


Police Conduct Night Vehicle Checks in Kagaznagar

January 5, Indian Chronicle, Taj KhanAs part of the Municipal Election arrangements, police conducted night vehicle checking at various locations across Kagaznagar town to ensure strict enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct.“The checking drive was carried out peacefully without any untoward incidents.



Three die in separate rail incidents in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Three persons lost their lives in separate incidents reported under the Secunderabad division on Wednesday night.

In the first incident, Ajit Roy, a daily wage labourer from Vikarabad, died at Charlapalli railway station. He was unloading his luggage when the train started moving after receiving a signal. While attempting to get down, he slipped and was crushed to death between the train and the platform.



New Delhi, Feb 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday assailed the Congress for stalling his reply to the debate on the President's address in the Lok Sabha and said the Opposition had insulted the President and the Constitution.

The PM attacked the Congress and its erstwhile governments for what he called a range of "ills", including "creating an atmosphere where the world didn't want to deal with India, perpetuating a culture of policy inflexibility through the Planning Commission, making promises like Gareebi hatao (eradicate poverty) but not keeping these, seeing citizens as problems and now raising Modi teri kabr khudegi slogans as a last resort".

"The Congress will never be able to dig my grave. I have the blessings of mothers and sisters. They are my armour. The Congress government was run on remote but my remote are 140 crore Indians," Modi said. He said India was ready to compete with the world and was hailing the nine free trade agreements (FTAs) his government concluded in the past four years. The PM said the India-EU FTA offered stability to the world and the India-US trade deal would add pace to global stability. "This (India-US deal) is a good omen for the world and its biggest beneficiaries will be the youth," he said amid an Opposition walkout even as he asked the Congress why no country wanted to deal with India when it was in power.

Modi, while accusing the Congress-led UPA of saddling banks with NPAs and treating PSUs as liabilities, said his government had turned both around and the sectors were posting profits and boosting microfinance for the poor and women. "The Congress only knows how to raise slogans, not how to implement these. It remained engaged with vote bank politics and never prioritised national development. An analysis of Independence Day

Congress insulted President by not allowing Lok Sabha debate: PM Modi

speeches the PMs of Congress governments made will reveal lack of vision and conviction," Modi said, recalling late PM Indira Gandhi's quote where she spoke of her father Jawaharlal Nehru answering "35 crore population" when asked what his problems were and said her problem was a "57 crore population".

"Insulting the people of India is in Congress culture. They see people as problems whereas we see 140 crore Indians as 140 crore solutions. That's the difference," Modi said, slamming the Congress-led disruptions of the President's address debate in the Lok Sabha as an insult to the President and the Constitution.

"They have no right to utter the word Constitution. When a woman who has risen from poverty, who comes from a tribal family, is treated this way, it is not just her insult, but of all tribals and the Constitution," the PM said, terming the LS episode as "extremely painful". He also accused the Congress of insulting the Northeast (Assam MP Dilip Saikia was presiding when the LS was disrupted) and SCs (Krishna Prasad Tenneti, a Dalit MP from Andhra was presiding too).

The PM hit out at the Congress, particularly for the "Modi teri kabr khudegi" slogan and said the Opposition wished him death as it was left with no other option following successive electoral defeats.

"Modi teri kabr khudegi" is not a simple slogan, but a marker of their hate. They are raising this because we abrogated Article 370, brought peace to the North-east, killed Pakistani terrorists in their backyard, are working to end Maoist terror and put the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance to correct the injustice Nehru had done by signing it," Modi said, adding that the Congress' problem was why he had reached the PMO and why he was staying on. "They (Congress) treat the PM's post as ancestral property," said the PM.

In a veiled attack on the Gandhis, the PM said, "Stealing is their hereditary occupation. They even stole Mahatma Gandhi's surname." Earlier, he said while today's deals were mentioned with pride, past deals meant "Bofors".



Hyderabad, Feb 5

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy advised Congress party candidates contesting the upcoming municipal elections in Karimnagar to focus on instilling confidence and trust among voters rather than relying on money. Speaking to the candidates on Thursday, he emphasised that victory depends on belief in the party and its schemes.

Revanth Reddy told the candidates that these elections are for party workers and stressed the importance of respecting and supporting one another to strengthen the party. He highlighted the achievements of his government over the past two years, including the implementation of numerous welfare schemes such as provision of ration cards, free rice, 200 units of free electricity, zero-interest loans to women's groups, Indiramma houses for the poor, and free travel in RTC buses for women.

The Chief Minister urged candidates to communicate these achievements to the electorate honestly and confidently, discouraging lies and emphasising the real benefits delivered by the government. He also advised them to coordinate with those who did not receive tickets and to work together for a common goal during the elections.

Urged PM to skip Lok Sabha, had info on 'unexpected act' by Oppn: Birla


New Delhi, Feb 5

Amid the ongoing logjam in the Lok Sabha, a fresh flashpoint erupted on Thursday after Speaker Om Birla said he had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to come to the House on Wednesday, citing "concrete information on several Congress MPs moving towards the PM's seat and trying to carry out an unexpected act".

The PM was scheduled to reply to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address. The Lok Sabha, in an unprecedented development, today passed the Motion of Thanks without the PM's customary reply.

As the Lower House reassembled today at 3 pm after repeated adjournments, Birla said if this incident had taken place, it would have left the democratic traditions of the country in "shreds".

The Speaker's assertion triggered protests by Opposition MPs, who rushed to the well carrying posters and banners. Following the disruptions, Birla adjourned the House for the day, describing the behaviour of the Opposition MPs as a "black spot" in parliamentary set-up. Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra dismissed Birla's claim of a threat to the PM as an "absolute lie". She alleged that the government was making the Speaker "say all this" because on Wednesday the PM did not have the "courage" to come to the House. She also alleged that Prime Minister Modi was "hiding behind" the Speaker. The Congress and the government have been on the warpath since February 2 when Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was not allowed to quote from an unpublished memoir of former Army Chief General MM Naravane in the Lok Sabha. The book, Rahul alleged, exposed how the Army was deserted by the political leadership during the 2020 China border crisis. The Lok Sabha on Wednesday witnessed dramatic scenes as women MPs from the Opposition marched towards the treasury benches holding banners ahead of the PM's scheduled reply at 5 pm. "As I saw this scene in the House, I requested the PM not to come to the Lok Sabha, fearing the chaos could lead to ugly scenes," said Birla, recalling the pandemonium.



Congress Should Be Elected in All Wards of Husnabad for Development and Welfare: Ponnam Prabhakar



February, 5(INDIAN CHRONICLE)State Minister Ponnam Prabhakar appealed to voters to elect Congress candidates in all wards of Husnabad to ensure development and welfare. On Thursday, he conducted an election campaign in support of Congress candidate Chittari Padma Ravinder in Ward No. 7 of Husnabad municipality. During the campaign, the Minister went door-to-door explaining the welfare schemes and development programmes being implemented by the Congress government. He urged voters to support Congress candidates in the municipal elections and to ensure their victory. Addressing the public, Ponnam Prabhakar asked voters to elect Chittari Padma for the third time and to vote for the Congress party by choosing the hand symbol in all 20 wards of Husnabad. He stated that although Congress was not in power during the last ten years, it had fought movements for projects such as the Gouravelli project. He alleged that during the BRS regime, not a single double-bedroom house was provided, whereas the Congress government distributed 3,500 Indiramma houses in its very first year. He further said that no ration cards were issued during the previous BRS government, but after the Congress government came to power under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, ration cards are being issued to all eligible beneficiaries. He highlighted that fine rice is being supplied through the Public Distribution System, 200 units of free electricity are being provided, and women are being given free bus travel in RTC services. The Minister said that a four-lane road from Karimnagar to Husnabad is under construction and that development works including beautification of Ellamma Cheruvu are underway. He added that women are being trained through SETWIN to improve self-employment opportunities, sewing machines are being distributed, and interest-free loans are being provided to women. Stating that the BRS has no moral right to seek votes, he questioned what promises were fulfilled during its ten-year rule. He assured that further development would be undertaken if Congress is elected in all 20 wards, including the construction of a 250-bed hospital, establishment of a PG medical college, and development of Ellamma Cheruvu, Kotha Cheruvu, and Palle Cheruvu. He called upon party leaders and workers to focus on every vote until polling day and to explain the government's achievements to every household. Ponnam Prabhakar concluded by stating that Husnabad's reputation would grow further only if Congress wins all seats in the municipality.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

India's landmark ruling on menstrual hygiene

Menstrual health is a much-neglected subject in India. From superstitions that keep women away from the kitchen or places of worship to the traditions that restrict them to the household, the menstrual period is still a taboo subject. Myths and taboos surrounding menstruation need to be demolished, and a scientific temper has to be developed, without which no government scheme or efforts of health workers and social organisations will succeed. The Supreme Court's recent

ruling recognising access to menstrual hygiene as a fundamental right under Article 21 is a landmark development. The verdict is a long-overdue affirmation that dignity, health and equality are indivisible. By directing States to provide free, biodegradable sanitary pads in schools and set up menstrual hygiene corners stocked with pads and innerwear, the apex court has pushed menstrual health out of the shadows of stigma and into the realm of enforceable rights. Lack of access to menstrual health facilities in schools and colleges violates the bodily autonomy of girl children and hinders menstruating girls from exercising their right to education with dignity equal to their male counterparts. Citing Article 15(3) of the Constitution, which provides for special measures for women and children because of their "vulnerability", the apex court mandated compliance within three months. Such a directive is especially welcome in a nation where menstrual health is subjected to prejudice. The emphasis on schools is critical. Adolescence is when menstrual stigma bites hardest and when the absence of facilities can derail education.

It is estimated that 23 million girls drop out of school annually on account of poor menstruation management facilities. By framing menstrual health as intrinsic to the right to life and personal dignity, the court has reframed the debate. Hopefully, the apex court's directive would lead to an improvement in menstrual infrastructure in educational institutions. While the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 data indicate that the percentage of women aged 15-24 years using hygienic methods during their menstrual cycles has increased to 77.3% from 57.6% in NFHS-4, it still leaves about a fourth of all women of eligible age in the country without such support. In recent times, there have been some positive policy interventions in this regard. For instance, Karnataka has become the first State in the country to grant a day of paid menstrual leave each month to women employees in the public and private sectors.

Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Oversees Development Works in Parks of Chilkanaagar Division



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 5 (Indian Chronicle):“Corporator of Chilkanaagar Division and former member of the GHMC Standing Committee, Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, on Thursday inspected the ongoing development works in several parks located at East Kalyanapuri, Balaji Enclave, North Kalyanapuri, and Bank Colony within the division.“Speaking on the occasion, the corporator stated that foundation stone-laying ceremonies and inaugurations for various development works in the division will be conducted soon in the presence of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy. She also urged the residents of the division to make proper use of the open gyms and children's play equipment installed in the parks for their health and recreation.“TRS party state leaders Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Yeddula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Muddam Srinivas Yadav, Balakrishna Goud, Shyam, Balu, and others participated in the program.

Hindalco, KADA Partner to Strengthen Youth Employability with Multi-Skills Training Centre at Kuppam

Andhra Pradesh: Hindalco Industries Ltd, in collaboration with the Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA), announced the launch of a state-of-the-art Multi-Skills Training Centre at its Kuppam plant in Andhra Pradesh, reinforcing its commitment to youth empowerment, inclusive growth, and workforce development.

The Kuppam Multi-Skills Training Centre aims to train and upskill over 500 youth annually through placement-linked, industry-aligned programmes, benchmarked to national and global standards. The initiative represents a scalable public-private partnership designed to accelerate regional transformation and advance the objectives of the Swarna Kuppam Vision 2029.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Samik Basu, Chief Human Resources Officer, Hindalco Industries Limited, added, “At Hindalco, we see skilling as a powerful catalyst for social and economic transformation. This Centre brings together global innovation and local relevance leveraging immersive, AI-enabled learning in partnership with Eon Reality, USA to make world-class vocational training accessible to youth in their own language. By integrating advanced technology with industry-linked, placement-focused programmes, we are creating sustainable pathways to employment and preparing a future-ready workforce for the region.”

Spread across 22,500 sq. ft., the purpose-built facility includes smart classrooms, domain-specific practical labs, digital learning labs, and career guidance infrastructure, designed to deliver industry-relevant, outcome-driven skilling.

Over the next three years, the Centre is expected to train over 875 youth and facilitate up to 600 job placements, while indirectly benefiting more than 5,000 family members and engaging 20,000 community members through awareness and skilling initiatives.



A key differentiator of the Centre is its AI-enabled digital learning platform, accessible even on basic smartphones and offering lifetime access for learners to upgrade skills and solve real-world challenges. Courses are delivered in local languages including Telugu, Gujarati, and Odia, ensuring inclusivity and ease of learning. This model will be replicated across Hindalco-supported centres in Gujarat and Odisha.

The initiative is strengthened through partnerships with leading industry players such as Philips Learning,

Max Healthcare, SkillSonics, Indian Institute of Welding, Fronius, Seabery, and NASSCOM, with NASSCOM certification for select programmes in AI, data analytics, and cybersecurity.

The Kuppam Centre is part of Hindalco's Youth Employability Enhancement Initiative, which has enabled sustainable livelihoods for over 12,000 youth across India, with centres such as Sambalpur, Dahej, and Rayagada emerging as strong models of impact.

Sanctus World School Hosts Historic First Annual Sports Meet ‘SYNERGY 2025–26’



Hyderabad Sanctus World School marked a historic milestone with the successful conduct of its first-ever Annual Sports Meet, SYNERGY 2025–26, hosted across its Shamshabad and B.N. Reddy campuses. The landmark event established a strong sporting culture within the institution, providing a large-scale platform for students to exhibit athletic excellence, teamwork, and competitive spirit.

Featuring over 20 indoor and outdoor sports, the meet included track and field events, chess, karate, cricket, and fitness-based competitions, engaging students across all age groups. The disciplined march past, yoga formations, and synchronized drills reflected structured training and unity, while house-wise competitions strengthened sportsmanship.

Aligned with the school's philosophy of Vidya, Sanskriti, and Samridhi, SYNERGY promoted learning beyond classrooms and holistic development. As a CBSE school with Finnish academic collaboration, Sanctus World School integrates global education practices with strong co-curricular frameworks, which was evident throughout the event.

The meet was conducted under the vision of CMD Mr. D. Rajeshwar Reddy and the academic leadership of Director Mrs. D. Haritha Reddy. The CMD personally felicitated achievers and presented awards.

“SYNERGY is a celebration of discipline, determination, and teamwork. Sports play a crucial role in shaping confident, resilient individuals, and this inaugural meet marks the beginning of a strong sporting legacy at Sanctus World School,” said Mr. D. Rajeshwar Reddy, CMD.

Rs 20 Crore Development of Uppal Nalla Cheruvu Hydra Commissioner Ranganath Inspects Lake Along with Corporator Rajita Parameshwar Reddy



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 5 (Indian Chronicle):“Hydra Commissioner A. V. Ranganath announced that Uppal Nalla Cheruvu is being developed at an estimated cost of ₹20 crore. He stated that the lake is undergoing comprehensive development and beautification works to enhance its overall appearance and utility.“On Thursday, Hydra Commissioner A. V. Ranganath inspected Uppal Nalla Cheruvu along with Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and Corporator Mandumula Rajita Reddy. During the visit, the Commissioner directed the concerned officials to ensure that the development and beautification works are completed

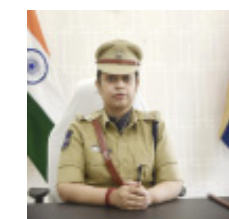
Four Sentenced to 7 Years Rigorous Imprisonment in Illegal Electric Trap Death Case

Asifabad Sessions Court Imposes Rs 30,000 Fine

Taking Law into One's Own Hands Will Invite Severe

Punishment: SP Nitika Pant

“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad District Reporte,Jade Srinivas,February,05,“In a case involving the illegal use of electricity to set up a trap for hunting wild animals,which resulted in the death of a person,the Hon'ble Principal District and Sessions Court,Asifabad, has sentenced four accused to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹30,000.The judgment was pronounced by Principal Sessions Judge M.V. Ramesh, said District Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant, IPS, on Thursday.“Case Details”According to the SP, the incident occurred in Ravindranagar-1 village of Chintalamaneppally Mandal. The accused — Sriram Mandal, Roopkumar Mandal, Ram Mandal, and Keena Mandal — on the night of September 15, 2018, illegally drew electricity from a power line and set up a live electric wire trap in an agricultural field using wooden sticks, with the intention of hunting wild animals.“On the same night, Sukumur Roy, a resident of the same village, accidentally came into contact with the live electric wire while passing through the area. He suffered severe injuries and succumbed while being shifted to the hospital in the early hours of September 16, 2018.Following a complaint lodged by the

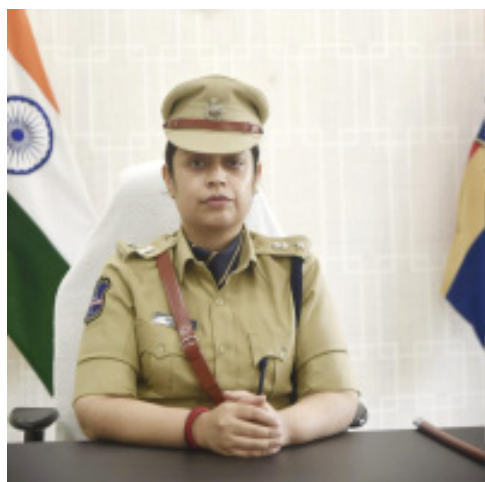


deceased's wife, Sheelaroy, a case was registered at Chintalamaneppally Police Station.“Investigation and Trial”Police conducted a thorough investigation and filed a charge sheet with strong evidence against the accused. After examining the evidence, the Hon'ble Court found the accused guilty and awarded the punishment accordingly.“SP Nitika Pant appreciated the efforts of the then Investigating Officers N. Rajkumar (SI) and D.Mohan (CI) for their effective investigation. She also acknowledged the supervision of Kagaznagar DSP Waheeduddin,CI Santosh Kumar, SI Naresh,and CDPO Balaji Shinde in ensuring the case was prosecuted strongly.The case was argued on behalf of the government by Public Prosecutor Jaganmohan Rao, while Court Liaison Officer SI N.Sandeep Kumar coordinated the proceedings.“SP's Warning”District SP Nitika Pant warned that anyone taking the law into their own hands and endangering human lives will face strict legal action. She further stated that the police will act firmly against those indulging in illegal power usage and the setting up of dangerous traps.

within the stipulated timeframe.“He further informed that encroachments around the lake will be removed soon as part of the lake protection and restoration measures.Several local leaders and representatives participated in the program, including Eega Anjaiah Mudiraj, Lingampalli Ramakrishna, Tummala Devireddy, Alugula Anil Kumar, Manda Murali Krishna Reddy, Janagam Ramakrishna, Sunku Shekhar Reddy, Gorige Mahesh, Alwala Bhaskar, Prem, Delhi Chandrashekhar Reddy, Katapalli Vijay Kumar, C. S. Naresh, Rangula Shekhar Mudiraj, Prashanth Reddy, MD Afzal, Tummala Rajender Reddy, Mohan, Mohan Nayak, and Chintakindi Srinivas, among others.

