

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

26-12-2025
Total pilgrims: 72,487
Tonsure: 29,500
Hundi kanakulu: 4,52 CR
Waiting Compartments:
Out side line at Sletoranam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(without SSD Tokens): 20 H

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INBRIEF

IndiGo cancels
57 flights;
Hyderabad
among affected
airports



Mumbai: Domestic carrier IndiGo on Saturday cancelled 57 flights across its network, citing 'bad weather' at various airports, according to the airline's website. The airline has also cancelled 13 flights, as of now, for Sunday, with two of them for 'operational reasons', and the remaining largely due to 'forecasted bad weather'. The Gurugram-headquartered IndiGo, which cancelled thousands of flights early this month on account of stricter norms related to the pilot's duty period and rest, have been cancelling some flights for more than one week now on account of 'bad weather'. The 57 flights cancelled on Sunday include from Chandigarh, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Delhi, Gaya, Kolkata, Chennai, Jaipur and Pune, among others.

Cong plans 'MGNREGA Bachao Abhiyan' from Jan 5; Kharge says Modi govt will face people's anger

NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Congress will launch a nationwide campaign against the repeal of the UPA-era rural employment legislation MGNREGA on January 5, similar to the push-back against the three farm laws which eventually forced the Narendra Modi government to rollback its decision, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

At a press conference here on Saturday after a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), Kharge said the party will lead the 'MGNREGA Bachao Abhiyan' across the country. The VB-G RAM G Bill, replacing the 20-year-old MGNREGA, was passed in Parliament during the recently concluded Winter Session of Parliament amid vociferous protests by the opposition. The new law has a provision for 125 days of wage employment for rural workers.

He said the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was not just a scheme, but the 'Right to Work' given by the Constitution.

"People are angry over the repeal of MGNREGA. The government will have to face the consequences," he said.

"At the CWC meeting, we took an oath that a campaign would be launched with MGNREGA as its focal point. The Congress would take the lead and start a "MGNREGA Bachao Abhiyan" from

January 5," Kharge said.

He said party leaders took an oath of protecting MGNREGA at any cost.

"We will fight unitedly for the rights of rural labourers to dignity, employment, wages and timely payment and will protect the rights of demand-based employment and gram sabha," he said.

Kharge said the Congress would democratically oppose the "conspiracy" to erase Mahatma Gandhi's name from MGNREGA and to "convert the rights of workers into charity".

Referring to the cost-sharing clause between the Centre and state governments under the VB-G RAM G Act, the Congress chief said states will have an additional expenditure burden and termed it a one-sided decision taken without consultation. "This law has been brought to crush the poor. We will fight against it on the streets and in Parliament," he said.

Earlier, speaking at the CWC meeting, Kharge said repealing MGNREGA is an insult to Mahatma Gandhi. The Congress chief cited precedents, including the 2015 amendments to India's land acquisition law that were effectively rolled back. He also quoted the three farm laws, which were first brought in as ordinances and then passed in Parliament amid opposition protests, but had to be repealed following the 2020-21 farmers' protests.

10.56 LAKH NAMES DELETED AS EC RELEASES ASSAM'S DRAFT ELECTORAL ROLLS AFTER SPECIAL REVISION



such as name, age and photograph, of D-Voters were found to have moved from their registered addresses, and 53,619 demographically similar entries were identified for correction, it said.

The verification was conducted in 61,03,103 households across the state, it added. The exercise involved 35 District Election Officers (DEOs), 126 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 1,260 AEROS, 29,656 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and 2,578 BLO Supervisors, the statement said.

Of the 10.56 lakh, 4,78,992 names were deleted because of deaths,

All related particulars,

DMK has earned strong reputation for its governance, welfare schemes: Stalin



TIRUVANNAMALAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday said the Dravidian model government led by him in the state has earned a good name even from the people who have not voted for the DMK. However, it was not the case with the BJP that governs the Centre, as even its supporters were making searing criticism of the union government, he alleged.

Addressing a government function at Malappambadi near here, the chief minister said the DMK regime is working for the overall development of Tamil Nadu, which includes each and every district and every family. The Dravidian model of governance and growth across sectors speaks volumes about the state overcoming a string of challenges. Due to the BJP-led government's implementation of GST, the state does not have the "right over tax," he alleged and claimed that the funds due to the state have not been released by the Centre. On top of it, the state has a governor who has been deputed by the Centre only to cause trouble to the elected gov-

KTR claims rising public anger against Congress in Telangana



HYDERABAD, DEC 27: BRS Working President K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) on Saturday said that a state-wide revolt against the Congress government has begun in Telangana, citing public anger over unfulfilled promises and alleged governance failures. Speaking at an Atmiya Sammelanam of newly elected BRS-backed Sarpanches and Upa-Sarpanches in Hyderabad, KTR asserted that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) would reclaim power.

KTR accused the Congress government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, of betraying farmers by failing to release Rythu Bandhu investment support on multiple occasions. He contrasted this with the previous BRS regime under K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR), claiming Rs 72,000 crore was directly transferred to farmers without delays.

He alleged that the Congress came to power through deception and criticised the government for focusing on inquiries and cases rather than administration.

KTR also hailed the BRS-backed candidates'

performance in recent Gram Panchayat elections, calling it a sign of strong grassroots support despite political pressure.

Announcing protective measures for elected local representatives, KTR said BRS would set up legal cells and training programmes in every district.

He emphasised the constitutional authority of Sarpanches and accused the government of misusing power to harass local bodies.

He highlighted that the government's retreat on the Lagacharla land issue was a direct result of the party's massive protest in Mahabubabad.

Develop curriculum to expose urban students to village life: Shivakumar



BENGALURU (TSIT): Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday called for the development of a curriculum that creates awareness about village life among urban students, stressing the need to bridge the growing gap between rural and urban realities. Speaking at the Farmers' Day celebrations held at Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK) in Bengaluru, he said the Agriculture Minister and Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities should jointly for-

gested including two to three days of village tours as part of the academic syllabus. Recalling his personal experiences, Shivakumar said he comes from a farmer's family and had attended a poultry farming course at GKVK during his college days. He noted that his family continues to be connected with agriculture through horticulture and plantation activities, adding that he understands the challenges faced by the farming community.

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Protium Finance Ltd. in the same shall be released herein after as **Protium Finance Ltd.** The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-auction.

It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <http://bankauctions.in/>

1. Account No.	1. GSTIN SEL2073929
2. Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower/ Mortgagors	2. Mr. Ravi Traders Electricals Sanitary Tiles Through Its Proprietor Kondrikala Rajeshwar S/o Kondrikala Ganga Goud (B) Kondrikala Rajeshwar S/o Kondrikala Ganga Goud (C) Kondrikala Swaropa W/o Kondrikala Rajeshwar Goud All having address at Shop No 1/18/A/1/V/1/A/1, Babapoor, Road: Beemeh Telangana 503311. Also at: H.No. 4/118/A, Mothe Velpur Bc Wada Mothe Mothe Nizamabad Telangana 503311.
3. Date of Demand Notice	15th February, 2025
4. Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2)	Rs. 52,63,641.96/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred Forty One and Ninety Six Paise) as on 10th February 2025 until payment in full amount along with other charges as demanded in our notice, within the statutory period of 60 days from the date of this notice.
5. Date of Physical Possession	09 September 2025
6. Amount as on date	Rs. 30,88,457/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Eighty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Seven Only) as on 27th December 2025

7. Description of Property: All The Piece And Part Of The Immovable Property Bearing The E- No. Rcc Root No. 1209/2024, Open Bearing No. 16/17/18, Plot No. 16/17/18, Pahadi Village, Mandi-Velpur, Dist:-Nizamabad Within The Gram Panchayat Limits Of Mothe & T.S. East To West =65.8 Sq. Ft. And North To South =25.1 Sq. Ft Total Measuring 2053 Sq. Ft And Bounded As Under: North =3'0" Wide Road, South : Open Place Of Others, East : Open Place Of Others, West : House Of Others.

8. Reserve Price : Rs. 31,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Only)

9. Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 3,10,00/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Ten Thousand Only)

10. Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.) : (Bid Incremental Value: Rs. 5,000/-)

11. E-Auction Date and Time : 16-Jan-26 at 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each)

12. EMD Submission Last Date : 15-Jan-26 up to 5:00 PM.

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1. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://protium.co.in/> For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction, prospective bidders may Contact Mr. Nitesh D Pawar Contact number 8142000725/ 8142000066, email id: nitesh@bankauctions.in

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THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/ Rule 9 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES,2002

Date: 28.12.2025

Place: TELANGANA

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Major Crimes Decline in Ramagundam Police Commissionerate, Recovery Rate Improve.



Mancherial: The Ramagundam Police Commissionerate has recorded a significant decline in major crimes during 2025 compared to the previous year, according to Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha. Crimes such as murder, robbery, house burglary, fraud, and attempted murder showed a noticeable reduction, which the Commissioner attributed to strengthened surveillance systems, extensive use of technology, and preventive policing measures. However, a slight increase was observed in cases related to kidnapping, grievous hurt, and petty theft. Commissioner Jha said continuous patrolling, effective CCTV monitoring, and prompt police response mechanisms have enhanced crime detection and improved overall public safety. He added that the property recovery rate increased by 22 per cent during the year. The Ramagundam Police played a key role in ensuring peaceful polling during the MLC and Gram Panchayat elections. Around 1,700 police personnel were deployed at sensitive and critical polling locations, resulting in incident-free elections and the smooth completion of the polling process.

UCMAS Abacus Attapur students win 9 titles at Telangana State-level competition



Students of UCMAS Abacus, Attapur, once again brought laurels to their institution by winning nine awards at the 9th Telangana State-level UCMAS Abacus Competition, held at VNR Gardens, Mallapur, Hyderabad. UCMAS Abacus conducts state, national and international competitions every year for children aged between 5 and 12 years, encouraging young minds to showcase their mental, visual and analytical abilities. At the state-level competition, Attapur students delivered an impressive performance across multiple categories. Master Ishaan Nanduri won the Champion Trophy in the Listening Category-C along with a cash award of Rs. 1,500. Master Vedansh Thirunagari emerged as Module Champion (Level D) in the Visual Round with a cash prize of Rs. 2,500 and also won the Champion Trophy in the Listening Round, receiving Rs. 1,500. Master Chetan Thirunagari secured the Group Champion Trophy (Level F) in the Visual Round with Rs. 1,000 and was Runner-Up I in the Listening Round with a cash prize of Rs. 1,000. Rihan Mahankali won the Champion Trophy in the E Category. Master Ch. Piyush Pathak bagged the Runner-Up-5 Trophy in the B2 Category, while Pramatha Yeshvi secured the 1st Runner-Up Trophy in the A Category. Bhavyesh received the Runner-Up-4 Trophy in the E2 Category, and Master Amogh Krishik won the 4th Runner-Up Trophy in the Listening Competition, Category C. Master Mokshith claimed the 3rd Runner-Up Trophy in the D1 Category. Lochana Priya won the 4th Runner-Up Trophy in the B2 Category. Adayan Sahoo secured the 5th Runner-Up Trophy in the A1 Category, and Yeshvi won the 1st Runner-Up Trophy in the A1 Category. Ms. Annapurna Koduru, Principal of UCMAS Abacus, Attapur, congratulated the students for their remarkable achievements. She also appreciated the dedicated efforts of the teachers, Mrs. Sashi Jalan and Miss Rajeswari, for their effective training, and thanked the parents for their constant guidance and support in helping the students reach this level of excellence.

GITAM congratulates Dr. S. Swaraj on Ph.D. achievement

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has congratulated Dr. S. Swaraj on the successful completion of his Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering. His research, titled "Revolutionizing Grape Farming Through Hyperspectral Imaging," marks a significant advancement in the field of smart and sustainable agriculture.



Carried out under the guidance of Dr. S. Aparna, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, the study introduces an advanced AI-driven hyperspectral imaging framework for the early detection and severity classification of plant diseases. The research integrates deep learning models with optimized band selection, fuzzy segmentation, and IoT-enabled real-time monitoring to ensure accurate disease identification and timely crop protection.

The proposed system

Prez Murmu honours Hyderabad mountaineer Vishwanath Karthikey with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Hyderabad: The Government of India conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025 on mountaineer Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti, with Droupadi Murmu presenting the national honour in recognition of his historicfeat as the youngest Indian and the second youngest person in the world to complete the prestigious 7 Summits Challenge.

