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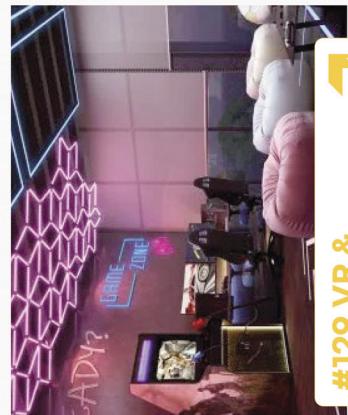
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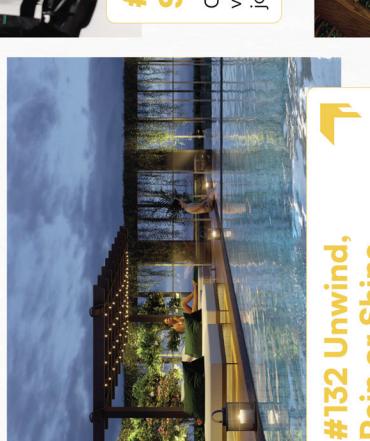
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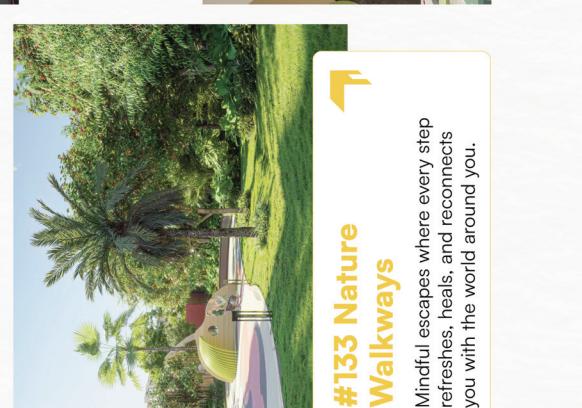
#112 Fitness in
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An outdoor CrossFit court that builds
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WHY
CASAGRAND?

Rising Prices Fuel Growing Crime Rate: Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula



Rising Prices Fuel Growing Crime Rate: Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula Hyderabad: Drawing a parallel between the steady rise in gold and silver prices and increasing social stress. Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula, Senior Journalist, President of Telangana Youth Journalists Federation (TYJF) and Correspondent of The South India Times, has warned that the crime rate is also on the rise due to mounting economic pressures. Speaking to the media, Dr. Thanugula said that inflation, unemployment, and widening economic dis-

parities are pushing vulnerable sections of society towards criminal activities. He observed that when basic necessities become unaffordable and job opportunities remain scarce, frustration—especially among youth—often translates into thefts, cyber crimes, and other unlawful acts. He further noted that the rise in petty crimes and organized criminal activities is a clear indication of weakening social stability. Delays in justice, lack of moral education, and insufficient social support systems are worsening the situation, he added. Dr.

Jithender Rao Thanugula urged the government to adopt a holistic approach by focusing on employment generation, effective price control, strengthening law enforcement, and improving education standards.

Failure to address these issues in time could lead to serious law-and-order challenges, he cautioned. "Economic imbalance does not remain confined to markets alone; it directly impacts society and law and order," he said, calling for immediate reforms and collective responsibility to curb the growing crime rate.

Four women from Asifabad district killed in road accident



Hyderabad, Dec.26 (NSS): Four women from Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district died in a road accident in Maharashtra. The incident took place near Devadas-Sondo on the late Wednesday night. According to details provided by locals and family members, the family of Zakir, a resident of Nizamuddin Colony in Kagaznagar town, had gone to a hospital in Nagpur for medical treatment. Relatives were also traveling with them. On their return journey, the car they were traveling in

went out of control and fell from a bridge. As a result, Zakir's wife Salma Begum, daughter Shabreen, and relatives Afgha Begum and Sahara died. The condition of two others is critical. The injured have been shifted to a private hospital in Chandrapur for treatment. (NSS)

Koutike Vittal wins 'Entrepreneur of the Year' at HiBiz TV event

Hyderabad, Dec.26 (NSS): At the 3rd edition of the Business Excellence Awards 2025, organised by the leading business media platform HiBiz TV, renowned insurance expert Koutike Vittal was felicitated with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for his exceptional professional services in the life insurance sector.

The event was held at the Novotel Hotel in Hyderabad. The award was presented to Koutike Vittal by Miss Universe Telangana, Keshvi Chavuda, and AVP Chakravarthy. Koutike Vittal, who has been serving the life insurance sector continuously for more than four decades, is currently recognised as the country's no. 1 Chief Life Insurance Advisor affiliated with LIC of



India. Speaking on the occasion, Koutike Vittal said, "This award is not just my personal achievement. It is a symbol of the support of every customer, my team members and my family who have placed their trust in me. My constant goal is to provide complete financial security to every

Indian family through life insurance," he said. The Entrepreneur of the Year award, which was presented to Koutike Vittal, who has successfully established a business model of professional services, reliability and long-term values in the life insurance sector, is a national level recognition for his services. (NSS)

Grand Honor for SP Sunitha Reddy: Wanaparthy Thanks Her for Keeping the District Safe

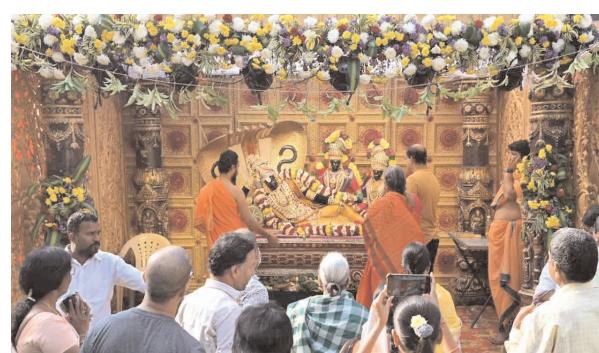


Wanaparthy, December 26, 2025: Wanaparthy district Superintendent of Police (SP) Sunitha Reddy received a warm welcome on Thursday. A small ceremony was held to honour her work in maintaining peace and law and order in the district. The Udyamakarula Sankshema Samiti Raara Media Cell President and Senior Journalist B. Venkateswara attended the program along with Pisati Janga Reddy President of the Telangana Federation of Working Journalists.

