Grounds, the Governor said the Telangana Rising Vision 2047 document, launched on the completion of two years of the present government, lays out a comprehensive roadmap for inclusive and sustainable development.

Under the Vision 2047 framework, Telangana has set an ambitious target of becoming a 3 trillion dollar economy, he said.

The Governor explained that the vision document structures the State into three distinct economic zones. The Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), with Hyderabad as the growth engine; the Peri-Urban Region Economy (PURE), located between the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the Regional Ring Road (RRR) with a focus on manufacturing; and the Rural Agriculture Regional Economy (RARE), beyond the RRR, centred on agriculture, the green economy and agri-based enterprises.

Key components of Vision 2047 include the Gandhi Sarovar project at Babu Ghat, greenfield highways, dry ports, the second phase of the Metro Rail, radial roads between the ORR and RRR, proposed airports at Warangal and Adilabad, and industrial corridors linking Hyderabad with Nagpur, Bengaluru and Vijayawada.

Highlighting urban governance reforms, the Governor said the government expanded the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) by merging 27 municipalities within the CURE area, increasing its jurisdiction from 650 sq km to 2,053 sq km. The GHMC has also been reorganised into 300 wards, 60 circles and 12 zones to ensure efficient civic administration.

To strengthen law and order and enhance public safety, three new police commissionerates have



been established in the CURE area and one in the proposed Future City region, he said.

The Governor noted that several initiatives have been taken to reduce pollution in the core urban area. These include 100 per cent exemption on road tax and registration fees for electric vehicles, and the introduction of the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation (HILT) policy to relocate polluting industries outside the ORR while allowing unit owners to convert their land for multi-use purposes.

He also spoke about Bharat Future City, a 30,000-acre greenfield urban development envisioned as India's first Net Zero Smart City. Strategically located at Mucherla and Kandukur, south of Hyderabad between the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar highways, the city's master plan includes an AI City, the Young India Skills University, a Health City focused on medical tourism, and a comprehensive sports hub. The project emphasises sustainability, forest cover and "walk-to-work" townships, supported by advanced connectivity infrastructure.

The Governor further said that the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited has prepared a master plan to develop a 55-km stretch of the Musi River from Osman Sagar to Gowrelli (ORR East) and from Himayath Sagar to Gandhi Sarovar at Babu Ghat.

To make Hyderabad a safer city, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAPAA) has been brought into force to curb encroachments on tanks and water bodies, he added.

The government also plans to upgrade 12,000 km of Roads and Buildings (R&B) roads under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), with Rs 11,399 crore sanctioned under Phase I, to be completed within 30 months. In addition, 7,450 km of Panchayat Raj roads will be upgraded under HAM at an estimated cost of Rs 16,007 crore.

Revanth Reddy's Government Empowering Women, Says MLA Manohar Reddy



"Indian Chronicle, Tandur (January 26) Tandur MLA Manohar Reddy stated that the Revanth Reddy government in Telangana is providing immense support to women. On the occasion of Republic Day, he inaugurated the distribution of Indira Mahila Shakti sarees to women in the municipal area. "Speaking at the event, MLA Manohar Reddy said the government is prioritizing women's welfare and has provided interest-free loans of approximately Rs 25 crores to



women's groups through bank linkages. He emphasized the Congress party's goal is to empower women and make them entrepreneurs. "The MLA highlighted that high-quality sarees are being distributed, and the process will continue until Ugadi festival. He reiterated the government's aim is to make women 'Mahaaranis' (queens). "The event was attended by public representatives, municipal officials, leaders, and women from Dwakra groups.

Amendment to the Accreditation GO is commendable

-The amendment was not comprehensive
-Constituency-level and cable channel reporters left disappointed
-TWJF leader Mamidi Somaiah

"(Mandava Srisailem... Hyderabad... Indian Chronicle... January 26): Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) founder president and state convener Mamidi Somaiah stated that the state government's amendment of GO 252 regarding media accreditations, which was issued last month with numerous errors, is commendable. However, he said that this amendment was not comprehensive and was like digging a mountain to catch a mouse. He stated that immediately after the issuance of GO 252, they responded on the very same day, opposing it as it was full of errors and detrimental to journalists, and demanded its immediate amendment. He further added that later, a round table meeting was held with the JAC of journalists' associations, and a representation was submitted to the State Information Minister and Commissioner. They also warned the government that they would launch a statewide agitation if GO 252 was not amended. He said that finally, Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy organized a meeting with journalists' associations at the Secretariat on the 10th of this month, and he attended the meeting on behalf of the TWJF. He added that the government considered only two or three of the demands they put forth in that meeting and amended GO 252 accordingly. Mamidi Somayya stated that it is commendable that the government has accepted the demand to issue accreditation cards even to desk journalists and has issued an amended GO (Government Order). He added that the amended GO also states that additional accreditation cards will be issued in mandals with a population of over 1.5 lakh, and that separate cards will be issued for cultural, sports, and film journalists. He said that their association expresses its gratitude to the government for this amendment. However, he also expressed concern that there is no guar-

antee that the number of accreditation cards issued under the revised GO will be the same as before, and that the number of cards is likely to decrease significantly. Therefore, the TWJF (Telangana Working Journalists Federation) urges the government to reconsider and ensure that the number of cards issued is not reduced compared to the previous GO 239. "Cable Channels and Constituency-Level Journalists Left Out" Mamidi Somayya expressed concern that the amended GO 252 on accreditations does not provide complete justice to journalists, and that cable channels and constituency-level reporters have once again been neglected. He said that previously, cable channels were given 12 state-level accreditation cards and four district-level cards through the I&PR (Information and Public Relations) department. He added that although he brought this matter to the attention of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas, the amended GO does not even mention cable channels, which is worrying. He also said that there seems to be no provision for issuing constituency-level accreditations. Mamidi Somayya stated that even though he had strongly expressed their opinion on behalf of their union, it was unfair that the government had not responded regarding the accreditation cards for cable channel reporters and constituency-level reporters. He added that they would immediately meet with the Special Commissioner of the Information Department to discuss the matter again, and if there is still no response, they would announce their future course of action.



77th Republic Day Celebrated at SCRMU Office in Secunderabad



Indian Chronicle, "Secunderabad, January 26: "The South Central Railway Mazdoor Union (SCRMU), affiliated to the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) and Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), celebrated the 77th Republic Day on Monday at its Central Office in Secunderabad. "A large number of railway employees attended the programme. SCRMU General Secretary and AIRF Treasurer, Shri C.H. Shankara Rao, hoisted the National Flag and extended Republic Day greetings to railway employees and their families. "He recalled the sacrifices of freedom fighters and highlighted the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in framing the Indian Constitution, which laid the foundation for India's democratic and secular character. "Shri Shankara Rao expressed concern over privatization and outsourcing in Railways and stressed the need for unity among railway employees to protect Indian Railways. He also stated that SCRMU and AIRF would strongly oppose any injustice to railway employees in the implementation of the 8th Central Pay Commission recommendations. "Floral tributes were paid to Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan, former SCRMU President late V.P.R. Pillai, and the martyrs of the railway workers' movement.

Grand Celebration of 77th Republic Day by South Central Railway Women's welfare organisation

Indian Chronicle, "Secunderabad, January 26: "The South Central Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (SCRWWO) celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great enthusiasm on Monday at Vidya Vihar High School, Chilakalaguda, Secunderabad. "SCRWWO President Vandana Srivastava hoisted the National Flag in the presence of Vice President Amita Prakash, Secretary Aparna Murali, and other executive committee members. On the occasion, snacks and pencil kits were distributed to the students. "Addressing the gathering, Vandana Srivastava said that Republic Day is not merely a celebration but a reminder of the duties and responsibilities of every Indian citizen. She highlighted that the unfurling of the National Flag symbolizes the strength of the Indian Republic and the spirit of the Constitution. She urged students to focus on academics while maintaining a balance between education and sports, and to work towards personal growth and national progress. "Later, the SCRWWO President visited the Central Hospital, Lallaguda, where, in the presence of Principal Chief Medical Director Dr. Nirmala



Rajaram, Medical Director Dr. I. Shiva Naga Prasad, and SCRWWO committee members, she inaugurated newly constructed rest rooms separately for contract house-keeping women and men staff. "On the occasion, SCRWWO donated two RO plants, four wall fans, three staff storage locker sets (20-capacity each), one almirah, and 20 chairs for the use of contract staff.

Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy Participates in the Rathotsavam of Sri Sri Sri Kanigiri Venkateswara Swamy

"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle): "As part of the Brahmotsavam celebrations of Sri Sri Sri Kanigiri Venkateswara Swamy at Swaroop Nagar, Uppal, the Rathotsavam (chariot festival) was held on Monday evening in a grand and colourful manner, turning into a visual feast for devotees. "Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge, Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, attended the Rathotsavam, offered special prayers after having darshan of Sri Sri Sri Venkateswara Swamy, and sought the blessings of the Lord. Later, he greeted the devotees and participated in the Rathotsavam by walking along with them, sharing the spiritual joy of the occasion. "Temple trustee Srinivas Sharma, chief priests Venkata Chari and Srinivas Chari, along with Modugu Shekhar Reddy, Modugu Mohan Reddy, Chari, Madhukar Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Srinivas Goud, Anand Prabhu, Bhaskar Reddy, Pujari Hanumanth, Pisati Anji Reddy, Amar, Gnaneshwar, Salla Prabhakar Goud, K. Venkatesh, Rakesh, Viplav Reddy, Yadi Reddy, Anjiah Goud, Santosh, Satyanarayana, Suresh, Tumala



Devender Reddy, Prabhakar, Mallesh, Ramesh, Ashok Reddy, and several others participated in the programme.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Women in STEM — long way to go

While the rise in female enrolment in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) courses in India is a welcome development, what needs to be pondered over is why there is no corresponding growth in their participation in technology sector jobs. This paradoxical situation reflects a broader trend where women face cultural and systemic obstacles in converting education into long-term careers. Workplace cultures that do not promote flexible schedules, maternity, and childcare support play a spoilsport. The unspoken biases in promotion also lead to more and more women exiting the STEM professions. Regional disparities, caste dynamics, and socio-economic factors further complicate the challenges they face. Women account for about 43% of the STEM enrolments, well above the global average. This is largely due to policy interventions, awareness programmes, and educational reforms. STEM degrees are increasingly seen by families as pathways to economic security and social mobility for daughters. The growing presence of women at the postgraduate and doctoral levels further signals that academic barriers are slowly eroding. However, a study has found that only 27% of these women enter STEM careers. The transition from education to employment remains a leaky pipeline. Women are still underrepresented in core engineering roles, research leadership, and technology decision-making. Career interruptions due to caregiving responsibilities, unsafe or inflexible workplaces, and persistent gender bias push many qualified women out of the STEM workforce. The result is a mismatch between educational success and economic participation. The underrepresentation of women is even more pronounced in cutting-edge disciplines such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and engineering, where female participation drops in the range of 12% to 26%. These disparities raise critical questions about the structural and cultural barriers that exclude women from the fields that shape our future.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Presents Prizes to BLR Cricket Tournament Winners



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle):“The BLR Cricket Tournament, organized over four days under the leadership of former Corporator Gandham Jyotsna Nageswara Rao at the Indranagar Chinna Cheruvu in Ramanthapur Division, concluded grandly on January 26. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the closing ceremony as the chief guest and presented prizes to the winners. The “Never Give Up” team secured first place and received a cash prize of ₹30,000, while the RN Team won second place and was awarded ₹15,000, along with trophies. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that such sports tournaments help bring out the hidden talent and creativity among youth. He emphasized that victo-

ries and defeats are part of sports and advised young players to participate with enthusiasm without being discouraged by results. He congratulated Gandham Jyotsna Nageswara Rao for successfully organizing the BLR Cricket Tournament and assured his full support for organizing similar sports events in the future. The event was attended by BRS Corporator Mallapur Pannala Devender Reddy, BRS leaders Madhusudhan Reddy, Sandhya, Dayakar Reddy, Koppu Narsing Rao, Sooram Shankar, Chand Pasha, Shankaranna, Sai, Sameer, JCB Raju, Srikanth Goud, Manish, Salar, Mahender, Sagar, Apple Sheenu, Maruthi, Srinivas, Ravi Kiran, Munna, Laddu, Ramakrishna, Raju, Prem, Srinivas Reddy, Nandu, Bhagya, and a large number of players and sports enthusiasts.

Grand Republic Day Celebrations Held Under Uppal Congress Party Leadership



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle):“The Uppal Congress Party organized Republic Day celebrations in a grand manner. The national flag was unfurled at the Indira Gandhi statue near the Survey of India office in Uppal. Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy and Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge Parameshwar Reddy

Here is a clean, professional English news version, suitable for publication

Chilkanagar Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Hoists National Flag on the Occasion of 77th Republic Day



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle):“On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, Chilkanagar Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudhiraj ceremonially hoisted the National Flag at the Corporator's office, marking the celebrations with patriotic fervor. As part of the Republic Day celebrations, the Corporator participated in the flag hoisting program at the Uppal Circle Municipal Office, along with Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy. Later, she hoisted the National Flag at Chilkanagar Crossroads along with members of the BRS Party family. The Corporator also hoisted the National Flag at several locations across

the division, including Beerappa Gadda Library, behind Ramalayam, South Prashanth Nagar, Indiranagar Colony, Ambedkar Nagar Government School, Sairam Nagar Colony, Chilkanagar Hilltop, Zahid Nagar Welfare Association, and Street Vendors Welfare Association near MGRI. A large number of participants, including BRS Party members, women's welfare association office bearers, committee members, senior citizens association members, and colony residents, took part in the celebrations, making the event grand and memorable.

Mary Mediatrix School Commemorates the 77th Republic Day and Investiture Ceremony with Solemn Grandeur and Patriotic Splendor

“P. S. ASHOKAN“KARIMNAGAR BUREAU. Mary Mediatrix School solemnly commemorated the 77th Republic Day in conjunction with its Investiture Ceremony, celebrating the occasion with remarkable grandeur, dignity, and patriotic fervour. The event stood as a befitting tribute to the spirit of the Constitution of India and the lofty ideals upon which the Republic is founded. The programme was held in the august presence of the Chief Guest, Sri Raghothom Reddy Garu, Senior Advocate and Government Teacher. The occasion was further dignified by the presence of Guest of Honour Rev. Fr. Thomas, Special Guest and Sarpanch Advocate Sri A. Naga Raju Garu, Uppa Sarpanch Smt. K. Sujitha Goud, Ward Member Sri Amarendra, PTA President Sri Sadhashiv Garu, and the Correspondent, Rev. Sr. Mary Joseph, all of whom graciously lent eminence to the celebrations. The ceremony commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag amid reverence and patriotic pride, followed by patriotic observances. Eminent speakers highlighted the significance of the Constitution and emphasized the core val-



ues of justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, unity, leadership, discipline, and selfless service to the nation. A major highlight of the programme was the Investiture Ceremony, during which the newly elected student cabinet members were formally entrusted with their responsibilities. The ceremonial conferring of badges and sashes symbolised trust, accountability, and leadership, inspiring students to uphold discipline, integrity, and commitment in their academic and social responsibilities. Addressing the gathering, the Principal, Ms. Sunil Sebastian, delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking speech. She eloquently reminded the students that Republic Day is not merely a celebration but a reaffirmation of constitutional values and democratic ideals. Emphasising the importance of leadership, she described the Investiture Ceremony as a vital milestone that nurtures responsibility, service, and character among students, preparing them to become enlightened and responsible citizens of the future. She also expressed gratitude to the outgoing student leaders for their dedicated service and encouraged the newly appointed leaders to lead by example. Theme of the Address: Upholding Constitutional Values through Responsible Leadership and Service. The programme concluded on a deeply patriotic note, reinforcing the ideals of unity, national pride, responsibility, and civic duty. The celebration left a lasting impression on all present and reaffirmed Mary Mediatrix School's unwavering commitment to nurturing principled, disciplined, and socially responsible citizens of the nation.

Former Youth Congress President Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy Hoists National Flag and Distributes Educational Materials

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle):“On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, the former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President, Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy, participated in the Republic Day celebrations held at various locations in the Habsiguda Division. As part of the celebrations, he hoisted the National Flag at the Habsiguda Government School



and at the Anganwadi Centre in Gandhi Girijan Basti, Habsiguda. On this occasion, slates, books, and biscuits were distributed to Anganwadi children, encouraging education and child welfare. Several senior Congress leaders and party representatives attended the programme, including Congress senior leader Sudhakar Reddy, Habsiguda Division Congress President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, Division Congress General Secretary and Director of the Endowments Department Dharmendra Naik (Dharma), A-Block Secretary Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Raju Naik, Habsiguda Youth Congress President Vasu Naik, Division Indiramma Committee member Gundurajanna, SC Cell leader Solomon Babu, Habsiguda Ramalayam Chairman Chinthala Babu Rao, Shiva, tribal elders of Girijan Basti, Anganwadi teacher Swathi, and other party workers and local residents.

Indians Must Cultivate a Spirit of Patriotism: Indian Constitution Stands Supreme Among World Constitution.

“P. S. ASHOKAN. KARIMNAGAR BUREAU. Emphasising the need to nurture patriotism among citizens, Mr. Pradeep Reddy, Principal of Kakatiya School, stated that the Constitution of India is one of the finest and most comprehensive constitutions in the world. He was addressing the gathering during the 77th Republic Day celebrations, which were conducted with great pomp and patriotic fervour on Monday at Kakatiya School, Manthani, under his leadership. The celebrations were marked by vibrant and colourful performances by students. Tiny tots captivated the audience by adorning the attire of freedom fighters and raising patriotic slogans with enthusiasm. The young students, dressed as national heroes, added charm and emotional depth to the occasion, leaving a lasting



impression on all present. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Pradeep Reddy recalled that India attained independence after numerous sacrifices and prolonged struggles. He said that following independence, the nation required a well-structured and visionary Constitution, which was meticulously drafted by eminent leaders. He lauded the pivotal role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, under whose guidance the Indian Constitution earned global recognition for its depth, inclusiveness, and democratic values. He stressed that every student must understand the significance and uniqueness of the Constitution and gain awareness of its principles. He urged students to familiarize themselves with every aspect of the Constitution and to strictly adhere to the laws and responsibilities it enshrines, thereby becoming disciplined and responsible citizens of the nation. The programme witnessed the participation of School Directors Ravi Kiran Reddy and Shraavan Reddy, along with Sravanti, Pavani, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, and parents, who attended the event in large numbers, making it a memorable and meaningful celebration of national pride.

Chetana MeeSeva Ranjith Naik Honoured with Best Service Appreciation Award

“Bhadradi kothagudem January 26, Indian Chronicle: “Bhukya Ranjith Naik, operator of the Chetana MeeSeva Centre in Bhadrachalam town, was honoured with the Best Service Appreciation Certificate for his continuous and dedicated services to the people of the Bhadrachalam Agency area, especially the poor and senior citizens. “Recognising his patient, responsible, and people-oriented approach in understanding and addressing public needs, the authorities presented the appreciation certificate in honour of his commendable service. “The award was formally presented by Sri T. Ravikiran, Commissioner of the e-Services Development Corporation, during the 77th Republic Day celebrations held in Hyderabad. “Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner expressed his hope that MeeSeva operators would continue to serve the public with the same spirit of dedi-



cation, commitment, and quality service in the future. “Residents of the Bhadrachalam Agency area and several prominent personalities extended their heartfelt congratulations to Bhukya Ranjith Naik for achieving this honour

Keshav Nagar Colony President Nagesh Hoists the Tricolor Flag



“Indian Chronicle: Keshav Nagar Colony President Nagesh hoisted the tricolor flag and sang the national anthem at various schools in Gachibowli's Keshav Nagar, Basavataraka Nagar, and Gowli Doddi on the occasion of Republic Day. MBC Chairman Jerpiti Jaipal attended the event as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he said that India gained independence due to the sacrifices of many great personalities, and that the Constitution is a boon for the people to live freely. He stated that



India, having emerged as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic, has completed 76 years and is entering its 77th year, and extended Republic Day greetings to the people of the Serilingampally constituency. Eshwar, Balu, activists, women, and other colony residents participated in the program.

Grand Celebration of 77th Republic Day under Uppal Bharatha Yuvajana Sangham Free Medical Camp Organised Jointly with KK Swara Super Speciality Hospital



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle): “The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm under the aegis of the Uppal Bharatha Yuvajana Sangham on Monday. As part of the celebrations, the national flag was hoisted at the Gandhi statue by the Sangham Convener Dubba Narsimha Reddy. The programme was organised under the supervision of



Programme In-charge and President Bazaar Arjun Goud, along with Conveners Mekala Shiva Reddy and executive committee members. “On the occasion of Republic Day, a free medical camp was organised jointly by the Sangham and KK Swara Super Speciality Hospital, providing medical services to local residents. Several village elders, prominent citizens, political leaders from various parties, and youth members of the Sangham participated in the programme. “Those present included Salla Raji Reddy, Gummadilli Narayana, Kandikanti Ashok Kumar, Bommagoni Das Goud, Bazaar Jagannath Goud, Salla Veera Reddy, Bazaar Murali Krishna, Bikku Malla Anjaiah, Esuri Yadagiri, Ravula Srinivas, Bikku Malla Ramesh, Pilli Nagaraj, Akula Mahender, Chintala Narsimha Reddy, Bazaar Harikrishna, Lingala Yalesh, Somasani Chandu, Pochi, Kuruma Ailesh, among others. The event witnessed large participation from village elders, dignitaries, youth and members of various political parties, marking the Republic Day celebrations as a grand success.