Man Sentenced to 10 Years Rigorous Imprisonment for Raping Woman on False Promise of Marriage Rs 20,000 Fine Imposed – Says District SP Nitika Pant

“In a case of cheating a young woman under the pretext of marriage and sexually assaulting her, the court has sentenced the accused to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of ₹20,000, said District Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant, IPS, in a press statement on Thursday. Court Verdict SP Nitika Pant stated that the Hon'ble Principal District and Sessions Court, Asifabad, presided over by Principal Sessions Judge M.V. Ramesh, completed the trial and delivered the judgment in the case. “Case Details” According to the police, the accused, Bomman Prashanth, a resident of Asifabad, lured the victim by promising to marry her. Believing his assurance, the victim was subjected to sexual assault multiple times in December 2020, after being convinced that the marriage would take place in January 2021. Subsequently, the accused married another woman, betraying the victim's trust. Based on the victim's complaint, a case was registered at Asifabad Police Station. After thorough investigation and trial, the court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a ₹20,000 fine, the SP said. “Investigation and Prosecution” SP Nitika Pant appreciated the efforts of Asifabad Police Station Inspector A. Ashok, who conducted a meticulous investigation in the case. The prosecution was represented by Public Prosecutor Jaganmohan Rao, who effectively argued the case before the court. “The case proceedings were monitored



under the supervision of present ASP Chittaranjan, Asifabad CI Balaji Vara Prasad, and Court Liaison Officer ASI Ramsingh, she added. SP's Warning “District SP Nitika Pant warned that strict legal action will be taken against those who deceive women in the name of marriage and subject them to sexual exploitation. Such crimes will not be tolerated under any circumstances, she asserted.

Social peace through tolerance of all religions Leaders of various religions attend OU Arts College Peace Conference



“Indian Chronicle OU February 05: Leaders of various religions have stated that peace in society can only be achieved through tolerance among people of all religions. A two-day conference on the topic of “Peace, Reconciliation and Social Harmony” jointly organized by the Indian Social Institute and the Sociology Department at the OU Arts College has concluded. On Wednesday, a conference with representatives of various religions was presided over by Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr. Ch. Parandamulu. “The founders of Narayanpet Shakti Peetham from Hindu religion are Pujya Sri Dr. Swami Shantananda Purohit, Abdul Majeed from Islam, Reverend Wilson of Wesley Church Secunderabad, Buddhist monk Bhikku Budha Pala and Brahma Kumaris repre-

sentative Dr. Srilatha spoke. Religious leaders said that no religion promotes violence. “They explained that people live happily when they follow the values, ethics, and principles of discipline associated with religions. The event was graced by Dr. Denzil Fernandez, Head of Indian Social Institute Peace, “Professor P Vishnu Dev, Head of Sociology, OU, “Sociology Board of Studies Chairman Dr. Ram Shepherd Bheenaveni, Dr. Konda Nageswara Rao, Dr. Malik, Indian Social Institute State Coordinator Dr. Talari Satyam, Vishwa Hindu Parishad Sanghatan manthri “ Pagudakula Balaswamy, Senior journalist Chilukuri Akhilesh, social activist Dunuku Veladri, OU Sociology Research Associate Dr. Kathterasala Srinivas, research scholars, and PG students participated.

Rs 4.72 Crore Sanctioned for CC Roads in Uppal Division

Proceedings Handed Over to Residents by Corporator
Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy



Sriramana Puram “ ₹1.18 crore for CC roads in Ramanthapur Church Colony “ ₹92 lakh for CC road construction in Lakshminarayana Colony “ After securing the funds, Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy formally handed over the sanction proceedings to the representatives of the respective colony associations. “Presidents of Lakshminarayana Colony, Church Colony, Sriramana Puram, KTR Nagar, along with local residents and association members, participated in the programme.



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 5 (Indian Chronicle): “Uppal Division has once again received substantial development funds, with ₹4 crore 72 lakh sanctioned for the construction of cement concrete (CC) roads, said Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy. “She stated that continuous efforts are being made to develop Uppal Division as a model constituency within the GHMC limits. Due to the absence of CC roads in several localities, frequent accidents were being reported, causing inconvenience to residents. “As part of the sanctioned works: “ ₹1.15 crore has been allocated for CC road construction in Ramanthapur KTR Nagar “ ₹1.50 crore for reconstruction of damaged CC roads in Ramanthapur

SP Nitika Pant Reviews Arrangements in Kagaznagar Ahead of Maharashtra CM's Visit



OnePlus 12

“Ahead of the proposed visit of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to Kagaznagar, District Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant, IPS, conducted a review of the arrangements at the helipad, public meeting venue, and other key locations in Kagaznagar. “During the inspection, the SP issued specific instructions to police officers and concerned department officials regarding security



OnePlus 12

deployment, crowd management, traffic regulation, and coordination to ensure the visit is conducted smoothly and without any untoward incidents. “She stressed the importance of alertness and inter-departmental coordination during the VIP visit. “The inspection was attended by the Kagaznagar DSP, Kagaznagar Town CI, Kagaznagar Rural CI, along with other police officers, who accompanied the SP during the supervisory visit.

Grand Inauguration of the 7th Agam Memorial Sports Meet under the Auspices of Sathya Sai School Group of Schools



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 5 (Indian Chronicle): “The 7th Agam Memorial Sports Meet, organized under the auspices of the Sathya Sai School Group of Schools, was inaugurated with great enthusiasm and grandeur. Ramanthapur Corporator Bandaru Venkata Rao Srivani attended the event as the chief guest. She received the students' parade and addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of sports in students' overall development. As special guests, Dr. Sangeetha Lakshmi and Dr. B.V. Chary participated in the programme and encouraged students to excel in

sports alongside academics. On this occasion, Sathya Sai School Director Gaddam Bhavani, Parupalli Hanumantha Rao, Nagula Kanakaiah, Venkat Reddy Nagar Development General Secretary Peesari Shankar, Avula Mohammed Jangir, Sudhakar, Sudarshan Reddy, Arya Vaishya Sangham President Venkatesh Gupta, Madduri Sheenu, and Narendra Raju were present and contributed to the success of the event. The students' parade, sports demonstrations, and cultural performances captivated the audience. The guests expressed confidence that such sports meets would help instill sportsmanship, discipline, and leadership qualities among students.

Congress Wave Visible in Asifabad Municipal Elections A clear Congress

“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. February, 05. “Wave is emerging in the Asifabad Municipal elections, with the party gaining strong momentum across the municipality. Senior leaders Kokkirla Vishwaprasad Rao, Atram Sakku, Atram Suguna, and Shyam Naikare campaigning in complete unity, presenting a coordinated and focused strategy that has left rival parties visibly unsettled. “The unity in leadership, enthusiasm among party workers, and growing public confidence are proving to be the three major pillars driving the Congress party steadily toward victory. The massive crowds witnessed during campaign programs stand as clear evidence of the party's rising popularity. “Ward-by-ward and street-by-street campaigning has seen spontaneous public participation, with women and youth coming forward enthusiastically to support the Congress. By directly listening to people's issues and assuring practical solutions, Congress leaders are successfully winning the hearts of voters. “The growing public support has created palpable anxiety among rival parties. The confidence and energy displayed by the Congress camp during the campaign have led to confusion and uncertainty in the opposition's strategies. Unlike conventional campaigns limited to speeches, the Congress style of staying among the people and fighting



alongside them has completely transformed the election atmosphere. “With a clear vision focused on development, welfare, and transparent governance, the Congress party is moving forward decisively in Asifabad Municipality. Backed by experienced leadership and dedicated grassroots workers, a strong belief is emerging among the public that Congress victory is just a step away. “In summary, the Congress party in the Asifabad Municipal elections is standing united, earning the trust of the people, and marching confidently toward victory. There is a growing sense that these elections will bring renewed energy and a new chapter for the Congress party in Asifabad. “Jai Congress! Jai Jai Congress!

Road Works Inspected by Ramanthapur Division Congress Party President Mohammed Rafiq



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 5 (Indian Chronicle):“Ramanthapur Division Congress Party President Mohammed Rafiq inspected the road works at Indra Nagar Masjid Galli in Ramanthapur on Thursday.“Speaking on the occasion, he urged the concerned officials to expedite and complete the road works at the earliest, keeping in view the commencement of the holy month of Ramzan from February 18. He stated that with the cooperation of Uppal In-charge Mandamalla

Parameshwar Reddy, all development works in the Ramanthapur Division would be completed in a phased manner.“Those present at the program included Khaja Bhai, Mohammed Zakaria, Uppal Assembly Youth Congress Vice President Mohammed Shakeel, Abdul, Matheen, Abdul Rahim, Mohammed Kareem, Mohammed Sahil, Adinarayana Goud, Gangaputra Bhaskar, Surya, Icon Madhu, Swamy, Sai, Sudhakar, Kumar, Ramesh, Srinivas, Anji, and several others.

Students Shine at International Karate Championship

Karate Master Ravikumar Goud Honoured with “The Best Team” Trophy



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 5 (Indian Chronicle):“Students of the Champion Shotokan Martial Arts Academy from Kushaiguda and Charlapalli delivered an outstanding performance at the International Karate Championships held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.In the Kata category, the students won four gold medals, two silver medals, and three bronze medals. In the Kumite category, they secured five silver medals and four bronze medals. With this impressive achievement, the team earned wide appreciation.According to Budige Ravikumar Goud,

Founder and President of the Champion Shotokan Martial Arts Academy, the medal winners are as follows:“Gold Medals (Kata): Sreeshanth Goud, Vishnu, Prabhav, Manaswini“Silver Medals (Kata): Rudra, Sreehitha“Bronze Medals (Kata): Manaswini, Sreenish, Udayasri“In the Kumite category:“Silver Medals: Sreeshanth Goud, Vishnu, Sreehitha, Udayasri, Rudra“Bronze Medals: Sreenish, Prabhav, Manaswini, Manavishree“Owing to the exceptional overall performance of the students, Karate Master Ravikumar Goud was honoured with the “The Best Team” Trophy.“The event was graced by Visakhapatnam West MLA and Government Whip P. G. V. R. Naidu as the chief guest, along with Karate Organisation Secretary Tajuddin and other dignitaries. On the occasion, Karate Master Ravikumar Goud was felicitated with a shawl and memento, while the winning students were presented with medals and certificates.The achievements of the students brought pride to their academy and highlighted the growing excellence of karate sport in the region.

Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkatrao Inspects CC Road Works



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 5 (Indian Chronicle):“Ramanthapur Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkatrao on Thursday inspected the ongoing CC road works being taken up at a cost of ₹30 lakh in Indranagar Masjid Line under the Ramanthapur Division.“The corporator noted that residents of the Indranagar area had been facing severe difficulties for several years due to an old sewerage line laid long ago. With the objective of providing a permanent solution to the problem, a 300-diameter pipeline has been laid from Indranagar Metla



Galli to Markandeya Swamy Temple.“As part of these works, she informed that a new CC road is being constructed from Indranagar Eidgah to Markandeya Swamy Temple at an estimated cost of ₹30 lakh. Once completed, the road will completely resolve the commuting problems faced by local residents, she added.Among those present during the inspection were Sankuri Kumaraswamy, Masireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Boddupalli Danaiah, Damodara Kameshwararao, Seelam Somashekhar Goud, Deva, Zakaria, and others.

Financial Assistance Provided to Kidney Patient in Kerameri

Rs25,053 Distributed with Donor Support Under Pendor Shyamrao Patel Seva Samiti

“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad District Reporte,Jade Srinivas,February,05.“Kerameri”A woman suffering from kidney disease received much-needed financial assistance with the support of donors under the aegis of the Pendor Shyamrao Patel Seva Samiti.“Bommana Sirisha, a resident of the SC Colony in Kerameri mandal headquarters, has been battling kidney-related illness for several days. Due to her poor financial condition, the family has been struggling to arrange money even for hospital visits, leaving them in severe distress.“Upon learning about her condition, members of the Pendor Shyamrao Patel Seva Samiti came forward to support the affected family. With the cooperation of donors, an amount of ₹25,053 (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand Fifty-Three only) was collected and handed over to the family as financial aid on Thursday at their residence.“Participants”The assistance program was attended by Kerameri Sarpanch Pendor Anand Rao, Seva Samiti founder Pendor Srinivas, and members Pendor Vinesh,



Dindar Shah, Sedmakki Tukaram, Vikar Deshmukh, Shaikh Farid, Kambala Vinesh, Kootikela Venkata Swamy, Kendre Chandrakant, Shaikh Munnu, Erra Posham, Gurnule Krishna, and others.“The family expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Seva Samiti members and donors for extending timely support during their difficult time.

Call to Make February 12 Nationwide Strike a Success: Central Government Serving Corporate Interests

Joint Action Committee of Central Trade Unions Meets at CITU Office in Kumuram Bheem District



“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad District Reporte,Jade Srinivas,February,05.“Kumuram Bheem–Asifabad:“Leaders of central trade unions called upon workers to participate massively in the nationwide one-day general strike scheduled on February 12, 2026, and send a strong message to the Central Government, accusing it of acting in favour of corporates and against workers’ interests.“A Joint Action Committee meeting of Central Trade Unions was held at the CITU office in Kumuram Bheem district. Addressing the meeting, AITUC District General Secretary Boge Upender, CITU District Secretary J. Rajender, TUCI District Secretary G. Tirupati, and IFTU leader J. Tirupati strongly criticized the policies of the Modi-led Central Government.“They demanded the immediate withdrawal of the notification issued on November 21, 2025, to implement the four Labour Codes in place of 29 existing labour laws. They also demanded the repeal of the Electricity Amendment Act and continuation of the MGNREGA Act, which guarantees employment to the poor.“Appeal to Workers”The leaders stated that, following the call given by national trade unions and federations, organized and unorganized sector workers in Kumuram Bheem district must actively participate in

the February 12 strike and make it a grand success.“They urged participation from Singareni, RTC, Sirpur Paper Mill workers, scheme workers, Gram Panchayat and Municipality workers, NHM and Health Department employees, and workers from all other sectors.“Key Demands”The trade union leaders placed the following demands before the Central Government:“Repeal the four Labour Codes and related rules”Regularize all NHM cadre employees and scheme workers”Implement recommendations of the 45th and 46th Indian Labour Conferences”Constitute a Pay Commission for scheme workers”Provide a minimum monthly wage of ₹26,000 until regularization”Ensure ₹10,000 monthly pension”Limit working hours to eight hours and reduce workload”Implement uniform working conditions across the country”Grant paid maternity leave, 20 days casual leave, and paid medical leave”No retirement until retirement benefits and pension are announced”Promote ASHA workers to ANM posts based on seniority Strong Message”The leaders asserted that “there is nothing to lose by fighting except the chains of slavery,” and called upon workers to rise united against anti-labour policies and assert their rights through collective struggle.

Uppal Youth Congress President Aakarapu Arun Patel Attends Sports Meet at Gandhi High School as Chief Guest



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 5 (Indian Chronicle):“Uppal Assembly Constituency Youth Congress President Aakarapu Arun Patel participated as the chief guest at the sports meet held at the local Gandhi High School in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division, organised under the leadership of school chairman Mohan



Singh.Addressing the students on the occasion, Arun Patel said that sports are not merely a form of physical exercise, but play a vital role in shaping one’s personality. He explained that sports help students learn time management, perseverance, discipline, and the courage to face defeat. He emphasized that participation is more important than winning, and that the lessons learned from defeat lay the foundation for future success.“He further stated that victory brings with it greater responsibility and urged students to imbibe true sportsmanship in both sports and life.The programme was attended by Medchal District Youth Congress General Secretary Kishore, Ram Reddy Nagar General Secretary Rakesh, Working President Srinivas Chari, Naveen Mudiraj, Bhanu, Bhaskar, Chota, Smith, Nani Mittu, along with school teachers, students, and parents.

