



VOL No. XIII | ISSUE No. 328



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025 | P-12 | ₹.5/- | RNI No: TELENG/2009/29225

HYDERABAD | BENGALURU | CHENNAI | VIJAYAWADA | KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

[/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)

[/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)

[/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)



heartfulness
purity weaves destiny

Let the worries CEASE Find your own PEACE



Meditate with Daaji

ON WORLD MEDITATION DAY

DEC 21
8 PM

Free
Online Meditation

Register Now



KANHA
SHANTI
VANAM

World's Largest
Meditation Hall

LIVE on Heartfulness YouTube



Initial probe suggests cough syrup scam has Samajwadi Party links: Adityanath

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said some people arrested for alleged involvement in supplying illegal codeine-based cough syrup have links to the Samajwadi Party.

“Everyone knows that every ‘mafia’ group has ties with the Samajwadi Party,” Adityanath told reporters ahead of the beginning of the Winter session of the UP assembly.

The chief minister said the Legislative Assembly will not likely see any business on Friday due to the sudden death of an MLA. But the government will respond to any questions on the matter in the legislative council and if it is raised outside the House, he said.

“However, initial investigation have revealed that some of the men arrested by the STF (special task force) or UP Police have links to the Samajwadi Party. The involvement of Samajwadi Party, which is already notorious

and has a tarnished reputation, will also come to light since a state-level SIT is monitoring the entire case, and officers from the UP Police and the FSDA are part of it,” Adityanath said.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday alleged that a massive scam involving the illegal supply of codeine-based cough syrups running into thousands of crores originated in Uttar Pradesh and accused the BJP government of shielding those involved.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here after a meeting of the SP MLAs, Yadav added that the racket started from the “area of Pradhan Sansad” (Varanasi MP), targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said several important issues to be raised in the upcoming session of the assembly were discussed, with the alleged codeine and cough syrup racket being a major concern. dust from his



face”. He said details of illegal transactions will come to light somewhere. “Let the investigation proceed. The truth will be revealed to everyone,” Adityanath said.

The UP CM said codeine phosphate used in manufacture of cough syrup containing codeine falls under the NDPS Act and the central narcotics bureau regulates

Taking a jibe at Yadav on Friday,

Adityanath said the SP chief was “cleaning the mirror to remove dust from his face”.

He said details of illegal transactions will come to light somewhere. “Let the investigation proceed. The truth will be revealed to everyone,” Adityanath said.

The UP CM said codeine phosphate used in manufacture of cough syrup containing codeine falls under the NDPS Act and the central narcotics bureau regu-

lates its use.

In this case, the state government acted after complaints of its misuse as a narcotic substance in many places and illegal trafficking, Adityanath said.

The Uttar Pradesh government through the Food and Drug Safety Administration (FDSA), UP Police, and STF are involved in the investigation and so far, large-scale illegal trafficking operation has been uncovered numerous people have been arrested, Adityanath added.

The FDSA officials have said that codeine-based syrups fall under Schedule H and are legal if sold against prescription, but violations occur when large quantities are supplied without documentation, often facilitating their abuse as intoxicants.

Officials said FIRs have been lodged against 128 establishments across 28 districts under relevant sections of the BNS and the NDPS Act.

Delhi airport sees 79 flight cancellations due to dense fog

NEW DELHI: Dense fog continued to disrupt operations at the Delhi airport, with at least 79 flights getting cancelled on Friday, according to an official.

More than 230 flights were delayed at the airport and the average delay for departures was 49 minutes on Friday morning, as per data from flight tracking website Flightradar24.com.

The official said that a total of 79 flights, including some International services, have been cancelled.

“Flight operations continue to be in CAT III conditions due to dense

fog. Both arrivals and departures are taking place, though some flights may experience delays or disruptions,” Delhi airport operator DIAL said in a post on X.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country’s largest airport that generally handles around 1,300 flights daily.

While regretting the inconvenience, DIAL said its on-ground officials are working closely with all stakeholders to assist passengers and provide necessary support across the terminals.

SPNI to bring ‘Wheel of Fortune’ to India, Akshay Kumar to host the game show

MUMBAI: Sony Pictures Networks India on Friday announced that it is bringing the Emmy-winning game show “Wheel of Fortune” to India with Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar attached as its host.

SPNI is also gearing up for one of the largest integrated media launches in the recent years to ensure “Wheel of Fortune” becomes an unmissable event, according to a release here.

Highgate Entertainment, LLC has licensed the format to Sony Pictures Networks India and Frames Production Company is producing the Indian edition for SPNI. “Wheel of Fortune” has been a beloved show for millions around the world, and I’m truly excited to bring its

Indian edition to audiences here. Its multi-generational appeal and the thrill of puzzle-solving have made it a global favourite and I’m confident it will be immensely enjoyed by Indian audiences. With the combined reach of Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV, Wheel of Fortune India will engage viewers across platforms like never before,” Akshay said in a statement.

Nachiket Pantvaitya, Business Head, Sony Entertainment Television, said Sony Entertainment Television has long pioneered the reality format space in India. “With ‘Wheel of Fortune’, we’re adding another marquee global franchise to the portfolio, bringing high-energy entertainment to Indian homes.

India invites global partners to Bharat Steel 2026

New Delhi, December 20, 2025: Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy held an interactive meeting with ambassadors and representatives of key partner countries, inviting them to actively participate in Bharat Steel 2026, the flagship international conference-cum-exhibition of the Ministry of Steel, scheduled for April 2026.

The meeting witnessed strong participation from diplomatic representatives of countries playing a significant role in the global steel value chain. It formed part of the Ministry’s outreach efforts to deepen international cooperation and strengthen India’s engagement with major steel-producing and steel-consuming nations.

Addressing the gathering, Kumaraswamy welcomed the ambassadors and underscored the importance India places on trusted global partnerships. He said India’s steel sector reflects the country’s broader economic transformation and has emerged as a key pillar of growth, resilience and glob-



al integration.

The Minister noted that India is currently the world’s second-largest steel producer, achieved through sustained reforms, steady investments and a long-term vision focused on modernization, self-reliance and sustainability. He added that the steel sector contributes about 2.5 per cent to India’s GDP and supports nearly 2.8 million livelihoods,

with demand driven by infrastructure, manufacturing, defence and mobility sectors. Referring to the National Steel Policy 2017 and the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kumaraswamy said India is moving towards a steel capacity of 300 million tonnes by 2030 and 500 million tonnes by 2047, further integrating the country into global steel value chains.

Against this backdrop, the Minister announced that the Ministry of Steel has institutionalized Bharat Steel as an annual international event, with the first edition to be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. He said the event will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, investors, technology providers and buyers from across the world, featuring a Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet to promote structured B2B engagement. Bharat Steel 2026 will focus on expanding steel consumption, sustainability, circular economy practices, raw material security, technological innovation and investments. Key themes will include green steel, digital steel plants, beneficiation of low-grade ores, advanced steels for clean energy and mobility, and the transition to a circular steel economy.

The Union Minister urged ambassadors to encourage participation from industry leaders and investors from their countries and invited partner nations to join as Partner Countries and take part in Country Roundtables.

Deputy SP injured in knife attack in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada; woman relative among 2 held

DANTEWADA: A Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) was injured after being attacked with a knife by a man and a woman at the Dantewada district headquarters in Chhattisgarh on Friday, officials said.

Both the attackers were later arrested, they said, adding that the woman accused, a relative of the officer, had last year lodged a complaint of rape against the DSP in Durg district of the state. The officer was, however, acquitted by a court in September this year.

DSP Tomesh Verma (39), posted as Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) in Jagargunda area of neighbouring Sukma district, was attacked this afternoon when he came to the Dantewada district court in connection with a case related to his area, a senior police official said.

The male accused has been identified as Ramashankar Sahu, a former Army personnel and a native of the

state’s Durg district. The identity of the woman, who is also a resident of Durg, has not been disclosed, he said.

As per the preliminary information, the woman had been calling Verma on the pretext of meeting him to resolve previous issues. When she learnt that he was coming to Dantewada on Friday for official work, she, along with Sahu, came there, the official said.

She contacted Verma and met him. She sat inside his car and allegedly pointed a knife towards her wrist, asking him to take her for a drive or else she would cut herself. She also tried to persuade him to take her to a hotel where Sahu was already present, but Verma refused, he said.

At a market place, Verma asked the woman to get down from the vehicle, but she remained seated. Suddenly, Sahu arrived at the spot and attacked Verma with a knife. He attempted

to stab him in the neck, but the knife struck between his cheek and neck, the official said.

Verma managed to overpower Sahu and prevented further attack, following which police personnel present nearby intervened, he said. Verma was rushed to the district hospital in Dantewada, where he was given preliminary treatment, after which he was shifted to a hospital in Jagdalpur. His condition is stated to be out of danger, the official added. The woman, a distant sister-in-law of Verma, had lodged a false rape complaint against him in Durg. Following trial in the case, Verma was acquitted by a court in September this year, the official said.

The attack is suspected to be linked to the earlier dispute between the officer and the woman, he said.

Both the accused have been arrested and further investigation is underway, officials said.

Madras HC tells Tamil Nadu govt to notify SOP for road shows after deciding on views of parties

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Friday directed the Tamil Nadu government to notify before January 5, 2026, an SOP to regulate public meetings and road shows.

The government was directed by the HC to take a decision on the views of political parties in this regard and notify the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The first bench comprising Chief Justice M M Shrivastava and Justice G Arul Murugan gave the directive while disposing of petitions filed by actor Vijay-led TVK and three others.

This was besides the impending petitions from AIADMK and Desiya Makal Sakthi Katchi. The petitions were filed in the wake of the September 27 Karur stampede, which claimed 41 lives during the roadshow of actor-politician Vijay.

The petitions sought a di-

rection to the authorities to frame guidelines/SOP for the regulation of political party meetings, rallies, road shows, conferences and other similar events throughout the state of Tamil Nadu.

In its order, the bench said having gone through the affidavit filed by the state, the draft SOP and the suggestions/objections, and after pondering upon the submissions of counsel for the respective parties, “we are of the view that the State should take a decision, one way or the other, on the suggestions/ objections submitted before this court in writing...”

The bench said a decision on the suggestions, objections, views and inputs shall be taken by the government, and the finalised SOP shall be notified as early as possible and in any case, not later than January 5, 2026.

BJP’s ‘double-engine’ govt has demonstrated what real change means: UP CM

GORAKHPUR: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday accused previous governments of misusing public funds for personal gain and said the BJP’s “double-engine” government redirected that money towards development across Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing a function to inaugurate a Rs 138-crore rail overbridge in Gorakhpur, Adityanath said the city eight years ago was “plagued by disease, filth, lawlessness, mafia dominance and power shortages, leaving people yearning for basic development.”

He said Gorakhpur earlier faced an identity crisis, with residents often viewed with a sense of inferiority outside the state. “With the speed of a double-engine government, the BJP has demonstrated what real change means,” he said, adding that public support helped give the

state a new identity and confidence.

The chief minister said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, India has emerged as a strong nation with a distinct global presence, and that large development projects, road, rail and air connectivity are being implemented with public convenience at the core.

Adityanath highlighted welfare measures, including free ration, healthcare, LPG connections, electricity for all and other benefits for the poor, saying these were delivered without discrimination through collective efforts of the government.

He said Uttar Pradesh no longer faces an identity crisis and is shining with renewed confidence.

Referring to Gorakhpur’s transformation, he cited the revival of the fertiliser plant, improved traffic conditions, four-laning of

key roads and enhanced connectivity to Lucknow, Varanasi and other cities. He also said Ramgarh Tal has been developed as a major tourism hub, shedding its earlier image of crime and neglect. The chief minister also noted that eastern Uttar Pradesh now has medical colleges in several districts.

Targeting previous governments, Adityanath alleged mismanagement and corruption, asserting that recovered resources were being invested in roads, medical and engineering colleges and quality institutions.

“The intentions of previous governments were corrupt; they misappropriated public funds and filled their own family’s coffers. Now, we have emptied their treasuries and invested that money in the development of the state, so the results are visible.”

Delhi Police holds advisory meeting with senior citizens on cyber safety

NEW DELHI: A state-level advisory meeting was held at the Delhi Police Headquarters here on Friday to raise awareness among senior citizens about cyber frauds, including emerging threats such as “digital arrest”, officials said.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Special Police Unit for Women and Children, including the Joint Commissioner of Police, Additional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, along with officers from all police districts and the Traffic Unit.

During the interaction, senior citizens shared their experiences, grievances and suggestions, and appreciated the steps taken by the Delhi Police to address issues faced by the elderly at the district and police station levels, police said in a statement.

Participants also praised recent cyber awareness programmes organised by the Delhi Police to educate them about online frauds such as digital arrest, phishing and online impersonation, and measures to stay safe in the digital space.

“Senior citizens are among the most vulnerable targets for cyber criminals. That is why the Delhi Police is focusing on spreading digital awareness among them,” a senior police officer said.

He said outreach and awareness programmes are organised regularly across districts to educate elderly citizens about different forms of cyber frauds.

“Delhi Police is always ready to assist senior citizens and ensure they feel safe, both physically and in the digital space,” the officer added.

PRSI Hyderabad holds N. L. Narasimha Rao memorial lecture

Hyderabad, December 20: The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Hyderabad Chapter, on Friday organised the first memorial lecture in honour of late Sri N. L. Narasimha Rao, former Chairman of the Chapter, on the theme “Legacy and Leadership in Public Relations: Bridging People and Policy.”

The memorial lecture was held at the Conference Hall of Suravaram Pratap Reddy Telugu University, Hyderabad. Late Sri N. L. Narasimha Rao, born on December 20, 1938, passed away on August 4, 2019. He served in various capacities in the Public Relations Department of the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh government and held the post of PRSI Hyderabad Chapter Chairman for five tenures. He also served as National Vice President (South) of PRSI.

Shri U. S. Sharma, National Vice

President (South), graced the occasion as Guest of Honour and recalled his close association with late Narasimha Rao. He described him as a strong pillar of the Hyderabad Chapter who instilled leadership values among

members and appreciated the initiative taken by the Chapter to honour his legacy. Shri Krishna Bajji, Past Chairman and former National Vice President (South), read out the message of Dr. Ajit Pathak, National President,

Kambhampati, Chairman, PRSI Hyderabad Chapter, welcomed the gathering and family members of late Sri N. L. Narasimha Rao. Shri Rajesh Kalyana, Secretary of the Chapter, proposed the vote of thanks.

Earlier, Dr. Yadagiri



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



19-12-2025
Total pilgrims: 64,729
Tonsures: 22,162
Hundi kanukalu: 4.31 CR
Waiting Compartments..08

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens). 12 H

TO BOOK YOUR ADS CALL

99484 80279, 73307 78889



NATION | NEWS

ED attaches assets of Yuvraj Singh, Sonu Sood, others in betting case

NEW DELHI (TSIT): Assets of former Indian cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Robin Uthappa apart from that of ex TMC MP Mimi Chakraborty and actor Sonu Sood have been attached by the ED in an "illegal" betting app linked money laundering case estimated to be worth more than Rs 1,000 crore, official sources said Friday.



