

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

13-12-2025

Total pilgrims: 80,113

Tonsures: 31,683

Hundi kanukalu: 3.71 CR

Hunting Compartments: Out side line at Krishna Teja guest house.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens): 18 H

TO BOOK YOUR ADS CALL

99484 80279, 73307 78889



NATION | NEWS

Help Rahul take forward Congress ideology of truth, fight 'vote theft': Kharge to people



WORLD | NEWS

Ten killed in shooting near Jewish gathering in Australia's Sydney

SPORTS | NEWS

Why Is Jasprit Bumrah Not Playing 3rd T20I vs South Africa? BCCI Breaks Silence: "Gone Back Home"



Congress takes vote theft' fight to streets, Rahul targets EC and BJP

NEW DELHI (TSIT): Escalating its campaign against alleged electoral irregularities, the Congress on Sunday staged a high-voltage protest at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan under the banner "Vote Chori, Gaddi Chhod," bringing together its entire top leadership in a show of strength.

The rally, projected as a mass movement against what the party terms "vote chori," was addressed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K.C. Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Sachin Pilot and other senior leaders. Former party chief Sonia Gandhi was also present at the event. Leading the charge, Rahul Gandhi launched a direct attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing it of siding with the BJP and enabling manipulation of electoral processes. Naming Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, Gandhi alleged that the poll body was acting in



favour of the ruling party.

"We stand with truth. They have power, and they misuse it through vote theft. By standing firmly with truth, we will remove the Narendra Modi-RSS government from power," Gandhi said, drawing enthusiastic applause from supporters.

He further claimed that the BJP openly distributed cash during elections without facing action from the ECI. Calling the contest a battle between truth and falsehood, Gandhi alleged that the Election Commission had abandoned neutrality.

Referring to remarks by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Gandhi accused the RSS of prioritising power over

truth. "Our ideology — the ideology of India and of all religions — places truth above everything. I assure you, by standing with truth, we will defeat the RSS-led government," he said. Sunday's rally marked the Congress's largest mobilisation in the national capital as part of its ongoing "vote chori" narrative, which gained momentum after Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra in Bihar earlier this year. Despite the party's disappointing performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, where it won just six of 61 seats contested, the leadership has doubled down on the slogan, aiming to turn it into a broader democratic movement.

CM Revanth thanks Messi for enthralling fans in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD (TSIT)

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday thanked global football icon Lionel Messi for enthralling fans in Hyderabad and creating unforgettable moments for sports lovers. He said Messi's presence and performance inspired youth and elevated the city's image on the global sporting map.

The Chief Minister also congratulated the Telangana Police and other security personnel for ensuring smooth conduct of the event with foolproof arrangements. He appreciated their professionalism, coordination and dedication in managing large crowds and maintaining law and order throughout the programme.

Revanth Reddy said the successful hosting of such a high-profile international sports event reflects Hyderabad's growing stature as a preferred destination for global events. He reaffirmed the state government's commitment to promoting sports culture and bringing more international events to Telangana.

Telangana emerges as national leader in energy efficiency

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Telangana has emerged as a national leader in energy conservation and energy efficiency, as detailed in a comprehensive status report submitted to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). The report outlines the state's progressive policies and large-scale implementation led by TGREDCO across multiple sectors.

Telangana became the first state in India to launch the Telangana State Cool Roof Policy 2023-28. Naveen Mittal and TGREDCO MD Anila Received Award with President Murmu on Sunday. As part of a pilot initiative, cool roof painting was implemented on three University of Hyderabad buildings covering 36,746 sq. ft, resulting in an estimated 7,000 kWh of annual energy savings.

Under the State Energy Conservation Fund (SECF), TGREDCO distributed 600 induction cooktops and pressure cookers to households in Konda Reddy Pally village as part of the clean cooking initiative. The agency has also initiated an Electric Two-Wheeler Loan Scheme for power



utility employees under a revolving investment model. In line with BEE guidelines, TGREDCO conducted market surveillance on 870 appliance samples and submitted 27 samples for laboratory testing to ensure compliance with energy standards.

Significant progress has been made in implementing the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC). At present, 1,178 commercial buildings covering 195.6 lakh sq. metres comply with ECBC norms, resulting in estimated annual energy savings of 412.25 million units.

Under the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, Telangana has

43 designated consumers across eight sectors. From PAT Cycles I to VI, the state achieved savings equivalent to 3.03 lakh metric tonnes of oil, reflecting strong industrial participation.

The report also highlights the Telangana Clean and Green Energy Policy - 2025, which promotes renewable energy, green hydrogen, energy storage, and sustainable manufacturing, while boosting investments and employment.

With strong institutional mechanisms and forward-looking policies, Telangana continues to lead India's transition towards a sustainable and energy-efficient future.

Prez Murmu urges citizens to embrace energy conservation

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday called for active public participation in energy conservation, commending the government's green initiatives and noting that India has already met its clean energy targets ahead of schedule. Speaking at an event marking National Energy Conservation Day, President M u r m u emphasized the importance of making energy efficiency a way of life to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future. She urged engaging children and youth in environmental efforts, stating, "For the success of India's Energy Transition, the participation of every sector and citizen is essential. Bringing energy efficiency to all sectors, behavioural change is most important."



7 militants, including 2 women, arrested in Manipur

IMPHAL, DEC 14:

In a series of coordinated operations over the past 24 hours, security forces in Manipur arrested seven militants, including two women cadres, from multiple districts and recovered arms, ammunition and narcotics, officials said on Sunday. According to police sources, five of the arrested militants are linked to banned outfits — the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK).



Never allowed territory for activities against Bangladesh's interests: India

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

India on Sunday asserted that it has never allowed its territory to be used for activities inimical to the interests of Bangladesh and pressed for holding the upcoming parliamentary polls in that country in a peaceful atmosphere. India's reaction came hours after the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry summoned Indian envoy to Dhaka, Pranay Verma, and conveyed its concern over former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's "incendiary" statements from Indian soil. According to a readout released by Dhaka, the Foreign Ministry also brought to Verma's notice the activities of some members of Hasina-led Awami League while staying in India. "India categorically rejects the assertions made by the interim government of Bangladesh in its press note," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. It said India has consistently reiterated its



position in favour of free, fair, inclusive and credible elections in Bangladesh in a peaceful atmosphere. "India has never allowed its territory to be used for activities inimical to the interests of the friendly people of Bangladesh," the MEA said. "We expect that the interim government of Bangladesh will take all necessary measures for ensuring internal law and order, including for the purpose of holding peaceful elections," it said in a statement.

India Cruise to 7-Wicket Victory Over South Africa in 3rd T20I, Take 2-1 Series Lead

DHARAMSALA (TSIT):

India delivered a commanding performance to defeat South Africa by 7 wickets in the third T20I at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, taking a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. Captain Suryakumar Yadav won the toss and elected to bowl first, a decision that paid off immediately as India's bowlers exploited the conditions superbly to restrict South Africa to a modest 117 all out in 20 overs.

The Proteas got off to a disastrous start, slumping to 7/3 in the first three overs. Arshdeep Singh struck in the opening over, dismissing Reeza Hendricks for a duck, while Harshit Rana accounted for Quinton de Kock (1) and



Dewald Brevis (2).

Hardik Pandya claimed his 100th T20I wicket by removing Tristan Stubbs (9), reducing South Africa to 30/4. Aiden Markram fought valiantly with a resilient 61 off 46 balls (6 fours, 2 sixes), but received little support from the rest of the lineup.

Donovan Ferreira contributed 20, while Anrich Nortje added 12. Varun Chakaravathy (2/11) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/12) were exceptional in the middle overs, with Arshdeep (2/13) and Rana (2/34) leading the pace attack. In response, India chased down the target of 118 with ease, reaching 120/3 in just 15.5 overs. Abhishek Sharma provided an explosive start, smashing 35 off 18 balls (3 fours, 3 sixes), putting on 60 for the first wicket with Shubman Gill (28 off 28).

After Abhishek's dismissal, Tilak Varma anchored the innings with an unbeaten 25 off 34 balls, while skipper Suryakumar Yadav scored 12 before falling. Shivam Dube sealed the victory in style, remaining unbeaten on 10 off 4 balls, including a six and a four. India dominated the powerplay, scoring 68 runs in the first six overs, setting the foundation for a comfortable win. With this victory, India have bounced back strongly after the series was leveled 1-1.

If attacks continue, BRS will be forced to respond: KTR warns Congress

HYDERABAD (TSIT) :

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday warned ruling Congress party that if attacks on BRS workers continue, the party would be forced to respond.

He visited Lingampally village in Tungaturthi constituency of Suryapet district and paid tributes to BRS worker Uppala Mallaiah, who was killed in an alleged attack by Congress activists recently. KTR offered floral tributes to Mallaiah's portrait and



extended his condolences to the bereaved family. He handed over Rs. 5 lakh as immediate financial assistance and assured the family of the party's full support in all aspects.

Addressing a gathering, KTR stated that BRS ruled the state for 10 years but never resorted to such violent politics. He warned Congress leaders that days do not remain the same forever and advised them to abandon irresponsible politics and focus on people's welfare. He cautioned that if attacks on BRS workers continue, the party would be forced to respond, and such a situation could lead to a breakdown of law and order in the state. Telangana, he said, never had a culture of political violence, and such practices must stop. KTR ridiculed the Congress government for being so scared even of Sarpanch and Panchayat elections. He questioned that if Congress had truly delivered "wonders" in the last two years, including loan waivers, houses, and ration cards as claimed, why was it so afraid of elections. KTR said that if the 420 promises made by Congress had been fulfilled, people themselves would have celebrated the government.

Toxic smog engulfs Delhi-NCR as air quality hits hazardous levels

NEW DELHI (TSIT) :

Air pollution in Delhi and surrounding National Capital Region (NCR) worsened on Sunday, plunging the city into hazardous conditions as a thick layer of smog sharply reduced visibility and posed serious health risks. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) at 461 at 7 am, up from 431 on Saturday, with all 40 monitoring stations in the 'severe' category.

Rohini topped the list with an AQI of 499, followed by Bawana at 498, Vivek Vihar at 495, and Ashok Vihar and Wazirpur at 493. Even greener areas such as Lodhi Road and Najafgarh recorded hazardous levels of 400 and 404 respectively. In the NCR, Noida and Ghaziabad faced severe air pollution at 470 and 460 AQI, while Gurugram and Faridabad recorded 348 and 220.

Dense fog mixed with toxic smog reduced visibility to near zero in several areas, prompting low-visibility procedures at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned of dense fog in the early hours, with visibility expected to improve to around 800 metres later in the day.

Meteorological factors including a feeble western disturbance and weak winds trapped pollutants close to the ground, worsening the smog. Authorities invoked Stage-IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the NCR, implementing emergency measures such as banning BS-IV diesel trucks, shutting down construction, mining, and stone-crushing activities, and moving classes for students from Class VI to IX and XI to hybrid learning.



Bandi Sanjay hits out at Rahul Gandhi for ‘prioritising’ Messi event in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday attacked Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for attending the GOAT India Tour event featuring football legend Lionel Messi here, alleging that a soccer star gets priority over Telangana’s “pain”. The Minister of State for Home, in a post on ‘X’, said that Rahul Gandhi promised that he would be in Telangana in a minute when people need him. However, that minute clearly runs on a



“luxury” time zone.“For the people of Telangana, his clock never works. It only ticks for VIP events and photo ops. A football star gets priority over Telangana’s pain”, Kumar said. Rahul Gandhi, who landed here on Saturday afternoon, joined Messi and his Inter Miami team-mates Luis Suarez and Rodrigo de Paul and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the felicitation towards the end of the event. Kumar further slammed Rahul Gandhi, alleging that

the Congress government is playing with people’s lives in Telangana. He alleged that the Congress party’s six guarantees and several poll promises were unfulfilled. The union minister tagged a video of the speech by Rahul Gandhi promising that he would be in Telangana in a minute when people needed him. He further claimed that Rahul Gandhi was “absent during suffering. On vacation during chaos. Fully present when the spotlight is on.”

Panchayat polls phase 2 sees 85 pc turnout, Congress claims decisive victory

Hyderabad: Over 85 per cent of eligible voters exercised their franchise in the second phase of gram panchayat elections in Telangana on Sunday, the SEC said. The elections concluded peacefully, and the counting of votes was underway. Of the 54,40,339 eligible voters, 46,70,972 cast their votes, recording a turnout of 85.86 per cent, a press release said.“The polling was held peacefully,” Additional DGP (Law and Order) Mahesh M Bhagwat told PTI.Pollin was conducted from 7 am to 1 pm for 3,911 gram panchayat posts and 29,917 ward member seats. A total of 12,782 candidates contested sarpanch posts, while 71,071 nominees vied for ward member positions. Counting of votes began at 2 pm. The first phase of elections on December 11 recorded a voter turnout of 84.28 per cent.

Claiming a resounding victory for Congress-supported candidates in a majority of sarpanch positions across the state, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B Mahesh Kumar Goud said the results reflected the rural electorate’s confidence in the government’s governance. Expressing satisfaction over the outcome, Goud said the people’s verdict was clear approval of the Congress government’s performance, according to a release. He attributed the success to coordinated efforts by ministers, MPs, MLAs and local leaders, along with well-planned campaign strategies imple-



mented down to the village level.“People have given a clear mandate to the slogan of welfare, social justice and development. The emphatic victory of Congress candidates in the sarpanch elections is a strong symbol of this,” he said. Goud added that the results of the first and second phases of the sarpanch elections reflected the positive impact of the government’s welfare initiatives at the grassroots level and would serve as a guiding force to further strengthen the Congress in Telangana.

The Telangana State Election Commission had announced a three-phase schedule for gram panchayat elections to be held on December 11, 14, and 17. Following the recent bypoll in the Jubilee Hills assembly constituency, which the ruling Congress won, the gram panchayat elections are being seen as a test of the popularity of the Congress, BRS, and BJP. Owing to legal hurdles surrounding the Congress government’s move to provide 42 per cent reservation to Backward Classes in local bodies, the Telangana government on November 17 decided to conduct elections only for gram panchayats, deferring polls for other rural local bodies.

VERDICTS SHOULDN’T BE IN COMPLEX LANGUAGE

BY SAGAR
POLICY ANALYST
PRO TO MINISTER KONDA SUREKHA

In my opinion, Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant has raised a very meaningful and timely issue - one that directly affects common people and their trust in the justice system. His message is clear and powerful: court judgments should be written in a language that ordinary citizens can easily understand. Today, many judgments are filled with heavy legal words, long sentences, and technical terms. This often makes the law look distant, confusing, and intimidating to the very people it is meant to protect. As a PG student in law, I have had the opportunity to read many legal books and judgments. My personal experience is that much of legal writing is unnecessarily complex. Many times, I had to repeatedly refer to a dictionary just to understand the basic idea. During those moments, I often wondered why law - something that directly affects people’s lives - is written in such a difficult manner. When I later read the comments made by the Chief Justice of India on this issue, I genuinely felt happy and



hopeful. Our constitutional framers - Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and others - strongly believed that the benefits of the Indian Constitution should reach every citizen,

even the person standing at the last mile. Law plays a crucial role in delivering those benefits. Keeping this vision in mind, it is important that judges write judgments in simple and clear language that even a common citizen can understand. Courts are not meant only for lawyers, judges, or legal experts. They exist for ordinary people - farmers fighting for their land, workers demanding fair wages, women seeking justice, students asking for protection of their rights, and senior citizens looking for relief. When judgments are written in complicated language, these people often leave the courtroom without fully understanding what the court decided or why. In such situations, justice becomes something only professionals can explain, not something citizens can clearly feel or trust. Justice Surya Kant rightly pointed out that most litigants depend completely on lawyers to explain court orders. This over-dependence can create confusion and sometimes even mistrust. A person who has spent years fighting a case deserves to clearly understand three simple things by reading the judgment: what the case was about, what the court decided, and why that decision was taken. If a judgment

fails to communicate this, justice loses its real meaning. It is also important to remember that simple language does not weaken the law. A judgment can be legally strong, well-researched, and constitutionally sound without using difficult words. In fact, clarity reflects confidence. Clear reasoning, logical flow, and simple explanation make a judgment far more powerful than pages filled with complex legal jargon. Clear judgments also help government officers, police, and administrators who are responsible for implementing court orders. When directions are unclear, it can lead to delays, wrong interpretation, or even fresh litigation. Simple language helps ensure smooth implementation and respect for judicial decisions. Lastly, easy-to-understand judgments help the media and the public. When court orders are clear, correct information reaches people, reducing rumours and confusion. Justice Surya Kant’s message reminds us that justice is not only about delivering verdicts, but also about making them understandable. Only then can the judiciary truly connect with the people and strengthen public trust in the justice system.

Truths Society Sees Hidden Sufferings Before Our Eyes

Behind every effort a human being makes to make life more comfortable, there lies a quiet hope. With that hope, new paths are created, new ideas are born, and dreams of building a better world take shape. Yet, within these very dreams, there are lives that continue to struggle in silence. Even as lights increase, some eyes still carry an unbroken darkness of fear. In those eyes, we most often see the pain of women and the silent suffering of children. These are truths that do not appear in calculations, lives that remain hidden behind statistics. Understanding this reality is the first step before us. Because to truly know how far a society has progressed, we must be able to see not only its light, but also its shadow, at the same time.

DR. CHITIKENA KIRAN KUMAR
“Women and Children – Still a Struggle in the Name of Rights”
Our times teach us many things about development. Technology has advanced, roads have expanded, cities shine brighter, and facilities that make human life easier have increased. Yet, amidst all this brightness, there are still millions living in darkness. In that darkness, we mostly see the faces of women and the vulnerable hearts of children. Laws exist, justice systems exist, education about rights exists. And yet, fear continues to hover over their lives. This is not merely an individual problem; it is an internal failure of society itself.