40% of Haryana government colleges functioning without regular principals; RTI reveals over 4,900 faculty vacancies



GNS News Agency, Feb 5

Forty per cent of the 185 government colleges in Haryana are currently functioning without regular principals, sources in the Higher Education Department have revealed to The Indian Express. A Right to Information (RTI) application also indicated that 4,902 regular assistant professor positions were lying vacant.Around 75 of the government colleges in the state do not have regular principals at present, prompting the authorities to accelerate the process of filling the posts, mainly through promotions of college teachers, sources in the department added.

Activist Subhash, who had obtained details about the vacancies through an RTI application on October 3, 2025, said that according to the Higher Education Department, 85 government colleges were without a regular principal at that time, raising serious questions about the state of higher education in Haryana. Eight of these colleges did not even have sanctioned posts for principals.“The worst situation is in Mahendragarh district, where principal posts are vacant in 14 colleges. In Bhiwani, eight colleges are without principals. In Rewari district too, eight colleges do not have principals. In Charkhi Dadri, three colleges are without principals, while in Fatehabad district, seven colleges face the same problem,” said Subhash, who is the state coordinator of the Haryana Soochna Adhikar Manch, a platform of RTI activists in the state.Only 3,200 of 8,100 assistant professor posts occupied

Subhash further said that according to information procured through RTI on November 28, 2025, as many as 4,902 sanctioned posts out of a total of 8,137 regular assis-

tant professor positions were lying vacant, with only 3,235 posts currently occupied by regular faculty.“The worst situation is for students of English in terms of availability of regular assistant professors. In government colleges across the state, out of 1,146 sanctioned posts in English, 792 are vacant. In Geography, 508 out of 806 posts are vacant. In Commerce, 486 out of 1,034 posts are vacant. In Mathematics, 409 out of 704 posts are vacant. In Botany, 174 out of 226 posts are vacant,” he said.“In Chemistry, 409 out of 583 posts are vacant. In Computer Science, 233 out of 476 posts are vacant. In Hindi, 335 out of 528 posts are vacant. In Physical Education, 140 out of 199 posts are vacant. In Punjabi, 44 out of 57 posts are vacant. In Environment, all 22 posts are vacant. In History, 209 out of 366 posts are vacant. In Psychology, 130 out of 227 posts are vacant,” Subhash said.He added: “The most alarming fact is that in subjects such as Environment, Anthropology, Electronics, Geology, Management, Biology, Information and Technology, Microbiology, Statistics, and Urdu, every single sanctioned post is vacant.”Subhash also said the department, in its RTI reply, stated that in addition to 3,235 regular assistant professors, as many as 1,971 extension lecturers (contractual employees) and 45 guest lecturers are also currently working in various colleges as a stop-gap arrangement.

HPSC recruitment underway: CM’s media secyExplaining the government’s efforts, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini’s media secretary Praveen Attrey said: “The Higher Education Department has already sent a requisition for 2,424 assistant professor posts to the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC). The Commission has completed recruitment for 416 posts and recommended candidates to the Department, whose appointments are underway.”“The process of recommending candidates against the remaining posts is also in progress. To meet the existing workload caused by vacancies and rising demand, the department has engaged around 2,000 extension lecturers in various subjects,” he added.Attrey said that once all the recruits recommended by the HPSC are appointed, the department will have an adequate number of teachers across subjects. “The Government has already filled 31 college principal posts through promotions in August 2025, and the process of filling the remaining vacancies—both through promotions and direct recruitment—is currently underway,” he stated.

Sahil Kumar: The Haryanvi cyclist who learnt Marathi through love

GNS News Agency, Feb 5

Indian Air Force cyclist Sahil Kumar surprises many by praising the Pune Grand Tour route in fluent Marathi after the prologue race.Indian Air Force cyclist Sahil Kumar surprises many by praising the Pune Grand Tour route in fluent Marathi after the prologue race. Hailing from Kurukshetra in Haryana, Sahil is a Junior Warrant Officer with the Indian Air Force and winner of multiple national-level medals in cycling. Naturally, he speaks Hindi with a Haryanvi accent.

But sitting in the player’s arena on Pune’s FC road after finishing the prologue race on January 19, he stuns everyone by speaking in fluent Marathi. One might even mistake him for a local Punekar.“Ekdum bhari route hota” (The route was really good), said cyclist Sahil Kumar, a member of the Indian National Team participating in the Pune Grand Tour.Sahil says with a smile, “My wife Komal Deshmukh is from Pimpri-Chinchwad. She is also a cyclist. She plays for the railways team and is also a national medalist. She has taught me Marathi.”Narrating the couple’s story, Sahil said that he met his wife at a cycling camp in Delhi in 2016. “We started speaking and first became friends and then started dating. We got married a year back. After I met her and she used to talk to her parents on the phone, I really liked the Marathi language and felt like I should also learn it. I used to ask her the meaning of all the words she would say. She would explain them to me and encourage me as well. It took me 5-6 years to learn it. I can speak Marathi well now.”The couple is based in Patiala but regularly visit Pune to meet Komal’s parents. “I came to Pune for the first time in 2017 and met her father. He had no issues with our relationship, and neither did my parents have any issue,” says Sahil, who enjoys eating the local pocha. The transaction of languages in the husband-wife cyclist duo was not one-sided either. “She (Komal) has also learnt



Haryanvi. Whenever she goes to my home she speaks with my mother and father in proper Haryanvi,” Sahil quips heartily.Sahil has been in the Indian team for over eight years. Having previously participated in the Commonwealth games, his personal goal is to podium at the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. He clocked a 8:52:70 finish time in the prologue race on the first day of the Pune Grand Tour.

Sahil was introduced to cycling by his elder brother, himself a cyclist. He started his journey in the sport in 2012 at the age of 14 years. At the 38th National Games (2025), he won gold (Scratch Race), silver (Road Race) and bronze (Omnium). He also represented India at the Commonwealth Games 2018 and Asian Track Championships. Sahil was a key contributor to the Indian Air Force team’s national title at the 29th National Road Cycling Championships (2024).His other laurels include Gold at Track Asia Cup 2017 (Team Sprint),

Three Gold medals at National Championship 2021 (Road Race, Team Time Trial & Criterium), Gold at National Games 2025 (Scratch Race), and Gold at National Track Championship 2024 (Team Pursuit).

Woman shot dead in Delhi’s Shalimar Bagh: Prime suspect, 2 aides arrested from Bihar and Haryana



GNS News Agency, Feb 5

Days after 44-year-old Rachna Yadav was shot dead near her residence in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi Police have arrested the prime suspect, Bharat Yadav, from Bihar.Police said he was also involved in her husband Vijendra Yadav’s murder case and had been absconding since 2023.Police said two of his associates, Nikhil and Sumit, have been nabbed from Haryana. Police said the duo are first-time offenders who were promised Rs 5 lakh for committing the crime.

The motorcycle used in the commission of crime, and other logistics, were provided by Bharat. The bike was stolen from Subhash Place area in September 2025. The three accused were arrested on Monday around 11.45 pm.Rachna was the prime witness in her husband’s murder case and was to depose before the court after she missed the first hearing in the first week of January.The incident took place close to the Delhi CM’s family home on January 10.Sources said Rachna was returning after attending the funeral of a neighbour when two assailants intercepted her. One of them allegedly stopped her and asked

her name. When she identified herself, the man pulled out a firearm and shot her.

She was also the President of the RWA of her block.Police said her husband, a history-sheeter from Jahangirpuri who had been arrested in multiple cases, including murder, was gunned down on May 22, 2023, while attending a langar near his property office in Bhalswa.Police had arrested five people in connection with Vijendra’s murder at the time.

The accused, with 12 prior cases, was allegedly planning an armed robbery when he attacked the policemen.Two Delhi Police constables were stabbed while chasing a habitual offender in Shahbad Dairy but still managed to arrest him before collapsing from their injuries.“This is my job, how can I help it?,” asked Head Constable Kuldeep as he smiled after being discharged from the hospital on Monday. He and his colleague were allegedly stabbed and injured while attempting to arrest an alleged habitual offender in the Shahbad Dairy area of Outer North Delhi on Saturday.

The accused, Ravi (38), who has at least 12 cases filed against him, was arrested by the two policemen even as they were injured. Recalling the incident, Head Constable Kuldeep told The Indian Express, “We start our beat patrolling around 8 pm every night. Constable Neeraj and I had our beat areas close to each other... so we thought we would do the patrolling together. Around 9 pm on Saturday, one of the locals told us that a habitual offender had been seen in

India International Dance and Music Festival: 350 artists from 33 countries shine at Chandigarh University



GNS News Agency, Feb 5

The opening day of the two-day India International Dance and Music Festival 2026 “One World, Many Cultures” at Chandigarh University on Monday saw mesmerising performances by over 350 international artists from 33 countries.The festival is being organised in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under the Ministry of External Affairs. Haryana Minister of Heritage and Tourism Arvind Kumar Sharma was the chief guest, while ICCR Director General K Nandini Singla attended the event as the guest of honour.CU DANCE FEST The 15-member Folklore Ensemble ‘Aalam’ and Dance Group ‘Ademi’ from Kyrgyz Republic performing during the International Dance and Music Festival 2026 at Chandigarh University Gharuan.

Satnam Singh Sandhu, Rajya Sabha member and Chancellor, Chandigarh University, was also present.Addressing the gathering, the minister said, “This international festival truly reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, which means the world is one family. Such platforms are vital for cultural exchange as they bring nations closer and foster harmony,

mutual respect and global understanding. These interactions help students learn about diverse cultures, rituals and traditions while simultaneously introducing international participants to India’s rich heritage.”Sandhu highlighted the role of art in strengthening global ties. “Art is a universal language and the strongest medium to bring nations together. Chandigarh University remains committed to promoting cultural diplomacy and projecting India as a rising global power. Today, more than 3,000 international students from 65 countries are pursuing their education at CU, reflecting India’s growing appeal as a global education hub,” he said.CU DANCE FEST Enthralling performances by folk and contemporary dance groups from Kyrgyzstan and Malaysia further captivated the audience.

Singla termed the festival a unique cultural platform. “This initiative allows foreign students to showcase their art in India, while Indian students get opportunities to perform abroad. Indian dance forms and folk traditions are now admired worldwide, thanks to sustained efforts by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of External Affairs,” she said.Dressed in colourful traditional attire, international troupes participated in a vibrant cultural procession on the CU campus, celebrating unity in diversity. Spectacular performances were delivered by artists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Lithuania, Uzbekistan and Burkina Faso, along with performers from over 25 other countries, including Nepal, Bhutan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ghana and Madagascar.The opening performance featured the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival led by Dr L Subramaniam and Kavita Krishnamurthy Subramaniam in collaboration with renowned Kazakh ensembles. Enthralling performances by folk and contemporary dance groups from Kyrgyzstan and Malaysia further captivated the audience.

ASJ sets aside CJM order, allows media entry during Majithia trial

GNS News Agency, Feb 5

Ending a six-month legal battle, a special court of Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Hardeep Singh has set aside a Mohali Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) order, barring mediapersons from sitting inside the courtroom during the trial of SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, restoring journalists’ right to observe court proceedings in the high-profile case.

The application challenging the restraint was moved on July 17, 2025, by the Active Journalists Union of Punjab (AJUP) through its president, Rajinder Singh Taggar. The plea, argued by advocate Damandeep Singh, opposed the CJM’s order that had been passed with the mutual consent of counsel for the Vigilance Bureau and counsel for the accused.Arguing the matter, Damandeep Singh contended that the CJM’s directive violated the principle of an open court as envisaged under Section 366 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and infringed upon the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. He further submitted that an order of a lower court cannot bind a superior court of an Additional Sessions Judge.

With the trial court repeatedly adjourning the matter, advocate Amaninder Singh Sekhon approached the Punjab



and Haryana High Court, seeking an expeditious decision. Acting on the petition, the high court on January 13 sought details about the adjournments and interim orders passed by the trial court.Addressing mediapersons at the Chandigarh Press Club, Sekhon disclosed that the matter had seen as many as 28 adjournments over a period of five months and 29 days.Meanwhile, another petition pending before the high court seeks permission for journalists to videograph or take photographs within district court complexes, excluding courtrooms for their respective platforms. The next hearing in the matter is scheduled for January 28.

Man arrested for ‘running over’ Swiggy delivery partner in Gurgaon, victim hospitalised



GNS News Agency, Feb 5

According to the police, Tinku (43), a resident of Chandpura ki Dhani in Haryana’s Rewari, had parked his bike outside the Swiggy store.An FIR was registered at Sector-10 police station for attempt to murder and causing grievous hurt.A 41-year-old man was arrested in Gurgaon’s Hayatpur on Monday for allegedly running over a Swiggy delivery executive with his SUV multiple times following an argument over parking, police said.

The incident happened on Sunday evening outside a Swiggy store at Hayatpur village near Gurgaon Sector-93, which falls under Sector-10 police station, they said.The accused, identified as Naveen Yadav (41), an Ayurveda practitioner employed at a primary health centre in Daulatabad, was arrested from Hayatpur, officials said. His

SUV, a Mahindra Scorpio car, has been seized, police said.The incident was captured on CCTV, police said. In the purported clip, multiple Swiggy riders are seen at a roadside pickup point in Sector 93, waiting for their orders. A black Scorpio appears and hits a parked bike and quickly flees. The car then returns and is seen swerving towards the riders, attempting to hit them, injuring one of them — later identified as Tinku — gravely.According to the police, Tinku (43), a resident of Chandpura ki Dhani in Haryana’s Rewari, had parked his bike outside the Swiggy store.“Naveen, who lives in Bhagat Singh Colony, arrived in his Scorpio with its siren on. He hit the parked bike, and then allegedly drove over Tinku repeatedly with the intention of causing grievous harm. Tinku is currently admitted in Virendra Hospital in Rewari. In his complaint, Tinku stated that the accused allegedly first rammed into his bike, threatened to kill him, and then deliberately drove the vehicle over him two-three times, causing serious injuries,” a police spokesperson said.An FIR was registered at Sector-10 police station for attempt to murder and causing grievous hurt.A probe was launched and the accused was apprehended. During questioning, the accused told police that he had developed a resentment against the delivery agents, including the victim, for allegedly parking bikes in the lane outside his house frequently that obstructed the movement of his vehicle.Investigations are still underway, police also said. The victim is undergoing treatment, and further action is being taken in the matter, Sector 10 SHO, Inspector Kuldeep, said.

‘This is my job, how can I help it?’, says Delhi Police constable stabbed with another cop while chasing ‘offender’

The area. We asked them where he was, and he pointed us towards the cluster area.”Since the area was crowded, they decided to pursue the man on foot instead of on their motorcycle, the Head Constable added. According to the police, the alleged habitual offender, Ravi, was planning to conduct an armed robbery in the area. When the policemen spotted Ravi, he allegedly began to run to escape arrest. “Before we could react, he pulled out a knife and hit my partner,” he added.“I felt him hit me too, but I didn’t realise he had stabbed me. We continued to chase him and caught him just as he was pulling out a katta (countrymade gun). By that time, we had informed the thana, and they came as backup within a few minutes. It was only when a bystander pointed it out after we made the arrest that I realised I was bleeding,” he said.Soon after the incident, both the policemen were rushed to Maharishi Valmiki Hospital nearby. Constable Neeraj was stabbed three times; however, his uniform belt bore the brunt of two blows while the third punc-

tured his hip. Kuldeep suffered two deep stab wounds near his armpit and on his back. While receiving treatment, he said he refused to let his colleagues inform his family about what had happened.“My mother is frail, and my wife is alone at home with two of our children. The news would have been delivered to the house late at night. To hear that I had been stabbed would have caused them to panic. For us, it’s a daily occurrence, but for them, it would have been a very big deal,” he said.Kuldeep was on his way home after being discharged when The Indian Express spoke to him. “They will get to know now, once I get home. I’ll see all their reactions... bear my wife’s anger for not telling her...” he said.According to the police, Ravi has an extensive criminal history, with his first case going back to 2015, and has 12 cases registered against him. He has mostly been charged with robberies, carrying unlicensed arms, snatching, and house break-ins, officers added. Police said that Ravi had been working as an e-rickshaw driver before he was arrested for allegedly stabbing the constables.