WORLD | NEWS

South Korea's Unification minister vows to take lead in policy on North Korea

SPORTS | NEWS

Self-imposed pressure key to World Cup preparation, says Varun Chakravarth



INBRIF

Seven elephants killed as Rajdhani hits herd in Assam

New Delhi (TSIT): At least seven elephants were killed and one calf injured after a herd collided with the Sairang-New Delhi Rajdhani Express in Assam's Hojai on Saturday morning, leading to the disruption of rail services. According to officials, the accident took place around 2:17 a.m. when the New Delhi-bound Rajdhani Express struck a herd of elephants that was crossing the railway tracks. Forest department authorities later confirmed that seven elephants were killed in the collision, while one calf was rescued in an injured condition and provided medical attention. Additionally, a few coaches of the train were derailed. No passengers or railway staff sustained injuries in the incident.

7 arrested over Hindu youth's lynching, says Bangladesh interim govt

Dhaka : angladesh interim government's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus on Saturday announced that at least seven people were arrested in connection with the lynching and brutal killing of Hindu youth Dipu Chandra Das over blasphemy charges. "In the incident of beating to death Sanatan Dharma adherent youth Dipu Chandra Das (27) in Bhaluka, Mymensingh, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has arrested seven individuals as suspects," Yunus said in a post on X. The arrested individuals have been identified as Limon Sarkar, Tarek Hossain, Manik Mia, Ershad Ali, Nijum Uddin, Alomgir Hossain and Miraj Hossain Akon. According to the statement, RAB-14 conducted operations at various locations and arrested the aforementioned suspects.

Six Indians impress at US Kids Indian Championship

Manesar : Nihal Cheema, Drona Singh Dhull and Prince Bainsla among the boys, and Naaysha S Sinha, Gairat Kaur Kahlon and Shiksha Jain among the girls, were outstanding performers in the fifth edition of the US Kids Golf Indian Championship at Classic Golf and Country Club. Despite challenging weather conditions and the smog, local golfers made a clean sweep of the titles, with creditable displays in a rather tricky situation. The Tournament Committee reduced the final round for all sections to nine holes because there was insufficient daylight on account of a delayed start. Nihal Cheema in Boys 8 was the only player to shoot par or better on all three days, emerging as a runaway winner over his main rival, Zowra Sikand.

Public service commissions are governance backbone: Bhatti

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Saturday said that Public Service Commissions are the backbone of the country's administrative system and play a decisive role in ensuring merit-based, transparent, and inclusive governance.

Addressing the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference of Chairpersons, Members, Experts, and Officials of Public Service Commissions, the Deputy CM emphasized that only through fair, transparent, and accountable recruitment processes can deserving talent be inducted into public service.

He stressed that adherence to an annual examination calendar is mandatory and said delays in conducting examinations lead to frustration and uncertainty among youth. Proper advance planning and strict implementation of job calendars, he said, would strengthen public trust in the system. Appreciating the Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC), he noted that it is successfully implementing a job calendar and extended congratulations to the Commission's Chairman and



Members on behalf of the State government.

Transparency, he said, is the lifeline of Public Service Commissions. From question paper preparation to final selection, every stage of recruitment must be clear, error-free, and beyond doubt. He called for extensive use of technology to provide real-time information to candidates and said earning public confidence should remain the foremost objective of commissions.

Expressing concern over incidents of question paper leaks, the

Deputy CM said such acts are against the core values of public service and shatter the dreams of aspirants. He urged the adoption of advanced security systems, ethical training for staff, and swift, impartial action in case of lapses.

He also stated that interviews should not be limited to testing knowledge alone, but should assess personality, ethics, and decision-making abilities. Interview processes must be fair and unbiased, with boards comprising experts from diverse backgrounds, he added.

Congress protest against replacing MGNREGA, 'hate politics' in National Herald case

BENGALURU (TSIT): The ruling Congress in Karnataka on Saturday held a protest against the central government replacing the MGNREGA, and alleged "hate politics" against the party leadership in the National Herald case.

The protest at the Freedom Park here, led by state Congress president and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, was attended by a host of party leaders and legislators.

Addressing the protest meet, Shivakumar said that the Congress party and its workers won't let "Gandhi's India be converted into Godse's (Nathuram Godse) India." Nathuram Godse's party (apparently referring to the BJP) is trying to remove the name of Mahatma Gandhi, who sacrificed his life for the unity and independence of the country, he said, as he called them "traitors" for removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the



MGNREGA scheme.

BJP leaders have lost the right to stage protests before Gandhi statues. "Here on, you (BJP) should not sit in protest in front of Gandhi statues," the Deputy CM said.Challenging the BJP and the party led government at the Centre to remove Mahatma Gandhi's picture from the currency notes, he further said, "We will not let your attempts to distort history and succeed. The Congress will not allow it to happen."

'Bulldozer on MGNREGA':

Sonia Gandhi attacks Modi govt over G RAM G Bill

New Delhi (TSIT): Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Saturday mounted a sharp attack on the PM Narendra Modi-led government, accusing it of systematically running a "bulldozer" over the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and undermining the rights of rural poor, farmers and landless workers, terming it an "assault on rural livelihoods".

This comes two days after the Parliament passed the VB-G RAM G Bill 2025, which escalated into a major political slugfest between the government and the opposition.

In a video message shared by the Congress on X, Gandhi recalled the passage of the landmark employment guarantee law nearly two decades ago during the tenure of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. She said MGNREGA was



passed with broad consensus in Parliament and proved to be a "revolutionary step" that provided livelihood security to crores of rural families, particularly the most deprived and marginalised. "The law stopped distress migration by ensuring employment in one's own village, strengthened gram panchayats and gave a legal right to work," Gandhi said, adding that the scheme embodied Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj.

She noted that MGNREGA acted as a lifeline for the poor during

the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Congress leader alleged that over the past 11 years, the Modi government had made repeated attempts to dilute the scheme by ignoring the interests of the rural unemployed and poor. She expressed "deep anguish" over what she described as recent unilateral changes to the programme. "Without consultation, discussion or taking the opposition into confidence, the government has altered the very structure of MGNREGA. Even Mahatma Gandhi's name has been removed," Sonia Gandhi claimed.

PM inaugurates new terminal of Guwahati airport

GUWAHATI: (Dec 20) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the new terminal of the Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati in Assam.

Touted as the country's first "nature-themed airport", the new terminal will be able to handle 13.1 million passengers per annum, officials said.

The total cost of the project is Rs 5,000 crore, including Rs 1,000 crore earmarked specifically for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities, they said.

The project has been



developed by Guwahati International Airport Ltd, with operations led by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), they added. Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said the new terminal will serve as a catalyst for regional and industrial development, strengthening Guwahati's role as an emerging economic gateway beyond its tourism potential.

Indian cyber agency flags WhatsApp 'hijack'

NEW DELHI: Indian cyber security agency CERT-In has flagged a vulnerability in the WhatsApp "device-linking" feature that enables attackers to take "complete" control of an account, including access to real-time messages, photos, and videos on the web version. The agency named the issue "GhostPairing" on Friday in an advisory that has been accessed by PTI. "It has been reported that malicious actors are exploiting WhatsApp's device-linking feature to hijack accounts



using pairing codes without authentication requirement. "This newly identified cyber campaign called GhostPairing enable cyber criminals to take complete control of WhatsApp accounts without needing password or SIM swaps," the advisory said. A response from WhatsApp to the revelation is awaited. The Indian computer emergency response team (CERT-In) is the national technology arm to combat cyber attacks and guarding of the Indian Internet space. The advisory said that the "high" severity attack campaign usually begins with the victim receiving a message like "Hi, check this photo" from a "trusted" contact. The message contains a link with a Facebook-style preview.

Wait till after Pongal: Vijay's TVK signals major political shift in TN

CHENNAI (TSIT): Hinting at a major political realignment after the Pongal festival, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on Saturday said Tamil Nadu is set to witness a significant transformation in the coming weeks, with all key decisions, including alliance formation, to be taken solely by party president Vijay.

Speaking to reporters at the Chennai airport, TVK administrative committee chief coordinator K A Sengottaiyan said, "After Pongal, you will see what kind of change is going to unfold in Tamil Nadu." He underlined that groundwork was



already underway to ensure electoral success and that the party was moving in a clear, decisive direction. Referring to the TVK meeting held in Erode on December

18, Sengottaiyan said the programme had national resonance. "The event was organised in a manner that made not just Tamil Nadu, but the entire country, take notice.

Nearly three lakh people gathered to see our leader Vijay. It was a historic and record-setting turnout," he said. The former minister said senior leaders were scheduled to meet Vijay later in the day to discuss the party's next phase of outreach. "After consulting Vijay, decisions will be taken on district-level programmes and future movements. Every action will be guided by his advice," he added. Stressing Vijay's authority within the party, Sengottaiyan said, "All decisions, including alliance-related matters, will be taken by Vijay alone."

Judge transfer may delay Jagan DA case again

Hyderabad: The long-pending disproportionate assets case involving YSR Congress Party chief and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is likely to face further delay following the transfer of the presiding judge of the Nampally CBI court.

Raghuram, who was hearing the case, has been transferred, and official orders have appointed Pattabhirama Rao as the new judge. The current judge is expected to be relieved



after the 22nd of this month, while the new judge is likely to assume charge before the 29th. Legal experts say the new judge will need time to study the voluminous case records,

which could slow down the proceedings.

The disproportionate assets case has been under trial for several years, with frequent changes in judges cited as a major reason for delays. The hearing on discharge petitions filed by the accused has still not been completed, preventing the case from moving to the main trial stage. There have been allegations that these petitions are contributing to prolonged delays in the proceedings.

Earlier, both the

Supreme Court and the High Court had directed that the trial be expedited and brought to an early conclusion. However, those directions have not translated into faster progress on the ground.

With the latest judicial transfer, uncertainty has once again arisen over when the trial will conclude. Observers are keenly watching whether the newly appointed judge will be able to accelerate the proceedings and move the case forward.

Road Safety Month Must Be Conducted Effectively: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar.

Mancherial, Dec 20, TSIT: Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has directed officials in all districts of Telangana to ensure the effective implementation of Road Safety Month-2026, with a strong focus on public awareness and accident prevention.

Addressing a video conference from his office in Hyderabad on Saturday, the Minister reviewed preparations for the road safety campaign with Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Transport Secretary Vikas Raj, Additional Director General of Police (Traffic) Mahesh Bhagwat, and dis-



trict Collectors, police officials, and senior officers from various departments.

COORDINATED EFFORTS NEEDED

The Minister stated that the State government has been conducting week-long and month-long road safety awareness programmes since

last year. He instructed officials to organise special road safety initiatives throughout January, focusing on traffic rule compliance, safe driving practices, and accident prevention.

He emphasised the need for close coordination among the Transport

Department, RTC, Police, Education Department, and District Road Safety Committees to ensure the campaign reaches people at the grassroots level.

Causes of Road Accidents

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari observed that overspeeding, drunken driving, and failure to wear helmets were the major causes of road accidents. She noted that despite significant investments by both the Central and State governments in road infrastructure, accident rates would not reduce without active public cooperation.

Students told to follow traffic rules strictly



Warangal, Dec 20 (TSIT): "Follow traffic signals strictly and adhere to speed limits to avoid accidents," said Adjunct Professor of English at Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda Dr Srinivas Vooradi. Participating as the chief guest at the Road Safety Awareness Programme organized by the Kakatiya Government Degree & PG (Autonomous) College, Hanamkonda on Saturday, Dr Srinivas urged the students to wear helmets on two-wheelers and not to use mobile phone while driving. "Road accidents claim millions of lives annually, often due to speeding, drunk driving or distractions affecting not just drivers but families and communities," he added. Presiding over the Programme, Principal of the College Prof G Srinivas exhorted the students to promote awareness among the people to follow the traffic rules meticulously. Speaking on the occasion, Sub-Inspector of Police (Traffic) Komarelli enlightened the students on the consequences of violation of traffic rules. Convenor of the Programme and Associate Professor of English of the College Dr Bhukya Srinivas Rathod explained about the activities conducted for the students as part of the Programme and added that competitions in essay writing, elocution and poster presentation were conducted for the students from the undergraduate college in the tritiques. Winners of the competitions were given prizes on the occasion. Vice Principal of the College Dr Satyanarayana Reddy, Associate Professor of English Dr Praveen Kumar and others spoke on the occasion. IQAC Coordinator and Head of the Department of English Dr Srinath, Dr P Dinakar and Director of the Women Empowerment Cell Dr Samata, Dr Rajesh, members of the Road Safety Awareness Programme Committee, representative from Pingle Govt Degree and PG College Shyamsunder Reddy and NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and students participated.

TTD Board Chief thanks both the CMs for their kind gesture

Tirumala: In a significant development aimed at enhancing the spiritual aura of the Universal deity of Kaliyuga, Sri Venkateswara Swamy in the North Eastern parts of India, the Assam Government has decided to allocate land to the extent of 25 acres at Guwahati towards the construction of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Divya Kshetram instead of 10.8 acres as decided earlier. This significant decision to enhance the extent of land allotment comes in the wake of a correspondence between the Chief ministers of



Assam and Andhra Pradesh. According to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Trust Board Chairmam Sri BR Naidu, the Assam Govt. had earlier accorded consent for the

allotment of 10.8 acres of land at Kamrup metropolitan district near Guwahati. However, on December 7, the Additional Chief Secretary to Assam CM, Sri KK Dwivedi addressed a letter to the TTD chairman BR Naidu, drawing his attention to the concerns of the administrators of an existing Sri Balaji temple and cultural complex at Garchuk in Guwahati, that if the TTD establishes a Sri Venkateswara temple at Kamrup metropolitan district, it would adversely affect the interests of the existing temple.



HIS HOLINESS SRI SRI SRI PARIPOORNANANDHAGIRI SWAMULAVARU, SRI VYASASRAMAM, YERPEDU OFFERED PRAYERS IN THE HILL TEMPLE OF LORD VENKATESWARA ON SATURDAY.

Senior citizens told to make use of legal service camps

Warangal, Dec 20 (TSIT): "Caring for parents and the elderly is our social and legal responsibility," said Principal District and Sessions Judge V.B. Nirmala Geethamba. Inaugurating a legal services camp for the welfare of the elderly at DRO office in the Warangal Collectorate on Saturday, Principal District and Sessions Judge V.B. Nirmala Geethamba said, "This free legal service camp is not just a program, it is the assurance given to the elderly. The self-esteem of the elderly should not be diminished. Owing to the changing lifestyle in today's society, many elderly people are facing loneliness and neglect. Keeping this in mind, the Government of



India brought the 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Elderly Persons Act' in 2007." She explained that the elderly had the right to nutrition, protection of property, and immediate redressal of their grievances. She further remarked, "It is the intention of our legal services that no elderly person should stand on the road hungry or with their self-esteem damaged. If

you have any problems, you should feel free to contact this legal service camp and get free legal advice." Legal Services Authority Secretary M. Saikumar, RDO T.Suma, DAO Phani Kumar, Advocate Y.Kumar, Para Legal Volunteer Alethi Darcus, President of Warangal Senior Citizens Welfare Association, Malla Reddy and senior citizens participated.