77th Republic Day Celebrations Held with Grandeur under Chilukanagar Sri Bhakta Markandeya Padmashali Welfare Association



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle): “The 77th Republic Day celebrations were held in a grand manner under the aegis of the Chilukanagar Sri Bhakta Markandeya Padmashali Welfare Association. The event took place at the Bodrai area in Chilukanagar, where the Association President, Sakinala Prasad, unfurled the National Flag. Addressing the gathering, the speakers stated that it is a matter of pride to celebrate Republic Day — a national festival that unites all citizens of India beyond caste and religion. They emphasized that every citizen must uphold the values of secularism, democracy, and socialism as enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. They further noted that people from various parts of the country have settled in the Chilukanagar area in pursuit of livelihood and are living harmoniously with mutual cooperation and unity, thereby strengthening national integration and patriotic spirit. The program witnessed the participation of Association General Secretary Bezagham Srinivas, Treasurer Pendem Nagarjuna, Chief Advisors Devasani Balachander, Vaddepalli Kishore, Boda Vidyasagar, Dasari Srinivas, Badugu Ramulu, Addagatla Bavanandam, Pedda Bomma Ramesh, Chindam Naveen, Boda Ashok Kumar, Vallala Krishna, Gunjari Kumar, Chintu, Kanakadurga, Pamu Anjaneyulu, and several other members.

Akshara English Medium High School Celebrates 77th Republic Day with Patriotic Fervour.



“P. S. ASHOKAN “KARIMNAGAR BUREAU. “Akshara English Medium High School celebrated the 77th Republic Day of India with great dignity, enthusiasm, and patriotic spirit on the school campus. The national tricolor was ceremoniously hoisted by Principal Ms. Bindu Ashokan, who later delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking address highlighting the significance of the occasion. “In her speech, Ms. Bindu Ashokan emphasized that Republic Day marks the historic adoption of the Indian Constitution on January 26, 1950, symbolising India's transition into a sovereign, democratic republic. She underlined that the Constitution guarantees justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, which form the moral and legal foundation of the nation. “She paid rich tributes to the architects of the Indian Constitution, especially Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, whose visionary leadership ensured a framework that upholds democratic values, fundamental rights, and social justice. The Principal stressed that the Indian

Constitution stands as one of the most comprehensive and progressive constitutions in the world, reflecting the aspirations of a diverse nation. “Addressing the students, she urged them to respect the Constitution, uphold national values, and discharge their duties responsibly. She highlighted the role of education in shaping disciplined, ethical, and patriotic citizens and called upon students to contribute positively to nation-building through integrity, unity, and service. “The celebration was further enriched by patriotic songs, speeches, and cultural presentations by students, which instilled a deep sense of national pride and unity. Teachers, students, and staff members participated enthusiastically, making the event a memorable tribute to India's constitutional heritage. “The programme concluded with a renewed pledge by all present to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work collectively for the progress and prosperity of the nation.

Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkatarao Participates in Flag Hoisting Programs on the Occasion of India's 77th Republic Day



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle): “On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day of India, flag hoisting programs were held grandly in several colonies under the Ramanthapur Division. Ramanthapur Division Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkatarao participated in these events as the chief guest and ceremoniously hoisted the National Flag. “Speaking on the occasion, the Corporator stated that January 26 holds great significance for India, as it marks the day when the Indian Constitution came into force, transforming the nation into a sovereign, democratic republic. She emphasized that while Independence Day reminds citizens of freedom from British rule, Republic Day symbolizes constitutional governance and democratic values. She further stressed that protecting India's sover-

eignty, unity, and democratic principles is the responsibility of every citizen. The program witnessed the presence of BJP senior leaders including Muttineni Jagadeesh, Repu Narasimha, Kumaraswamy, Balakrishna, Uppalaiah, Narayana Dasu, Suresh, Padigam Nagesh, Kalmakala Lingam, Masireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Ambati Bhagyalakshmi, Ramu, Veena, Boddupalli Anand, Dayakar Reddy, Parvathalu, Murali, along with a large number of local residents. “Participants celebrated the Republic Day with patriotic spirit and enthusiasm, making the event a grand success.

SSD Grammar High School Marks 77th Republic Day with Dignity and Patriotic Zeal.



“P. S. ASHOKAN. “KARIMNAGAR BUREAU. “SSD Grammar High School, located at Sai Nagar, Allwyn Colony, observed the 77th Republic Day of India with solemnity, grandeur, and deep patriotic spirit, reaffirming its commitment to national values and holistic education. “The programme commenced with the ceremonial hoisting of the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem, which resonated across the campus, instilling a profound sense of pride and reverence among students and staff. The occasion served as a tribute to the visionaries who framed the Indian Constitution and to the countless freedom fighters whose sacrifices laid the foundation of the Republic. “Addressing the gathering, Principal Ms. Surabhi Tejaswini delivered a powerful, articulate, and inspiring address, highlighting the historical importance of Republic Day and the enduring relevance of the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. She emphasized that education is the cornerstone of democracy and urged students to grow into disciplined, ethical, and socially responsible citizens. Her speech underscored the role of youth in safeguarding democratic institutions and contributing to national progress. “The celebrations were further enriched by a series of well-choreographed patriotic songs, eloquent student speeches, and cultural presentations, vividly portraying India's unity in diversity and its rich cultural heritage. The performances reflected meticulous preparation and were warmly appreciated by the audience. “The event concluded with a collective pledge by the students and staff to uphold constitutional values, promote harmony, and work selflessly for the nation's development. The Republic Day celebrations at SSD Grammar High School stood as a meaningful reminder of India's democratic ethos and inspired students to carry forward the legacy of responsible citizenship.

Gunja Nagesh is ready to contest for the Corporator position in the Nallagandla division



Nallagandla division, aiming for a resounding victory. As a member of the Backward Classes (BC) community, he has rendered immense service to the Vaddera commu-



nity, and even now, he respects caste associations and stands as a reliable friend, always ready to help. During the difficult times of the Corona pandemic... During the challenging times of the Corona pandemic, he provided food and essential supplies to many, standing by the people during those tough circumstances. He firmly believes that he has and will always have a respectful attitude towards every individual. He expressed confidence that if the party leaders and high command bless him and field him from the Nallagandla division, he will win with a huge majority. He will move forward by including all caste associations. Many BC, SC, ST, and OBC associations have been formed recently, and he maintains cordial relations with them as well. They too are blessing him. Nagesh said that many hardworking people live in the Nallagandla division. He assured them that he will be their support system, ensuring their well-being and remaining constantly among them. In the Nallagandla division, Nagesh is already visiting colonies, slums, public organizations, associations, employees, and public representatives every day to seek their blessings. Nagesh, a capable leader with an understanding of public issues, is assuring the people that he will focus on providing basic amenities such as drinking water, drainage, roads, community health centers, and transportation systems, thereby instilling complete confidence in them. He believes he will receive the party ticket for the Nallagandla division, Nagesh stated, "I have been working diligently for the party for the past few years. If the party gives me the ticket, victory in the Nallagandla division with a huge majority is certain. Already, youth organizations, women's groups, association leaders, old friends, and caste associations in various colonies and slums are blessing me with complete confidence. I hope the people will continue to support me as I am on the verge of victory."

Indian Chronicle: In the context of the newly formed divisions within the Serilingampally constituency, and given that the Nallagandla division is located in the IT corridor, Gunja Nagesh is a well-known figure who has been settled in Keshav Nagar for the past 45 years and has earned the respect of the people. Nagesh stated that he maintains close relations with the party high command, local MLA and PAC Chairman Arikepudi Gandhi, and MBC Chairman Jerpet Jaipal, and diligently carries out the tasks assigned by them. While maintaining these relationships with the party cadre, workers, and leaders, he is also working closely with the people and colony residents to provide basic amenities, often at his own expense, with the blessings of MLA Arikepudi Gandhi. Coming from a humble family, He was unanimously elected as the president of the Keshav Nagar colony. Similarly, he has made his mark in other slums such as Gowlidoddi, NTR Nagar, Nallagandla, Gopanapally, Muppa Thanda, etc. Nagesh said that he will remain in the locality, maintain friendly relations with everyone in the colonies and slums, and will definitely contest the upcoming corporator elections from the Nallagandla division, moving forward with the aim of achieving a resounding victory. Coming from a simple family, he was unanimously elected as the President of Keshav Nagar Colony. Similarly, he has made his mark in other areas such as Gowlidoddi, NTR Nagar, Nallagandla, Gopanapally, and Muppa Thanda. Nagesh stated that he lives locally, maintains friendly relations with everyone in the colonies and slums, and will definitely contest the upcoming corporator elections from the

44 Police Personnel Receive Appreciation Certificates on Republic Day



headquarters. Among the recipients were constables Raju, Satyanarayana, Naveen, Swapna, Purushottam, Komurayya, Lakshmi, Maheshwari, Sampath, and Jyotsna, who are presently serving at the Kagaznagar Town Police Station. The awardees were congratulated by Waheeduddin, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kagaznagar, who appreciated their dedication, discipline, and commitment to public service.

Taj Khan, Kaghaznagar, January 26 (Indian Chronicle) Police Personnel Honoured for Exemplary Service on 77th Republic Day On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, Nitika Pant, Superintendent of Police, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, presented Certificates of Appreciation to 44 police officers and personnel who demonstrated outstanding performance in police duties. The commendations were awarded at the district

77th Republic Day Celebrations Held Grandly in A.S. Rao Nagar Division



values of democracy, unity, and constitutional responsibility among citizens. The Republic Day events were conducted at multiple locations, including the GHMC Office, Press Club, Sharada Bus Stop, Radhika Cross-roads (as part of a Congress Party programme), and Sri Viratnagar Colony. Local residents, party workers, and members of the public participated in the celebrations and expressed their commitment to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work towards the nation's progress.

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal-Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, January 26, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 77th Republic Day celebrations were held in a grand manner across the A.S. Rao Nagar Division. Former Corporator Pajjuri Pavani Manipal Reddy hoisted the National Flag at various colonies and localities and received the ceremonial salute. As part of the celebrations, floral tributes were offered to the portraits of national leaders, recalling their sacrifices and contributions to the nation. The programme highlighted the

Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir Celebrates 77th Republic Day with Patriotic Splendor.



P. S. ASHOKAN. KARIMNAGAR BUREAU. The 77th Republic Day of India was celebrated with great solemnity, enthusiasm, and patriotic fervour on Monday at Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir English Medium School, Vagugadda, Manthani mandal. The celebrations commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by the school Headmistress, Ms. Nampally Sandhya, marking the formal

beginning of the programme. The campus reverberated with national pride as students and staff stood in respectful attention. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Mr. Kanukuntla Swamy emphasized the significance of the Indian Constitution and urged citizens to faithfully uphold the rights, duties, and respon...

Grand 77th Republic Day Celebrations Held in Chilkanagar



GMR Trust Chairman Gudi Madhusudan Reddy Attends as Chief Guest KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, January 26 (Indian Chronicle): The 77th Republic Day celebrations were held in a grand manner under the auspices of the Auto Union at Chilkanagar Chowrasta in the Chilkanagar Division. GMR Trust Chairman and senior BRS leader Gudi Madhusudan Reddy attended the event as the chief guest. He hoisted the national flag and extended warm Republic Day greetings to the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the significance of the Constitution and

urged citizens to uphold democratic values and work collectively for the progress of the nation. Auto Union President Anjaneyulu, General Secretary Dasarath, along with Tirupati, Srinivas, Shankar Reddy, Anjaneyulu S, K. Nursing Rao, Mahesh, Mallikarjun, Ramachander, Sajath, Rajesh, Rakesh, Vinay, Khalil, Mastan, Venkat Reddy, Raju, and several others actively participated in the celebrations.

77th Republic Day Celebrations Held with Grandeur at Charlapalli Government Primary School



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal-Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, January 26, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 77th Republic Day celebrations were held in a grand manner on Monday at the Government Primary School, Charlapalli, in Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The event was organised with patriotic fervour and enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and guests. Bodig Ravinder, Chairman of the Bodig Balaiah Trust, attended the programme as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Bodig Ravinder said that Republic Day is not merely a festival but a historic occasion marking the implementation of the Constitution of India. He stated that the Constitution guarantees rights to every citizen while also reminding them of their responsibilities, thereby providing freedom with accountability. He explained to the students that the Constitution grants the right to education, teaches equality, and promotes unity beyond religion, caste, and language. Government schools, he said, function as institutions that uphold the true spirit of the Constitution. He recalled that many leaders, scientists, doctors, and soldiers who served the nation with distinction had emerged from government schools. The chief guest added that the prizes distributed on the occasion were only a small encouragement, and that true rewards come through education, discipline, and patriotism. He assured that the Bodig Balaiah Trust would continue its support towards the development of government school students, particularly in the areas of education, health, and value-based learning. He emphasized that becoming a responsible and well-educated student is not only a service to parents but also a significant contribution to the nation. He also expressed gratitude to the teachers and organisers

for making the event a success. Speaking on the occasion, Headmaster G. Rangareddy said that the school is progressing in all aspects by providing quality education,



moral values, and opportunities to develop sports skills on par with private schools. He informed that a pre-primary section had been introduced in the school from the current academic year. On behalf of the school, he thanked the Bodig Balaiah Trust and Lions Club for their continuous support in school activities. Later, in the presence of guests, the pre-primary classroom was formally inaugurated. Guests were felicitated with shawls. Students presented cultural programmes and patriotic performances that highlighted national pride and attracted the audience. Teachers Mamatha K., Srinivas K., Vanitha M., Swaroopa Rani V., and Swarna V., along with guests Chandramouli J., Bodig Rajinikanth, Parvatham Babu, and others, were present at the programme.

'Most witnesses hearsay, failed to name accused for 3 decades': Delhi court acquits former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in 1984 Janakpuri-Vikaspuri anti-Sikh riot case



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

A Delhi court Thursday acquitted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a case related to inciting violence in Janakpuri and Vikaspuri in Delhi during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, saying there is "no evidence of instigating any such mob", and "of conspiracy". "Unfortunately, most of the witnesses examined by the prosecution in this case are hearsay, and/or those witnesses who failed to name the accused for 3 long decades. Relying on the identification of the accused by such persons would be risky and may lead to a travesty," said Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of Rouse Avenue Court in his judgment. "... there is no reliable evidence in the present matter that the accused was present at the crime scene for which he has been charged on 01.11.1984, or that he was seen there by anyone. There is no evidence of instigating any such mob. There is no evidence of conspiracy so far as the incident in question is concerned, and this Court has no hesitation in holding that the prosecution has not met the standard of proof required in a criminal trial to prove the guilt beyond a reasonable doubt," he added.

The prosecution examined 18 witnesses, including nine alleged eyewitnesses, in the case. The judge chose to focus on the reliability of these witnesses' testimonies while passing judgment. "A man may be convicted of 100 crimes,

but to be held guilty of the 101st crime, proof beyond a reasonable doubt in that crime is required. One cannot be found guilty merely because in the past he was involved in similar offences. Past criminal background or the commission of other offences are separate and can have some value in sentencing a person, but they cannot be considered by a Court of law in holding a person guilty of another crime," the court said. Manish Rawat, the Special Public Prosecutor of the State, told The Indian Express that the judgment is likely to be challenged before a higher court. While Senior Advocate HS Phoolka appeared for the complainant in the case, Advocate Anil K Sharma appeared for the accused. In August 2023, a Delhi court charged Sajjan Kumar with rioting and promoting enmity in the case, while discharging him of murder and criminal conspiracy offences.

In February 2015, Kumar was booked in two cases based on complaints of violence in Delhi's Janakpuri and Vikaspuri during the riots. The first FIR was over the violence in Janakpuri, where two men, Sohan Singh and his son-in-law Avtar Singh, were killed on November 1, 1984. The second FIR was registered in the case of Gurcharan Singh, who was allegedly set ablaze a day later in Vikaspuri. In February last year, a Delhi court sentenced Sajjan Kumar to life imprisonment in a case in which he was accused of leading a mob that burned alive one Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh in Saraswati Vihar on November 1, 1984, and looted and destroyed their houses. Kumar is currently in jail after he was sentenced to life imprisonment by the HC in 2018 in a case relating to the killing of five Sikhs and the burning down of a gurdwara on November 1-2, 1984. His appeal is pending before the Supreme Court. More than 2,700 members of the Sikh community were killed in four days of violence in Delhi in the aftermath of the assassination of then prime minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984. To date, of the 587 FIRs registered in Delhi, just 28 cases have ended in convictions.

As Mumbai's corporators return, here are the big-ticket projects back in play

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

After nearly four years under administrator rule, elected corporators are set to return to Mumbai's planning table on January 31, taking charge of key development projects from flood management to large-scale water augmentation and desalination initiatives. Since the civic body dissolved in March 2022, the municipal commissioner has overseen policy decisions and project execution. The return of corporators marks a shift back to a more localised approach, with each allotted Rs 1.6 crore annually to tackle hyper-local issues like water supply, sanitation, beautification, and greening, while also proposing larger infrastructure projects such as new bridges or water pipelines. With the new body set to be sworn in next week, these ongoing big ticket infrastructure projects are likely to remain the top priorities in the new house.

Nearly 40 percent complete so far, the concretisation project which seeks to make Mumbai ranks high on the alliance's manifesto floated ahead of the civic polls. It was in 2022 that the former Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced a mega concretisation plan with the aim to make Mumbai pothole free. Over the next two years, the BMC rolled out awarded tenders worth Rs. 17,000 crore project to concretise 700-km of roads (or 2,121 roads) across the city, with 320 km (700 roads) pegged to be concretised in phase I and 378 km (1421 roads) proposed to be paved in concrete in phase II. Mumbai has a road network of 2,050 km, of which 1,333 km roads are already concretised. Of the remaining 2,121 roads taken up under the Rs. 17,000 crore plan, 815 or 38.28 per cent of the total roads have been completed so far, while civil work is in progress in 625 roads which accounts to 29.46 per cent of the total roads. While the plan had drawn flak across quarters for inconveniencing citizens owing to frequent digging of roads, the plan is here to stay. In order to address concerns surrounding regular digging for utility maintenance, the party has also proposed a plan to construct utility tunnels throughout the city. Improving flood resilience

According to the BJP's development vision, plans to make Mumbai 'flood-free' are likely to draw key focus in the coming years. Through technology based in Japan and developed by IIT and VJTI institutes, the government has envisaged plans to make Mumbai flood-free within the next five years by exploring and implementing plans for rainwater harvesting and percolation of rainwater through the ground. A senior party leader said that plans are also under way to formulate a study group consisting of former BMC officials and IIT experts to study the city's topography and rainfall intensity. On the basis of the report, the research group will also be appointed to identify solutions for flooding. Meanwhile, plans will also be charted to improve the city's aging storm water drainage as well as undertaking pending works in the BRIMSTOWAD-2. Gargai dam and desalination plant: Improving water supply With water woes remaining a key concern in several pockets, finding solutions to improve boost water supply is likely to find a key space on the civic house's list of agendas. In its development vision, the Mahayuti alliance has said that with the aim of improving the city's current water supply capacity



from 3,800 MLD to 4,700 MLD, completion of Gargai, Pinjal and other new dams will be undertaken over the next five years, alongside construction of a desalination plant at Gorai. Boosting water supply is an issue which resonates across party lines. In its manifesto, Congress party has also emphasised on plans to support Gargai dams while the Shiv Sena (UBT)-MNS manifesto points towards construction of a desalination plant. Officials from BMC echoed that the ongoing desalination plant as well as the Gargai dam projects are set to see key push in the coming years. At present, the civic body has already initiated works to develop two 200 MLD desalination plants in Mumbai. While the first desalination plant was noted in 2019 is proposed to come up over a 12 hectares land parcel in Manori, a second desalination plant is pegged to come up in Versova over a 7 hectare land parcel. The proposal for a second desalination plant was floated in August 2025. Meanwhile, a Rs. 3,000 crore tender was floated for the Gargai dam construction in December 2025.

Besides focusing on development of new infrastructure, the Mahayuti manifesto has laid key emphasis on augmentation of public transportations services like the BEST. The party has proposed a fare cut of upto 50 percent for women commuting in BEST buses while it also seeks to increase the total fleet of buses from 5,000 to 10,000 to reduce crowding. The BEST, which has been in the doldrums owing to its depleting fleet and increasing financial strains in recent years, is likely to see several developments with the constitution of the BEST committee. The BEST committee is amongst the four major statutory committees of the BMC, which is responsible for overlooking daily operations of the transportation body. It has 17 members and is likely to resume its proceedings in the second week of February. While big ticket projects will draw focus, corporators across party lines have emphasized on the need for improving footpath infrastructure, which has emerged as one of the biggest grouses for citizens.