December 26 is observed annually as Veer Baal Diwas, commemorating the martyrdom of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh. On this occasion, the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is conferred by the President of India to recognise exceptional achievements by children below the age of 18 across six categories—Bravery, Social Service, Environment, Sports, Art and Culture, and Science and Technology.

The national honour recognises Karthikey's completion of the 7 Summits Challenge at the age of 16, placing him among the youngest mountaineers worldwide to achieve the milestone. The challenge



involves scaling the highest peaks on all seven continents—Mount Everest (Asia), Aconcagua (South America), Denali (North America), Mount Elbrus (Europe), Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mount Kosciuszko (Australia), and Mount Vinson (Antarctica).

Born on October 30, 2008, in Hyderabad and currently residing in Ferozguda, Balanagar, Vishwanath Karthikey began mountaineering during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. At the age of 11, he undertook his first high-altitude attempt at Rudragaira in Uttarakhand. Although the summit remained out of reach, the expedition marked the beginning of a sustained and

disciplined pursuit of high-altitude climbing.

He later trained at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, acquiring essential technical and safety skills for extreme-altitude expeditions. Alongside formal training, Karthikey followed a rigorous fitness routine, often beginning his day at 4 a.m. Over the next five years, he climbed 23 mountains across continents, setting multiple age-related benchmarks.

A defining milestone in his journey came on May 27, 2025, when he successfully summited Mount Everest, completing the Seven Summits Challenge. Throughout this period, he also maintained steady academic progress, balancing

school education with demanding international expeditions. Karthikey's journey has been supported by his family, his parents Rajendra Prasad and Laxmi, grandparents Shiva Kumar and Soumya Laxmi, and elder sister Vaishnavi. His training and expeditions were guided by his coach Bharath Thamineni, founder of Boots & Crampon, and Romil Barthwal, whose mentorship played a critical role in his development as a mountaineer.

Notably, the award marks a hat-trick for Boots & Crampon, following earlier Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar recipients Samanya Pothuraju (2020) and Virat Chandra Telukunta (2022). Reacting to the honour, Karthikey said mountaineering had taught him discipline, consistency, and resilience in the face of setbacks. He added that receiving the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar has strengthened his resolve to pursue higher goals in the sport.

India to Get National Academy on Rural Buddhist Heritage as Andhra Pradesh Allots Land

Hyderabad/Visakhapatnam: The Andhra Pradesh government has allotted five acres of land at Nagarjunakonda for establishing a National Academy for Rural Buddhist Heritage Conservation and Development, positioning the State at the forefront of India's efforts to revive and protect its vast yet neglected rural Buddhist heritage.

The academy will focus on documenting lesser-known rural Buddhist sites, developing professional expertise in heritage conservation and ensuring active participation of local communities. The land allotment by the Andhra Pradesh government is being viewed as a crucial step in translating national commitments into action at the State level.

During the conference, speakers highlighted the increasing threats faced by rural Buddhist sites, including climate change, environmental degradation and regulatory challenges. His Eminence Kyabje Serkong Tsenshab Rinpoche cited damage to the 1,000-year-old Tabo Monastery in Himachal Pradesh due to unseasonal rainfall as a warning sign. Former NITI Aayog CEO Dr. Amitabh Kant stressed the need to treat Buddhist heritage conservation as a national mission, while experts including Professor Amareswar Galla and Dr. Prajapati Trivedi of Harvard University underlined the importance of systematic documentation, academic training and international collaboration.



three-day International Conference on the Preservation of Rural Buddhist Heritage held in New Delhi, where the Delhi Declaration was adopted as a national framework for conservation. The conference brought together scholars, monks, conservation experts and policymakers from India and abroad. Nagarjunakonda, situated in the Krishna river valley, is one of India's most significant archaeological sites associated with early Buddhism. Once a major centre of monastic learning and Buddhist art, the region holds immense historical and cultural

KL Deemed to be University confers degrees on over 5,000 students at XV Convocation

Hyderabad, 27 December 2025: KL Deemed to be University successfully conducted its XV Convocation Ceremony, marking a defining moment in the academic journey of over 5,000 graduating students from the 2025 academic year. Organised at the University's Vaddeswaram campus, the ceremony reflected the scale, diversity, and academic depth of the institution's vibrant higher-education ecosystem.

The convocation unfolded in an ambience charged with emotion, excitement, and pride, as graduating students, parents, and faculty came together to celebrate years of perseverance and achievement. The ceremony was graced by Prof. Vinod K. Singh, President of the National Academy of Sciences, India, who attended as the Chief Guest and delivered the Convocation Address. Dr. Shridhar Banavalli, Coordinator, Tata Memorial Centre – Rural Outreach Program, participated as the Guest of Honour.

Degrees were conferred upon 184 doctoral scholars, over 700 postgraduate students, and more than 4,500



undergraduate students, representing a broad spectrum of disciplines including engineering, management, sciences, law, pharmacy, agriculture, architecture, and the humanities. The graduating cohort included 340 MBA, 105 M.Tech, 40 Law, 3,200 B.Tech, 12 Architecture, 48 B. Pharmacy, 330 BCA, 325 BBA, 37 B.Com, 18 B.Sc (Visual Communication), 25 BA, 180 B.Sc (Agriculture), 14 M. Pharmacy, 32 M.Sc (Chemistry), and 220 MCA

graduates.

Academic merits and sustained excellence were formally recognised during the ceremony, with 44 students receiving Gold Medals and 40 students being awarded Silver Medals, along with cash prizes,

for outstanding performance in the preceding academic year.

Addressing the graduating students, Hon'ble Chancellor Er. Koneru Satyanarayana said, "Education does not end at convocation; it begins there. The true measure of learning lies in how graduates apply their knowledge with integrity, responsibility, and a commitment to creating value for society."

Vice-Chancellor Dr. G. Parthasaradhi Varma said, "The XV Convocation highlights our commitment to excellence in education, research, and holistic learning, preparing graduates for responsible professional and societal leadership."

In his Convocation Address,

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SALE NOTICE

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s (1), M/s Jyotsnareddy Hospital Private Limited, Maruthi Patalappa Complex No.9, Akshaynagar TC Palya Main Road Kowdenahalli, Bangalore-560016. 2). Mr. Dr. Y Raghavendra Reddy S/o Y Narappa Reddy, No.308, HRB Layout, 1st Block, 8th E Main Road, Kalyan Nagar Bangalore - 560 043. 3). Mrs. K Pramoda D/o K Ramachandra Reddy, No.12-3-790, Jesus Nagar, Near Jayamannamma Kalyanamandapam, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh - 515001. 4). Mrs. Yerragunta Hemavathi, D/o 12-2-416, 3rd Cross, Harihar Nagar West, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh-515001. 5). Mrs. K Chennakesavamma, W/o K Ramachandra Reddy, No.12-3-790, Jesus Nagar, Near Jayamannamma Kalyanamandapam, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh - 515 001. 6). Shri. K Ramachandra Reddy, S/o K Obi Reddy, No.12-3-790, Jesus Nagar, Near Jayamannamma Kalyanamandapam, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh - 515 001. The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (<https://baanknet.com/>) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 16-01-2026 5.00 pm.

Details and full description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any.

Details of Property	Reserve Price	Increment Amount
Item No.1: As per registered sale deed No.211/2005, a). Residential Building situated within Anantapur Municipal Corporation Area within the SRD and RD of Anantapur, at Ward No. 12, Sy. No.284/2, Plot No.7, LP No.26/63, Jesus Nagar, Anantapur Municipal Corporation, Anantapuram District, Andhra Pradesh. Bounded by: East by: Plot No.12, South by: Remaining Portion of Plot no.7 which belongs to K Ramachandra Reddy, West by: 40 Feet Road, North by: Plot No.6 Measuring East to west 72 feet and North to South 24 feet a total of 1728 sq. ft. or 193.6 Sq. Yds.	Rs.2,31,15,000.00 (Rupees Two Crore Thirty One Lakh Fifteen Thousands Only)	Rs.2,00,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Only)
EMD Rs.23,11,500.00 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Only)		
Item No.2: As per registered sale deed No.212/2005, b). Residential Building situated within Anantapur Municipal Corporation Area within the SRD and RD of Anantapur, at Ward No. 12, Sy. No.284/2, Plot No.7, LP No.26/63, Jesus Nagar, Anantapur Municipal Corporation, Anantapuram District, Andhra Pradesh. Bounded by: East by: Plot No.12, South by: House of V Venkatarani Reddy, West by: 40 Feet Road, North by: Remaining Portion of Plot in plot No.7 belongs to K. Chennakesavamma. Measuring East to west 72 feet and North to South 36 feet a total of 2592 sq. ft. or 290.04 Sq. Yds.		
The above items Nos. a and b are adjacent plots. Mrs. K Chennakesavamma and Mr. K Ramachandra Reddy constructed a house bearing door No 12-3-790 Asst No. 100146170 on it.		

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Authorised Officer, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 6301683293 and 9483544116, e-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day.

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Guardians of tiny lives: National Pediatric Surgery Day highlights care, compassion and innovation

National Pediatric Surgery Day is observed every year on December 29 to recognise the vital role of pediatric surgeons in safeguarding the lives of children from newborns to adolescents. Marking the occasion, Dr. M. Yoga Nagendhar, Chief Consultant Pediatric Surgeon, Pediatric Urologist, Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgeon at KIMS Cuddles, Secunderabad, highlighted that children are not just small adults and require highly specialised surgical care tailored to their delicate and developing bodies. Pediatric surgery addresses complex and often life-threatening congenital conditions involving the lungs, intestines, urinary system and abdominal organs. With advances in modern medicine, many of these conditions are now treated using minimally invasive techniques, including keyhole and robotic surgery, advanced pediatric anaesthesia and even interventions beginning from the mother's womb. These innovations ensure greater precision, less pain and faster recovery, enabling children to resume normal growth and development at the earliest. Dr. Nagendhar noted that behind every successful surgery is years of specialised training, long hours in operation theatres and immense emotional responsibility. Pediatric surgeons carefully plan each procedure, knowing that every decision has lifelong implications for the child and family.

demonstrated excellent performance, achieving over 93 per cent accuracy, and offers a scalable, energy-efficient solution for intelligent plant disease monitoring, aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity.

The GITAM community, including Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. D. S. Rao, Resident Director Dr. D. V. V. S. R. Varma, Director-School of Technology Prof. V. R. Sastry, and Head of the Department of CSE Prof. Shaik Mahaboob Basha, along with faculty members, researchers, and students, extended heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Swaraj on his outstanding academic accomplishment.

The proposed system

EDITORIAL

Wildlife crushed in the path of development

The December 2025 train accident that killed seven elephants—including a calf—in Assam's Hojai district was no ordinary accident. It symbolized the growing conflict between India's development model and environmental sensitivity. The high-speed train not only killed the elephants, but also derailed the engine and several coaches, highlighting the serious threat such incidents pose not only to wildlife but also to human life and public property.

The elephant is India's "National Heritage Animal" and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Despite this, the annual deaths of elephants on railway tracks raise questions about whether our development is truly sustainable, or is it proceeding at the expense of nature. According to government data, hundreds of elephants have been killed in train accidents over the past two decades, with Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand being the worst affected states.

India has seen rapid expansion of railway lines, national highways, power transmission lines, and other linear infrastructure. This expansion was considered essential for economic progress, but problems arise when these projects encroach upon forests, grasslands, and wetlands without adequate ecological planning. Railway tracks are particularly dangerous because trains cannot change direction or stop suddenly. Elephants, on the other hand, have limited vision and their heavy bodies, hindering rapid reaction.

Elephants are large-scale migratory animals and rely on traditional migratory routes for food, water, and breeding. When railway lines cut off these corridors, elephants have no choice but to cross the tracks. Unfortunately, many accident-prone areas have still not been officially declared "elephant corridors." The Hojai region of Assam is a prime example, where legal protection has been lacking despite regular elephant movement for years.

Excessive train speeds are a major cause of accidents. Even in environmentally sensitive areas, trains often reach speeds of 90 to 110 kilometers per hour. At such speeds, it is nearly impossible to stop a train in the face of elephants. Temporary speed restrictions and warnings often prove to be mere formalities. This demonstrates that time and efficiency continue to be prioritized over environmental safety in railway operations.