Central Bank marks 115th foundation week in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, December 19, 2025: As part of its 115th Foundation Day celebrations, Central Bank of India organized a series of social service and educational initiatives in Hyderabad under the Foundation Week theme "Seva Hi Sankalp."

Demonstrating its commitment to social responsibility, the bank extended support to the old age home "Help for Good" by donating a refrigerator and a water dispenser to improve the comfort and well-being of senior citizens. Fruits were also distributed to the residents, creating moments of warmth and care. The programme was attended by Zonal Head Shri Dharasing Naik, Deputy Zonal Head Shri M. V. S. Prasad, the Regional Head, along with other senior officials and staff members.



As part of the celebrations, the bank also organized a prize distribution ceremony for school students

who participated in the quiz competition "Cent Intellica." The event was held at Prince Ton High School, where meritorious students were awarded prizes for their performance in the competition aimed at promoting knowledge, awareness and intellectual development.

Zambian nurse defeats rare blood cancer at KIMS



Hyderabad, December 20, 2025: A 27-year-old nurse from Zambia, Mumba Margaret, has made a remarkable recovery after battling one of the most aggressive blood cancers, Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), along with multiple life-threatening complications, following advanced treatment at KIMS Hospital, Secunderabad.

Diagnosed with AML in September 2023, Mumba was advised to undergo highly specialized treatment, including a stem cell (bone marrow) transplant. Determined to survive, she travelled to India and sought treatment at KIMS Hospital. Even before the transplant could begin, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis, complicating her treatment further.

During the course of therapy, the cancer relapsed, requiring additional chemotherapy. She

also developed multiple severe infections and remained hospitalized for nearly 40 days. Her condition and treatment details were shared by Dr. Narendra Kumar Thota, Head of the Hemato-Oncology Department and Stem Cell and Bone Marrow Transplant Specialist at KIMS Hospital.

On June 19, 2025, Mumba underwent her first stem cell transplant. Post-transplant, she developed rare and critical complications, including dyselektrolytemia, febrile neutropenia, and severe impairment of heart and lung function. She also suffered from Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES), leading to seizures, loss of consciousness and neurological symptoms.

At the peak of her illness, Mumba suffered more than seven cardiac

arrests and was revived repeatedly through CPR. A coordinated effort by the stem cell transplant team, critical care specialists and cardiologists, supported by advanced technology and round-the-clock monitoring, helped save her life.

After months of intensive care and treatment, Mumba Margaret has now fully recovered and is medically stable. She is ready to return to Zambia, looking forward to reuniting with her family and resuming her nursing career.

Her recovery stands as a powerful example of medical excellence and human resilience. Doctors at KIMS Hospital said the case highlights the impact of advanced multidisciplinary care and the patient's extraordinary courage, proving that even the most challenging medical battles can be overcome.

GITAM students attend IAF graduation at Dundigal



Hyderabad: Students of GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, were given a unique exposure opportunity during a visit to the Dundigal Air Force Academy, where they witnessed the prestigious graduation ceremony of Indian Air Force officers. The exposure visit was organized by GITAM Hyderabad and coordinated by Prof. Pritee Ambarish Parwekar, Chairperson of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GITAM and the Indian Air Force. A delegation of 35 students and five faculty members attended the formal graduation parade, followed by an impressive air show. The visit provided students with a first-hand experience of the discipline, precision and professionalism of the Indian Air Force, along with insights into its advanced technological capabilities. The ceremony left a lasting impression on the participants, instilling a sense of pride and inspiration.

Prof. Parwekar described the visit as a "lifetime experience for the students" and said witnessing their enthusiasm during the ceremony was deeply fulfilling. She noted that such exposure visits play a vital role in shaping young minds and reinforcing the importance of institutional collaborations. The visit reflects GITAM's continued commitment to experiential learning and its efforts to strengthen ties with premier national defence institutions.

Canara Bank Launches 'Canara ai1Pe', a Unified UPI App for Seamless and Secure Digital Payments

Bengaluru, December 20, 2025: Canara Bank announces the launch of its new digital payments app called 'Canara ai1Pe'. The app aims to provide customers with a fast, secure, and convenient experience of making payments using the UPI platform. The app will allow customers with accounts from any bank to link their accounts and enjoy instant money transfers, bill payments, and everyday digital services—all in one place. Canara ai1Pe brings together advanced UPI capabilities, intelligent spend insights, widget facility for easy QR scan and enhanced security features, making digital payments simpler and more accessible for users of all age groups and experience levels.

Key Features of the app:

- The app has a device binding facility that allows users who are already registered with some other Third party UPI App, to download the Canara ai1Pe app and begin making transactions immediately. Thus enabling payments for any bank customers for every UPI Payments.
- Widget Facility: Scan, pay, done in a flash! Our new Widget Facility brings instant

UPI QR scanning right to your home screen for the fastest payments yet.

- UPI Delegate (UPI Circle): This allows the primary account holder of a particular account to form a secure circle and add trusted family members as delegates. These members can then make payments up to a fixed limit, such as 15,000 per month, promoting shared access to household expenses while maintaining security and control for the primary account holder.
- Furthermore, the app features Spend Analytics, which equips users with smart information about their month-on-month spending, categorisation of expenditure, and financial trends to empower better money management.
- UPI Autopay: Canara ai1Pe enables a broad range of UPI services: instant money transfers between bank accounts, QR-code-based merchant payments, and comprehensive bill payments and recharges. Electricity, water, broadband, DTH, and mobile bills can be paid, prepaid connections can be recharged, and recurring payments automated through UPI

Autopay for subscriptions, EMIs, SIPs, and utility bills.

- For low-value transactions, the app features UPI Lite that allows faster payments without entering the UPI PIN after every transaction, further adding to day-to-day convenience in low-ticket spends.
- Each transaction via Canara ai1Pe is protected by a UPI PIN authentication mechanism, while device binding ensures that payments are made possible only through the same registered mobile device, adding a layer of protection.
- Canara ai1Pe offers a clean and simple user interface with a clean arrangement. This feature promotes rapid actions and immediate status updates of transactions. With the ai1Pe facility, the customer can not only access the transaction history but will be able to avail reward and cashback schemes. Moreover, the facility will provide the user with payment reminders. With ai1Pe, Canara Bank desires to enhance the environment of digital payments by providing a highly efficient and easy UPI service.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No. 15431037H, Rank-HAV, YALAKA RAVEENDAR, S/o. YALAKA NARSAIAH of Unit 39 RR BN, C/o. 56 APO, Have changed My Wife Name from YALAKA JHANSI RANI (Old Name) to KANDULA JHANSI RANI (New Name) for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Folio NO (S) NVB009234 share certificates No(s) 901030,1018091 for 800 shares bearing distinctive No (s) 14044581-14044980, 176517594-176517993 standing in the name (s) of Narendra Bhattad & Shakun Bhattad in the books of M/s Nava Limited Limited, has/have been lost/misplaced/destroyed and the advertiser has/have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu thereof. Any person(s) who has/have claim (s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents X viz KFin Technologies Limited, Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot number 31 & 32, Financial District Gachibowli, Hyderabad 500 032 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares.

Date: 21/12/25
Place: Hyderabad
Name (s) of the shareholder (s)
Narendra Bhattad
Shakun Bhattad

Telangana Women Commission to receive grievances from women on Dec 23

Hyderabad, Dec 20 : The Telangana State Commission for Women will conduct 'Naari Nyay', a Grievance Redressal Programme, at Collector's office, Lakdi Ka Pul , Hyderabad on December 23, aiming to provide a direct platform for women to voice their grievances and seek timely redressal.

Women facing issues such as harassment, domestic violence, workplace harassment, property disputes, safety concerns, or any other problems affecting their rights and dignity can present their complaints directly before the Commission, the Commission said in a release here today.

Petitions already pending with any office may also be submitted during the programme.

Steps underway to prevent road accidents: Collector



Warangal, December 20 (TSIT): District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada on Saturday said that comprehensive steps are being taken to prevent road accidents in Warangal district by identifying accident-prone areas and improving road safety measures. She was participating in a

video conference chaired by State Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar along with Chief Secretary Rama Krishna Rao, Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj and Transport Commissioner Ilambarthi from the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat in Hyderabad.

Awareness on Child Marriage Mukti India

Karimnagar : Dhanalakshmi, chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee, as part of the parent teachers meeting at Arepalli ZPHS School. District Child Protection Member Naini Swapna was made aware on Saturday about child marriage. As part of this, school



head master, school teachers, Anganwadi teachers, school children and children parents participated. Legally, the marriageable age for girls is 18 and for boys is 21. Otherwise explain the legal problems and health problems. It is everyone's responsibility to inform the child help line number 1098 if any child marriage takes place anywhere. Child marriage is a crime under the law. Children should not be addicted to the phone and parents should be friendly with the children and ensure that they do not go astray.

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud Receives AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge at Shamshabad Airport



Hyderabad: TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Saturday received AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge at the Rajiv Gandhi

International Airport, Shamshabad. The reception was attended by IT and Industries Minister Duddihalli Sridhar Babu and Protocol Chairman

Harkara Venugopal. Mallikarjun Kharge arrived in Hyderabad from Delhi and later departed for Kalaburagi by helicopter.

International Export Fish Market Proposed at Koheda Fisheries Minister Vakati Srihari Inspects Site

Hyderabad : Telangana Fisheries Minister Vakati Srihari on Friday inspected the site proposed for the construction of an International



Export Fish Market at Koheda village in Abdullapurmet mandal of Rangareddy district. The project is planned over an extent of 13 acres.

During the visit, officials briefed the Minister on the proposed construction and planning details of the market. Minister Vakati Srihari offered several suggestions and sought modifications in the planning to ensure world-class standards and minimal inconvenience to the local population. The inspection was attended by local MLA Mallareddy Rangareddy, Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Saikumar, Fisheries Director Nikhila, Joint Director Murali Krishna, Kulasekhar, senior officials, and Congress party leaders.

Christianity is a way of life, says Kadiyam Srihari



Hanamkonda: Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari on Saturday said that Christianity is not merely a religion but a way of life that teaches peace, love and compassion. He was speaking at the mini Christmas celebrations held at the Christ Jyothi Prarthana Mandir at Karunapuram village in Dharmasagar mandal of Hanumakonda district.

The programme was organised under the leadership of Christ Jyothi Ministries Founder and Prophet Rev. Dr. Sangala Paulson Raju and Society of Christ General Secretary Rev. Dr. Jayaprakash Gopu. Beginning his address with a "Hallelujah," Kadiyam Srihari said that the Christ Jyothi Prarthana Mandir has earned global recognition and is among the largest prayer halls in Asia.

Devarapalli NH to be key north-south link

Khammam: State Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles Tummala Nageswara Rao said the Khammam-Devarapalli National Highway will emerge as a crucial north-south corridor connecting Telangana with Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country. The Minister inspected the ongoing Greenfield Highway works at Dhamsalapuram on Saturday along with District Collector Anudeep Durishetty and Municipal Commissioner



Abhishek Agastya. He reviewed the progress of the road-over-bridge (ROB), entry and exit points, and the Munneru bridge, and directed officials to expedite the construction works. Addressing officials,

Tummala Nageswara Rao said the 160-km highway would significantly improve connectivity, enabling commuters to reach Rajahmundry in about one-and-a-half hours. He said the project would benefit people of Khammam district as well as Andhra Pradesh, adding that the Dhamsalapuram ROB is likely to be completed by Sankranti. The Minister said all preparatory works for the ROB, including land acquisition and shifting of high-tension power lines, have been completed.

Revanth Reddy offers Chadar at Ajmer Sharif on behalf of Telangana Govt

Hyderabad, Dec 20 (TSIT) Chief Minister Revanth Reddy offered a chadar at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah on behalf of the Telangana state government, seeking peace, harmony and prosperity for the people. The offering was made in the presence of Ministers Azharuddin and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, government advisors Shabbir Ali and Vem Narendar Reddy, MP Balaram Naik, MLAs, TMREIS Vice Chairman Fahim Qureshi, Telangana Haj Committee Chairman Afzal Biabani, Waqf Board Chairman Obaidullah Kotwal, along with several Muslim minority leaders.

Work with renewed enthusiasm: Additional Collector

Karimnagar, December 20 (TSIT): Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Ashwini Tanaji Wakade called upon officials to work with redoubled enthusiasm and dedication for the development of villages and

the welfare of people. She was addressing Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs) after the successful completion of Panchayat elections conducted in a peaceful atmosphere across the district.

Dasari Harichandana Pays Courtesy Call on CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Hyderabad: Hyderabad District Collector Dasari Harichandana on Saturday met the Chief Election Commissioner of India Gyanesh Kumar at the iconic Taj Falaknuma Palace. On the occasion of the CEC's visit to Hyderabad, the District Collector called on him in a courtesy meeting and presented floral bouquets as a mark of respect. The interaction was held in a cordial atmosphere, reflecting administrative protocol and mutual regard. The meeting underscored the spirit of cooperation between the Election Commission of India and the district administration during the Chief Election Commissioner's stay in the city.



Senior Leader Gurla Tirumalesh Meets BRS Working President KTR

SERILINGAMPALLY, December 20: Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President, former minister, and Sircilla MLA Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) was courteously met by senior BRS party leader Gurla Tirumalesh from the Serilingampally constituency on Saturday. During the meeting, which took place at KTR's residence in Nandi Nagar, Gurla Tirumalesh presented KTR with Prasada from the Sabarimala Ayyappa Swamy temple. It is understood that the two leaders discussed party activities and constituency development issues.



Telangana Cong demands resignation of Nitish Kumar over hijab row



Hyderabad: Congress activists, led by Hyderabad District Congress Committee (DCC) chief Syed Khalid Saifullah, staged a protest on Saturday, demanding immediate public apology and resignation of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over an incident in which he allegedly pulled off the hijab of a woman doctor at a public function in Patna. The protesters termed the act a grave violation of a woman's dignity and constitutional rights, and warned that the agitation would continue until strict action was taken.

Khalid Saifullah told media that a mere apology would not suffice and insisted that Nitish Kumar step down to ensure accountability.

He said the incident, captured on video and widely circulated, had shocked the conscience of the nation and could not be dismissed as a trivial lapse. Calling it a physical assault carried out in full public view, he asserted that no individual, regardless of position or power, had the right to touch a woman or interfere with her clothing without consent.

Thanking the citizens of Hyderabad, Congress workers, women's organisations, student groups and media representatives for supporting the protest, Khalid said their presence reflected a collective stand for dignity, justice and constitutional values.

He stressed that the issue transcended political affiliations and was fundamentally about women's rights and human dignity.

Referring to Article 21 of the Constitution, Khalid said the right to life and personal liberty included the right to privacy, dignity and freedom of choice in attire.

He warned that such a conduct by a person holding constitutional office sent a dangerous message to society by implying that women's bodies and choices were open to public interference.

Khalid also criticised the National Commission for Women (NCW) for remaining silent despite being empowered under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, to take suo motu action.

He said the Commission's inaction in a case involving a sitting

Chief Minister was deeply disappointing and demanded immediate notice and action, asserting that the law must be equal for all.

Warning that allowing such behaviour to go unchallenged would normalise abuse of power, Khalid said Hyderabad was standing up for women, the Constitution and justice.