In society, a woman is often seen and respected as a mother, a wife, a sister. But at the same time, in many places, her body, her emotions, and her decisions are still not fully accepted as her own. If she studies, she is questioned; if she works, she is doubted; if she walks freely, she is judged. A woman’s courage to walk alone at night is not just personal bravery—it is also a measure of the trust she has in the safety provided by society. That trust has not yet fully settled in many places. News of assaults and humiliation continues to emerge from one corner or another every day. These stories disturb our hearts for a while and then dissolve into our daily routines. But for the woman who lives with that fear, a single incident becomes a scar that follows her for a lifetime. We often say that children are the future. But in many places, that future is being crushed in childhood itself. Hands meant to play are forced into labour, eyes meant to read show exhaustion, and minds meant to dream grow heavy with suffering. Child labour cannot be seen merely as a result of poverty. It is an attack

on a child’s right to life. Education, play, friendship, and safety are all natural rights of a child. Yet, when society places the burden of survival on a child’s shoulders, it erases the world of childhood. The continued existence of child marriages in some regions should deeply trouble our conscience. Pushing a girl into marital responsibilities at an age when she cannot even understand adult life is not only physical harm, but also severe psychological damage. Her education stops, her dreams fade, and life moves forward without space for her own choices. In many such lives, happiness becomes an invisible feeling buried under responsibility. Laws exist, protection systems exist, and awareness programmes are conducted. But human beings must change not out of fear of the law, but out of a sense of responsibility. Respecting a woman is not just about words; it is about seeing her as a complete individual. It means respecting her opinions, her decisions, and her way of life. Loving children is not just about providing food and clothes; it is about giving them a safe childhood and filling their minds with courage instead of fear. The values that begin at home guide society. How a child sees a woman at home shapes the mindset he carries into the future. A child who learns to respect his mother will grow into an adult who respects every woman. A child raised in fear may end up spreading fear. A child raised with love, equality, and justice becomes the strength that leads society with humanity. These problems do not belong to outsiders. They exist around us—in our villages, our neighbourhoods, and among our acquaintances. If we see them and choose to ignore



them, silence itself becomes a form of irresponsible wrongdoing. When a girl’s cry is heard outside our walls and we shut our windows, it is not just fear—it is an escape from responsibility. A society where women and children are safe is the only society that can truly be called developed. That safety does not come only from police patrols or CCTV cameras. It is born when our minds change. The way we look at others must change, our words must gain gentleness, and justice must reflect in our judgments. Rights must be visible not only in books, but in our behaviour. A road on which a woman can walk without fear, a childhood without tears for children—these are the true matters of pride for any nation. Our journey towards that goal is not yet complete. We still have a long way to go. That distance cannot be covered in a single day. Only when small changes happen every day in our thoughts, words, and actions does this struggle slowly turn into victory. Talking about rights is one stage; bringing

those rights into everyday life is a much bigger stage. Crossing that stage is not the responsibility of the government alone, but of society as a whole. Our opinions may differ, but when it comes to the dignity of women and the safety of children, we must all stand on the same side. Only then will lives that walk in fear begin to see a little light. Only then will the word “development” gain a truly human meaning. Today, the world has begun to move like a single family breathing together. A change in one country directly touches the lives of another. The same is true for the rights of women and children. In some countries, hopeful changes are visible; in others, the struggle continues. Yet, signs are clear that the world is moving in one direction. In those signs, there is fear—and there is also hope. In some developed countries, women are moving forward equally in education, employment, politics, and science. There, girls speak confidently about their life goals from a young age. Their voices carry value, their decisions receive

respect. At the same time, pressures, doubts, and emotional loneliness also exist in their lives. Even where material comforts are abundant, emotional security is not equally available everywhere. This is a complex reality. In some countries, even though women move freely, the question remains—do nights truly give them confidence? Children may be receiving modern education, but they are facing pressure at a very young age in competitive environments. Marks, ranks, and future anxieties outweigh play and joy, making childhood heavy. This shows that while rights may have advanced on paper, emotional security still lags behind. In developing countries, women are increasingly stepping towards education. From villages to cities, girls are climbing school steps. This is a hopeful sign. Yet, alongside education, family responsibilities, economic pressure, and traditional restrictions fall doubly on their shoulders. Even when women work, the belief that household labour is entirely their responsibility has not changed in many places. Between these two roles, the woman’s mind becomes a silent battlefield. When it comes to children, child labour has visibly reduced in some countries, but in others it continues in new forms. Even if not in factories, children work in homes, shops, farms, and on streets. Where there should be toys in their hands, there are tools. At the same time, in some countries, children are sinking into the digital world. Their childhood is spent not in open playgrounds, but behind screens. This is another kind of complexity. Reports of declining child marriages in some regions give hope. Yet, the fact that they

have not completely disappeared remains before our eyes. In some societies, decisions are still made to end a girl’s childhood early in the name of safety. These decisions silence her future. Yet, alongside this reality, there is also a growing youth standing against it and demanding change. This youth is the sign of a new society. In some countries, strong legal protections exist for children’s rights. Education is free, healthcare is accessible. Yet, in streets, refugee camps, and poor settlements, insecurity still reflects in children’s eyes. Wars, natural disasters, and forced migration raise children in conditions where they do not even know which country they belong to. Their childhood becomes a question locked inside a box. There is no doubt that awareness about women’s rights is increasing globally. In many places, women are speaking, writing, and questioning their rights themselves. These questions are stirring societies. At the same time, online abuse, verbal humiliation, fake images, and mental harassment against women are also increasing. This has emerged as a new challenge brought by the modern world. Amid all these developments, one thing is clear: change in the lives of women and children does not come overnight. It is a long struggle. Some countries move ahead faster, some take slow steps, and some are still searching for their path. But the world has reached a point where this issue can no longer be ignored. That itself is a significant turning point. Rights are not just words written in books. They must be visible in life. A girl should be able to go to school without fear. A boy should be able to immerse himself in play without the burden of work. A woman should

be able to speak her mind clearly. These are the true indicators of development for any country. More than roads, buildings, or economic figures, these are the real measures of human development. News from across the world repeatedly reminds us of one truth. Complete solutions have not yet been found, but efforts have not stopped. That is hope. Fear must reduce and courage must grow in the lives of women. Tears must fade and smiles must increase in the eyes of children. This change cannot come only from government decisions—it must come from family thinking, social values, and changes in human minds. A lamp lit in one country may not light another. But seeing that light can inspire another lamp to be lit. In matters of women’s dignity and children’s safety, the world is now walking that path. This journey may be slow, but it continues without stopping. That journey itself is the true ray of hope for humanity’s future. When we look at all this, one truth becomes clear—change does not come from outside; it begins within our thoughts. The day every home teaches a girl to speak without fear, the day every child is believed to have a right to play rather than to work, the day every woman is respected as a complete human being—that is the day real solutions begin. Laws will do their duty, systems will follow their course, but the life within them comes only from the change in our minds. When that change begins in each individual and spreads across society, a new world will truly take shape—one where fear reduces in women’s lives and smiles increase in the lives of children.

Over 850 caught for drunken driving in Hyderabad, Cyberabad



Hyderabad, Dec 14 : More than 850 people have been caught for driving vehicles under the influence of alcohol during the special weekend drive in the limits of Hyderabad and Cyberabad Police Commissionerates, police said on Sunday.

While 460 drivers were apprehended during the

two-day drive in Hyderabad, the Cyberabad traffic police caught 407 offenders.

Hyderabad traffic police conducted a two-day special drive on December 12 and 13 against drunken driving to ensure road safety. During the special drive, a total of 460 drivers were caught driving vehicles under the

influence of alcohol.

Of them, 350 were two-wheeler riders, 25 were three-wheeler drivers, 85 were four-wheeler and other vehicle drivers. Offenders were categorised based on their Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels. A total of 98 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 35 mg/100 ml to 50 mg/100 ml.

The police registered 185 cases for BAC levels ranging from 51 to 100. Another 91 cases booked for BAC level of 101-150 and 48 cases for BAC levels ranging from 151-200. Sixteen offenders were found to have BAC levels ranging from 201 to 250, ten had BAC levels of 251-300 and four cases were booked for BAC levels above 300. Police said there will be zero tolerance for drunk driving violations, and this special drive will continue.

YSR Congress slams Chandrababu Naidu govt for ‘doublespeak’ on loans

Hyderabad, Dec 14 : Andhra Pradesh's opposition party YSR Congress has slammed the coalition government for what it called its doublespeak on loans and financial discipline. Speaking to media here on Sunday, former finance minister Buggana Rajendranath said that the exorbitant loans taken by the state do not reflect in the welfare measures.

Further, the diminishing revenue receipts give a clear picture of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's inefficiency in wealth creation, he said. "The coalition has so far taken over Rs 2.66 lakh crores and still the welfare schemes are either limping or did not take



off. The Super Six is a flop as none of the schemes are being implemented as promised during elections. Unemployment stipend is not being given, Aadabidda Nidhi and pensions are not implemented in full and farmers are not given what

was promised to them," the former minister said.

The YSRCP leader claimed that the state has leaped to the first spot from fourth place in taking loans during the last 18 months but the false propaganda is going on.

He stated that the same

persons and media that raised a hue and cry on YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for adopting certain financing means for securing borrowings, are now silent on the TDP-led NDA government resorting to borrowings in a crude manner and in a least transparent manner.

The YSRCP leader said Chandrababu Naidu and his publicity mechanism had objected most vehemently, when the YSRCP government had borrowed monies through issuance of NCDs (Non-Convertible Debentures) leveraging on proceeds of liquor sales to meet the welfare expenses. "Now the TDP Government is borrowing through the

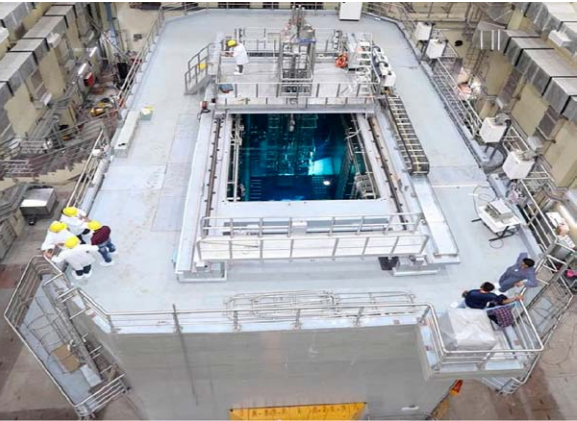
same structure. The stand of the TDP is such that when they are in opposition such financing structures are equivalent to crimes and when they are in power, such financing structures contribute to wealth creation," he said.

Rajendranath challenged the TDP to either clarify to public that the financing structure that they described as a fraud, when in opposition and are now adopting for raising borrowings was part of a scheme perpetrated by the TDP in opposition for misleading the people or convey to people that despite believing such financing structure to be a fraud, they are now adopting it.

BARC plans 3,000-acre R&D campus in AP

New Delhi, Dec 14 : The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is planning to set up a large new research and development campus in Andhra Pradesh as part of India's broader push to strengthen nuclear science and advanced reactor technology. The proposed campus will come up in Anakapalli district and will spread across nearly 3,000 acres.

According to documents reviewed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, BARC has approached the Andhra Pradesh government seeking



approval to divert 148.15 hectares of forest land for the project.

An Expert Appraisal Committee under the ministry has examined the proposal earlier this month and has recommended it for "in-

principle" approval, which would allow the diversion of the first parcel of land for the new campus.

Officials said that more than 1,200 hectares, or around 3,000 acres, of revenue land

has already been acquired for the BARC project. The forest land proposed for diversion is located next to the acquired area and lies between the project site and the coastline, making it crucial for completing the layout of the planned campus.

The new facility is expected to support BARC's expanding role in nuclear research, reactor development and advanced energy technologies.

The development comes at a time when the government is placing strong emphasis on indigenous nuclear innovation and clean energy solutions.

Earlier this month, the government informed Parliament that BARC has already begun design and development work on small modular reactors, including the 200 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor, a 55 MWe small modular reactor, and a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor aimed at hydrogen generation.

These reactors are proposed to be built initially at Department of Atomic Energy sites for technology demonstration, with construction likely to begin after project approvals.

The Centre has also highlighted growing



Karimnagar district election officer Pamela Satpathy inspected the polling station set up at Sri Ramakrishna High School in Gundlapalli, Gunneruvaram mandal.

TTD Chairman Releases book “Sri Vari Divya Prasadamulu”



Tirumala: TTD Chairman Sri B.R. Naidu, on Sunday released a book on "Sri Vari Divya Prasadamulu" penned by former Chief Priest of the Tirumala temple,

Sri Ramana Dikshitulu, at the TTD Chairman's Camp Office in Tirumala.

The author informed the Chairman that the book provides comprehensive details about

the various Annaprasadams offered to the deity as part of the Vaikhanasa Agama-prescribed rituals and kankaryams performed in the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple.

District Election Officer who inspected the election pattern through webcasting



Karimnagar: District Election Officer, Collector Pamela Satpathy examined the polling pattern through webcasting in the context of the second round of Gram Panchayat elections. Webcasting has been arranged at 162 polling stations in view of the second phase of polling in five mandals of the district. The District Election Officer reviewed the situation from time to time through the webcasting screens set up in the District Collector's office.

Four of family die in road accident

Hyderabad: Four members of a family died after their two-wheeler collided with a tractor trolley in Medak district of Telangana on Saturday evening, police said. The incident occurred in Pedda Shankarampet mandal at around 7.30 PM when the bike hit the rear of the tractor-trolley, resulting in the death of all four people on the two-wheeler. The two-wheeler rider was unable to see the tractor-trolley due to poor visibility, they said, based on preliminary investigation.

Vote Thief Leave the Throne Rally Held at Ramlila Maidan New Delh



New Delhi: A massive protest rally with the slogan "Vote Thief, Leave the Throne" was held at the historic Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi, drawing participation from leaders and representatives from various states. Mettu Saikumar, Chairman of the Fisheries Corporation, actively took part in the rally, expressing solidar-

ity with the democratic movement. Several prominent leaders from Telangana were also present, including Chairman Ubedulha Kotwal, Bellayya Naik, and senior Congress leaders Nagesh and Irfan Qadri, among others.

The leaders strongly condemned alleged attacks on democratic values and called for the

protection of constitutional rights and electoral integrity. They emphasized the need for unity to safeguard democracy and ensure transparency in the electoral process.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation and echoed strong messages demanding accountability and respect for the people's mandate.

SPS High School Celebrates it's Silver Jubilee at “SANKALP 2025” with Grand Enthusiasm

Hyderabad : SPS High School, Kompally, celebrated its Silver Jubilee at Annual Day “SANKALP 2025”, transforming the campus into a vibrant arena of sportsmanship, discipline, and youthful enthusiasm. The event highlighted the institution's commitment to fostering holistic development among students.

The celebrations began with an impressive march-past by the four houses, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The SPS High School headed by Dr. Sailesh Sampathy (Vice



President & Dy. Chief Executive), Mrs. Deepika (Associate Vice President), and Mrs. Y. Sarada (Head Mistress) graced the occasion. They

addressed the gathering and applauded the school's dedication to nurturing young minds.

Speaking on the significance of the event, Dr. Sailesh Sampathy said, "Sankalp" symbolizes determination, and today our students have exemplified it through their spirited participation. SPS High School continues to inspire young minds by nurturing discipline, values, and human excellence."

Mrs. Deepika Sampathy added, "Sankalp 2025 reflects our mission to develop well-rounded individuals. Sports

build leadership, confidence, and resilience—qualities essential for lifelong success."

With the vibrant and successful completion of SANKALP 2025, SPS High School reaffirmed its vision of creating a learning environment where academics and extracurricular activities flourish together, shaping future champions and responsible citizens.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from SSGI Group Heads, faculty, students, and parents, making it a memorable celebration

Special Abhishekam to Sri Bedi Anjaneya held



Tirumala: In connection with the last

Sunday of Karthika special

Abhishekam was performed to Sri Bedi Anjaneya Swamy located opposite Tirumala temple. As a part of it, the Mula Virat of Sri Bedi Anjaneya Swamy was anointed with milk, curd, honey, Sandal Paste, Turmeric. TTD Health Officer Dr Madhusudhan and other temple staff, archakas, devotees were also present.

Land deal row: Revenue officials should have refused faulty registrations, says Ajit Pawar

NAGPUR: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Saturday said officials responsible for registering documents should have refused to process agreements that were not permissible under the law and clearly informed the parties concerned about such limitations.

His comments come against the backdrop of a notice issued by the deputy registrar to the firm of his son, Parth Pawar, seeking Rs 21 crore in stamp duty and penalties in connection with a controversial land deal in Pune.

Hitting out at Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said as the deputy CM wields so much of influence in the government, would any officer dare to question him.

"Does anyone have the courage in the revenue department (to defy) if Parth Pawar comes up with any proposal?" Raut asked.

Recently, the Bombay High Court raised sharp questions regarding the police probe into the land deal, suggesting authorities might be shielding Parth Pawar by failing to name him in the FIR.

Ajit Pawar sought to dispel perceptions stemming from a bill cleared by the legislative assembly on Friday, which empowers the revenue minister to hold hearings in contentious cases related to the Inspector General of Registration (IGR).

Pawar said those who registered such documents were at fault, and of-



ficials should have exercised due diligence at the time of registration.

"The officials who received the documents for registration of a deal should have refused to register it. They should have clearly informed the parties that such an agreement cannot be processed," the deputy chief minister told reporters in Nagpur.

When asked about allegations that

the bill was moved to protect Parth, who holds a 99 per cent equity stake in Amadea Enterprises LLP, Pawar reiterated that the responsibility lay with the registering authorities.

"We are elected representatives in the House, and people have voted for us. We are free to take decisions or make amendments we find suitable," he said when asked about the intent behind the

amendment.

Revenue Minister Chandrashekhara Bawankule has said that under the earlier provision, complainants dissatisfied with decisions at the level of the IGR had to approach the high court. After the amendment, such complainants can now approach the revenue minister, who will be authorised to hold hearings in these matters.