They presented a shawl to SP Sunitha Reddy as a mark of respect and appreciation. Speaking at the event, SP Sunitha Reddy said the police department is taking strong steps to protect peace and security in the district. She said the safety of the people is their main priority. People at the program praised her efforts and thanked her for work-

ing to keep Wanaparthy safe. The guests also shared their messages. The Udyamakarula Sankshema Samiti Raara Media Cell President said good coordination between the police and the media helps build trust among the public and improves transparency. He wished SP Sunitha Reddy continued success. Senior journalist B.

Vaikunta Ekadasi arrangements reviewed at TTD Himayathnagar temple



Hyderabad, Dec.26 (NSS): Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Himayathnagar Local Advisory Committee (LAC) President N. Shankar Goud on Thursday inspected the ongoing arrangements for the Vaikunta Ekadasi celebrations at the local TTD temple. During the inspection, the Chairman reviewed various preparations, including queue management, sanitation, security measures, drinking water facilities, and other amenities for devotees. He interacted with temple officials and staff and issued necessary instructions to ensure the smooth conduct of darshan and related rituals during the auspicious occasion. Emphasizing that the convenience and safety of devotees should be the top priority, Shankar Goud directed the officials to complete all arrangements well in advance. Temple authorities assured the president that all necessary steps were being taken to facilitate hassle-free darshan for devotees on Vaikunta Ekadasi. Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) Ramesh Babu and other officials were present during the inspection. (NSS)

States

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CONGRESS, BRS LOWERED POLITICAL STANDARDS: BJP

Hyderabad, Dec.26

(NSS): Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Thursday accused the Congress and BRS of degrading political discourse in the State, saying both parties had abandoned values and restraint. Political defections and derogatory remarks by leaders of both parties were insulting to the people of Telangana, he added. Addressing a gathering after paying tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 101st birth anniversary at the state BJP headquarters, Rao said the nation was observing "Sushasan Divas" to honour the legacy of the Bharat Ratna awardee. Vajpayee symbolised value-based politics and dignified debate, contrasting it with the "vengeful and vulgar language" used by leaders of the ruling Congress and opposition BRS in Telangana, he remarked. (NSS)



He alleged that the BRS had pushed the State into debt over the last decade and that the Congress government was worsening the situation without delivering development or attracting investments despite foreign tours and the "Telangana Rising" campaign. "Both BRS and Congress parties have emptied the state treasury. The previous BRS government turned a wealthy state into a debt-ridden one over the last decade, and the Congress government is pushing it further into a 'begging' state of debt. Though CM Revanth Reddy and his ministers

TTD CHAIRMAN CONDUCTS INSPECTION AT LADDU

Tirumala, Dec.26 (NSS):

The Chairman of TTD, B. R. Naidu, conducted a surprise inspection at the Srivari Laddu sales counter in Tirumala on Thursday. During the inspection, the Chairman personally went to the counter and examined the laddu issuance procedure, staff performance, and the weight of the laddus. Later, he inspected the kiosk machine at the laddu counter, where devotees without darshan can obtain laddus by registering their Aadhaar and making UPI payments. Later he interacted with devotees to gather their feedback on this process. Subsequently, he visited the Boondi Potu, observed its preparation, and given several suggestions to the officials concerned. Speaking to the media, the Chairman stated that the inspection of the



laddu sales counter was part of reviewing the arrangements being made for the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan scheduled from December 30 to January 8. He informed that TTD is currently selling 4 lakh laddus and 8,000 Kalyanotsavam laddus per day to devotees. He assured that adequate arrangements are being made to ensure there is no shortage of laddus during the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan period. He further stated that devotees

expressed complete satisfaction regarding laddu quality, taste, and the reduction in waiting time in queue lines. He added that in the coming days, laddu production will be increased and arrangements will be made to ensure devotees receive laddus quickly at the counters. During the inspection, the Chairman was accompanied by Srivari Temple Deputy EO Lokanatham, Potu Peishkar Sri Muni Ratnam, and other officials. (NSS)

Chamala Kiran Reddy hits back at Harish Rao over remarks & political conduct

Hyderabad, Dec.26 :

Bhongir Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Thursday issued a sharp rebuttal to senior BRS leader T Harish Rao, accusing him of preaching moral values selectively while ignoring the conduct of his own party leadership. In a video statement, Kiran Reddy alleged that Rao's behaviour was akin to "a demon reciting the Vedas," and said he was speaking as though moral principles applied only to others. He asked Rao to first reflect on the language used by his father-in-law and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, stating that it was KCR who introduced abusive language into Telangana politics during the statehood movement. The Congress MP said KCR had "patented" the use of abusive language in political discourse and questioned

why the opposition expected restraint from the present Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy when provocative and threatening statements were being made against him. "Should we remain silent when someone of the Chief Minister's stature is threatened with statements like 'we will skin you alive?'" he asked. Kiran Reddy also took a swipe at K T Rama Rao, alleging that he spoke without regard for age or position and behaved as if he alone had knowledge of sectors like IT and irrigation. He said Rao should first advise KCR and KTR on political decency before lecturing others. He asserted that if the opposition spoke respectfully, the Chief Minister would respond in the same manner, but warned that provocative language would invite equally strong responses. Calling

SHORT TAKES

Hindutva group disrupts Christian prayer meets in Bengaluru

Hyderabad: In yet another targeted attack towards the Christian community, Hindutva members disrupted a prayer programme in Bengaluru's Koramangala area, alleging forced religious conversion. A video of one of their member, Satyanisha Arya, visibly hyped up, is seen confronting a Christian priest and members of the congregation. He repeatedly interrupts the prayer meeting and questions the priest about Christian religious texts. When the priest responds that the Bible includes the Gospel of John, the man allegedly launches into a tirade, making derogatory remarks about Christianity and its scriptures.