The government has proposed the development of footpaths using concrete blocks to ensure a smooth walking experience for pedestrians. For the record, the civic body in its FY 2025-2026 budget has made an allocation of Rs. 100 crore under its 'Pedestrian First' plan. In order to ensure clear pathways, the Mahayuti alliance has also proposed fast-tracking the hawkers policy through which all registered street vendors will be rehabilitated in specified hawking zones.

Monkeys killed despite State warning

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Kamareddy: Despite the State government issuing strict instructions, incidents of monkeys being killed continue to be reported from different parts of the State. One such incident came to light at a roadside dhaba in Ankampally village of Biknoor mandal in the district. At least five monkeys were killed, while a few others suffered grievous injuries. Though the incident occurred on Tuesday night, it came to light on Wednesday after veterinary doctors examined their health condition. According to locals, a few unidentified persons had injected tranquilisers into around 10 to 12 monkeys at another location and dumped them at the dhaba in Ankampally. The local gram panchayat members immediately informed forest and veterinary officials in Biknoor. A team visited the spot and examined the animals. Doctors diagnosed that about five monkeys died due to an overdose of tranquilizers, while a few others sustained injuries while trying to escape from the cage in which they were brought. After treatment, some of the injured mon-



keys recovered and ran into the forest along the highway, reports said. Police and forest officials are trying to trace the offenders and are examining surveillance camera footage at a toll gate located nearly five km from the spot, according to reports.

From ancient Buddhist stonework to photographic displays: Inside new exhibit at Bengaluru's art gallery where you can play a 19th-century board game



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Bengaluru's Museum of Art and Photography premiered its second permanent exhibit, 'Beneath the Turning Sky', this Saturday – displaying a wide array of artworks, from audio-based displays to photography, with modern abstract art sharing a gallery with sculpted works from the height of the Mauryan Empire.

Exploring the meaning of humanity, the newly-curated exhibit is divided into sections that explore the concepts of wonder, conquest, and exploration, and the dichotomy of the future and present. Opening out the exhibit are abstract works by celebrated artists S H Raza and V S Gaitonde. Not far from them is an Indonesian trade textile — a "mata hari" or eye of the sun, viewable right beyond a Nataraja sculpture. Some of the works on display have had to grapple with the wear and tear of decades or even centuries, and were worked on at the Museum of Art and Photography's (MAP) own facilities and conservation lab. These include a

20th century wooden sculpture depicting the love deities Rathi and Kama, made in the Kinnal style from North Karnataka. Another such artwork is a 17th-century depiction of Sohni and Mahiwal, from the tragic romances of Punjabi and Sindhi folklore. Another work is truly ancient — a Bodhisattva head from Mathura dating back to the second century AD. In Buddhism, Bodhisattvas are figures who delay their attainment of enlightenment to help others.

Jain cosmology is one facet that finds representation amongst the new gallery's exhibits — a fascinating depiction of Jain cosmology is on display near a 'karni marni' manuscript (readable through a digital interface) that depicts the consequences in the afterlife for various sins from the Jain perspective. Another late 1800s piece depicts an archaic version of the board game Snakes and Ladders, focusing on virtues and sins, indicating that the game would have been historically played by Jains during the holy days of Paryushan. Visitors are allowed to play the archaic version of the game via a usable reproduction on a nearby table. A playable replica of an archaic version of Snakes and Ladders at the Museum of Art and Photography in Bengaluru A playable replica of an archaic version of Snakes and Ladders at the Museum of Art and Photography in Bengaluru | Express Photo by Vedhika Anoorain keeping with a focus on interactivity, the gallery also includes an engagement hub for visitors to step away from the exhibits for a while. The hub comprises a climate library, a wall for interactive art through the use of magnets, and written prompts that visitors can respond to. Visitors can view the new exhibit after purchasing a ticket for the gallery on the museum's fourth floor. Admission to the various exhibits is free on Tuesdays.

'Able-bodied can walk 300 metres': HC rejects plea for vehicle entry into BSE restricted zone

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Dismissing a businessman's plea seeking permission to drive his vehicle into the restricted zone around Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Dalal Street in south Mumbai's Fort area, the Bombay High Court last week said an "able-bodied person can surely walk from the security barricades to his office near the BSE building, a distance of hardly 300 metres." The court noted that the "drop/pick up and go" facility was earlier granted to the petitioner's late father, who was advanced in age and suffered heart ailments. It clarified that such permission can be extended only to persons with grave and serious ailments who cannot walk even 300 metres from the security barricades. A division bench led by Justice Ravindra V Ghuge on January 13 was hearing a plea by 50-year-old businessman Sanjay Pukhraj Bafna, who has his office near the BSE building. Bafna, through advocates Mutahhar Khan and Yash Dhakad, claimed that the vehicle he uses to travel to his office is barred entry, despite his exclusive possession of a private parking space within the building compound. The petitioner said the court had in 2012 allowed his father to be dropped at the gates of Veena Chambers, with the vehicle leaving immediately thereafter. Moreover, after office hours, his father was allowed to be picked up from the office in the prohibited area. The court was informed that while his father died in 2023, Bafna was told last year by the concerned police station that his vehicle would be stopped near the security barricades unless he obtained a court order to bring it within the restricted area. Aggrieved, the petitioner approached the HC. The BSE cited a police communication and took the stand that entry of the petitioner's vehicle into the area should be prohibited.



The court observed that the need for the petitioner's father to be dropped and picked up by vehicle from the restricted area "extinguished" after he passed away. The bench noted even after 2023, "the security was under the impression that the deceased is travelling in the said vehicle." The HC further refused to grant the petitioner liberty for "drop or pick up and go" as no health grounds were cited by him. "The petitioner is present in the court hall and was standing before the court during the hearing, which lasted almost 30 minutes. He appears to be able-bodied and had no difficulty standing before the court. As such, at this stage, we are not considering the request of the petitioner," the court noted. It also directed the Senior Police Inspector of MRA Marg police station to "conduct a routine review of security and should not be complacent. Citing larger security concerns, the HC refused to entertain the plea and noted: "Needless to state, this order would not apply to BSE officials or high dignitaries visiting the BSE for official purposes."

Remembering late Justice J.L. Gupta's final years and his unyielding fight against cancer



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Late Justice J.L. Gupta was born on January 22, 1942, and expired on January 3, 2016. He spent 35 years at the Bar and 15 years on the Bench. A courtroom genius, this short piece seeks to share the last three and a half years of his life journey, from June 2012 to January 2016. Justice J.L. Gupta and his family went on a holiday to Scotland in June 2012. Scotch is a matter of pride for the Scots, and he himself had his first peg of scotch in 1963, enjoying his drink over the years. Surprisingly, while in Scotland, he did not feel like having a drink at all. He wondered why. Scotland is also the Mecca of golf, yet he felt no desire to step onto the course. The family returned in early July.

On July 10, 2012, he worked through the day as usual. The next morning, July 11, everything changed. He developed a severe headache and nausea and could not go to court. MRI scans and other tests were conducted. He was diagnosed with a brain tumour. The neurosurgeon advised that it needed to be removed at the earliest. It was glioblastoma. JLG remained calm, though the family was deeply anxious. Ultimately, surgery was performed on August 28. After a gruelling surgery lasting over nine hours, the surgeon shared that Justice Gupta had encouraged him, saying, "You are competent. I am confident. You will make history." He was shifted to a private room. On September 2, a lumbar puncture confirmed meningitis, and he was moved back to the ICU. Two infusion pumps continuously administered antibiotics. After several days, he returned to his private room and was later discharged home. Radiotherapy and chemotherapy cycles followed. They caused side effects and posed significant challenges.

On January 22, 2014, he completed 72 years of his life journey. I sent him a book, Legends in Law, with a handwritten message: "Tough times do not last. Tough people do. May you go on forever. Happy Birthday." His own prescription for life was courage and conviction. He firmly believed that the desire to live is the recipe to destroy disease. A cancer patient, he felt, must keep the mind

happy. By early 2015, he was doing well. He was writing blogs, though his immunity remained low. He visited Chandigarh, where he was invited by the Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, faculty at Fortis Hospital, Mohali, and the Association of British Scholars. He shared his story with audiences. He inspired many, laughed, and made others laugh. We all felt he had conquered the disease. His urge to enjoy his drink returned. He decided to put his journey into print and wrote the book The Ringside View – The Story of a Fight Against Cancer. On December 16, 2015, this book, along with another titled Of Life and Me, a collection of his selected writings, was released by the then Chief Justice of India, Justice T.S. Thakur. He greeted everyone with a warm handshake. Within a couple of days, he was diagnosed with pneumonia and hospitalised. Doctors fought a second battle with utmost effort. Despite everything, he passed away on January 3, 2016. He conquered cancer but succumbed to pneumonia. How sad. We fondly, dearly, and lovingly miss him. Today, January 22, 2026, he would have completed his 84th milestone. May his soul rest in peace. May God continue to keep him in His warm embrace.

Gajwel municipal workers protest over unpaid salaries

Siddipet: Municipal workers of Gajwel municipality staged a protest over delay in payment of their salaries. Despite carrying out sanitation and other civic works regularly to keep the town clean, the workers alleged that they had not been paid for months.



The protesting workers said the delay had left them without money to meet day-to-day expenses, pushing their families into financial distress. They expressed anguish that repeated appeals to the authorities had failed to yield any response. Demanding immediate release of their pending salaries, the workers urged the government to resolve the issue without further delay. They warned that if their dues were not cleared at the earliest, they would be forced to boycott duties and intensify protest in the coming days.

‘Nark ko jhel raha hoon’: For nine months, this Delhi colony has battled knee-deep sewage on roads, inside their homes



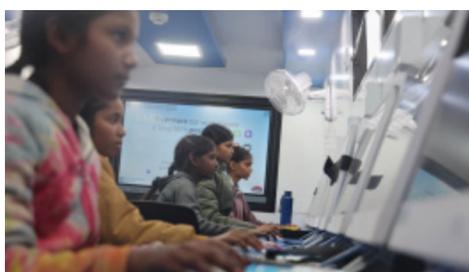
GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Lanes filled with sewage, knee-deep water inside houses, several grocery stores shut, and cabs declining bookings. These have been part of the lives of people living in Sharma Enclave in Northwest Delhi's Mubarakpur for the last nine months. A student of Class 7 — after having skipped school for over three months — now hops on to the terrace of a neighbour's house and climbs down the stairs to land on another lane as the lane in front of his house is filled with sewage. He is among the residents who now wear gumboots before stepping out of their homes. Sharma Enclave, a notified unauthorised colony, has been inundated for the last nine months, residents say. Demanding accountability, Leader Of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, Wednesday shared a purported video of Sharma Enclave on X and wrote: "Every ordinary Indian's life has turned into a hellish torment just like this today. The system has sold out to those in power. Everyone pats each other on the back and together tramples the public underfoot."

On Tuesday, referring to the recent death of an engineer whose car plunged into a water-filled pit in Noida Sector 150, Gandhi had written: "India's urban collapse isn't about lack of money, technology, or solutions. It's about lack of accountability," adding, "TINA : There Is No Accountability." Meanwhile, Delhi Congress president Devendra Yadav visited the area and claimed that most people who could afford to have left the area, have already done so. Muhammad Aslam (45) has shifted to a rented apartment with his family a few kilometres away from his

home, now filled with water. The family had bought five pairs of boots for navigating through the water. "We don't know when we will be back. Nobody has come to our aid. The sewer lines laid in the area do not have a proper outlet. Main toh iss nark ko jhel raha hoon (I am living through this hell)," Aslam said. AAP MLA Anil Jha on Wednesday claimed that the whole area is surrounded by a huge Delhi Development Authority (DDA)-owned tract of land where rainwater and sewage water discharged from houses were collected, pushing the level to four-five feet. "Since last year, a large number of trucks carrying waste from the nearby Bhalswa Landfill have been arriving. The land around the colony is being levelled. This pushed the water back into the colonies," he said. On Wednesday, around six vehicles of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) were seen carrying and unloading waste on the said land, which is still partly filled with water. "We make around five rounds everyday and carry 300 quintals (of waste) from the landfill site during each trip," said Nazim (45) the driver of one of the MCD vehicles. Photographer: Gajendra Yadav Water logging in Sharma Enclave of Kirari area in Delhi on Wednesday, Express Photo by Gajendra Yadav While MCD officials did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment, DDA officials sought time to respond. Kamla (33), who has been living in the area for seven years now, went into labour in November. She too had to put on her gumboots before she made her way through a lane filled with water and sewage, as her husband and a neighbour held her. "It was 5 am. All app-based services kept on declining requests for a ride from here. They did not want to come here. After a few hours, I reached the hospital in my neighbour's car," she recalled. Her woes did not end there. One of the children got diarrhea. "We clean the floor, but water enters again. I don't know how to throw used clothes as everything keeps floating in the water," she added. Another resident, Lakshmi (58), said she has not sent her son to school for around a month. "Yeh bhi girega, main bhi girungi. (He will fall, and I will too)," she said. She added that getting medicines has also become a task. "You can even see used syringes floating in the water. There have also been instances of snake bites in the adjacent colony," she added. Several shops have been shut as, residents say, people stopped stepping out in fear.

‘Will empower youth’: Officials on cyber security courses in Haryana



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

With the Haryana government's decision to introduce diploma courses in cyber security in a few institutions run by the technical education department, officials say the initiative will produce many cyber experts who can assist companies and individuals combating online fraud. The state will initially launch the new course — 'Cyber Forensics and Information Security' — in four government polytechnic institutes located in Panchkula, Faridabad, Kaithal and Bhiwani districts.

Haryana's Director General of Technical Education, senior IAS officer Prabhjot Singh, said admissions will open for the 2026-27 academic session beginning June-July. He said the students can enroll after matriculation, with annual fees ranging between Rs 5,000 and Rs 7,000. For students from Scheduled Castes and Economically Weaker Sections, the course will be offered free of cost, Prabhjot said. He said people are witnessing frequent digital arrests with an increase in cyber frauds and cybercrime cases. "In such circumstances, police and other law enforcement agencies

need trained cyber experts. These courses will empower young people to become self-reliant, whether by starting their own ventures or securing jobs in private companies," the 2010-batch IAS officer.

Prabhjot also said the state has come up with the course to help people who are "not tech-savvy, rarely use laptops or computers and who have limited knowledge of information technology". Singh, who is also a former scientist of ISRO, also said the course will teach students to be cautious while browsing websites or making online transactions. It will also help them learn ways to respond to suspicious links and achieve economic self-sufficiency, he said. "Students will gain knowledge of cyber threats, cyber laws, ethical hacking and incident response."

The urgency of such measures is underscored by Haryana's cybercrime statistics. In 2025, the state recorded 1,41,685 cybercrime complaints, an 8.5 per cent rise over 2024. The FIR registrations also increased by 12.7 per cent in a year — with 6,212 cases filed in 2025. Proactive action by police also rose sharply, with 356 suo motu cases registered — a 62.6 per cent increase. With 8,022 cybercriminals apprehended — averaging 22 arrests per day — the arrests reached historic levels. Director General of Police Ajay Singhal said the fight against cybercrime will advance through technology, intelligence and citizen-focused policing. "The achievements of 2025 reflect the strong institutional foundation of the Haryana Police. In 2026, our focus will be on artificial intelligence, data analytics, real-time banking coordination and intelligence-led operations to dismantle cybercrime networks at their roots." He clarified, "Prevention, immediate blocking of defrauded money, and swift relief to citizens will be central. We are confident Haryana will emerge as a model state for cyber security and cyber policing at the national level."

Robbery attempt at family's bungalow: Attempt to murder us, says Puja Khedkar's father

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

DAYS AFTER five persons, including the parents of sacked probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, were found unconscious at their bungalow in National Housing Society in Aundh in an alleged robbery bid, her father Dilip Khedkar has claimed it was an attempt to murder them. He also alleged 'double standards' and 'lack of seriousness' by Pune police in the probe, which police refuted.

An FIR was registered by the Chaturshrunji police themselves, based on the statement given by Puja Khedkar. The alleged incident took place on the intervening night of January 10 and 11. Puja told the police a recently hired domestic help and his accomplices tied and locked her in a room of her bungalow and five others, including her mother, father, watchman, cook and driver were sedated. Selected items from a cupboard were stolen. The police have named their help — who hails from Nepal — and his six to seven accomplices in the FIR. During the probe, the police arrested the father of the prime suspect and search is on for others. Puja's father on Tuesday held a press conference in Pune in which he said, "This was an attempt to murder us. The drugs that were used for the murder attempt are the drugs that are not easily available in medical stores. To search for the anti-drugs of these sedatives, we had to go to hospitals across the city. We had to be treated in the ICU. You can go to Ruby Hall hospital and verify what I am saying." Referring to the probes against the Khedkar family in the past, Dilip said, "When small incidents happen from our side the administration and police make such a big issue of it. A small quarrel on a farm is investigated by the Crime Branch. Ten-twelve teams are formed for the search. And when we were fighting for our lives for five days, the police did not take cognizance of it. Within half an hour after the incident we had given details like name, address and passport of the perpetrators but still they managed to flee and reach their home 2,000 kilometres away. There is no development in the case." In the past, the police have scaled the gate of our house to take information from us. But after this incident no senior officer has come to our house. After

this incident, when we were fighting for our lives, Police commissioner Amitesh Kumar cancelled the licence of our firearm. My daughter has identified and shared details of suspects, who had used dangerous sharp weapons. And then instead of giving police protection to us, our weapon licence was cancelled. This is a double standards by police. This was neither theft, nor dacoity but an attempt to murder us by giving us drugs," he said. Meanwhile, Puja has written to the Pune city police and sought a thorough investigation into the case alleging that it was attempted murder. A senior police officer said, "It is baseless to say that police are neglecting the probe. It is the police who have registered a suo motu case. One arrest has been made and search is on for the prime suspect and his accomplices." In September last year, Dilip and his bodyguard were named as accused in an abduction of a truck helper following a road rage incident in Navi Mumbai. Hours after Navi Mumbai police rescued the truck helper who was allegedly abducted and brought to the residence Puja Khedkar, Pune city police had booked her mother, Manorama Khedkar, for obstructing the investigation. She allegedly helped her husband and his bodyguard flee, prevented the police from entering the house and unleashed an aggressive dog to stop the police from conducting a search, police said earlier. Dilip had later obtained anticipatory bail in the case. In September 2024, the Union government dismissed Puja from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) after the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) cancelled her selection. Khedkar was found guilty of cheating and wrongly availing benefits of Other Backward Classes (OBC) and disability quota. After cancelling her selection, the UPSC had barred her from taking the entrance exam for life. UPSC found that Khedkar had allegedly availed attempts beyond the permissible limit provided for in the Examination Rules by allegedly faking her identity. After the controversy surrounding Puja, a video of Manorama allegedly threatening some farmers at gunpoint had surfaced. She was booked by Pune rural police on the charge of attempt to murder in connection to the June 2023 incident. She was later released on bail.

Leopard enters sweet shop building in Daman, captured after 10-hour operation



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

A leopard entered a sweet shop building in the Union Territory of Daman, triggering a over 10-hour rescue operation by around 25 forest personnel from Surat, Valsad, Daman and Dahanu in Maharashtra before it was safely captured, officials said. According to forest department officials, the leopard was spotted in a building in Nani Daman market area on Tuesday morning. A small open passage next to the sweet shop has stairs to the upper floors of the building. On Tuesday around 10.35 am, a woman spotted the leopard sitting on the stairs. The forest officials were informed, following which Daman and Silvassa forest officials reached the spot.

The family members on the first floor were evacuated

and those on the second floor were told to lock their main door and windows. The main road in the area was cordoned off. The forest officials fired a shot using a tranquiliser gun. With no movement of the animal, a forest guard approached the animal, believing it to be unconscious. The leopard attacked him and injured him on the leg. The other team members rescued him and he was shifted to hospital, said a forest department official. The Daman forest department contacted forest department officials of Valsad, Surat and Dahanu in Maharashtra and sought their help to catch the leopard. The teams arrived at Daman late in the afternoon, and a joint operation was carried out to tranquillise the big cat. Again, the teams fired two shots from different directions. The rescue operation continued till late in the night, and finally, the leopard was successfully tranquillised. The leopard was taken to the forest department office in Daman.

Talking to The Indian Express, Daman Deputy Conservator of Forest Harsh Raj said, "The leopard has been spotted in the nearby areas for the last two days. We have installed two cages at different locations to catch the leopard. The leopard was spotted at Haveli Sweets building in Nani Daman on Tuesday morning. The rescue operation, which started at 11.00 am, ended only at 10.30 pm." The captured male leopard weighs over 60 kilograms and is around 4 years old. The leopard is kept at Vasona safari in Silvassa (Union territory) where doctors are examining it," the official said.