UDF leaders see local body poll trends as pointer to 2026 Assembly elections in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Buoyed by the strong performance of the Congress-led UDF in the local body polls, KPCC president Sunny Joseph said on Saturday that the front's results indicated the people had rejected the LDF government.

According to early trends, the UDF was leading in more grama panchayats, block panchayats, municipalities and corporations than the LDF.

The local body polls were held in two phases in the state earlier this week.

Speaking to reporters here, Joseph said the people of Kerala had extended their support to the UDF.

"We could expose the LDF government's anti-people stance and the people understood it. The LDF's fake propaganda was rejected by the people. The UDF is moving towards a historic victory," he said.

He said a united effort, proper preparations, good candidate selection and hard work had resulted in the Congress and the UDF's victory in the elections.

Asked about the prospects in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Joseph said the party was studying the matter and would comment later.

LDF convenor T P Ramakrishnan said the results would be closely examined.

According to him, the government had done everything possible for the people.

"Why such a verdict happened will be examined at the micro level. People's opinion will be considered and further steps will be taken," he said. He added that decisions would be taken after analysing the results. "If any

corrective measures are required, we will initiate them and move forward," he said.

AICC leader K C Venugopal said the results showed that people had begun ousting those who, he alleged, were responsible for the loss of gold at Lord Ayyappa's temple.

"This trend will continue in the Assembly elections as well. It is an indication that the people are ready to bring down the LDF government," he said.

Venugopal said the UDF had registered victories even in CPI(M) and LDF strongholds.

"I congratulate all UDF workers for their hard work. Congress workers and leaders worked unitedly," he said.

Referring to remarks made by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan against the Congress on polling day, Venugopal said the voters had responded through the verdict.

"I do not know whether the chief minister understands that the people are against him. Otherwise, he does not know the sentiment of the people. The state government cannot move an inch further," he said.

He said the results indicated a strong comeback for the UDF in Kerala. Asked whether the Sabarimala gold loss issue had affected the LDF in the local polls, Venugopal said the CM and the CPI(M) state secretary did not take the issue seriously.

"We took a strong stand on the matter. The BJP played a foul game in it," he alleged.

On the BJP's role in the local body elections, Venugopal alleged that the party operated with the CPI(M)'s tacit support.

Centre approves 513 new 4G mobile towers for Chhattisgarh under Digital Bharat Nidhi

RAIPUR: The Union government has approved installation of 513 new 4G mobile towers in Chhattisgarh under the Digital Bharat Nidhi fund, officials said on Saturday.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai welcomed the decision, and said this is a significant outcome of combined efforts to restore peace, security and development in the Naxal-affected and remote regions of the state.

The decision is a strong link in the ongoing effective efforts towards Maoist elimination. The areas where stability has been established through the sustained action by security forces and administrative coordination, are now witnessing focused development and expansion of digital connectivity, he said in a statement. The CM said

the new 4G towers which will be installed through BSNL, will provide accessible and reliable mobile and internet services to people living in far-flung and inaccessible areas for the first time. "This will strengthen access to education, healthcare, employment, administrative services and emergency communication," he said. Sai said the expansion of digital connectivity will also prove to be a milestone for financial inclusion, as improved mobile networks will facilitate seamless access to banking services, direct benefit transfer (DBT), UPI, insurance, pension and other digital platforms for citizens.

The initiative aligns with the core objective of the 'Digital India' programme to ensure last-mile delivery of development, he said, adding

that enhanced connectivity will create new digital opportunities for local youth and give a boost to the regional economy. The Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is prioritising development along with security in Naxal-affected states, and the Chhattisgarh government is committed to working closely with the Centre to bring every citizen into the mainstream of development, he added.

Sai expressed gratitude on behalf of the people of Chhattisgarh to PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia, describing the decision as a historic step towards making the state digitally empowered, secure and inclusive.

Mandir-Masjid: How competitive faith politics recasting Bengal's 2026 poll battle

KOLKATA: As West Bengal heads into an election year, a spate of temple-mosque announcements, scripture spectacles and date-sensitive symbolism is pushing the state's politics into unfamiliar territory, sharpening communal polarisation in a borderland shaped by partition memories, demographic anxieties, and a coexistence periodically tested by political mobilisation.

From bordering Murshidabad district to the planned township of Salt Lake, on the eastern fringes of Kolkata, faith has emerged as the most audible idiom of political mobilisation, often drowning out conversations on migration, jobs, prices and governance,

as rival players test how far religious assertion can stretch Bengal's electoral grammar ahead of the assembly polls.

The immediate spark came on December 6, which marks the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition.

Suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir pressed ahead with laying the foundation stone of a mosque "modelled on the original Babri structure" in Murshidabad's Rejinagar, under unprecedented security cover.

Kabir argued that the political moment itself had shifted.

"People are trying to pretend that faith has no place in Bengal's politics. That phase is over. Whether one likes it

or not, questions of identity, dignity and religious rights will shape the next election. The next elections will be fought on questions of honour and belonging. Anyone denying that is not reading the ground," Kabir told PTI.

In nearby Banjatiya in Murshidabad, BJP leaders also conducted groundwork rituals for a Ram temple, framing it as resistance to what they called minority appeasement. Elsewhere, the saffron party sharpened its pitch around cultural assertion, while the TMC moved quickly to distance itself from Kabir's actions.

"Bengal's culture has never supported competitive religious politics. The par-

ty believes faith is personal and politics must remain inclusive. We will not allow Bengal to be converted into a laboratory for polarisation experiments borrowed from elsewhere," TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said.

The response underlined the party's political tightrope - managing a minority base that accounts for nearly 30 per cent of the electorate, while arresting signs of Hindu drift amid intensifying identity politics.

On December 7, Kolkata's Brigade Parade Grounds, the most politically loaded public stage, hosted a massive Bhagavad Gita recital projected as "five lakh voices chanting together".

Retired IAF personnel arrested for alleged Pak links in Assam

TEZPUR: A retired Indian Air Force personnel has been arrested in Assam's Sonitpur district for alleged links with Pakistani intelligence operatives, police said on Saturday.

Additional Superintendent of Police Haricharan Bhumij said preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had shared sensitive documents and information with Pakistani operatives over social media.

Police have seized his laptop and mobile phone.

The devices have been sent for forensic examination, though some data has been deleted, Bhumij said.

The officer said a case has been registered under the relevant sections of the BNS.

GRAP Stage III curbs invoked in Delhi-NCR amid sharp dip in air quality

NEW DELHI: The Commission for Air Quality Management on Saturday invoked stricter GRAP Stage-III restrictions, including shifting schools to hybrid mode up to Class 5 and restrictions on construction and demolition work, in Delhi-NCR after pollution levels rose sharply amid unfavourable meteorological conditions.

The national capital's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 349 but jumped to 401 by 10 am on Saturday, "owing to slow wind speed, stable atmosphere, unfavourable weather parameters and meteorological conditions and lack of dispersal of pollutants", the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said in a statement.

It said that due to the prevailing trend of air quality, and to further prevent deterioration in the region, the CAQM GRAP Sub-Committee on Saturday took the call to invoke all actions under Stage-III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) 'Severe' Air Quality with immediate effect in the NCR.

This is in addition to the actions under Stages I and II of GRAP already in force in NCR, the statement added.

Stage III restrictions include a ban on non-essential construction, demolition work, stone crushing and mining activities. BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers are also restricted in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar.

It also entails a ban on older diesel goods vehicles in Delhi, while schools up to Class 5 shift to hybrid mode and offices may operate with 50 per cent staff in Delhi-NCR.

During winters, the Delhi-NCR region enforces restrictions under GRAP, which categorises air quality into four stages - Stage I (Poor, AQI 201-300), Stage II (Very Poor, AQI 301-400), Stage III (Severe, AQI 401-450), and Stage IV (Severe Plus, AQI above 450).

Unfavourable meteorological conditions, combined with vehicle emissions, paddy-straw burning, firecrackers and other local pollution sources, lead to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during winters.

Need to be taught lesson: SC refuses to entertain bail plea of Mumbai BMW hit-and-run case accused

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has refused to entertain the bail plea of Mihir Shah, the son of a former Shiv Sena leader, in the 2024 Mumbai BMW hit-and-run case, saying "these boys need to be taught a lesson".

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih took into account that the accused belonged to an affluent family and his father was associated with the Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led faction of the Shiv Sena.

"He parks his Mercedes in the shed, takes out his BMW and crashes it and goes absconding. Let him be inside for some time. These boys need to be taught a lesson," the bench observed on Friday while refusing to entertain the bail plea.

Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Shah, said the high court allowed him to seek bail after the testimony of key witnesses was recorded in the case. However, sensing the mood of the court, she sought permission to withdraw the plea, which was allowed. Shah (24) was arrested on July 9 last year, two days after he allegedly rammed



his BMW car into a two-wheeler in Mumbai's Worli area, killing Kaveri Nakhwa (45) and leaving her husband, Pradeep Nakhwa, injured. The accused allegedly sped off towards the Bandra-Worli Sea Link after the accident, even as the woman remained on the bonnet of the car and then got entangled in its wheels for a distance of more than 1.5 kilometres. Shah's driver, Rajrishi Bidawat,

who was also present in the car at the time of the accident, was arrested on the day of the alleged accident. Both are in judicial custody. Shah has challenged the November 21 order of the Bombay High Court that denied him bail in the case after noting that he was heavily inebriated and failed to stop the car even after hitting a scooter and dragging the victim under his vehicle.

1 arrested in 'road accident' in which prime witness against TMC strongman Sheikh Shajahan was injured

KOLKATA: One person was arrested on Saturday in connection with the alleged road accident, in which one of the prime witnesses in the CBI and ED cases against suspended TMC leader Sheikh Shajahan of Sandeshkhali was injured and his son killed, police said.

The arrest was made in the early hours from Sarberia in Baruipur sub-division of South 24 Parganas district, they said.

"Evidence showed his involvement in the road accident. We have arrested him and will question him. He will be produced in the court this afternoon," a police officer said.

Bholanath Ghosh, the witness, was injured, and his younger son Satyajit (32) and driver Sahanur Molla (27) were killed as

a truck collided with their car on the Basanti Highway near Boyramari petrol pump in the Nazat police station area on Wednesday.

After striking the car, the 16-wheel truck dragged the vehicle and dumped it into a roadside waterbody, police said.

Shajahan, accused of sexual abuse and land grab, was arrested in February 2024 after being on the run for 55 days. He was the TMC convenor of Sandeshkhali assembly constituency and a member of the North 24 Parganas zilla parishad.

He was initially arrested in two cases lodged at the Nazat police station in connection with an assault on Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers during a raid at his house in a ration scam case.

India's future combat power would be driven by Jointnesss, Atmanirbharta, Innovation: Gen Chauhan

HYDERABAD: General Anil Chauhan on Saturday said the country's future combat power would be driven by the three pillars -- Jointnesss, Atmanirbharta and Innovation, what the CDS described as JAI.

General Chauhan, who reviewed the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) at the Air Force Academy at Dundigal near here, without referring to any country, said developments that indicate institutional fragility and reactive adjustments are often seen around us.

"Wars cannot (be) won by rhetoric, but by purposeful action. Around us, we often witness developments that signal institutional fragility and reactive adjustments.

In contrast, India's strength rests on the robust institutions, democratic stability and un-

wavering professionalism of our armed forces," he said.

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) told the newly commissioned officers that they are entering the Indian Air Force during a phase of deep transformation of the armed forces.

Integrated structures, joint operations and national pursuit of 'Atmanirbharta' (self reliance) in defence are shaping the future of India's military strength, he said.

The journey ahead of the newly commissioned officers will be guided by JAI, the first word of Jai Hind, he said.

Jointnesss signifies fighting as one nation and one force and Atmanirbharta indicate trusted platforms and systems made not just for India but for the world. Innovation signifies daring to think ahead and to be ahead of

the curve, he said.

"These three pillars will shape India's future of combat power," he said.

The intensity of operations may have ebbed, but Operation Sindoor continues, he said.

"You (new officers) also join the Air Force at a moment when a new normal has firmly taken shape. An era defined by a high degree of operational preparedness, 24-7, 365 days. The intensity of operations may have ebbed, but Operation Sindoor continues," he said.

Asserting that war and warfare are at the cusp of a major revolution, General Chauhan said the Defence forces are committed to adapt to changing environment and imbibing reforms to remain ready and relevant.

He further said battles in the older domains will always re-

main contested, often brutal. But in the new domains, they will be smart, swift, and shaped by intellect, innovation, and initiative. The force that masters new frontiers is more likely to prevail in future conflicts.

General Chauhan reviewed the Combined Graduation Parade of 216 Course.

The event marks the successful completion of the pre-commissioning training of flight cadets across various branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The event also included a display by the Akash Ganga team and Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT) to mark the beginning of the CGP.

Aerial displays by the Sarang helicopter display team and the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) were major attractions of the ceremony.



EDITORIAL

A Democracy Fretting to be a Dictatorship

There is this difference between Donald Trump and Narendra Modi: during his electioneering for the United States' presidency, Trump had forthrightly declared, "I will be a dictator from day one." Endowed with Asiatic genius, Narendra Modi continues to make flashy avowals of his alleged commitment to constitutional rule. However, his everyday governance suggests a penchant for reducing the separation of powers – the "basic structure" – to a formal construct, vestigial on the ground. The new home minister in Bihar, Samrat Chaudhary from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has not lost a minute in importing the cruel and illegal bulldozer raj from Uttar Pradesh to Bihar's cannily selected areas, besides some in Patna, Darbhanga, Begusarai, Muzaffarpur and Chhapra, all of which are in the grip of bulldozer atrocities as we speak. The predominant social and economic profile of these districts tells its own tale. That this shift in the style of enforcing executive will in Bihar could not be effected without sanction from the Union government may be safely assumed. Thus, the ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Shri Gavai, who counted his castigation of bulldozer raj as one of the high points of his tenure, may well be wondering whether his exertions have left any lasting residue on the state of law and order in the country. Alas, those resisting the mechanised coercion in Bihar now, including droves of affected women, can be heard to rue casting their vote for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the just-concluded state assembly election – yet another instance of how the populace may first be inveigled and then left holding the sack. It had best be recognised how Shri Modi, with support from a plethora of right-wing organisations, has achieved this capacity to draw allegiance and dump the promise. Over his tenure as chief executive, it has been his signal achievement to transform citizens into devotees – a consequence brought about by providing overt and covert state patronage to religious festivals and unending yatras throughout any calendar year. Although the devotion is ostensibly directed at gods and goddesses, this state-supported cult of devotion could not but transfer to Shri Modi himself. He stands almost as an oracle, whose nod comes to signify good governance and the rule of law. We may recall how the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution Dr B.R. Ambedkar had cautioned the republic that "bhakti" (devotion) in politics is a sure road to dictatorship. It has been a uniquely impressive sleight of hand to convert unceasing immersion in denominational devotion, especially in the Hindi belt, into political devotion without often asking for it. Phrases like "Modi ki guarantee", deployed periodically, have gone a long way in securing the conflation of religious devotion and political allegiance. In this way, avatars have come to be fused without the constitution noticing the wonder. And then, the Sanchar Saathi app. The Modi government issued secret directions to manufacturers of smartphones to mandatorily "pre-install" the government-sponsored Sanchar Sathi app on all phones at the point of manufacture, and in all existing phones by upgrading their software. The app was not amenable to "restriction" or "disabling", i.e., the consumer would have no control over its existence and had to remain subject to its behaviour. The Indian Express (December 3), is to be lauded for having quickly caught on and demanding, editorially, that the government "rescind" the new direction "before it goes to court".