Rajasthan village elders withdraw controversial smartphone ban on women

Jodhpur: The village elders in Rajasthan's Jalor district have withdrawn the ban imposed on women using smartphones after the decision faced opposition in several places. A meeting of the panchas (village elders) was convened on Thursday in Gazipur village, where they unanimously decided to withdraw the ban. They said the decision kept children in mind, but it was "misunderstood". In a meeting of the Chaudhary community of Sundhamata Patti on December 21 in Gazipur village, the daughters and daughters-in-law of 15 villages were banned from using smartphones, starting January 26.

Uike's death has broken backbone of Maoist activities in Odisha: DGP

Bhubaneswar: Ganesh Uike, 69, a battle-hardened Maoist leader, finally fell to the bullets of security personnel in Kandhamal district on Thursday, less than a year after taking charge of Odisha operations, officials said. Uike, a central committee member of the outfit carrying a bounty of Rs 1.1 crore, was shot dead in a dense forest within Chakrapad police station limits, bordering Ganjam district in Rambha forest range. A senior officer associated with the operation said Uike, despite being accompanied by three of his associates, was caught off guard. The biting cold in Kandhamal, with temperatures falling below three degrees Celsius in the jungle.

President releases the constitution of India in the Santhali language

AGENCY

New Delhi: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (December 25, 2025). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that it is a matter of pride and joy for all the Santhali people that the Constitution of India is now available in the Santhali language, written in the Ol Chiki script. It will make them able to read and understand the Constitution in their own language. The President said that this year, we are celebrating the centenary of the Ol Chiki script. She appreciated the Union Minister of Law and Justice and his team for bringing the



Constitution of India in Ol Chiki script in its centenary year. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were the Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan and the

Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal. The Santhali language, which was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution through the 92nd Amendment Act,

2003, is one of the most ancient living languages of India. It is spoken by a significant number of tribal people in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar.

Russian spirits' export to India nearly quadruples in 10 months: Report

Moscow: The exports of Russian spirits to India have nearly quadrupled in the first 10 months of the year compared to the same period last year, making India an attractive emerging market for Russian exporters, according to a media report. Citing data from the Federal Centre for Agricultural Export Development of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture (Agroexport), leading financial and trade daily "Vedomost" said India is emerging as an attractive

market for Russian exporters of Vodka and other hard alcoholic beverages. "In the first 10 months of 2025, Russian spirits producers shipped approximately 520 tonnes of spirits, including vodka, gin, whiskey, and liqueurs, worth USD 900,000 to India, this is three times higher in weight and four times higher in monetary terms than the same period last year," it said. Agroexport claims that vodka was the main driver of exports. In monetary terms, its shipments

over the 10 months amounted to approximately USD 760,000. Although India ranked only 14th among the largest importers of

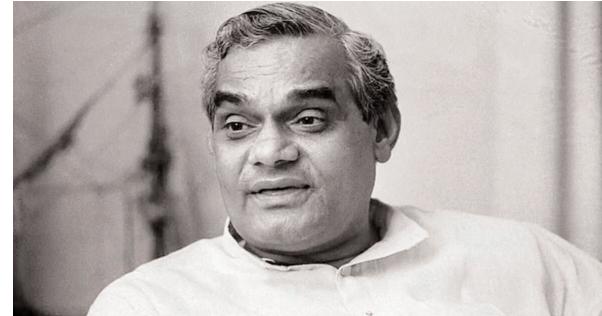
Russian spirits from January to October, with a 1.3 per cent share in tonnes and 1.4-1.5 per cent in revenue, the growth rate of exports to it was the most significant. Other major importers of Russian spirits include Kazakhstan, Georgia, China, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Belarus. Agroexport claims that vodka was the main driver of exports. In monetary terms, its shipments over the 10 months amounted to approximately USD 760,000. "In the first

10 months of 2025, Russian spirits producers shipped approximately 520 tonnes of spirits, including vodka, gin, whiskey, and liqueurs, worth USD 900,000 to India, this is three times higher in weight and four times higher in monetary terms than the same period last year," it said. Agroexport claims that vodka was the main driver of exports. In monetary terms, its shipments over the 10 months amounted to approximately USD 760,000.

Indore stretch of Agra-Bombay Road to be named after Former PM Vajpayee

AGENCY

Indore: The Indore Municipal Corporation on Thursday decided to name an arterial road after Atal Bihari Vajpayee to mark the 101st birth anniversary of the former prime minister and Bharat Ratna awardee. The decision to rename AB Road (Agra-Bombay Road) as 'Atal Bihari Marg' was unanimously taken at the Mayor-in-Council meeting. Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava told reporters. "A PM, Vajpayee, strengthened infrastructure, connecting



rural roads to major highways. To honour his historic contribution, we have decided that the city's AB Road will now be known as Atal Bihari Marg. We will urge the Union government to name this national high-

way (Agra-Bombay Road) after Vajpayee," he said. Born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, Vajpayee's birth anniversary is celebrated as 'Good Governance Day' by the Centre nationwide.

HYDERABAD AREAS TO FACE 36-HOUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY DISRUPTION

Hyderabad: Residents in several parts of Hyderabad are set to experience a 36-hour disruption in the drinking water supply. The disruption is due to major repair and maintenance works being undertaken on the Krishna Drinking Water Supply Project (Phase I). Affected areas The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has identified several areas that will be impacted by the interruption from 6 am on Saturday, December 27.