Visibility problems also contribute to these accidents. Most elephant-train collisions occur at night or early morning, when fog, rain, or dense vegetation limit train drivers' vision. This situation is even more severe in Assam and Northeast India, where unpredictable weather is common. Furthermore, railway tracks themselves attract elephants. Food waste thrown by passengers, salty soil, and ripening crops near the tracks draw elephants to vulnerable areas, especially during the harvest season.

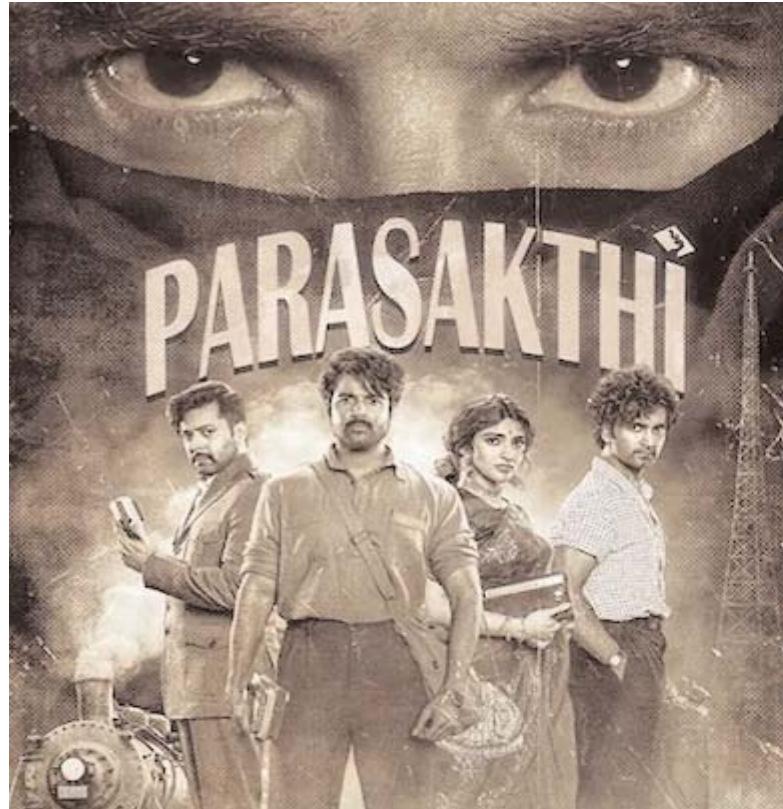
The design of railway tracks also often exacerbates the problem. High embankments, concrete walls, and fences trap elephants on the tracks. Cubs are unable to escape quickly, slowing the entire herd down and increasing the risk of accidents.

Furthermore, a lack of proper coordination between the Forest Department and the railways is a major challenge. Patrol teams often fail to report elephant presence to the railway control room in time, preventing accidents.

After every major disaster, steps such as investigations, compensation, and temporary bans are taken, but these are all reactive measures. Environmental impact assessments often remain a formality, and changes in animal behavior after project approval are not taken seriously. The need is to treat conservation not as an obstacle to development, but as an essential part of it.

To protect elephants, it is essential to provide legal protection to all known migratory corridors, whether they are already notified or not. Permanent speed limits should be implemented in all such areas. As a technological solution, AI-based intrusion detection systems, which detect elephant movements and alert train drivers in time, could prove extremely effective. Limited use of these systems is not sufficient; they need to be adopted nationwide.

Additionally, scientifically designed underpasses, overpasses, and earthen ramps can play a vital role in ensuring safe elephant transit. According to the Ministry of Environment, such structures can significantly reduce elephant mortality.

Jana Nayagan vs. Parasakthi: The Politics Playing Out On Tamil Nadu's Screens

This Pongal, Tamil cinema isn't just selling tickets - it's signalling the opening moves of the 2026 assembly election. January 9 and 10 promise more than the usual festive box-office fireworks in Tamil Nadu. They mark a cinematic clash freighted with political meaning - one that could shape the narrative heading into the 2026 Assembly elections. On one side is Jana Nayagan, Vijay's much-hyped "final film" before he focused entirely and only on winning the 2026 assembly elections. On the other hand is Parasakthi, a title that echoes with the ideological thunder of Dravidian politics itself. This is not merely a contest between two films; it is a proxy battle for political space, symbolism, and supremacy. At the centre of this confrontation stands Vijay - the undisputed "X factor" in Tamil Nadu's political landscape. His entry into politics has disrupted a system long defined by the DMK-AIADMK binary that has dominated the state since 1967. By positioning the 2026 election as a direct contest between the DMK and his own Tamilaga Vettai Kazhagam (TVK), Vijay has declared his intent to rewrite the rules of the game. Importantly, Vijay is not an ideological disruptor. He has publicly endorsed Dravidian ideology and embraced its political traditions. His

challenge is not to the idea of Dravidianism itself but to the electoral dominance of the two parties that have historically claimed ownership of it. That makes him a far more dangerous challenger - an insider with mass appeal, not an outsider railing against the system. Jana Nayagan, which Vijay has declared will be his final film, appears tailor-made for this political moment. Early indications suggest a familiar but potent narrative: the righteous mass hero taking on a corrupt and unjust system. The subtext is hard to miss. This is Vijay, the star, rehearsing Vijay, the politician, toppling a decaying order and offering a new alternative. If the tone for 2026 hasn't already been set, Jana Nayagan aims to set it. From a purely commercial standpoint, the film's success seems all but assured. Vijay's recent track record has made him arguably the most bankable star in Tamil cinema today, if not in India. Box-office dominance has become his default mode. Yet, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) is not content to cede this symbolic space uncontested. Its counter comes in the form of Parasakthi, starring Sivakarthikeyan, another rising superstar but one whose film carries weight far beyond its leading man. The title Parasakthi is inseparable from Tamil cinema's



political history. The 1952 classic, featuring Sivaji Ganesan and scripted by M Karunanidhi, was a cinematic manifesto. Its iconic courtroom monologue - an exorcism of God, social inequality, religious orthodoxy, and moral hypocrisy - became a rallying moment for the Dravidian revolution. Released just two years after the DMK's formation, the film functioned as powerful propaganda to sow the seeds for many such cinematic moments that culminated in an electoral revolution. "Odinen Odinen, Vazhakai Ellairke Odinen" (I ran and ran, I ran till the end of life itself) thundered Shivaji Ganesan passionately. It has echoed in the Dravidian political theatre since. The 2026 Parasakthi, directed by the largely apolitical Sudha Kongara, is unlikely to replicate that radical substance. But it doesn't need to. The power lies in the name and in the machinery behind it. The film is being distributed by Red Giant Movies, founded by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, a company frequently accused of wielding disproportionate influence over film distribution in the state. The decision to release Parasakthi on January 10 - just a day after Jana Nayagan - is strategic to the point of provocation. It creates the unmistakable optics of a direct challenge to Vijay at the box office during the lucrative Pongal window. Notably, the release was advanced from January 14, a move that followed Vijay's fiery Erode rally, where he branded the DMK an "evil force". The timing suggests retaliation as much as competition. Red Giant, founded by Udayanidhi Stalin and now run by his son, has been accused several times of leveraging political power to secure screens and crowd out rival releases. This time, too, there will be a battle for theatres between the two releases, which could lead to sharp political accusations. The fact that Red Giant is releasing a film with a politically enormous title in a politically timed manner to challenge Vijay, arguably DMK's most powerful threat, leaves no doubt that Parasakthi is political. An impact on Jana Nayagan's opening collections would be symbolically significant for the DMK, but this is not about money. This is about the perception of a cinematic and political challenge to Vijay. Beyond box-office tallies, Parasakthi sends a clear political message: the DMK is ready for Vijay's challenge. It reasserts the party's claim as the original custodian of Dravidian ideology and attempts to dilute the political conversation Vijay hopes to dominate with Jana Nayagan.

AT 14, VAIBHAV SURYAVANSHI MIGHT JUST BE TOO GOOD TO BE 'PROTECTED'

On April 2, 2011, when MS Dhoni hit Nuwan Kulasekara for the ODI World Cup-winning six at the Wankhede stadium, about 1,900 kilometres away, in Tajpur village of the Samastipur district of Bihar, a six-day-old infant lay blissfully unaware of the historic achievement of the Indian men's cricket team. Fast forward just over 14 years, and that kid is being tagged a "generational talent". Some might feel it's a little too early to call him that, but Vaibhav Suryavanshi seems to be on a mission to silence any and all doubters. A batter's job is to simply score as many runs as possible, every single time he or she strides out to the middle. And Vaibhav, who will turn 15 in March next year, has been keeping the scorers and statisticians rather busy. A look at just the last year he has had makes for rather surreal reading. In April, he became the youngest centurion in men's T20s (14 years and 32 days) when he hit a 35-ball 101 for RR vs GT in IPL 2025. In July, he hit the fastest recorded century in a youth One-Day international (a 78-ball 143 vs England in Worcester). In November, he smashed a 32-ball ton for India A vs the UAE in an Asia Cup Rising Stars T20 game, becoming the joint fifth fastest centurion in men's T20s (144 off 42 balls). And

then, just under a year after his senior team debut for Bihar, he became the youngest to score a century in men's List A cricket (One-day cricket, including ODIs and domestic one day cricket) and also broke AB de Villiers' record for the fastest 150 in men's List A cricket (190 off 84 balls),

in just his seventh List A match. Keep The Balance The million-dollar question now is, should Vaibhav be fast-tracked into the senior India set-up for T20i cricket? The one caveat here that must be mentioned is that the people in the corridors of power in Indian cricket have to be clear about the fact that while he potentially can be fast-tracked into white ball formats, his development in the red-ball format must not suffer at any cost. For T20i cricket, the wait ideally should

n't be a long one. He has an average of 41.23 in the format with a strike rate of 204.37, and is not overawed by a 'star player' running in to bowl to him. But at the same time, they must give him time to play more First-Class cricket against quality opposition - something his team, Bihar, is not getting in the Ranji Trophy Plate Group - to ensure that his Test future is not put in jeopardy. That is going to be a tightrope walk.

There has to be a proper plan in place in terms of allowing him to express himself fully in one format while continuing to improve in another. But it's difficult to do so, especially with Bihar cricket not in the best of shape. They were sidelined for 17 years after Jharkhand received statehood in November 2000, and their return to the Ranji Trophy

Elite Group for the 2023-24 season made headlines for all the wrong reasons. A 'Special Case' This is where the BCCI has to take the lead. The people in charge of the Centre of Excellence (formerly the National Cricket Academy) have to be directed to handle Vaibhav as a 'special case' and liaise with the selectors on a regular basis vis-à-vis his improvement. Remember, he is just 14, and for many experts, he should be allowed to develop his game and hone his natural skills some more before being pushed into the deep end. But then again, as far as white ball formats are concerned, this is a young man who faced the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Rashid Khan, Ishant Sharma, Prasidh Krishna and Washington Sundar to score a 38-ball 101 in the IPL and has

RAHUL VS PRIYANKA? NOT REALLY

Imran Masood of the Congress recently said that if Priyanka were made Prime Minister, she would teach Pakistan a lesson, just like Indira Gandhi did. In other words, Imran Masood subtly advocated for Priyanka Gandhi. It's true that many in the Congress see a glimpse of Indira in Priyanka; people find her accessible and natural. However, is this resemblance alone a reason enough to make Priyanka the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha? After all, she has been a member of the Lok Sabha for barely 12 months, and that doesn't quite justify being potentially appointed as either the Congress's leader or the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. It is true that in Rahul Gandhi's absence recently, Gandhi stepped forward during the Parliament session and led the opposition deftly - especially on issues like the G Ram G Bill and the overhaul of MGNREGA. Her march with the entire opposition to the Gandhi statue was striking, as was her chat over tea and snacks with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. However, not many have pointed out how this decision was taken by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. People

also appreciated Priyanka's style, which stood out in stark contrast to the fact that Rahul never attended such tea meetings. The little-discussed truth, however, is that the decision not to go for tea with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha was taken by the party itself. And this time as well, the decision to attend the meeting was the party's. That said, it can't be denied that there is certainly a difference between the two siblings' approach to politics. Rahul Gandhi has been much harsher towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), while many others spend their time pulling down those who are actually fighting. Rahul has his own team of young workers, running the party in their own way, and it is for them to answer why the party's performance has not improved, and whether the issues they are raising will bring success or not - and, if not, why.

Pinarayi Vijayan must not interfere in Karnataka's affairs without knowing the truth: DCM DK Shivakumar

Bengaluru : Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar hit out at Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan for unnecessarily interfering in evictions in an encroached land in Bengaluru.

Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "It is unfortunate that senior leaders like Pinarayi Vijayan has commented on this without knowing the facts of the matter. The land which was cleared of encroachment was a solid waste pit. There are many health-related issues in the area due to this. We also have humanity and we had given them an opportunity to move to other areas. Leaders like Pinarayi Vijayan should not interfere in such matters. Land mafia sets up slums in order to encroach upon the land at a later stage, we won't let that happen. We are willing to



give houses under Rajiv Gandhi scheme if there are eligible people." He was replying to Kerala CM saying Karnataka government was involved in 'Bulldozer raj' in Bengaluru.

"We don't have Bulldozer culture, I appeal to Pinarayi Vijayan not to talk like that. We are only pro-

tectioning government land in the middle of the city. We will send out a message regarding this to our party leaders in Kerala," he added.

"Bengaluru is not like other cities, we don't have many slums. This is Krishnayya Gowda's constituency and he has spoken to officials about it. This is nothing to do

with minorities. If there is anyone who is genuinely affected, we will provide them with housing elsewhere. Our government under the leadership of CM and Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed has built lakhs of homes for the poor in the state."

Asked about some people protesting in view of Pinarayi Vijayan's statement, he said, "These are all politically motivated statements and protests. He should not comment on matters of our state without knowing the facts. This is a political gimmick in view upcoming Kerala elections."

Asked if the evicted people had any rights, he said, "Whoever lives in Karnataka with valid documents will be provided necessary support. We have instructed officials to give out clear instructions regarding this."

"EDUCATION HAS NO BOUNDARIES": MINISTER MADHU BANGARAPPA

Mundgod: Minister for School Education and Literacy, Mr. Madhu Bangarappa, said that education as a boundary-less force that transcends language, religion, state, and national borders and emphasised that peace and progress can only be sustained through education and human values. Speaking at the 55th Anniversary celebrations of the establishment of

Gaden Shartse Thoesam Norling School at the Tibetan Colony in Mundgod, Bangarappa outlined several welfare initiatives under the School Education Department, including mid-day meals, milk, eggs, ragi malt, free textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, shoes and socks for students. He noted that nearly 1.16 crore students across government, aided,

and private schools are beneficiaries of the state's education ecosystem. The Minister also reiterated the reintroduction of Moral Science as a compulsory subject from the next academic year, aimed at strengthening human values, civic responsibility, health awareness, environmental sensitivity and ethical living among students.

NEP key to developed India, Karnataka students deprived of its benefits: Basavaraj Bommai

Former Karnataka Chief Minister and Member of Parliament Basavaraj Bommai said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the National Education Policy (NEP) with a visionary goal of building a developed India and securing a bright future for coming generations. He expressed concern that children in Karnataka are being deprived of quality education as the NEP has not been implemented in schools across the state.

Bommai was speaking after inaugurating the Navotsava-2025 programme at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Maharajpete village of Hanagal taluk, Haveri district. Describing student life as the most beautiful and golden phase, he recalled his own days as a student and said the enthusiasm of today's children



made him feel like returning to the classroom.

He said students of Navodaya schools are fortunate to receive quality education, career guidance and facilities that are rare-

ly available elsewhere, adding that Navodaya institutions are shaping the architects of New India. Bommai emphasised that talent can emerge from any background and is not limited to wealthy families, noting that knowledge is a divine blessing that can arise even from rural and economically weaker sections. Highlighting India's

intellectual strength, he pointed out that Indian students learn advanced concepts at an early age and that over 30 per cent of scientists at NASA are Indians. He said the 21st century belongs to knowledge holders and cited Bengaluru's global recognition through companies such as Infosys and Wipro as an example of India's knowledge-driven growth.

Bommai recalled that he was the first Chief Minister in the country to implement NEP, which promotes multidimensional learning, and urged students to make the best use of opportunities at Navodaya schools, strive for excellence and give back to their institution. Principal Kurian Thomas, retired principal Vijay Krishnan, faculty members and students were present on the occasion.

Remove Debris from the Service Roads and Footpaths from Bhadrappa Layout to the Outer Ring Road: Pommala Sunil Kumar



Bengaluru: While carrying out an inspection after identifying the limits and wards falling under the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru North City Corporation from Hebbal Flyover Junction to the Guruguntepalya Signal on Tumakuru Road it was observed that construction debris and soil had accumulated at several locations on the footpaths and service roads from Bhadrappa Layout to the Outer Ring Road.

Noting that works are currently in progress by B-SMILE, the Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Pommala

Sunil Kumar, directed the concerned B-SMILE officials to immediately remove the unusable debris.

During the inspection conducted this morning along with engineers from B-SMILE and the Solid Waste Management Department, the Commissioner instructed officials to ensure that all works within the City Corporation's jurisdiction are carried out efficiently and in a proper manner.

During the inspection, Joint Commissioners Shri Mohammed Naem Momin and Smt. Pallavi, along with the concerned Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, engineers from B-SMILE and the Solid Waste Management Department, and other staff members were present

neers from the Solid Waste Management Department jointly undertake a comprehensive cleanliness drive on the service roads and footpaths from Bhadrappa Layout to the Outer Ring Road, and ensure sustained cleanliness in this area.

During the inspection, Joint Commissioners Shri Mohammed Naem Momin and Smt. Pallavi, along with the concerned Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, engineers from B-SMILE and the Solid Waste Management Department, and other staff members were present

Padma Shri Dr. C. N. Manjunath participates in Parliamentary Committee Meeting on Women empowerment."

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Rural Member of Parliament, Padmashri Dr. C. N. Manjunath, participated in the interactive discussions held by the Parliamentary Committee on Women Empowerment in Bengaluru. The Committee held an informal discussion with representatives of the Ministry of Railways (Government of India), IRCTC, RVNL, RailTel, IRCON, and RITES Limited in connection with the examination of the subject "Empowerment of Women through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)"

Activities Undertaken by Public Sector Undertakings and Financial Institutions.

The meeting was chaired by Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari, Hon'ble Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Women Empowerment. Smt. Sudha Murty and other Parliamentary standing committee members and senior officers were also present.

KREDL sets up dedicated War Room to assist farmers with PM-KUSUM-B Scheme



Bengaluru : With an aim to ensure that no eligible farmer is deprived of the benefits of KUSUM-B Scheme due to lack of information or technical difficulties, KREDL has set up a dedicated War Room at its Nagarbhavi office.

Operational from 23.12.2025 to 31.12.2025, the War Room will offer a direct contact platform for farmers to address their concerns over phone call, ensuring ease of access for farmers across Karnataka.

Farmers can directly contact the KREDL War Room through the official phone numbers 080-22202100 and 0895132100 for information, online payment, and other related queries under the PM-KUSUM Component-B scheme, without approaching any middlemen, and avail the benefits of the scheme. The farmers need not pay money to anyone except their own share of the contribution*.

The PM-KUSUM-B scheme has received an overwhelming response from the farming community. So far, 83,204 farmers have registered online on the

portal www.souramitra.com. Applications that have received technical feasibility approval are now allowed to proceed with online payment.

Steps for farmers under the PM-KUSUM-B Scheme: Farmers need to register at www.souramitra.com, select their preferred vendor or agency from the available options, and complete the process by making the applicant's contribution payment online. The last date for payment is 31.12.2025. KREDL has already issued multiple ads / notifications informing farmers that failure to make payment by the

deadline will result in ineligibility under the scheme.

In this context, the War Room is ensuring that no eligible farmer is deprived of the benefits due to lack of information or technical difficulties.

To ensure uninterrupted support, KREDL staff will work in two shifts from 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. every day, without any leave, till 31.12.2025. K.J. George, Energy Minister said, The PM-KUSUM scheme is a transformational initiative aimed at empowering farmers through clean and affordable solar energy. By setting up a War Room,

TN to tweak rules to
deploy hired buses on
nationalised routes



CM Stalin assures govt support to Tiruvarur orphans, issues free patta

TIRUVARUR: Chief Minister MK Stalin consoled three children who had lost both parents and were struggling without support near Tiruvarur through a video call on Saturday, assuring that the Tamil Nadu government would provide all necessary assistance. He also issued them a house site patta. Sivakumar of Nannimangalam village in Koothanallur taluk and his wife Sumathi had three children—Swathi (17), Swetha (16) and Siveshwar (9).

Sivakumar worked as a

tailor with a modest income. Five years ago, his wife died due to ill health. Swathi and Swetha study in classes 11 and 12 at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Koothanallur, while Siveshwar studies in class 4 at a government-aided school.

Three months ago, Sivakumar also died due to ill health, leaving the children without parental support. Their relatives have not taken responsibility for them, and the three currently



live alone in a thatched house on poromboke land. As they attend school, they have no means to work and have been struggling without income. Their house is in a dire state with a leaking roof. Even the bathroom has no roof, and they use polythene sheets and cloth as a makeshift cover. Despite these conditions, the children con-

tinued their studies with dedication, and Swathi aspires to become a nurse.

The children had sought immediate assistance for food, clothing, shelter and education. After learning of their situation, the Chief Minister instructed officials to extend appropriate support. Minister for Industries TRB Raaja, MLA Poondi K Kalaiavan and District Collector Mohanachandran visited the children's house.

During their visit,

Stalin spoke to the children via video call, assured full government support and encouraged them to remain courageous and excel in their studies. A free house site patta was issued to them. Under the Anbukkarangal scheme, arrangements have been made for the three children to receive Rs 2,000 per month from January. The children became emotional and expressed gratitude. Officials, including Mannargudi Assistant Collector Yugeswaran and others, were present.

Fog, strong winds forecast across TN over next two days

CHENNAI: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast largely dry weather conditions across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal over the next two days, attributing the change to variations in the easterly wind pattern prevailing over the region. While widespread rainfall is not expected, the department has cautioned residents about early morning fog, slightly lower night temperatures in select

areas, and strong surface winds along the coastal belt. According to the IMD, light mist or fog may form during the early morning hours in isolated pockets across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. The Weather Department noted that there would be no significant change in minimum temperatures across most parts of the state. However, in a few interior regions, particularly in higher elevations, night temperatures may

TVK's Arunraj slams DMK govt over ongoing working group protests

CHENNAI: Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam general secretary (policy and propaganda) Arunraj, on Saturday, alleged that the protest by teachers, nurses and cleanliness workers over the non-fulfilment of the promises made to them by the ruling DMK exposed cracks in the Chief Minister's public image and asserted that people would deliver a decisive verdict through the ballot.

In a social media post on Friday, Arunraj accused the Tamil Nadu government of attempting to suppress democratic protests rather than

fulfilling its electoral promises. He criticised the handling of the demonstration by graduate teachers demanding equal pay for equal work, saying police action was being used against those who trusted the promises and voted for the government. He said the police prevented protesting teachers from speaking to the media and forcibly removed them from the protest site.

Bridging gap for sustainable future



UNFOLDING CRISIS: Climate change, its far-reaching impacts on the environment



In recent decades, the Earth's climate has undergone unprecedented changes, largely driven by human activities. Climate change, characterized by global warming and alterations in weather patterns, has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges of our time. This article explores the multifaceted impacts of climate change on the environment, encompassing rising temperatures, extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and the socio-economic ramifications that ripple across the globe.

THE RISE IN GLOBAL TEMPERATURES:

At the heart of climate change is the discernible increase in global temperatures. The Earth's average temperature has been steadily rising, primarily due to the excessive emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, from human activities like burning fossil fuels and deforestation. This warming trend has far-reaching consequences, affecting ecosystems and weather patterns on a planetary scale.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS:

One of the most immediate and visible effects of climate change is the intensification of extreme weather events. Hurricanes, droughts, floods, wildfires, and heatwaves have become more frequent and severe. The delicate balance of ecosystems is disrupted, leading to devastating impacts on communities, agriculture, and natural habitats.

The increasing frequency of such events raises questions about our preparedness and

ability to adapt to a changing climate.

MELTING ICE CAPS AND RISING SEA LEVELS:

As global temperatures soar, polar ice caps and glaciers are melting at an accelerated rate. This has profound implications for sea levels, contributing to their rise. Coastal regions are increasingly vulnerable to inundation, posing threats to low-lying areas, major cities, and island nations. The displacement of communities and loss of arable land present complex challenges that require urgent attention and innovative solutions.