Diplomatic spat between India and Poland as Foreign Ministers spar over Pakistan and Russia



GNS News Agency, Feb 5

India and Poland sparred over their respective regional rivals as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Polish Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Radosław Sikorski aired their differences over Pakistan and Russia on Monday (January 19, 2026) as the two Ministers met for talks in New Delhi. Taking aim at Poland's renewed ties with Pakistan, Mr. Jaishankar told visiting Mr. Sikorski that India expects its partners not to help "fuel" terrorism in the neighbourhood. Mr. Jaishankar also delivered a severe message to the visiting dignitary about the European Union's sanctions against India's trade and oil imports from Russia, calling it "selective targeting". In televised opening remarks at the Hyderabad House, Mr. Jaishankar said he wanted to "discuss some of [Mr. Sikorski's] recent travels to the region", a direct reference to the Polish FM's visit to Pakistan in October 2025, where he had met Pakistan's top leadership. The visit to Pakistan by Mr. Sikorski appears to have upset the government as it came a few months after the India-Pakistan conflict in May. "Poland should display zero tolerance for terrorism and not help fuel the terrorist infrastructure in our neighbourhood," Mr. Jaishankar said. Mr. Sikorski is a former journalist who covered the war in Afghanistan in 1986-1989 and spent considerable time in Pakistan. Mr. Jaishankar said he was "no stranger to the region", and would be "certainly familiar with the longstanding challenge of cross-border terrorism".

Speaking to reporters after the meeting at Hyderabad House, Mr. Sikorski said that the conversation about India and Poland's respective regions had been "frank", and said that while the two sides agreed on concerns over terrorism, India's participation in "Zapad-2025" military exercises in Russia and Belarus was seen as "threatening". Regional

concerns "We all have regional concerns and we all have neighbours, and with neighbours you have opportunities and challenges," Mr. Sikorski said, adding that on terrorism India and Poland are of "one mind". "We also have concerns. India took part in the Zapad exercises in Russia that we find threatening," he stated. The exchange of differences between Delhi and Warsaw was seen as unusual given that the two countries have been improving relations in recent years, and India and the European Union are close to a major trade agreement next week. The visit by the Polish Minister is the first since Mr. Modi visited Warsaw in August 2024, from where he travelled to Ukraine as well. During talks, Mr. Jaishankar turned to the issue of India's imports of Russian oil that he said Mr. Sikorski had been speaking about "publicly" during his visit. In Jaipur on Monday (January 19, 2026), the Polish Foreign Minister had said that he was "pleased" that India had cut its purchase of Russian oil, and added, during an interview with The Hindu, that he hoped India shares the view that "principles still matter", while criticising Russian President Vladimir Putin for his actions in Ukraine.

Sources said that New Delhi had also taken exception to Mr. Sikorski's comments in Paris earlier this month on the sidelines of the "Weimar Triangle" talks when the Polish Foreign Minister had said that he was "satisfied" by India's reduction of Russian oil imports "because this is financing the war machine of Putin".

"I have repeatedly underlined that the selective targeting of India is both unfair and unjustified. I do so again today," Mr. Jaishankar told Mr. Sikorski, referring to the comments and possibly to the EU's decision to sanction Nayara energy, a partially Russian-owned refinery in India in July 2025, as well as other Indian companies for their imports.

Trade push India and Poland have increased trade 200% in the past decade to \$7 billion and both sides have plans to increase direct flights, trade and technology cooperation. The Polish Deputy PM's visit is one of a number of other visits this month by high-level European leaders, including the German Chancellor and France's National Security Adviser, just ahead of the visit by the EU's top leadership for the Republic Day Parade and the EU-India Summit next week. MEA officials did not respond to queries about whether the issue of "selective targeting" of India would also be raised with the European Commission and Council Presidents Ursula Von der Leyen and Antonia Costa during talks next week.

Bangladesh says most incidents involving minorities in 2025 were non-communal

GNS News Agency, Feb 5

The statement issued by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus Press Wing came days after India, on January 9, pressed Dhaka to "swiftly and firmly" deal with attacks on minorities in Bangladesh and described as "troubling" the attempts to attribute the incidents to extraneous reasons. New Delhi's reaction had come against the backdrop of the killing of several Hindu individuals in Bangladesh in the last few weeks. Citing a yearlong review of official police records, the interim government said a total of 645 incidents involving minority communities were recorded between January and December 2025 across Bangladesh. "While every incident is a matter of concern, the data presents a clear and evidence-based picture: the overwhelming majority of cases were criminal in nature rather than communal," it said. According to the statement posted on the Chief Adviser's verified social media handle, of the 645 incidents, 71 were identified as having communal elements. These included 38 cases of temple vandalism, eight of arson, one of theft, one murder and 23 other incidents such as threats to break idols, provocative social media posts and damage to worship pavilions.

Police cases were filed in 50 of these incidents, and arrests were made in an equal number, while other preventive or investigative measures were taken in 21 cases, the statement said. The remaining 574 incidents were linked to criminal or social disputes unrelated to religion, including neighbourhood disputes (51), land-related conflicts (23), theft (106), prior personal enmity (26), rape (58) and 172 cases of unnatural death. Police registered 390 cases in this category, filed 154 unnatural death reports and made 498 arrests, with additional measures taken in 30 incidents. The interim government said the report "does not deny challenges, nor does it claim perfection; rather, it seeks to provide a factual, evidence-based picture of crime trends affecting minority communities within the broader national context". "While all crimes are serious and demand accountability, the data demonstrates that most incidents involving minority victims were not driven by communal hostility, but by broader criminal and social factors that affect citizens across religious and ethnic lines," it said. According to the 2022 census, the Hindu population in Bangladesh is approximately 13.13 million, which accounts for about 7.95% of the country's total population. The Buddhist population is approximately 1.01 million (0.61%), Christians nearly



5,00,000 and other religions, including Sikh and Animist, approximately 2,00,000 (0.12%).

Earlier this month, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) in a statement alleged that as the date of the general elections draws nearer, communal violence is increasing at an alarming rate in the country. Parliamentary polls are scheduled on February 12. The forum alleged that the violence is aimed at preventing minority voters from casting votes for candidates of their choice. The Council said it has recorded 51 incidents of communal violence in December 2025 alone.

The interim government in the statement reiterated that ensuring safety and justice for all citizens, including Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and people of other beliefs, remains a constitutional and moral obligation. On January 9, reacting to the recent spate of violence targeting Hindus in Bangladesh, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We continue to witness a disturbing pattern of recurring attacks on minorities as well as their homes and businesses by extremists." Such communal incidents need to be dealt with swiftly and firmly, he said. "We have observed a troubling tendency to attribute such incidents to personal rivalries, political differences, or extraneous reasons." Such disregard only emboldens the perpetrators and deepens the sense of fear and insecurity among minorities," Mr. Jaiswal said. The relations between India and Bangladesh were strained after the interim government headed by Mr. Yunus assumed charge following the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024. India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh.

Trump's Gaza plan: France 'won't join', Canada 'won't pay'

GNS News Agency, Feb 5

France "does not intend to answer favourably" to an invitation to join U.S. President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace", a source close to President Emmanuel Macron told AFP on Monday (January 19, 2026). The board was originally conceived to oversee the rebuilding of war-torn Gaza, but the charter does not appear to limit its role to the occupied Palestinian territory. Its charter "goes beyond the sole framework of Gaza", the source close to the French President said.

"It raises major questions, particularly regarding respect for the principles and structure of the United Nations, which under no circumstances can be called into question," they added. France is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Earlier on Monday (January 19), the French Foreign Ministry issued a statement reiterating the country's commitment to the U.N. "This remains the keystone of effective multilateralism, where international law, the sovereign equality of states, and the peaceful settlement of disputes prevail over arbitrariness, power politics and war," it said. The Ministry added it was reviewing the proposed legal framework of the board with its partners, raising concern that the "project extends beyond the situation in Gaza". The source close to the French President, however, noted that France "remains fully committed to a ceasefire in Gaza and to a credible political horizon for Palestinians



and Israelis". Canada will not pay for seat

Meanwhile, Canada will not pay to be on the board, a government source told AFP Monday (January 19, 2026), after Prime Minister Mark Carney indicated he would accept an invitation to join the body. "Canada will not pay for a seat on the board, nor has that been requested of Canada at this time," the government source said. Member countries, represented on the board by their Head of State or Government, would be allowed to join for three years or longer if they paid more than \$1 billion in cash within the first year, the charter says. "

Trump tells Norway his Greenland threats linked to Nobel Prize snub



GNS News Agency, Feb 5

U.S. President Donald Trump linked his drive to take control of Greenland to his failure to win the Nobel Peace Prize, saying he no longer thought "purely of Peace" as the row over the island on Monday (January 19, 2026) threatened to reignite a trade war with Europe. Mr. Trump has intensified his push to wrest sovereignty over Greenland from fellow NATO member Denmark, threatening punitive tariffs on countries which stand in his way and prompting the European Union to weigh hitting back with its own measures.

The dispute is threatening to upend the NATO alliance

India, UAE deepen ties with mega defence plan, LNG deal

GNS News Agency, Feb 5

Against the backdrop of growing military tension in the Gulf region, the United Arab Emirates and India on signed a 'Letter of Intent for a bilateral Strategic Defence Partnership'. The Letter of Intent was sealed during the three-hour visit by the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, when the two sides set a goal of doubling bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032. Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the leader of the UAE at the Palam Airport, and the two leaders discussed, among other issues, the situation in Gaza, where President Donald Trump's peace plan will be tested in the coming weeks as well as the protests in Iran. In a press briefing after the departure of the dignitaries, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the two leaders also discussed the situation in Yemen, over which Saudi Arabia's relations with the UAE have nosedived.

In response to a question on whether the India-UAE strategic defence partnership could drag India into a future conflict scenario in the Gulf region, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the Letter of Intent is aimed at "work on concluding a framework agreement for Strategic Defence Partnership". "So I would really characterise it as a natural evolution from the already considerable defence cooperation between the two countries and not necessarily a response to any specific event that may have taken place in the region or of any intent to get involved in a hypothetical future scenario in the region," said Mr. Misri explaining the India-UAE Letter of Intent on Strategic Defence Partnership. The Letter of Intent on defence between India and the UAE came as the Gulf region is dealing with the repercussions of hostilities between the U.S.-Israel and Iran over Tehran's crackdown on protesters who were demanding overthrow of the Islamic Republic government in Tehran.

Apart from that, there has been greater involvement of the Pakistani military in safeguarding Saudi defence and security interests in the Arabian Peninsula and especially in Yemen. The Saudi-Pakistani defence cooperation has intensified since the two countries signed a mutual defence agreement on September 17, 2025. The Saudi-Pakistan military alliance has been active in the Yemen theatre, which has increased pressure on UAE, erstwhile ally of Saudi Arabia in Yemen. Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE are among the most important energy suppliers of India, and apart from that, they also are hosting large number of Indian expatriate workers. India has traditionally maintained a cautious position in hostilities and conflicts in the Gulf because of India's

that has underpinned Western security for decades and which was already under strain over the war in Ukraine and Mr. Trump's refusal to protect allies which do not spend enough on defence. It has also plunged trade relations between the EU and the U.S., the bloc's biggest export market, into renewed uncertainty after the two sides painstakingly reached a trade deal last year in response to Mr. Trump's swinging tariffs. In a written message to Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre that was seen by Reuters, Mr. Trump said: "Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace, although it will always be predominant, but can now think about what is good and proper for the United States of America." The Norwegian Nobel Committee annoyed Mr. Trump by awarding the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize not to him but to Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado. She gave her medal last week to Mr. Trump during a White House meeting, though the Nobel Committee said the prize cannot be transferred, shared or revoked. In his message, Mr. Trump also repeated his accusation that Denmark cannot protect Greenland from Russia or China... and why do they have a 'right of ownership' anyway?" he wrote, adding: "The World is not secure unless we have Complete and Total Control of Greenland."



vital interests. Mr. Misri pointed out that India's defence engagement has grown not just with the UAE but with "a few other countries in the region as well". Officials told The Hindu that despite the current prevailing tension between Saudi Arabia and the UAE, New Delhi expects the two sides to de-escalate tension in the near future. The Indian side also noted that Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Saudi Foreign Minister Al Farhan even as the President of the UAE arrived in New Delhi. The visit came a day after the United States invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be on the 'Board of Peace for Gaza', which will feature the leaders from the Arab countries of the Gulf. Mr. Misri did not go into the specifics but said that matters around the Gaza conflict were discussed between Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Prime Minister Modi. Both leaders also welcomed greater civil nuclear cooperation between India and the UAE. During the brief visit, the two sides also signed an energy deal between HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum Company Ltd) and ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Gas) that will allow the purchase of 0.5 MMPTA LNG by HPCL from ADNOC over 10 years starting from 2028. The two sides also discussed setting up of 'digital embassies' that will safeguard 'sovereign data'. Another Letter of Intent was signed between the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre and the Space Agency of the UAE for the development of the Space Industry in the UAE. Regarding the space agreement, a joint statement issued after the visit said, "This initiative aims to produce an integrated space ecosystem with end-to-end infrastructure and a strong industrial base. It aims to enable India-UAE joint missions, expand global commercial services, create high-skilled employment and start-ups and strengthen bilateral investment through sustainable business models."

Greenland issue: EU, U.K. attempt to negotiate with Trump, while keeping possibility of retaliation open



GNS News Agency, Feb 5

While European leaders kept open the possibility of retaliatory trade measures against the U.S., for now they appeared to engage in negotiations with U.S. President Donald Trump, who, on Saturday (January 17, 2026), announced tariffs on seven E.U. members and the U.K. The tariffs were announced to pressure the European nations to hand over Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark to the U.S. German Chancellor Frederick Merz said on Monday (January 19, 2026) that he would try to meet with President Trump and the World Economic Forum in Davos on Wednesday (January 20, 2026) to discuss the Greenland issue.

Mr. Merz argued that the U.S. economy was not doing as well as Americans had imagined, and part of that was due to tariffs. The E.U. and the U.S. reached a trade agreement in July last year, which resulted in most E.U. goods entering the U.S. being tariffed at 15%. Mr. Merz said he did not want a tariff war, but kept retaliatory options open.

"If we are confronted with tariffs that we consider unreasonable, then we can react," he said at a party press conference, adding the E.U. would discuss the matter further at an emergency summit on Thursday (January 22, 2026). An EU package of €93 billion in tariffs on U.S. products is due to kick in on February 6, unless a suspension, currently in effect, is extended beyond this date. Germany's Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil appeared to back a stronger response than the Chancellor. "We are constantly experiencing new provocations....," he said

at a joint press conference with his French counterpart, earlier on Monday (January 19, 2026). "Germany and France agree: We will not allow ourselves to be blackmailed," he added. Mr. Klingbeil said legally permissible economic retaliation should be looked into, as he appeared to support French President Emmanuel Macron's push for the EU to restrict the U.S.'s access to the Single Market, by invoking the bloc's Anti-Coercion Instrument. The European Council, comprised of member states, met on Sunday (January 18, 2026) and reached a "shared assessment that tariffs would undermine transatlantic relations and are incompatible with the EU-U.S. trade agreement," according to its President, Antonio Costa. In the U.K., Keir Starmer, arguably Mr. Trump's closest ally in Europe, ruled out a tariff war, i.e., retaliatory tariffs, saying these were not in anyone's interest. "We have not got to that stage, my focus is making sure we don't get to that stage."

He stood by the U.K. and European position that the future of Greenland was up to Greenland and Denmark. He also said that it was "completely wrong" to threaten allies with tariffs. He admitted that the tariffs from the U.S. had been "very badly received" across the U.K., even as he said the U.S. remained a close ally on defence, security, intelligence and nuclear capability. "

But we must stand up for our values," he said. It was in the U.K. national interest to work with the U.S. on defence and security, Mr. Starmer said. The Prime Minister linked the U.K.'s national security and specifically the effectiveness of Britain's nuclear deterrent, to having a good relationship with the U.S. He was responding to a question on whether he would consider economic retaliation via tariffs on the U.S., and whether his government would advise Britain's King Charles III to not travel to the U.S. to celebrate America's 250th anniversary of independence. Mr. Starmer said that he had explained to the president that the limited number of European troops in Greenland "were clearly there to assess and work on risk from the Russians" and he said he hoped there was clarity on that. The two leaders spoke on the phone on Sunday (January 18, 2026). Asked if he thought Mr. Trump was actually considering military action, Mr. Starmer, said, "I don't actually."

The return of division talk in J&K and why it’s dangerous



On September 15, 1950, at Lake Success, the temporary home of the United Nations between 1946 and 1951, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) received a report on Jammu and Kashmir from Owen Dixon, former Chief Justice of Australia. Appointed by the UNSC to mediate between India and Pakistan, the 64-year-old jurist offered a set of categorical recommendations that, in effect, revived the logic of territorial partition.

Dixon had travelled extensively across Jammu and Kashmir on both sides of what later became the Line of Control, shuttled between New Delhi and Karachi, and even brokered a meeting between the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers on July 20, 1950. His proposal suggested that the Hindu-majority plains of Jammu should go to India, while the culturally and linguistically contiguous Muslim areas of Rajouri–Poonch, located close to the Line of Control, should go to Pakistan. Ladakh was to remain with India, while Gilgit-Baltistan and what came to be known as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) were allotted to Pakistan. Dixon suggested that only the Kashmir Valley (predominantly Muslim, but with strong Kashmiri identity) should hold a plebiscite supervised by the United Nations.