These include: Meeralam, Kishanbagh, Balshetty Katta, Moghalpura, Falaknuma, Bahadurpura, Jahanuma, Mahabub

Mansion, Santosh Nagar, Vinay Nagar, Saidabad, Chanchalguda, Asmangadh, Yakutpura, Boggulakunta, Narayanguda, Adikmet Reservoir, Shivam Reservoir, Chikalguda Reservoir, Alibad Reservoir, Riyasat Nagar Reservoir, parts of Dilsukhnagar, Hardwara Park, Jalgali, Tukkuguda, FAB City, and Manneguda Restoration of normal drinking water supply in Hyderabad Normal drinking water supply is expected to resume at 6 pm on Sunday, December 28. To minimize inconvenience, residents in these areas are advised to use water judiciously.

Students narrowly escape mishap at birthday celebration of Telangana CM's advisor



Hyderabad: A group of school students narrowly escaped a major accident after sparks flew onto them during the birthday celebration of Telangana CM's chief advisor, Vem Narender Reddy. The incident occurred at the celebrations held at the Kesamudram agricultural market in Mahabubabad district. Congress MLA Murali Naik's followers had brought the school stu-

dents to the event. During the cake-cutting ceremony, sparks from the celebratory fireworks flew directly toward the gathered students. The children had a narrow escape. Eyewitnesses reported that Congress MLA Murali Naik laughed mockingly even as the sparks endangered the students. The students were safely removed from the situation.

AAP leaders booked over Santa Claus skit for 'outraging religious feelings of Christians'

AGENCY

New Delhi: A police case was lodged on Thursday against AAP's Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bhardwaj and two other party leaders over a skit related to air pollution that had a man dressed as Santa Claus, an official said on Thursday. The complainant alleged that the skit outrages the religious feelings of the Christian community as Santa Claus was "revered religious and cultural icon" Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha and AAP leader Adil Ahmad Khan were also booked in the case. Bhardwaj later took to X, alleging that the BJP was on the back foot over issue of pollution and the Aravallis so its workers were posing as Christians and saying their "religious sentiments are hurt". He dismissed the case as intimidatory tactics of the government. The complaint, submitted by an advocate Khushboo George, alleges that the three leaders uploaded videos on their official social media handles on December 17 and 18 depicting a 'political

skit' performed publicly at Connaught Place. On November 17, Bhardwaj posted a video on X in which he is heard announcing that the Air Quality Index (AQI) at Connaught Place had touched 376. Moments after the remark, the clip shows a man dressed as Santa Claus dramatically collapsing to the ground as passers-by look on. Reacting to the scene, Bhardwaj is heard quipping in Hindi, "Oh my God, 376 sunke Santa behosh ho gaye (Santa fainted hearing that the AQI has hit 376)." The complainant claimed that according to the video, people dressed as Santa Claus are

allegedly shown fainting and collapsing on the road and being used as props for political messaging. She said that Santa Claus, described as a revered religious and cultural icon for Christians worldwide and associated with the legacy of Saint Nicholas and the Christmas festival, was mocked and portrayed "derogatorily". The complainant alleged that the visuals showed mock CPR being performed on man dressed as Santa Claus, which she claimed "amounted to ridicule of a religious symbol during the final days of (month of) Advent, just ahead of Christmas celebrations".

Fulfill poll promises, not personal vendettas: KTR to CM



Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K T Rama Rao said on Friday, hit back at Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his recent pledge to end K Chandrasekhar Rao's family out of power, challenging the CM to take a vow instead to fulfill his poll promises. Speaking at an event at the BRS office here, Rama Rao took exception to the "abuses and the language" used by the Chief Minister. He slammed the CM's choice of words and said it was unbecoming of a Chief Minister. "You (Revanth

Reddy) took a vow to prevent KCR from coming to power. If you have so much talent, take a vow to implement the one tola gold scheme for poor women from January 1 (2026)," said Rama Rao, son of KCR. Congress had promised before the 2023 assembly polls to provide one tola gold to poor women. This latest spat follows a December 24 exchange where CM Revanth Reddy swore to prevent the BRS from returning to power after KCR reportedly threatened to "skin" the current Congress government.

PM ATTENDING X-MAS FETE SENDS DISTURBING MESSAGE TO NATION : STALIN

Chennai, Dec 26 (UNI) Claiming that 74 per cent rise in hate speech against minorities after the BJP regime assumed office signals grave danger ahead, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and ruling DMK President M K Stalin today said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in X-mass celebrations sends a disturbing message to the Nation at a time when instances of

attacks on minorities were reported in Jabalpur and Raipur. He said the reported attacks on minorities in Jabalpur, Raipur and elsewhere after Manipur were unacceptable to all those who values harmony. In a statement here, Mr Stalin said the true strength and character of a majority lies in ensuring that minorities live without fear and stressed that there was an

urgent need to curb the riotous groups that divide the society and it should be enforced with a firm resolve. He said when a few right wing violent groups acting in the name of majority, indulge in attacks and riots, even as the Hon'ble Prime Minister participates in Christmas celebrations sends a disturbing message to the nation", he noted. Mr Stalin said "After Manipur, reports of attacks on

minorities in Jabalpur, Raipur, and elsewhere are unacceptable to anyone who values harmony." A reported 74 per cent rise in hate speech against minorities since the union BJP government assumed office signals grave danger ahead", he said, adding, curbing riotous groups that divide society is therefore a shared and urgent duty, to be enforced with firm resolve.

Headlines

5 senior leaders, including a former MLA, join BJP in Nashik

Mumbai, Dec 26: With the upcoming municipal corporation elections in the state, there has been a surge in party entries and defections, and the ruling parties, including the BJP, are seeing increased inflow. On one hand, the Thackeray brothers have come together for the Mumbai municipal corporation elections, while on the other hand, both factions of the Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party are uniting in Pune. Meanwhile, the BJP is also witnessing a strong wave of party inductions. In Nashik, several leaders are joining the BJP on Thursday, including a former Maharashtra Navnirman Sena MLA, informed Minister Girish Mahajan. However, BJP's Nashik Municipal Corporation election in-charge Devyani Pharande opposed these inductions and chose to remain absent. As a result, the induction ceremony was held in the absence of local BJP leaders there. Former mayor of the Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, Vinayak Pandey, and former MNS mayor Yatin Wagh are also joining the BJP. Notably, BJP MLA Devyani Pharande had opposed Yatin Wagh's induction but despite of that he joined BJP. Along with them, Congress leader Shahu Khairé is also joining the BJP. Additionally, former MNS MLA Nitin Bhosale and MNS local leader Dinkar Patil have joined the BJP.