Editorial

After 11.5 Years of Officially Trying to Redefine Indian Culture, We Have FA9LA

The government of India has set in place now very overt moves to drastically enhance the 'Indic' – which is India, minus anything that spells its Muslim people and heritage. There are no elected Muslim representatives in the ruling party or ministers in government, school and college textbooks stand purged, there is an attack on Urdu/Persian words in courts and police stations, and vicious demonisation when it comes to films like Chhaava, Article 370, The Kashmir Files and The Kerala Story. After nearly eleven and a half years of a concerted plan to render India a monolith, how is our cultural fabric doing? Unlike AQL, it is hard to have a government-verified measure of the state of its wear and tear. But what does anecdotal evidence, based on some events in December, say about what is 'Indian' these days? The recent Hindi film Dhurandhar, which has supposedly worked at the box office in the first few days, is the latest to build a narrative of a 'new India' where to be Indian is being Hindu, and all others are either murderous killers or just contemptible. Pakistan is a useful proxy stand-in for 'the other culture'. Yet the film's own success exposes this contradiction. Dhurandhar, in large part, has made it thanks to the power of its soundtrack, the song FA9LA, going viral. The character played by Akshaya Khanna, Rehman Dakaait, enters the set to this Bahraini rap track, sung by Bahraini-Moroccan rap artist Flipperachi aka Hussam Aseem. FA9LA was already a big hit in West Asia since 2024, and has now been adapted by music composer Shashwat Sachdev for Dhurandhar. This raging hit apart, the entire soundtrack of the film is, for the want of a better word, just India – and not 'Indic'. It synthesises not just Arabic rap, but mixes together some retro hits, qawwali, Punjabi rap, and strains of pop. The titles of the tracks are also using words which would otherwise be deemed not 'Indic' enough for purified 'Indic' conversations in 2025. The tracks are called Ishq Jalakar, Gehra Hua, Shararat, Hawa Hawa, and Ez-Ez. What is the whole vibe of this soundtrack? Fully transgres-



sive of borders. The need to introduce cultural markers that would be popular and make the film a hit, has ensured that the mixed, the syncretic and not just a one-culture motif colour the canvas. This tilting at a specific culture, which is otherwise shown as seriously evil, is diabolical – and it sits uneasily with the film's poison-laced narrative. Dhruandhar is to social ties what Animal was to gender ties, point out critics. The hate is not just on the screens but off-screen too. Film critics who dared point out to the elephant in the room have been hounded. Former MPs, those associated with the production, and prominent critics, have poured vitriol against critics and commentators who called out the film for its intentions and storyline. Jashn-e-Rekhta (Rekhta, meaning "mixed"), the Urdu festival organised since 2015 on an industrial scale) was the biggest open-air event in the capital between December 5 and 7. Approximately 120,000 people came and inhaled Delhi's noxious air to be a part of the live vibe. Audiences were visibly transfixed by the sounds and draw they felt towards Urdu. Jashn-e-Rekhta gets panned in some circles for not being political enough or focussing on just the foods, lyricism and 'beauty' surrounding a great Indian language,

currently in an existential crisis. But we have come to a point when howsoever unintended, even signalling surviving and thriving is a political act. Scholar and public intellectual Alok Rai – also Premchand's grandson – was in the capital speaking on Urdu's future. He spoke on how despite mounting government pressure to keep Urdu out of the room, it is unable to make it go away. Its popularity, in his view, stems from two important places; first, it having developed from an engagement with several languages and territories in India, and being spoken in India over centuries, meant the sounds and tones have been sandpapered and polished, rendered almost mellifluous to the human ear. Second, Bombay Hindi cinema music serves as the basic emotional landscape of those parts of India familiar with Hindi. That sensibility has almost intravenously fed Hindustani and Urdu into our psyche. History suggests such purification drives backfire. Could we be seeing a replay of how misplaced ideas of India's first I&B minister B.V. Keskar for a 'pure' All India Radio (AIR), banning them from playing impure Hindi film songs (in Hindustani) served as rocket-fuel for the popularity of both Hindi film music and the derided

harmonium? It eventually forced AIR to acquiesce and start a station, Vividh Bharti, that would play Hindi film music. This is a point very effectively made by Isabel Huacuja Alonso in Radio for the Millions, Hindi-Urdu Broadcasting Across Borders. At Alok Rai's public lecture on Sunday, former Culture Secretary Ashok Vajpayee recounted that in Ujjain during Mahakal this year, he was visiting after it was no longer Shahi Sawari, but Rajsi Sawari, as de-Urdufication was on. He addressed the locals in a gathering and told them he was very puzzled, "bhai, sawari bhi to Urdu hai (even sawari is an Urdu word)". A drive towards 'One-Culture', being about only 'one' imagined, Brahminical Hindutva-laden variety, is unable to really get around the multiple strands of what makes the Indian weave. Arabic rap, qawwali beats, the dots, dashes and accents that make for a happy "mixed" and mixed-up confluence remain the top notes of all that is Indian. The irony is complete. A film trafficking in hatred succeeds only by embracing the very syncretism it seeks to demonise. India's plural sounds refuse to be silenced, even when amplified through speakers meant to broadcast their erasure.

SAAKHI: WHY I DARE TO TALK OF MULTICULTURALISM

In the age that demands uniformity of thought, ideology, laws and language, let me indulge in some time travel to justify healthy hybridisation and multiculturalism. As a child growing up in a small town in north India, my sister and I were serial migrants, frequently uprooted from homes and government-run Hindi medium schools, mostly in mid term. After furnishing provisional school leaving papers we began attending classes in the new school, but realised that new schools used new textbooks. So, our books for the most part were dog-eared second hand ones, all that was available to children who landed smack in the middle of the term. On certain occasions, if we found pages or some chapters were missing, mother asked us to copy them from our class mates' texts which they lent us with some derision. But I do not recall if we were ever greatly disadvantaged by such swaps. The texts followed a pattern that was neat and easily assimilable. Despite the great upheavals that the late 50s India faced, Indians were adapting fast to democratic freedoms and the education patters were mercifully not doctored by politicians to fit an ideology. Our parents were secure in their rare educational qualifications and natural adaptability of hill folks born to migrant ancestors. The Chinese aggression in early 60s had brought a great deal of focus to the neglected hilly areas bordering enemy territory. Roads began to be built, along with bridges and schools in rural areas. Our father, a committed educationist and a Gandhian, was asked to be posted to the hills to create chains of schools in the remotest areas for children of the largely poor families. Yes, Nainital and Mussoorie and Dehradun had private boarding schools run on the British pattern but only the rich could afford their high fee. Government schools were built on large tracts of land with play-



fields and well-run hostels for girls. They were also inexpensive but it needed an act of faith for parents like ours to send their children there. I recall my schools in Almora, Mukteshwar and Nainital as merry salad bowls of cultures and languages. We had local students mostly from lower middle classes: clerks, school teachers, small shopkeepers. Some tribal girls came from the Bhot region bordering Tibet. Then there were the Terai girls mostly Jatt Sikhnis .They were from prosperous families of Punjabi refugees who were settled in Terai by the government and had rebuilt lives from scratch in the inhospitable area full of mosquitos and wild life. Nehru ji visited our school once and being chosen to hand him a bouquet of wild roses from our garden felt great. Nehru told us we were the future – whatever it was – and we believed him. The team of middle level educationists the state department of education threw up had by then really performed educational miracles. A few years later though, our two younger siblings were marched off to English medium schools. Government schools were teaching Hindi, but better jobs and bet-

ter husbands were available by then mostly to those who were taught in English medium private schools. One did feel betrayed, but realised that adults can tell lies. My mother's schooling in a multicultural Shantiniketan had given her access to many languages. Interacting with my convent-going counterparts further proved to me that after becoming financially and linguistically homogenous, families did not necessarily become happier or sire more intelligent children. Being upper-caste and upper-class mattered more than adults realised and/or let on. In school, while my siblings read mostly European history, we learnt about how many ancient Indian kings and emperors and high priests had come in from other parts. In the history and Sanskrit texts we studied in the university, we picked up instances of injustices done to those on the lower rungs of society still continuing around us. Hindi newspapers and fiction in university reading rooms reported how what were minor doctrinal differences in the early years, were a decade morphing into all encompassing arguments over caste, communal and regional identities.

DISABILITY WITHIN PRISON WALLS:

DIGNITY, RIGHTS AND STATE RESPONSIBILITY



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

In any democratic society, the prison system is not merely a symbol of crime and punishment, but also a testament to the state's sensitivity, humane vision, and constitutional commitment. The Indian Constitution recognizes the dignity of the individual as a supreme value, and this dignity does not end upon becoming a criminal or a prisoner. Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court's recent directives, which emphasize support for prisoners with disabilities in prisons, audits of facilities, and effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, expose a serious but long-neglected reality of the Indian prison system. These directives highlight the fact that persons with disabilities in prison are not only deprived of liberty but often deprived of their basic human rights. Indian prisons have historically been based on "normal" physical and mental standards, with disability viewed as an exception or an administrative inconvenience. As a result, the needs of prisoners with physical, sensory, intellectual, or psychosocial disabilities have not found adequate accommodation within prison governance structures. The lack of identification and registration of disability at admission, the lack of needs assessments, and the absence of a separate policy ren-

der these prisoners invisible. This invisibility further translates into neglect, unequal treatment, and sometimes inhumane conditions. The Supreme Court's directives are a significant intervention to change this situation. The Court clarified that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, applies equally to prisons, and that "reasonable accommodation" and "accessibility" are not mere acts of mercy or privilege, but rather legal rights. Furthermore, by mandating regular audits of disability-related facilities in prison premises, equal access to healthcare, and the provision of legal aid, the Court has laid the foundation for administrative accountability. This approach calls for viewing prisons not merely as disciplinary institutions but as rights-based reform homes. The reality is that prisoners with disabilities in Indian prisons face challenges on multiple levels. The first and most fundamental problem is accessibility. Most prison premises lack ramps, railings, accessible toilets, level floors, tactile paths, or clear signage. Stairs make even everyday activities impossible for wheelchair-using prisoners, while uneven floors and a lack of directional signs increase the risk of accidents for visually impaired prisoners. This situation is a direct violation of the constitutional principle of equal access. Additionally, medical neglect emerges as a serious problem. The lack of regular health checkups, access to specialist doctors, and timely provision of assistive devices exacerbates disability. In many cases, the lack of hearing aids, wheelchairs, canes, or other assistive devices leaves prisoners completely dependent on others. Delayed treatment not only worsens the disability but also adversely impacts mental health. Communication barriers further exacerbate this problem. The lack of sign language interpreters for hearing-impaired prisoners, the lack of

Braille or audio materials for the visually impaired, and the lack of plain language information for prisoners with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities—all result in their near-isolation from prison rules, disciplinary proceedings, legal processes, and grievance redressal mechanisms. This situation undermines the right to equal access to justice. The social status of prisoners with disabilities makes them even more vulnerable. In overcrowded prisons, they are more vulnerable to ridicule, neglect, or violence. Prisoners with psychosocial disabilities often face unjustified solitary confinement or harsh disciplinary measures, even though their condition demands specialized care and treatment. Thus, the prison environment becomes more of a source of suffering than punishment for them. From a constitutional perspective, this situation is a matter of serious concern. Article 14 guarantees the right to equality, Article 21 guarantees a life with dignity, and Article 39A makes it the state's duty to ensure equal access to justice. All of these rights are equally effective within prison walls. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, establishes "reasonable accommodation" and "accessibility" as legal rights, while the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides a clear framework for the protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities in custody. Ignoring these standards undermines both India's constitutional and international commitments. Against this backdrop, comprehensive and structural reforms are needed to make Indian prisons disability-inclusive. Adapting infrastructure to principles of universal design is essential, including ramps, accessible toilets, railings, tactile flooring, and clear signage. This improvement can be achieved through retrofitting existing prisons in a phased manner.

Congress Trying to Turn the Lie of “Vote Theft” into Truth: MP Basavaraj Bommai



Haveri: Former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament Basavaraj Bommai said that the Congress party is attempting to turn a lie into truth in the name of “vote theft,” but asserted that such efforts would not succeed. Speaking to the media in Haveri, he said that even many Congress leaders do not believe in the so-called campaign to project vote theft as truth. Several leaders are participating only for the sake of prestige. The Congress believes that by repeating a lie a thousand times, it can be made to appear as truth. But nothing will come of it. Recalling past experience, Bommai said the Congress fought elections in Bihar raising the same issue and ended up winning the fewest seats. “If they have still not learnt a lesson from that, then nothing more can be done,” he remarked.

Truth Will Emerge

Responding to a question on the filing of a charge sheet against former BJP MLA from Aland, Subhash Guttadar, Bommai said that merely

filing a charge sheet does not prove anything. “It has to be established in a court of law. Under what circumstances was the SIT formed? How did the SIT conduct the investigation? The Election Commission has already given a clear explanation,” he said. Bommai pointed out that although there was a request to delete around 6,000 votes, only 18 votes were actually deleted. “Therefore, the truth will come out in court. The role of the Election Commission and the factual position will all be revealed,” he added.

No Moral Policing

Reacting to a question on the assault on a teacher in Savanur, Bommai said he does not accept moral policing under any circumstances and that those who commit mistakes must be punished according to law. “Instead of that, parading a person on the streets and tearing his clothes is completely wrong. Such inhuman acts should not be allowed,” he said. He said parading a teacher with a garland of footwear amounted to taking the law into one’s own hands. “If he has committed an offence, he should be punished through due process. But taking him around the streets even before that is barbaric. There is no place for this in a democracy,” Bommai asserted.

He alleged that police inaction had led to such incidents. “Because of their negligence, all this has happened. Even after several rape cases, the real culprits have not been arrested. When those who violate the law are encouraged, such incidents take place. Otherwise, this could have been prevented,” he said, accusing the government of appeasement politics.

Free Medical Camp for Transgender Persons and Marginalized Women



Bangalore : Vikas India Network (VIN), a non-governmental organization based in Bangalore, in collaboration with CSI Hospital, Ashraya Bangalore Central Church and the Redemptorist Fathers (CSSR), successfully organized a Free Medical Camp for transgender persons and marginalized women in at Nava Spoorthi Kendra, Cookson Road, Bangalore.

The Medical Camp was inaugurated with the Lighting of the Lamp in the presence of representatives from the CSI Hospital and the Redemptorists. The Camp witnessed an active participation by a considerable number of people from the transgender community and marginalized women. The beneficiaries of the camp were provided with Ration Kits, Blankets and Lunch Packets as part of the programme. The Medical Camp was meticulously planned and executed by Fr. A. S. Raja, C.Ss.R, Sr. Laveena, Sr. Jyothi, with the help of Mrs Jayasree ,Dr. C. R. Femine Medical Superintendent, Mr. Louis Rao, Administrator, and the efficient medical team from the CSI Hospital, Bangalore. Vikas India Network along with its partners expressed its gratitude to the special contributors of the Medical Camp, namely, the entire Medical Team from the CSI Hospital, representatives from the Ashraya Bangalore Central Church, Refemtortist Fathers and Mr. Antony George, the proprietor of Ammas Pastries.

Hukkeri Math Jatra Mahotsava from December 25 to 30 to be a Historic Event: MP Basavaraj Bommai

Haveri: Former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament Basavaraj Bommai said that the Jatra Mahotsava of Hukkeri Math, scheduled to be held from December 25 to 30, will be a historic event, marked by large participation and significant social and spiritual initiatives. He said the seer of Hukkeri Math is leading a meaningful social purification movement aimed at reforming society, especially the youth.

Addressing a press conference organised in connection with the Hukkeri Math Jatra Mahotsava in Haveri on Sunday , he said Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and V. Somanna, along with Mysuru royal scion and Member of Parliament Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, will take part in the programme, underlining its importance at the state and national level.



The former CM said that all educational institutions and schools run under the patronage of Hukkeri Math are celebrating their golden jubilee. For the past five decades, these institutions have been imparting education to children from all communities without any caste discrimination. The golden jubilee celebrations reflect the success of the long spiritual and

social effort undertaken to create a cultured, disciplined and educated society in this region. As part of the celebrations, several programmes have been planned, including the inauguration of a students’ hostel, devotional Guru Vandané, and the Tulabhara of the revered pontiff. These programmes, he said, have been organised to provide devotees an opportunity to express their devotion with deep faith and reverence.The MP noted that the seer of Hukkeri Math possesses a dignified and spiritually accomplished personality. Over the past month, the Math has been organising continuous programmes to promote religious awareness, instil values among the youth, eliminate bad habits and negative tendencies, and guide people towards a pure and disciplined way of life.

Mass cleanliness drive – removal of a total of 1,350 tonnes of waste

Bengaluru : With the objective of keeping the city clean, the Bengaluru North City Corporation conducted a mass cleanliness drive on December 14, 2025, from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM across its jurisdiction. The mass cleanliness drive was carried out under the leadership of the Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar. The Revenue Minister, Krishna Byre Gowda, visited the site, reviewed the cleanliness drive, and issued necessary instructions.The cleanliness drive was carried out from Nagawara Junction to Hebbal Junction (Outer Ring Road) and further up to Allalasandra Bridge.

Several agencies and stakeholders participated in the drive, including BMRCCL, NHAI, B-SMILE, BWSSB, BESCOM, nearby commercial establishments and entrepreneurs, and local organizations.During the operation, tractors, JCBs, and other machinery were deployed, and poura-karmikas were engaged to remove debris, waste accumulated along both sides of the roads, discarded household items, and construction debris. Additionally, during the drive, around 40 shop structures that had illegally encroached upon the footpath in front of the Mahindra showroom were removed, restoring smooth pedestrian movement.

Canarys Automation Sets Benchmark in IT Sector by Celebrating 70th Kannada Rajyotsava with Employees



Bengaluru: While it is often believed that software companies show limited interest in celebrating Kannada Rajyotsava, Canarys Automation has emerged as a pioneer in keeping Karnataka’s cultural and linguistic heritage alive within the IT sector. The company celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with great enthusiasm at Satya Sai Sanskruth Sadanam on Koramangala, with hundreds of employees and their family members participating. The uniqueness of the celebration lay in the fact that it was conducted by the employees, for the employees, and of the employees, without involving any external performers. Canarys Automation has been celebrating Kannada Rajyotsava continuously for the last 17 years, making it one of the few IT companies to uphold this tradition consistently. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Executive Officer Sheshadri Srinivas said that the company actively encourages non-Kannada-speaking employees to learn Kannada. “Around 20 to 30 percent of our workforce comes from other states. We conduct Kannada classes for them and issue certificates upon completion, enabling them to converse confidently in Kannada without hesitation,” he said. The company also recognizes employee loyalty by awarding gold medals — one gold medal for completing five years, two for ten years, and more for longer service. This gesture, according to the management, symbolizes appreciation for dedication and long-term association with the organization.

It’s a fight to protect voting rights of 140 crore Indians: DCM DK Shivakumar

New Delhi : Dismissing any political motive behind the rally against vote theft, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that it was a fight to protect the voting rights of 140 crore Indians.

Speaking to reporters at Karnataka Bhawan in New Delhi, he said, “We started the rally at Freedom Park in Bengaluru under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge. That fight has now reached Ramila Maidan. We are sending a message of free and fair elections in the country. Rahul Gandhi has given several examples of vote theft and unfair elections. Yet, the Election Commission is not doing anything. This is a fight to create awareness among the people about misuse of Constitutional bodies.”

4000 party workers attending the rally

There are 3500 to 4000 party workers from Karnataka attending today’s rally. We have arranged for accommodation for about 1500 party workers while the rest have made their own arrangements. We have collected 1.27 crore signatures



from Karnataka in the campaign against vote theft. Everyone here has come to protect the voting rights of people,” he said.

“The BJP government is blocking vehicles from entering Delhi. I don’t know why they are worried about the rally. No one can muffle our voice,” he added.

about visiting the Congress party office, he said, “I have been asked to go to the party office from where we will leave for Ramila Maidan by bus. We have given our party workers T shirts suitable for cold weather.”

er.”