Dixon report proved to be non-starterThe Dixon Report proved to be a non-starter. It was widely seen as a de facto invitation to Partition-type violence, mass displacement, and demographic upheaval within Jammu and Kashmir itself. In hindsight, the report lacked the analytical rigour required to capture the former princely state’s intricate religious, linguistic, and ethnic geography — one that resisted neat binary classifications of majority and minority. Moreover, it defeated the idea of inclusive India.Yet, despite its failure, the idea of dividing Jammu and Kashmir did not disappear in a different context. It resurfaced periodically, though always framed within the context of Indian national sovereignty, and was presented not as secession but as administrative reorganisation. At different moments, this idea paradoxically brought together actors across regions and ideological lines who believed that territorial reconfiguration could offer relief from deep-seated political and structural grievances. Decades later, Inderjit Gupta, who served as India’s Union Home Minister from June 29, 1996 to March 19, 1998 in the United Front governments of H. D. Deve Gowda and I. K. Gujral, and was a senior leader of the Communist Party of India, also once proposed trifurcating Jammu and Kashmir into three distinct units namely Jammu, the Kashmir Valley, and Ladakh in the Parliament. After creating confusion, he had to retract his statement. The notion of division or trifurcation was also explicitly endorsed by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which advocated the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir in its Kurukshetra resolution of 2002. Ladakh, which was historically part of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, was separated in 2019 under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, leaving behind two remaining administrative units within the reconstituted Union Territory: Jammu and the Kashmir Valley.Strong chorus calling for separation of J&K returned

In the current context, a strong chorus calling for the separation of Jammu and Kashmir has returned. Recent statements across the political spectrum have been revealing. Much of this discourse, however, has the feel of a broken record spanning nearly eight-decades. Leaders in Jammu continue to articulate a narrative of discrimination and political neglect. The Kashmir Valley, in turn, contests the very framing of Jammu’s grievance. Valley-based leaders argue that Jammu is not the monolithic Hindu region it is often projected to be, pointing out that nearly 35% of Jammu’s population is Muslim. This is a reality they contend is routinely ignored in political mobilisation. Predictably, familiar patterns re-emerge. Muslim political leadership in Jammu opposes division, arguing that it would marginalise Muslim-majority hilly districts within the Hindu majority region. The debate circles back to hardened positions shaped by decades of mistrust. What is insufficiently recognised, however, is that 2026 is not the 1990s or early 2000s. The nature of India’s political landscape has changed profoundly.

Taken together, these developments underscore a central flaw in the assumption that the restoration of statehood alone will resolve Jammu and Kashmir’s problems grossly oversimplifies the former State’s political and social complexity. In fact, the current arrangement of divided political authority allows both the elected leadership, the National Conference (NC), and the Lieutenant Governor’s administration to exercise plausible deniability, each attributing policy failures to the other. This institutional ambiguity dampens accountability but also contains political fallout. However, once statehood is restored, that buffer disappears. Decisions perceived as discriminatory by either region would carry far greater political consequences and could quickly become explosive. This does not imply that the present arrangement is sustainable or desirable; rather, it highlights that statehood without structural reform may intensify, rather than resolve, existing fault lines.At the same time, recent trend lines demand far greater attention to ground realities than is currently evident. Demands for the division of Jammu and Kashmir are now emerging from across the political spectrum and from both regions, and even from members of civil society. Notably, even Sham Lal Sharma, a sitting BJP legislator and a former minister, has publicly articulated this demand. He has been joined by former Congress MP and minister Lal Singh, who has been a strong votary of statehood and reorganisation. In the Kashmir Valley, Sajjad Lone, a former minister and legislator, has suggested that it may be time for an “amicable divorce,” effectively reviving the argument for dividing the former state. Often, the immediate triggers for such exchanges are symbolic rather than substantive. This time, the flashpoint has been the proposed establishment of a National Law School over whether it should be located in Kashmir valley or Jammu. Yet behind these symbols lie deeper political anxieties. Voices from the Valley, including Lone, increasingly argue that continued association with Jammu has become a constraint on Kashmir’s political and economic development. Thus, each region is now framing the other as an obstacle: Jammu views Kashmir as dominant and exclusionary, while Kashmir portrays Jammu as a drag on its aspirations. What emerges is not a new debate, but a deepening mutual exhaustion as one in which competing narratives cancel each other out, while the larger structural failures of governance, decentralisation, and internal federalism remain unaddressed.

Renewed narrative of divisionThe renewed narrative of division has, unsurprisingly, generated deep anxiety among Jammu’s Muslim population. Javed Ahmed Rana, a National Conference minister from Jammu’s Poonch district, was quick to oppose the demand. He argued that a minority cannot determine the fate of a majority. This implicitly invoked the fact that Jammu and Kashmir as a whole remains a Muslim-majority entity, and cautioning that political decisions driven by Jammu’s Hindu leadership could not be imposed unilaterally.Jammu and Kashmir functions in ways characteristic of deeply diverse societies, particularly in the global south context. Those clamouring for the division of the former state and the creation of separate entities often insist that their demand is not religious in nature and that it includes Muslim constituencies as well. On paper, this claim carries some weight: many Muslims in Jammu are culturally and linguistically distinct from the Kashmiri-speaking population of the Valley.

Yet this distinction does not translate into support for division. Muslim communities such as the Gujjars and Paharis, despite their cultural and linguistic differences from Valley Muslims, largely oppose the breakup of Jammu and Kashmir. Their resistance is shaped not by cultural affinity but by political arithmetic. In a divided arrangement, these groups fear being reduced to religious and political minorities, with diminished voice, institutional protection, and access to power.At face value, this inter-regional rivalry between the two regions started immediately after accession of J&K to the Indian union. Like the rest of the country, there was a transition from monarchy to democratic system in the princely states. But in the process what happened was that seat of power for all practical reason moved from monarch, who had Jammu origins, to Kashmir valley, political elite. With immense ethnic, religious, geographical and linguistic diversity within J&K and other uncertainties that clouded the post-independent history of J&K’s association with the Indian union, this marriage between the two region was far from harmonious in the absence of internal institutional federal structures.

Rebuttal to idea of division from Balraj PuriIn the post-Independent India, the most sustained and forceful intellectual rebuttal to the idea of division came from public intellectual and Padma Bhushan awardee late Balraj Puri, who for nearly six decades sensitised India and the world to the plural, layered mosaic of Jammu and Kashmir. Puri argued consistently that division would be a remedy worse than the disease that it would institutionalise political fissures rather than resolve them. His credibility across regions and political divides in and outside J&K, combined with deep empirical knowledge of the state, played a crucial role in persuading national leaders of all shades to resist simplistic solutions.Both Jammu and the Kashmir Valley required tailored decentralisation within an overarching framework of asymmetrical federalism. And this was spelled out by Balraj Puri’s Jammu and Kashmir Regional Autonomy Report (1999) which remains the only serious and comprehensive proposal to address the J&K’s structural contradictions. Its central insight was straightforward: while political elites in Jammu and Kashmir demanded federalism within the Indian Union, they failed to apply the same principle internally. The failure to engage seriously with this report represents a lost opportunity whose consequences are now becoming visible today.In the post-2019 scenario, the National Conference (NC), in particular, yet again had a historic opportunity to position itself as a genuinely pan-Jammu and Kashmir party. Instead, it has remained anchored to its core electoral base of 2024 assembly elections, which is Kashmir valley and Muslim areas of Jammu, and appears to have concluded, implicitly, if not explicitly, that Hindu-majority areas of Jammu will never be politically receptive to it. What this approach fails to recognise is how dangerous such a conclusion is in the broader national context.A symbolic but telling illustration lies in the party’s recent Rajya Sabha nominations. It would have been politically prudent for the NC to nominate at least one Hindu representative from Jammu, reinforcing its claim of representing the entire J&K. This was particularly important keeping in the mind the national context.Instead, all four candidates it fielded were drawn from the Kashmir Valley and Kishtwar, a Kashmiri-speaking hilly pocket of Jammu. The message, intended or otherwise, was unmistakable. An articulate voice from Jammu, with a nuanced understanding of both regional and national dynamics, could have contributed meaningfully to policy debates. That opportunity was missed.Fundamentally different context nowA fundamentally different context has now emerged, both within Jammu and Kashmir and nationally. The generation that once acted as social and political glue between Jammu and the Valley is gone. Figures such as Sheikh Abdullah, despite their many contradictions, maintained relationships across regional and religious lines that are largely absent today. The problem, however, runs deeper than personalities. Political leaderships across parties tend to rediscover the virtues of internal federalism only when they are out of power. Once in office, the same ideas are treated as irritants. The same is true now. The prevailing belief is that governance and development alone can resolve political grievances. Governance may manage symptoms, but the underlying disease of over centralization of polity continues to deepen as current trends show.The context of 2026 carries an additional warning. There was a time when the abrogation of Article 370 was widely considered politically and constitutionally impossible. Once policymakers in the national capital convinced themselves otherwise, it happened. The same logic applies here: if territorial reorganisation comes to be viewed as administratively and politically expedient by the national governance elite, there may be little to prevent it. This must be understood within the broader national context, where the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir occupies a central place in political imagination and party’s ideology.That is why both supporters and opponents of division must therefore confront a harder question: do they have a credible answer to the present instability in Jammu and Kashmir? The current arrangement leaves everyone dissatisfied. In both Jammu and the Kashmir Valley, an entire generation is growing up with little understanding of each other’s histories, anxieties, or political journeys. That unfamiliarity, combined with centralised control and the absence of internal federalism, is steadily hollowing out the idea of a shared political future. What also cannot be ignored is that a peripheral former state, now a Union Territory, punches far above its weight in India’s national security calculus, despite its relatively modest population, with half of Delhi’s population, and negligible economic contribution to the country. Over the past four-decades, a significant proportion of major terrorist incidents in India and have had direct or indirect linkages to Jammu and Kashmir. Beyond major attacks within Jammu and Kashmir itself, several of India’s most consequential terrorist incidents, including the 2001 Parliament attack in New Delhi, the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and even the 2024 Red Fort attack, have had direct or indirect operational linkages to networks rooted in or connected with Jammu and KashmirPrecisely for this reason, the region demands an understanding that is rooted, grounded, and empirically informed, rather than filtered through recycled binaries and inherited analytical frameworks.

Vadhavan port is a threat to the environment and livelihood of Palghar’s people: protesters



Thousands of protesters held a demonstration and began a “long march” on Monday (January 19, 2026), demanding the scrapping of the Maharashtra Government’s Vadhavan port project in the coastal town of Dahanu, in Palghar district. They also called for implementation of the Forest Rights Act, and rejected changes to the MNREGA scheme.Organised by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and the All India Kisan Sabha, the long march began from Charoti village in Dahanu; it will conclude at the collector’s office in Palghar on Tuesday (January 20, 2026).

“The Vadhavan port needs to be stopped because it will destroy the livelihood of people in Palghar, especially fisherfolk. We will continue protests, until our demands are accepted,” said Ashok Dhawale, National President of the All India Kisan Sabha. He also demanded that ownership of the land be returned to the tribals under the Forest Rights Act.

Dahanu Taluka Environmental Protection Authority (DTEPA) had refused clearance to the Vadhavan port. Another attempt was made to secure clearance in 2015, after the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Maharashtra Maritime Board signed an MOU to develop the port. At that

Europe is preparing countermeasures against U.S. President Donald Trump’s “blackmail” after he threatened tariffs against several countries over their opposition to his designs on Greenland, Germany’s vice chancellor said on Monday (January 19, 2026).“We will not allow ourselves to be blackmailed,” said Lars Klingbeil, at a Berlin press conference alongside the French economy and finance minister, Roland Lescure.“Europe will respond with a united, clear response, and we are now preparing countermeasures together with our European partners.”

Mr. Trump vowed on Saturday to hit European countries — including Denmark, of which Greenland is an autonomous territory — with tariffs of up to 25% unless

Justice P. Velmurugan of the Madras High Court, on Monday (January 19, 2026), refused to recuse from hearing an application filed by the Greater Chennai Police to cancel the interim bail granted to YouTuber ‘Savukku’ Shankar alias A. Shankar, though he had accused the judge of bias. The senior judge said: “You cannot blackmail the Bench too.”Presiding over a Division Bench along with Justice M. Jothiraman, the judge said, he had never recused from hearing any case in his judicial career spanning over 20 years (11 years as a district judge and nine years as a High Court judge) and therefore, he would not recuse from Shankar’s case too.On being informed by the YouTuber’s counsel that a petition had been filed by his client apprehending bias if the bail cancellation petition was heard and decided by the Bench presided over by Justice Velmurugan, the senior judge said: “You cannot indulge in forum shopping. I won’t entertain such petitions.”Not afraid of anyone’

Making it clear it was up to the counsel to approach the Chief Justice and obtain administrative orders for shifting the case to some other Bench, the judge said: “As long as this case is before me, I will decide it as per law. We are least bothered about the comments that you make against the court.”He went to state: “We are least bothered about individuals too. We don’t see the face of the individuals. We only read the papers, form opinion and pass orders. We are also not concerned about any particular blackmailer, we are only concerned about the institution.... I am not afraid of anyone. I have my own conscience.”A Christmas vacation Bench of Justices S.M. Subramaniam and P. Dhanabal had on December 27, 2025, granted the interim bail for three months to the YouTuber in connection with 17 criminal cases pending against him. The orders were passed on a petition filed by A. Kamala, the mother of the accused.However, in the bail cancellation petition, the police accused the YouTuber of having obtained the interim bail on health grounds though he was not suffering from any major health issues. The police also accused him of threatening the victims and witnesses in the criminal cases pending against

point the, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) categorised ports as non-industrial operations, while the Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC) stated that port-related activities do not fall under the red category, clearing the way for the project.CPI(M) Dahanu MLA Vinod Nikole, who took part in the protest, said, “If our demands are not fulfilled, then we will take it to Mumbai.” He highlighted that people are tired of hefty electricity bills. The administration must abandon smart meters and return to the old meters. “Smart meters are a means to privatise electricity, making it unaffordable. MNREGA should continue, and provide at least 200 days of employment in a year,” he added. Another rally was organised by the Vadhavan Bunder Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti (VBVSS) in Palghar, from Panch Patti Chowk to the Collector’s office. The VBVSS represents local residents, farmers, tribals, and fisherfolk, who are opposed to the Vadhavan project.

In a letter to the collector, the VBVSS said the project was not just environmentally destructive, but also illegal under the law, since it violates the Dahanu Environmental Protection Authority (DTEPA) order of 1998. “The Supreme Court order clearly states that since Dahanu is an “eco-sensitive zone”, setting up a port here would be environmentally harmful. Besides, if the Vadhavan port is built, “the traditional fishing business of thousands of families will be destroyed.”“We have been opposing the project for 30 years. The petition is being considered by the Supreme Court; how can Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claim that work is underway? This amounts to contempt of court,” said Vaibhav Vaze (52), Secretary of the VBVSS, who presented the letter to the Palghar collector. VBVSS also pointed out that during the Social and Environmental Impact Assessment, the objections raised by people in public hearings were “deliberately ignored”. The Social Impact Assessment does not present any concrete and legal plan for rehabilitation.

Greenland is ceded to the United States.Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden already hit back at the threat in a joint statement at the weekend.Mr. Klingbeil said Europe’s response could have three main strands.First, the current tariff deal with the United States would be put on hold, he said.Second, European tariffs on imports from the United States, currently suspended until early February, could come into force, said Mr. Klingbeil, who is also Germany’s finance minister.

And thirdly the EU should consider using its toolbox of instruments that can be deployed to respond to “economic blackmail” against Washington, he added.Mr. Lescure agreed with Mr. Klingbeil that Mr. Trump’s threat amounted to “blackmail.”“Blackmail between allies of 250 years, blackmail between friends, is obviously unacceptable,” said the French minister.We Europeans must remain united and coordinated in our response and, above all, be prepared to make full use of the instruments” of the European Union, he said.“We are determined to defend our sovereignty.”Mr. Lescure said a meeting of G7 finance ministers would be convened in the coming days to discuss pressing issues, including Greenland. France is the current chair of the grouping, and the United States is a member.Mr. Klingbeil stressed that the “limit has been reached” when it came to the U.S. leader making threats.“We are constantly experiencing a new confrontation that President Trump is seeking,” he said.

him.On Monday, the YouTuber’s counsel contended the police ought to have made the YouTuber too as one of the respondents to the bail cancellation petition and served notice upon him without just serving the notice upon the counsel who represented his mother before the vacation Bench.Not in agreement with such a stand, Justice Velmurugan asked: “When your mother obtained interim bail for you, did you say that you will not come out of the jail because you did not file any bail petition? Then, how can you now say that the notice on the bail cancellation petition should be served only upon you?”

Grounds for bail cancellationThe counsel also contended the bail was granted not only on health grounds but also because of repeated curtailment of the freedom of the individual by detaining him in multiple cases and the bail cancellation plea must be heard by the same Bench which granted the bail.However, on finding that the counter affidavit, in response to the bail cancellation plea, had not been filed in the Registry, Justice Velmurugan’s bench granted time for filing the counter affidavit and ordered the bail cancellation petition must be listed for hearing again on Tuesday (January 20) afternoon.“If you obtain administrative orders from the Chief Justice by then, we will not hear this case. Otherwise, we will pass orders on merits irrespective of the fact as to whether you file the counter affidavit or not,” the judge told the counsel.

Kerala govt loses legal battle over ownership of Cheruvally estate proposed for Sabarimala airport

The Sub Court, Pala, on Monday (January 19, 2026) ruled against the Kerala government in the long-pending dispute over the ownership of the Cheruvally estate at Erumely.The case assumed added significance as the Cheruvally estate had been identified as the proposed site for the Sabarimala International Greenfield Airport.Pronouncing its order, the court upheld as valid the sale of the 2,263-acre estate by Harrisons Malayalam Limited (HML) to Ayana Charitable Trust in 2005.The case involved an ownership dispute between the State government and Ayana Charitable Trust, under the K.P. Yohannan-led Believers’ Church. In 2019, the State government had approached the Sub Court seeking to reclaim the property, which spans Erumely South and Manimala villages, arguing that the land was government-owned and had been illegally transferred.