Telangana Governor pays tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Hyderabad, Dec 26: Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Thursday attended the garlanding ceremony of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Vajpayee Park in Secunderabad. Later, he paid floral tributes to the former Prime Minister at Lok Bhavan, marking the occasion as Good Governance Day. Recalling Vajpayee's immense contributions to the nation, the Governor described him as a visionary statesman and an eloquent parliamentarian who played a pivotal role in strengthening India's democratic foundations and fostering national unity. He said Vajpayee's life and leadership continue to inspire generations, with his commitment to democratic values, inclusive governance and nation-building standing as a guiding force for public representatives and citizens alike.

Ayodhya room booking fraud - Beware!!

Hyderabad, Dec.26 (NSS): Now cyber crooks have started cheating the people in the name of room booking in the famous pilgrimage centre -Ayodhya. Taking advantage of the fact that large number of devotees is thronging the Ayodhya temples, fraudsters are resorting to looting the people through room booking scam. One retired SBI manager, who became a victim of the cyber scammers, narrated his experience in a video on the social media. Birla Dharmasthala is a very attractive place for stay of devotees. He opened the internet for booking rooms in Ayodhya. He came across Birla dharmashala room booking site. The room rent ranged from ₹.1075 to ₹.4075, etc. When he wanted to book rooms, he has been asked to upload Aadhar or PAN card and after online payment, a receipt has been sent to him (all fake). After reaching Ayodhya, he went to Birla dharmashala and shown the payment receipt. He was told that there is no advance booking at all and rooms are provided on first come first served basis at 10 a.m. everyday. Then he realised that he was cheated in the name of room booking. He wanted the Ayodhya pilgrims to take note of the fact that there is no advance booking of rooms at Birla Dharmashala there.(NSS)

College bus overturns on NH-44; multiple students injured

Hyderabad, Dec.25 (NSS): Numerous students sustained injuries when a college bus rolled over near the Peddapalli Jio petrol station in the Balanagar mandal along NH-44 in Mahbubnagar district on Thursday. The students, who were from Manikanta private college in Marikar, Narayanpet district, were en route to Jalavihar in Hyderabad when the bus lost control while attempting to evade another vehicle. At the time of the incident, there were 43 students aboard. The injured individuals were transported to the Balanagar government hospital, where doctors reported that all of their conditions are stable. Minister Vakiti Srihari, who was traveling from Hyderabad towards Wanaparthy, stopped at the accident site and reviewed the situation. A large crane was brought in to move the school bus to the side. Afterward, the Minister departed for Wanaparthy.

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GITAM CONGRATULATES DR. VAHINI SIRUVORU ON PH.D. ACHIEVEMENT



Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, proudly congratulates Dr. Vahini Siruvoru on the successful completion of her Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering. Her doctoral research, titled "Intelligent Load Balancing for Optimized Scheduling in Cloud Computing Using Deep Neural Network", makes a significant contribution to the advancement of intelligent and energy-efficient cloud computing sys-

tems. Conducted under the guidance of Dr. S. Aparna, Associate Professor, Department of CSE, the research addresses critical challenges in managing dynamic workloads in large-

scale cloud environments. By proposing a three-tier intelligent load-balancing framework using deep learning and reinforcement learning techniques, the study enhances workload prediction, resource utilization, energy efficiency, and Quality of Service (QoS). Extensive simulations using CloudSim demonstrate notable improvements in response time, energy consumption, and system scalability over existing approaches.

Industrial parks emerge as backbone of India's smarter infrastructure and manufacturing growth

New Delhi, Dec 26: India's push to strengthen its industrial and manufacturing base is gaining momentum, with industrial parks playing a central role in shaping smarter infrastructure and driving long-term economic growth.

According to official

data, more than 4,500 industrial parks have been identified nationwide, covering nearly 7.7 lakh hectares of land. Of this, about 1.35 lakh hectares remain readily available, offering significant scope for future industrial development. This availability of land, combined with improved infrastructure and policy support, is making India increasingly attractive to both domestic and global investors.

Industrial parks are

being developed through a collaborative approach involving the central government, state governments, and private players. The aim is to create well-planned industrial ecosystems that offer reliable power, water supply, road and rail connectivity, and access to logistics networks. By bringing all essential facilities together in one location, these parks reduce operational hurdles for businesses and help companies scale faster.

A key focus of the government has been the development of plug-and-play industrial parks. These parks offer ready-to-use infrastructure, allowing companies to begin operations with minimal delay. In the union Budget 2025-26, the government allocated Rs 2,500 crore to support the creation of such parks, signalling a strong commitment to accelerating industrial growth and improving ease of doing business.

identify reliable industrial locations.

Technology is also playing a growing role in India's industrial expansion.

The India Industrial Land Bank, a GIS-based digital platform, allows investors to view real-time information on industrial land availability, infrastructure quality, sustainability practices, digital readiness, logistics access, and feedback from businesses operating within the parks.

The updated rating system encourages park developers to maintain high standards while helping investors

Independent candidate with alleged links with Awami League arrested while filing papers

Gopalganj (Bangladesh), Dec 26 : An independent candidate Tapas Halder (43) was arrested on Tuesday while collecting nomination papers for Bangladesh's Gopalganj-3 constituency ahead of the national parliamentary elections.