BIODIVERSITY UNDER THREAT:

Climate change poses a significant threat to biodiversity. Alterations in temperature and weather patterns disrupt the delicate balance of ecosystems, affecting plant and animal species. Many face challenges in adapting or migrating to more suitable habitats, leading to shifts in distribution and potential extinction. The loss of biodiversity not only impacts the natural world but also poses risks to human well-being, as ecosystems provide essential services such as pollination, water purification, and climate regulation.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION:

The world's oceans, acting as a vital carbon sink, absorb a substantial portion of the excess carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. However, this absorption comes at a cost. The oceans are becoming more acidic, a phenomenon known as

Environmental justice is a pivotal concept that addresses the intersection of environmental issues and social equity. This article provides a brief overview of environmental justice, examining its principles, challenges, and the urgent need for inclusive strategies to ensure a fair and sustainable future for all.

Understanding Environmental Justice: Environmental justice focuses on the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, emphasizing that no community should bear a disproportionate share of environmental hazards. It seeks to rectify historical inequities and ensures that marginalized communities, often low-income and minority populations, are not disproportionately impacted by pollution, waste disposal, or environmental degradation.

Historical Context and Inequities: Explore the

historical roots of environmental injustice, recognizing patterns of discriminatory practices that have exposed certain communities to greater environmental risks. From the location of hazardous waste sites to industrial pollution, understand how vulnerable populations have often borne the brunt of environmental hazards.

Community Empowerment: Central to the concept of environmental justice is empowering communities to actively participate in decision-making processes that affect their environment. This empowerment includes providing marginalized communities with the tools, resources, and knowledge to advocate for their environmental rights and influence policy decisions.

Addressing Disparities: Environmental justice seeks to rectify existing disparities by advocating for policies that address the unequal distribution

of environmental benefits and burdens. This includes ensuring access to clean air, water, and green spaces, as well as mitigating the impacts of climate change that often disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

Climate Justice: Climate change is a global challenge with localized impacts that exacerbate existing environmental injustices. Explore the concept of climate justice, which emphasizes the fair treatment of all people in the face of climate change, recognizing that those who contribute least to climate change are often the most affected.

Legal Frameworks and Policy Initiatives: Various legal frameworks and policy initiatives aim to address environmental justice concerns. Understand how laws such as the Civil Rights Act and the National Environmental Policy Act intersect with environmental justice principles. Explore grass-

roots movements advocating for stronger regulations and enforcement to protect marginalized communities.

Environmental Racism: Environmental justice discussions often highlight instances of environmental racism, where communities of color are disproportionately subjected to environmental hazards.

Examine case studies that illustrate how systemic racism contributes to environmental injustices, underscoring the need for comprehensive and equitable solutions.

Challenges and Ongoing Struggles:

Despite progress, challenges persist in achieving environmental justice. Explore ongoing struggles, including resistance to change, inadequate representation of marginalized communities in decision-making processes, and the need for comprehensive data collection to fully understand and address environmental injustices.

particularly organisms with calcium carbonate shells, such as corals and mollusks. The cascading effects of ocean acidification reverberate through marine food webs, with potential consequences for fisheries and coastal economies.

CLIMATE REFUGEES AND MIGRATION:

As climate change disrupts environments and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, human migration patterns are undergoing significant shifts. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and deteriorating living conditions drive populations to seek refuge in more stable regions. The plight of climate refugees highlights the interconnectedness of environmental and social issues, necessitating international cooperation to address the humanitarian challenges associated with mass migration.

MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES:

In the face of these challenges, efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change are paramount. Sustainable energy solutions, reforestation initiatives, and policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are crucial for addressing the root causes of climate change.

Additionally, communities worldwide must develop robust adaptation strategies to cope with the changing climate, emphasizing resilience, sustainable practices, and the protection of vulnerable populations. The impacts of climate change on the environment are profound and multifaceted, posing challenges that extend beyond ecological concerns.

Urgent and coordinated global action is required to curb emissions, protect vulnerable ecosystems, and build resilience in the face of an evolving climate. Only through collective efforts can we hope to address the far-reaching impacts of climate change and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

US pauses OFFSHORE WIND projects over security concerns

The US is immediately pausing leases for offshore wind energy projects currently being built near the Atlantic coastline, citing security concerns. In a statement, the Department of the Interior said it was pausing five large-scale projects to look into how windmills could interfere with radar and create other risks to east coast cities. President Donald Trump has long opposed wind energy, saying it is unreliable and drives up costs, and attempted to stop all projects when he returned to office. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum has said wind farms have no future in the US energy grid. Renewable energy companies, as well as state leaders, have expressed alarm over the administration's stance. In its statement, the Department of the Interior said the pause "addresses emerging national security risks, including the rapid evolution of the relevant adversary technologies, and the vulnerabilities created by large-scale offshore wind projects with proximity near our east coast population centres".



The five wind farms now on pause are being constructed off the coast of New York, Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Specifically, the announcement noted that officials are concerned about radar interference "clutter" that can obscure real moving targets or, conversely, create false ones. It added that a radar's threshold for false-alarm detection could be increased to reduce some clutter, but

only at the risk of missing actual targets. The wind projects could make it difficult to "determine what's friend and foe in our airspace", Burgum said in an interview with Fox Business on Monday, where he cited drone strikes between Russia and Ukraine and between Iran and Israel as examples. Dominion Energy, the company behind the Virginia wind farm, said its project is far offshore and "does not raise visual

impact concerns." "The project's two pilot turbines have been operating for five years without causing any impacts to national security," it said in a statement. Dominion saw its share price drop more than 3% after the announcement. Orsted, the Danish wind energy giant, recorded a 12% drop in its share price, while turbine maker Vestas' stock fell by 2.6%. Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, a Democrat, described the pause as an "erratic" move that "will drive up the price of electricity in Connecticut and throughout the region". "This project is nearing completion and providing good-paying clean energy jobs," he added. "Businesses and residents deserve economic predictability, yet with the administration's constant starts and stops they're left with the opposite." Earlier in December, a federal judge struck down an attempt by President Trump to ban new wind power projects in the US, calling it "arbitrary and capricious and contrary to law". On the first day of his administration in January, Trump issued a memorandum halting permits and new leases until a federal review could be undertaken. Five months later, 17 US states led by New York sued the administration, calling the ban an "existential" threat to the US wind industry. Demand in the US for energy is expected to significantly expand in the years ahead, driven by the needs of artificial intelligence firms.

Coinbase ex-employee held for cyber-crime; CEO thanks Hyderabad Police



Coinbase Global Inc. co-founder and CEO Brian Armstrong thanked the Hyderabad police for arresting an ex-Coinbase customer service agent who allegedly led a cyberattack on the company in May this year. In an X post shared on Friday, December 26, Armstrong said, "We have zero tolerance for bad behaviour and will continue to work with law enforcement to bring bad actors to justice. Thanks to the Hyderabad Police in India, an ex-Coinbase customer service agent was just arrested. Another one down and more still to come." The arrest is linked to one of the most high-profile security breaches involving a crypto-based company this year. Criminals demanded USD 20 million ransom. Hackers

allegedly bribed the employees outside the United States to attain sensitive information on customer data and demanded a USD 20 million ransom. The company stated that the breach could cost it up to USD 40 million, Bloomberg reported. Upon confirmation of the breach, the company spokesperson also reported that it had filed charges against a Brooklyn man. In a blog post dated May 15, Coinbase laid out the details of the extortion attempt. The criminals had reportedly targeted their customer support agents overseas, which has now been established as India, and used cash offers to bribe employees to copy data from customer support tools. This primarily affected fewer than 1 per cent of

Coinbase's monthly transacting users. "Their aim was to gather a customer list they could contact while pretending to be Coinbase—tricking people into handing over their crypto. "They then tried to extort Coinbase for USD 20 million to cover this up. We said no," the blog read. The company stated that it would compensate those affected by the cybercrime, instead of paying the ransom. "We're cooperating closely with law enforcement to pursue the harshest penalties possible and will not pay the USD 20 million ransom demand we received," adding, "Instead, we are establishing a USD 20 million reward fund for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the criminals responsible for this attack."

Sikh community marks Guru Gobind Singh's birth anniversary with fervour



Hyderabad: The 359th Prakash Utsav (birth anniversary) of the tenth and last Sikh Guru Guru Gobind Singh, concluded on Saturday across Telangana. The event was organised under the aegis of the Prabandhak Committee at the Central Gurudwara Sahib, Gowliguda, where a Vishal Deewan (mass congregation) was held in front of the gurudwara.

Gurinder Singh from Rudrapur, Ravinder Singh, recited gurbani kirtans and delivered lessons on the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh and called for justice, peace and human dignity in today's times. Following the congregation, Guru Ka Langar (community kitchen) was organised.

Waymo robotaxis stop in the streets during San Francisco power outage



A massive power outage in San Francisco over the weekend led Waymo self-driving taxis to stop working around the city. "Significant and extensive" damage from a fire in a substation caused the Saturday afternoon outage that left more than 100,000 customers without power, utility provider PG&E said in a statement. Videos posted to social media showed Waymo robotaxis halted in the middle of city streets and intersections with their hazard lights flashing, as traffic jams grew and drivers zigzagged around the stopped cars. Waymo initially paused all service in the Bay Area following the outage, but has

since resumed its operations, a spokesperson said in a statement. During the outage, many traffic signals stopped working, city officials said, and Mayor Daniel Lurie deployed police officers, fire crews, and others to help with the flow of cars on the roads. Some commuter train lines and stations shut down, as well. Waymo said it was working with city officials throughout the outage. "While the Waymo Driver is designed to treat non-functional signals as four-way stops, the sheer scale of the outage led to instances where vehicles remained stationary longer than usual to confirm the state of the affected intersections.

GOLD AND SILVER HIT RECORDS AS INVESTORS HUNT FOR SAFETY



The gold price has hit another record high, trading above \$4,400 (£3,275) an ounce for the first time. The price of the precious metal has risen on expectations the US central bank will cut interest rates further next year, analysts said. Gold started the year worth \$2,600 an ounce, but geopolitical tensions, the Trump tariffs and expectations of rate cuts have added to investor demand for safe haven assets, such as gold and other commodities. The prices of other precious metals also rose on Monday, with silver hitting a record high as well. The gold price has risen more than 68% this year, the highest increase since 1979, according to Adrian Ash, director of research at gold bullion marketplace BullionVault.

2025 has seen "slow-burning

trends around interest rates,

around war and trade tensions", Mr Ash said, which have helped to push up the price of gold. "The precious metals market says that President Trump has really triggered something – and gold has gone crazy this

year. "You've got the trade war, the attacks on the US Federal Reserve and you've got geopolitical tensions, all of those provocations come from Trump," he said. After passing the \$4,400 an ounce mark on Monday, the spot price of gold hit a high of \$4,426.66. Lower interest rate expectations typically mean lower returns for investments such as bonds, so investors look to commodities such as gold and silver to get a return, but also diversify their portfolios. The consensus among analysts currently is that the US will lower interest rates twice in 2026.

Another factor adding to demand is that central banks globally are expanding their own physical holdings of gold as a way to counter economic turbulence, reduce reliance on the US dollar, and diversify their own portfolios, according to analysis from Goldman Sachs, which predicted the pattern would continue in 2026. The steady increase in the price of gold across the year could be because it is seen as a way for traders to help shield themselves from the threat of inflation and economic

Surprise drug checks to be carried out around Hyderabad for New Years



Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Narcotic Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) has formed special teams to conduct surprise special checks at pubs, clubs, bars, and restaurants across the city in view of the New Year celebrations. As part of their special drive on December 26, six decoy teams were deployed randomly to conduct discreet checks without causing any inconvenience to the management or the general public, a press release said. Suspicious persons around the premises of various establishments were screened using rapid drug testing kits, and all results were found to be negative. Such special drives will continue across the city in the upcoming days to deter offenders and safeguard public interest. Hyderabad police to adopt 'zero drugs policy'. The Hyderabad Police on Friday said it would adopt a 'zero drugs' policy for the New Year celebrations. City Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar, who chaired a coordination meeting with police officials, issued a stern direc-

tive to top brass and officers on the field to maintain a "hawk-eyed" vigil across the city. Officials of various police wings, including H-NEW, Task Force, Special Branch and local law enforcement, have been tasked with preparing a comprehensive list of known drug peddlers and consumers. Additionally, the police will also collect the details of individuals entering the city for the festivities. The crackdown is not limited to public venues, the police will also monitor private gatherings at service apartments and hostels to prevent illicit activities. The City Police have set a mandatory

1:00 am closing time for all New Year celebrations at pubs, hotels and restaurants. "Strict action will be taken against violators. (They) will face immediate cancellation of licenses if found engaging in any illegal activities this year," the Commissioner warned. To manage the influx of revellers, check-posts and barricades would be set up at major hubs, including Maitrivanam, Necklace Road, Tank Bund, and KBR Park, he added. While the security is set to be intense, the Commissioner emphasised that the general public should not be inconvenienced. The maker of Jim Beam bourbon whiskey says it will halt production at its main site in Kentucky for all of next year. The distillery will stay closed while the firm takes "the opportunity to invest in site enhancements," it told the BBC in a statement on Sunday. "We are always assessing production levels to best meet consumer demand and recently met with our team to discuss our volumes for 2026."