Congress will not think of win or loss

Asked about Home Minister Amit Shah’s statement that Congress is conducting this rally out of desperation, he said, “The Congress party doesn’t think of win or loss. There are a lot of people from the party who have even sacrificed their lives for independence. Sonia Gandhi sacrificed her power. Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives for the country. Jawaharalal and Gandhiji sacrificed their freedom and went for jail for the nation.”

Sri Sri Sri Nanjavadhuta Mahaswamiji Inaugurates Second ‘Smart Quick – Nio Fresh’ Super market in Yelahanka

Bengaluru : The second branch of Smart Quick – Nio Fresh, a customer-friendly smart retail store offering quality groceries, fresh fruits, vegetables and daily essentials under one roof, was inaugurated in Yelahanka, Bengaluru. The store was formally inaugurated by Sri Sri Sri Nanjavadhuta Mahaswamiji of Spatikapuri Mahasamsthan, who blessed the new venture.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Deepu Gowda, Founder of Smart Quick, along with company leaders Shivu M. Gowda, Sudeep Gowda and Udaya Shetty, and other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Sri Sri Sri Nanjavadhuta Mahaswamiji appreciated the Nio Fresh initiative, stating that the project was envisioned with the noble aim of improving the lives of farmers and workers engaged in cottage industries and bringing economic stability to them. He emphasized that providing employment opportunities to rural youth through Nio Fresh outlets and guiding them towards a self-reliant life is a socially meaningful initiative. Supplying customers with high-quality products at affordable prices, he said, is equivalent to serving society and God. Speaking on the occasion, Founder Deepu Gowda said that Smart Quick is continuously striving



to contribute towards the vision of a self-reliant India. He explained that daily essentials are sourced directly from manufacturers and producers and supplied to consumers, ensuring better quality at reasonable prices, which greatly benefits customers.

With the opening of its second outlet in Yelahanka, Nio Fresh plans to expand further across

Bengaluru city and other locations in the near future. To mark the inauguration, special offers and attractive discounts are being provided to customers visiting the store. The newly opened Nio Fresh outlet aims to redefine everyday shopping by combining quality, affordability and social responsibility, making it a preferred destination for households in the area.

Quantum Physics & Ecology to be Taught in 41 New ‘Nehru STREAM Labs’ in Kalyana Karnataka, Announces Minister N.S. Boseraju

BENGALURU : In a groundbreaking initiative to redefine school education in the state, Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science, and Technology, N.S. Boseraju, today announced the establishment of 41 ‘Nehru STREAM Labs’ across the Kalyana Karnataka region.Collaborating with the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB), the project moves beyond traditional STEM learning by introducing a unique curriculum that blends high-end futuristic science with environmental sustainability.Minister N.S. Boseraju highlighted that the definition of STREAM has been curated to address both global scientific advancements and local environmental needs.“We are setting a new benchmark for government schools. Under this initiative, STREAM will stand for Science, Technology, Robotics, Ecology, Astronomy, and Mathematics,” said Minister Boseraju. He further added, “For the first time, we are introducing basic exposure to Quantum Physics at the school level to spark curiosity about the fundamental nature of the universe. Simultaneously, we are placing a massive stress on Ecology. This will be a first-of-its-kind initiative where students get practical exposure to local flora, fauna, and their immediate environment. Our goal is to instill a deep sense of sustainability and environmental stewardship within young minds from an early age.”Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh, Chairman of KKRDB and MLA for Jevargi, stated that the project is designed to catch them young. “To build a future-ready generation, we must introduce them to these concepts early.

New Tax Policy Implemented for Public Benefit; Focus on Technology and Transparency: Supreme Court Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

- ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF TAX PRACTITIONERS (AIFTP) NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD — CA S. VENKATARAMANI TAKES CHARGE AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Bengaluru : Supreme Court Justice Ujjal Bhuyan stated that the introduction of the new tax laws, which incorporate technology-based schemes to ensure transparency and efficiency, will prove highly beneficial to the common man.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 28th National Convention organized jointly by the All India Federation of Tax Practitioners (AIFTP), the Karnataka State Chartered Accountants Association (KSCAA), and the Bengaluru Branch of SIRC of ICAI at the Palace Grounds today.

Justice Bhuyan highlighted the historic transition in the tax regime, noting that the Income Tax Act of 1961 has been repealed after six decades to be replaced by the Income Tax Act, 2025. “This new Act will come into effect from next

April. Significant emphasis is being placed on simplifying compliance and driving digital transformation,” he said.

Focus on Reducing Bias and Simplifying Forms “Priority is being given to reducing human bias in the system. Technology-driven initiatives are being introduced to foster transparency and efficiency,” Justice Bhuyan explained.

He further detailed that comprehensive definitions have been provided for Virtual Digital Assets and the digital space under the new framework. Additionally, ITR forms and quarterly TDS forms have been redesigned to be simpler and more easily understandable for the general public.

He also commended tax practitioners and auditors for their dual role in facilitating tax payments and aiding in the detection of tax evasion.



Speaking on the occasion, High Court Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru remarked that transparent and strict tax collection is essential for further

improving the country’s economic condition. “The responsibility of strengthening our nation’s economy for the 2047 vision lies with everyone. The

spirit of ‘this is our country’ must be embraced by all,” he asserted.New President Takes Charge During the event, CA S. Venkataramani assumed

office as the National President of the All India Federation of Tax Practitioners.

Addressing the gathering, CA Venkataramani said, “I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me by electing me as President, and I promise to uphold it. Having held various positions in this field, I look forward to fostering knowledge sharing and cooperation.” Dignitaries Present The event was attended by AIFTP Immediate Past President Samir S Jani, KSCAA President C.A Shivaprakash Viraktamath, Bengaluru Branch Chairman CA Manjunath, Convention Chairman CA F.R. Sanghvi, and Organizing Committee members, G.S. Prashanth, Raghavendra Puranik, Ravindra Kore among others.

All eligible women will be included under KMUT, assures CM Stalin

CHENNAI: All eligible women, who may have been left out of the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) scheme, would be included as beneficiaries, Chief Minister MK Stalin assured on Sunday.

“I wish to place on record my confidence and commitment that KMUT will certainly be extended to every deserving beneficiary,” he said while addressing a gathering at the wedding ceremony at Pappireddipatti in Dharmapuri district.

Speaking at the event, Stalin said the flagship women-centric scheme of the Dravidian model government had already emerged as a cornerstone of social security. Under the scheme, Rs 1,000 is being transferred every month to women heads of families, offering economic stability and dignity. With the recent inclusion of an additional 17 lakh women, the total number of beneficiaries has now risen to more than 1.30 crore across Tamil Nadu, he said. The government viewed the KMUT scheme not merely as a welfare



initiative, but as a structural intervention to strengthen women's role within households and society, Stalin said, reiterating that the scheme's reach would continue to expand and that no eligible woman should feel excluded. Highlighting the State's broad-

er governance record, the Chief Minister noted that Tamil Nadu had recently emerged as the number one State in GDP growth, as per the recent assessment by the Reserve Bank of India. Despite economic disruptions and multiple challenges, the Dravidian

model government had delivered consistent results through inclusive policies, he said.

The DMK president also stressed the importance of election preparedness and organisational discipline to ensure that the party returned to power in the 2026 Assembly polls.

Continued development of the State and ensuring social justice in the society depended on the party's government securing another decisive mandate, Stalin said, and cautioned functionaries against complacency. The cadre should remain fully energised until polling day, he said. The party cadres were actively engaged in voter-related exercises and groundwork, he noted, but cautioned that the task was only half-way complete. “Our achievements must reach every household and be converted into votes,” he said, calling for sustained door-to-door outreach.

Ministers MRK Panneerselvam, MP Saminathan, R Sakkarapani, Ma Subramanian, R Rajendran and others also attended the event.

NITTTR Chennai Celebrates 62nd Institution Day



Chennai, Dec 14 (TSIT): The National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai, an Institute deemed to be a University under the distinct category of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, celebrated its 62nd Institution Day on Sunday.

at the Thiruvalluvar Auditorium, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Academic Complex. Director, IIT Dharwad, Karnataka Prof. Dr. Venkappayya R Desai, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Director of NITTTR Chennai Prof. Dr. Usha Natesan presided over the function.

Address and Programme Overview.

In her Presidential Address, Director of NITTTR Prof. Dr. Usha Natesan highlighted the remarkable achievements of NITTTR Chennai. She highlighted the institute's global outreach, innovative training programmes, and academic initiatives, including digital pedagogy, AR–VR-based learning, and national and international workshops.

She referred to our conferences conducted in regional languages, reinforcing inclusive and accessible education. She also mentioned how the institutions had encouraged the participation of faculty in various programs, and conferences across several countries. She praised the achievements of both the faculty and students at various programs.

The Chief Guest, Director, IIT Dharwad, Karnataka Prof. Dr. Venkappayya R. Desai, delivering the address, reflected on India's rich cultural and architectural heritage, cit-

ing examples such as the Brihadeeswara temple of Thanjavur, Grand Anicut (Kallanai Dam) and Ellora caves of Maharashtra, a monolithic rock-cut marvel sculpted over generations. Drawing parallels between heritage and education, he underscored the importance of vision, perseverance, and long-term institutional building in higher education. He also appreciated the pivotal role played by NITTTR Chennai in strengthening technical education across the country.

The institute felicitated staff members who have completed 25 years of dedicated service at NITTTR Chennai, recognizing their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions.

Dr. G. Kulanthaivel, Prof & Head, DECE expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and contributors for making the event a grand success. The celebration concluded with felicitations by former Chairman, Directors, faculty and staff members, followed by cultural performances reflecting the richness and diversity of Indian performing arts. The programme culminated in a press meet, the rendering of the National Anthem, and a formal lunch gathering. The event stood as a testament to the institution's legacy, unity, and commitment to excellence.

SRMIST holds workshop on hydrogen-based mobility

CHENNAI: With the increasing focussing on hydrogen-based solutions to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, India needs strong R&D capabilities and skilled engineers, said Dr Anand Lakshmanan, Senior Project Advisor, Centre of Excellence for Advanced Automotive Research (CAAR).

He was addressing the gathering at the two-day national workshop on H-Baja (Hydrogen BAJA) conducted by the Department of Automobile Engineering, Faculty of Engineering



and Technology, SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, in association with BAJA SAEINDIA. He noted the major transformation that the automotive industry has undergone over the past two decades, with a strong shift toward electric and alternative fuel technologies.

Preparatory works for Vijay's Erode meeting going on: Sengottaiyan

ERODE: Preparatory works for TVK chief Vijay's public meeting near here on December 18 are going on, the party's Chief Coordinator K A Sengottaiyan said on Sunday. The meeting is scheduled to be held between 11 am and 1 pm at Vijayamangalam in the district, he added.

He, along with the party functionaries, inspected the proposed meeting spot, a 16-acre site belonging to a private temple controlled by HR&CE, near the Vijayamangalam tollgate. Till Sunday afternoon, HR&CE has not given NOC to the party to hold a meeting there.



Speaking to reporters, Sengottaiyan said that he was hopeful of getting permission for the site, as all the 84 conditions of the police have been fulfilled. Further speaking to the reporters, Sengottaiyan said, “People's support is there for our leader. There is no one to compete with

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhgam. With the tremendous people's support, Vijay will become the chief minister in the next year's elections.” Asked about the preparations for the meeting, he said, “The preparations have commenced today. You all come and see it for yourself.”

On whether the party candidates for the forthcoming Assembly polls would be announced, he said, “Our party chief would formally say that.” When asked about the speculations that expelled AIADMK leader V K Sasikala is likely to join the NDA alliance, he said.

Common Household Cleaning Product Found To Release Trillions of Microplastic Fibers



Melamine sponges release trillions of microplastic fibers monthly, posing environmental risks. Making denser sponges and using alternative cleaning methods are recommended solutions.

If you've ever owned white shoes or attempted to scrub crayon marks off a wall, you're probably thankful for melamine sponges. These sponges, known for their ability to effortlessly remove stubborn stains and scuffs without the need for extra cleaning agents, rely on their distinctive abrasive properties. However, these “magic” sponges shed microplastic fibers when worn down. According to a study published in the American Chemical Society's Environmental Science & Technology, it's estimated that melamine sponges contribute to the release of over a trillion microplastic fibers globally each month.

Melamine foam is made of poly(melamine-formaldehyde) polymer — a network of hard, plastic strands assembled into a soft,

lightweight foam that's surprisingly abrasive, making it the perfect material for very scrubby sponges. But, as the sponges wear away from use, the foam breaks down into smaller pieces that can release microplastic fibers that wash into sewer systems. Once released into the environment, the fibers can be consumed by wildlife and make their way into the food chain. Yu Su, Baoshan Xing, Rong Ji, and colleagues wanted to see how a melamine sponge's density and the roughness of the surface it scrubs affect how quickly the foam breaks down, as well as calculate how many microplastic fibers the sponge sheds. The team purchased several sponges from three popular brands, and then repeatedly rubbed them against textured metal surfaces, causing the foam to wear down. They found that sponges made from denser foam wore down more slowly and produced fewer microplastic fibers than less dense sponges. Next, the team determined that a single

sponge releases approximately 6.5 million fibers per gram of worn-out sponge and assumed that all sponges sold, on average, are worn down by 10%. To get a rough idea of how many fibers could be released per month, they looked at Amazon's monthly sales for August 2023. Assuming these numbers stay consistent, the team calculated that 1.55 trillion fibers from melamine sponges could be released every month. However, this number only takes into account one online retailer, so the actual amount could be even higher. mize the emission of microplastic fibers, the researchers recommend that manufacturers create denser, tougher sponges that are more resistant to wear. Additionally, they suggest that consumers opt for natural cleaning products that do not use plastics. They also recommend installing filtration systems to capture sloughed-off microplastic fibers either in the home or in wastewater treatment plants.

Decarbonizing the Industry: New Way To Recycle Steel Developed

Engineering professor Gisele Azimi and her research team at the University of Toronto have developed a novel electrochemical method to extract contaminants like copper from steel scrap. Researchers at the University of Toronto's engineering department have developed a novel steel recycling technique that could help decarbonize various manufacturing sectors and promote a circular steel economy. The approach is detailed in a recent study published in the scientific journal Resources, Conservation & Recycling, and was co-authored by Jaesuk (Jay) Paeng, William Judge, and Professor Gisele Azimi. It introduces an innovative oxysulfide electrolyte for electrorefining, an alternative way of removing copper and carbon impurities from molten steel. The process also generates liquid iron and sulfur as by-products. “Our study is the first reported instance of electrochemically removing copper from steel and reducing impurities to below alloy level,” says Azimi, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Urban Mining Innovations.

Currently, only 25% of steel produced comes from recycled material. But the global demand for a greener steel is projected to grow over the next two decades as governments around the world endeavor to achieve net-zero emission goals. Steel is created by reacting iron ore with coke — a prepared form of coal — as the source of carbon and blowing oxygen through the metal produced. Current standard processes generate nearly two tonnes of carbon dioxide per tonne of steel produced, making steel production one of the highest contributors to carbon emissions in the manufacturing sector. Traditional steel recycling methods use an electric arc furnace to melt down scrap metal. Since it is difficult to physically separate copper material from scrap before melting, the element is also present in the recycled steel products. “The main problem with secondary steel production is that the scrap being recycled may be contaminated with other elements, including copper,” says Azimi. “The concentration of copper adds up as you add more scrap metals to



be recycled, and when it goes above 0.1 weight percentage (wt%) in the final steel product, it will be detrimental to the properties of steel.” Copper cannot be removed from molten steel scrap using the traditional electric arc furnace steelmaking practice, so this limits the secondary steel market to producing lower-quality steel product, such as reinforcing bars used in the construction industry.

“Our method can expand the secondary steel market into different industries,” says Paeng. “It has the potential to be used to create higher-grade products such as galvanized cold rolled coil used in the automotive sector, or steel sheets for deep drawing, used in the transport sector.” To remove copper from iron to below 0.1 wt%, the team had to first design an electrochemical cell that could withstand temperatures up to 1600 degrees Celsius. Inside the cell, electricity flows between the negative electrode (cathode) and the positive electrode (anode) through a novel oxysulfide electrolyte designed from slag — a waste derived from steelmaking that often ends up in cement or landfills. “We put our contaminated iron that has the cop-

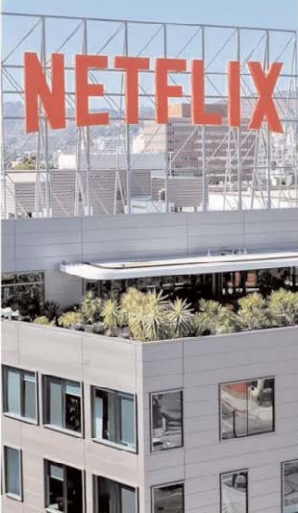
per impurity as the anode of the electrochemical cell,” says Azimi. “We then apply an electromotive force, which is the voltage, with a power supply and we force the copper to react with the electrolyte.” “The electrolyte targets the removal of copper from the iron when we apply electricity to the cell,” adds Paeng. “When we apply electricity on the one side of the cell, we force the copper to react with the electrolyte and come out from iron. At the other end of the cell, we simultaneously produce new iron.” Azimi's lab collaborated with Tenova Goodfellow Inc., a global supplier of advanced technologies, products, and services for metal and mining industries. Looking forward, the team wants to enable the electro-refining process to remove other contaminants from steel, including tin. “Iron and steel are the most widely used metals in the industry, and I think the production rate is as high as 1.9 billion tonnes per year,” says Azimi. “Our method has great potential to offer the steelmaking industry a practical and easily implementable way to recycle steel to produce more of the demand for high-grade steel globally.”