‘Tax evasion’ by Ahmedabad pharma group, two arrested



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

The State GST Department in Gujarat Wednesday said it detected large-scale GST evasion by an Ahmedabad-based pharmaceutical group comprising 11 related entities engaged in pharma and chemical trading. "During coordinated search operations conducted at 32 premises across 14 locations, mainly in Ahmedabad, it was found that sev-

eral entities were operating from common centralised premises at Makarba. Investigation revealed that certain entities had amended their GST registrations to include Iron & steel /ingots trading and were involved in fraudulent availment of Input Tax Credit (ITC) through bogus invoices and e-way bills without actual movement of goods," said a statement from SGAT on Wednesday.

The investigators said they carried out advanced data analytics, including RFID and toll-plaza verification, and multiple declared places of business were found to be non-functional.

The statement further said, "Record-based analysis has so far uncovered taxable transactions of Rs 114.89 crore involving fraudulent ITC of Rs 20.68 crore. As the evasion exceeds the statutory threshold of Rs 5 crore, the offence is cognizable and non-bailable under Section 132 of the CGST/IGST Acts, leading to the arrest of two persons, who were produced before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Ahmedabad, and remanded to judicial custody."

9,599 fancy numbers were sold in Chandigarh in 2023: RLA data



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Chandigarh's fascination with fancy and VIP vehicle registration numbers has turned into a major revenue generator for the city's Registering and Licensing Authority (RLA), with collections crossing Rs 126 crore in the last five years. Official data of RLA, Chandigarh, shows that between 2021 and 2025, as many as 40,872 city residents paid premium prices to secure special number plates for their vehicles.

The figures underline how deeply rooted the craze for "lucky" and distinctive numbers has become among motorists. Combinations like 0001, 1111 and repeating digits continue to trigger intense bidding, especially among owners of high-end vehicles. Between 2021 and 2025, the highest demand was recorded in 2023, when 9,599 fancy numbers were sold. This was followed by 9,055 numbers in 2022

and 8,752 allotments in 2024. Demand, however, dipped in 2025, when 7,299 numbers were issued, though it remained higher than the 6,167 numbers sold in 2021. In 2021, the RLA earned Rs 15.61 crore from fancy number auctions. Collections jumped to Rs 24.05 crore in 2022 and crossed the Rs 30-crore mark in 2023, touching Rs 30.24 crore.

The highest-ever revenue was recorded in 2024 at Rs 31.90 crore. In 2025, revenue dipped to Rs 24.75 crore, but overall collections still pushed the five-year total beyond Rs 126 crore. The craze for premium numbers is best reflected in the record-breaking auctions. In 2022, the fancy registration number CH01CH0001 was sold for Rs 22.02 lakh. In 2024, CH01CV0001 fetched Rs 23.70 lakh.

The biggest splurge came in 2025, when CH01DA0001 was auctioned for a whopping Rs 36.43 lakh, making it the most expensive fancy number sold in the last five years. Another premium number, CH01CZ0001, fetched Rs 31 lakh, while CH01DC0001 was sold for Rs 31.35 lakh, showing continued appetite for exclusive registrations. Officials say rising vehicle ownership, and the social prestige attached to exclusive numbers have fuelled this trend. "For many people, especially premium car owners, a VIP number has become a status symbol. People are willing to spend lakhs just to stand out," a senior RLA official said. Despite a slight dip in 2025, fancy numbers remain a lucrative non-tax revenue source for the UT administration. Officials added that online auctions have improved transparency and participation, attracting bidders from outside Chandigarh as well.

Before Yuvraj's death, a planned Sports City, a 'scam', CBI probe after HC order

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

The sprawling swamp ringed by tall grasses, into the murky, foul-smelling depths of which a Noida software professional fell with his car at midnight on January 16, appears to have come into existence in 2022 — covering low-lying land that has been the subject of litigation since 2021, and of an investigation by the CBI since last year. A director of the real estate company that has possession of the land in Noida's Sector 150 was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the death by drowning of 27-year-old Yuvraj Mehta. Yuvraj's grey Grand Vitara was fished out of the water on Tuesday evening, three and a half days after the tragedy.

In 2021, a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) listed a series of failures by the Noida Authority in the allotment of land for a proposed "Sports City" in Sector 150, of which the plot in question was a part. On Monday, the UP government removed the Chief Executive Officer of Noida Authority from his post and set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the circumstances of Yuvraj's death. Last year, the Allahabad High Court delivered a sweeping indictment of the "scam" in the allotment of the land, and directed the CBI to register a First Information Report (FIR) against both the builders and government officials. Noida's "Sports City" In 2004, the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) decided to develop sports facilities of international standard in Noida. Ten years later, in 2014, NOIDA invited applications for the allotment of almost 12 lakh sq m (120 hectares) of land under a scheme to develop a "Sports City" (SC-02) in Sector 150, with a reserve price of Rs 18,865 per sq m. The developer was supposed to create sports facilities over 70% of the entire land area, which would be non-transferable. To offset the cost of developing these facilities, the developer was

allowed to build group housing on 29.5% of the land, and commercial establishments on the remaining 0.5%. The project was awarded to a consortium led by real estate company Lotus Green Constructions Pvt Ltd for more than Rs 2,300 crore. The sporting facilities at the plot were to be developed by December 2019 and the residential facilities by December 2021.

In 2015, the land parcel under Lotus Green was subdivided into 24 plots, one of which, SC-02/A-3, was to be developed by M/s Wiztown Planners Pvt Ltd. Wiztown director Abhay Kumar has been arrested in connection with Yuvraj's death. In 2017, NOIDA extended deadlines for completion of the residential and commercial facilities in the project to September 2023. In 2021, a CAG report flagged various deficiencies in the scheme, as well as alleged irregularities by NOIDA — including the launch of the scheme without requisite government approvals on change of land-use category, failure to recover charges of more than Rs 140 crore, and allowing unauthorised subdivision of the plots. The CAG concluded that NOIDA and the UP government had suffered a loss of Rs 9,000 crore in the entire Sports City project, which also included areas under Sports City-1 (SC-01) in Sectors 78, 79, and 152 of Noida. The report recommended: "The Government needs to consider fixing responsibility on the concerned officials." In June 2021, NOIDA froze all activities in Sports City, and referred the matter to the state government for direction. A Public Accounts Committee comprising members of the UP Legislative Assembly was constituted to look into the issue. Meanwhile, Lotus Green moved Allahabad High Court that same year, seeking relief on its disputes with Noida Authority with regard to the terms of the deal. But in its order passed on February 24, 2025.

Trump's jokes, jabs, and ad-libs mark his day one at Davos



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Washington: Between geopolitics and economic pitches, US President Donald Trump's Davos schedule was punctuated by jokes, off-script remarks, and self-deprecating asides that lightened a day otherwise dominated by war, trade and security. Addressing a reception of business leaders after a long series of meetings on Wednesday (local time), Trump opened by discarding prepared remarks. "I have this beautiful speech," he said, drawing laughter, before adding, "the last thing we want to do is waste our time and hear it again."

Spotting familiar faces in the room, he joked about ticket demand and celebrity attendance. "When you have Johnny — and I heard you — I just got a report on the sales of tickets. It's; there's never been anything like it," he said, prompting laughter from the audience. Trump teased senior officials seated near him, describing Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick as "two exact opposites," adding, "I like that," as the room

laughed. He also ribbed corporate leaders over soaring valuations. "I go around, and I say — meet the biggest people, biggest business people." I say, 'Congratulations.' They say, 'On what?' I said, 'You've doubled your net worth since I've been president, right?' Spotting Apple CEO Tim Cook, Trump quipped, "He's been good for 650," referencing investment pledges. "Think of it. 650 billion dollars," he said, drawing applause and laughter. Trump joked about jealousy, too. "In a way, I'm jealous. In a way, I'm upset," he said. "A couple of people in the room, I can't stand them, and they become very rich." At one point, he laughed about security concerns back home. Recalling a recent dinner in Washington, he said, "I walk right down the middle of the street. I wouldn't say that Secret Service was thrilled." During his CNBC interview, Trump brushed off criticism with humour. "If I came up with the cure to cancer, they'd say, why didn't you do it faster?" he said, before adding, "If you walked on water, you can't swim." Pressed about Federal Reserve leadership, Trump mocked construction overruns at the central bank. "I could have done it for \$25 million, and it would have been nicer," he said, comparing it to projects he claimed to have built for a fraction of the cost.

Even on Greenland, Trump used levity. When asked about Denmark's objections, he replied, "They didn't tell me that," adding, "I don't like getting it second hand." As the day closed, Trump reflected on pace rather than policy. "It's been a long day," he acknowledged, before telling his interviewer, "You're doing just fine." Trump has long favoured unscripted remarks, often mixing humour with policy messaging. At Davos, the lighter moments came amid a dense agenda that included bilateral meetings, media interviews, security discussions and a major address to global business leaders.

Trump is rolling out his Board of Peace at Davos at a time when US leadership is being questioned



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Davos: President Donald Trump wants to spotlight his proposed "Board of Peace" at the World Economic Forum on Thursday, looking to create momentum for a project that has been overshadowed this week first by his threats to seize Greenland, and then by a dramatic retreat from that push. The new board was initially envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing the Gaza ceasefire, but has morphed into something far more ambitious — and skepticism about its membership and mandate has led some traditional U.S. allies to so far take a pass. Trump expressed confidence in his idea ahead of what the White House said would be a "charter announcement" on the sidelines of the forum in the Swiss Alps. "We have a lot of great people that want to join," Trump said with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi by his side during a Wednesday meeting. Egypt is among the countries that has announced it will join the board. Trump added, "It's going to be the most prestigious board ever formed." Some 35 countries had agreed to sign on to the project, a senior administration official told reporters, and 60 nations had been invited to join. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

Trump, who has spoken about the board replacing some of the functions of the United Nations and perhaps even making it eventually obsolete, said some countries' leaders have indicated that they plan to join but still require approval from their parliaments, and said his administration is also receiving queries about membership from countries that hadn't been invited to join.

Big questions remain, though. Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country is still consulting with Moscow's "strategic partners" before deciding to commit. The Russian president on Thursday is due to host Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for talks in Moscow. Others have raised questions about why Putin and other authoritarian leaders had even been invited to join. Trump said he wanted "everybody" who was powerful. "I have some controversial people. But these are people that get the job done. These are people that have tremendous influence." Some European nations, meanwhile, have declined their invitations. Norway and Sweden have indicated that they won't participate, after France also said no. French officials stressed that while they support the Gaza peace plan, they were concerned the board could seek to replace the U.N. as the main venue for resolving conflicts. Slovenian

Prime Minister Robert Golob said "the time has not yet come to accept the invitation," according to the STA news agency, with the main concern being the board's mandate may be too broad and could undermine international order based on the U.N. Charter. The United Kingdom, the European Union's executive arm, Canada, Russia, Ukraine and China also have not yet indicated their response to Trump's invitations. Trump calling off the steep tariffs he threatened over Greenland could ease some allies' reluctance — but the issue is still far from settled.

The idea for the Board of Peace was first laid out in Trump's 20-point Gaza ceasefire plan and even was endorsed by the U.N. Security Council. Invitation letters to world leaders ahead of Davos indicated that the panel may not confine their work to Gaza. When asked by a reporter earlier this week if the board should replace the U.N., Trump replied that "it might." He asserted that the world body "hasn't been very helpful" and "has never lived up to its potential" but also said the U.N. should continue "because the potential is so great." Trump's hopes for the board received some good news on Wednesday, when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced he's agreed to join, after his office has earlier criticized the makeup of the board's committee tasked with overseeing Gaza. Months into the ceasefire, Gaza's more than 2 million Palestinians continue to suffer the humanitarian crisis unleashed by over two years of war. And violence in Gaza, while not at the same level as before the October ceasefire and hostage deal was agreed on, continues. Key to the truce in Gaza continuing to hold is the disarming of Hamas, something the militant group that has controlled the Palestinian territory since 2007 has refused to do and that Israel sees as non-negotiable. Trump on Wednesday said his administration should know in the next few weeks whether Hamas would come to terms on laying down their weapons. "If they don't do it," Trump said, "they'll be blown away. Very quickly." Trump's push for peace also comes after he threatened military action this month against Iran as it carried out a violent crackdown against some of the largest street protests in years, killing thousands.

Trump, for the time being, has signaled he won't carry out any new strikes on Iran after he said he received assurances that the Islamic government would not carry out the planned hangings of more than 800 protesters. But even as he prepared to unveil his Board of Peace, Trump also made the case that his tough approach to Tehran — including strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities in June last year — was critical to the Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal coalescing. Iran was Hamas' most important patron, providing the group hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid, weapons, training and financial support over the years. "If we didn't do that, there was no chance of making peace," Trump said of Iran. Trump also expects to speak with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday, though it wasn't clear if the talks would take place at Davos or by phone. But Trump, who continues to struggle to get Zelenskyy and Putin to agree to terms to end their nearly four-year old war, again expressed frustration with both on Wednesday. "I believe they're at a point now where they can come together and get a deal done," Trump said. "And if they don't, they're stupid — that goes for both of them."

Several missing after landslide hits holiday park in New Zealand

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Wellington: Several people, including children, are missing after a large landslide struck a holiday park at the base of Mount Maunganui in New Zealand's Bay of Plenty region on Thursday. Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell said search and rescue efforts were continuing at the Beachside Holiday Park. Mark Mitchell described the event as a "tragedy", telling reporters that "parents and the husband of some of the people that we're currently trying to rescue" were in the campground.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand commander William Pike said rescuers initially heard voices from under the debris but none since, and no survivors had yet been found. The slip swept through campervans, cars, tents, hot pools, and a shower block at around 9.30 am local time, triggering evacuations across the site. Emergency services have been working to locate anybody who remains in the area. The landslide followed Tauranga's heaviest single day of rainfall on record, with 270mm falling in the 24 hours to 9am. Heavy rain and flooding battered parts of the North Island overnight, leaving thousands without power and isolating some communities on the North Island's east coast and in Northland.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon urged



residents in affected areas to heed local authorities' safety advice during the extreme conditions. "Extreme weather continues to cause dangerous conditions across the North Island. Right now, the government is doing everything we can to support those impacted," Luxon posted on social media. New Zealand has been battered by destructive storms and flooding this week, with the Mount Maunganui area recording its wettest day on record with two-and-a-half months' worth of rain in 12 hours. Mayor Mahe Drysdale said it was a "deeply distressing event, and our priority right now is the safety and wellbeing of those involved."

Fierce encounter breaks out between Maoists and security forces in Jharkhand's Saranda Forest

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Chaibasa: A fierce encounter has been going on since Thursday morning between security forces and Maoists in the Saranda forest region of Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district. While reports suggest that several Maoists have been killed, official confirmation on the exact number of casualties is still awaited. Search operations are currently underway in the area and intermittent gunfire could still be heard. Kolhan Division DIG Anuranjan Kispotta confirmed the encounter, saying the operation is ongoing and detailed information will be shared later.

As a precautionary measure, the entire area has been cordoned off and additional forces deployed. Senior police and security officials have reached the spot to oversee the operation. Jharkhand Police spokesperson and IG (Operations) Michaelraj S said the exchange of fire between security forces and Maoists has been continuing since morning in the Saranda forest, adding that the Maoists have suffered heavy losses.

According to police, the joint operation was launched following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoists near Kumbhdih village under the Chotanagara police station limits. During the operation, Maoists allegedly lying in ambush opened indiscriminate fire on the security forces, prompting a strong and effective retaliatory response. The encounter continued for several hours, during which security forces reportedly gained the upper hand. Sources claim that a top Maoist carrying a bounty of



Rs 50 lakh, along with several of his associates, has been killed, though official confirmation is still awaited. Several bodies of Maoists have been recovered from the encounter site, along with weapons, ammunition and daily-use items. Those killed are believed to be active and wanted members of the outfit, many of whom were carrying cash rewards in multiple cases. Anti-Naxalite operations have intensified in Chaibasa and adjoining areas in recent months. In June 2025, four Naxalites, including senior commanders, were killed in separate encounters in the Tonto and Gailkera areas of Chaibasa. This marks the first encounter between security forces and Naxalites in 2026. In 2025 alone, police and security forces killed over 25 Naxalites across Jharkhand.

Greenland releases 'crisis' guidelines as Trump threat looms

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Greenland's government unveiled a new brochure on Wednesday (January 21, 2026) offering advice to the population in the event of a "crisis" in the territory, which U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly vowed to seize from ally Denmark. Guidance includes stockpiling food and water, hunting weapons and ammunition.

The document is "an insurance policy", said Self-Sufficiency Minister Peter Borg at a press conference in Nuuk, the Greenlandic capital. "We don't expect to have to use it," Borg said. Mr. Trump on Thursday (January 22, 2026) demanded "immediate" talks on his bid to control Greenland but said he would not use military force to take the Arctic island. Work on the brochure, titled "Prepared for Crises — Be Self-Sufficient for Five Days", began last year "against a backdrop of power outages of varying duration", according to the Greenland government.

The guidance recommends storing five days' worth of food, three litres of water per person per day, toilet paper, a battery-powered radio, plus weapons, ammunition and fishing equipment. Greenland's 57,000-strong population — nearly 90% indigenous Inuit people — has long traditions of



hunting and fishing as the primary means of subsistence.

On Tuesday (January 20, 2026), Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said a military operation against Greenland was "unlikely", but that the Danish autonomous territory must nevertheless be ready. Since returning to power last year, Mr. Trump has repeatedly said he wants to gain control of Greenland to counter Russian and Chinese advances in the Arctic and ensure global stability — the horror of his European and NATO allies.

India 'stopped' buying oil from Russia, claims U.S. Treasury Secretary

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has claimed that India has "stopped" buying oil from Russia after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a 25% tariff on countries purchasing oil from Moscow. Mr. Trump has imposed 50% tariffs on India, including 25% for its purchases of Russian oil. Speaking with Fox Business, Mr. Bessent said, "India started buying Russian oil after the (Ukraine) conflict began, but President Trump put a 25% tariff on them, and India has geared down and has stopped buying Russian oil."

India had described the U.S. action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" while maintaining that its energy policy is guided by its own national interest. A Bill introduced by Senator Lindsey Graham has proposed a 500% tariff on secondary purchase and reselling of Russian oil. The proposal has near-unanimous backing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. While speaking on the Bill, Mr. Bessent said that it is a proposal that Senator Graham has in front of the Senate and "we will see whether that passes. We don't believe that President Trump needs that authority, that he can do it under IEEPA, but that the Senate wants to give him that authority." Mr. Bessent also accused Europe of buying Russian oil and funding Russia's war against Ukraine. "And just, just to be clear that we have Europe buy-



ing Russian oil, still, still, or four years later, they are financing the war against themselves," Mr. Bessent added.

India fell to third place among buyers of Russian fossil fuels in December after Reliance Industries and state-owned refiners sharply cut crude oil imports, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). India, the world's third-largest oil importer, emerged as the biggest buyer of discounted Russian crude after Western countries shunned Moscow following its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

First 'Made in India' C-295 aircraft expected to roll out of factory before September: Jaishankar

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

The first 'Made in India' C-295 military aircraft is expected to roll out of a factory before September, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday (January 21, 2026) as he underlined New Delhi's commitment to build resilient manufacturing capabilities. In his remarks at a meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares, Mr. Jaishankar asserted that the world must display "zero tolerance" towards terrorism.

"The world order is clearly undergoing a profound change. It is more imperative than ever before for nations to collaborate on shared challenges," he said. "This is particularly the case with respect to combating terrorism where both India and Spain have been victims. The world must display zero tolerance towards terrorism," he added. The External Affairs Minister also thanked Spain for its support for deeper India-EU ties across different domains and welcomed the European nation for joining India-backed Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). In his comments, the External Affairs Minister also highlighted growing trade and defence cooperation between India and Spain and mentioned the C-295 aircraft project. In October 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish President Sanchez inaugurated the C-295 final assembly line in Vadodara. The IAF is getting 56 C-295 transport aircraft under a deal worth ₹21,935 crore with Airbus Defence and Space. Forty of these aircraft will be built in India. In his remarks, Mr. Jaishankar said the economic partnership between India and Spain is an important pillar of the overall relationship.

"Spain is among India's important trade partners in the EU (European Union), and our bilateral trade in goods has crossed \$8 billion in recent years," Mr. Jaishankar said. Spanish companies have made a significant presence in

India, particularly in infrastructure, renewable energy, urban mobility, engineering and water management sectors. "Indian companies are also active in Spain in IT, pharmaceuticals, and automotive components. We see considerable potential to further deepen this business cooperation," he said. "We are expecting the first 'Made in India' C-295 aircraft to roll out of the factory before September this year. It reflects the growing depth of our defence industrial collaboration and our commitment to build resilient manufacturing capabilities," he said. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Spain Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares jointly unveil the India-Spain logo, marking the Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence, in New Delhi. Photo: X/@DrSJaishankar via ANI. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Spain Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares jointly unveil the India-Spain logo, marking the Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence, in New Delhi. Photo: X/@DrSJaishankar via ANI.

The External Affairs Minister also made a mention of India hosting the AI Impact Summit next month. "Our approach to AI is human-centric, inclusive, and focused on its responsible and ethical use. I think it is very similar to the approach of Europe," he said. Mr. Jaishankar said India and Spain enjoy warm and friendly relations, rooted in shared democratic values and respect for multilateralism and a rule-based order. India and Spain will celebrate in 2026 the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. "Our partnership is enriched by strong cultural ties. The popularity of Yoga, Ayurveda and Indian culture in Spain, and the growing interest in Spanish language and culture in India, reflect the deep people-to-people connect between our societies," Mr. Jaishankar said. Tourism is also an important and growing pillar of our partnership, he said.