He emphasised that the protest was peaceful and within the bounds of law, describing democratic resistance as a constitutional right.

As part of the agitation, Khalid announced the launch of a toll-free miss-call number to mobilise public participation. Those giving a miss-call would receive a link enabling them to send emails directly to the NCW demanding action against the Bihar Chief Minister. He said the Congress would also initiate a bulk email campaign to ensure sustained pressure on the Commission.

The protest witnessed participation from leaders and activists of the NSUI, Mahila Congress and Youth Congress, along with Assembly in-charges.

SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE ACT, READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, 1st FLOOR, TRIVENI COMPLEX, ABIDS, AT: HYDERABAD

O. A. No. 885 OF 2025
Between: Canara Bank Kothaguda White Fields Branch ... APPLICANT

V/S
Sri. Mudireddy Ranjith Reddy ... DEFENDANT

To Sri. Mudireddy Ranjith Reddy, S/o. Sri. Mudireddy Jalapathy Reddy, Flat No. 101, 1st Floor, The White House Apartment, Plot No. 42/Part (West Portion) & 43/Part (West Portion), Sy. No. 199/E, Gajularamam Village, Quthbullapur Mandal, Medchal - Malkajgiri District, Telangana-500055. (M) 8978972669

And also, at Plot No. 84, Adarsha Nagar, Opp. UMOH Hospital, Gajularamam, Telangana-500055. (M) 8978972669
And also, at H. No. 5-1-50, Gadi Colony, Banswada, Nizamabad, Telangana-503187

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED

Whereas, OA No.885 of 2025 was listed before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal-II.

Whereas, this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of aggregate debts of Rs 24,57,271/- (Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy One and on 20.08.2025

In accordance with subsection (4) of section 19 the Act, you, the Defendants, are directed as under: -

- To show cause within 30 days of the service of summons as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
- To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original applications
- You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application pending hearing and disposal of the original application for attachment of properties
- You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which a security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without prior approval of the tribunal.
- You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding a security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal - II on 22.01.2026 at 10.30 AM failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this the 17th day of December 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, HYDERABAD.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: Ground floor, Usha Kiran Complex, S.D.Road, Secunderabad- 500003

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Boddu Narsamma (Borrower), Prabhakar Boddu (Co-Borrower), B Manichah (Co-Borrower), B Mallesh (Co-Borrower), LHSEC00001303494.	All that the house No. 5-48/4 admeasuring 264 Sq.Yds or 220 Sq.Mts with a plinth area of 162 Sq.Yds in S.No. 214 situated at Rajeev Gandhi Nagar Gogilapur Village, Dundigal-Gandimysamma Md., Quthbullapur Mandal R R District Hyderabad Telangana 500044. . Bounded By: North: Chinamma House, South: Open Plot, East: Open Plot, West: Road./ Date of Possession- 16-Dec-25	11-04-2025 Rs. 5,38,566/-	Hyderabad- Secunderabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: December 21, 2025, Place: Hyderabad Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक Indian Overseas Bank

KPHB PHASE 1 BRANCH
HIG-55, Jhansisankar Plaza, Road No 4, Kukatpally Housing Board, Hyderabad 500072
Phone: 89259-53027, Email: iob3027@iob.in

Auction Sale Notice for Publication in Newspaper

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to repay the liability in the loan accounts. Since the borrowers have failed to repay their dues under the facility, we will be conducting an auction of the pledged gold ornaments. Notices sent to them by Registered post and they are therefore advised to pay the loan dues and other charges to redeem the pledged jewels on or before 23-01-2026 failing which the said securities will be sold by the bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the bank's premises at HIG 55, Jhansi Sankar Plaza, Road no 4, KPHB, Kukatpally Hyderabad - 500072 at 11.30 A.M on 23-01-2026 or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the bank.

The Bank has the right to reschedule or cancel the auction at any point of time. The auction proceeds shall be credited to the loan account and remaining outstanding if any after crediting the loan proceeds shall be recovered for other liabilities of the Borrower. This final notice is applicable to the legal heirs of the borrower if the borrower is deceased.

We invite the bidders to take part in the Public Auction to be held at the bank's premises at HIG 55, Jhansi Sankar Plaza, Road no 4, KPHB, Kukatpally Hyderabad - 500072 at 11.30 A.M on 23-01-2026 Before commencement of auction, the bidders have to register their name with necessary KYC formalities and each bidder should deposit an earnest money of minimum of Rs. 1000/- before starting the auction. Immediately after the auction, the highest bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount. The sale will be subjected to confirmation by our higher authorities. In case the sale is confirmed the highest bidder should deposit the balance amount within 5 days from the date of receipt of intimation, confirming the sale and in the case of bidder defaults to do so, the deposit amount paid by him would be forfeited. In case the sale is not confirmed, the amount deposited by the bidder would be returned to him without any interest. The bank is not liable for the quality/quantity of the jewels. The bank reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason what-so-ever. GST at the prevailing rate in respective state has to be remitted by the bidder over and above the bid amount.

S. No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name and address of the borrower	Loan Amount (Rs.)	Gross weight (gms)	Loan Outstanding (Rs.) as on 20-12-2025	Date & Time of Auction	Place of Auction (branch address & contact no.)
1	21-12-2020	302703132000177	Shri Kumar Gaurav S/o Bhagirath Choudary Plot No : 70, Srirama Colony, Gutta Begumpet, Madhapur, Shaikpet, Kukatpally Hyderabad 500081	Rs. 1,51,000/-	48	2,52,572/-	23-01-2026, 11.30 AM	HIG55, Jhansi Sankar Plaza, Road no 4, KPHB, Kukatpally, Hyderabad - 500072

Date: 20-12-2025 Branch Manager

Editorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Opening India’s nuclear sector

With Parliament passing the nuclear energy bill, India has opened up the civil nuclear energy sector to the private sector. It took over three decades, since the sweeping 1991 economic reforms, for the country to allow private participation in strategic sectors and end the state monopoly over defence production, aerospace, and now nuclear energy. The passage of the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025 (SHANTI), can therefore be described as a bold move by the BJP-led NDA government.

The BJP can be credited with providing a substantial impetus to strengthening the country’s energy security, although a strong foundation in terms of policy and regulatory frameworks was laid by the previous UPA government. Even though, due to political compulsions, the BJP may keep haranguing with wildly exaggerated claims that nothing was done by the Congress Party, the truth is that several important initiatives were Congress projects which were once opposed and even obstructed by the BJP as an opposition party and, after 2014, were repackaged and implemented with renewed vigour. A case in point is the vehement opposition mounted by the BJP against the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal with regard to supplier liability. Once in power, it was forced to eat its words and follow the UPA model. Now the government is tying itself in knots to rationalise its stance on supplier liability provisions that it once recklessly opposed. While acknowledging the removal of supplier liability, the government maintained that it was done after “detailed consideration of global practices and advances in reactor safety, while negligence and penal provisions remain enforceable under the law”.

The present SHANTI Bill aims to reap the benefits accrued from the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government’s strong diplomatic thrust to end the so-called nuclear apartheid faced after the 1998 nuclear tests that rattled the major nuclear powers. The UPA government’s stupendous achievement in nuclear diplomacy was securing a waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) without signing the global Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It requires magnanimity and a spirit of bipartisanship when it comes to strategic and national interests to acknowledge the impressive work done by past governments. The improved and modernised framework paves the way for private sector participation, which is enabled by the UPA government’s NSG waiver that allowed the import of nuclear fuel and technology. Unless insisted upon by the government, there is a possibility of the private sector depending on foreign companies such as General Electric, Westinghouse Electric Co. and France’s EDF, rather than using indigenous reactor and fuel-cycle technologies developed by the public sector Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Moreover, the government should broaden private sector participation to multiple players rather than promoting just a couple of conglomerates such as Adani Power, Reliance Industries and Tata Power. The government should learn from the Indigo fiasco and be cautious about the dangers of duopoly in strategic sectors.

While the promotion of small modular reactors is important, and retaining government control over sensitive materials and management of spent fuel is reassuring, there are valid concerns regarding safety aspects and the liability of private players. This clean energy initiative is a welcome move and, amid global uncertainties around crude oil, it will help reduce dependence on fossil fuels as well.

Environmental crisis: Nature will be saved not by policies but by civic consciousness

Along with the failure of govts, our lifestyle is also the biggest culprit for environmental destruction.



PRIYANKA SAURABH

The debate on environmental protection is often steered in a convenient direction—governments don’t formulate policies, ministries are inactive, and laws remain confined to paper. This criticism isn’t entirely misplaced. Looking at the record of environmental ministries at the central and state levels, nature often becomes the first casualty of development projects. Deforestation, river pollution, toxic air, and groundwater scarcity—all of these are attributed to policy failure. But this is an incomplete truth. The full truth is that the environmental crisis is deeply rooted in our own lifestyles. We have treated the environment as a government subject, as if it were a departmental file separate from civic life. This mindset is the biggest crisis. Air, water, soil, and forests are not the property of any ministry, but a collective responsibility. When citizens distance themselves from this responsibility, no policy remains effective.

Today, the bulk of pollution isn’t generated by factories, but by everyday household behavior—excessive private vehicles, countless plastics, uncontrolled waste, and wasteful water and electricity consumption. We consider conveniences a right and their consequences a problem of governance. This very thinking is slowly pushing the environment toward destruction.

In a developing country like India, environmental protection is often dismissed as anti-development. This is an artificial and misleading argument. The truth is that the destruction of nature is itself antithetical to development. Floods, droughts, extreme heat waves, water scarcity, and diseases—these are all the products of “development” that ignores the balance of nature.

But even in this debate, the role of the citizen is relegated to a secondary role. We don’t ask how much our individual habits contribute to our development model. Is it necessary to take out a car for every short distance? Is unnecessary ostentation necessary at every wedding, ceremony, and festival? Is life impossible without single-use plastic? We avoid these questions because the answers make us uncomfortable.

Environmental protection isn’t possible through laws and regulations alone. It’s a question of civic character and social values. Countries that demonstrate environmental discipline are not just driven by strict laws, but also by disciplined citizens’ habits. The problem in India is that



When it comes to planting trees, enthusiasm is limited to government campaigns and photo opportunities. Saplings are planted on Tree Planting Day and forgotten the next day. No one takes responsibility for their conservation. This is why millions of trees are planted in statistics, but on the ground, forests continue to dwindle. There is an old saying: If a person takes nine maunds of wood with him throughout his life, he should leave behind at least nine maunds of trees. This saying is even more relevant today. Do we strive to give back something equal to the resources we consume in our lives?

Planting Day and forgotten the next day. No one takes responsibility for their conservation. This is why millions of trees are planted in statistics, but on the ground, forests continue to dwindle. There’s an old saying: “If a man carries nine maunds of wood throughout his life, he should leave

a burden. Not planting trees is not just environmental negligence, but an injustice to the lives of future generations. It’s a crime our children will pay for—in the form of dirty air, toxic water, and an insecure future. It’s also not correct to say that gov-

ernments have no role to play. Strict enforcement of environmental laws, honest environmental assessments of projects, stringent penalties for polluters, and empowerment of local bodies are all essential. But history shows that when society is inactive, even the best laws become ineffective. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is an example of this. Where citizens participated, results were seen. Where it was considered merely a government scheme, the situation remained the same. Environmental protection will also work on this principle. The solution to the environmental crisis lies not in one big decision, but in millions of small citizen decisions. Household waste segregation, rainwater harvesting, using public transportation, energy-efficient appliances, local tree planting—these steps are all simple yet impactful.

Environmental education in schools and universities must not be limited to curriculum, but must be translated into practice. Children must be connected to nature, so that they develop not only information but also sensitivity. The role of the media and social organizations is also crucial. The environment must be presented not only as a disaster or a day-to-day issue, but as an everyday concern.

Ultimately, the most honest answer to the environmental crisis is to ask ourselves—what are we giving to nature? Until this question arises in the minds of every citizen, policies will continue to come and go, and nature will continue to be quietly destroyed. Nature is not the responsibility of any ministry; it is a test of our collective character. And so far, we have failed this test. There is still time—if we truly want development, it must be built in harmony with nature, or future generations will never forgive us.

The forgetting of water: modernity, arrogance, & a drying earth



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Of India’s contemporary crises, water is the most discussed, yet also the least understood. Drought, floods, depleting groundwater, polluted rivers—we see them all as separate events, whereas they are different chapters of a single story. This story is not one of natural disaster, but of human forgetfulness. We have considered water merely a resource and abandoned the memory, culture, and empathy associated with it.

The idea of impounding water above ground by building dams is one of the greatest fallacies of modern development. This sys-

tem is built against the very nature of nature. Water’s nature is not to stagnate, but to flow—to absorb the earth’s womb, and from there to nourish life. Ponds, tanks, wells, and stepwells were expressions of this nature. They didn’t impound water, they conserved it. That’s why they were time-tested and self-evident systems that supported human civilization for millions of years.

Today, we consider dams a symbol of development, while ponds a sign of backwardness. This is a loss of vision. At one time, more than 17,000 ponds were mentioned in Punjab. They were not just water sources, but centers of community life—living spaces connecting animals, fields, birds, and humans. Today, the situation is such that, let alone ponds, even proper records of Shamlat lands are not available in Punjab. When memory is erased, crisis becomes inevitable. Our ancestors knew that floods were not destruction, but opportunities. They knew that if floodwaters spread and flowed into ponds, tanks, and plains, they would revitalize the earth. Therefore, there were traditions of dredging ponds—some called it voluntary



labor, others a social duty. Ponds were deep, their beds wide, and they absorbed maximum rainfall. This was a system that relied on understanding, not technology.

The irony is that the same hands that filled ponds, filled tanks, and clogged wells with garbage are now looking to the sky for water. When those who killed the ponds themselves begin to die, the blame is placed on nature, climate change, or our ancestors. The courage to self-criticize is becoming rare.

This crisis isn’t just about water, it’s also about education. I often wonder what it means to be properly educated. Is it just

degrees, statistics, and technical jargon? No. To be properly educated means to be a Samavedi—to be one with the entire ecosystem provided by God. When humans begin to consider themselves separate from nature, their knowledge becomes cleverness, and cleverness ultimately leads to destruction. Everything else is just a refined form of nonsense.

The state of water management in the country can be gauged from the fact that, to date, no comprehensive, reliable, and comprehensive survey has been conducted to determine India’s actual water reserves. We formulate plans, approve budgets, and make

announcements—without knowing the basis. This is not policy, but conjecture; and development based on conjecture is bound to collapse sooner or later.

The picture of groundwater exploitation is even more horrifying. Nearly 1750,000 submersibles in Punjab and nearly 900,000 in Haryana are pumping water from the earth’s womb. It’s as if the earth is lying on a bed of arrows for submersibles. Without the boon of voluntary death, we are killing it a little bit every day. This is a silent tragedy, wrought at the expense of greenery, and one that will only worsen in the future.ment at the

expense of the environment is like sitting on the very branch we are cutting. This situation is reminiscent of Kalidasa’s fable—where foolishness is cloaked in wisdom. Wide roads, tall buildings, and shiny projects give us the illusion of progress, while the ground is drying up underneath. This is not development, but staged destruction.