According to police, Halder was arrested as a suspect in a case related to creating havoc in the Wapdar Hat area on the Poysarhat-Gopalganj regional road. He was later produced before the court and sent to jail. Tapas Halder was earlier associated with Chhatra League politics during his student days at Dhaka University and served as a member of the organisation's central committee

from 2006 to 2011. However, his associates said he has not held any political post for the last 14 years.

Halder's chief election agent Haridas Majumder alleged that the arrest was politically motivated. "Around 11:30 am, five to seven of us went to the Kotalipara UNO office to collect nomination papers. Before we entered, Kotalipara Police Station BNP General Secretary Abul Basar Howlader came, introduced himself, talked briefly and left. Shortly afterwards, police arrived and arrested Tapas Halder," he claimed.

The case stems from an incident on July 16 this year, when leaders and activists of the Awami

League allegedly protested by planting trees at Wapdar Hat on the Poysarhat-Gopalganj regional road to obstruct the NCP's 'Gopalganj Road March'. In connection with the incident, the then sub-inspector of Kotalipara Police Station, Uttam Kumar Sen, filed a case naming 155 people and accusing 1,500 unidentified persons. However, supporters of Tapas Halder claimed that he was not present in Gopalganj on July 16 and was in Dhaka at the time. They also said this was his first visit to Gopalganj since August 2024 and that he was arrested while attempting to file nomination papers.

Kishan Reddy pays tributes to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 101st birth anniversary

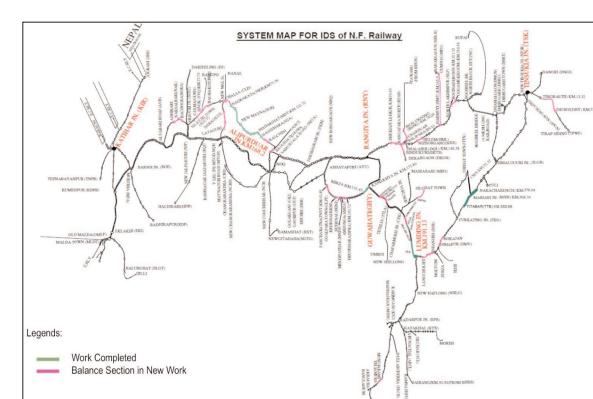
Hyderabad, Dec.25 (NSS): Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Thursday paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 101st birth anniversary by garlanding his portrait at the BJP Telangana state office. The programme was attended by BJP State general secretaries Dr. N. Gautham Rao and Vemula Ashok, State secretary Baddam Maipal Reddy, senior leader Bandaru Vijayalakshmi and other party leaders. Speaking to the media, Kishan Reddy said Vajpayee was a towering statesman, intellectual, poet, and visionary administrator who carved a unique place in Indian politics. He recalled that Vajpayee was the first Indian Prime Minister to address the United



Nations in Hindi and demonstrated exemplary moral values by resigning after losing power by a single vote. Highlighting Vajpayee's contributions, Reddy said he transformed India into a nuclear power despite international pressure, launched landmark infrastructure projects like the 'Golden Quadrilateral', expanded rural road connectivity through "Pradhan Mantri Gram

Sadak Yojana", strengthened education via Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and provided housing to the poor through VAMBAY scheme. Vajpayee's leadership during the Kargil conflict safeguarded national security and that his poems continue to inspire generations. "His life was fully dedicated to the nation, and he remains an eternal inspiration for the youth", he noted. (NSS)

NFR successfully saved the lives of over 160 elephants



Maligaon, 26 December, 2025: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has been consistently undertaking proactive and technology-driven initiatives to prevent elephant dashing incidents and ensure safe, uninterrupted train operations across its network. These sustained efforts have yielded encouraging results with over 160 elephant lives successfully protected during 2025 alone, reaffirming NFR's strong commitment to wildlife conservation. A major step in this direction is the deployment of the Intrusion Detection System (IDS) an advanced Artificial Intelligence based technology utilizing Distributed Acoustic System (DAS) principles. The system detects elephant movement near railway tracks and instantly provides real-time alerts to loco pilots and control rooms, enabling timely preventive action and enhancing operational safety. The IDS has already

been successfully commissioned across key sections of NFR that pass-through elephant corridors. At present, the system is operational in four important sections: 24 km Kamakhya-Azara-Mirza section under Rangiya Division, 52 km Madarhat-Nagrakata section under Alipurduar Division, 32 km Habaipur-Lamsakhang-Patharkhola-Lumding section under Lumding Division and 23 km Titabar-Mariani-Nakac

hari section under Tinsukia Division. Together, these installations cover 62.7 km of elephant corridors and 131 km of block sections, significantly improving safety in sensitive wildlife zones. Building on this success, IDS installation works are currently underway across multiple divisions, including 92 km in Alipurduar, 25 km in Kathi, 174 km in Rangiya, 110 km in Lumding and 12 km in Tinsukia Division. Upon completion, the

system will cover all elephant corridors under NFR, totalling 146.4 km with an overall block section length of 413.42 km, creating a robust and comprehensive safety network. In addition, NFR has adopted innovative preventive measures to reduce train-elephant interactions. The 'Plan Bee' system, installed at vulnerable level crossing gates, uses amplified honeybee sounds audible up to 400 metres to deter elephants from approaching tracks. In coordination with the Forest Department, NFR has also enhanced safety through real-time information sharing, night time speed restrictions in elephant corridors, temporary speed curbs based on sightings, sensitization of train crews, installation of cautionary signage and vegetation clearance to improve visibility. At the national level, Indian Railways has strengthened wildlife protection by deploying an AI enabled Intrusion Detection System (IDS) using Distributed Acoustic System (DAS) technology to detect elephants and other wildlife near railway tracks. Successfully piloted on Northeast Frontier Railway, the system is now being expanded to other parts of the country. This expansion will cover an additional 981 route kilometres, taking the total coverage to 1,122 route kilometres across Indian Railways, reinforcing its commitment to wildlife conservation and safe train operations. It is noteworthy that more than 2,000 elephants have been safely protected while crossing railway tracks across NFR since 2017.