To compete with China, India may need China



istry of Finance, in its annual Economic Survey for 2023-24, suggested that increased FDI inflows from China can help increase India's global supply chain participation and push exports. The Ministry took note of the U.S.' and Europe's shift away from sourcing imports directly from China. The U.S.' total trade with China reduced in 2023 and remained stagnant in 2024. The European Union also saw a similar dip in trade with China in 2023 (Chart 2B). The chart below shows the U.S.'s total trade (including imports and exports) with China over the years (in \$ bn)

The Survey stated that FDI from China could boost India's exports to the U.S., "similar to how East Asian economies did in the past." Pai elaborated on India's change of heart. "Due to China's dominance in most markets, India cannot attract global supply chains which want to diversify from China without including Chinese companies in the mix," he said. The chart below shows the U.S.'s total trade (including imports and exports) with China over the years. The figures were sourced from Eurostat data, wherein exports and imports are indexed at 100 each, with 2013 as the starting year. Using this method, EU's total trade in 2013, which includes imports and exports, is represented as 200. In 2019, the index had increased to 239. India has proven to be a ready alternative for the U.S. to replace China in at least one of the major items. Due to its dominance in the manufacturing of components, China made up more than 60% of the U.S.'s imports of smartphones in 2016. However, 10 years later, China's share has dwindled to about 22% of the U.S.'s smartphone imports, majorly due to higher tariffs. The chart below shows the U.S.'s overall smartphone imports in \$ bn over the years. Meanwhile, countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, and India have shown upticks in their shares of U.S.'s smartphone imports. However, the possibility of replicating this success, without China's help, in other items as well is slim as of now. The chart below shows select countries' share in the U.S.'s import of smartphones over the years. While China's FDI stock (or cumulative FDI inflows) to most of its staple investment destinations have increased over the years, its stock with India has declined over the past decade. The table below shows that when Chinese FDI stock is ranked, India fell by 19 ranks between 2014 and 2024. Pai stated that although China was eager to invest in Indian companies, the curbs that were set in 2020 may have projected an unpredictable environment for investment.

The Ministry of Finance is set to scrap curbs on Chinese firms bidding for government contracts, which were introduced in 2020. The curbs were imposed following a deadly clash between the countries' troops in the Galwan Valley. They required Chinese bidders to register with an Indian government committee and obtain political and security clearances. According to Reuters, this resulted in China losing out on contracts worth \$700-750 billion. Notably, even during periods when India had a more favourable stance, direct Chinese investment remained low. China directly contributed less than 1% of India FDI equity inflows from 2000 to 2021, showing that recent curbs only add pressure.

The chart below shows China's share and rank in India's total FDI equity inflows from 2000 to 2025. The figure for 2020-2021 is cumulative. However, China's cumulative (direct and indirect) FDI inflows before 2020 into India are difficult to calculate as they were mostly routed through tax havens, according to Santosh Pai, Partner at Denton's Link Legal and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies. "Chinese investments almost never go directly into a country," he told The Hindu. These means of investments were wholly altered when the Indian government issued 'Press Note 3' in April 2020, which specifically stated that an entity of a country, which shares a land border with India, or where the beneficial owner is a citizen of any such country, requires mandatory approval from the Government of India before for an investment can be executed. Pai estimated that this denied any indirect investments that Chinese companies had slated for India.

A few years after this policy amendment, India's Min-

Why only female Darwin's bark spiders weave the toughest webs

One of the strongest materials on the earth isn't made in a factory or synthesised in a laboratory but spun by a creature barely two inches long. The Darwin's bark spider (*Caerostris darwini*), found in the forests of Madagascar, weaves silk that outperforms steel and most human-made fibres in both strength and toughness. Larger webs, stronger threads its silk has a tensile strength of about 1.6 gigapascals, around 3x higher than that of iron, making it the toughest biological material ever tested. But as scientists are now finding, this extraordinary strength isn't something every individual produces. Across spider species, body size is often linked to silk quality. Larger spiders generally produce tougher silks to capture larger or faster prey. In orb-weaving spiders such as the Darwin's bark spider, larger bodies over evolutionary time have accompanied larger webs and stronger silk threads.

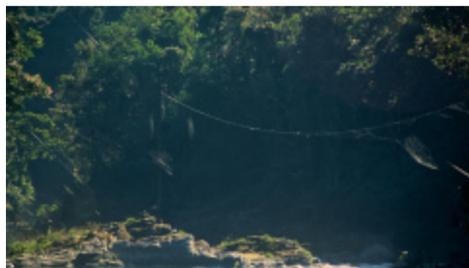
Scientists from institutions in China, Madagascar, Slovenia, and the US studied bark spiders to understand the conditions in which they produce the tough silk. Their findings were recently published in *Integrative Zoology*. Three hypotheses The study focused on two bark spider species in Madagascar: *Caerostris darwini*, which spins the largest orb webs ever recorded, and its close relative *Caerostris kuntneri*. Egg sacs from both species were collected from Analamazaotra National Park and the spiders were raised in laboratory conditions. This allowed the scientists to compare silk produced by males and females at different life stages while keeping environmental factors such as diet and humidity constant.

The team tested three competing hypotheses. The first proposed that all individuals — males and females, juveniles and adults — produce silk of similar toughness. The second suggested only females produce tougher silk, regardless of size. The third said only large individuals, especially large adult females, produce exceptionally tough silk as and when their body size and ecological role demand it. The size difference between male and female bark spiders is striking. In *C. darwini*, adult females are about 3x larger than males. In *Caerostris kuntneri*, they can be up to 5x larger, suggesting that females are under much stronger evolutionary pressure to invest in tougher silk.

To measure silk quality, the researchers collected dragline silk, also known as major ampullate silk, from spiders of both sexes and at different life stages in each species. Each strand was carefully mounted on a cardboard frame and stretched to test its strength, stiffness, and ability to absorb energy before breaking. Dragline silk is one of the most important types of spider silk. Nearly invisible to the naked eye, it forms the structural backbone of an orb web and serves as safety lines, anchor threads, and emergency escape ropes for the spiders. Producing this silk, however, is metabolically expensive. The energy required to synthesise the amino acids that make up dragline silk varies; some such as proline, which plays an important role in making silk elastic, are particularly expensive. Darwin's bark spider silk contains unusually high levels of this protein, explaining its exceptional mechanical properties but in turn increasing its metabolic cost.

Quality and architecture The study's results were unequivocal: only large adult females produced exceptionally tough silk. Their silk was also stiffer and more capable of absorbing far more mechanical strain before breaking than the silk produced by males or juveniles. The silk from adult males and juvenile males and females was mechanically indistinguishable.

The study also found that adult females produce high-performance silk only when it's biologically necessary. As the females grow larger and begin building large webs capable of intercepting fast-moving prey, they 'turn on' on the physiological machinery required to manufacture the superior silk. The study also uncovered a close link between silk quality and the architecture of the web. Adult female Darwin's bark spiders build more sparse webs, with wider gaps between threads, using less silk per unit area. Despite being economical, these webs are highly effective because each thread can absorb (relatively) enormous forces. Juveniles and males on the other hand spin more dense webs made of metabolically cheaper and weaker silk. Curiously, not all the properties of the silk varied with size and sex. Regardless of age or sex, all individuals produced silk of compara-



bly high stretchability, or how much the silk could be stretched before it broke. It suggested that the elasticity of the silk of spiders of the genus *Caerostris* is a genetically conserved feature — while extreme toughness is tuned according to body size and ecological demand. At the molecular level, differences in silk properties arise from changes in protein composition, how the proteins are arranged and cross-linked, and even the shape and length of the ducts that spin silk inside the spider's body. *C. darwini* has an unusually long and complex spinning duct that scientists believe could be allowing silk proteins to produce exceptionally strong silk fibre.

The trade-off however is time and energy. Female bark spiders produce less silk overall, take longer to rebuild their webs, and invest more in quality over quantity. "We think that very tough silk evolved because it was needed to structurally support the huge webs built by *Caerostris* spiders, rather than as an adaptation to hunt any specific prey," Matjaž Gregoric, the lead author of the study and a researcher at the Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, Slovenia, said. The strategy pays off in the spider's distinctive habitat. *C. darwini* builds enormous webs, up to 25 m wide, suspended over rivers and lakes. These aerial traps allow the spider to capture swarms of flies and beetles that few other spiders can. Silk production in Darwin's bark spiders has evolved to ensure energy is invested only where it can yield a greater survival advantage. The extraordinary properties of its silk thus emerge from a complex interplay between body size, sex, ecology, and behaviour.

Gates and OpenAI team up for AI health push in African countries

The Gates Foundation and OpenAI are setting up a \$50 million partnership to help African countries use artificial intelligence to improve their health systems. The partnership, called Horizon 1000, plans to work with African leaders to work out how best to use the technology, starting with Rwanda.

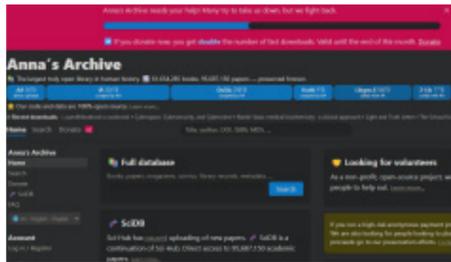
"In poorer countries with enormous health worker shortages and lack of health systems infrastructure, AI can be a gamechanger in expanding access to quality care," said Gates in a blog post announcing the launch. He has repeatedly described AI as one of the most transformative technologies ever developed.



The foundation has already set up a number of AI initiatives, while Rwanda last year established an AI health hub in Kigali. Horizon 1000 aims to reach 1,000 primary health clinics and surrounding communities across several countries by 2028, Gates said.

The launch comes as many lower-income countries struggle with major cuts to international aid budgets; reductions Gates said in December had contributed to the first rise in preventable child deaths this century. AI could be particularly valuable in countries with severe shortages of trained health workers, Gates said. He noted estimates suggesting sub-Saharan Africa is short of around six million healthcare professionals.

What the Anna's Archive Spotify hack reveals about digital piracy



In late December, a relatively little-known platform, Anna's Archive, made global headlines after it hacked Spotify. Tracked closely by open source movement advocates, the database that indexes millions of digital books and journals claimed it had scraped from Spotify about 86 million music files and metadata coming to slightly under 300TB. The platform claimed it "saw a role for us here to build a music archive primarily aimed at preservation." While the music collection is yet to be made fully available, the main web link to access Anna's Archive is down globally. This sudden outage has left numerous users—academics, bibliophiles, and open source activists—in distress.

What is Anna's Archive and how does it work?

Anna's Archive is a type of shadow library project that unifies existing libraries—both legal and illegal. It does this by collaborating with volunteers, scraping web content, and setting up mirrors to preserve digital records. When a user accesses Anna's Archive, they can see a variety of fast and slow download links from the platform's partner servers. Those who contribute certain amounts can get a higher number of faster downloads per day. In essence, Anna's Archive is a search engine for the contents of different shadow libraries. Anna's Archive claims that it has preserved about 16% of the world's books, including scientific journals, since its inception in 2022. The real identity of the person or group behind the project is unknown. But the group has cited Aaron Swartz, an American technologist and digital activist, as one of its sources of inspiration. The group considers itself a non-profit and claims that all donations are spent on servers, storage, and bandwidth. About its site being taken down and the scraping of Spotify data, the group posted on Reddit: "This unfortunately happens to shadow libraries on a regular basis. We don't believe this has to do with our Spotify backup." While many expressed support for the database, others criticised the project for purportedly drawing attention to its illegal activities by targeting a high-profile company like Spotify.

Is Anna's Archive an illegal platform?

Yes. But Anna's Archive claims that its mission is "backing up all knowledge and culture of humanity" and making it available to anyone. To fulfil its mission, the database breaks copyright laws and violates licensing permission so users can download e-books and other digital files for free. When a reader finds free books through Anna's Archive rather than going through a bookseller or a library, publishers lose out on their revenue while authors, artists, and other creatives lose out on the royalties. Anna's Archive has made contradictory claims regarding the legality of its project. In an introductory blog post published in November

2022, the author noted: "We deliberately violate the copyright law in most countries. This allows us to do something that legal entities cannot do: making sure books are mirrored far and wide." On the other hand, the website claimed that it does not host any copyrighted materials, and only indexes publicly available metadata as a search engine.

Furthermore, Anna's Archive shared that its code and data are fully open source. The platform offers its dataset that includes unreleased collections for archival and LLM training purposes. Anna's Archive offered enterprise-level access "for donations in the range of tens of thousands USD," or in exchange for high-quality collections it doesn't have yet. This means that companies building AI chatbots could use Anna's Archive to train their products on millions of works of art, science, and literature, without fairly compensating the creators. This month, a U.S. judge ordered Anna's Archive to delete its data from WorldCat, a global catalog of library materials. Anna's Archive in a 2023 blog post claimed it had "meticulously scraped all WorldCat records," by exploiting a flawed website upgrade to obtain a comprehensive to-do list of all the remaining books to be added to Anna's Archive. The legal order is also meant to stop Anna's Archive from scraping, harvesting, using, storing, or sharing WorldCat's data. However, this is unlikely to deter the group, which gleefully thanked WorldCat for hundreds of millions of records and the metadata of 30,000 libraries.

What is the current status of Anna's Archive?

Anna's Archive is currently unreachable through its annas-archive.org address, even when attempting to access it via a TOR browser. Some people are using alternative web addresses in order to access the database while others are waiting for the platform to come back online through the old .org address. Anna's Archive as well as community members have provided tips and technical advice for those who wish to access the platform through other links. However, there is the risk of less experienced users being scammed by fake web addresses. Anna's Archive has alleged that the annas-archive.su address, for example, is fraudulent and steals users' donations.

In spite of the takedown, downloads appear to be continuing. On January 19, Anna's Archive shared on its website that based on downloads in the last 30 days, the hourly average was 37,000 and the daily average was 883,000. There was a sharp dip in downloads after the .org web address went down, followed by a gradual recovery. The platform also provides downloads stats for individual books. Multiple Anna's Archive users and donors on Reddit justified their downloads by citing the prohibitive cost of buying books. Others spoke about the lack of libraries in their country, high import fees for foreign books, the need for educational resources, the ability to get new books during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, getting digital versions of physical books they already had, upskilling for career reasons, working on their hobbies, inculcating a reading habit instead of scrolling online, reading more diversely, or not wanting to use the restrictive e-book formats provided by the original publishers. "[G]od bless, being from 3rd world country where can I get all [this] valuable knowledge, however we have to come to a common ground and see how to compensate authors, the knowledge that I got from books has made people retain jobs and support families," shared a user on Reddit this month, in response to Anna's Archive.

A tactical thaw in Kerala politics



With just over a couple of months to go for the Kerala Assembly elections, and coming hard on the heels of a fiercely contested local body poll, the State's political chessboard is being swiftly rearranged. At the centre of this churn is a development that would have seemed improbable even a year ago: the visible thaw in relations between the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam and the Nair Service Society (NSS). For the two Hindu community organisations that wield decisive influence across large swathes of southern and central Kerala, the symbolism of this emerging bonhomie is as potent as the electoral arithmetic. If this alignment holds, it would represent the most serious attempt at Hindu community convergence in over a decade.

The last attempt to stitch together a Grand Hindu Alliance between 2012 and 2014 had failed. It collapsed under bitter disagreements between these very same bodies over caste-based reservations and the Devaswom Recruitment Board. The bitterness of that rupture lingered for almost a decade, making the present display of warmth all the more striking. Beneath the cordiality, however, still lies a fundamental uncertainty over how they intend to reconcile positions shaped by sharply different social and political standings. For now, the convergence appears tactical. In reality, the rapprochement did not materialise overnight. The leadership of the NSS and SNDP had been edging closer for over a year. The turning point came in September last year with the Global Ayyappa Sangamam at Pampa, organised by the Left Democratic Front government ostensibly to deliberate on the future course of development at the hill shrine.

But what has clearly accelerated the public expression of this alignment is the emergence of a common adversary in Opposition leader V.D. Satheesan. The general secretaries of both organisations, G. Sukumaran Nair and Vellappally Natesan, have made little effort to hide their hostility toward Mr. Satheesan since he assumed office. This discontent came to the fore after Mr. Satheesan criticised controversial remarks by the SNDF leader, widely seen as targeting the Muslim community in Malabar. From there,

the divisions became sharper, and the alignment unmistakably public. After all, both organisations have long harboured concerns over a perceived rise of Muslim influence in Kerala's political arena.

The projection of the LDF as enjoying the confidence of two of Kerala's most influential Hindu community organisations has sparked speculation that the CPI(M) played a quiet role in nudging the SNDF-NSS rapprochement. The move is widely seen as a counterweight to the steady consolidation of Muslim votes in Malabar and Catholic votes in central Travancore behind the Congress-led United Democratic Front. Viewed through this prism, the timing of senior CPI(M) leader A.K. Balan's remark that Jamaat e Islami would control the Home portfolio under a UDF government appears anything but incidental. This pattern found continuity when Cultural Affairs Minister Sajji Cherian drew pointed attention to the identity of candidates fielded by the Indian Union Muslim League. The CPI(M) and the LDF have maintained a studied silence, as if to allow the narrative to gain traction without formal endorsement.

For the UDF, which rides high on its local body election gains under Mr. Satheesan's leadership, this evolving chemistry between the NSS and SNDF is an unwelcome complication. Not just the Congress, but even the IUML has chosen restraint. After a decade out of power, the UDF's strategy is clear: allow anti-incumbency to do the heavy lifting, consolidate its social coalition, and avoid detonating new fault lines on the eve of the Assembly polls. Whether the coming together of these two Hindu community organisations, which together represent roughly 35% of Kerala's Hindu population, will convert into a proportionate electoral swing remains an open question. Large sections within these communities are already anchored to entrenched political loyalties. The National Democratic Alliance also commands a significant share of this social space. What is already beyond doubt, however, is that identity politics is no longer hovering at the margins. It is fast-moving to the very centre of Kerala's high-stakes electoral contest.

4 cops among 9 arrested in separate cases of robbery, extortion in Karnataka



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

In two separate cases reported in Karnataka, nine people, including 4 police personnel, were arrested in connection with charges including robbery, extortion and issuing threats. In Davanagere, seven people, including two police sub-inspectors, were arrested for allegedly threatening and robbing a jeweller on Monday. The police have also seized the car used in the crime and a fake pistol. The arrested officers were identified as Malappa Chippalakatti and Praveen Kumar, attached to the office of the Davanagere Eastern Zone Inspector General of Police (IGP). The two were recently transferred to this office from Haveri district. Their accomplices were identified as Satish Revankar, Nagraj Revankar, Dundappa, Nagesh, and Dilyappa.

According to the police, the incident took place on Monday near the Davanagere bus stand when Vishwanath Arkasali, a jeweller from Karwar who buys and sells gold bullion from traders in Davanagere to make ornaments, boarded a bus to Karwar via Hubballi. The two accused police personnel allegedly entered the bus, took Arkasali by the collar and dragged him out of the bus without informing why they were doing so. Uma Prashant, Superintendent of Police (SP), Davanagere, told reporters on Tuesday that the accused officers took the man to KTJ Nagar police station in an official vehicle before transferring him to another vehicle. "The accused threatened the victim and accused

that he was involved in smuggling gold from Dubai and other countries, and threatened to give away the gold," the SP said. As per the First Information Report (FIR), Arkasali said that when he questioned the actions of the officers, they flashed their official ID cards and took away 76 grams of gold bars and a ring weighing 2.15 grams before dropping him back at the bus stand. Following the incident, Arkasali initially proceeded to Karwar, but returned to Davanagere on Monday to file a complaint at KTJ Nagar police station. The police subsequently arrested the two sub-inspectors on Monday night and the other accused by Tuesday morning. In Bengaluru's JP Nagar, two police constables were arrested for allegedly extorting Rs 10,300 from an insurance agent earlier this month.

The arrested constables were identified as Basavaraj and Gurudutt, both attached to the JP Nagar police station. The incident allegedly took place on November 1, when the victim, Varadaraju, an insurance agent, was sitting in a car with a woman friend around 8.45 pm. The constables, who were on patrol, approached them and questioned their presence at the spot, while accusing the two of indulging in anti-social activity. Before Varadaraju could explain, Basavaraj got into the car and began driving to the police station, with Gurudutt following them. On the way to the station, the officer allegedly halted the vehicle and said that they would seize the car if Varadaraju did not pay them Rs 40,000, following which Varadaraju transferred Rs 10,300 to one of the constables and left. On November 5, Varadaraju approached the JP Nagar police station and filed a complaint. Internal probe revealed that Basavaraj and Gurudutt had extorted the money. On Tuesday, the police said they were arrested and suspended from service. Last week, Chalapathy, a constable from Malur police station in Karnataka's Kolar district, was arrested for allegedly kidnapping four BPO managers in Bengaluru in a bid to extort Rs 8.90 lakh from them. Seven others were also arrested in the case. On November 19, Annappa Naik, a constable attached to Govindapura police station in Bengaluru, was arrested for alleged involvement in robbing Rs 7.11 crore from a vehicle carrying cash to restock ATMs.