Cities are the most glaring example of this failure. Modern academic institutions and policymakers still lack a comprehensive vision, a national framework for drainage, water conservation, waste reduction, and waste utilization in Indian cities. Cities flood during the rainy season, and in the summer, they groan with thirst. This contradiction is evidence of a failure not of the system, but of the vision.

The state of rivers is the most poignant chapter of this story. The list of polluted rivers has become so long that reading it feels like looking at a list of the dead. Rivers that gave birth to civilizations are now victims of our negligence. We call them mothers, yet behave as if they are eternally tolerant. This cultural hypocrisy has reached its limits.

Just a few decades ago, India’s cities, villages, pastures, fields, forests, ponds, wells, and stepwells teemed with life. This is not an idealized past, but a fact of social memory. At that time, resources were limited, but understanding was broad. There was community, participation, and a sense of symbiosis with nature. Government development programs shattered this social character. Planning grew, but society shrank.

Today, the need is to not leave water management solely to engineers and planners. This question is more ethical and cultural than technical. The revival of ponds, the restoration of johads, rainwater harvesting, and the protection of community lands—these are not discoveries of the future, but memories of the past. We need to remember, not go back. Water is not a commodity, but a relationship—between humans and nature. When this connection is broken, disasters arise. There is still time, but the warning is clear. If we don’t mend our relationship with water, history will remember us as the generation that killed our own planet with thirst.

Following Jainism leads to noblest life: Basavaraj Bommai



Haveri: Former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament Basavaraj Bommai said that by following the principles and practices of Jainism, a person can become the noblest among human beings, as the religion teaches harmony with nature, sanctity of life and the supreme value of non-violence. Speaking at the concluding ceremony of the Grand Shri Siddhachakra Mahamandala Vidhan Mahotsava and Pinchi Parivartana Programme at Rajani Auditorium in Haveri on Saturday, Bommai said Jainism not only guides how life should be lived but even teaches how one should breathe without harming the smallest living organisms. He described ahimsa (non-violence) as the

supreme dharma and said Jainism grows and survives in complete harmony with nature. The MP said life itself is a continuous struggle from birth to death and that the divine governs even the act of breathing. Jainism, he said, highlights the sanctity of breath and teaches mindful living. If the teachings imparted by Jain Gurus are followed, one can attain the highest human values and spiritual elevation. Bommai noted that while humans often seek power through possession, Jainism teaches that true power lies in renunciation. He said those who renounce worldly attachments and practise austerity possess immense spiritual strength, and their words and thoughts naturally inspire others. Citing

the example of Bhagwan Mahavira, who renounced his kingdom and wealth, he said detachment itself is supreme power. He further stated that humans are endowed with the power to think and express, and if this energy is directed positively, it will benefit all of humanity. The essence of Siddhachakra, he said, lies in channelising spiritual energy for human welfare. On the occasion, Charyashiromani Munishri 108 Viditasagar Maharaj and Swastishri Bhattakalanka Bhattarakar Swamiji of Swadi Digambar Jain Math, Sonda, graced the event. Former MLAs Veerupakshappa Ballari and Sanjay Patil, along with several leaders and dignitaries, were also present.

Udupi: Woman ends life by jumping into well

Udupi, Dec 19: A woman allegedly died by suicide after jumping into a well located behind the MGM College grounds at Sagri. The deceased has been identified as Seetha Nayak (67), a resident of a private residential complex. Her body was found in a well situated in a nearby vacant plot. PSI Bharatesh of the Udupi city police station conducted the investigation process. Fire and emergency services officer Ravindra, along with staff member Raghavendra Acharya and their team, retrieved the body from the well. Social worker Nithyananda Volkadu extended assistance in shifting the body to the post-mortem examination centre at Ajarkad district hospital. Suicide is not a solution to any problem. Kindly seek the help of mental health experts if you are under any kind of distress. Toll free helpline number 9152987821.



Virohan raises Rs.65 crore in series B round

Bengaluru: Virohan, a leading healthcare education platform in India, has raised 65 crore (\$7.5 million) as part of its ongoing Series B funding round, led by Japan-based Mynavi Corporation, with participation from existing investors Blume Ventures, Bharat Inclusive Technologies Seed Fund and Rebright Partners. Announcing the fundraise, Virohan CEO Kunaal Dudeja said the company aims to bridge the widening gap between healthcare education and employment by working closely with higher education institutions and industry partners. He said the fresh capital will help



scale technology, expand partnerships and unlock career opportunities for students, with a goal to impact one million learners by 2030 and strengthen the allied healthcare workforce in India and abroad. Hidekazu Ito, Managing Director at Mynavi India, said the growing global demand for skilled healthcare professionals makes Virohan's industry-aligned, technology-driven education model highly relevant. He

added that Mynavi believes Virohan's sustained growth will create meaningful social impact by addressing key challenges in healthcare human resources and education. The funding will support Virohan's journey towards profitability through product innovation, operational efficiencies and strategic talent expansion. The company partners with leading universities including UPES, CMR University, Assam Don Bosco University,

MIT University Shillong, G.H. Raisoni University, Silver Oak University and others to deliver undergraduate programmes in allied healthcare, nursing and healthcare management. Virohan also works closely with major healthcare employers such as Lenskart, Medanta, Healthians and Dr. Lal PathLabs, creating a strong education-to-employment pipeline. Since its inception in 2018, the company has partnered with over 20 higher education institutions, trained more than 13,000 healthcare professionals and collaborated with over 2,000 employers nationwide.

Empowering Youth: Kelachandra Skill Development Centre Opens 15th Batch Admissions

Bengaluru : Admissions are now open for the 15th Batch of the Free Skill Training Programme at the Kelachandra Skill Development Centre, an initiative of the Kelachandra Foundation, backed by Sarvagnanagara MLA and Karnataka Energy Minister K.J. George. The new batch will commence on January 6, 2026, at the Jeevanahalli Centre Branch, aimed at enhancing employability and self-reliance among youth from the



Sarvagnanagara constituency. The programme offers free, industry-relevant training in three key domains — Electrical Technician, Mobile Repair & Servicing, and Data Entry Operator — designed to equip par-

ticipants with practical skills aligned to current market needs. Eligibility criteria include a minimum qualification of 9th standard, and applicants must be aged 17 to 32 years. The Skill Development Centre functions under the Kelachandra Foundation, which has recently been formally established as an umbrella organisation consolidating over a decade of community initiatives across health-care, education, skill development and civic infrastructure.

High Command has informed it would call CM and me at an appropriate time: Shivakumar



Bengaluru : Stating that the Congress High Command had given some message to CM and him on power sharing, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar today said that the CM and him would go to Delhi when called. Speaking to reports at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "I won't travel to Delhi secretly. I will travel with the CM when the High command calls us. We will inform you (media) if we are travelling." He was replying to a question on if he and CM would travel to Delhi and meet the High command. "The ED charge sheet in National Herald case has been

quashed and only one FIR is pending. We are protesting to tell the world how we are being harassed," he added. Asked about responding to Delhi police notice, he said, "I am travelling to Delhi on Tuesday and I will meet them then. The Union Jal Shakthi minister has called for a meeting on river linking project on that day. I will also discuss key irrigation projects of the state such as Mahadayi, Upper Krishna, Mekedatu, Upper Bhadra. I have sought time from the Union Environment minister and Union Urban Development minister as well. I am meeting all of them to protect state's interest.

Karnataka to Lead India in Inclusive Skilling and Jobs for Persons with Disabilities



Bengaluru : Reaffirming Karnataka's commitment to building a skilled and inclusive society, Dr Sharanaprakash R Patil, Minister for Skill Development and Medical Education said that inclusive growth is both a moral imperative and an economic necessity. Addressing the Job Habba, a dedicated employment platform for persons with disabilities at BMS Women's

College jointly organised by KSDA, KSDC and AssisTech Foundation on Saturday, the event brought together job seekers with disabilities, employers, training partners and civil society to celebrate talent, inclusion and opportunity. Dr Patil noted that Karnataka was home to more than 20 lakh persons with disabilities and the state was working on a new framework to expand opportunities

in both education and employment. There is an urgent need to change workplace practices and attitudes as low representation of persons with disabilities is seen in the corporate workforce nationally," he said. The minister highlighted the draft Karnataka Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Employment and Education Bill, 2025, which proposes a 5% job quota in the private sector and 10% reservation in educational institutions for persons with disabilities. He said this would be among the most forward-looking measures in the country and closely aligns with the Karnataka Skill Development Policy 2025-32, which focuses on inclusive skilling, industry partnerships, accessible infrastructure and technology-enabled training.

Project Walkaluru – 7th Footpath Walk Conducted in RT Nagar



Bengaluru: Under the leadership of the Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar, and with the cooperation of Corporation officials, The Ugly Indian and citizen groups jointly and successfully conducted the 7th Footpath Walk under Project Walkaluru today in RT Nagar.

MORE THAN 80 PARTICIPANTS TOOK PART IN THE WALK. The Commissioner, Joint Commissioners, Corporation officers and staff, local residents, and pedestrian welfare enthusiasts from across the city—representing various age groups—actively participated by walking 7 kilometres exclusively on footpaths. The walk was formally flagged off by Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, along with Joint Commissioners Shri Mohammed Naem Momin and Smt. Pallavi, after which they joined citizens in the walk. Participants of all age groups assessed the walking experience, footpath conditions, obstacles and areas requiring improvement in their localities.

ROUTE DETAILS: The route comprised a continuous 7 km pedestrian corridor, starting

from the JC Nagar Main Gate on Jayamahal Main Road, proceeding towards Mekhri Circle, entering RT Nagar via the CBI Junction, and covering a loop on both sides of RT Nagar Main Road. The route passed through several parks and major industrial, cultural and government institutions.

OBJECTIVE AND OBSERVATIONS: The primary objective of the walk was to ensure that citizens can walk confidently and continuously on footpaths without fear, obstacles or inconvenience. Participants were encouraged to stop wherever obstacles were found, document them through photographs or videos, and submit complaints to the Corporation, assuring that issues would be addressed promptly. It was anticipated that pedestrians might encounter approximately 2-3 obstacles per kilometre, amounting to 14-21 obstacles along the 7 km route. Only 4 major obstacles were identified across the entire 7 km stretch. Notably, no black spots, broken or missing footpath slabs, or footpath encroachments were found. Officials and staff participating in the walk

documented certain improvements related to water supply infrastructure, and steps have been initiated for their implementation. **FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS** Most participants rated the entire 7 km walking route as clean, green and pleasant. Both first-time walkers and regular local pedestrians expressed satisfaction, noting that the footpath corridor was enjoyable and conducive for walking. Project Walkaluru Completes 50 Kilometres With the support of the Greater Bengaluru Authority and city corporations, The Ugly Indian team has so far completed 50 km of pedestrian walks and is working towards achieving 100 km, with the vision of making Bengaluru a truly walkaluru. In total, 29 km of pedestrian walks have been conducted within the limits of Bengaluru North City Corporation alone. Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar expressed that when citizens themselves evaluate their footpaths and work collaboratively with officials for improvements, it leads to safer infrastructure and more effective, long-lasting outcomes.

Commissioner K. N. Ramesh Listens to Grievances of HSR Layout Residents

Bengaluru: The Commissioner of Bengaluru South City Corporation, K. N. Ramesh, made a surprise visit last night to a park located on 16th 'A' Main Road in HSR Layout and inspected the functioning of streetlights and park lighting. During the inspection, representatives of local residents' associations and morning/evening walkers who noticed the Commissioner's presence shared their grievances with him. Residents brought to the Commissioner's attention key issues in HSR Layout such as rampant unauthorized vehicle parking, encroachment of footpaths, problems related to streetlights, and other civic concerns.

Responding to the grievances, the Commissioner stated that a process has been initiated to visit every ward and listen to public grievances, and that efforts would be made to resolve issues by issuing directions to the concerned officials on the spot, as far as possible. On the occa-



sion, Joint Commissioner Shri Satish Babu, Chief Engineer Shri K. V. Ravi, and other officials were present. Footpath Encroachment Removal Drive on Jyoti Nivas College Road, Koramangala Based on requests made during previous meetings by representatives of residents'

associations and the general public regarding footpath encroachment on Jyoti Nivas College Road, a large-scale encroachment removal drive was successfully carried out on the said road in Koramangala, with priority given to ensuring smooth pedestrian movement.

BlueBird satellite set for Dec 24 launch aboard LVM3-M6 mission

CHENNAI: The launch date for AST SpaceMobile's BlueBird satellite has now been officially announced, with the spacecraft scheduled to lift off aboard India's LVM3-M6 mission on December 24, 2025, at 08:54 hrs IST from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR, Sriharikota.

The 6.5-tonne BlueBird block-2 satellite is one of the largest commercial satellites ever launched from India and represents a major technological advancement in space-based mobile and navigation communications. Developed by AST SpaceMobile, a US-based telecommunication company, the satellite is designed to deliver direct-to-



device connectivity, enabling ordinary 4G and 5G smartphones to communicate directly with satellites without relying on terrestrial mobile towers. Technically,

BlueBird is equipped with a large deployable phased array antenna system, which unfolds in orbit to provide high-gain signal coverage over wide geographical areas. This advanced antenna allows dynamic beam forming and precise targeting, supporting thousands of simultaneous mobile connections across land and sea. The satellite also carries high-capacity onboard power systems, including large solar arrays and sophisticated thermal control mechanisms to support its energy-intensive payload. Advanced digital processing units and redundant avionics ensure stable operations, signal reliability, and long-term mission performance.

Madurai: MP Su Venkatesan writes to Union Culture Minister over Sahitya Akademi awards

CHENNAI: CPM Madurai MP Su Venkatesan has written to Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, expressing grave concern over what he described as the Ministry of Culture's intervention in the decisions of the Sahitya Akademi's National Executive Council relating to the 2025 awards.

In his letter, Venkatesan who won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2011 for his debut novel 'Kaval Kottam', said that the National Executive Council, following established procedure, had approved the recommendations of the language-wise juries constituted by the Akademi. He said that this process, over the decades, had ensured the credibility, independence, and stand-



ing of the Sahitya Akademi in the literary world. Venkatesan criticised the Ministry's reported decision to withhold the recommendations and subject the jury process to an audit, calling it unprecedented and wholly uncalled for. He said that at no point in the Akademi's history had literary judgments made by expert juries been subjected to executive or administrative scrutiny.

Stating that literary evaluation was an intel-

lectual exercise grounded in expertise, peer judgment and academic integrity, the MP said treating it like a financial or procedural transaction amounted to an encroachment on institutional autonomy. He warned that such bureaucratic scrutiny diluted the Akademi's mandate and undermined its autonomy, which was intended to shield literature from executive interference.

Venkatesan also expressed concern over what he termed the

Akademi's silence in the face of the intervention, saying it was troubling and contrary to its distinguished legacy. He said compelling a premier cultural institution to submit its intellectual judgments for executive review set a dangerous precedent and risked reducing independent cultural bodies to instruments of administrative control. Urging the Ministry to withdraw its intervention, Venkatesan called on it to desist from any audit or review of jury decisions and allow the Sahitya Akademi to announce the 2025 awards in line with established procedures. He cautioned that any deviation would cause lasting damage to the credibility of the Akademi and to India's literary and democratic traditions.