Tackling a bully



When disruption becomes a powerful leader's default tactic, more turbulence is only to be expected. In his latest reiteration of the threat to take control of Greenland, a self-governing Danish island of some 57,000 people, saying it is "vital" for America's national security, US President Donald Trump has set off a fresh round of global anxiety. Read Stanly Johnny's report for context.

"The United States needs Greenland for the purpose of National Security. It is vital for the Golden Dome that we are building. NATO should be leading the way for us to get it," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post on January 14, 2026, referring to the multi-layer missile defence system the U.S. has proposed to develop. Further, Mr. Trump has announced tariffs on European and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) allies in this connection, despite having negotiated trade deals with the U.K. and the European Union in 2025. His decision, announced on social media, applies to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, The United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Finland. Mr. Trump said the countries would pay a 10% tariff on their exports to the U.S. starting February 1. The rate would go

up to 25% from June 2026, Sriram Lakshman reports. "This Tariff will be due and payable until such time as a deal is reached for the complete and total purchase of Greenland," Mr. Trump wrote, sparking considerable fear, especially in the wake of his recent decision to send American troops to Venezuela to audaciously kidnap a sitting president of a sovereign country.

As The Hindu editorial today notes: "Leaving aside the neo-imperialist impulse that is implicit in the Trump administration's plans to control non-allied nations' territories based on the threat of military action, or to bully allies by weaponising tariffs against them, such actions are tantamount to a violation of international law, and in the case of the EU, risk degrading years of progress made on transatlantic trade agreements."The editorial further contended that: "Whatever the denouement of this Trump-made conflict, it will likely take years, if not decades to heal the worsening transatlantic rift that has beset the region. Meanwhile a weakened NATO will stand less able to assist Ukraine in facing off against the depredations of an aggressive Russia on the eastern front. The need of the hour is enlightened leadership, a far cry from what is presently on offer in Washington."

Top 5 stories we are reading this week Iran protests | The revolution will not be televised – Stanly Johnny on how a shopkeepers' strike transformed into one of the largest anti-government protests the Islamic Republic has seenWhy did Saudi Arabia oppose the U.S.'s strike on Iran – Stanly Johnny explains Borders should not be decided by tanks or terrorists: Poland Deputy PM Sikorski tells Suhasini Haidar in this interviewIndia-Germany ties can only soar higher – German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann on the symbolism and substance of the recent visit of German Chancellor Friedrich Mer Top EU leaders to visit India as Republic Day guests; likely to sign trade deal –

Big mandates, bigger responsibilities: trends in elections | Data Point

Whenever voters hand a party or an alliance a big mandate, they also have very high expectations from the government. India's electoral history shows that many parties or alliances have struggled to live up to that responsibility for long. Let us look at some of the examples where voters have given a party or an alliance a big mandate and what has followed.

In the 1984 Lok Sabha elections, held after Indira Gandhi's assassination, Rajiv Gandhi led the Congress to one of the biggest victories in Indian electoral history, crossing 400 seats in the 541-member House. This result reflected a mix of sympathy, hope around a young new leader, and a desire for stability (Table 1). Yet, the mandate faded quickly. Within five years, in the 1989 general election, the Congress suffered a significant dent in its seat tally. It has never again reached an outright majority like it did in 1984.

After the Emergency and the JP movement, voters placed faith in a new alternative, in the Janata Party in 1977. In north India, and particularly in Uttar Pradesh, the Janata alliance swept all the Lok Sabha seats, virtually wiping out the Congress in the State and signalling a huge shift in public mood.But sharp internal conflicts and unstable governance meant that the experiment did not last. By 1980, the Janata government had collapsed and voters brought the Congress back (Table 2).

In Assam, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), a party which emerged from the Assam Movement, captured power in the 1985 Assembly elections by winning 65 out of 126 seats. This was an extraordinary achievement for a new regional party led mainly by young student leaders of the movement (Table 3). Over the decades, however, organisational weakness, splits, and competition steadily reduced its footprint. Today, the AGP survives largely as a junior ally in State politics.The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won 63 out of 70 Assembly seats in Delhi in 2020. The mandate, built on an anti-corruption plank and promises of better schools, health care, and basic services, was one of the most decisive ones in any State in recent years.

However, in the 2025 Assembly polls, the AAP failed to retain its earlier dominance. Several senior leaders lost their seats. The result showed that even parties built just around politics of welfare and development can be punished when alternative narratives gain ground.The CPI(M)-led Left Front governed West Bengal continuously for more than three decades and the CPI(M) still won 176 of 294 seats in the 2006 Assembly elections (Table 4). This period gave the Left deep organisational roots and a reputation for stability and a socialist model of governance. However, Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress swept to power in 2011, cutting the Left down to around 40 seats. Similarly, in Tripura, the once-dominant front has not recovered since (Table 5).

The Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF)'s electoral journey tells a similar tale (Table 6). After consistently polling



above 50% votes and sweeping successive Assembly elections from 1999 to 2009, the party's 22-seat victory in 2014 with around 55% vote share marked its last comfortable mandate. The emergence of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) as a credible challenger, along with growing anti-incumbency, eroded this hegemony.In 2019, the SDF's vote share remained competitive but the party got just 15 seats. The SKM crossed the majority mark, ending the SDF's uninterrupted 25-year stint in power. The subsequent defection of 10 SDF MLAs to the BJP and two to the SKM further weakened the organisation. By the 2024 Assembly elections, the SKM had captured 31 of 32 seats with over 58% of the vote, while the SDF was reduced to a single seat, its worst performance since 1999.

The BJP in Gujarat has not only retained its vote bank but has also expanded it in the last few elections, especially after 2014 (Table 7). This can partly be attributed to the support the State party unit receives from the Central government and Central government institutions, but it is clear that the BJP has successfully deployed cultural nationalism, welfare, and popular politics to its advantage. Furthermore, its ability to gauge the popular sentiment of the majority and respond accordingly has played a crucial role in sustaining such a large voter base.In Bihar, the Janata Dal (United) recorded one of its best performances in the 2010 Assembly elections. It had strong backing for its governance and development narrative and its leader, Nitish Kumar, enjoyed support.However, in the 2015 Assembly elections, its individual tally fell significantly even though the new Mahagathbandhan as a whole defeated the BJP. The 2025 Assembly elections gave a big mandate to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar (Table 8). This was in contrast to the 2020 Assembly elections when the NDA won the election with a very small majority.The Trinamool Congress has been in power in West Bengal for the last 15 years with its vote share touching about 49% (Table 9). It will be interesting to watch how it performs in the 2026 Assembly elections. Will it be able to keep the momentum going?Sanjay Kumar is a Professor and political analyst. Arindam Kabir is a Researcher with Lokniti-CSDS. Views are personal and do not reflect the views of the organisation

Apple leaf waste yields green anti-corrosion solution for metals

An international research team led by Nagaland University (NU) has found a way to turn discarded apple leaves into a highly effective, eco-friendly corrosion inhibitor, offering up to 96.2% protection for copper in harsh chemical conditions.The study, carried out in collaboration with the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB), shows that tiny carbon particles made from apple leaves can shield metals from corrosion without using toxic chemicals commonly employed in industry.

The authors of the study are Ambrish Singh of the NU's Department of Chemistry and Yujie Qiang, Ye Zhang, Xinyang Liu, and Ying Jin of the USTB's National Centre for Materials Service Safety. The former is a visiting professor at the USTB.Their findings were published in the Journal of Alloys and Compounds, a leading international scientific journal.Corrosion is a costly global problem, damaging pipelines, storage tanks, and industrial equipment in oil and gas, chemical processing, power generation, and other sectors. Conventional corrosion inhibitors often contain hazardous substances that pose risks to both the environment and human health.

The researchers found that their apple leaf-based solution, known as carbon quantum dots, performed exceptionally well even at low concentrations. In acidic conditions—where metals corrode faster—the material reduced copper corrosion by 94%, rising to 96.2% over time, levels considered highly promising for industrial use.Explaining its practical value, Prof. Singh stated that industries operating in acidic environments face high maintenance costs and



safety risks due to corrosion. "Biomass-based inhibitors like the apple-leaf material could extend the life of industrial equipment while being safer for workers and the environment," he said.

Prof. Qiang added that the team used a green processing method to convert apple leaves into nanoscale carbon particles. These particles cling tightly to metal surfaces, forming a stable protective layer that blocks corrosive chemicals.While the results are currently based on laboratory tests, the team plans to move toward pilot-scale trials and real-world applications, including combining the material with existing protective coatingsCalling the work a major step forward, Nagaland University Vice-Chancellor Jagadish Kumar Patnaik said the study shows how agricultural waste can be turned into a high-impact green technology. "

Immunising India's older population: closing the vaccination gap



India's older adult population — nearly 130 million people aged 65 years and above — remains almost entirely unprotected by vaccines designed for them. Current coverage is less than <5%, a stark contrast to childhood vaccination rates of 75–90% under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). This urgent situation demands immediate attention and action. Since its launch in the mid-1980s, the UIP has saved millions of lives, mirroring global estimates from the World Health Organization that childhood vaccines have prevented over 150 million deaths worldwide. Yet, while children are well protected, adult immunisation -- especially for older adults -- is almost absent. This represents a reversed vaccine gap and a significant public health failure.

The WHO lists 25 vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs); at least 18 vaccines are recommended for adults as part of routine or high-risk immunisation. Some, such as yellow fever, typhoid, hepatitis A and meningococcal are reserved for special settings including travel, outbreaks, or high-risk exposure. However, even core vaccines for older adults — influenza, pneumococcal, herpes zoster, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, hepatitis B, and COVID-19 — remain underutilised in India. Unlike in many high-income countries, where adult immunisation is embedded in primary care and geriatric services, in India, it is niche, opportunistic, and clinician-driven, with a wide research-to-practice gap.

Ageing and health Immunosenescence: With ageing, the immune system loses strength — a process called immunosenescence. Vaccine responses weaken, infections linger longer, and complications are more severe. Physiological decline: Older adults experience reduced tissue repair and resilience, meaning even minor infections can accelerate frailty, disability, and dependence. Recovery is slower, and infections often become turning points in long-term health trajectories. Take Herpes Zoster (shingles) for instance. The lifetime risk is ~30% in the general population (one in three would get it), and by age at or over 85, the risk rises to ~50% (one in two). This is not just a rash: shingles can cause vision loss, postherpetic neuralgia (chronic nerve pain), or increased stroke risk. Multi-morbidity: Most older adults live with chronic illnesses: diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and chronic respiratory disease (often worsened by pollution). Infectious episodes can destabilise these conditions, causing a cascading health decline.

Mortality shift: Deaths once attributed to "old age" are now increasingly linked to specific chronic diseases, exacerbated by infections. Infection risks in older adults: Some infections are acute and highly exposure-dependent, for example, with influenza, the circulating strains vary yearly, driving seasonal epidemics. In India, influenza occurs year-round with two peaks — monsoon and winter, unlike the single winter peak in temperate countries. As per the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2024–25 data: influenza vaccine effectiveness in ≥65-year-olds was 38–57% against hospitalisation. Pneumococcal bacteria causes, besides pneumonia, invasive diseases such as meningitis, and bloodstream infections. Case fatality rates (CFR) are: 20–25% in ≥65 years, compared to ~5–10% in younger adults. Herpes Zoster can be prevented with Shingrix, which provides ~90% protection, even in adults = 70 years — this is strongly recommended because of both high efficacy and serious complications. Together, these infections cause disproportionate harm in older adults, reinforcing the need for preventive vaccination.

Understanding vaccine effectiveness When a vaccine is "90% effective," it means a 90% reduction in risk, not that 10% of vaccinated people will fall ill. Even vaccines with

modest effectiveness (e.g., influenza at 40–60%) substantially reduce hospitalisations, severe complications, and deaths. Public health guidelines recognise this with different recommendations: high recommendation (e.g., measles vaccine >80% in childhood protection); moderate recommendation (e.g., COVID-19 vaccines during Omicron, 40–80%) and conditional use (e.g., RTS, S and R21 malaria vaccine at 30–50% effectiveness in high-burden regions among children). For older adults, even partial protection translates into significant gains in independence and survival. This underscores the potential benefits of adult immunisation, offering hope and optimism for a healthier and more independent older population. Most older adult vaccines are inactivated or recombinant, not the live virus. They are safe, with side effects limited to mild pain, redness, or low-grade fever. This emphasis on safety is intended to reassure and instil confidence in the audience. The benefits far outweigh the risks. Documentation of vaccination is preferred, but routine antibody testing is not necessary. Vaccination without calculators Unlike chronic disease calculators (e.g., for heart attack or stroke risk), no precise tools exist to predict infection risks in older adults. Exposure varies each year, but consequences are consistently severe. This is why global public health bodies adopt simple age- or condition-based rules such as vaccinating all over a particular age or vaccinating all with a particular condition. In India, where influenza is year-round and pneumococcal disease remains a threat, low thresholds for intervention are justified. Costs and access: Vaccine costs, especially high-priced vaccines like the shingles vaccine are a significant barrier. There are also access costs such as for travel, clinic fees, and time. Also, the recurring schedules such as annual flu vaccines and 5- or 10-year boosters require reminders. For retired, self-paying adults, affordability often determines uptake.

Systemic gaps: There is no national adult immunisation policy. This is compounded by weak surveillance and data, a lack of clinician training, and no awareness campaigns. Hesitancy: There is limited awareness of vaccine benefits. Misunderstandings about vaccine effectiveness ("not 100% = not worth it") add to this. There are also concerns about side effects or injection discomfort. Opportunities Harmonisation and partnership: Closing the gap requires the government, clinicians, communities, and older adults working together. Outreach models can mirror the voting ballots programs, bringing vaccines to homes and community centres. Preventive spending is cost-effective — typically under 10% of treatment costs. Awareness and adherence: Education campaigns explaining vaccine terms and benefits can reduce hesitancy. Reminder systems (SMS/phone alerts) improve completion of multi-dose schedules. Community engagement with senior centres and associations can normalise vaccination. Respecting choice: Respecting patient autonomy is crucial in vaccine decision-making. Clinicians should offer vaccines to all individuals ≥65 years, explain the benefits and risks clearly, and respect the patient's decision, whether they choose to accept or defer the vaccine. This approach builds trust and encourages vaccine acceptance. Cold-Chain and delivery: Reliable storage ensures vaccine efficacy, and the use of mobile clinics and home-based services can widen reach. Policy alignment: The U.S.'s CDC/ACIP guidelines prioritise schedule by age and immune status while the World Health Organization uses a matrix to balance effectiveness, feasibility, and public health impact. There is a need for an alignment on policy on adult vaccinations in India.

With a limited focus on adult immunisation, a significant policy vacuum exists. To address this, we need to incorporate adult vaccination into primary care and geriatric services, launch community-based campaigns to reduce access barriers, train clinicians in risk-stratification checklists and generate epidemiologic data to guide tailored vaccine policies. India's older adults face the highest infection-related mortality risk but remain the least vaccinated group. Unlike children, who benefit from structured UIP programmes, older adults lack comparable support. Because infection risk is unpredictable but consistently severe, the best strategy is not individualised calculators but broad, proactive vaccination by age and condition. Protecting older Indians through vaccines preserves health, independence, and dignity — and is a cost-effective investment in healthy ageing. Closing this vaccination gap is no longer optional; it is an urgent public health priority.

What is the HPV vaccine's role in preventing cervical cancer?

When discussing cervical cancer, what often gets left out is that it is one of the most preventable of cancers. Despite this, cervical cancer continues to be a cause of thousands of deaths among women every year, not only in India, but in many parts of the world. In many such cases, the condition is detected far too late, leaving limited room for intervention. The issue therefore, is not a gap in science, but a gap in awareness

What causes cervical cancerThe main culprit in cervical cancer is a virus that is very common, human papillomavirus, or HPV for short. HPV primarily spreads through close skin-to-skin contact, most often during sexual intercourse. The virus is so widespread that virtually everyone, both men and women, at some point in their lifetime, will be infected without even realising it. More often than not, the immune system gets rid of the virus without causing any damage.However, some types of HPV are more dangerous than others. A few high-risk strains can stay in the body for years, and slowly cause changes, altering the cells of the cervix, which is the lower part of the uterus. Over time — sometimes a decade or more — these changes can turn into cervical cancer. This slow progression is what makes prevention possible.

This is where the HPV vaccine enters the picture. The HPV vaccine is not used to cure cancer; it also does not cure HPV if it is present. What it does, is ensure that some of the most detrimental types of HPV do not enter and infect the body in the first place. You could think of it as immunisation ahead of time.Over the past 20 years, a lot of attention has been focused on the HPV vaccine, more than on nearly all other vaccinations combined. Major studies around the world indicate that the overall result is very promising if pre-adolescent girls are administered this vaccine before exposure to the virus, as this helps to eradicate potential precancerous stages of the cervix with greater effect. In countries where the HPV vaccine has been administered early, fewer cervical cancer cases are being observed among young women, pointing to good results.