'Pledge to protect democracy': On Constitution Day, Mamata backs BLOs, slams BJP



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday pledged to "protect democracy" in India and slammed the BJP government at the Centre for attacking democracy and religion, raising questions on citizenship and voting rights, and for "rushing" the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in the country. "Today, when democracy and religion are being attacked, and questions are being raised on citizenship and voting rights, we must ask ourselves: do we have to give proof of our citizenship? NRC [National Register of Citizens] is behind this. We are shocked and saddened by this. This is why I take a pledge here today to protect India's democracy, which is the biggest," Banerjee said, after offering tributes to a statue of Dr B R Ambedkar in Kolkata on the occasion of Constitution Day.

"Do one thing [BJP], send 4 crore notices and we will still fight you! I condemn them for what they are doing. They have pushed the nation so low. Where is neutrality? There is only unfairness and partisanship," she said. Banerjee, who warned the BJP that it would lose power soon, also spoke up in defence of the thousands of block level officers (BLOs) in West Bengal who are scrambling to complete the SIR process. "BLOs are dying everywhere. Their demands are justified. Can you imagine that they had to sit for 48 hours just for a meeting?" she asked, referring to a protest staged by members of the BLO Adhikar Raksha Committee outside the West Bengal chief electoral officer's (CEO's) office over "excessive work pressure".

Bombay vs Mumbai row heats up over 'IIT Bombay' as Raj Thackeray slams Union minister Jitendra Singh's IIT speech



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

A Union minister's remark on IIT Bombay retaining its name rather than changing it to Mumbai has become the latest flashpoint in the city, with civic elections around the corner and Raj Thackeray picking up the cudgels, bringing up Marathi pride and identity. On Monday, during an event at IIT Bombay, Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, said, "Thank God, IIT Bombay has still retained its name...you have not changed it to Mumbai. It is true for Madras. It remains IIT Madras."

A day later, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray—whose party has long championed sons-of-the-soil and anti-migrant politics—slammed Singh, saying his statement reflected the government's "mindset." "And what is this mentality? So the plan to separate Mumbai, which belonged to the Marathi people, from Maharashtra was foiled by the Marathi leaders and the people. And our Marathi remained in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The bitterness that had been building up in their stomachs for decades has started to come out once again," Thackeray said in a post on X. Pointing out that Singh has no connection with Mumbai, Maharashtra or Gujarat, Thackeray alleged that his aim was to get praise by knowing what was going on in the minds of top leaders and saying so. Appealing to Maharashtrians to "open their eyes", Thackeray further said, "They hate the name 'Mumbai' because it is named after Mumbadevi, the original goddess of Mumbai. Her children are the Marathi people who have lived here for generations. They hate you and your city." The MNS chief then referred to how the Centre had "tried to take away the city of Chandigarh from Punjab". "It faced all-party opposition, so it withdrew, but it was a temporary withdrawal. As regards Mumbai, a similar agenda is on their minds," he added.

"There is definitely an attempt to slowly take over this city by saying, 'I don't want Mumbai, I want Bombay'. First, there is an attempt to take over Mumbai and then the entire MMR area and connect it to Gujarat," Thackeray said, adding that it was high time Marathi people woke up. Navnath Ban, the state BJP media in-charge, rejected the "baseless charges". "The renaming of Bombay was done under a BJP-led government at the Centre and the state. In Maharashtra, the undivided Shiv Sena and the BJP were in coalition. It was senior BJP leader Ram Naik who first mooted the idea in Parliament," he said. "Those questioning the BJP are doing politics. Mumbai saw maximum development under the BJP regime, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. Unfortunately, Raj Thackeray is overlooking facts and making baseless charges," he added. According to legend, the city was once captured by a demon named Mumbāraka. Troubled by him, the Kolis prayed to Lord Brahma for help. Lord Brahma then created an eight-armed goddess named Mumba to kill the demon. Another theory suggests that in the 16th century, the Portuguese called the area 'Bombai', meaning 'good bay'. Later, during British rule, the name evolved into Bombay. Bombay was officially renamed

"You (BLO) should not die by suicide because life is very precious. Yet they have no mercy and took 48 hours just to meet the BLOs and listen to them. Look at the audacity of a small leader [state CEO]! We have the records of all the deaths. Who is responsible for the BLO deaths in Gujarat and MP? BJP is in power there. Why are they rushing the SIR? Are they all saints? They are threatening the BLOs by saying their jobs will be taken away. Who will save your jobs when you are threatening others?" she said. Banerjee said that the SIR work could be completed within two months. "How can you complete the work of three years in two months? This is farming season. Even the distribution figures of the enumeration forms are wrong. We will follow the Constitution and work as per it. Whatever guidance the freedom fighters have given us, we will follow their guidelines and not the BJP's guidelines," she added. Taking a dig at the BJP, Banerjee said, "We did not get freedom because of the mercy of those in power today [BJP], we got it because of the freedom fighters. Ninety per cent were Bengali, while Punjab also made one of the biggest contributions. It was Bengal that brought renaissance and revolution to India." "Are they trying to destroy Bengal's identity? We are a part of India, and we are proud to say that Bengal has always fought for democracy, secularism, and unity in diversity. We are saddened to see democratic rights being taken away and division happening everywhere on religious grounds," she added. Accusing the BJP of "pushing people to the verge of dying" because of the citizenship issue, Banerjee said, "Those who are doing politics with this, it is a shame! People's houses have been demolished in Bihar. This is the BJP's trick, to loot after the polls. We have to unite against this. If we cannot say Jai Hind and Vande Mataram and if they disrespect Raja Rammohan Roy, is this acceptable? You are disrespecting our land! A leader is one who understands and respects people. All agencies have been complicit!" Atri Mitra is a Special Correspondent of The Indian Express with more than 20 years of experience in reporting from West Bengal, Bihar and the North-East. He has been covering administration and political news for more than ten years and has a keen interest in political development in West Bengal. Atri holds a Master degree in Economics from Rabindrabharati University and Bachelor's degree from Calcutta University. He is also an alumnus of St. Xavier's, Kolkata and Ramakrishna Mission Asrama, Narendrapur. He started his career with leading vernacular daily the Anandabazar Patrika, and worked there for more than fifteen years. He worked as Bihar correspondent for more than three years for Anandabazar Patrika. He covered the 2009 Lok Sabha election and 2010 assembly elections. He also worked with News18-Bangla and covered the Bihar Lok Sabha election in 2019.

Mumbai during the Shiv Sena-BJP coalition government's tenure in Maharashtra in March 1995. The renaming, which required approval from the Centre, was carried out while the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in power. The coalition government in Maharashtra, led by then chief minister Manohar Joshi and his deputy Gopinath Munde, had then justified the renaming of the city, saying that it was to honour Mumbadevi, the presiding deity worshipped by people in the island city. Bombay was also at the heart of a dispute on whether the city should stay with Maharashtra or Gujarat while states were being carved out on a linguistic basis. The tussle led to the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement between 1956 and 1960, which saw political parties set aside ideological differences and fight unitedly to retain Mumbai in Maharashtra. More than 100 people died as part of the agitation. Shripad Dange, Shreedhar Joshi, Narayan Gore, Uddhavrao Patil, Annabhau Sathe, Prahlad Atre, Keshav Thackeray, Pandurang Bapat, Bhandasab Raut, Amar Shaikh, G T Madhokkar, Madhuri Dandavate, Y K Saini, and Keshavrao Jedhe were prominent leaders of the movement. The Samyukta Maharashtra Movement was recently referred to by NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut during an Opposition protest against alleged vote fraud and the bid to push Hindi as a compulsory third language, respectively.

U.S. Senator raises concerns over Pakistan's discriminatory policies against religious minorities

A key U.S. Senator has raised concerns over the continuous suppression of religious freedom and discriminatory policies of the government against minority groups in Pakistan. According to a report released by Pakistan's top human rights body earlier this year, there has been an alarming rise in violence against religious minorities, apart from forced conversions and underage marriages of Hindu and Christian girls.

"The Pakistani government continues to suppress religious freedom for minority groups by imposing blasphemy law and other discriminatory policies," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Senator Jim Risch said in a social media post on Tuesday (November 25, 2025).

'Streets of Fear: Freedom of Religion or Belief in 2024/25,' a report by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) released in August, highlighted such cases of suppression against minority groups, especially the Ahmadis, Hindus and Christians in the country.

File picture of Pakistani civil society activists calling for protection of Hindu girls at a protest in Hyderabad, Pakistan. File picture of Pakistani civil society activists calling for protection of Hindu girls at a protest in Hyderabad, Pakistan. [There has been a trend of mob lynching of minority members accused of blasphemy, it said. Raising concern over such incidents, Risch said,

"Atmosphere of intolerance including mob violence, hate speech, arbitrary arrests, and forced conversions often remains unchecked" against minority groups in Pakistan. The rights body had pointed out the rise in hate speech, ranging from threats against the chief justice of the Supreme Court to public vilification of elected representatives. File picture of a protest to condemn the attacks on churches and houses in Faisalabad, Pakistan

Haryana finally enacts law to take over management of Gurgaon's Aparna Institution for 10 years

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

In a significant move aimed at ensuring the "proper and efficient management" of Aparna Institution, the Haryana legislature has enacted the Aparna Institution (Taking Over of Management and Control) Act, 2025. The new law empowers the state government to assume full control of the prominent yoga and spiritual organisation, located in the Sikohra village in Gurgaon, for an initial period of 10 years, with provisions for extension. The Act, which has come into force now upon its publication in the Official Gazette, marks a major intervention in the affairs of the Aparna Ashram Society, registered in 1973-74 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The government cites public interest and the need to safeguard the institution's functioning and assets as primary reasons for the takeover.

In September, the Civil Judge (Senior division)-cum-presiding officer Ramesh Chander ordered the "cancellation" of the contentious land sale worth over Rs 55 crore involving a sprawling 192-kanal land parcel in Gurgaon. The decision came after a multi-party settlement between real estate firms and Dhirendra Brahmachari-founded Aparna Ashram Society in July, following years of civil and criminal litigation. On March 28, during the Budget session, the Haryana government introduced and passed the Aparna Institution (Taking Over of Management and Control) Bill, 2025, amid the Opposition's protests and Congress legislators raising concerns about its legal validity and jurisdiction.

Despite these objections, the Bill was approved through a voice vote, and the Congress MLAs staged a walkout in protest. The land's 2020 sale had also sparked legal battles after disputes arose over governance, authorisation, and criminal charges against 'key members' of the Society. The Bill was sent to the President's assent, which was given in August, following which the state government issued a notification enacting this Act on November 20. The following are some of the salient features of the Act. Government assumes management, governing council dissolved. Under Section 3 of the Act, the state government now holds complete management, control, and possession of the institution's property. This includes approximately 24 acres and 16 marlas of land and all buildings and associated rights.

The legislation explicitly removes from power all individuals and bodies managing the institution prior to the takeover. Any authority or governing council previously responsible for the institution is deemed dissolved, and its members are barred from exercising any control over the institution. The Act further prohibits these individuals from appointing new managers or passing resolutions relating to the institution during the takeover period. Additionally, any move toward dissolution, merger, or the appointment of a receiver for the institution now requires the state government's written consent. The law authorises the state government to appoint an administrator vested with all powers of the former governing council. The administrator, who

must meet qualifications prescribed through future rules, will act directly under government instructions and may appoint additional personnel to manage the institution. To assist the administrator, the state government will also constitute a committee of qualified members to ensure oversight, smooth operation, and adherence to the institution's objectives. The administrator has wide-ranging powers, including the authority to institute or defend legal proceedings, manage finances, and oversee all institutional affairs. Both the administrator and appointed staff will receive remuneration as decided by the government. Financial support and oversight. The Act enables the government to provide grants or advances to the institution as needed, allowing operations and developmental projects to continue without interruption. Furthermore, the law requires all individuals who possessed the institution's property, documents, or assets as of the appointed day to hand them over to the government-appointed authorities immediately. This includes minute books, financial documents, cheque books, correspondence, inventories, and agreements. The former managers must also submit a complete inventory of assets and liabilities within seven days, unless granted an extension.

Showing the government's intentions not only to stabilise the institution but also to expand its scope as a centre for yoga, wellness and social upliftment, one of the most detailed sections of the Act outlines the aims and objectives that the administrator must uphold. These include promoting yoga through education, research, and public outreach; conducting courses and training in yoga and natural health practices; educating the public on avoiding harmful drugs, including LSD and other substances; supporting mental well-being, stress reduction, and spiritual values; creating facilities such as ashrams, training centres, guest houses, and health resorts; publishing literature, organising conferences, and offering scholarships or grants; establishing branches and collaborating with similar institutions; managing agricultural, dairy, gardening, and plantation activities; and acquiring and developing property to advance the institution's mission. Penalties for withholding property or non-compliance. The Act imposes stringent penalties on individuals who refuse to hand over assets or documents, or who wrongfully retain or destroy property belonging to the institution. Offences are punishable by up to five years of imprisonment, a fine of up to Rs 50,000, or both. Companies found guilty of offences under the Act may also face prosecution, and responsible officers can be held personally liable if negligence or connivance is proven. Government officials, the administrator, and authorised personnel are granted protection from legal action for decisions made in good faith under the Act. The legislation also supersedes any conflicting laws or agreements. The state government has been granted authority to frame rules for implementing the Act and to issue orders to resolve operational difficulties for up to two years from commencement.

Martial law charges: South Korean special prosecutor seeks 15-year jail term for former PM Han Duck-soo

GNS News Agency, Jan 26

South Korea's special prosecutor on Wednesday (November 26, 2025) sought a 15-year jail term for former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo on allegations he abetted former President Yoon Suk Yeol's botched bid to impose martial law last December. Mr. Han is expected to be the first former Cabinet member to be handed a ruling by a lower court on criminal charges related to martial law and his case may set the tone for Mr. Yoon's current trial and other rulings that are expected to follow. A ruling in Mr. Han's case is likely to occur early next year. South Korean court overturns impeachment of PM Han, reinstates him as acting President. "We believe severe punishment of the defendant (Mr. Han) is inevitable to prevent such an unfortunate history from being repeated," one of the prosecutors said on Wednesday (November 26, 2025). Mr. Han has been charged with aiding and abetting Mr. Yoon's role as a "ring-leader of an insurrection" that declared an illegal emergency martial law. According to the charge, Mr. Han was obliged to check the President's arbitrary abuse of authority as Prime Minister, the "second-in-command in state affairs."

Mr. Han has denied the charges, except perjury, say-



ing he had "no knowledge of the overall plan (of martial law) and opposed it in the Presidential office because it would cause significant problems for the economy and external credibility." Mr. Han, 76, is an experienced technocrat who served in senior posts under five Presidents. He became acting President after Mr. Yoon was impeached, before he too was impeached over accusations that he had aided Yoon in the martial law declaration. The Constitutional Court overturned Mr. Han's impeachment,

Rupee recovers 15 paise from all-time low to 91.50 against U.S. dollar in early trade



ground to trade at 91.50 against the greenback, up 15 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday (January 21, 2026), the rupee plunged 68 paise to close at an all-time low of 91.65 against the dollar.

Forex traders, however, said the currency remains under severe pressure from heightening global geopolitical uncertainties. The pending trade agreement with the U.S. remains a key stabilising factor. Until the geopolitical risk eases and the trade deal materialises, the rupee is likely to remain vulnerable to external shocks, they said. According to Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director at Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, Asian equities are up giving some relief and rupee witnessed a rebound after Mr. Trump's speech in Davos in which he avoided confrontation with European Nations to some extent and also said that a framework has been reached on Greenland. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.02% higher at 98.78. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.17% higher at \$65.35 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 533.37 points to 82,443 in early trade, while the Nifty was up 157.20 points to 25,314.70. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,787.66 crore on Wednesday (January 21, 2026), according to exchange data.

The rupee rebounded from its all-time low levels and gained 15 paise to trade at 91.50 against the U.S. dollar in early deals on Thursday (January 22, 2026), on improved risk appetite after U.S. President Donald Trump said that he had no intention of applying tariffs on Europe for Greenland acquisition. Forex traders said investors' sentiments improved after President Trump announced in Davos on Wednesday (January 21, 2026) that he was scrapping his planned tariffs on eight European nations in an effort to force U.S. control over Greenland.

Moreover, a positive trend in domestic equities also helped in the rebound of the domestic unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.54 then gained

E.U. chief says Trump's threats challenge Europe's security and prosperity, ahead of emergency summit

U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to annex Greenland and slap tariffs on its backers pose a challenge to Europe's security, principles and prosperity, a top E.U. official said. "All these three dimensions are being tested in the current moment of transatlantic relations," European Council President Antonio Costa said. He has convened an emergency summit of the E.U.'s 27 national leaders in Brussels on Thursday (January 22, 2026). Mr. Trump's determination to "acquire" the mineral-rich island in the Arctic region, for what he claims are security reasons, has undermined trust in the United States among allies in Europe and Canada. Denmark angered Mr. Trump after sending a military "reconnaissance" force to Greenland, a semiautonomous Danish territory. A small number of troops from several European nations joined, and Denmark is weighing a longer-term military presence there.

Mr. Costa said E.U. leaders are united on "the principles of international law, territorial integrity and national sovereignty," something the bloc has underlined in defending Ukraine against invasion by Russia, and which is now threatened in Greenland. In a speech to E.U. lawmakers in Strasbourg, France, he also stressed that only "Denmark and Greenland can decide their future." He insisted that "further tariffs would undermine transatlantic relations and are incompatible with the E.U.-U.S. trade agreement." The lawmakers must endorse the deal made last July, but have threatened not to do so over Mr. Trump's tariff threats. Mr. Costa said that "we stand ready to defend ourselves, our member states, our citizens, our companies, against any form of coercion. And the European Union has the power and the tools to do so."

E.U. leaders have been galvanised by Mr. Trump's threats over Greenland, and are rethinking their relations



with America, their long-time ally and the most powerful member of NATO. "Appeasement is always a sign of weakness. Europe cannot afford to be weak — neither against its enemies, nor against its allies," Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, long a staunch supporter of strong transatlantic ties, posted on social media on Tuesday. "Appeasement means no results, only humiliation. European assertiveness and self-confidence have become the need of the moment," Mr. Tusk wrote. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who manages trade on behalf of EU countries, warned that the bloc is "at a crossroads." Should tariffs come, she said, "we are fully prepared to act, if necessary, with unity, urgency and determination." In Strasbourg, she told the lawmakers that the commission is working on "a massive European investment surge in Greenland" to beef up its economy and infrastructure, as well as a new European security strategy. Security around the island itself should be boosted with partners like the U.K., Canada, Norway and Iceland, among others, Ms. von der Leyen said.

Syrian government takes control of camp housing thousands linked to Islamic State group

Syrian government forces on Wednesday (January 21, 2026) took full control of a sprawling camp in northeast Syria housing thousands of people linked to the Islamic State group as a truce between the government and Kurdish fighters appears to be holding.

A convoy of armoured vehicles carrying government troops moved into the al-Hol camp on Wednesday (January 21, 2026) following two weeks of clashes between government forces and Kurdish-led fighters who lost large parts of the land that they had controlled for years. The U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces appear closer than ever to merging into the Syrian military, in accordance with demands by the government. The capture of the camp came a day after SDF fighters withdrew from the facility that they had been running for years.

At its peak in 2019, some 73,000 people were living at al-Hol camp. Since then, the number has declined, with some countries repatriating their citizens. The camp is now home to some 24,000, most of them women and children linked to the Islamic State group. They include about 14,500 Syrians and nearly 3,000 Iraqis. Some 6,500 others, many of them loyal IS supporters who came from around the world to join the extremist group, are separately held in a highly secured section of the camp. There have been reports that some families managed to flee the camp during the chaos, but there has been no official confirmation. An Associated Press journalist was not allowed into the camp but saw scores of soldiers guarding the main entrance of the facility.

Late Tuesday (January 20), the Syrian government and the SDF announced a new four-day truce after a previous ceasefire broke down. Northeast Syria was relatively calm on Wednesday. The SDF and the government traded blame over the escape on Monday of IS members from a prison in the northeastern town of Shaddadeh. Since then, many of the detainees who fled were captured by government troops who took control of the jail, state media reported. The SDF remains in control of the vast majority of more than a dozen prisons where some 9,000 members of IS have been held for years. Under a deal announced Sunday, government forces were to take over the control of the prisons from the SDF, but the transfer did not go smoothly.