TN nurses continue protest demanding job regularisation

CHENNAI: A large number of nurses working on consolidated pay at state government medical facilities continued their protest for the third day on Saturday across Tamil Nadu demanding regularisation of service and other benefits. The protesters claimed they have been working on a contract for the last ten years and could not avail any benefits, including maternity leave with pay.

"We were seen as angels during the pandemic, but now we feel neglected. Though we continue to put in great efforts in taking care of



the patients, we don't get pay and other benefits on par with government employees," a nurse said.

She and hundreds of her colleagues were constrained to agitate to seek justice, the nurse added.

Several hundreds of nurses protested throughout the night of December 19 braving the nippy weather and some had bought their kids for the indefinite protest. Over 500 nurses were detained by the police on the night of December 18 at Kilambakkam here when they staged an overnight protest demanding regularisation of service, reinstatement of about 700 nurses allegedly removed from service citing administration reasons and seeking benefits on par with nurses appointed through the TN Medical Recruitment Board.

TN pilgrims visiting Varanasi prefer staying at Sri Kasi Nattukottai Nagara Satram

VARANASI: Sri Kasi Nattukottai Nagara Satram, one of the oldest facilities in Varanasi, has been serving those pilgrims from Tamil Nadu who take up pilgrimage to the holy city, an official said.

Established in 1863 by Nagarathar elders also known as Nattukottai Chettiar who had taken up a spiritual journey from Tamil Nadu to Kashi, the Satram (also known as rest house), located in the Sigra area in Varanasi, provides accommodation and locker facilities to pilgrims during their stay.

It is also pertinent to mention that the necessary 'pooja materials' to prepare food to be offered to the Lord Sri Kasi Viswanathar at the temple for the 'Mangala Aarti' performed every



day between 3 am and 4.30 am are also provided by the Satram, an official of the Sri Kasi Nattukottai Nagara Satram said.

"This tradition has been going on for more than 50 years. Not only for the Mangala Aarti, we have been providing the necessary materials to poojas performed at the main temple and also to the Annapura Devi Mandir," he told PTI dur-

ing a brief interaction.

"The Satram offers rooms to guests at a price of Rs 240 per day. Families are allowed to stay here for a maximum of six days. Individuals visiting Varanasi are not allowed to stay. People largely coming from Tamil Nadu who are aware of the Satram, prefer to stay here," he said, on condition of anonymity.

Even during the Second

World War, this facility functioned normally and provided the services to pilgrims, he recalled.

The Nattukottai Chettiar are community bankers and merchants from Tamil Nadu who had established several such facilities across Tamil Nadu, he said.

The Satram has been restored, replicating the palatial houses established in southern Tamil Nadu and provides services round the clock, he said.

"Food and other basic amenities are provided here at minimal cost as well. We encourage pilgrims visiting Varanasi to book in advance who seek our service. We also provide all the information on the areas they need to see during their stay in Varanasi," he said.

Alcohol – The Silent Poison that Destroys Love and Family

In human life, true happiness and peace depend on the balance within the family. No matter how wealthy or powerful a person becomes, his life has no meaning if there is no harmony at home. A family thrives on love and mutual trust. Among the major forces that destroy this sacred bond, alcohol stands foremost. It is not just an individual's ruin—it slowly consumes his family, his dignity, and his future. Once a person falls into the trap of drinking, confidence fades, values break, and love turns into distance. In our society, many treat drinking as a habit or even as a symbol of celebration. But that belief is a deadly illusion. At first, alcohol seems to bring temporary joy, but soon that same joy devours life itself. It weakens the body, clouds the mind, and pushes a person into darkness. The words, behavior, and actions that follow intoxication destroy a person's true worth. At that moment, he cannot distinguish between his wife, children, or relatives. A drunken man becomes a slave to his anger and ego.

When a father comes home drunk, fear fills his children's eyes, and his wife's heart trembles. The laughter in that home disappears. The walls echo with cries instead of joy. Children grow up knowing not their father's love, but his rage. Such a childhood breeds mistrust and emotional emptiness. Alcohol turns caring hands into weapons and kind words into abuse.

Every drinker begins with the words, "Just one glass." But that one glass has destroyed countless families. What begins as a habit soon becomes an addiction. It steals a man's thoughts, courage, health, and wealth. What starts as small spending ends in debt and despair. And when everything falls apart, the drinker blames others instead of seeing his own fault. Across all sections of society—farmers, workers, employees—alcohol has ruined lives without discrimination. It is poison to the body, pollution to the mind, and hell for the family. When alcohol enters life, love disappears, and responsibility fades. Walls rise between husband and wife, and distance grows between parents and children.

Even before a drunkard steps into his house, his family begins to suffer. The wife waits with anxious eyes, the children sleep in fear. He comes home in a stupor and vents his anger on walls and loved ones alike. The joy of that home dissolves into silence. The family lives with shame before society. What he mistakes for happiness in his intoxication is nothing but the slow burial of his life.

The impact of alcohol extends beyond families—it harms society at large. Road accidents, domestic violence, financial crises, health problems—all are its offspring. If we want peace and safety in society, we must first defeat this demon. Even one



drunkard can pollute the peace of an entire village. One man's mistake under the influence of liquor can bring dishonor to an entire family.

Physically, alcohol turns the body against itself. The liver fails, blood dries up, and the mind weakens. Medical science clearly states that drinkers live far shorter lives. Yet people refuse to listen—because once alcohol takes control of the mind, reason disappears. Such a person remains human only in form; inside, he becomes an agent of destruction.

To protect one's family, staying away from alcohol is the only way. That decision must begin in the mind. For the sake of one's children, one's spouse, one's future—this is the greatest choice a person can make. Avoiding alcohol is not just abstinence; it is a value of life. A sober father becomes a true role model for his children and the strongest pillar of his family. Awareness against alcohol must rise within society. It cannot depend only on governments. Every family, every parent, every teacher must spread the message. Children must be taught early about the dangers of drinking so they can resist its lure as adults. This is not merely a personal decision—it is a collective responsibility.

Let our festivals and celebrations be free from alcohol. True joy does not lie in a bottle—it lives within our hearts. The smile that comes without drink is real happiness. The love shared without intoxication is the strongest bond. Only a man who escapes from alcohol can become a light for his family and community.

Alcohol is a deceptive demon. It first appears as a friend, then turns into poison. We must close our hearts to it completely. Alcohol is a barrier to life; crossing it reveals the true meaning of existence.

For a family to remain happy, every member must live responsibly—with love, forgiveness, and respect. Alcohol destroys all these virtues. Therefore, to preserve family peace, alcohol must be driven away. When a father stays sober, his children's future shines. When a husband stays sober, his wife's face glows. When a village stays sober, the whole village prospers. Life is a single, precious gift. To mortgage it for a bottle of poison is a sin—a sin that returns as tears in the eyes of loved ones. Let us decide today: alcohol is not for us; we are meant for life. Alcohol destroys man, but the one who abandons it saves his family.

We must see alcohol not merely as a health issue but as a moral and social disease. It erodes ethics, dissolves family values, and kills the tenderness that binds hearts. History stands as witness to countless families destroyed by drink. Each such story is a warning. One man's mistake can shatter a home—but if that same man reforms himself, he can rebuild it with light. Liquor shops in our towns and villages are multiplying. Behind every bottle lies the heartbeat of a broken family—every glass hides a wife's tears, a child's hunger, a mother's prayer. Society forgets this truth. It is time we recognize that drinking is not a personal right, but a social wrong.

The sight of drunken chaos is no stranger to us, but we often ignore the silent suffering behind it. Children grow up unable to respect their father. The wife becomes helpless in her sorrow. The walls of that home bear silent witness. The drunkard may not remember his actions, but the wounds he causes never heal.

From a literary view, alcohol exposes not only man's flaws but also his lost humanity. Many great poets and chroni-

clers have written about how liquor drags man to ruin, yet the world remains enchanted by it. Drinking has turned from habit to culture. To stop it, we must strengthen our moral roots before we rely on laws.

Children must learn early to despise alcohol. Schools should teach them that liquor is destructive. When they grow up with this wisdom, they will stay safe from its lure. One cautious generation ensures a safer future for the next. This duty lies not only with parents but also with teachers, writers, and artists. Our pens hold the power to awaken society—now is the time to use that power. The harm alcohol causes is not confined to the body—it empties the soul. Once a source of pride, a man addicted to drink becomes an object of pity. His humanity slowly melts away. Alcohol turns man into a monster and leaves him utterly alone. No one listens, no one stays. That silence of loneliness is the final punishment of addiction.

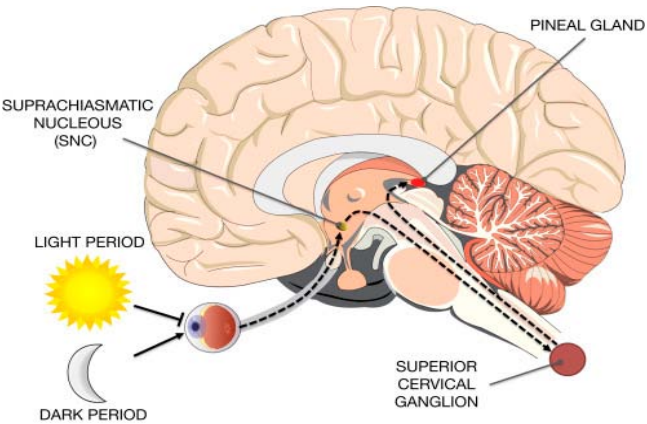
To restore moral values in society, anti-alcohol literature must rise again. Songs, stories, poems, and plays should echo with voices against drinking. A powerful cultural movement must awaken fear and awareness in people's hearts. Real change comes not from words alone, but from living examples. People must feel the joy of sobriety as a liberation.

A man drinks to forget his pain, not knowing that drink doubles that pain. The glass he lifts for temporary pleasure opens the door to lifelong sorrow. Instead of escaping pain through alcohol, man must learn to face it. Struggles are inevitable in life, but overcoming them—not fleeing from them—defines true strength.

A home without alcohol is a lamp of happiness. There, laughter is real, children play without fear, and love flows like honey between husband and wife. Such families form the moral foundation of society. When more families become alcohol-free, society becomes stronger. If just a few families in every village give up drinking, peace will flourish. And if every village changes, our nation will shine as a society of true family harmony.

True happiness in life lies in inner peace—and the thief of that peace is alcohol. Yet, regaining it is in our own hands. Protecting our soul is our responsibility. The first day a man lives without drink is his rebirth. Living without alcohol is not a restriction; it is a mark of respect for life itself. A life free from alcohol is the foundation of true family bliss. It is the greatest legacy we can give our children. If we refuse to touch liquor today, the next generation will hold our hand tomorrow—with respect, not regret. The alcohol we reject will become the lamp that lights their path.

Indian scientists show hormone melatonin can treat Parkinson's



New Delhi: Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have showed that nano-formulation of melatonin – the hormone produced by the brain in response to darkness – could provide therapeutic solution for Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease (PD) is one of the most common neurological disorders caused by the death of dopamine-secreting neurons in the brain due to aggregation of synuclein protein inside it.

Available medications can only minimise the symptoms but cannot cure the disease and this underlines the need to develop better therapeutic solutions for the disease.

Previous studies have shown the implications of Parkinson's related genes in governing a quality control mechanism called "Mitophagy". This mechanism identifies and removes dysfunctional mitochondria as well as cuts down oxidative stress. It has shown that melatonin, used to treat insomnia, could be a potential inducer of mitophagy to mitigate Parkinson's. To decode the molecular mechanism behind melatonin-mediated oxidative stress regulation, the team from INST Mohali used human serum albumin nano-formulation and delivered the drug to the

brain.

The team led by Dr. Surajit Karmakar used a biocompatible protein (HSA) nanocarrier for the delivery of melatonin to the brain. They proved that the nano-melatonin resulted in a sustained release of melatonin and improved bioavailability. Further, the nano-melatonin boosted antioxidative and neuroprotective properties. It not only enhanced mitophagy to remove unhealthy mitochondria, but also improved mitochondrial biogenesis to counteract a pesticide (rotenone) induced toxicity in an in vitro Parkinson's model. The improvement is because of the sustained release of melatonin and targeted delivery to the brain resulting in increased therapeutic efficacy compared to bare melatonin. The increased antioxidative effect is a result of mitophagy induction through the upregulation of a crucial epigenetic regulator called BMI1 that controls gene expression.

The reduction in oxidative stress contributes to alleviating the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Their findings published in the journal ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces highlighted the significantly better in vitro and in vivo neuroprotective effect of nano-melatonin as well as the molecular/cellular dynamics it influences to regulate mitophagy.

Trump suspends green card lottery programme that let Brown University, MIT shootings suspect into US

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump suspended the green card lottery programme on Thursday that allowed the suspect in the Brown University and MIT shootings to come to the United States. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a post on the social platform X that, at Trump's direction, she is ordering the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to pause the programme.

"This heinous individual should never have been allowed in our country," she said of the suspect, Portuguese national Claudio Neves Valente. Neves Valente, 48, is suspected in the shootings at Brown University that killed two students and



wounded nine others, and the killing of an MIT professor. He was found dead Thursday evening from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, officials said.

Neves Valente had studied at Brown on a student visa beginning in 2000, according to an affidavit from a Providence police detective. In 2017, he was issued a diversity immigrant visa and months

later obtained legal permanent residence status, according to the affidavit.

It was not immediately clear where he was between taking a leave of absence from the school in 2001 and getting the visa in 2017. The diversity visa programme makes up to 50,000 green cards available each year by lottery to people from countries that are little represented in the US, many of them in Africa. The lottery was created by Congress, and the move is almost certain to invite legal challenges.

Nearly 20 million people applied for the 2025 visa lottery, with more than 131,000 selected when including spouses with the winners. After winning, they must undergo vetting

to win admission to the United States. Portuguese citizens won only 38 slots.

Lottery winners are invited to apply for a green card. They are interviewed at consulates and subject to the same requirements and vetting as other green-card applicants.

Trump has long opposed the diversity visa lottery. Noem's announcement is the latest example of using tragedy to advance immigration policy goals. After an Afghan man was identified as the gunman in a fatal attack on National Guard members in November, Trump's administration imposed sweeping rules against immigration from Afghanistan and other countries.

KREMLIN WARNS SEIZURE OF RUSSIAN ASSETS 'WILL NOT BE LEFT UNANSWERED'

MOSCOW: The Kremlin has warned that seizure of Russian assets will not be left unpunished for its masterminds and Russia will use all available legal means to punish them, local media reported on Friday. "We have repeatedly said that all actions related to expropriations of Russian assets will not be left unanswered. Those who made decisions collectively, those who made decisions individually and those who put them into practice will all bear responsibility," Russian Presidential Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov said, state-run news agency Tass reported. "To that end, all possible legal mechanisms will be used," he added.

Hindu man lynched to death in Bangladesh over alleged blasphemy



DHAKA: A Hindu man was lynched to death and his body set on fire over alleged blasphemy in Bangladesh, in the latest incident of violence against the religious minority in the country.