Journalists Unite Against GO 252, Call for Statewide Protest

Protesting against the State Government's GO No. 252, issued under the guise of a Journalists' Accreditation Policy, and against the cancellation of accreditations for desk journalists and the reduction in the number of accreditations for a large number of journalists, we call for the success of the protest program planned for Saturday (27.12.2025) in front of all district collector offices. At the press conference held at Somajiguda Press Club, Union State President Allam Narayana, General Secretary Askani Maruti Sagar, Vice President Ramesh Hazari, Treasurer



Yoganand, Temju General Secretary Ramana Kumar, IJU National Executive Committee member Avvari Bhaskar, Hyderabad District In-charge Naveen Kumar, Hyderabad District Vice Presidents N. Mallesh and Sudarshan Reddy, Treasurer Bapu Rao, and others participated. On this occasion, TUWJ President and former

Press Academy Chairman Allam Narayana addressed the media. The points from their statement are as follows • We will not tolerate attempts to create discord among journalists with the two-card system. Why this discrimination against desk journalists? Will you deny even basic recognition to the journalists who played a cru-

cial role in achieving the state of Telangana? The TUWJ and TJF are always ready for another fight to protect the rights of Telangana journalists. - Allam Narayana, President, TUWJ The flawed GO 252 must be withdrawn immediately. The cancellation of GO 239 by the KCR government is a blatant disregard for the journalists' gathering. He

rights of Telangana journalists. The targeting of desk journalists by Academy Chairman K. Srinivas Reddy is unjust. - Allam Narayana The credit for granting accreditations to 23,000 journalists goes to the previous government. The then Chief Minister KCR had clearly stated that accreditations must be given without discrimination to all journalists who made sacrifices in the newly formed Telangana state. KCR announced the journalists' welfare policy in the presence of ten thousand journalists at the journalists' gathering. He

worked for the welfare of journalists in the initial days of the government's formation. The policy was decided after discussions with senior journalists at the Academy, under the leadership of senior journalists like Ramachandra Murthy

and other prominent figures.

The then Chief Minister KCR... It was decided in a meeting with the then Chief

Minister that even desk journalists should be given importance and provided with accreditations.

Indian Railways Operates Over 43,000 Special Train Trips in 2025 to Ensure Smooth Travel During Festivals and Peak Seasons

Event	No. of special trips
Aastha Special (30.01.24 to 11.03.24)	326 Trains circular trips
Holi Special-2024 (12-03-2024 to 02-04-2024)	604
Summer Special-2024 (1-04-2024 to 30-06-2024)	12919
Chhath Special-2024 (01-10-2024 to 31-12-2024)	7990
Maha Kumbh Special- 2025 (13-01-2025 to 28-02-2025)	17340
Holi Special-2025 (01-03-2025 to 22-03-2025)	1144
Summer Special-2025 (01-04-2025 to 30-06-2025)	12417
Chhath Special-2025 (01-10-2025 to 30-11-2025)	12383

Indian Railways has undertaken extensive measures to ensure smooth, safe, and convenient travel for passengers by operating a large number of special train trips during major religious events and peak travel seasons. These initiatives reflect the Railways' continued commitment to meeting increased passenger demand and providing seam-

less connectivity across the country. In 2025, special train operations were significantly scaled up, highlighting enhanced planning and a stronger focus on passenger comfort. During 2025, Indian Railways undertook one of its largest special train operations for Maha Kumbh, operating 17,340 special train trips between 13 January and 28 February 2025 to facilitate the movement of a very large number of pilgrims. For Holi 2025, held from 1 March to 22 March 2025, 1,144 special train trips were operated, nearly double the number run during Holi 2024, ensuring better availability and smoother festive travel. The Summer travel season of 2025, spanning 1 April to 30 June, saw the operation of 12,417 Summer Special train trips, maintaining a high level of service during peak vacation months. Special arrangements for Chhath Puja 2025 were further strengthened, with 12,383 special train trips operated between 1 October and 30 November 2025, marking a substantial increase over the previous year. These enhanced arrangements in 2025 were built upon the strong opera-

tional base created in 2024. During Aastha Special services conducted from 30 January to 11 March 2024, 326 special circular train trips were operated to facilitate pilgrim movement. For Holi 2024, from 12 March to 2 April 2024, Indian Railways ran 604 special train trips to manage festive rush. The Summer season of 2024 witnessed 12,919 Summer Special train trips, while Chhath Puja 2024 arrangements included 7,990 special train trips between 1 October and 31 December 2024.

BOI KHAIRATABAD BRANCH

Bank of India Ground floor, P.T.I. BUILDING A.C. GUARDS, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD-500004, Phone: 040-23323923, 23323924.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Bank of India, Kharatabad Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 26.09.2025 calling upon the borrower Mr. Vijaya Madhav and guarantor Mr. Srinivas Rao, both at Independent House on plot bearing No.96, admeasuring 220.sq.yards or 183.92 Sq.mtrs (including Plinth area 1750.00 Sq.Fts., in Ground Floor,) forming part of Survey Nos.400,542 to 550, situated at Dammaguda H.O/ Nagaram Village, Grampanchayat Dammaguda, Keesara Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, , to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 40,64,161.20 plus interest @ 9.05 p.a. plus 2.00% penal interest with monthly rests from 03.09.2025 in Home Loan (660975110000387), together with costs, expenses, etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Mrs. N Vijaya Madhavi the borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers

conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 26 th day of December of the Year 2025.