The largest detention facility is the Gweiran Prison, now called Panorama, which has held about 4,500 IS-linked detainees for years. The prison is in the city of Hassakeh, which is still under full control of the SDF. Syria's Defence Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Hassan Abdul-Ghani said in televised comments Tuesday night that the government "was and still is in direct confrontation" with IS. He added that authorities are ready to take over prisons where IS members are held. He added that once prisons are taken over, they will be put under the authority of the Interior Ministry. IS was defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria two years later, but the group's sleeper cells still carry out deadly attacks in both countries. Tom Barrack, the U.S. envoy to Syria, said in a statement on Tuesday (January 20, 2026) that the SDF's role as the primary anti-IS force "has largely expired, as Damascus is now both willing and positioned to



take over security responsibilities." He added that the "recent developments show the U.S. actively facilitating this transition, rather than prolonging a separate SDF role."

Rajasthan approves draft Bill to restrict property transfer in 'disturbed areas' to address communal tension

The Rajasthan Cabinet on Wednesday (January 21, 2026) approved a Bill to designate certain areas in the State as "disturbed" to address the issue of distress sale of properties and infringement of tenants' rights during communal violence. The Bill will be tabled in the upcoming budget session of the State Assembly.

Law Minister Jogaram Patel said after the Cabinet meeting in Jaipur that the areas affected by violence, mob unrest, or "improper clustering" — with a change in demographic profile — could be declared as disturbed. The transfer of immovable properties in such areas without prior permission of the competent authority will be null and void.

The proposed legislation has been titled as the Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provisions for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from the Premises in Disturbed Areas Bill, 2026. "We have noticed that the population of a particular community is increasing fast in certain areas... The demographic imbalance disturbs communal harmony and creates difficulties for permanent residents. The situation during riots and public unrest warrants a special law to deal with these issues," Mr. Patel said. The Minister said the permanent residents of the areas affected by communal violence were often forced to sell their properties at low prices. The Bill, which will deal with this situation, has made the offences committed in violation of its provisions non-bailable and cognisable, and punishable with imprisonment ranging from three to five years and a fine.

Akshaye Khanna once admitted frustration over marriage questions: 'After Salman Khan...It's so irritating'



Dhurandhar actor Akshaye Khanna, 50, has been asked so many times about his plans to get married that he is now almost frustrated. "It's so irritating when people who you don't even know are asking you about when you'll get married. It's irritating. I said that after Salman Khan gets married, I will. Just to avoid this topic," he told Faridoun Shahryar in an interview back in 2012, when he was 36.

Opening about his choices and his views on responsibility, he added, "I don't like responsibility in my life. There is no bigger responsibility than having children. There is no bigger responsibility than being responsible for a wife, for a family. That's the ultimate responsibility for any man. I don't want that responsibility. I'm happy alone. No responsibility. Nobody has to worry about me. I only have to worry about myself. Fantastic life I have got. Why should I spoil that? After a few years, if I feel I want to get married, and if I fall in love with someone, if I find the correct, beautiful woman, then I can think about it. But I am 36 years old. Why do you guys want to spoil my life? I'm just living life for myself. Why should I change that?"

In another interview snippet, he told Vicky Lalwani in 2018, "Not that I don't believe in the institution of marriage. Marriage is not for me. That I know for sure. It's not something that makes sense to me because of the way I am. Tomorrow, your wife can leave you, or a husband can leave the wife. I like my own space." Quite visibly, society still treats marriage as a moral milestone rather than a personal choice, and anyone who steps outside that script is subtly, or sometimes aggressively, questioned. So, what does it communicate from a psychological perspective? "The irritation is not about the question alone," shared psychotherapist and

life coach Delna Rrajesh. It is about the repeated invalidation of autonomy. "When strangers feel entitled to interrogate someone's life choices, the message being conveyed is simple. Your contentment is not trusted unless it resembles the norm. What is particularly important in such conversations is the honesty around responsibility. Many people enter marriage and parenthood without ever being allowed to say what they truly feel about it. Responsibility is romanticised, moralised, and glorified, but rarely discussed in terms of temperament, capacity, or desire. Not every one is wired to hold the emotional, relational, and logistical weight that comes with being responsible for a partner and children. Acknowledging that truth is not selfish. It is being self-aware," expressed Delna.

Problems arise when society insists on one model of adulthood and labels everything else as avoidance, immaturity, or fear, added Delna. There is also an uncomfortable truth that people rarely confront. Marriage does not guarantee stability. "Commitment does not immunise against loss, separation, or loneliness. Some individuals are acutely aware of this and choose a life in which they take responsibility only for themselves, rather than risk resentment, burnout, or emotional withdrawal later. This is not cynicism. It is realism," asserted Delna. She shared that many adults who remain single are not avoiding responsibility. "They are exercising discernment. They understand the weight of commitment and refuse to take it lightly. This is a form of integrity that deserves respect, not interrogation," said Delna.

What becomes damaging is the constant pressure to justify one's choices. "Repeated questioning communicates that contentment outside marriage is suspicious. Over time, this creates irritation, defensiveness, and withdrawal, not because the individual is insecure, but because their boundaries are being repeatedly crossed," elucidated Delna. As a society, we need to evolve in our understanding of adulthood. "Marriage is one path, not the path. Responsibility can be shared or singular. Fulfilment can be relational or solitary. None of these are moral failure. The more psychologically healthy approach is simple. Let people choose the life that fits their temperament, values, and nervous system. Trust that adults are capable of knowing what sustains them," said Delna.

Fitness trainer says he helped Shilpa Shetty lose weight in three months after pregnancy: 'She had put on 35 kilos'

Fitness trainer Vinod Channa recently recalled how he helped actor Shilpa Shetty lose 35 kilos after pregnancy. "Post pregnancy, Shilpa Shetty came to me for weight loss. She had put on 35 kilos. I helped her reduce it within three months," he told Hindi Rush. Quashing rumours of surgery or medications to lose weight, Channa exclaimed, "People think she did something. What about the effort that we put in for three months? Everything natural. Those who exercise don't need anything else... Their bodies react fast anyway. I have not given them any stuff that may adversely affect them. I have always guided them naturally. I have lost and gained weight 30 times, so every time, you come to know your past mistakes." Taking a cue from his candid confession, let's understand all about weight loss in the postpartum period. Dr Richa Bharadwaj, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, said post-pregnancy weight loss varies widely among women. "Factors such as genetics, pre-pregnancy fitness, metabolism, and lifestyle support all play a role. From a medical perspective, healthy postpartum weight loss is not about how quickly the weight comes off. It is about whether the body is recovering well. Strength, hormonal balance, and emotional well-being are much more important than rapid transformation," said Dr Bharadwaj.

According to the expert, losing weight too quickly after childbirth can disrupt hormones, affect milk supply in breastfeeding mothers, weaken bones, and increase fatigue. "It may also impact mental health, especially at a time when women are already adjusting to significant physical and emotional changes," contended Dr Bharadwaj. In medical terms, natural weight loss refers to gradual changes rather than extreme measures. "This includes a balanced, nutri-



ent-dense diet, gentle to moderate exercise, sufficient rest, and stress management. Breastfeeding may increase calorie use, but it should never be seen as a weight loss tool. The postpartum body needs nourishment to heal and function well," asserted Dr Bharadwaj. When is it safe for women to focus on weight loss after delivery? "The first six weeks after childbirth are mainly for recovery. While light activity such as walking can begin early, structured exercise and intentional weight loss should usually wait until after medical clearance. Women who have had C-sections or faced complications may need a longer recovery period," said Dr Bharadwaj.

What to consider?

The postpartum body should not be rushed or compared to celebrity transformations. "Pregnancy and childbirth place major demands on the body, and recovery takes time. A healthier approach prioritises strength, energy levels, and mental wellbeing, allowing weight to stabilise naturally as the body heals," said Dr Bharadwaj.

Can a no-oil or no-ghee diet harm your health?

People trying to lose weight or eat 'clean' often cut out ghee and cooking oils from their diet. Although this might seem like an easy way to reduce calories, nutritionists warn that removing all fats can upset the body's natural balance. To learn more, we spoke with Dt Ginni Kalra, Head of Di-etetics at Aakash Healthcare, who explained which nutrients you might miss, what symptoms could appear, and which healthier options to include if you're avoiding visible fats. According to Dt Kalra, the biggest risk of a zero-fat diet is the loss of fat-soluble vitamins.

"When you eliminate ghee and oils completely, you compromise the absorption of vitamins A, D, E, and K. These nutrients can't be used by the body without dietary fat," she explains. These vitamins play roles in eye health, immunity, bone strength, antioxidant protection, and blood clotting. But that's not all.

"Healthy fats also supply essential fatty acids like omega-3 and omega-6, which the body cannot make on its own. These are crucial for brain function, hormones, cell integrity, and inflammation control," she adds. Dt Kalra notes that even nutrient-rich foods lose some of their benefits when consumed without fat. "Vegetables and other healthy foods are not absorbed optimally without fat, which reduces the nutritional value of the entire meal."

Can a zero-oil or zero-fat diet harm your health? "A prolonged zero-fat diet disturbs hormone production, affects reproductive health, and weakens the nervous system," says Dt Kalra. She explains that fats create satiety, and without them, people tend to overeat carbohydrates. "Low-fat diets often lead to sugar cravings, overeating, and unstable blood sugar levels. Over time, this can cause fatigue and metabolic slowdown." Skin and joint health are also affected.

"Dry skin, poor joint lubrication, and lowered immunity are common outcomes of long-term fat restriction," she warns. "Without supervision, a no-fat diet can lead to deficiencies, irritability, poor focus, and reduced metabolic



rate." oil When you eliminate ghee and oils completely, you compromise the absorption of vitamins A, D, E, and K. Signs you're not eating enough healthy fats A deficiency may not be obvious immediately, but Dt Kalra highlights several warning signs: "Dry or flaky skin, brittle hair, hair fall, and chronic fatigue are early indicators of low-fat intake," she notes. Cognitive symptoms are common as well. "Mood swings, poor concentration, and brain fog occur because the brain requires fatty acids to function optimally," she explains. Joint discomfort may appear in later stages.

"Stiffness or inflammation in the joints can worsen over time if healthy fats are consistently missing from the diet," she adds.

If you're avoiding ghee and oils for weight loss, what should you eat instead? Dt Kalra emphasises that the goal should be to skip excess oil, not all fat. "Instead of removing fats completely, choose natural sources that offer nutrients along with satiety," she advises. Her recommended alternatives include: • Nuts and seeds Almonds, walnuts, flaxseeds, chia seeds, and sunflower seeds "They provide healthy fats, protein, fibre, and micronutrients," says Kalra. • Avocado A source of monounsaturated fat "It supports heart health and keeps you full longer," she notes. • Low-fat dairy Curd, yoghurt, toned milk"

India dominate New Zealand in Nagpur with Abhishek's fireworks



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Nagpur: Abhishek Sharma's pyrotechnics followed a familiar script as India out-batted New Zealand by 48 runs in the opening T20 International here on Wednesday. Abhishek, who has made it a habit of lighting up stadiums with his array of big hits, smashed 84 off just 35 balls and was complemented by Rinku Singh (44 not out off 20 balls), who applied the finishing touches in India's commanding score of 238 for 7 on a Jamtha track. In reply, Glenn Phillips (78 off 40 balls) indulged in some aggressive hitting with Mark Chapman (39 off 24 balls) as they added 79 runs in seven overs, but scoreboard pressure meant they were eventually buried under a flood of runs.

New Zealand finished at 190 for 7 with Varun Chakravarthy (2/37) picking up crucial wickets, while Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya provided early breakthroughs. In the past 12 months, one format where the Indian team has looked unbeatable is the shortest one, and the primary reason has been the 25-year-old Abhishek, whose role in the T20 side is to leave opposition bowlers rattled. On the day, the world's top-ranked T20I batter

showed no mercy, making the Black Caps fielders look like bystanders with eight towering sixes and five fours. Abhishek's attacking play also helped skipper Suryakumar Yadav (32 off 22 balls) get some runs, although he was far from his best. The opener's aggressive approach gave his captain time to settle during a 99-run stand off 47 balls for the third wicket. Towards the end, Rinku Singh got to play an innings of substance after a long time, with India finishing their 20 overs in style. For someone who can hardly put a foot wrong these days, it took Abhishek only five deliveries to settle against Jacob Duffy (2/27 in 4 overs) before launching the first of his eight sixes into the sight screen. Sanju Samson (10) and Ishan Kishan (8) wasted opportunities, but once Abhishek got going, there was no looking back. Abhishek's strength is his bat speed, and New Zealand's attack did not have a bowler quick enough to trouble the Punjab left-hander. His straight bat gave him ample chance to score in front of the square. Deliveries from Kristian Clarke and Kyle Jamieson came at an ideal pace in the early 130s on a flat pitch, and the balls sailed over the ropes.

Such was his six-hitting power that his first three boundaries came off spinner Glenn Phillips after he had already smashed four sixes. At the other end, Suryakumar looked scratchy, but a back-foot punch through covers off Duffy and a six off Clarke behind square gave glimpses of his class. Black Caps skipper Mitchell Santner (1/37 in 3 overs) tried to slow things down and got partial success when Suryakumar was caught at long-on. Undeterred, Abhishek carried on, though he was dismissed in the next over when leg-spinner Ish Sodhi shortened the length and Jamieson took the catch. Towards the end, Rinku faced enough deliveries to make an impact, clobbering Daryl Mitchell's final over for 21 runs to take India to an imposing total.

Relentless, but also calculating: How Abhishek Sharma reiterated his status as India's most important batting weapon going into the World Cup



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

It stings Rajkumar Sharma, Abhishek Sharma's father and childhood coach, when he hears talk of his son being an all-out attack ballbasher. "He always has the team's interests in mind. There have been times when I have selfishly told him to play more carefully when he is getting to a 50 or 100, but he refuses," he told The Indian Express last month. "This is a player who built his abilities playing with the red ball. He has spent a long time building his match temperament. He doesn't just go after every ball without thinking." As he went about plundering eight sixes and five fours on his way to a 35-ball 84 in the first T20I against New Zealand in Nagpur on Wednesday, Rajkumar's words felt like a tale spun by a sentimental loved one. His son was going after the Kiwi bowlers with disdain. Yet, shades of those sentiments felt true in the formation of yet another match-winning contribution from the 25-year-old who has rapidly become the axis on which India's batting is held together in the shortest format.

There were smarts to go with the brawn and the relentless hitting. He quickly read the nature of the surface that did not play out like a flat-track belter but instead showed characteristics of being a bit low and slow, with New

Zealand's pacers getting the ball to grip by taking the pace off it. It often foxed the teammates who shared the crease with him. He smartly found his moments to strike, going after bowlers that consistently missed their lengths and went under pressure, but also chose to rotate strike when the ball was not coming onto his bat. When Suryakumar Yadav was finding strokemaking tough, he took on the responsibility of not letting the free flow of runs stop. Abhishek Sharma also became the fastest to score 5000 T20 runs. (

The 84 runs came to all corners of the ground at a phenomenal striking rate. The first six, a delightful straight drive off an over-pitched ball over Jacob Duffy's head, set the template. Abhishek bent his knee to balls that stuck low and timed them into the crowd with ease. He cut and flicked and swiped sixes off his hips against both tall spinners like Mitchell Santner and tall pacers like Kyle Jamieson, even as they scrambled speeds and length to turn off the leaky tap of runs. He rode his luck, shrugging off a couple of misfields and a dropped catch, by continuing to go after the balls that came into his radar. By the time New Zealand heaved a sigh of relief, seeing him depart while attempting another heave over long on, their bowlers were left wondering if their execution had been so off the mark as the 150 runs they conceded in 12 overs was making it seem. It had not. In their recent form, India's top order is showing signs of greater reliance on the continuation of Abhishek's extended purple patch going into their defence of the T20 World Cup at home next month. This was his eighth 50+ score since his international debut in July 2024, in which time he is India's highest-runs scorer by a margin of over 300 runs at a strike rate of 190.92. India are currently sweating on the fitness of their next highest accumulator, Tilak Varma. But fine knocks, like the one in Nagpur, paper over cracks well. In the past few years, it has been considered a cheat code for India to have Jasprit Bumrah as their strike bowler with the new ball. In the T20 format, they seem to have developed one at the top of their batting too.

'Doesn't change my identity': Suryakumar Yadav after showing glimpses of destructive best in India vs New Zealand 1st T20I



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Suryakumar Yadav's innings in the first T20I that would've given Indian fans hope ahead of the 2026 T20 World Cup. The Indian captain has struggled to rediscover the destructive consistency he had before the 2024 T20 World Cup, which had resulted in him being recognised by many as the best T20I batter in the world. In the first T20I against New Zealand on Thursday, though, Suryakumar scored 32 in 22 balls and formed a 99-run partnership with Abhishek Sharma which came in just 47 balls.

Suryakumar said after the match that it was the perfect time for him to walk in to bat, with India under some pressure after the early dismissals of Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan. "I felt good when I went in to bat. It was perfect time for me to go into bat. Good pressure situation," said Suryakumar after the match. "And as I said earlier as well, I've been batting really well in the nets. It was just a matter of time when you play a few balls, but the way I bat. And that doesn't change my identity. I think it came naturally. I mean, whatever strokes I played, I've been practicing really well in the last 2-3 weeks. I'm at it similarly during the net session. Played a few practice games as well. So I was feeling good," Suryakumar further said. Suryakumar's initial downturn in form in 2024 after the T20 World Cup, which is also when he had taken over captaincy, was seen largely as a blip at the time. This assessment was strength-

ened by the fact that he had an exceptional season in the 2025 IPL for the Mumbai Indians. However, his form in international cricket fell even further after the T20 tournament. In 2025, Suryakumar scored just 218 runs in 19 T20I innings at a strike rate of 123.16 and average of just 13.62. It was the first time in his career that he struck at less than 150 in a calendar year.

Sindhu, Lakshya sail into Indonesia Masters quarter-finals

Jakarta: Former world champion PV Sindhu and Paris Olympic semi-finalist Lakshya Sen reached the quarter-finals of the Indonesia Masters after securing easy wins in their respective second-round matches here on Thursday.

While Sindhu clinched a 21-19, 21-18 win over Line Kjaerfeldt of Denmark in her pre-quarterfinal in 43 minutes, Lakshya secured a 21-10, 21-11 win over Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan in a match that lasted over half an hour.

This was Sindhu's sixth win over Kjaerfeldt in seven meetings, with the only loss coming in last year's Sudirman Cup. Sindhu will next face tournament top seed and world No. 4 Chen Yu Fei of China. The duo have met 13 times so far, with the Chinese holding a slight edge at 7-6 in the overall record.

On Wednesday, two-time Olympic medalist Sindhu, India's highest-ranked women's singles player at 13th, beat Japan's world No. 35 Manami Suizu 22-20, 21-18 in 53 minutes to reach the pre-quarterfinals.

On the other hand, Lakshya, who registered a 21-13, 16-21, 21-14 win over world No. 23 Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei in his opening-round match on Wednesday, will next face Panitchaphon Teeraratkul of Thailand, who upset 2024 Paris Olympics Lee Zhi Jia 15-21, 21-17, 21-8 in the quarter-finals on Friday.

'It was embarrassing': Manchester City superstars fork out cash to refund 374 fans after humbling defeat to Bodo/Glimt



GNS News Agency, Jan 26

Manchester City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma after letting in a goal during the Champions League soccer match between Bodo/Glimt and Manchester City in Bodo, Norway. (NTB via AP) Manchester City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma after letting in a goal during the Champions League soccer match between Bodo/Glimt and Manchester City in Bodo, Norway. Manchester City's squad have announced that they will pay from their own pockets to refund the ticket costs for 374 of the club's supporters who had travelled to Norway for the Champions League game against Bodo/Glimt on Tuesday which ended in a 3-1 humbling for the Premier League giants. Kasper Høgh scored twice while Jens Petter Hauge banged in a sensational third goal for the host club. Rayan Cherki managed to score Man City's consolation goal. The result was made worse by the fact that City lost their previous game to Manchester United in the Premier League. The club also saw midfielder Rodri pick up a red card after receiving two yellow cards in the space of 53 seconds. Rodri will miss next week's game against Galatasaray, which City must win to harbour any hope of ending among the top-eight in the Champions League to avoid a play off to enter the next round.

Manchester City played with their youngest-ever Champions League starting XI which had four players aged 21 or under because Pep Guardiola's team was missing eight injured players besides new signing Antoine Semenyo (who is ineligible to play in the group phase of the Champi-

ons League), and the team captain Bernardo Silva, because he was suspended for the game.

The sub-zero temperatures at the Arctic Circle also played a part in compounding Manchester City's misery. But Man City should have still won the game given their financial heft: as the BBC noted, Bodo/Glimt posted revenues of £52 million in their 2024 accounts while Manchester City reported a hefty £694 million in their accounts last year. "Covering the cost of these tickets for the fans who travelled to Bodo is the least we can do," read a statement from Manchester City's captaincy group which included Bernardo Silva, Ruben Dias, Rodri and Erling Haaland. "Our supporters mean everything to us. We know the sacrifice that our fans make when they travel across the world to support us home and away and we will never take it for granted. They are the best fans in the world. We also recognise that it was a lot of travelling for the fans who supported us in the freezing cold throughout a difficult evening for us on the pitch," the statement added.