Bourbon maker Jim Beam halts production at main distillery for a year

Highlights

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remains open. Jim Beam also said it was assessing how it would use its workforce during the production pause, and was holding talks with the workers' union. In October, the Kentucky Distillers' Association (KDA) trade body said the amount of bourbon in warehouses across the state was at a record high of more than 16 million barrels.

According to the association, the barrels of bourbon, which are taxed by the state, have cost distillers "a crushing" \$75m (£56m) this year. US distillers have faced retaliatory import taxes on their goods after Trump's so-called "Liberation Day" announcement in April saw the US imposing tariffs on most countries around the world. "Much of the expansion over the last decade has been geared towards global growth," the KDA said in October as it called for a "for a speedy return to reciprocal, tariff-free trade". Trade tensions between the US and Canada have also affected sales of alcohol, with most Canadian provinces boycotting American spirits earlier in the year.

FOUR HIKERS FOUND DEAD
AFTER AVALANCHE IN
CENTRAL GREECE

Four hikers who went missing on Christmas Day have been found dead after being buried by an avalanche in the snow-covered Vardousia Mountains in central Greece. The bodies of three men and a woman were found on Friday evening after a large-scale search in the mountainous region of Fokida, according to Greek state broadcaster ERT. Fire service teams located the bodies partially covered by snow on a steep and inaccessible slope near the summit of Korakas peak, at an altitude of about 2,000m (6,561ft). Rescue officials said the group was swept away by an avalanche. Authorities said the hikers had begun their ascent in favourable weather, but conditions quickly worsened due to the altitude and the area's terrain. Vasilis Vathrakogiannis, a spokesperson for the Hellenic Fire Service, told the BBC the alarm was raised by a friend of the three men after they failed to return at the expected time. "Weather conditions were extremely difficult, with low temperatures and poor visibility," he said, adding this made it hard for both drones and a helicopter to detect anything. He said a fire service ground team later found the bodies of the three men and a woman.

THOUSANDS WITHOUT POWER
in Kyiv after massive Russian attack

A third of residents in Ukraine's capital Kyiv are without power after a "massive bombing" of residential areas and critical infrastructure by Russia overnight, Ukraine's foreign minister has said. Andrii Sybiha said residents had been left without heating in freezing winter temperatures. At least one person was killed and 28 others were injured in the strikes, Ukraine's State Emergency Service reported. The attacks happened hours before Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky departed for Florida, where he will meet Donald Trump on Sunday for peace talks. Russia's ministry of defence said it had launched a "massive retaliatory strike" on Ukrainian energy infrastructure facilities. It said it used long-range, land, air, and sea-based precision weapons to target the facil-

ties, which it claimed were being used "in the interests of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and enterprises of the Ukrainian military-industrial complex". Following the strikes, Zelensky repeated his claim that Russia does "not want to end the war and is trying to use every opportunity to inflict more pain on

Ukraine". Writing on Telegram, Zelensky said Russia directed almost 500 drones and 40 missiles towards Kyiv, targeting energy and civilian infrastructure. Pictures show apartment buildings with gaping holes and homes on fire following the strikes. The apartment block of BBC journalist Anastasiya

Gribanova was struck, leaving some homes on the higher levels of the high-rise building in flames. Gribanova, who was in the building's elevator at the time, was unharmed. Ukraine's State Emergency Service said that 68 people were evacuated from a retirement home in the eastern Darnytskyi district.

"Russian representatives are having long conversations, but in reality the Daggers [missiles] and Shaheds [drones] are speaking for them," Zelensky wrote on Telegram, saying that Vladimir Putin does not want to end the war. "This sick activity can only be responded to with really strong steps. America has this opportunity, Europe has this opportunity, many of our partners have this opportunity," he wrote, urging allies to show strength against Russian aggression. The strikes saw Poland, which shares a 530km-long (320-miles) border with western Ukraine, ready its fighter jets, ground-based air defence systems and radar reconnaissance. The move was "aimed at securing and protecting the airspace, especially in areas adjacent to the threatened regions," Poland's Armed Forces said. Later on Saturday morning, it concluded that there had been no violation of the country's airspace. Meanwhile, Russia's defence ministry said its air defences destroyed seven Ukrainian drones overnight. On Saturday, Zelensky, EU leaders and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen are expected to hold a phone call to discuss the road to peace. Zelensky's new 20-point draft is a revised version of an earlier 28-point plan which was drafted by US special envoy Steve Witkoff, but widely seen as being too favourable to Russia. The Ukrainian president has voiced optimism around the new draft, describing it as "a foundational document on ending the war", but Trump warned that Zelensky "doesn't have anything until I approve it" in an interview with Politico.

THOUSANDS OF US
FLIGHTS DISRUPTED AS
WINTER STORM LOOMS

Thousands of flights across the US have been cancelled or delayed as the north-east braces for a severe winter storm during the peak holiday travel season. As of Friday night, 1,600 flights across the US had been cancelled and 7,400 had been delayed, according to flight tracking website FlightAware. The most affected airports are John F Kennedy International, Newark Liberty, and LaGuardia, which all serve the New York area. Boston, Chicago, and Toronto, Canada, are also impacted. The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning from 16:00 local time (21:00 GMT) on Friday until 13:00 on Saturday, with as much as 9in (23cm) of snow expected in New JetBlue Airways had cancelled 229 flights, while Delta Air Lines scrapped 241 flights. Republic Airways and Southwest Airlines cancelled 180 and 151 flights respectively. About 100 scheduled flights by

American Airlines and United Airlines were also cancelled. On social media, airports were warning travellers to check with their airline to determine the status of their flights. The heaviest snow was expected between 18:00 local time (23:00 GMT) and midnight. Drivers were warned of hazardous conditions and advised to bring an emergency supply kit. New York Governor Kathy Hochul said people should avoid unnecessary trips, but if they had to travel, they should "plan ahead, take it slow, and leave plenty of time to get to where you need to go safely". There were similar warnings from the governors of New Jersey and Connecticut. This will be the second significant snowfall of the season for New York City, which was blanketed with several inches on 14 December. Mayor Eric Adams asked people who drove to work on Friday to leave early or consider taking public transport home.

Israel recognises Somaliland
as independent state,
Netanyahu says

Israel has become the first country to formally recognise Somaliland's breakaway region of Somaliland as an independent nation. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said Israel intended to immediately expand cooperation in agriculture, health, and technology. Somaliland's president, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, called the development "a historic moment". Recognition by Israel could encourage other nations to follow suit, increasing the region's diplomatic credentials and access to international markets. Somaliland's prime minister, Hamza Abdi Barre, said his country categorically and unequivocally rejected what he called a deliberate attack by Israel on its sover-

ignty. Abdullahi said in a statement that Somaliland would join the Abraham Accords, in what he called a step toward regional and global peace. Somaliland was committed to building partnerships, boosting mutual prosperity and promoting stability across the Middle East and Africa, he added. The decision has been condemned by the foreign ministers of Somalia, Egypt, Turkey and Djibouti, who in a statement affirmed their "total rejection" of Israel's announcement. The two countries had agreed to establish "full diplomatic ties, which will include the appointment of ambassadors and the opening of embassies". Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said in a statement on X.

Thailand and Cambodia agree ceasefire
after weeks of deadly clashes

Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to an immediate ceasefire, the defence ministers of both countries have said in a joint statement. The two sides have agreed to freeze the front lines where they are now and allow civilians living in border areas to return home, halting almost three weeks of intense clashes in which dozens of people have been killed and nearly one million displaced. The ceasefire took effect at noon local time (05:00 GMT) on Saturday. Once it has been in place for 72 hours, 18 Cambodian soldiers held by Thailand since July will be released, the statement said. The breakthrough came after days of talks between the two countries, with diplomatic encourage-

ment from China and the US.

The agreement prioritises getting the displaced back to their homes, and also includes an agreement to remove landmines. Thailand's Defence Minister Natthaphon Narkphanit described the ceasefire as a test for the "other party's sincerity". "Should the ceasefire fail to materialise or be violated,

Thailand retains its legitimate right to self-defence under international law," he told reporters. Thailand had been reluctant to accept the ceasefire, saying the last one was not properly implemented. They also resented what they saw as Cambodia's efforts to internationalise the conflict. Unlike the last ceasefire in July, US President Donald

Blast at Syrian mosque
during Friday prayers
leaves at least eight dead

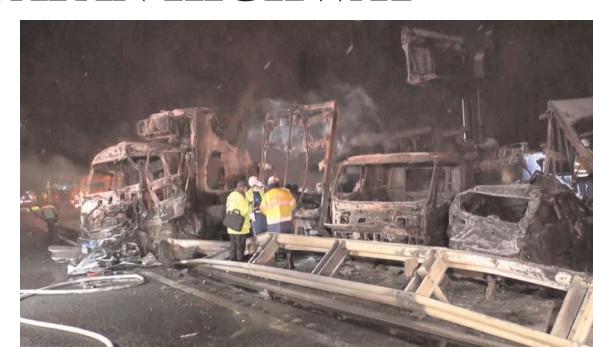
An explosion has killed at least eight people and injured 18 others during Friday prayers inside a mosque in the Syrian city of Homs, the health ministry has said. Pictures from Syria's state-run news agency, Sana, show the inside of the Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib Mosque with black, scorched walls, smashed windows and blood on the carpet. Officials believe that an explosive was detonated inside the building, Sana reports, citing a security source. While authorities are still searching for the perpetrators, jihadist group Saraya Ansar al-Sunnah said it was behind the explosion. The mosque is in the Wadi al-Dhahab neighbourhood, where most people are part of the Alawite ethnoreligious group. Syria's Foreign Ministry condemned the "terrorist crime", writing in a statement on X that it was "the cowardly act on a blantant assault on human and moral values" of the former Syrian government of Bashar al-Assad.

Two killed in suspected Palestinian
ramming and knife attack in Israel

Two people have been killed in what police say was a "rolling terror attack" in northern Israel. Police said the attacker ran over a pedestrian in the eastern city of Beit Shean, then drove on before stabbing a woman near Ein Harod, about 8 miles (12.5km) to the west. The suspect was eventually shot and wounded by a civilian outside the city of Afula, according to police. Shimshon Mordechai, a 68-year-old man, was killed and a 16-year-old boy was hurt in Friday's ramming, officials said, while the stabbing victim was Aviv Maor, aged 18. A day before the attack, an Israeli reservist was fired after video emerged of him ramming a praying

Palestinian with a quad bike. The suspect in the attack came from the village of Qabatiya, in the northern occupied West Bank, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said. Following the incident, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it was preparing to carry out an operation in the Qabatiya area. Katz

said he had instructed the IDF to act "forcefully and immediately". The IDF said the suspect had "infiltrated into Israeli territory several days ago". Israel's Kan News public broadcaster said the 37-year-old man had been working illegally in Israel and had used his employer's vehicle in the attack.

TWO DEAD IN 50-VEHICLE PILE UP
ON JAPAN HIGHWAY

A pile-up involving at least 50 vehicles on a highway in central Japan has left two people dead and 26 injured, according to police. The incident was caused by a crash between two trucks, sparking a chain reaction that set at least 10 vehicles on fire, local police said. A 77-year-old woman from Tokyo was killed, and another body was discovered in the driver's seat of a burnt-out truck. Five people were seriously injured and 21 suffered minor injuries, police said. There was a heavy snow warning in place at the time of the crash. Police believe icy surfaces likely caused the trucks to skid on the roads. The crash happened on the Kan-etsu Expressway in Minakami, Gunma prefecture, about

160km (100 miles) northwest of Tokyo, at about 19:30 local time (10:30 GMT) on 26 December. It took about seven and a half hours to put out the fire, police said. Following the incident, a section of the highway was closed, with a long line of vehicles, many charred beyond recognition, stuck in the outbound lane. Work is under way to tow them away. A man in his 60s, whose vehicle was involved in the accident, told local media outlet NHK he heard a loud explosion from the far end of the pile-up and saw fire during the crash. The blaze then spread to other vehicles, he said. He said he was evacuated to a nearby toll gate with about 50 other people and spent the night in the hallway there.