'A nightmare' - The battle over Warner Bros is turning Hollywood upside down

Disaster, catastrophe and nightmare. That's how Hollywood's creative workers describe the fall of the once mighty Warner Bros, as Netflix and Paramount battle to buy the historic studio and tinsel town braces for more upheaval and job losses. Warner's decline and impending sale – whether it's to Paramount Skydance as a whole, or to Netflix cut up in parts – is being mourned in Hollywood, where a historic production slump has already battered the entertainment industry. The loss of the studio, which has created iconic films ranging from Casablanca and Goodfellas to Batman and Harry Potter, likely means more job cuts and definitely means one less buyer of film and TV projects. Interviews with dozens of actors, producers and camera crews by the BBC reveal an industry attempting to weigh the lesser of two evils: control by a tech giant blamed for killing movie theatres (Netflix) or billionaires seen as too cosy with President Trump (Paramount). "David Ellison is a right-wing billionaire Trumper," a camera assistant said of the Paramount



Skydance CEO who is the son of billionaire Oracle co-founder and close Trump ally Larry Ellison. "Netflix is much more historically inclined to not micromanage production. If Netflix gets the deal they want, they will buy Warner Bros' crown jewels – the 102-year-old studio, HBO, and its vast archive of films and TV shows – leaving Warner's legacy TV networks, like CNN, TNT Sports and Discovery, for another buyer. Meanwhile, Paramount Skydance's \$108bn (£81bn) hostile takeover bid for Warner Bros includes backing from



Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Qatar and a fund started by Jared Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law. It has raised concerns about the possibility of censorship and government overreach. President Trump added fuel to the fire when he said "it's imperative that CNN be sold". The Warner Bros deal is the latest in a long line of major shake-ups in Hollywood since the pandemic. Film and TV productions ground to a halt in 2023 during simultaneous actor and writer strikes. Seemingly everyone in Hollywood was working in 2022 as studios and stream-



ing services went into creative overdrive after Covid shutdowns. But when the labour strikes ended, the production boom never returned. The fallout has meant that many media companies have had to close doors - or merge. David Ellison's Skydance Media bought Paramount, another legendary Hollywood studio, earlier this summer, leading to thousands of job losses. When Warner Bros put up a for-sale sign, Paramount launched an eager campaign to buy the company. But the studio ultimately announced a deal with Netflix. A spurned Paramount then

went direct to Warner Bros Discovery shareholders with a hostile takeover offer that they say is "superior" to the Netflix deal. Whether they're rooting for Paramount or Netflix or another potential buyer, the one thing people in Hollywood seem to agree on is this story's villain - Warner Bros Discovery CEO David Zaslav, who earned \$51.9m last year as Warner Bros lost more than \$11bn and the company's stock fell nearly 7%. "I watched Warner Bros struggle since David Zaslav became the CEO and ran it into the ground," says an actor who lost his home after his work dried up. He did not want to be identified because he still hopes to work for Netflix and Paramount. More than one person compared Mr Zaslav to the fictional movie character Gordon Gekko who proclaims "greed is good" in the 1987 movie Wall Street. Mr Zaslav took over in 2022 during another massive merger of Discovery, Inc., which he ran, with AT&T's WarnerMedia, creating Warner Bros Discovery. The consolidation saw several thousand jobs cut - and lavish pay packages for Mr Zaslav.

Venezuela says Trump wants its oil. But is that the case?



Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro says escalating pressure from the US comes down to one thing: Washington wants to grab the South American nation's vast oil reserves. This week the American military seized an oil tanker, which was allegedly carrying Venezuelan oil being shipped in violation of US sanctions, and threatened action against other ships. The move followed a series of military strikes on Venezuelan boats, which the US alleges are drug-trafficking vessels. President Donald Trump has called on Maduro to leave office, accusing him of sending narcotics and murderers to the US. So is it Venezuela's oil that Trump really wants? And would it

actually be worth it? How much oil does Venezuela have? It is true that with an estimated 303 billion barrels, Venezuela is home to the world's largest proven oil reserves. But the amount of oil the country actually produces today is tiny by comparison. Output has dropped off sharply since the early 2000s, as former President Hugo Chavez and then the Maduro administration tightened control over the state-run oil company, PDVSA, leading to an exodus of more experienced staff. Though some Western oil firms, including the US company Chevron, are still active in the country, their operations have shrunk significantly as the US has widened sanctions and tar-

geted oil exports, aiming to curb Maduro's access to a key economic lifeline. Sanctions - which the US first put in place in 2015 during President Barack Obama's administration over alleged human rights violations - have also left the country largely cut off from the investment and the parts it needs. "The real challenge they've got is their infrastructure," says Callum Macpherson, head of commodities at Investec. In November, Venezuela produced an estimated 860,000 barrels per day, according to the latest oil market report from the International Energy Agency. That is barely a third of what it was 10 years ago and accounts for less than 1% of world oil consumption.

US TikTok investors in limbo as deal set to be delayed again

A billionaire investor keen on buying TikTok's US operations has told the BBC he has been left in limbo as the latest deadline for the app's sale looms. The US has repeatedly delayed the date by which the platform's Chinese owner, ByteDance, must sell or be blocked for American users. US President Donald Trump appears poised to extend the deadline for a fifth time on Tuesday. "We're just standing by and waiting to see what happens," investor Frank McCourt told BBC News. "But if the moment arrives, we're prepared to move forward... we've raised the capital to buy it - we'll see." The popular short-form video app was due to be banned or sold in the US in January in accordance with a law passed by Congress in 2024. Lawmakers said at the time ByteDance's links to the Chinese government threatened national security, and expressed fears Beijing could force the company to hand over data



on US users. It's a concern TikTok and its owners have always said is unfounded. The law was signed by President Joe Biden while he was still in office and was upheld by the Supreme Court in early 2025. Deal done? Trump and members of his administration have previously claimed a TikTok deal was done, and had the blessing of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The president has also said "sophisticated" US investors would acquire the app, including two of his allies: Oracle chairman Larry Ellison and Dell Technologies' Michael Dell. Members of

the Trump administration had indicated the deal would be formalised in a meeting between Trump and Xi in October - however it concluded without an agreement being reached. Neither TikTok's Chinese owner ByteDance nor Beijing have since announced approval of a sale, despite Trump's claims. This time there are no such claims a deal is imminent, leading most analysts to conclude another extension is inevitable. Without naming Trump's hand-selected investors, Mr McCourt told the BBC he was concerned "about a concentration of

Highlights
■ A billionaire investor keen on buying TikTok's US operations has told the BBC he has been left in limbo as the latest deadline for the app's sale looms.

power and influence because platforms like TikTok are very influencing". He is part of a group of investors including Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian and Canadian investor Kevin O'Leary. "My hope would be that whatever happens, that it is shut down or sold, and lands in the hands of people that comply with the law," he said. He said he wants to operate TikTok without any of its Chinese technology, including its powerful recommendation algorithm, and that his Project Liberty has developed other technology that could be used instead.

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Hyderabad, December 2025: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings for the State of Andhra Pradesh under Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area (LSA), covering extensive city routes of Eluru City in the month of November 2025. The drive tests conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office, Hyderabad, were designed to capture real-world mobile network performance across diverse usage environments - Urban Zones, Institutional Hotspots, rural residential areas etc. Between 11th November 2025 to 13th November 2025, TRAI teams conducted detailed tests for 348.6 Kms Eluru City drive test, and 8 Hotspot locations. Technologies evaluated included 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G, reflecting the service experience of users across multiple handset capabilities. The findings of the IDT



have been intimated to all the TSPs concerned. Key Parameters Assessed: a) Voice Services: Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), Drop Call Rate (DCR), Call Setup Time, Call Silence Rate, Speech Quality (MOS), Coverage. b) Data Services:

Download / Upload Throughput, Latency, Jitter, Packet Drop Rate, and Video Streaming Delay. The overall mobile network performance in Eluru city and surrounding areas is summarized below: Call Setup Success Rate-

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Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have 100.00%, 92.84%, 100.00% and 96.90% call setup success rate respectively in auto-selection mode (5G/4G/3G/2G) Drop Call Rate - Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL drop call rate is 0.00%, 1.80%, 0.24% and 0.00% respectively in auto-selection mode CSSR: Call Setup Success Rate (in %), CST: Call Setup Time (in seconds), DCR: Drop Call Rate (in %) & MOS: Mean Opinion Score.

Mahindra to Commence Pre-Bookings for Its Premium SUV – XUV 7XO, Starting 12:00 PM, 15th December 2025



Mumbai, December 2025: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, today announced the opening of pre-bookings for its hi-tech, trendsetter, premium SUV – XUV 7XO. Customers can pre-book starting at 12:00 PM on

15th December 2025, with a booking amount of INR 21000, to secure an early booking sequence for the highly awaited SUV. Customers will have the flexibility to select their preferred dealership, fuel type, and transmission at the time of pre-

booking. The XUV 7XO will be offered with two fuel options – petrol and diesel – available with both manual and automatic transmissions. The pre-booking option will be available across all Mahindra dealerships and the company's online channels.

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES 'INCREDIBLY WORRIED' ABOUT OPENAI-DISNEY DEAL

A union representing workers in the creative industries says there is "real concern" among its members about a \$1bn (£740m) deal which will see Disney characters brought to ChatGPT and video-generation tool Sora. It is the first major studio to license parts of its catalogue to OpenAI, which makes the tools. Fans will be able to generate and share pictures and videos of more than 200 characters from Disney's franchises, including Pixar, Marvel and Star Wars. "Everyone in the entertainment industry, especially all the creative talent, are incredibly worried about what the implications are," said Sag-Afra executive director Duncan Crabtree-Ireland. He said the two companies had contacted the union - which represents 170,000 media professionals worldwide - to say the agreement specifically rules out the use of the image, likeness or voice of human performers. But he said it was still a worrying development. "There's real concern because nobody wants to see human



creativity given away to AI models," he told BBC News. "An important moment for our industry" The move comes as OpenAI faces mounting questions about how its rapidly advancing tech is used - and as anxiety in Hollywood increases over the impact of AI on the creative industries. According to a blog post announcing the news, the list of eligible characters include those from Disney films Zootopia, Moana and Encanto - as well as characters like Star Wars' Luke

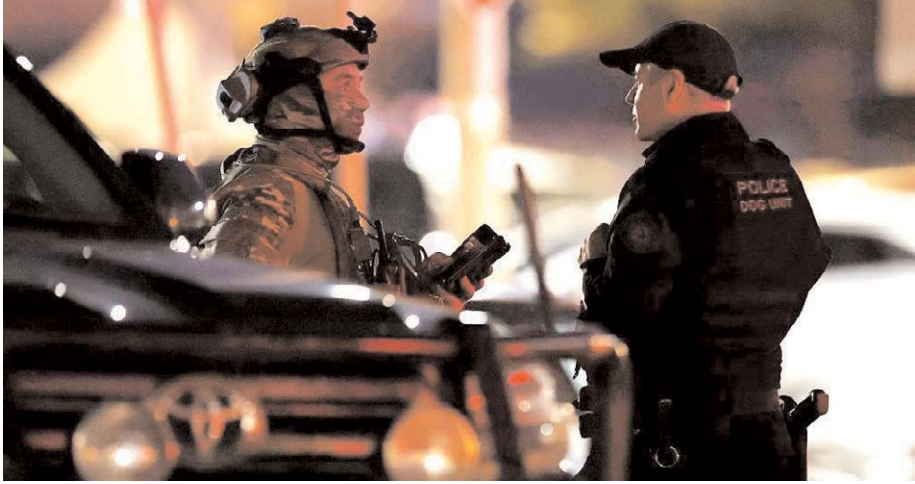
Skywalker and Marvel's Deadpool. It, of course, also includes Mickey and Minnie Mouse. But quite how the characters will sound remains unclear, as Disney said the agreement "does not include any talent likenesses or voices". "The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence marks an important moment for our industry," Disney boss Bob Iger said. "Through this collaboration with OpenAI we will thoughtfully and responsibly extend the reach of our

storytelling." People are expected to be able to begin making the videos and images in Sora and ChatGPT in early 2026. The deal comes amid reports Disney lawyers sent Google a cease-and-desist letter on Wednesday accusing the tech firm of infringing its copyrights "on a massive scale". The BBC has asked Google for a response. Joel Smith, intellectual property partner at law firm Simmons & Simmons, said Disney's OpenAI deal

showed "rights owners and major AI developers are moving fast to strike collaborative licensing deals to access content for training and future use". Equity, the entertainment trade union, says actors' rights need to be protected. The group is currently balloting thousands of performers asking if they are willing to refuse being digitally scanned on set to push for stronger AI safeguards. Cathy Sweet, Equity's head of TV and Film, said the deal between Disney and OpenAI reinforced "exactly why our members are fighting for AI protections". "The recorded material that will be sold on as part of this eye-watering big money deal are the result of creatives' professional work, and their rights must be protected," she said. Content concerns Sora's hyper-realistic videos have proven to be popular in the US, but there have been significant criticisms from those claiming it has also led to some people creating offensive deepfakes of dead public figures.

Eleven killed in shooting targeting Jewish community at Australia's Bondi Beach, police say

With British Jews killed and injured in the Heaton Park Synagogue attack in Manchester on Yom Kippur in October, the UK's Jewish Leadership Council - which represents the largest Jewish communal organisations - has called on the police and government to protect Jewish events here celebrating Hanukkah. The Jewish festival starts this evening and lasts for eight days. "Chanukah is a joyous festival, when Jewish communities gather at public locations around the world to share the light. We are devastated and angered that in Sydney, Jews appear to have been targeted once again for being Jewish," it says. "We know that such hatred also exists in this country, as we are still reeling from the attack on a synagogue in Manchester on Yom Kippur. "As we prepare to celebrate Chanukah over the next eight nights, we call on government and law enforcement to work with our community to protect



Jewish life in the UK and ensure that events this week can go ahead safely. We must not let hatred extinguish the festival of light." There's a lot police can't - or won't - say yet. One question they did answer: this was very clearly a terrorist attack, they said. Who the gunmen are - how many of them even - and their motive is still unclear. Officials wouldn't answer any questions about those who

died either, out of respect for families who are still being notified. "It's too early to give that information," was the most frequent refrain. But Commissioner Mal Lanyon sought to assure the public, especially the Jewish community, they're throwing everything at this investigation. Today's incident has taken place in the quiet residential area of North Bondi, known to be the more family-friendly

section of the world famous beach. Many families with young children live here as well as young couples. The Jewish festival was being held on a green right next to a large playground and just across the road is a primary school. It is also right by the main stretch of restaurants and gelato shops, and wading pools for kids. Just hours ago the streets in the area were filled with thousands of people,

young and old, enjoying the sunny weather. Now they are empty, save for the numerous police vehicles, as the neighbourhood reels from the shocking attack. The BBC's Katy Watson has been speaking to eyewitnesses from the scene in Bondi. Nico is from the US but has lived in Bondi for the past six months. He was walking to meet friends and go surfing when he heard "a bunch of pops" and people started sprinting in all directions. He thought it might be firecrackers initially. Nico didn't see the gunman but says the shots "felt really close". His reaction was: "Just run." While police arrived "pretty quick", it felt like the shots were going off for an "eternity", he says. British man Fin Green also thought he heard fireworks going off. He was in his apartment at the time and went to the window to look out. He says he saw a man on top of a white car "letting shots off". He also says he saw people being shot

down. Others started "running and screaming", heading towards his apartment block. Green says he shut his blinds and hid in his wardrobe, trying to stay as secure as he could. If you're just joining us, here are the key things you need to know about today's shooting at Bondi Beach: Eleven people have died - as well as one of two gunmen - in what police have declared a terrorist incident at Bondi Beach targeting the Jewish community. The second gunman is in custody. A child is believed to be among 29 others taken to hospital in serious conditions, as are two police officers. Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were found in a car linked to one of the gunmen - they are being removed from the scene. Eyewitnesses described seeing "bodies lying on the floor" - while BBC Verify has verified footage showing at least seven bodies on the ground at a Hanukkah event at Bondi Beach Park. Footage showed a man.

FIVE ARRESTED OVER PLOT TO ATTACK GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET



Five men have been arrested in Germany suspected of being involved in a plot to drive a vehicle into people at a Christmas market. Three Moroccans, an Egyptian and a Syrian were detained on Friday over the plan to target a market in the southern Bavarian state. Authorities said they suspected an "Islamist motive". Prosecutors said the Egyptian - a 56-year-old - was alleged to have "called for a vehicle attack... with the aim of killing or injuring as many people as possible". The Moroccans

allegedly agreed to carry out the attack. Officials in Germany have been on high alert after previous attacks at Christmas markets, including in Magdeburg last December that killed six people. Authorities did not say when the planned attack was supposed to take place or which market was the target, though said they believed it to be one in the Dingolfing-Landau area, north east of Munich. German newspaper Bild reported the Egyptian man was an imam at a mosque in the area."

Bondi attack on Jewish community 'sickening' says Starmer



The attack targeting the Jewish community at a Hanukkah event in Australia is "sickening", Sir Keir Starmer has said. At least 11 people were killed in the shooting at Bondi Beach on Sunday and a further 29 taken to hospital, according to police. In a statement on X, the UK prime minister said: "The United Kingdom will always stand with Australia and the Jewish community." He added that the government was working with Community Security Trust (CST), a Jewish security organisation, on the policing of Hanukkah events in the UK. The Metropolitan Police said it was increasing its "police presence, carrying out additional community patrols and engaging with the Jewish community to understand what more we can do". "It is an awful reality that Jewish communities across the world continue to face a higher level of threat," the force said in a statement. "At a time when London's Jewish

communities are coming together to begin the celebration of Hanukkah, we know this attack will be the cause of not just terrible upset but also significant heightened concern about safety." In October, two people were killed in an attack at a synagogue in Manchester on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish religious calendar. On Sunday, the UK's Jewish Leadership Council (JLC) called on the police and government to protect events celebrating Hanukkah which begins this evening and lasts for eight days. Hanukkah, also known as Chanukah, is a festival of light usually observed in December. "We are devastated and angered that in Sydney, Jews appear to have been targeted once again for being Jewish," the JLC said in a statement. "We know that such hatred also exists in this country, as we are still reeling from the attack on a synagogue in Manchester on Yom Kippur.