The deceased, identified as 25-year-old Dipu Chandra Das, was a factory worker in Mymensingh city, the Bangla Tribune news portal reported on Friday. In a statement, the interim government on Friday condemned the lynching of the Hindu man in Mymensingh city, saying there is no space for such violence in the new Bangladesh. "The perpetrators of this heinous crime will not be spared," it added. Das was first beaten up by a mob outside the factory over blasphemy allegations on Thursday night and hanged from a tree, police said. After the incident, the angry crowd left the body of the deceased on the side of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and set it on fire. This stopped traffic on both

sides of the highway," Inspector (Investigation) of Bhaluka Model Police Station Abdul Malek was quoted as saying by the news portal.

The police recovered the body and sent it to the Mymensingh Medical College morgue for autopsy. Malek added that the incident created tension in the area, and the police are trying to control the situation. The video of the incident went viral on social media. "We strongly and unequivocally condemn all acts of violence, intimidation, arson, and destruction of properties," the interim government said.

South Korea's Unification minister vows to take lead in policy on North Korea



SEOUL: South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said Friday the ministry aims to take a leading role in establishing policies toward North Korea. In a policy briefing to South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, Chung said the ministry, which is in charge of relations with Pyongyang, would "strengthen its leading role as a party directly involved in the Korean Peninsula issue," Yonhap News Agency reported.

Chung also said international sanctions imposed on North Korea over its illegal nuclear and missile programs have effectively lost their bite, adding the ministry will seek sanctions relief in a bid to reengage the country.

"In order to buttress inter-Korean and multi-lateral exchanges and cooperation, (the ministry) plans to discuss and seek the relaxation of sanctions," Chung told the briefing. "There are some arguments calling for the strengthening of sanctions on North

Korea, but, realistically, sanctions against Pyongyang have lost their effectiveness," the minister said.

North Korea's trade with China, which accounts for most of Pyongyang's external commerce, now goes partly unscreened, while the regime regards sanctions as "the most hostile" action against it, he said, as the rationale for seeking sanctions relief. Seeking dialogue with North Korea while keeping sanctions against them in place would not be acceptable to Pyongyang, he noted.

Whether lifting sanctions against North Korea would be possible, however, remains unclear as Washington reportedly remains skeptical. Acting US Ambassador to South Korea Kevin Kim reportedly told Chung during their meeting last month of the need to maintain sanctions on North Korea as a source of bargaining leverage in potential negotiations with North Korea.

US awards no-bid contract to Denmark scientists studying hepatitis B vaccine in African babies

NEW YORK: The Trump administration has awarded a USD 1.6 million, no-bid contract to a Danish university to study hepatitis B vaccinations on newborns in Africa that is raising ethical concerns. The unusual contract was awarded to scientists who have been cited by anti-vaccine activists and whose work has been questioned by leading public health experts. Some experts have suggested the research plan is unethical, because it will withhold vaccines that work from newborns at significant risk of infection.

The contract did not undergo a customary ethics review, The Associated Press has learned.

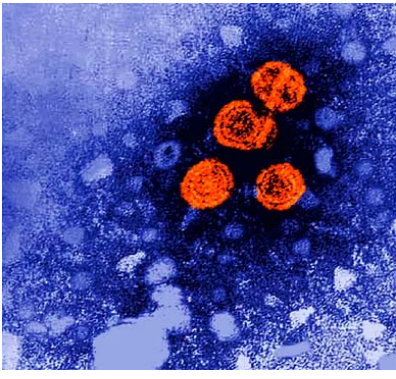
The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention awarded the grant to a research team at the University of Southern Denmark that has been lauded by US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., according to a federal notice posted this week.

One of the team's leaders is Christine Stabell Benn, a consultant for a Kennedy-appointed committee that recently voted to stop recommending a dose of hepatitis B vaccine for all US newborns.

The study is to begin early next year in Guinea-Bissau, an impoverished West African nation where hepatitis B infection is common. The researchers are funded for five years to study 14,000 newborns.

It's to be a randomised controlled trial, with some infants given the hepatitis B vaccine at birth and some not. Children will be tracked for death, illness and long-term developmental outcomes.

Most of the children will be followed for less than two years to look for side effects, but the first 500 enrolled will be followed for five years to look for behaviour and brain development problems. There is no placebo involved, according to a copy of the study protocol prepared earlier this year that was obtained by the AP.



Hepatitis B can be passed from an infected mother to a baby. It also can be spread by other infected people a baby comes in contact with. Research and widespread medical consensus holds that the hepatitis B vaccine protects newborns, so withholding it from some babies — in this case, Black babies — has raised ethical alarms.

Medical evidence is clear that the vaccine protects infants from developing liver disease and an early death. The well-documented infection risk far outweighs hypothetical concerns about side effects, said Dr. Boghuma K Titanji, an Emory University infectious diseases doctor.

She called the study "unconscionable," and said it likely will exacerbate existing vaccine hesitancy in Africa and elsewhere. "There's so much potential for this to be a harmful study," said Titanji, who is from Cameroon.

Benn did not respond to an email seeking comment about the proposal. An automatic response said she is out of the office until early January. But, in a statement, the research team said the study "will be the first and likely the only one of its kind." They said it takes advantage of an unusual window of opportunity: Guinea-Bissau doesn't currently recommend a birth dose of the hep B vaccine, but the nation will be implementing universal vaccination of newborns in 2027. Vaccine skeptics and opponents have suggested that all the vaccine's possible side effects were inadequately studied before the CDC began recommending it for newborns in 1991. Public health experts counter that over more than three decades no serious side effect has been documented. The award is highly unusual. The CDC did not announce a research funding opportunity and invite proposals. The proposal was unsolicited and the award did not go through customary review, said a CDC official with knowledge of the decision. Department of Health and Human Services officials told CDC officials to approve it and said HHS would provide special funding for it, the CDC official said.

In private communications channels, CDC staffers were expressing outrage about the award, said the official, who is not authorised to talk about it and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some of those CDC scientists have compared the work to the infamous Tuskegee Study, which the agency oversaw in its later stages. In that decades-long study, health workers withheld treatment from unsuspecting Black men infected with syphilis so doctors could track the horrible ravages of the disease. Like Tuskegee, this study involves the prospect of researchers watching people grow ill when a medical intervention could have kept them healthy, Titanji echoed.

"It is an apt comparison," she said. The new study's researchers say the trial was approved by a national ethics committee in Guinea-Bissau. But it did not undergo a customary ethics review within the CDC, the agency official told the AP. In a statement, HHS spokesman Andrew Nixon said "we will ensure the highest scientific and ethical standards are met."

Bangladesh Liberation War's deputy commander Khandker passes away

DHAKA: A top Mukti Bahini leader during its 1971 Liberation War Air Vice Marshal (retd) A K Khandker - who was present when Pakistani troops surrendered to the India-Bangladesh joint forces on December 16 over five decades ago - passed away on Saturday. He was 95. "Khandker breathed his last due to age-related complications around 10:35 am today (December 20)," said a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) of the Defence Ministry. He represented Bangladesh at the December 16, 1971 ceremony in Dhaka when Pakistani troops led by Lieutenant General AAK Niazi surrendered to the India-Bangladesh joint forces led by India's Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora. Khandker, the recipient of gallantry award Bir Uttam, was the second in command of the Mukti Bahini, Bangladesh's Liberation War forces, headed by General M A G Osmany and then became the first Air Force chief to play a pioneering role in raising the country's air power. In recognition of his contributions to the war efforts, Bangladesh awarded him the Independence Award, the highest civilian award, in 2011. Interim government chief Muhammad Yunus paid tribute to the veteran saying, "He played a

vital role in achieving independence by demonstrating courage, foresight and leadership during the 1971 Liberation War." As deputy chief of staff of the Mukti Bahini, Khandker's strategic decisions, organisational skills and unwavering patriotism further strengthened the liberation struggle, Yunus said in a statement.

Khandker had joined the then Pakistan Air Force in 1952 and served as a fighter pilot and instructor before joining the Liberation War against Pakistan

in 1971. In subsequent years, he served as Bangladesh High Commissioner to India and ambassador to Australia. He later served as the planning minister during the then President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's rule and again was charged with the same portfolio in 2009, when he was elected twice to parliament on Awami League ticket from his home district in northeastern Pabna. He was regarded a key-figure in establishing in 2007 the 'Sector Commanders Forum' by organising Liberation War time sector and sub-sector commanders to wage a campaign to off-set forces which were opposed to Bangladesh's independence in 1971.



Lahore-bound PIA flight makes emergency landing in Saudi Arabia



ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight en route from Jeddah to Lahore made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia after a technical alert was received mid-air, triggering the deployment of oxygen masks and causing panic among passengers, including dozens of Umrah pilgrims, local media reported on Saturday.

"According to the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) spokesperson, flight PK-860 was scheduled to land at

Lahore airport at 8 pm, however, it diverted to Dammam's King Fahd International Airport due to a technical issue. Officials say the plane was carrying 381 passengers," leading Pakistani daily The Express Tribune reported on Saturday.

It mentioned further that a similar incident took place last month when PIA flight PK-859 from Lahore to Jeddah was forced to divert mid-flight and land at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport because the first

officer's windshield cracked. "The incident caused panic among passengers, and PIA officials said the windshield would be replaced before passengers continued their journey to Jeddah on the same or alternative aircraft," the daily reported.

Earlier this year, a PIA domestic flight landed in Lahore without one of its rear wheels, leaving authorities shocked on what seemed like a major blunder on part of the flight management.

PIA flight PK-306 left from Karachi enroute to Lahore on March 13. Upon landing at the Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore, it was discovered that one of the wheels of the landing gear was missing. "The issue was discovered during an inspection following the flight's landing at the airport," a PIA spokesperson said.

Russian missile strike on Odesa kills 8 as US hosts Kremlin envoy for talks on peace plan



KYIV: A Russian missile strike on port infrastructure in Odesa in southern Ukraine killed eight people and wounded 27, Ukraine's emergency service said Saturday, as a Kremlin envoy was set to travel to Florida for talks on a US-proposed plan to end the nearly four-year war.

The discussions are part of the Trump administration's monthslong push for peace that also included meetings with Ukrainian and European officials in Berlin earlier this week. Ukraine's chief negotiator said late Friday that his delegation had completed separate meetings in the US with American and European partners.

Meanwhile, European Union leaders agreed on Friday to provide a massive interest-free loan to Ukraine to meet its military and economic needs for the next two years.

Some of those wounded in Odesa were on a bus at the centre of the strike late Friday, the emergency service said in a Telegram post. Trucks caught fire in the parking lot, and cars were also damaged. The port was struck with ballistic missiles, said Oleh Kiper, the head of the Odesa region. Moscow did not immediately acknowledge reports of the attack. The Russian Defence Ministry said Saturday that over the previous day, it had struck

unspecified "transport and storage infrastructure used by the Ukrainian armed forces," along with energy facilities and those supplying Kyiv's war effort. Elsewhere, Ukrainian drones hit a Russian oil rig, the military patrol ship Okhotnik and other facilities, Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement Saturday. It said the ship was patrolling in the Caspian Sea near an oil and gas production platform. The extent of the damage was still being clarified, it said.

The drilling platform at the Filanovsky oil and gas field has also hit. The facility is operated by Russian oil giant Lukoil. Ukrainian drones also struck a radar system in the Krasnosil'ske area of Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

There was no immediate comment from the Russian government or Lukoil. The company is one of two Russian oil majors — alongside state-owned Gazprom — targeted by recent US sanctions that aim to deprive Moscow of oil export revenue that helps it sustain the war.

Kyiv has used similar arguments to justify months of long-range strikes on Russian oil infrastructure, which it says both funds and directly fuels the Kremlin's all-out invasion, soon to enter its fifth year.

US President Donald Trump has unleashed an extensive diplomatic push to end the war, but his efforts have run into sharply conflicting demands by Moscow and Kyiv. Russian President Vladimir Putin has recently signalled he is digging in on his maximalist demands on Ukraine, as Moscow's troops inch forward on the battlefield despite huge losses.

On Friday, Putin voiced confidence that the Kremlin would achieve its goals militarily if Kyiv doesn't agree to Russia's conditions in peace talks.

EU leaders agreed to provide 90 billion euros (USD 106 billion) to Ukraine to meet its military and economic needs for the next two years, although they failed to bridge differences with Belgium that would have allowed them to use frozen Russian assets to raise the funds.



T20 WC squad: Gill axed, Suryakumar to lead, Axar named vice-captain; Ishan returns

MUMBAI: In a surprising development, defending champions India have left out Shubman Gill from its squad for next year's T20 World Cup and T20Is against New Zealand. In the squad announced by BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia, captain Suryakumar Yadav and chief selector Ajit Agarkar, Axar Patel has been named as the vice-captain.

Apart from Gill, wicket-keeper-batter Jitesh Sharma misses out as Ishan Kishan makes a stunning return to the team, following his explosive form leading Jharkhand to a recent Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy win. Meanwhile, Rinku Singh also makes his return to the T20I team after missing out on the 3-1 series win in South Africa. "We are looking at combinations. Our thought was to have another keeper. Gill is a

In the Men's T20 World Cup, defending champions India have been placed in Group A alongside Pakistan, USA, Netherlands and Namibia

quality player, unfortunate to miss out, but it is the combination we want. Ishan bats at the top, he has been in good form, and played before for India. "He wasn't there because Jurel and Pant were ahead. Sanju is at the top. Ishan at the top. That is the combination we are looking at right now. We felt he is the best backup keeper at this point," said Agarkar.

The 2026 Men's T20 World Cup, to be held from February 7 to March 8, will have 40 group matches scheduled to be played till February 20. Top two teams from each of the four groups will advance to the Super Eights starting on February 21.

India and Sri Lanka are hosting the Men's T20

World Cup for the second time. Sri Lanka were the hosts of the 2012 edition, while India last hosted the competition in 2016. After the completion of the three-match ODI series, India will play five T20Is against New Zealand, starting on January 21 in Nagpur, followed by games in Raipur, Guwahati, Visakhapatnam and Thiruvananthapuram.

In the Men's T20 World Cup, defending champions India have been placed in Group A alongside Pakistan, USA, Netherlands and Namibia. The Men in Blue will be aiming to become the first team to successfully defend the Men's T20 World Cup title, the first team to win the T20 World Cup on home soil, and the first team to clinch the T20 world title

for a third time. India will open its Cup campaign against USA at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on February 7, before facing Namibia at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on February 12. India's marquee clash against Pakistan is scheduled for February 15 at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, before the side plays their final league stage game against the Netherlands at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 18.

India squad: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel (vice-captain), Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakaravathy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Washington Sundar and Ishan Kishan.

BWF WORLD TOUR FINALS:

Ratchanok keeps hopes alive as Se Young, Akane reach SF

HANGZHOU: Former World Champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand maintained her chances of advancing from women's singles Group B with a comfortable victory over China's third seed Han Yue in the preliminary league stage of the BWF World Tour Finals on Friday.

In the match played on Court 1 of the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium, Ratchanok emerged as the 21-17, 21-10 winner in the 38-minute encounter.

Meanwhile, in Group A, Korea's top seed Se Young and Akane Yamaguchi finished at the top of the standings, securing their places in the semifinals.