Administration and safetyThe vaccine is most effective if administered to children before the commencement of their sexual activity, which is why it is advised that it is given to girls between the ages of 9 and 25. At this age, the



immune system responds well to the vaccine, providing a level of protection before any possible exposure can occur.Sometimes this creates unease among parents who may feel that such a vaccine promotes sexual activity among children; however, this belief is entirely misplaced. When it comes to safety concerns, there is no doubt that the vaccine is safe, having been administered to hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. The side effects are harmless, involving pain or a swelling where the shot was given, a slight temperature, or dizziness, which lasts momentarily. The vaccine is safe, with the risk of serious side effects being small, and extensive follow-up studies have failed to find a relationship between the vaccine and infertility or chronic diseases.Another positive note is that there has been some research now to show that even a single dose of HPV vaccine could provide excellent immunity, even though the schedule calls for two or three doses. If this phenomenon is reported in larger, more widespread studies, it would make immunisation easier and more accessible in many countries like India.

Despite all this evidence, HPV vaccination coverage remains low in many parts of the world. In India, lack of awareness plays a major role. Many families have never heard of HPV or its link to cervical cancer. Others worry about cost or assume the vaccine is unnecessary if there are no symptoms. Unfortunately, HPV infections are silent — by the time symptoms appear, cancer may already be advanced.But the story does not end when it comes to vaccination. Cervical screening is also relevant even for women who have been vaccinated.

India expects US tariffs to drop to 18% in a week



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal Thursday said that India and the US will formally sign the first tranche of the trade agreement by mid-March and would release the joint statement in the next 4 to 5 days. Following the joint statement, the US tariffs will come down to 18 per cent via a White House executive order, Goyal said.

“All US trade deals have had joint statements. The joint statement related to the India-US agreement will come into effect in 4-5 days. It can be early too. Once the joint statement is there, it has to be converted into a legal agreement. We are targeting mid-March to sign the legal agreement. That will give us the authority to reduce tariffs on our side. Because their tariffs are executive tariffs. Our tariffs are Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) tariffs,” Rajesh Agrawal, Commerce Secretary. India has committed to purchase \$100 billion worth of American products annually for five years, which would largely include aircraft, technology items, precious metals, oil, nuclear products, and agricultural goods. New Delhi imported \$45.62 billion worth of American goods, while exports to the US stood at \$86.51 billion in FY25.

Under the trade deal agreed on Monday, Washington lowered tariffs on India to 18% from 50% that were imposed on August 27, and US President Donald Trump had said India will buy over \$500-billion worth of American energy, technology, agricultural products, and coal, among other products.

Anthropic’s new AI tool sends shivers through the tech world, Infosys, TCS shares fall sharply

Global technology markets were rattled on Tuesday as a wave of anxiety followed the announcement of a major breakthrough by US artificial intelligence company Anthropic. The development reignited concerns that AI capabilities are advancing faster than many companies and investors can comfortably absorb. The impact was felt sharply in India, where shares of Infosys plunged nearly 8 percent and TCS dropped 6.46 percent in Wednesday’s session. HCL Technologies was down by 5.76 per cent on the BSE.

Unlisted Anthropic, widely known for its Claude AI model, introduced a new system designed to autonomously handle complex, multi-step professional work that previously required dedicated software tools or teams of junior staff. Moving beyond traditional chatbots that simply answer questions, the system can design a plan, carry it out and validate results on its own, as revealed by the company. It is capable of processing large volumes of documents, interpreting and cross-verifying information, producing structured outputs and adjusting its strategy as tasks evolve, according to reports.

According to Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research, HDFC Securities, the tech-heavy Nasdaq fell 1.4 per cent as software stocks extended losses and Anthropic’s launch of workplace productivity tools intensified worries, with the sector shedding approximately \$300 billion in market value. On Wall Street, tech firm Adobe lost 7.31 per cent, Cognizant by 10.14 per cent, Thomson Reuters by 15.67 per cent, Gartner 20.87 per cent and Equifax 12.11 per cent. Markets were shaken by the shift from AI that answers questions to AI that performs the work itself, US analysts say.

“We believe AI will have a vast impact on the world. Anthropic is dedicated to building systems that people can rely on and generating research about the opportunities and risks of AI,” Anthropic says. The AI firm was founded in 2021 by a group of former OpenAI researchers, led by Dario Amodei and Daniela Amodei. A major section of the software industry thrived on selling narrowly focused tools: legal research platforms, compliance software, data-analysis dashboards, customer-relationship tools and workflow managers. Anthropic’s latest release suggests that a single AI system may now replicate many of these functions inside one interface.



According to US-based analysts, investors are understandably worried about the potential disruption. If companies can rely on one AI assistant to review contracts, flag risks, generate reports and summarise data, investors wonder why clients should continue paying for multiple high-priced software subscriptions. The result was a sharp sell-off in software and tech-enabled professional services stocks, as markets reassessed future revenues in a world where AI could compress entire software categories into a single layer. ADRs of Infosys plummeted by 5.56 per cent on Nasdaq. Traditional software businesses are built on recurring subscriptions, steady upgrades and high margins. AI systems like Anthropic’s threaten to turn software into a utility, where value shifts away from individual tools and towards whoever controls the most capable underlying intelligence.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei said, “some have suggested that we are somehow interested in harming the startup ecosystem. Startups are among our most important customers. We work with tens of thousands of startups and partner with hundreds of accelerators and VCs. Claude is powering an entirely new generation of AI-native companies. Damaging that ecosystem makes no sense for us.” Reports also suggest that there is also concern for industries that bill by the hour. Legal research, compliance checks, due diligence and financial analysis, considered once the bread and butter of junior techies, are precisely the tasks this new generation of AI excels at. If those hours disappear, entire business models may need re-engineering.

Air India pilot flags possible defect with fuel control switch on a Boeing 787, airline grounds aircraft

An Air India pilot has flagged a possible defect with one of the engine fuel control switches of one of the airline’s Boeing 787 aircraft, following which that specific plane has been grounded by the airline. Engine fuel control switches have been at the focus of the investigation into the fatal crash of an Air India Boeing 787 jet in Ahmedabad in June last year, with the preliminary probe report saying that the accident occurred after both engines of the ill-fated aircraft were starved as both its fuel control switches transitioned from ‘RUN’ to ‘CUTOFF’ position within a second of each other moments after lift-off.

According to a statement by aviation safety advocacy group Safety Matters Foundation, the crew of the Boeing 787 (registration: VT-ANX) reported abnormal behaviour of the left engine fuel control switch on Monday, as during engine start, the switch failed to remain locked in the RUN position on two attempts, moving towards CUTOFF. These switches control the flow of fuel to the aircraft’s engines, and such a malfunction could lead to inadvertent engine shutdown under specific conditions, Safety Matters Foundation said. The nine-year-old aircraft was operating a London-Bengaluru flight. Sources said that the pilot reported that the left fuel control switch was slipping from RUN to CUTOFF if pushed down slightly, and was not locking properly in its position.

“We are aware that one of our pilots has reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft. After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the aircraft and are involving the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) to get the pilot’s concerns checked on a priority basis. The matter has been communicated to the aviation regulator, DGCA. Air India had checked the fuel control switches on all Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet after a directive from the DGCA, and had found no issues. At Air India, the safety of our passengers and crew remains top priority,” an Air India spokesperson said. The airline did not provide details regarding the likely defect reported by the pilot. The OEM for the aircraft is Boeing, while the fuel control switch manufacturer is Honeywell. “We are in contact with Air India and are supporting their review of this matter,” Boeing said.

What FAA said on fuel switches in 2018

In 2018, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had issued an information bulletin on the potential disengagement of the switch locking mechanism on certain fuel control switches on Boeing aircraft, including those on Boeing 787s. The FAA had advised airlines to inspect the fuel control switches, but as the bulletin was advisory and not mandatory, a number of airlines—including Air India—had not done the inspections at the time. However, after the crash of Air India flight AI-171 last June, India’s aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had



“We are aware that one of our pilots has reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft. After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the aircraft and are involving the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) to get the pilot’s concerns checked on a priority basis

ordered fuel control switch inspections on almost all Boeing aircraft in India.

“The Foundation notes that this incident comes against the backdrop of the ongoing investigation into the tragic loss of Air India Flight AI171 on 12 June 2025, which also involved a Boeing 787. While no connection is implied, the repeated emergence of issues with a critical flight control system on the same aircraft type demands the highest level of scrutiny,” Safety Matters Foundation said. It also called for immediate and transparent disclosure from DGCA and Air India of the findings from the plane’s inspection, re-evaluation of precautionary checks of the fuel control switches, an urgent regulatory review by the DGCA, and proactive communication by airlines and regulators to pilots on this issue.

Cockpit voice recordings revealed confusion

Identifying the transitioning of the fuel control switches to CUTOFF from RUN as the reason behind the AI-171 crash, which claimed 260 lives, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau’s (AAIB) preliminary report mentioned that in the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots was heard asking the other why he cut off the fuel, to which the other pilot responded saying he did not. There has been considerable speculation on whether the switches were flicked by one of the pilots—inadvertently or otherwise—or whether the transition signal to the system was due to any technical, mechanical, or software issue. To be sure, the report does not state that either of the pilots physically moved the switches, just that they transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF. The investigation into the crash is ongoing, with the final probe report expected in a few months. According to the government, all possible angles and causes are being thoroughly investigated by the AAIB.

Ishita Dutta reveals how she lost 15 kg in less than 2 months postpartum, says ‘no magic, no shortcut’: ‘Only option was to go through the pain’



Drishyam actor Ishita Dutta recently clarified that she lost 15 kg in postpartum weight loss in less than two months and stated that, unlike what people believe, there was “no secret, no magic, or shortcut”. “I lost more than 15 kgs in less than 2 months. Hate to break it to you guy! There is no secret. My first two trimesters were amazing. I travelled, worked, and had a lot of fun. I ate a lot. By the sixth month, I was put on complete bed rest. While I was dealing with that, I started experiencing unbearable abdominal pain and was rushed to the hospital. This happened 2-3 times, and finally, the scans showed that I had gall bladder stones,” the 35-year-old said.

Since she was pregnant, surgery was not an option. “I was still in my seventh month. The only option was to go through the pain. I cannot even tell you how painful that is. I would be screaming in pain. I would be rushed to the hospital. Because I was pregnant, they couldn’t give me any painkillers. They couldn’t give me anything strong. So, I had to wait for the pain to settle. The 8th month got over, and I started getting my contractions. I was rushed to the hospital and delivered my baby girl. But the struggle did not end there,” the mother of two said in two separate video posts on Instagram.

Even after delivery, she couldn’t get the opportunity to immediately go for gall bladder surgery. “I just delivered, I was breastfeeding. I couldn’t take any painkillers. I was ad-

vised to wait at least 40 days before attempting surgery. After I didn’t even know how many pain attacks, I decided to get the surgery when it was safe. I got the gall bladder removed. Even post-delivery, unfortunately, my struggle did not end. I was trying to heal from the surgery, and my body was getting used to the fact that I don’t have a gall bladder anymore. I was still on a dietary restriction for quite some time. This is how I lost so much weight. There is no secret, there is no magic. There is no shortcut,” said the actor, who is married to actor Vatsal Sheth. Responding to a user’s comment on her diet, she said, “I avoid fats as they are the most difficult to digest post gallbladder surgery. Also prefer home food.” Taking a cue from the new mother’s revelation, let’s understand all about gall bladder surgery postpartum.

Dr Mitul Gupta, senior consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology, Cocoon Hospital, Jaipur, said that during the postpartum period, gallbladder surgery is not uncommon, especially in women in their 30s-40s, who develop gallstones during pregnancy due to continuous hormonal changes, reduced gallbladder motility, and increased cholesterol saturation of bile. “For breastfeeding women, the timing of surgery is carefully planned, balancing the mother’s pain management, nutritional status, and recovery while ensuring complete safety for the infant. Once delivery has occurred and the mother is medically stable, laparoscopic gallbladder removal is generally considered safe, even during breastfeeding,” said Dr Gupta.

Dr Gupta explained that most modern anaesthetic agents and medications used during laparoscopic gallbladder surgery are compatible with breastfeeding, with minimal transfer into breast milk. “Temporary dietary modifications—particularly a low-fat diet—are often recommended after surgery, which may also contribute to weight loss. In such cases, postpartum weight loss is typically attributed to medical stress, surgical recovery, and dietary restrictions, rather than rapid or cosmetic weight-loss measures,” said Dr Gupta. Breastfeeding mothers should consult both their surgeon and obstetrician to ensure optimal recovery while maintaining safe and effective infant feeding.

This is what happens to your pet’s hormones after sterilisation, beyond reproduction

Sterilisation is often discussed in the context of preventing unwanted litters, but its effects on a pet’s body go far beyond reproduction. When dogs and cats are spayed or neutered, the removal of reproductive organs leads to significant hormonal shifts that influence metabolism, growth, behaviour, and even long-term health. These changes don’t happen overnight, and many pet parents may notice subtle differences weeks or months after the procedure without fully understanding why.

Hormones such as oestrogen, progesterone, and testosterone play a role in regulating appetite, energy levels, bone development, and stress responses. After sterilisation, the sudden drop in these hormones can alter how a pet’s body uses calories, responds to exercise, and processes emotions like anxiety or arousal. Understanding these hormonal changes is essential for responsible pet care. With the right adjustments in diet, activity, and routine, many of the unintended effects of sterilisation can be managed or even prevented.

So which key hormones are affected after sterilisation?

Dr Deepraj Prajapati, senior veterinarian at RD Pet Hospital Ambbedkar Nagar, tells indianexpress.com, “After sterilisation, the most significant hormonal change is the reduction of sex hormones such as oestrogen in females and testosterone in males. These hormones do much more than regulate reproduction. They also influence metabolic rate, muscle mass, fat distribution, and appetite control.” When their levels drop, he says, many pets experience a natural slowdown in metabolism, which means they burn fewer calories than before. If food intake remains unchanged, this can gradually lead to weight gain. Over time, excess weight can increase the risk of joint issues, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. On the positive side, the reduction in these hormones also lowers the risk of hormone-driven conditions such as mammary tumours, uterine infections, testicular cancer, and prostate enlargement, contributing to longer-term health benefits.

How post-sterilisation hormonal shifts impact behaviour Sex hormones strongly influence behaviour, Dr Prajapati confirms, particularly mating and territorial in-



stincts. After sterilisation, reduced testosterone in male dogs and cats often leads to decreased roaming, urine marking, and hormone-driven aggression. Females may show fewer mood fluctuations linked to heat cycles, which can reduce restlessness and vocalisation. Dr Prajapati states, “In many pets, this hormonal stabilisation results in calmer and more predictable behaviour. However, it is important to note that sterilisation does not erase learned behaviours or personality traits. Anxiety or fear-based aggression, for instance, is usually shaped by genetics, early experiences, and environment, and may still require behavioural training or enrichment alongside hormonal changes.”

After sterilisation, Dr Prajapati notes that pet parents should focus on proactive lifestyle adjustments rather than waiting for weight or behaviour issues to appear. “Diet is the first area to review,” he says, adding that portion sizes often need to be reduced, or pets can be transitioned to nutritionally balanced, sterilisation-specific formulas that support a slower metabolism. “Regular, age-appropriate exercise becomes essential to maintain muscle mass and prevent fat accumulation. Mental stimulation through play, training, and enrichment is equally important, as calmer hormone levels do not eliminate a pet’s need for activity and engagement. Routine weight checks and veterinary follow-ups help detect subtle changes early, allowing timely adjustments that keep the pet healthy and active in the long run,” concludes the expert.

Yuvraj Singh admits he was hesitant to change his children’s nappies, feed them milk; wife Hazel Keech encouraged him: ‘Should have done these things with my parents’

Yuvraj Singh acknowledged the role of his wife, Hazel Keech, in making his bond with their children stronger early on. Talking about his “great” relationship with his children—aged 4 and 2 respectively—the former cricketer said on Serving it Up with Sania, “My relationship is great. I give credit to my wife, Hazel, for that. When they were born, I was hesitant to change their nappies or feed them milk. And she encouraged me to do that. That if you do this, your bond with your kids...it’s going to grow much more stronger.”

Further admitting that he underestimated how early caregiving activities create lifelong bonds, the 44-year-old added: “I feel that kids don’t know anything. What do they know...at 1, 2, 3? But she was right. My kids, even if they don’t see me for like a month, I speak to them every day. They miss me, I miss them. And there are times when you feel that when your parents were not there...When I take my kids to a theme park or a picnic, I feel I should have done these things with my parents. But they didn’t know that time. We know better. So, why shouldn’t we do that with our kids?”

Does early care really create stronger bonds?

Delnna Rajesh, a psychotherapist and life coach, noted that when Yuvraj Singh spoke about his initial hesitation to change diapers or feed his newborns, he unknowingly touched on a deeply universal truth about parenting, masculinity, and emotional bonding. “What sounds like a small, everyday act is actually one of the most powerful

psychological bridges between a parent and a child. Many fathers grow up believing that bonding begins when children can talk, play, or understand. But from a psychological and emotional lens, bonding begins much earlier. It begins at the stage where care is physical, repetitive, and deeply unglamorous. Feeding, changing, holding, soothing. These acts wire safety into a child’s nervous system and presence into a parent’s heart,” said Delnna. Delnna also shared that hesitation is common, especially among men. “Not because of lack of love, but because of conditioning. For generations, caregiving was positioned as a maternal role, while fathers were assigned responsibility through provision, discipline, or distance. What this model misses is that emotional intimacy is not automatic. It is built through proximity, consistency, and touch,” said Delnna.