Indian man prays for Union min Kiren Rijiju in Makkah



An Indian man who was on an Umrah visit to Makkah, Saudi Arabia prayed for the well being of Union minister Kiren Rijiju. In a video shared on social media, the man

is heard praying in front of the Kaaba, "Allah has given me an opportunity to perform Umrah, and it is impossible that I come to Makkah and not pray for Mr Rijiju," the man is heard saying. The pilgrim prayed for the well being of the Union Parliamentary affairs minister and for the peace and prosperity of India. "I pray that you continue to serve the people and that all your efforts are fruitful," the pilgrim said in his supplication. Responding to the video, Rijiju said, "May Allah keep you safe. Thank you very, very much for this most heart-touching prayer for me in Mecca Mukarramah"

'PERSON OF INTEREST' DETAINED OVER BROWN UNIVERSITY SHOOTING, POLICE SAY

A person of interest has been detained in connection with a US shooting at Brown University that left two people dead, police said. Nine others were injured when a gunman opened fire at the university in Providence, Rhode Island, on Saturday. Police confirmed on Sunday a person had been detained, and an earlier order for people on the Brown campus and surrounding areas to shelter had been lifted. Providence Mayor Brett Smiley said seven people remained in stable condition, one of them was in critical but stable condition, and another was discharged. The gunman opened fire in a classroom at around 16:00 local time (21:00 GMT) on Saturday at the Holley engineering building at the eastern end



of Brown's campus, according to officials. The identities of those killed or injured have not yet been released, but Brown University President Christina Paxson told reporters in a press briefing on Saturday that all the victims, including those killed and wounded, were students. In a statement released by the university on Sunday, Paxson said that some areas of campus were

but we will do all we can," she said. Police had earlier released CCTV footage of a male suspect walking away from the scene wearing all black clothing. Officers said a firearm was not found in a sweep of the building. After the person was detained on Sunday, police chief Oscar Perez confirmed officers were not looking for anyone else and were working with prosecutors to collect evidence. Smiley said the city should be able to "breathe a little easier" after the shelter order was lifted. "We have trained for this moment, but this is not something that any community should have to train for," he added. Hundreds of police officers and federal agents were sent to Providence on Saturday to find the suspect.

'Never give up': Belarusian prisoners celebrate release after US lifts sanctions

Rumours of a major prisoner release from Belarus had been swirling for a couple of days. But no one would reveal the names on the list, or the exact number, until everyone was safely out, finally free. In total, 123 political prisoners have been released, including some of the best-known names among Belarusian opposition politicians, human rights activists and journalists. Maria Kolesnikova, the protest leader with a famous red-lipsticked smile, was on the release list. A video of her jumping for joy and hugging other former prisoners, overjoyed to be reunited, was soon flying around



social media. Then came another, on a bus out of Belarus, where she thanked everyone who'd helped bring this moment about. "It's a feeling of incredible happiness to see those who are dear to me, to hug them and realise we are all free," Masha, as she's best known, told the camera, her lips

already painted red again. The first sunset of her freedom was a thing of great beauty, she said. "But I also think of those who are not yet free and I await the moment when we can all embrace, when all are free." Out too is Viktor Babaryka, a banker who tried to run for president in

2020 but was locked up before the elections even began. The Nobel Peace prize winner Ales Bialiatski has also been released from a 10-year sentence. All were imprisoned for their opposition to the authoritarian rule of Alexander Lukashenko, whose security forces crushed the mass protests of 2020 with brutal force. They were the biggest challenge to his rule that he has ever faced. The prisoners' release now is the result of long and complex negotiations led by the US that culminated in a two-day visit to Minsk this week by Donald Trump's new special envoy, John Coale.

Saudi Arabia prepares to launch air taxis in major cities



In a major step towards next-gen urban mobility, Saudi Arabia is preparing to launch air taxis in its major cities. The Kingdom is partnering with US based firm Archer Aviation for this initiative. Archer Aviation is a prominent company that manufactures vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft. Saudi Arabia and Archer Aviation signed an agreement regarding air taxis during CoMotion global summit in Riyadh, where Saudi officials outlined how advanced air mobility will reshape travel in the Kingdom's major cities. The agreement is part of Saudi Arabia's plan to develop advanced air mobility (AAM) systems, aligned with the Kingdom's aviation strategy and roadmap for next-generation transportation. The goal is to turn Saudi cities into hubs for future air travel and sustainable mobility. According to a report by Saudi Gazette, as per the agreement Saudi Arabia

and Archer will work together to upgrade and expand the regulatory framework for VTOL aircraft. This includes aligning safety and certification standards with the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and supporting a phased rollout of air taxi services. The agreement will allow a series of test flights in Saudi Arabia, proof-of-concept demonstrations, assessments to prepare infrastructure, and public awareness efforts. In a statement, General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) Executive Vice President Suleiman Al-Muheimeed said, "partnering with global innovators like Archer strengthens the regulatory and operational foundations needed to integrate VTOL aircraft into the national aviation network." He added that the initiative supports the AAM roadmap and reinforces Saudi Arabia's ambition to become a leader in advanced air mobility.

Israel strikes Gaza again Leaving multiple dead

Israel said it killed a senior Hamas commander on Saturday in a strike on a vehicle inside Gaza. In a joint statement, the Israeli military and security agency Shin Bet announced it had "eliminated" Raed Saad, the head of weapons production for Hamas's military wing, the Qassam Brigades, in Gaza city. Saad had been regarded as one of the most prominent Qassam commanders and led several brigades during Hamas's 7 October attacks on Israeli communities east of Gaza City. The Hamas-run Civil Defence spokesman, Mahmoud Basal, told the BBC that four people were killed in the strike. He said multiple passers-by were also injured by the blast. A local Hamas official in Gaza told the BBC that the strike

also killed Saad's aide and another lower-ranking official identified as Abu Imad al-Laban. The BBC is prevented by Israel from reporting independently from inside Gaza and is unable to verify details of the incident. The IDF and ISA joint statement added that Saad had been "responsible for the deaths of many soldiers" killed in the Gaza Strip as the result of explosive devices. Saad is believed to be a member of the newly formed five-member leadership military council established since a ceasefire took hold in October. Israel has attempted to kill him on multiple occasions. One of the most notable attempts was during a surprise Israeli operation in Gaza City in March 2024, when Israeli forces reportedly sought to



arrest or kill him. Sources at the time said Saad had been inside the targeted complex but managed to escape moments before the raid. He has long been considered one of Israel's most wanted Hamas figures, with Israeli attempts to kill him spanning more than two decades. Saturday's attack happened on the Palestinian-controlled side of the so-called

Yellow Line which has divided Gaza since an unstable US-led ceasefire came into effect on 10 October. Israeli forces control the area to the east of the line, which includes just over half of the Gaza Strip. The first phase of US president Donald Trump's 20-point plan for peace in the region required the return of all 20 living and 28 dead hostages

taken in the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023. About 1,200 people were killed in the attack and more than 250 people were taken hostage. All have been returned except for the remains of an Israeli police officer, Ran Gvili, 24, who is believed to have been killed while fighting Hamas gunmen in Kibbutz Alumim. Since then, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry more than 70,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli military action. The diplomatic focus is now shifting to the next stage of President Trump's plan which would require the disarmament of Hamas as part of what it calls the de-radicalisation and redevelopment of Gaza. It envisages Gaza being run by the "temporary transitional

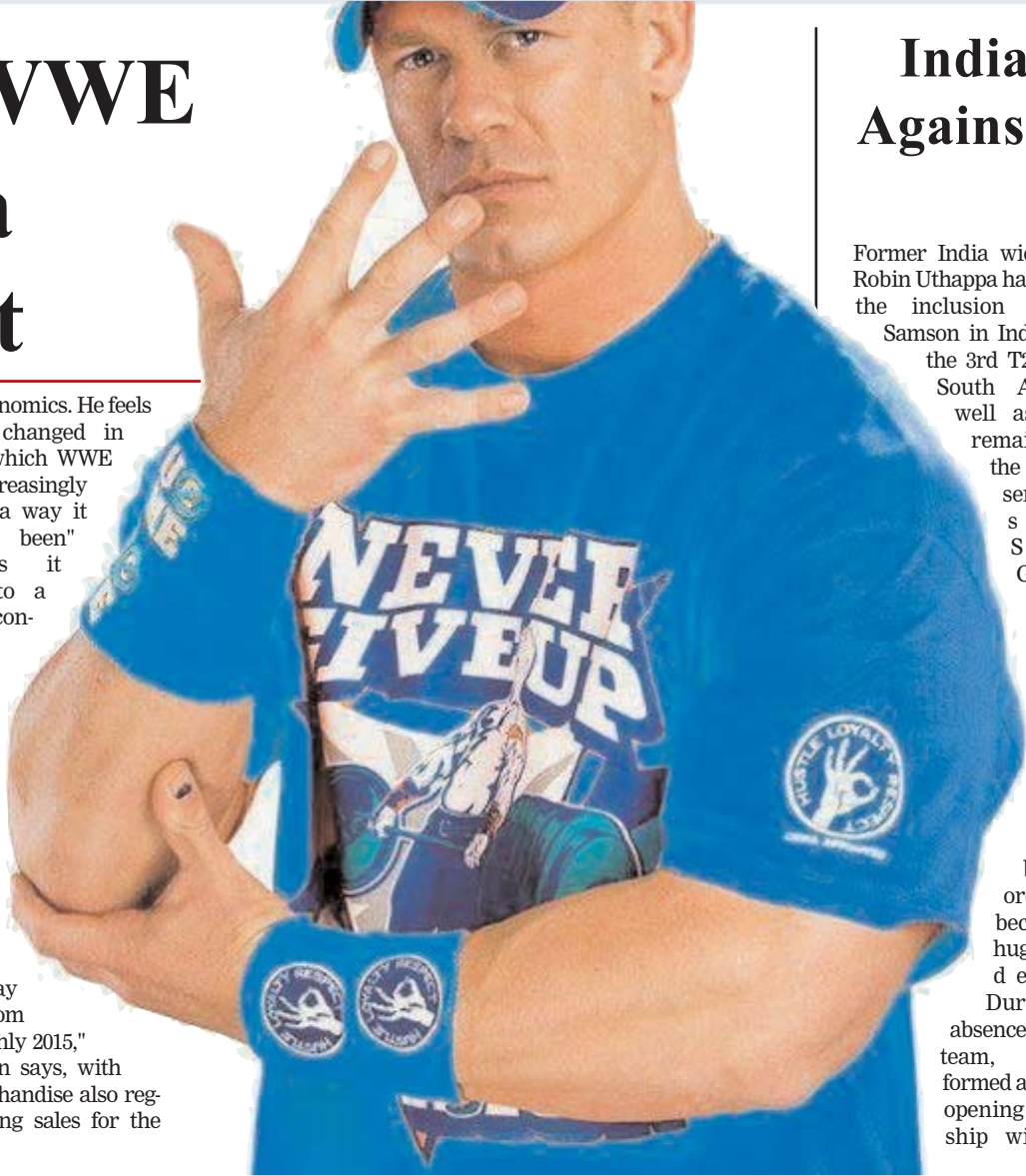
governance of a technocratic, apolitical Palestinian committee," overseen by a "Board of Peace" chaired by Trump. Security would be provided by an International Stabilisation Force although its make up remains unclear. The eventual aim is for a reformed Palestinian Authority to take control of the territory, and for Israeli forces to withdraw, after which "the conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood". Many aspects of the plan are controversial in Israel where prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Trump is due to meet Netanyahu to discuss the plan in the US on 29 December.

The making of a WWE legend: John Cena faces his final fight

The Last Time Is Now. It's the name of the tournament in which 16 wrestling giants have been competing to take on John Cena in his final fight before retirement. And that final fight is now - Saturday night - in Washington DC, bringing the curtain down on an illustrious career that has seen the American become one of wrestling's biggest and most bankable stars. In the 8,570 days since his debut, Cena has clinched 17 world titles and coined the iconic "You Can't See Me" catchphrase - but the 48-year-old's impact goes far beyond that. If you were to pose the question "who is John Cena?", depending on who you ask, the answers might vary from legendary WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) superstar, to successful film actor, while some will say he's Mr Make-A-Wish (more

on that later). How to watch John Cena's last match: Start time: WWE Saturday Night's Main Event is scheduled to begin at 01:00 GMT on Sun 14 Dec Where to watch: In the UK, you can watch for free on WWE's official YouTube channel. Internationally it can be watched on Netflix, and on Peacock in the US 'An exceptional wrestling talent' Since his 2002 debut, there's been an evolution in his own wrestling character - transitioning from "ruthless aggression" rookie, to a "Doctor of Thuganomics" rapper, and eventually a heroic character known for a "Never Give Up" attitude. Despite criticism from some fans of his in-ring ability, with occasional chants of "you can't wrestle" through the years, "there's no doubt that he's an exceptional wrestling talent", says Brandon Thurston, editor and owner of wrestling web-

site, Wrestlenomics. He feels something changed in 2005, after which WWE became "increasingly scripted in a way it had not been" before, as it entered into a more controlled, family friendly PG era. But Cena managed to thrive. "He's definitely been the biggest draw over the time which I would say stretches from 2005 to roughly 2015," Mr Thurston says, with Cena's merchandise also regularly topping sales for the company.



India Predicted XI For 3rd T20I Against South Africa: Ex-KKR Star Names Big Omission

Former India wicketkeeper Robin Uthappa has urged for the inclusion of Sanju Samson in India's XI for the 3rd T20I against South Africa, as well as for the remainder of the five-match series. Ever since Shubman Gill returned to the T20I side after a lengthy hiatus,

Samson's batting order has become a huge topic of debate. During Gill's absence from the team, Samson formed a successful opening partnership with south-



paw Abhishek Sharma. However, Gill's struggles at the top have ignited talks of Samson's inclusion as an opener. Uthappa, however, wants Samson to bat at No. 3 ahead of Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav. He also suggested that Gill should continue to open with Abhishek, who is currently the No. 1 T20I batter in ICC rankings. "I would like to see Shubman and Abhishek Sharma opening the batting. Complete left field here, Sanju Samson at No. 3, Suryakumar Yadav at No. 4

and Tilak Varma at No. 5, and then so on and so forth," Uthappa said on his YouTube channel. The 40-year-old wants the management to drop Jitesh Sharma from the XI, which will allow head coach Gautam Gambhir to play three all-rounders. "You still have Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube and Axar Patel. So your eight batters are sorted, and you have five bowlers. I would love to see that XI. I think that would be the ideal XI for India," the 2007 T20 World Cup winner added.

Cordina closer to two-weight title dream after win

Joe Cordina is in line for a shot at becoming a two-weight world champion after dominating Gabriel Flores Jr in California on the way to a unanimous victory on points. Wales' former IBF super-featherweight belt holder Cordina outboxed his American opponent, with judges scoring the contest 117-110 115-112 114-113. The fight at the Adventist Health Arena in Stockton was billed as a final eliminator for the WBO lightweight world title which was won by Abdullah Mason in an epic encounter with Sam Noakes in November. Cordina, 34, was docked a point in the sixth round for rabbit punching, but was more in control than the judges' cards suggest-



ed. "I got the win, but it wasn't exactly the way I wanted to do it," said Cordina. "You can't come in and nick a fight off me. I kept applying pressure and forced him to the

ropes, and he couldn't keep up with the pace." The victory in Flores Jr's backyard is a second win in the lightweight division for Cordina, who returned from a 14-month lay-off

with a hard-fought points win over Jaret Gonzalez Quiroz in July to claim the vacant WBO global lightweight title. Cordina now boasts a professional record of 19 wins and one defeat (with nine KOs), his only loss coming to Anthony Cacace in May 2024 when he lost his 130lb title in Riyadh. Flores, 25, did give the Cardiff-born fighter a scare in round seven with an uppercut that buckled his knees, but the American saw a six-fight winning streak ended to slip to 27-3 (eight KOs). Cordina, who went into his first bout in America ranked number six by the WBO, should now emerge as their number one contender and mandatory challenger to Mason.

Why Is Jasprit Bumrah Not Playing 3rd T20I vs South Africa? BCCI Breaks Silence: "Gone Back Home"

Fans were left surprised as India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah did not feature in the playing XI for their third T20I against South Africa. India captain Suryakumar Yadav confirmed during the toss that Bumrah had gone back home due to personal reasons. Later, the BCCI confirmed that further information on Bumrah's participation in the remaining matches in the T20I series will be provided in due course. Bumrah - who recently became the first Indian bowler to take 100 international wickets in all three formats - was replaced by Harshit Rana in India's playing XI for the third T20I. All-rounder Axar Patel also missed out on the third T20I due to an illness.



The five-game series is level at 1-1 ahead of the third T20I, and a win for either of the two teams will give them the lead. With Axar and Jasprit unavailable, captain Suryakumar Yadav said Harshit Rana and Kuldeep Yadav have been

place, wonderful people, and a fantastic ground. Hopefully when we bat and bowl, we can give everyone some good entertainment." "Every game is important. The way they played in the second game showed the beauty of this sport. What matters most is how you come back, and that's what we want to do tonight, play our best game, enjoy ourselves, and be fearless. If we stay switched on for all three hours, that will be key for us. It looks like a good pitch," he said. India XI for 3rd T20I: Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav (c), Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, and Varun Chakravarthy.