Kohli's Brilliant Gesture For Gujarat Spinner Who Dismissed Him In Vijay Hazare Trophy

Up against Gujarat in Delhi's second match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, Virat Kohli couldn't complete back-to-back centuries in the domestic white-ball tournament on Friday. Kohli, who registered a whopping knock of 131 in the last match against Andhra, looked at his best against Gujarat too, but departed just 23 runs shy of another triple-digit score. It was left-arm orthodox spinner Vishal Jaiswal who got the better of the Indian batting icon. While Kohli was understandably disappointed to miss out on yet another hundred, his gesture for Jaiswal after the game said it all about how grounded he is. Kohli could be spotted engaging in a conversation with Jaiswal after the game. He even signed the match ball for the spinner, who went on to share a glorious post on Instagram later. "From watching him on TV to sharing the field. Grateful for moments like these," Jaiswal wrote in a post.

"From watching him dominate world cricket to sharing the same field and taking his wicket is a moment I never imagined would turn into reality. Getting the wicket of Virat Bhai is something I'll cherish forever. Just grateful for the opportunity, the journey, and everything this beautiful game has given me," he added. Coming to the match, Delhi secured a narrow seven-run victory.

Sent in to bat first, Delhi posted a competitive total of 254/9 in their 50 overs, anchored by Virat Kohli's 77 and Rishabh Pant's 70, while Jayaswal's four-fer kept Delhi's total within reach. In response, Gujarat appeared to be in a commanding position at 121/1 before a middle-order collapse shifted the momentum back to Delhi. Despite a fighting 57 from Aarya Desai and a late charge by Saurav Chauhan (49), Gujarat was eventually bowled out for 247 in 47.4 overs. Prince Yadav was the hero with the ball for Delhi,



Stuart Broad Gets Emotional In Commentary Box As England End 5468-Day Wait

England registered a historic win over Australia in the fourth Ashes Test on Saturday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Chasing a modest target of 175, England lost six wickets but still managed to cross the finish line. It was a special moment for Ben Stokes and his team, as they ended England's 18-match winless streak in Australia. This was their first victory Down Under since 2011. Despite clinching such a memorable win, England have already missed the chance to reclaim the Ashes, as Australia lead the series 3-1. Apart from the win, one of the biggest highlights of the day was former England pacer Stuart Broad's smiling face. Fans



were quick to draw comparisons between his expressions during the Perth and Melbourne Tests. During the Perth Test, Broad's disheartened expression from the commentary box was captured after he saw Joe Root getting clean bowled. Fast forward to the Melbourne Test, Broad witnessed the winning runs being hit and joyously celebrated the moment with a big smile. After the match, England skipper Ben Stokes expressed his thoughts on the victory and called it a complete team effort. "It's been a massive effort from everyone, and to come out on the right side of the result

feels really special. Hopefully it means a lot. We play for a lot of people - not just ourselves. The support we get, wherever we go in the world, is incredible. The noise, the chants, the constant backing - the lads out in the middle hear it, feel it, and thrive off it. I know a lot of our fans will be buzzing right now. (the build up to this game and how satisfying to win the game) Definitely very satisfying," said Stokes. "There was a fair bit going on in the build-up to this match, a lot being thrown our way. For the lads to come out, stay focused, and perform the way they did says a lot about the character in this team. Huge credit to the players, support staff,

Updated World Test Championship Points Table: What England's Win Over Australia Means For India

In a Boxing Day miracle for the visitors, England secured a famous victory over Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) by 4 wickets on Saturday. While the Ashes urn had already been retained by Australia following their 3-0 lead, the result comes as a welcome boost for England, as the Melbourne win is the tourists' first in Australia in 19 Test matches. This result also has massive ramifications for the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-2027 points table. Before this match, Australia held a flawless 100% points percentage (PCT). This defeat marks their first loss of the cycle, finally opening the door



for the chasing teams. Despite the loss, Australia remain comfortably top of the table, but their PCT has dropped from a perfect 100% to 85.71%. They still look certain to reach the final, but the gap between them and New Zealand has narrowed. For England, the victory sees Ben Stokes' men accumulate a total of 12 points in

the current cycle, but they have a long road ahead. Moving up to a PCT of 35.18%, they remain in 7th place, still trailing India and the top five by a significant margin. New Zealand and South Africa are the teams to benefit the most from Australia's slip-up. With the Aussies finally dropping points, the race for the top spot (and the psychological advantage it brings) is officially back on. India, at present, sit in 6th place with a PCT of 48.15%. With Australia and New Zealand looking strong, India will need a near-perfect run in their upcoming series to break into the top two. England, having added another win to their tally, haven't leapfrogged India yet but will be pushing to surpass them in the coming games. The final Test of the Ashes series moves to the SCG (Sydney Cricket Ground) starting on January 4th. Australia will be looking to re-establish their dominance, while England will hope to carry this momentum to further improve their standing in the WTC table.

Ryan Rickelton's 1st SA20 Ton Goes In Vain As MI Cape Town Lose To Durban's Super Giants



Ryan Rickelton's maiden SA20 century was not enough to save MI Cape Town from a 15-run defeat to Durban's Super Giants in a cracking Season 4 opener at Newlands. On a run-filled opening night when a cumulative total of 449 runs were struck, which included 25 sixes and 40 boundaries, Rickelton's 113 off 65 balls took MI Cape Town to the brink. But ultimately, Durban's Super Giants' record 232/5, which eclipsed Sunrisers Eastern Cape's 204/3 in the Season 2 Final at this venue, was too much on a night when the Newlands faithful were royally entertained. DSG's all-New Zealand opening pair of Devon Conway and Kane Williamson laid the platform as they dominated the Powerplay, racing to 96 in just 8.3 overs before Tristan Luus had Williamson (40 off 25 balls, 7x4) brilliantly caught by MI Cape Town captain Rashid Khan, who ran back from mid-off before diving full length to hold on to a stunning catch. The momentum was maintained by Englishman Jos Buttler (20 off 12 balls) and Heinrich Klaasen (22 off 14 balls) after Conway (64 off 33 balls, 7x4, 2x6) had been picked up by fellow Kiwi Trent Boult. There was no relief for the defending champions with Aiden Markram and Evan Jones keeping the boundaries flowing. Markram blitzed 35 off 17 balls (5x4, 1x6), while Jones struck an undefeated 33 off only 14 balls (4x4, 2x6). The MI Cape Town run-chase was centered around Rickelton with the left-hander continuing his love affair with Newlands. The League's leading run-scorer cut, drove and pulled powerfully despite Rassie van der Dussen (2) and Reeza Hendrick's falling by the wayside. The introduction of Jason Smith, however, changed the momentum with the MI Cape Town debutant smashing an exhilarating 41 off just 14 balls (4x4, 3x6). But DSG kept chipping away with Smith, Nicholas Pooran (15) and Dwayne Pretorius (5) departing during the death overs.

When Billie Jean beat Bobby - the Battle of the Sexes that defined an era

It was the only tennis match to start with a piglet being handed over to one of the competitors - but this was no ordinary match. On 20 September 1973, an estimated 90 million people around the world watched Billie Jean King beat self-proclaimed chauvinist Bobby Riggs in a best-of-five match at the Houston Astrodome. There was pageantry, pomp and a \$100,000 (£74,765) cheque for the winner. It was the second instalment of the Battle of the Sexes - but that name is more than just a marketing slogan. King's victory over Riggs was a part of the women's right movement. It had the potential to influence politics and the future of women's tennis. When Aryna Sabalenka faces Nick Kyrgios on Sunday, it will be under the banner of the Battle of the Sexes, but the



stakes will not be as high as those that faced King 52 years ago. "The only similarity is that one is a boy and one is a girl. That's it," King told BBC Sport when asked about the Sabalenka-Kyrgios match. "Everything else, no. Ours was about

social change; culturally, where we were in 1973. Mine was really political. I knew I had to beat him for societal change. I had a lot of reasons to win." In 1973, King was 29 years old, a 10-time Grand Slam singles champion and at the height of her powers. Riggs was 55, having won the men's singles, doubles and mixed doubles title at Wimbledon in 1939 before his career was interrupted by World War Two. "He had been following me around for two years, asking me to play. I kept saying 'Bobby, I'm not going to play you,'" King told BBC World Service's Sporting Witness programme in 2017. "I only said yes because Margaret lost." Australia's Margaret Court, the 24-time major singles champion and then world number one, was one of King's fiercest rivals.

Marnus Labuschagne Frustrated, Huge Umpiring Controversy Erupts In Ashes 4th Test

The Day 2 of the 4th Ashes Test in Melbourne witnessed a big controversy unfold, forcing Marnus Labuschagne to head back to the pavilion, disappointed with the third umpire's decision. The incident took place in the 18th over of the second innings, when England pacer Josh Tongue managed to get an edge off the bat of Labuschagne, with the ball flying to the slip cordon. It was Joe Root who grabbed the ball, prompting a big appeal from the England camp. Labuschagne remained unmoved, suggesting he isn't sure if the ball carried to Root in the slips. The on-field umpire referred the decision to the third umpire, who ruled the decision in favour of the bowling team



after checking multiple angles. The third umpire suggested that Root's fingers were underneath the ball when he caught it, ruling out the possibility of the ball touching the ground first. Labuschagne, however, wasn't happy with the decision. He looked visibly frustrated as he had to head back to the dressing room. As for the match, England fought back to

bowl Australia out for 132 on Saturday. On a Melbourne Cricket Ground pitch offering substantial sideways movement for pace bowlers, England will be chasing a target of 175 to win after 30 wickets have fallen in 4 1/2 sessions. Resuming on Saturday on 4-0, an overall lead of 42, Australia staggered to lunch at 98-6. The dismissal of opener Travis Head (46) was quickly fol-

England Great Slams MCG Pitch, Calls It "Joke" After 20 Wickets Fall On Day 1 Of 4th Ashes Test



Former England captain criticized the Melbourne Cricket Ground pitch after a dramatic collapse of wickets during the fourth Ashes Test against Australia. A total of 20 wickets fell on Day 1 as Australia were bundled out for 152 after England opted to bowl first. However, the visitors also struggled, getting bowled out for just 110, handing Australia a 42-run lead. On Day 2, the carnage continued as England quickly wrapped up Australia's second innings for 132, setting themselves a target of 175 runs to win.

It was the first time in 74 years that 20 wickets had fallen on Day 1 of a Test match down under.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Vaughan wrote, "This pitch is a joke.. This is selling the game short.. The players / broadcasters and more importantly the fans .. 26 wickets in 98 overs !!!!! #Ashes." Talking about the

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The brothers from Dagestan shining in MMA and for Man Utd



Ibragim Ibragimov cracks a smile as he reflects on how his family's life has changed since moving to England from Dagestan eight years ago. "I love it here," the Professional Fighters League (PFL) star tells BBC Sport. "My dad and I always say, 'this is the country I should have been born in'." The 21-year-old left his home in the North Caucasus region in 2017 because his father believed a move more than 3,000 miles across Europe would offer better career opportunities for him and his siblings. The plan was for Ibragim and his three brothers - Amir (17), Gazik (16), and Muhammad (15) - to finish school before enrolling in one of the country's universities. But life looks slightly different for the Ibragimov family now. Ibragim is a professional mixed martial arts fighter and is regarded as one of the top prospects in PFL, one of the leading MMA leagues. His brothers have taken a different path in sport and have all been signed by Manchester

United - with Amir pushing

Children from the area are often encouraged to take up wrestling almost as soon as they are able to stand. "When I was a kid, my dad was always telling me and my little brothers that we had to be strong, firstly to protect yourself, your family, and your friends," says Ibragim. "So we all got used to fighting, and that's why everyone knows how to fight in Dagestan. It's not a surprise. "Amir was a very good wrestler. You can see the transition from wrestling to football; obviously, it helped my little brothers a lot. "Some of the footballers he comes up against don't have the same base he has."