Se Young topped the group unbeaten, finishing with three wins from three matches, while Yamaguchi ended second with two wins from three matches. Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani ended third with one point, from one win in three matches, while Tomoka Miyazaki finished last in the four-player group with three losses and no points.

Se Young defeated fourth-seed Yamaguchi in three hard-fought games, coming back after losing the first game to win 13-21, 21-5, 21-14 in 47 minutes.

In a match played on the same Court 2, Indonesia's Putri defeat-



ed Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan in two games, winning 21-17, 21-9 in 38 minutes.

In the evening session, India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will hope to end their group proceedings with a win over second seeds, Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia, in a Group B encounter.

Earlier on Thursday, India's top men's doubles pair,

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, registered their second successive win at the BWF World Tour Finals 2025, defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in a pulsating three-game contest. The Indian pair, ranked No.3 in the world, showed authority and composure to win 21-11, 16-21, 21-11, extending their unbeaten run in Group B and moving into a strong position for a semi-final berth.

GCL Season 3: It's a very special feeling to get my first win, says World Champion Gukesh

MUMBAI: Winning the first game in any event is quite satisfactory, but if it happens after a series of defeats, it is more enjoyable. Dommaraju Gukesh, the reigning World Champion, was obviously elated after winning his first match in Season 3 of the Global



Chess League at the Royal Opera House on Thursday. Gukesh, along with compatriot Arjun Erigaisi, delivered in a must-win situation to help PBG Alaskan Knights register their first win of the tournament. With Gukesh winning his first game in the event.

Italian Super Cup: Bologna beats Inter Milan on penalties to enter final



RIYADH (TSIT): Bologna will meet Napoli in next week's Italian Super Cup final after beating Inter Milan 3-2 on penalties following a tight-fought 1-1 draw in Saudi Arabia on Friday. Ciro Immobile scored the deciding spot kick for Super Cup debutant Bologna after Alessandro Bastoni, Nicolò Barella and Ange-

Yoan Bonny all missed for Inter.

Lewis Ferguson and Jonathan Rowe also scored for Bologna, while Lautaro Martinez and Stefan de Vrij converted for Inter.

The result means Bologna will play Napoli on Monday in Riyadh. Serie A champion Napoli beat AC Milan 2-0 in the

first semifinal on Thursday.

The Italian Super Cup is played between the winners and runners-up of last season's Serie A and Italian Cup, with all the games in Saudi Arabia.

Inter took the lead after just 70 seconds at Al-Awwal Park Stadium in Riyadh. Bastoni drove forward before crossing to the far post where Marcus Thuram volleyed home spectacularly.

Bologna got back on level terms 10 minutes before halftime through Riccardo Orsolini. The former Juventus winger scored from the penalty spot after Yann Bisseck was adjudged to have handled. Both sides had chances to win in regulation time but profligate finishing and good goal-keeping sent the game to penalties.

Self-imposed pressure key to World Cup preparation, says Varun Chakravathy



AHMEDABAD: India spinner Varun Chakravathy says his T20 World Cup preparation is centred around backing his lengths, maintaining confidence and constantly challenging himself mentally even in matches that appear straightforward.

The 34-year-old has 51 wickets from 32 T20Is, including six wickets in the first three games of the ongoing five-match series against South Africa. Chakravathy is vital for India's title defence at the World Cup,

which is scheduled to be held from February 7 to March 8 in India and Sri Lanka.

"It is very important to keep putting pressure on yourself to get ready for the World Cup," the Tamil Nadu spinner said on 'Follow The Blues'.

"You have to challenge yourself even when there is no challenge. If a match feels easy, you have to create that pressure mentally and start challenging yourself. "Confidence, bowling the right lengths, and understanding the opposition are key. That is one major factor I want to take into the World Cup. With a better understanding of the opposition, I think I can do well." Chakravathy said sticking to the basics and trusting his skillset have been the key to his recent success at the international level.

U-19 Asia Cup: George, Malhotra set up title date with Pakistan



DUBAI: Vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra's exhilarating stroke-play was well complemented by Aaron George's composure as India U-19 set up an U-19 Asia Cup summit date with arch-rival Pakistan after crushing Sri Lanka colts by eight wickets in a rain-curtailed semi-final here on Friday.

After rain reduced the match to 20-overs per side, the Indian bowling unit, which has been spot on throughout the tournament, restricted Sri Lanka to 138 for 8 in 20 overs. In reply, left-handed Malhotra (61 not out off 45 balls), who was snapped by RCB at the recently-concluded IPL mini auction, flicked and pulled with ease to hit a couple of sixes apart from muscling a few boundaries. His partner and India's crisis man in this event, George (58 not out off 49 balls), was technically perfect

with his strokes as India chased down the target in 18 overs. India's eighth appearance in the final was built on the unbroken 114-run stand for the third wicket between Malhotra and George.

In the other semi-final, Pakistan beat Bangladesh by eight wickets, and the bitter neighbours will meet in the continental final after a gap of 11 years. The last time India U-19 beat Pakistan in the Asia

Cup final in 2014, the team comprised of Shreyas Iyer, Sarfaraz Khan, Sanju Samson and Kuldeep Yadav, to name a few. India U-19 had an inauspicious start to its chase with teenage IPL sensations Ayush Mhatre (7) and Vaibhav Suryavanshi (9) being done in by pacer Rasith Nimsara. Mhatre, who has endured a horrible tournament, was hurried into a mis-timed pull by a short ball from Nimsara.

Salah apologised to teammates after outburst, says Jones

Salah was then dropped for a Champions League win at Inter Milan before returning as a substitute in a home win against Brighton.

LONDON: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah apologised to his team-mates following his recent outburst, says Reds midfielder Curtis Jones.

In an explosive interview, Salah said he felt like he had been "thrown under the bus" by Liverpool and his relationship with head

coach Arne Slot had broken down.

The Egypt international made his comments following a poor run of form for Liverpool and after he was an unused substitute for a 3-3 draw at Leeds United on December 6.

Salah was then dropped for a Champions League win at Inter Milan before returning as a substitute in a home win against Brighton.

"Mo is his own man and he can say his own stuff," Jones told British Media, external prior to his side's game at Tottenham on Saturday.

"He apologised to us [saying], 'if I've affected anybody or made you feel any sort of way, I apologise'. That's the man that he is."

"I can only speak from me



knowing Mo and how he is with us and how he acted on that. "He was positive as well. He was the exact same Mo. He had a big smile on his face and everybody was exactly the same with him. I guess it's just part of wanting to be a winner and I don't think he will be the last." Salah delivered the corner from which Hugo Ekitike scored Liverpool's second goal in a 2-0 win at Anfield against Brighton and that was the cue for home fans to sing his chant.

He did a lap of the pitch at full-time in his final appearance before joining up with Egypt for the Africa Cup of Nations. However, his comments after the Leeds game have put a question mark over his Liverpool future, especially with Saudi Pro League clubs interested in

him and the January transfer window coming up.

Former Reds defender Jamie Carragher described Salah's aside as a "disgrace", while ex-Blackburn and Celtic striker Chris Sutton said the controversial remarks had caused "carnage" at the club.

Speaking before the Tottenham game, Slot said "we moved on" as he attempted to draw a line under the issue. Jones added: "I get that there are certain ways you can go about things, but if a lad's fine to just be on the bench and he doesn't want to play and help the team, then I think that's more of an issue."

"When there's been any sort of anger from us, including myself, it's always been from a good place."

Producers confident of profits for Shambhala

The producers of the upcoming horror entertainer Shambhala have expressed strong confidence in the film's commercial prospects, stating that the project is already financially safe due to robust pre-release business.

Starring Aadi Saikumar in the lead, Shambhala is produced by Rajashekhar Annabhimoju and Mahidhar Reddy under the Shining Pictures banner and directed by Ugandhar Muni. The film also features Archana Iyer, Swasika, Ravi Varma, Madhunandan, and Shiva Karthik, with music composed by Sricharan Pakala. The film is set for a grand theatrical release on December 25. Interacting with the media, the producers said the story itself convinced them to back the project, especially its unique blend of devotional elements with horror. Though the film began with a modest budget, they later enhanced the scale to maintain high production values, driven by



their belief in the content. The producers revealed that nearly 80 per cent of the film's investment has already been recovered through

OTT and satellite rights, placing the project in a safe zone even before release. They expressed confidence that theatrical collections would

push the film into profits. They also noted that Shambhala has attracted strong interest in multiple markets, with plans for a Hindi theatrical release shortly after the Telugu version. Praising director Ugandhar Muni, the producers said his storytelling skills and execution have resulted in a visually impressive and content-driven film. Highlighting the film's strengths, they said Shambhala stands apart from other films due to its fresh concept, strong narrative, and impactful background score by Sricharan Pakala. The title, they added, carries deep significance and is explored meaningfully within the story. While the film has a complete conclusion, the makers hinted at the possibility of a sequel, depending on audience response. They also shared that OTT platform Aha acquired the digital rights after viewing the film, while Mythri Movie Makers and Usha Pictures acquired key theatrical rights, further underlining the strong pre-release confidence surrounding Shambhala.



Mohanlal's Vrusshabha trailer promises epic saga

a sweeping saga that blends action, emotion, and destiny, centering on the unbreakable bond between a father and son. The trailer opens with Mohanlal experiencing recurring violent dreams, gradually revealing a powerful reincarnation theme. It establishes that Mohanlal was once a mighty king, Vijayendra Vrusshabha, and that an age-old conflict continues across generations.

Packed with high-octane action and dramatic moments, the trailer hints at a story that spans two timelines — from the grandeur of a historic kingdom to the intensity of the modern era. Alongside Mohanlal, the film features Samarjit Lankesh, Ragini Dwivedi, and Nayan Sarika, with Ajay, Garuda Ram, and Kishore in key roles.

The film boasts music by Sam CS, sound design by Oscar-winner Resul Pookutty, dialogues by SRK, Janardhan Maharshi, and Karthik, and action choreography by Peter Hein, Stunt Silva, and Nikhil. Shot simultaneously in Malayalam and Telugu, Vrusshabha will also release in Hindi and Kannada.

Presented by Connekt Media and Balaji Telefilms Ltd in association with Abishek S Vyas Studios, and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ekta R Kapoor, and others, Vrusshabha promises a visually grand cinematic experience that explores legacy, vengeance, and the powerful emotional bond between a father and son.

The theatrical trailer of Vrusshabha, starring legendary actor Mohanlal, was unveiled on Tuesday, raising expectations for the epic action drama slated for a grand world-

wide release on December 25, 2025. Geetha Film Distributors, known for releasing major blockbusters in Telugu, will be presenting the film on a large scale. Written and directed by Nanda Kishore, Vrusshabha is

EESHA WARNING:

Pure Fear and Edge of the Seat experience on Dec 25th

The upcoming horror thriller Isha features Thrigun and Hebah Patel in lead roles with Akhil Raj, Siri Hanmanth and Prithveeraj also playing significant roles. The team recently released a terrifying promo titled "Eesha Warning," offering a glimpse into a cursed land and a chilling world dominated by ghosts and dark energies. Packed with spine-tingling moments, the promo captures the growing dread of four friends as fear seeps into their very bones. Promising an edge-of-the-seat horror experience, the promo has significantly raised expectations for the film. Amid multiple releases slated for December 25th, this horror thriller stands out with heightened buzz, as the narrative teases haunting encounters and sinister secrets tied to an abandoned house. Eesha is set to arrive in theatres on December 25th, 2025. RR Dhruvan's background score heightens the tension, and the visuals along with the production quality stand out impressively. Backed by Pothula Hema Venkateswara Rao under HVR Productions, the movie brings together a skilled technical team including Santosh Sanamoni for cinematography, RR Dhruvan for music and Vinai handling the editing. Following their impressive success with Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambai, producers Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati are now gearing up to deliver another gripping project. Known for their strong judgment in selecting content-driven stories, the duo is presenting Isha under their respective banners.



Curtain raiser held for Little Miss & Mr South India pageant

The curtain raiser of the much-anticipated Little Miss & Mr South India Beauty Pageant was unveiled at Prasad Labs, marking the official launch of one of South India's leading ethical platforms aimed at nurturing young talent and confidence. Organised by The Looks – Modeling & Acting Academy, the pageant focuses on confidence building, personality development, communication skills, and stage presence among children from Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Tirupati. The grand finale is scheduled to be held on December 27 at Shourya Convention Hall, Police Lines,

Yousufguda Check Post, Hyderabad. The launch event was graced by Founder and Bigg Boss fame Kaushal Manda, along with popular anchor Ravi, who jointly unveiled the promotional posters of the pageant. Addressing the media, Kaushal Manda said the initiative is not about physical beauty alone but about fostering discipline, creativity, and holistic personality development in children. He emphasized that the pageant strictly follows ethical and child-friendly guidelines, focusing on grooming and growth rather than unhealthy competition. The pageant will feature multiple age categories ranging from 3 to

19 years for both girls and boys. Participants will undergo certified grooming sessions, personality development workshops, talent rounds, and a grand finale ramp walk. Anchor Ravi appreciated the initiative, stating that such platforms help children identify their strengths at an early age while enhancing self-esteem, communication, and social skills. The organisers also expressed gratitude to sponsors and partners for supporting Little Miss & Mr South India – Future Stars and Little India Fashion Times (LIFT), a fashion platform that promotes emerging women designers from across South India.

Raashii Khanna shares BTS from 'Ustaad Bhagat Singh' sets

Actress Raashii Khanna, who plays a pivotal character in director Harish Shankar's eagerly-awaited action entertainer 'Ustaad Bhagat Singh', featuring actor Pawan Kalyan in the lead, has now shared a few BTS videos of her from the sets of the film. Taking to her Instagram page, the actress shared a couple of videos of her on the sets of Ustaad Bhagat Singh and said, "Between action and cut, there's stillness. And sometimes, laughter. @harish2you #ubs." The BTS videos make it evident that the actress has had a wonderful time, shooting for the action entertainer. In fact, it may be recalled that earlier this year, the



actress had described her experience of working alongside Pawan Kalyan in 'Ustaad Bhagat Singh' as a 'true honour.' The actress in a post had expressed her excitement and gratitude for being part of the much-anticipated project. Posting a selfie she had clicked with Pawan Kalyan, she wrote, "It's a wrap for @pawankalyan garu for #ustaadbhagatsingh. It has been amazing sharing this film with him, a true honour and a memory I'll always cherish."

For the unaware, the makers of Ustaad Bhagat Singh announced in July this year that Raashii Khanna would play a character called Shloka in the film.

Vanara to release in theatres on January 1

Vanara, marking the debut of Avinash Thiruveedhula as both hero and director, is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on January 1, coinciding with New Year celebrations. Presented by Shantanu Pathi and produced by Avinash Buyani, Alapati Raja, and C. Ankith Reddy under the Silver Screen Cinemas banner, the film features Simran Choudhary as the female lead, with Nandu playing the antagonist. The mythological rural

drama is expected to stand out with Sai Madhav Burra's powerful dialogues and Vivek Sagar's music. The film has already generated strong buzz through its promotional content. The teaser has crossed two million views, while the first single Adaraho has received an encouraging response from music lovers. With its unique theme and growing anticipation, Vanara is gearing up to entertain audiences as a special New Year treat on January 1.