Cameron Green Breaks Silence On Stunning IPL 2026 Auction Decision: "Stuff-Up"



Australia cricket team all-rounder Cameron Green surprised a lot of fans when he registered himself as a 'batter' for the upcoming IPL 2026 auction. The decision led to a lot of discussion over his availability when it comes to bowling and some experts even claimed that his decision can guarantee a record-breaking bid for him considering batters come in the auction ahead of all-rounders. Green has finally broken his silence on the decision and confirmed that he will be available to bowl in the upcoming edition of the tournament. He also said that his manager had a 'stuff-up' and 'accidentally' registered him as a batter in the auction in place of his usual 'all-rounder' status. "I'll be good to bowl," Green said before Australia's training session in Adelaide on Sunday, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo. "I don't know if my manager would like to hear this, but there was a stuff-up on his end. He didn't mean to say 'batter'. I think he accidentally selected the wrong

box. It was pretty funny how it's all played out, but it was actually a stuff-up on his end." Green also said that he will be following the IPL 2026 auction and keeping a close eye on which team he ends up in and who will be his new teammates in the franchise. "I'm sure I will be [watching], with a few other guys. They're always good fun to watch. It's a bit of a lottery where you might go, but also who might be in your team, so it's always been fun to watch," Green said. Green is widely tipped to become the most expensive player at Tuesday's IPL 2026 auction in Abu Dhabi, with some predicting he could surpass the INR 27 crore (approx. AUD 4.5 million) record set by Rishabh Pant last year. Kolkata Knight Riders, holding the largest remaining budget, are the frontrunners to secure him. Listed with a base price of INR 2 crore (approx. AUD 333,000), Green will be among the first six players to go under the hammer after registering as a batter.

India Stick To 'No-Handshake' Policy Against Pakistan In U19 Asia Cup Despite Alleged ICC Request

The Indian cricket team continued their 'no-handshake policy' against Pakistan in the U19 Asia Cup 2025 despite alleged request from International Cricket Council (ICC). A report by PTI claimed that the ICC wanted politics to be kept away from the U19 competition and even requested for the handshakes to take place. In the past, Indian players did not shake hands with their Pakistan counterparts in the senior men's Asia Cup, Women's ODI World Cup and the Rising Stars Asia Cup T20 competition. The trend continued on Sunday during the U19 Asia Cup Group A match when the India captain Ayush Mhatre did not shake hands with Pakistan captain Farhan Yousaf after the toss. Earlier, PTI said that the ICC said that if India did not want



to shake hands with Pakistan, they will have to inform the match referee in advance. "The boys haven't been told anything. But obviously BCCI has given explicit instructions to its manager Anand Datar. Now if Indian boys don't shake hands with Pakistan team then match referee will have to be informed in advance." "We

know for a fact that ICC doesn't want politics to take front seat when it comes to junior cricket. So it is a case of both bad optics and public sentiment," a BCCI official in the know of things told PTI on the condition of anonymity. Coming to the match, Yousaf won the toss and decided to bowl first against India. The high-voltage match between

India U19 and Pakistan U19 was reduced to 49 overs per side due to rain. The Ayush Mhatre-led India U19 came into this contest after registering a massive 234-run win in their first fixture against the UAE on December 12. Vaibhav Suryavanshi was named Player of the Match for his blistering 171-run knock off 95 deliveries, including nine fours and 14 sixes. His knock helped India U19 to post a mammoth 433/6 in 50 overs. In response, UAE 19 were restricted to 199/7 and lost the one-sided match. Pakistan U19, on the other hand, thrashed Malaysia U19 by 297 runs in their opening fixture. Sameer Minhas was named Player of the Match for his fantastic unbeaten knock of 177 runs off 148 balls, with the help of 11 fours and eight sixes.

BANKES & NIGHTINGALE WIN SNOWBOARD CROSS WORLD CUP GOLD

Great Britain's Charlotte Bankes and Huw Nightingale claimed gold in the mixed team event at the Snowboard Cross World Cup in Cervinia, Italy. Nightingale, 24, finished third in the men's run to put the British team in a strong position before Bankes, 30, produced a stunning run on her return from injury to win the women's race and clinch gold for the team. Austria claimed silver ahead of France, who won bronze. Bankes won the Crystal Globe as overall winner in 2021-22 and 2022-23 but sustained a broken collarbone in April as she chased a third individual



Snowboard Cross World Cup title in four years. She was ruled out of the final

races of last season at Mont Sainte Anne, Canada and needed two rounds of sur-

gery to correct the injury, missing all of pre-season. "To see all the hard work from this summer's training paying off from Huw as well as this being Charlotte's first race back since injury, this was quite the victory," said GB Snowsport head coach Pat Sharples. Bankes was knocked out of the women's event at the quarter-finals stage on Saturday. Sunday's victory alongside Nightingale marks the pair's third World Cup podium in the mixed team event - two golds and one silver - and sits alongside the gold medal they won at the 2023 World Championships.

Lionel Messi Plays Football With Telangana CM Revanth Reddy



The Hyderabad crowd was on cloud nine as football superstar Lionel Messi attended the GOAT Cup exhibition match, an event that was part of his three-day tour to India. He reached the city in the evening and arrived at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium at around 7:55 PM IST. The Argentine icon also played football with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and even scored an effortless goal. A video of the play is going viral on social media. Earlier in the day in Kolkata, about 50,000 spectators, many of whom had paid Rs 4,000 to Rs 12,000 - and in some cases up to Rs 20,000 in the black market - watched helplessly as a swarm of politicians, VVIPs, security person-

nel, and assorted hangers more interested in selfies than crowd control surrounded Messi, leaving the fans at the Salt Lake Stadium angry. Angry fans started the mayhem by hurling bottles - banned items in an otherwise sporting venue. Chairs were then ripped out and thrown. Fibreglass seats lay smashed across the pitch and the synthetic track. However, it was a totally different scene at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium later on the day. As Messi reached amid tight security, with the fans cheering in huge numbers for him. Notably, Luis Suaraz and Rodrigo de Paul, who have travelled with Messi to India, were also there with the player at the venue.

‘Dekhlenge Saala’ Ignites the Screen as Power Star Pawan Kalyan Brings Back His Vintage Swagger



The first single ‘Dekhlenge Saala’ from the much-anticipated film Ustaad Bhagat Singh has been unveiled, and it has instantly ignited massive excitement among fans and movie lovers alike. Packed with pulsating energy and dynamic choreography, the song captures Power Star Pawan Kalyan in his most celebrated avatar, radiating vintage swagger, raw intensity, and echoes of his iconic blockbuster song moments that defined an era. The song marks the grand reunion of

the blockbuster trio – Power Star Pawan Kalyan, director Harish Shankar, and music director Devi Sri Prasad. This trio has earlier delivered chart-topping music and memorable mass entertainers, and ‘Dekhlenge Saala’ continues that winning streak. Director Harish Shankar, known for his sharp eye and exceptional musical sensibilities, once again demonstrates his expertise by crafting a song that blends mass appeal with contemporary flair, giving special

attention to every beat, movement, and visual detail. Music director Devi Sri Prasad turns up the tempo with high-energy, peppy beats that instantly hook the listener, while Bhaskarabhatla’s lyrics stand out for being both catchy and motivational, perfectly complementing the film’s fiery tone. Adding further firepower is Vishal Dadlani, whose powerful vocals inject the song with an infectious energy, making it a sure-shot crowd favourite.

“Nuvvu Naaku Nachav” Re-release in 4K world-wide on January 1, 2026



24 years ago, on September 6, 2001, a magic happened on the Telugu screen. That was the movie “Nuvvu Naaku Nachav”. The audience was satisfied enough to eat a feast. Even after watching this movie many times, this is content with a repeat value that still does not get bored. That is why the 2026 New Year is ready for a re-release in 4K with full technical features to chill with this movie. This movie was not fully

released abroad at that time. To fill that gap, this movie will be released worldwide on January 1. While making this movie, producer ‘Stravanthi’ Ravi Kishore was confident that this would be a great movie. This is the movie that introduced Victory Venkatesh in a new dimension . After blockbusters like ‘Nuvve Kavali’, this is the film Vijaya Bhaskar-Trivikram made with full passion.

60 Hyderabadis pay Rs 10 lakh each for photo with Messi: Report



Hyderabad: After completing the first leg of his India tour in Kolkata, football legend Lionel Messi is now on his way to Hyderabad. The excitement around his visit is growing with every passing hour, as fans eagerly wait to catch a glimpse of the Argentine superstar during his Hyderabad stop as part of the G.O.A.T Tour. Rs 10 Lakh Photo Opportunity Creates Buzz One of the most talked-about aspects of Messi’s Hyderabad visit is the exclusive meet-and-greet photo session. Each ticket for this private interaction reportedly costs nearly Rs 10 lakh, including GST. The ticket offers a brief hand-

shake with Messi, a group photograph with six people per photo, buffet access, and entry to the venue. According to a latest report in Gulte, around 60 people from Hyderabad have already booked this premium photo shoot ticket, showing the extreme level of Messi fandom in the city. Reportedly, 40 more slots are available. Big Plans for Messi Hyderabad Event Messi will take part in a grand exhibition event at Uppal Stadium. The evening will feature musical performances starting from 5.30 pm, followed by Messi’s arrival at the stadium around 7 to 7.30 pm. He is expected to stay on the

ground for nearly an hour. During the event, Messi will participate in a penalty shootout, interact with children as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, conduct a special masterclass for 24 selected kids, and will be felicitated by the organisers. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanah Reddy is also expected to attend, which has further boosted the buzz. Kolkata Chaos Raises Questions While Messi’s visit created massive excitement, his Kolkata appearance ended on a sour note. Fans were disappointed after Messi appeared at Salt Lake Stadium for only about 10 minutes.

NTR’S MARK IN STATE AS WELL AS NATIONAL POLITICS IS INDELIBLE: DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI

Member of Parliament Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari declared that NTR’s impression on state as well as national politics is imprinted forever, which cannot be replaced, and the name of NTR Rama Rao would exist as long as the sun as well as the moon would exist. Smt. Purandeswari, as a chief guest, attended a function at the FNCC, Hyderabad, on December 13, where she released the audio version of the Living History of the 1984 August Democratic Protection Movement. On the occasion, garlands were offered to the statue of NTR, and the song ‘Maa Telugu Thalliki’ was sung. The audio version of the living history book, produced by the NTR Literature Committee, which is chaired by Sri TDP

Janardhan, with the support of the Jayaprada Foundation, was also launched on the occasion. Notable political leader and former minister, Sri Mothukupalli Narasimhulu, Nandamuri Ramakrishna, film producer K. S. Rama Rao, Bollineni Krishnaiah, Chaitanya Raju, author of the living history book, Vikram Poola, Smt. Gayatri (who has narrated the audio version), Rammohan Rao, who is a member of NTR Literature Committee, Gummadi Gopalakrishna, Mandava Satish, Madhusudhanaraju Bikbabu, who is a Author Vikram Poola introduced the speakers earlier. In his welcome address, the chairman of the committee, Sri TDP Janardhan, referred to NTR’s contributions to the



film industry, his set standards, and said that although there have been many chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, NTR is a name that is remembered by everyone. NTR has been described as a dividing line in the politics of Andhra Pradesh, pre-NTR era, post-NTR era. On the occasion of the birth centenary of NTR,

he said that a committee has been formed with the aim of instilling the principles, ideologies, and values of NTR in the current as well as future generations. Along with the cooperation of all, publications in the form of many books on NTR are being released, and even an NTR YouTube Channel has been launched. The chief

guest, Smt. Purandeswari, delivered the keynote address. She said that the democratic protection movement of 1984 is one of the most defining events of NTR’s life, apart from being a political event that influenced the politics of other states substantially. She remembered that before this democratic protection movement, there were instances of party switching, which happened with the intention of toppling the government in an unethical manner. But owing to the struggle brought about by the opposition parties, the media, and the democrats who supported NTR, the Anti-Defection Law came into existence with the 52nd Constitutional Amendment in 1985. She thanked the members of the NTR

Literature Committee and the chairman of NTR, TDP’s Janardhan, for making NTR’s ideology widespread. She also said that she had her own role in setting up NTR’s statue in Parliament, as well as the release of a gold coin in his name, because she had been able to pay back a small part of her debt to her father. Senior leader Sri Mothukupalli Narasimhulu remembered his links with NTR and said that because of the political support he received to pursue his dreams, he has been able to become an MLA six times, as well as a minister. He described NTR as a great personality who has experienced poverty, when he said that NTR, who always had thoughts of the hungry and the welfare of the poor, would always be in his heart.

Sobhan Babu holds an everlasting place in the hearts of audiences and fans

Murali Mohan at the ‘Soggadu’ Golden Jubilee Curtain Raiser Event Senior actor Murali Mohan said that veteran actor Nata Bhushana Sobhan Babu holds a very special place both as an actor and as a human being. On the occasion of the film ‘Soggadu’, starring Sobhan Babu, completing 50 years, Suresh Productions and the All India Sobhan Babu Seva Samithi are organizing a Golden Jubilee celebration in Hyderabad on the 19th of this month. On the same day, Suresh Productions will also be re-releasing the film. As a prelude to this, a Golden Jubilee Curtain Raiser event was held at Ramanaidu Studios, Hyderabad. Speaking at the event, Murali Mohan said: “My first opportunity was given by producer Atluri Poornachandra Rao, I was encouraged by Dasari Narayana Rao, and the one who invited me into the film industry was Sobhan Babu. I can never forget these three people in my life. I also acted with Sobhan Babu in the film ‘Mugguru Mitruulu’. He was the very embodiment of discipline. Many people like me drew inspiration from him. For an important role in the film ‘Athadu’, produced under our banner, I even offered him a blank cheque and requested him to act. But



he declined. He told me that if he wanted to maintain the image he had as a handsome hero, he should not take up any other kinds of roles. It has been 17 years since he left us physically, and even before that, he had not acted for 13 years. That means even after 30 years, fans still remember Sobhan Babu and continue to organize such meaningful events. This clearly shows the love and respect audiences have for him.” D. Suresh Babu, producer and head of Suresh Productions, said: “The film ‘Soggadu’, released in 1975, brought our production house both a good name and financial success. We are re-releasing the film using today’s advanced sound technology. We are also continuing the process of converting our films using AI technology.” Producer Kaikala Nageswara Rao recalled that

he had made films like ‘Adavi Raja’ and ‘Iddaru Dongalu’ with Sobhan Babu. He said that although Sobhan Babu was known as a class hero, he made mass films with him and delivered successful hits. Others who attended the event included Atluri Poornachandra Rao, K.S. Rama Rao, B.V.S.N. Prasad, Relangi Narasimha Rao, Raasi Movies Narasimha Rao, K. Muralimohan Rao, former MLA Jesta Ramesh Babu, All India Sobhan Babu Seva Samithi Chairman Sudhakar Babu, Convener Sai Kamaraju, Pudi Srinivas, B. Balasubrahmanyam, Bhattiprolu Srinivasa Rao, Veeraprasad, Vijay Kurra Rambabu, and Telangana Sobhan Babu fans, among others. They appealed to audiences and fans to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations in large numbers and make the event a grand success.

A STORY OF FATHERS, A SONG OF SOULS: VRUSSHABHA BEGINS ITS MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH ‘APPA’

The makers of Mohanlal’s Vrusshabha have unveiled the film’s first song, “Appa”, officially setting the tone for the film’s promotional campaign with a deeply emotional and powerful beginning. Presented as the soul of the film, Appa captures the pure and timeless bond between a father and son — a relationship that forms the emotional backbone of Vrusshabha. Composed by Sam CS, the song features soulful vocals by Vijai Prakash in Hindi, Kannada, and Telugu, and Madhu Balakrishnan in Malayalam. The lyrics are penned by Vinayak Shashikumar (Malayalam), Kalyan Chakravarthy Tripuraneni (Telugu), Kartik Kush (Hindi), and Nagarjun Sharma (Kannada), each bringing a unique cultural resonance to their versions while staying true to the shared emotional essence. The music of Vrusshabha is on T-Series. With “Appa” taking the lead, the film’s journey towards its worldwide release on December 25, 2025, begins on a heartfelt note. Directed by Nanda Kishore and fronted by Mohanlal, Vrusshabhapromises to stand out as one of the biggest cinematic events of



the year. Across all platforms, the song is presented with the caption: Presenting Vrusshabha’s first video song #Appa, a soulful father-son track, the soul of the film. Director Nanda Kishore shared: “We wanted to begin the musical journey of Vrusshabha with ‘Appa’ because the entire film is rooted in the powerful, emotional relationship between a father and son. This song perfectly reflects the heartbeat of the story and gives the audience a true sense of what the film stands for. Sam CS has created something wonderful, and I’m grateful for the depth he brought to this track. This is just the beginning, as more music and moments unfold, people will understand the soul of this film even more. Stories

about fathers are often left untold, and this one deserved to be heard and felt.” Music Director Sam CS shared, “When Nanda narrated the father-son emotion in Vrusshabha, it immediately connected with me. ‘Appa’ didn’t feel like composing a song; it felt like touching something personal and familiar. And when you have Mohanlal sir at the heart of that emotion, the responsibility becomes even bigger. His presence brings a certain depth, a weight that you can feel even while creating the music. We kept the track very honest because that’s what the story needed, and that’s what Mohanlal sir’s performance inspires. Nanda’s clarity made it easy for me to find the right tone, and I just followed that emotion.

Arjun Rampal confirms engagement after six years together



Hyderabad: Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal has quietly confirmed his engagement to longtime partner Gabriella Demetriades. The actor revealed the news during a candid conversation on Rhea Chakraborty’s podcast, keeping the announcement simple and personal, just like his style.

and hoped he had not done the same. Rampal laughed and admitted, “I went after her because she was hot, then I realised there is more to it than just that.”

- **Their Life Together** Arjun Rampal and Gabriella Demetriades have been together since 2018. They are parents to two sons, Arik, born in 2019, and Arav, born in 2023. Gabriella is a South African model and fashion designer who often speaks about balancing creativity with motherhood. The couple is frequently seen spending time together as a close-knit family.
- **Past and Present** Before Gabriella, Rampal was married to former supermodel Mehr Jesia. They married in 1998, separated in 2018, and finalised their divorce in 2019. They continue to co-parent their two daughters, Mahikaa and Myra, amicably.
- **On the Work Front** Rampal is currently enjoying the success of his film Dhurandhar, which has had a strong box office run and features an ensemble cast including Ranveer Singh, Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, and R. Madhavan.