(and the psychological advantage it brings) is officially back on. India, at present, sit in 6th place with a PCT of 48.15%. With Australia and New Zealand looking strong, India will need a near-perfect run in their upcoming series to break into the top two. England, having added another win to their tally, haven't leapfrogged India yet but will be pushing to surpass them in the coming games. The final Test of the Ashes series moves to the SCG (Sydney Cricket Ground) starting on January 4th. Australia will be looking to re-establish their dominance, while England will hope to carry this momentum to further improve their standing in the WTC table.

match, England raced to within 98 runs of winning a chaotic fourth Ashes Test Saturday for the loss of Ben Duckett and Brydon Carse as they aggressively chased 175 to clinch a seesawing contest. At tea on day two, they were 77-2 off just 12 overs with Zak Crawley on 22 and Jacob Borthwick on 9, as they inched closer to restoring some battered pride after crashing in the first three Tests. The pumped-up tourists dismissed Australia for 132 soon after lunch in front of another bumper crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, following the 20 wickets that tumbled on day one. Travis Head top-scored with 46 while Carse took 4-34. England have not won a Test in Australia since January 2011, losing 16 and drawing two since, and openers Crawley and Duckett had a clear objective to snap the streak - play ultra-aggressive "Bazball" style.

45 The Movie' Will Captivate Everyone: Karunada Chakravarthy Shiva Rajkumar at the Pre-Release Event

Starring Karunada Chakravarthy, Shiva Rajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and Raj B. Shetty, '45 The Movie' is directed by Arjun Janya. The film is being produced on a grand scale by Smt. Uma Ramesh Reddy and M. Ramesh Reddy under the Suraj Productions banner. The Telugu version is set for a grand release through Mythri Distributors on January 1, and as part of the promotions, a pre-release event was held on Saturday. Shiva Rajkumar said, "After Veda, I came to Hyderabad again for 45. Arjun Janya narrated the story brilliantly within just four to five minutes. The interval and climax left a strong impact on me. I advised Arjun to direct the film himself. Initially, he shot two or three scenes using animation. After watching those visuals, Ramesh garu decided to back the project. Arjun has done complete justice to the opportunity given to him. I'm very happy that Mythri is releasing our film in Telugu. The Kannada version has already been a success. Watching this film will



surely make you love and respect every living being. We don't know how long we live on this earth, but the film teaches us to live happily for as long as we do. Satya's cinematography and Ravi Varma's action choreography are outstanding. Arjun Janya will become India's number one director. This film will touch everyone's hearts. Do watch 45 on January 1." Upendra stated, "I really liked the way Arjun Janya narrated the story. I know how success-

ful he is as a music director, but while narrating this script, he enacted every character with great conviction. He first shot a scene, completed DI and dubbing, and screened it in a theatre for the producer. Only after that we began the film. I have never seen Shivanna like this in any of his earlier films. Arjun has done a phenomenal job with the screenplay. After this movie, he will emerge as a big director. He gave me a role that no one has dared

to offer me before. He may look calm in real life, but on screen he has created absolute mayhem. Telugu audiences always encourage good cinema. Please watch and support 45 on January 1." Director Arjun Janya acknowledged, "With 45, audiences will experience a completely new world. I have worked tirelessly on this film for three and a half years. I sincerely thank Shivanna garu and Upendra garu for giving me this opportunity. Raj B.

Shetty has delivered a brilliant performance. Many thanks to Mythri Shashi garu for releasing our film—his suggestions were extremely valuable to us. Please watch and support 45 on January 1." Producer Ramesh Reddy said, "No matter how much we speak about 45, it will still fall short. One must watch the film to truly understand its value. The movie presents the Garuda Purana in a very powerful manner. Shivanna, Upendra, and Raj B. Shetty have all delivered outstanding performances. This is a film everyone should watch. Do come with your family and enjoy it on January 1." Mythri Shashi stated, "Thank you to the team for trusting us with the release of 45. The film flows in one direction until the interval, after which you will witness the true, powerful avatars of Upendra garu and Shivanna garu. The climax is a high point. Raj B. Shetty's character will greatly impress audiences. The film carries a strong and meaningful message, and the present generation must definitely watch it. Please support 45 on January 1."

"With increasing demand for Bad Girlz, we are adding new shows and screens," say Makers at Success Meet



'Bad Girlz', directed by Phani Pradeep Dhulipudi of '30 Rojullo Premichadham Ela' fame, is running successfully in theatres. The film is produced under the banners of Prashvitha Entertainment, Neeli Neeli Aakasam Creations, and NVL Creations. Anchal Gowda, Payal Chengappa, Roshini, Yashna, Rohan Surya, Moin and Rohan Surya are the main actors in 'Bad Girlz'. Producers Sasidhar Nalla, Emmadi Soma Narsaiah, Ramisetti Rambabu, and Ravula Ramesh have stated that they have added extra shows in response to the growing demand from the audience. Director Phani Pradeep Dhulipudi (Munna) said that the film may be short in length, but it is very big in terms of content. "The main strengths of this movie are Anup Rubens' music and Chandrabose's lyrics. Because of these two reasons, everyone is liking our movie even more. I had told people to come to the theater only if they liked our teaser, songs, and trailer. 30 Rojullo Premichadham Ela, which was released during the pandemic, became a big hit. My new film, Bad Girlz, is a hit as well. Our producers especially believed that we could score a hit no matter how much competition there is, and that has now come true. At present, the producers are working on increasing the number of theaters. We made this film with a lot of honesty. This is a film made for girls. If Jathi Ratnalu were made with girls as lead actors, our film would be like that. If you liked Jathi Ratnalu and MAD, you will like our movie too. Please continue to support our film in the same way," he said. Producer Sasidhar Nalla thanked the audience and said, "Every actor stood by us with great support. I am receiving calls from theaters asking us to increase the number of shows and screens. Despite stiff competition, you have turned our small film into a wonderful success. Thanks to everyone who is encouraging our movie."

Animation Movie "Kiki & Koko", Designed to Teach Children Real Life and Human Values, Teaser Released

The global craze for Hollywood animation films is immense. Just like films of any other genre, animation movies also receive equal importance and appreciation. In recent times, Indian animation films have also started making a strong impact. It is well known that the animated film "Maha Avatar Narasimha", released in July this year, impressed both children and adults alike and emerged as a grand success with record-breaking collections. Now, another heart-touching Indian animation film titled "Kiki & Koko" is taking shape. Designed to appeal to children as well as adults who have a childlike heart, "Kiki & Koko" is being presented by Inika Studios. The film is produced by Dharani and directed by P. Narayanan. Child artiste Srinika plays the character of Koko, while Meena Chabria serves as the CEO. Currently under production, the animated movie "Kiki & Koko" will soon be released



in theatres as well as on OTT platforms in nine languages. Along with all Indian languages, the film is also set for release in several international languages worldwide. On this occasion, the teaser of the film was launched at a press meet held today at Prasads Preview Theatre, Hyderabad, where the film team shared highlights of the movie.

Speaking at the event, child

artiste Srinika said:
"I played the character of Koko in 'Kiki & Koko'. In the movie, Kiki is my best friend. I really wish I had a friend like that in real life. I love animation movies a lot, and acting in 'Kiki & Koko' made me very happy. When I grow up, I want to become a good actor."

Creative Director Gokul Raj Bhaskar said:

"I have been working in the Malayalam animation

industry for the past 20 years. Animation films usually focus heavily on fantasy. However, through 'Kiki & Koko', we are not showing fantasy but reality to children. Through our art, we aim to convey all the emotions of real life to kids. We are happy to introduce 'Kiki & Koko' to Telugu audiences who truly love cinema. This is not just an introduction to the film, but an attempt to introduce emotions through its characters."

A GRAND TRAILER LAUNCH EVENT FOR MASTER MAHENDRAN'S "NEELAKANTHA" MOVIE, THE MOVIE IS SET FOR A GRAND THEATRICAL RELEASE ON JANUARY 2ND

Master Mahendran, who has acted as a child actor in many Telugu and Tamil super hit films, is turning into a hero in the movie "Neelakantha". This movie is presented by Mrs. M. Mamatha, Mrs. M. Rajarajeswari and produced by Marlapalli Srinivasulu and Venugopal Devi under the banners of LS Productions and Global Cinemas. Rakesh Madhavan is directing it. Neha Pathan, Yashna Muthuluri and Sneha Ullal are playing the heroines. "Neelakantha" movie is getting ready for a grand theatrical release on January 2nd in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam along with Pan India. The trailer launch event of this movie was held in Hyderabad today. In this program Producer Marlapalli Srinivasulu said - I come from an IT background. I love cinema. I entered film production with that passion. I liked a line my friend Shashidhar

said and decided to produce it. Director Rakesh Madhavan prepared a bounded script. After reading that script, we started the "Neelakantha" project to definitely make a movie with this story. During the shooting time, nature did not cooperate and sometimes we faced storms. We stopped the shooting for a few days. After overcoming some such obstacles, we are bringing our film to you for

a grand theatrical release on January 2. This was possible only because of the support of our film team. We want you all to support the film "Neelakantha". DOP, Editor Shravan G. Kumar said - I am a friend of director Rakesh. We used to screen our short films here at Prasad Labs. Then we dreamed of making a good film. I am happy that it has come true with the film "Neelakantha". The trailer

"Playing the "Khudiram Bose" who ascended the gallows at 18 is my life's greatest honor"

Exclusive Interview with Rakesh Jagarlamudi – Hero of the Pan-India Movie "Khudiram Bose" Khudiram Bose was one of the youngest revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement, sacrificing his life for the motherland at an age when most are just beginning their careers. His legendary life has now been brought to the silver screen in the biopic "Khudiram Bose." In a candid conversation, the lead actor Rakesh Jagarlamudi shares his emotional journey of transforming into this national icon.

Q: What was your immediate reaction when you first heard the story of "Khudiram Bose"?

Rakesh: To be honest, my heart was racing throughout the narration. The thought of an 18-year-old boy smiling while facing the gallows for his country deeply moved me. Knowing that I was chosen to portray such a legendary figure filled me



with immense pride, but it also felt like a huge responsibility.

Q: How did you land this prestigious role?

Rakesh: My father, Vijay Jagarlamudi, is the producer of this film. It was through him that I got this opportunity. While getting the role was relatively easy because of my background, I knew that justifying the character would require immense hard work and dedication.

"This victory is not mine alone It belongs to my supporters and my family!"

"One incident that happened about five years ago, without any fault of mine, shook my life and career completely. But I am a fighter by nature. I battled against adverse circumstances and finally emerged as a winner," said popular actress Sanjanaa Galrani, who secured a place among the Top 5 finalists of Bigg Boss Season 9, becoming emotional while sharing her journey.

On this occasion, Sanjanaa expressed her heartfelt gratitude to her family, well-wishers, and fans who stood by her side through every high and low. After finishing as a Top 5 finalist in Bigg Boss Season 9, she interacted exclusively with the media and shared her experiences and emotions from the Bigg Boss house. She said that Bigg Boss taught her many life lessons and that this experience has inspired her to begin a fresh innings in her career. Sanjanaa stated

that Bigg Boss played a major role in helping her walk with her head held high again, and she would remain forever grateful to the show. She also mentioned that after participating in the show, she has become an even bigger fan of Bigg Boss host Akkineni Nagarjuna. Sanjanaa added that she will now focus more on Telugu cinema, revealing that she has already received several enquiries.

Progressive Panel Press Meet



In the backdrop of the Telugu Film Chamber elections, a press meet was organized on Saturday afternoon by the Progressive Panel (Supported by Allu Aravind, Daggubati Suresh Babu, Dil Raju), where several producers shared their views on key issues concerning the film industry. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. K.S. Rama Rao said: Progressive activities in the Chamber have not been implemented properly. It is unfortunate that some people are more focused on money-lending and interest business. The Film Chamber building was constructed purely for the benefit of the entire film industry, he reiterated. To improve the present situation of the industry, the Progressive Panel must come to power. Only those who actually make films should have a place and role in the Chamber. Mr. Ravikishore said: Responding to allegations on the Guild, he clarified that it was formed to meet the day-to-day needs of producers. On issues like Qube and UFO, they coordinated with producers and sought workable solutions. He alleged that another panel is planning to sell the Chamber building. Since GST on mediclaim made it expensive, benefits were planned only for eligible members, he explained.