Encouragement from a partner plays a crucial role here. “When a mother invites a father into caregiving instead of gatekeeping it, she is not just sharing workload. She is shaping the child’s emotional future. Early involvement teaches fathers something profound. That connection is not about competence. It is about presence,” said Delnna. Children may not consciously remember who changed their diapers or fed them milk. “But the body remembers. The nervous system remembers who showed up. This is why children can feel deeply attached even when a parent is physically absent for periods of time.” According to Delnna, daily voice, emotional availability, and early care create an internal sense of security that does not disappear with distance. “There is also an important layer of intergenerational healing here.

for the betterment of the team," Akhtar said on the Game On Hai show. "This guy is like Daren Sammy for us. He can bat, but he's a very selfless captain. I'm very happy to see that there is a man at the helm who thinks that let others do well, and my own place in the team is in God's hands," Akhtar added.

Archana Puran Singh recalls miscarriage, felt ‘abandoned’ by husband Parmeet Sethi: ‘He left to play football’



GNS News Agency, Feb 5

Archana Puran Singh revisited one of the most painful chapters of her life, her miscarriage, during an emotional conversation with husband Parmeet Sethi. In the third episode of their series *Pyaar Dosti Hai*, which explores their marriage and shared journey over the years, the couple spoke candidly about the loss, emotional distance, and their path to parenthood. Parmeet accepted that his behaviour during Archana’s subsequent pregnancy came from lack of awareness. Archana Puran Singh recalls her miscarriage

Archana revealed that during the first four years of their marriage, she had conceived but was unable to carry the pregnancy to term. “I had conceived, but I couldn’t sustain the pregnancy. I was working on a film at the time, and I had a miscarriage,” she shared, describing it as a deeply traumatic experience. “I really wanted to have children, and losing the pregnancy affected me deeply.” Parmeet shares why he didn’t want children

Parmeet recalled how witnessing Archana’s pain altered his outlook on having children. “Seeing what you went through made me feel that we didn’t really need children. I was very happy with just us,” he said. Archana then remembered Parmeet telling her that their relation-

ship was complete in itself. “We are so close and there is no space between us for another person,” she recalled him saying. She, however, disagreed. “I told you that a child wouldn’t be an outsider, it would be our own,” Archana said, adding that Parmeet may have been too young at the time to fully understand her longing for motherhood. The miscarriage occurred while Archana was shooting director Sachin Pilgaonkar’s film, *Aisi Bhi Kya Jaldi Hai*. She admitted the experience left her fearful and uncertain about her future “I was 34. I genuinely thought I was too old and that I might never be able to have children,” she said. Pregnancy amid grief

Archana’s first successful pregnancy came during an emotionally overwhelming period. She was in Bangkok for a show when she received news of her father’s death. She immediately returned to India, only to learn that his last rites had already been performed. In the days that followed, while grieving, she noticed unexpected food cravings. “I didn’t realise it then, but I was pregnant,” she said. Looking back, Parmeet admitted he failed to offer Archana the support she needed during her pregnancy. “I didn’t support you at all. I was completely clueless. There was a time you needed complete bed rest, and I said I’m going to play football,” he said.

Archana remembered feeling emotionally abandoned. “Here I was, sick, trying to protect my pregnancy after a miscarriage, and he’s going to play football,” she said. Parmeet acknowledged his lack of awareness. “When you’re young, you’re very self-absorbed. You’re driven by your own dreams and ambitions. I didn’t realise what I was doing,” he said. The experience, Archana shared, has deeply influenced how she now views relationships and support systems. “As a mother, I don’t want my daughters-in-law to go through what I did. I want my sons to understand that for those nine months, they need to forget themselves and be there for their wives,” she said. “At that time, I felt abandoned. Only later did I understand it came from a lack of awareness.” Parmeet agreed, calling himself “foolish” in retrospect. “I would never intentionally hurt you. I just didn’t know better,” he said. Parmeet also said that he believes their son Aaryaman is the reincarnation of Archana’s late father. “He feels like his reincarnation, same humour, same nature,” he said.

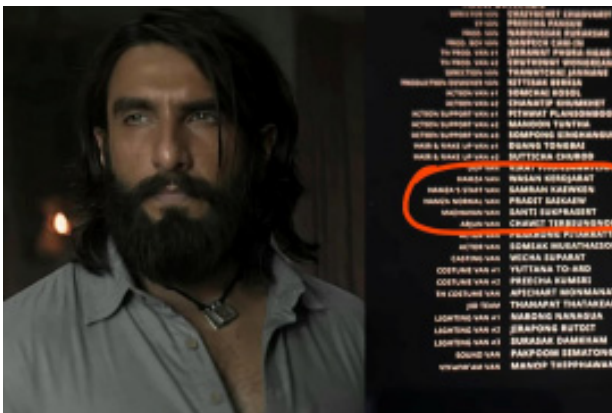
Fans spot ‘evidence’ of Ranveer Singh’s three-van demand in Dhurandhar end credits

GNS News Agency, Feb 5

The teaser for *Dhurandhar: The Revenge* dropped today, giving fans their first glimpse into the sequel of the Ranveer Singh starrer. While attention is now shifting to the sequel, *Dhurandhar* continues to dominate conversations, especially after its OTT release on January 30. Fans are still glued to screens, rewatching every frame, hunting for hidden clues, coming up with various theories and discussing the film’s twists and character arcs.

And now, fans have turned their attention to the end credits, specifically, the vendor transportation section. They spotted three separate entries: “Hamza Van,” “Hamza Staff Van,” and “Hamza Normal Van.” Social media quickly linked these to Ranveer Singh, who plays Hamza Ali Mazari in the film, bringing back the long-standing discussion about his on-set vehicles. Reddit BBNG member in full sleuth mode after watching #DhurandharOnNetflix The end credits of *Dhurandhar* pretty much confirms an old rumour. The credits list multiple vanity vans under #RanveerSingh name, which makes it seem like the chatter about him demanding more than one... pic.twitter.com/eHqivFgaTILast year, The Hollywood Reporter had reported that Ranveer Singh requires three vanity vans when he’s on a shoot schedule — one for his personal use, a gym van, and one for his private chef. The same report also claimed that the average maintenance cost of a van is around Rs 10-15 lakh. Talking about the cost of a van, a top-tier ‘super van’, which has multi-room set-ups with expanding living space, can cost around Rs 2-3 crore. A high end custom van, with Italian marble, luxury recliners and gym equipment costs around Rs 75 lakh-1 crore. A mid-range van with sofas, small pantry, a modest washroom and a television can cost around Rs 35-50 lakh. And a basic van, with just a dressing space and an air conditioner costs around Rs 15-20 lakh.

Bollywood star booted from a South Indian film because of his entourage demands Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta, in his appearance on Cyrus Broacha’s podcast, had also talked about a Bollywood star who had signed a South Indian movie, shown up on set to shoot, but was quietly fired after the producer discovered that he would be hit with massive hidden costs due to the star’s entourage demands. The filmmaker said, “I’ll tell you something very funny. This particular actor signed a film down south. He went for the shoot, and they went to the location, which is a studio. And sud-



denly, the producer finds that there are these six vans from Bombay, and he’s like, ‘Boss, I didn’t hire six actors’. See, to a certain level, you indulge. Fine. But then he was told, ‘Yeh saab ka vans hai, aur yeh raato raat Bombay se aaya hai, aapka ek din bach gaya (These are sir’s vans, and they’ve been brought in overnight from Mumbai, so you saved a day).’” Gupta added, “The producer was furious. He wanted to give every gaali. They packed up that day, and they told the actor, ‘Sir, next three days there is a problem with the location; you return to Mumbai and we’ll tell you when to come back’. The minute that actor got on the flight, he called all the drivers and said ‘f**k off’. They scrapped the film! The producer scrapped the film. He said, ‘We don’t do this. Inform us. Ask us. You can’t just bring six vans and send a bill of Rs 18 lakh.’” While Sanjay Gupta didn’t reveal the actor’s name, speculation pointed toward Ranveer Singh, who was supposed to do filmmaker Prasanth Varma’s film *Rakshas* but eventually backed out, reportedly due to creative differences.

Back to the sequel, *Dhurandhar: The Revenge* teaser has left some fans underwhelmed. Many noted its similarity to the post-credit scenes of the first film, hoping for fresher content. The teaser introduces a younger version of Ranveer Singh’s character, providing a glimpse into Hamza Mazari’s early life. It shows Hamza Mazari asserting control over Lyari, signalling his rise to power. The espionage thriller promises to explore his journey even before he officially becomes a spy.

the impact goes beyond the producers. Tamil Nadu theatres, he said, are facing losses exceeding Rs 100 crore due to the stalled release. Bala explained that Jana Nayagan was massively anticipated, as it is Vijay’s last film before stepping into politics, and a Pongal release would have made it a “jackpot” for theatre owners who were expecting bumper business.

“Pongal was supposed to witness the clash of Vijay’s Jana Nayagan and Sivakarthekeyan’s *Parasakthi*. However, the film’s release was stalled. Vijay’s film could easily have made Rs 150-200 crore in Tamil Nadu alone. *Parasakthi* made Rs 55 crore in Tamil Nadu.” He added, “Since there is no projected revenue, the Tamil Nadu box office could have lost almost Rs 100 crore because of Jana Nayagan’s delay.” Echoing these concerns, Chennai theatre owner Ruban Mathivanan of GK Cinemas said that the delay of Jana Nayagan has disrupted the release schedule of Tamil films for the next few months. With no clarity on the film’s release date after the Madras High Court recently referred the matter to a single judge for another hearing, Vijay has also addressed the issue.

From India’s first time-travel epic to SSR61: How the 94-year-old filmmaker is set to disrupt cinema again



The announcement of SSR61, produced by Nag Ashwin, has redirected attention to Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, a director whose innovative filmmaking left an indelible mark on Indian cinema. At 94 years old, Singeetam’s return to direction after over a decade marks one of the most remarkable comebacks in Indian cinema history. Known for his versatility and intellectual approach, Singeetam’s work continues to inspire contemporary filmmakers. Singeetam distinguished himself by refusing to adhere to single genres or industry conventions. During an era when Telugu mainstream cinema often followed predictable patterns, he pursued experimentation and creative risk-taking.

Aditya 369 (1991) stands as one of his most celebrated Telugu works, widely recognized as India’s first mainstream time-travel film. The film merged science fiction with historical narratives, introducing audiences to speculative concepts while maintaining emotional depth and narrative coherence. Its cult following demonstrates how Singeetam respected audience intelligence well before such approaches became common.

Bhairava Dweepam (1994) revealed another dimen-

Lucky Ali dials back the years with ‘Tu Jaane Hai Kahan,’ and it’s a little bit too relaxed

It’s always a delight to talk to an old friend. Their voice and personality help you recall the very first time you met them and everything that has happened since then. That’s kind of what happens when you listen to a familiar sound — it takes you back to a different age, a different day. Singer Lucky Ali is trying to achieve that same thing with his new track ‘Tu Jaane Hai Kahaan,’ which has been released under the Tips Music banner. It’s soulful, simple, and it is right up the singer’s alley.

Even though he chooses to play in cafes and at random concerts these days, Ali still has pull in the industry, and that is quite clear when you hear the names behind the project. The super-team includes Mike McCleary, a composer-songwriter from New Zealand, composer Suraj Gulvady, and lyricist Kausar Munir. What these four individuals have achieved isn’t winning them any Grammys or BRIT awards; the song is definitely quite soothing in that linear manner.

An easy-to-digest melody consisting of rhythm and lead guitar starts off things, as percussion joins in as soon as Lucky Ali starts singing. The odd minor chord along with Ali’s ability to make an ordinary word sound so meaningful, goes a long way for the track. The hook is fun, and the lyrics are easy to follow. So the song is definitely pushing for the old adage that ‘simple is better’; its structure and vision seem to be working for it. Personally, I would like to see Ali play around with his voice and style a bit. Except for the modern elements, the lyrics and the treatment of the track makes it quite indistinguishable from a million other

sion of his artistry: fantasy grounded in Indian folklore. Despite the technological limitations of its time, the film succeeded through imaginative production design, visual creativity, and solid storytelling rather than relying solely on spectacle. It has since influenced numerous filmmakers working within mythological and fantasy genres, proving that ambitious scale can be achieved through vision as much as through budget. Pushpaka Vimana (1987) arguably represents Singeetam Srinivasa Rao’s most internationally recognized achievement. This nearly dialogue-free film transcended language barriers by relying entirely on visual storytelling, performance, and cinematic rhythm. It stands as a rare example of Indian cinema that communicated universally without verbal exposition, garnering acclaim both domestically and internationally. The film won the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment and had a successful 35-week theatrical run in Bengaluru.

Singeetam also brought meticulous craftsmanship to comedy, a genre sometimes undervalued. Films like *Mayuri* and *Apoorva Sagodharargal* (Tamil) showcased his precision-driven approach, where structure and timing were as crucial as performance. These successes reinforced his conviction that comedy requires the same artistic rigour as any other genre. Beyond individual achievements, Singeetam’s broader contribution lies in how he expanded the creative horizons of Telugu cinema. He normalized experimentation decades before “content-driven cinema” became industry terminology. With SSR61, anticipation runs high, not because Singeetam needs validation, but because his return prompts reflection on how far the industry has evolved and how much of that evolution was quietly influenced by his pioneering work.



songs running on Spotify. The super-team works well together, but let’s just say that they never set out a very difficult task for themselves. The elements that make this track approachable, also deprive it of any chance at standing out. All in all, it’s great to see Lucky Ali back, especially during a time when singers are making a space for themselves apart from playback singing. Ali was part of the indie music movement of the 90s and 2000s that saw independent artists and bands take hold of the industry. The whole business of it has come a long way since then, and having someone like him — from the old guard — firing on all cylinders, could be great for the music, its creators and its consumers.

Parmeet Sethi accepts he was an ‘absent, bad’ father; Archana Puran Singh felt ‘alone’ raising kids: ‘I was so weak, you were missing’



Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi secretly tied the knot in 1992 and welcomed their older son Aaryamann in 1994 but for the first few years, their journey into parenthood was extremely rocky as Parmeet was completely “absent” and Archana “felt alone”. In a new vlog shared on her YouTube channel, Parmeet said that he had no idea that his life would change completely after welcoming a child. As soon as Parmeet said so, Archana questioned, “How did your life change? Because for the first few years you were absent.”

Parmeet Sethi was a ‘very bad father’ Parmeet admitted that he was a “very bad father” and was “absent” for the first few years of Aaryamann’s life. He confessed that until they had their second child, Ayushmaan, Parmeet would meet Aaryamann in “guest appearance.” He also mentioned that both their pregnancies were unplanned but Archana shared that she indeed wanted a second child. She also recalled that she had her first child at 36, and the second child at 39, which was “very old for a mother”.

Parmeet said that he stepped up after Archana got pregnant a second time and he witnessed that the attention that was being showered upon Aaryamann was decreasing, and would presumably decrease after the birth of the second baby. “I saw Aaryamann realising that the conversation had shifted from him to someone else. That’s when I realised that he will not get as much attention, and I decided that I will take him under my wing. That’s when I started spending time with him, playing with him. I became his father in the true sense,” Parmeet shared. Archana Puran

Singh wondered why Parmeet Sethi wasn’t sharing the load

Archana then reminded Parmeet that just like how he was quite oblivious to what a woman goes through during her pregnancy, he was also quite unaware of the needs of a new mother. “Just like you were not aware of what I was going through during my pregnancy, you didn’t pay attention to what a woman goes through after the baby. I was so weak during that time and you were missing,” she said and recalled that she would wake up at least six times during the night to check on the baby and feed him. “I thought, why isn’t Bittu (Parmeet) sharing my load? Then you convinced me, ‘What can I do? I can’t feed the baby,’ she shared. Parmeet instantly confessed, “I didn’t help you. At least for the first 3 years of Aaryamann’s life, I didn’t help you at all. I just changed his nappy a couple of times, I am admitting it.” He also admitted that he had no idea about post-partum and to this, Archana said that even she did not know much about it and didn’t know if she was going through it. “But I felt I was alone. I was powering through everything but I was so fragile then,” she said.

Archana also recalled that Parmeet once got extremely annoyed when she refused to go out for dinner as she was so tired looking after the kids. “I remember it was our anniversary and I was putting the children to bed. They were 3-4-5 then. And I was ready to go but I was so sleep deprived because I would feed them, get their homework done, and take care of them. You said the table was reserved and you were so angry with me,” she remembered. Parmeet recalled that during this phase, Archana would simply refuse to go out with him. “I understand that you wanted to be with the kids but does the husband also exist or not?” he asked and added that this was a “balancing act and you didn’t balance it, and that’s a fact.” He added that this is when they started having a lot of problems. “It was a very touch and go situation between us,” he said. As he pointed this out, Archana asked why Parmeet did not understand the position that she was in at this point as she was juggling so many things at the same time. “You yourself said that you didn’t know what fatherhood was so you obviously did not know what motherhood was.