An away ticket for the game in Norway cost about £25. This means Manchester City players will fork out around £9,357 towards paying back those who made the trip to the Arctic Circle. Manchester City's Erling Haaland attends a training session in Bodo, Norway ahead of the Champions League soccer match against Bodo/Glimt on Tuesday. (Fredrik Varfjell/NTB Scanpix via AP) Manchester City's Erling Haaland attends a training session in Bodo, Norway ahead of the Champions League soccer match against Bodo/Glimt on Tuesday. (Fredrik Varfjell/NTB Scanpix via AP) Norwegian star Erling Haaland, who has now gone a month without scoring from open play with only one penalty in eight games, said that the result was "embarrassing". "Bodo played some incredible football and it was deserved. I don't know what to say. What I can say is sorry," he said in a chat with TNT Sports. A report in the BBC noted that Glimt has a population of around 55,000. Just a decade back, Bodo/Glimt were competing in the second tier of Norwegian football. In the time since, the club has won the Norwegian league title four times in the past six years while ending as runners-up on the other two occasions.

'Pitted against my own,' says Gautam Gambhir amid rumours of rift with Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, 'Truth... will become clear'



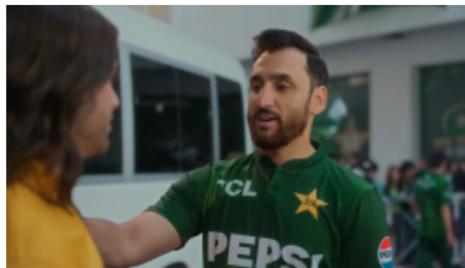
GNS News Agency, Jan 26

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has responded to the criticism he has received in recent months and also addressed his rumoured rift with veteran players Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in reply to a post by Congress Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor. Tharoor had said that the Gambhir had the "hardest job in India after the PM's" as he is "second-guessed by millions daily". Tharoor also posted a picture with Gambhir, saying that he met the former India opener in Nagpur, where the team had played their first T20I against New Zealand on Wednesday. India won the match by 48 runs and have taken a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. "In Nagpur, enjoyed a good & frank discussion with my old friend" Thanks a lot Dr @ShashiTharoor! When the dust settles, truth & logic about a coach's supposedly "unlimited authority" will become clear. Till then I'm amused at being

pitted against my own who are the very best!" said Gambhir in a repost of Tharoor's post.

Rumours of trouble between Gambhir and the veteran pair of Rohit and Kohli have been brewing since the pair's retirement from Test cricket halfway through last year, just days before India embarked on a five-match tour of England. The fact that Gambhir and Kohli have been at the centre of two high profile clashes in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in years gone by has also played a role. There has been speculation of Gambhir not speaking with Rohit or Virat during India's training session ahead of ODI matches. However, India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak dismissed these rumours, stressing that they are communicating with them on a regular basis. "They discuss with Gautam (Gambhir) about ODI formats, about the matches we have, and our plans going (ahead) to South Africa (World Cup in 2027)," he said. "Most of the time I'm there and if I'm listening. They definitely share the experience and I always see them talking. Obviously, in social media, you see a lot of things which I try to avoid seeing," he quipped. Kotak said that they have both discussed their future with Gambhir. "See, both of them are so senior and so experienced. They definitely make plans. They want to practice at all the venues. If they feel they need to, they'll go a couple of days in advance. They practice because they both also have been such outstanding players for India. Planning-wise and all, they are brilliant. They know what they need to do. They know what their body needs, not only batting, even fitness, whatever requirements they have," said Kotak.

'Handshake bhool gaye?': Pakistan cricket seizes mauka to aim cheeky dig at India with Australia tour promo



Pakistan Cricket Board has taken a sneaky dig at India by reigniting the Asia Cup handshake controversy while promoting their upcoming T20I series against Australia. In a week's time, Pakistan will host Australia in a three-match series which will be the final tune-up event for both teams ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka. But the promo for the Australian team's tour, which was shared on X by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), could not resist a dig at the neighbours while promoting the tour.

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The clip shows an Australian tourist travelling around Pakistan enjoying the hospitality with Pakistan cricket captain Salman Agha even paying the tourist's dinner bill after delivering a line, "Mehman ho ji aap hamaare (you are our guest)." The tourist responds with a "shukriya" before telling his local friend that he "loves the hospitality in Pakistan". The next scene shows the tourist being told by the local taxi driver that he would not take money from a guest in the country. When the tourist exits the taxi and walks away, the driver stops him to remind him: "Mate, handshake bhool gaye aap! Lagta hai padosiyon ke paas bhi ruke the (You forgot to shake hands, looks like you stayed in the neighbouring country as well)."

The line was an obvious dig at the Indian team's refusal to shake hands with the Pakistan team during last year's Asia Cup. The Indian team has also refused to shake hands with their counterparts from across the border in other cricketing events since. The refusal was the Indian team's response to the Pahalgam terror attack and the conflict between two nations during Operation Sindoor. The promo can also be considered Pakistan's response to the umpire Mauka Mauka ads that Indian broadcasters have run, where they take digs at Pakistan's abysmal record against India in ICC tournaments. The Pakistani promo ends when the tourist tells Salman Agha that he's having a lot of fun in Pakistan but it will be even better when the Australians defeat Pakistan in the T20 series. At this Salman Agha responds: "We're generally very gracious hosts. But when it comes to cricket, we're ready, mate!" All matches will take place at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, the games are on January 29, January 31 and February 1. Mitchell Marsh will captain the Australian team, while Travis Head, Cameron Green and Josh Inglis are part of the side. However, players like Nathan Ellis, Tim David, Josh Hazlewood, Glenn Maxwell and Pat Cummins, who are all part of Australia's T20 World Cup squad, will not travel to the country because they are either returning from injury or having their loads managed.

'Can I actually act?': Bhumi Pednekar reveals The Royals backlash forced her into a 9-month break, went to Harvard



Bhumi Pednekar hasn't been on the screen since her much-criticised turn in Netflix India show *The Royals* last May. While the series has been renewed for another season, Bhumi has revealed that the harsh criticism towards her performance affected her to an extent that she had to take a nine-month break from acting immediately. "There was a lot of trolling, a lot of bots. But between all of that, there was a lot of constructive criticism as well. And that was one experience that got me to take some really drastic decisions for my life in 2025. One of them was taking a break. I didn't announce it because I didn't want to dramatize it," confessed Bhumi.

She claimed that she'd been constantly at it for 10 years since her memorable debut as Sandhya in Sharat Kataria's 2015 romantic drama *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*. She gained 30 kg to play that part, and physical transformation for her roles has been a constant endeavour since then. "It's not just about physical transformation. It's also about what you go through emotionally and mentally every time you prepare for a character," added Bhumi in the interview with *The Hollywood Reporter India*. "I had become emotionally depleted. I'd completely lost perspective of who I am as an actor, as a person, who is Bhumi. So, I had to step back, and in that noise, I had to find people who were my well-wishers who had truly something constructive to say," said Bhumi. She then introspected about what the next 10 years of her life are going to look like.

What did Bhumi do in her break?

"I took a break. I haven't been on a set since June. Many a times, when an actor admits to that, there's a lot of negative connotation attached to it. But it was something I did voluntarily, and it's the best decision I've taken for myself," added Bhumi. She watched movies, read books, took a course at Harvard University, and travelled extensively

to build on her bank of life experiences. "I didn't have any real experiences left in me that I could extend to my craft. And that scared me. One of the biggest fears I always had was I don't ever want to be mediocre, and I think I reached there. It was important for me to accept that and not be in denial. Because I know what I'm capable of doing. I went back and watched some of my work because I was lost. I was like, can I actually act? Do I have it in me?," confessed Bhumi. She learnt that she just needed to stop taking what she had for granted. "I had become numb to other people's experiences because you live in a bubble. It's very important for every actor to get out of that bubble. That experience shook me. I'm very happy and fortunate that people watched it (*The Royals*). Something good came out of it. But the best thing that came out of it was that I reconnected with Bhumi as a person and Bhumi, the actor," she added. Bhumi recalled that her travels across the last year have been as much about road trips where she's discussing "lives, politics, and health issues" of people she meets at tea stalls as much about exchanging notes with young actors in Los Angeles. She also spent time with her family, worked on her physical and mental health, and worked on her business *Backbay*, a premium, eco-friendly natural mineral water brand she started with her sister Samiksha Pednekar. Bhumi's return to acting

Bhumi revealed that she's going back to set after nine months this March with her first courtroom drama. "It's about sexual violence that women and marginalized communities go through. It's a theatrical film. I've been working on it for the past two months. I can't wait to be on a film set," she said. *The Royals* actor added that she took a break immediately after the release of the show last May. "I left movies. I had to return signing amounts. I had to say no to a cheque, which is a lot. It was not just about not doing the films, but reducing my presence in the world of media. So, it was saying no to a lot of award shows and fashion events. I wanted to just cut off. I wanted to go through that experience of what it feels like to just be by myself. If I was to lose everything, will I survive? And I know I will survive," she claimed. Bhumi also attributed her taking this break to Imran Khan, once at the peak of his career in the 2010s, who quit movies in 2015 only to return to the screen this year with Danish Aslam's *Adhoore Hum Adhoore Tum*. "I saw what he did in his last 10 years. And he's doing okay, he's doing great," said Bhumi, adding, "I'm replenished and how. I'm confident again. I was broken. I was completely done. And I'm good." Before she goes back to the set, Bhumi will be seen as a broken Mumbai top cop, Rita Ferreira, in Suresh Triveni's crime thriller show *Daldal*. She shot for the series right after she finished filming *The Royals*. Also starring Aditya Rawal and Samara Tijori, *Daldal* is directed by Amrit Raj Gupta, and will release on Prime Video India on January 30.

Amidst its wackiness, Vir Das's Happy Patel Khatarnaak Jasoos explores what it means to be a Hindustani

Not every joke lands. Not every emotion hits. Not everything is outrageously wild. But with *Happy Patel Khatarnaak Jasoos*, director duo Vir Das and Kavi Shastri pull off some subversion. Picture this: you walk into a theatre expecting a spy actioner. The logline is simple: a committed MI7 agent is tasked with rescuing a scientist held captive by a villain who wants her formula for his own nefarious purposes. Generic, right? But there is a twist. Imagine this now: you walk into a theatre, and the spy actioner is a self-aware, spoofy comedy with minor changes in the logline: a casual agent (with a capital "C," which can also mean...) is supposed to rescue a dermatologist who is preparing a formula to whiten dark-skinned Indians, for a gangster called M/Mama (not the suave Bond one). Wait, there is another twist; enter Manmohan Desai. That spy you thought you were watching? Actually, it's an orphaned kid, wandering through his own chaotic mission. The entire operation exists less to save the world and more to bring this NRI home, to reconnect with his roots. So basically, it's *Swades*... seen through Das's wacky lens.

That might be a little far-fetched, but it's no lie that Shah Rukh Khan, and the gentle masculinity embedded in his mythology, loom large over how Das and Shastri, with a screenplay co-written by Amogh Ranadive, craft *Happy* (Das). Think about his introduction. Again, two scenarios. In the first, he arrives exactly as you'd expect a *khatarnaak jasoos* to: assembling a gun with the swiftness of a tempest, right in front of his "do baaps." But there's a catch: he assembles it perfectly, except he forgets the trigger. So we get another hero introduction. This time, the real *Happy* appears, not assembling a gun but a sandwich, pirouetting over a Punjabi song whose lyrics announce, "Main hoon alpha male" (a faint hope that the target audience feels mildly affronted). The subversions don't stop there. Later, he falls for Rupa (Mithila Paikar), who (on the surface, seems like a honey trap, but, another twist... you know the drill by now), keeps slapping him whenever he tries to touch her (a greater hope that the target audience squirmed in their seats).

There are other clever touches too. An item number arrives just before the interval, but instead of Rupa, it is *Happy* who dances. Or consider the film's finest stretch: the training montage *Happy* undergoes before returning to India, where instead of learning how to fire a gun, he learns how to bargain with local vegetable vendors; instead of watching surveillance footage, he watches "Suraj Hua Maddham." But the sharpest meta-reference arrives when a hotel waiter (Bachan Pachera) explains to Vir what it truly means to be Hindustani: to be yourself. His words very much mark *Happy*'s coming of age, much like they once did for Khan in *Swades*, (where Pachera famously played the farmer). This cannot be coincidence in a film that toys so freely with Khan's iconography. Nor can it be coincidence in a film rooted in the genre of the espionage, yet centred on a protagonist who realises that love for the nation does not lie in muscle-flexing bravado. It lies, instead, in being oneself, in a country whose very cornerstone is multiplicity. All of this finds its fullest expression in the film's final half-hour, which opens with a raid on a godown: *Happy*'s first real brush with action, where he is flung from one end of the frame to the other, ricocheting between goons, less an action hero than a body in free fall. There is, of course, another meta-touch at work. The film is backed by Aamir Khan, who went from "Papa Kehnte Hain Bada Naam Karega" to "Pappu Can't Dance Saala" in his exploration of the idea of



a son negotiating worthiness. So here, too, this Pappu can do nothing except dance to make a name for himself. It is therefore inevitable that the climactic confrontation resolves itself not through combat but through dance. As Mama (Mona Singh, who can do no wrong) beats him down, *Happy* moves to the rhythm. The only weapons he possesses are the cutlets he knows how to make, and the only action move he can muster is opening his arms, Khan-style, towards the world, because, to be a real Hindustani, openness alone is enough.

Mahesh Babu's heartfelt birthday wish for Namrata wins hearts

Hyderabad: Telugu star Mahesh Babu on Thursday penned an adorable birthday wish to his wife, Namrata Shirodkar, thanking her for holding everything with so much grace and love.

Taking to his Instagram page to greet his wife on her birthday, he posted a picture of Namrata which had been shot in Tuscany, Italy and wrote, "Happy birthday NSG... Thank you for holding everything together with so much grace and love... Couldn't ask for more." It wasn't just Mahesh Babu, who wished his wife Namrata on the occasion. Both their children, Gautham and Sithara too greeted their mother on her birthday.

Gautam Ghattamaneni wrote, "Happy Birthday, Amma!! Thank you for always guiding my way and for being the best mom ever. Love you more than you know." Sithara Ghattamaneni, for her part, said, "My constant, my compass, my home. Happy Birthday, Amma."

Namrata's sister Shilpa Shirodkar too was among those who greeted the actress-turned-homemaker, who turned 54 this year.

She took to Instagram, where she shared a string of then and now images featuring her with her sister Namrata. Shilpa said, "Happiest Birthday to my gorgeous sister, my chintukli @namratashirodkar! Life is so much brighter with you by my side. Here's to more laughs, more memories, and more endless chats. Love you endlessly!"

Krushna Abhishek responds to Govinda's claim that he was 'used' to insult mama on TV: 'He sees things on different level'



Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja has lately been discussing her marital issues publicly, including accusations on the actor having an affair with a younger woman. While reacting to her claims strongly, Govinda alleged that Sunita, and even his nephew, actor-comedian Krushna Abhishek are being 'used' as part of a conspiracy against him. Now, Krushna has reacted to his uncle's statements in a recent interview.

During a chat with HT City, he revealed that he is taking the situation in a positive way. "I love Govinda mama, and respect him. He is a legend, and has next level thoughts. So may be that is the reason why he sees stuff on a different level. The same statement can look positive or sarcastic to different people, I take it in a positive way," the comedian said.

While talking to Miss Malini, Sunita Ahuja called the year 2025 a disaster and said, "The year 2025 was a disaster for me. My family life was disrupted. I was hearing things

about Govinda. I was not happy with the things I was hearing about him. There is an age to do certain things and at 63 to hear these things, it is not good, especially when your kids are grown up. In 2026, I just hope bhagwan Govinda ko sadbuddhi de. He must understand that family is family, and when you are in trouble, nobody stands beside you. They are only there for money. Once you stop giving the money, they will go." She also hinted at the name of the girl Govinda is allegedly having an extra marital affair with. Sunita questioned the host, "Is your name, Komal? Yeh naam thoda gadbad hai (This name is problematic)." She laughed and continued, "I hate the name Komal. Change this name. There is a girl named Komal, some xyz. I hate her."

Speaking to ANI, Govinda addressed Sunita's accusations and said, "How many times have I gotten married? It has been 40 years. Have I gotten married 2-3 times? Those who have gotten married so many times their wives don't say anything and they roam around and have fun in life. People who are in the film line don't discuss these things socially. I have rarely seen anybody spotless in this industry. However, when you get cornered, you think about how to get out of this." Govinda claimed that his wife and nephew Krushna are being used against him.

"Even if you see Krushna Abhishek's TV programmes, you will notice how writers would make him say things that would insult me. I told him that he is being used to insult me and told him to be cautious of this. When I warned Krushna, Sunita would get upset. Also, I don't know when these people would get upset with each other and when they are okay with each other. I more of a steady person," he said. The actor further added, "But you have to be alert in this industry because it is not that these conversations are happening just like that. There is some conspiracy going on, people are trying to create notions about me. I want to request not to create circumstances in my life that suffocate me, I request this especially from my own family."

Sayani Gupta's mother threatened to 'slit her wrist' if she pursued acting, said actors are 'prostitutes': 'She locked me in my room'

Sayani Gupta, who was recently seen in *Four More Shots Please*, has been in the movies for over a decade now, and in a new interview, the actor revealed that she had a high paying corporate job at the age of 21, which she quit. Sayani shared that it was her dream to be an actor, despite serious opposition from her mother, and thus, she wanted to get into FTII (Film and Television Institute of India

"My mom said, 'I am going to slit my wrist if you go and she couldn't believe it,'" she shared in a chat on Cyrus Says. Sayani recalled that her mother raised her single-handedly and she could not believe that Sayani would give up a high-paying job to study films. "I was bored out of my skull those one and a half years. I made a lot of money because I was a workaholic but this is not what I saw for myself," she said. Sayani was seen in films such as *Jolly LLB 2*, *Pagglait*, *Article 15* and *Axone*, among many others. Sayani said that while her father was supportive, he was actually a friendly figure in her life with her mother being the decision maker. So much so that her mother did not speak to her for a month after she got into FTII. Sayani recalled that her mother would refer to actors as "prostitutes" and her biggest "fear" was that her daughter would become an actor. "All my life, growing up, she didn't let me go for theatre rehearsals and locked me in my room saying actors are prostitutes. That was the idea of actors that she had," she shared.

Sayani recalled that her mother eventually came around when she visited her at FTII and got offers to star in 5 student films within a few minutes as there was a dearth



of older actors on campus. She accepted three of those parts and after acting in one such film, she told Sayani, "Maybe if you have to do this for the next 2 years, it's not so bad also." Sayani Gupta, in the same chat, hinted that after the fourth season of *Four More Shots Please*, the makers might plan a movie, much like *Mirzapur*, which is getting a film after 3 seasons. But, she added, that their film would depend on how *Mirzapur* performs.

'AR Rahman doesn't know Hindi': Rabbi Shergill says lyrics in Bollywood became 'secondary' with composer



Rahman's BBC Asia interview went viral. Speaking about the Oscar-winning composer, Rabbi said, "I admire Rahman for his creative genius. He is a genius. There is no doubt about it. But Rahman phase is not pro poetry or pro lyrics phase in Hindi film industry. It means that the words in his songs are just ornaments and not the whole thing." He further added, "I feel after Rahman came, the lyrics in the Hindi film industry became secondary and if lyrics become secondary, that means expression becomes secondary, it means that somewhere your humanity and existence become secondary, this is my issue with Rahman." However, Rabbi clarified that he does not blame Rahman for this, pointing out that Hindi is not the composer's primary language. "It is not his fault because it is not his language. He doesn't understand it. The stuff that he does in Tamil music is really representative of him. It is another ball game, at least that's what I hear." Talking about Rahman as a human being and his spiritual side, Rabbi said, "At human level, I found him incredibly soft and extremely nice. I think he spends his time in pursuits that are almost saintly. People tell me that if he has time for two days, he will just disappear and will be found at a Sufi shrine. Deep down, he is spiritually a very evolved person. My only issue is and it is not even with him. It is with the music industry. If somebody doesn't understand your language, I think it was your call. You need to explain all of that to him." AR Rahman earlier spoke about learning Hindi, Urdu, Arabic and even Punjabi later in his career, years after making a mark in the Hindi film industry. "It was after ten years of my career that I realised this," he shared. "I even learned a bit of Arabic from our holy book, the Quran. Between 1994 and 1997, I devoted time to studying and reading the Quran Sharif. When I met Subhash Ghai, he told me, 'You're a great composer, but without learning Hindi, you won't last.' I thought it was beautiful advice. I took it seriously and learned Hindi and Urdu," Rahman added. "The love from Hindi-speaking audiences around the world is extraordinary — and now, I even love Punjabi too."

Music composer AR Rahman recently made headlines for his remarks about getting less work over the last eight years, as he suggested that the film industry may be growing communal. Several celebrities have shared their perspectives on Rahman's statement in the past few weeks. Recently, singer Rabbi Shergill, who crooned popular tracks like "Bulla Ki Jaana" and "Tere Bin", spoke about working with Rahman and shared his view that the composer does not prioritise lyrics in his songs.

Rabbi made these comments during a podcast conversation with Divas Gupta, which was recorded before