Mrs. Madhavi the borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers

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EDITORIAL

Peddling Lord Ram as a Slick Commercial Acronym

The revanchist government of the day was clearly canny enough to understand that removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the rural employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGA) which was an enforceable right-to-work budgeted endowment would be seen as an egregious enormity, a veritable red line even for compliant Hindu followers. So, they pressed into service the only entity that could be considered a higher-up in the spiritual pecking order, namely, Lord Ram. The calculation clearly has been that opposition to this gauche displacement would not but be amenable to propagation as doing dirt on Bharatiya, now interchangeable with denominational majoritarianism. That many Indians in the Hindi belt are by now readied to giving assent to this gimmick is of course a tragic testament to the success of the mercantile, transactional, and however unscrupulous state-politics of the last decade or so; as also to the collapse of secular-democratic forces who espouse constitutional rule. The "rising" middle classes sold out on the vacuous slogan of "development" could not care less: their pilgrimages continue to be undertaken in tandem with a canny eye on the main chance. But the vast majority of genuine Ram baktas (devotees) may well be asking themselves, however silently, whether a greater sacrifice could be committed than peddling Lord Ram as a cleverly fashioned acronym for entirely mercenary purposes. There is that verse in Tulsi's Ramcharitmanas which instructs us how the god Ram is most to be found where live the deen (destitute) of the land. Thus, what sin may be more unforgivable than to use his name cunningly to rob the destitute of what morsels have thus far been promised to them in the hinterlands as a legally obtainable constitutional right. That this act of pilferage should be sought to be sold as a greater benevolence than obtained before must indeed compound that sin beyond redemption. But then, as the honourable numero uno's office comes to be christened a tirth (a sanctum wherein the gods are worshipped for redress), Lord Ram may have come to play second fiddle to the Deus-Ex-Official-Machina ergo, God-in-the-Official-Machine. Another matter, rather a comical side-show, that a venerable Shankaracharya - authorised apex of Sanatana belief system - should have made bold to express doctrinal chagrin at the official gumption. We have in recent times seen saffron-clad satraps of the empowered right-wing shoot symbolic blanks into Gandhi's effigy on the day the nation commemorates his birth. These are unpunished occurrences which show the lies in the honour that the lords of the day still feel they need to accord to the father of the nation on politic occasions. Often in history, great enormities are followed by great forgetting; it remains to be seen how soon the popular imagination of Ram baktas may persuade them to put behind themselves this reduction of their faith to commercial kitsch. Nor is it certain that the political opposition led by Gandhi's erstwhile party, even if for a brief interregnum, will know how to turn the crass moment on its head, add the force of Lord Ram to a most devoted bakti, Gandhi, and unleash a mass refusal of what the Modi regime has done, promising a satyagraha puissant enough to defeat those who dis honour both Ram and Gandhi, and who seek to dupe millions of credulous citizens with politic contempt for their intelligence. One virtue greatly lauded in Hindu thought, as it is in some forms of Christianity and in Buddhism and Jainism, is renunciation. But the caveat is often left out of this text: it is not those that have who are meant to renounce, but those that haven't. Thus, ask not what an employment guarantee scheme can do for you, ask what it is you can do to fatten coffers which announce our greatness to the world. Tailpiece: The final coup de grâce in the dethronement of the father of the nation may be yet to come. In January of 2017, an illustrious minister in the then BJP-ruled Haryana cabinet had shared his finding that the Indian currency was undergoing loss of value owing to the fact that the inauspicious and meek figure of the non-combative Gandhi is printed on our rupee notes. Well, the time may not be too far when this cause of our unstopping currency devaluation (the rupee now having plunged to the historic nadir of 91 to the dollar, the mighty Modi notwithstanding) may finally need to be taken head on.

Bangladesh: From Renewal to Routinised Violence



As the year ends, Bangladesh's story is one of shattered expectations. Sheikh Hasina's ouster last August, after weeks of student-led protests, seemed to herald a new chapter. The interim administration under Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was embraced as a moral corrective to decades of authoritarian excess, promising to end revenge politics. Yet, as the nation heads closer to the polls on February 12, 2026, the lived reality is that violence has not abated but become tolerated, even routinised, as part of Bangladesh's political and social fabric. The eruption of violence in Dhaka on December 18, following the assassination of Sharif Osman Hadi, a radical leader of the Inquilab Moncho and a key figure in the 2024 uprising, underscored the fragility of the interim government's grip on law and order. Hadi's death became a catalyst for unrest, but the violence that followed exposed the present-day metastasis of mob justice into everyday life. The lynching of Dipu Chandra Das, a Hindu factory worker falsely accused of "hurting religious sentiments", was a grotesque reminder of how barbarism has seeped into the fabric

of society. Das was beaten, hung from a tree and set ablaze on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, with factory management complicit in handing him over to the mob. The same night, leading newspapers Prothom Alo and the Daily Star were attacked, vandalised and set on fire while journalists worked inside. Nurul Kabir, president of the Editors' Council, described the assault as an attempt to kill journalists "in a medieval manner". Unidentified assailants also torched the Chhayanaut cultural centre in Dhaka, striking at the heart of Bangladesh's artistic heritage. The youth-led mobilisations of last year, directed against entrenched structures of injustice and culminating in the removal of Hasina, appeared to signal a potential reorientation in the political consciousness of Bangladeshi protesters. Yet, the absence of fundamental reforms in political culture, coupled with the persistence of violence whether directed at rivals or minorities, indicates that they have not yet engaged with the deeper politico-economic structures that sustain systemic dysfunction. Human rights organisations have documented the persist-

ence of state repression under Yunus's interim administration. Rights organisation 'Ain o Salish Kendra' recorded 35 extrajudicial killings between January and October 2025, while 'Odhikar' reported over 40 in 14 months, including deaths by torture and custodial abuse. Arbitrary detentions under counter-terror laws remain widespread, and the harassment of journalists has reached alarming levels, with more than 350 incidents in ten months per one estimate. The scale may be smaller than under Hasina, but the structural patterns remain unchanged: entrenched policing culture, institutional impunity and a state apparatus unwilling or unable to reform. A recent study, 'High Risks, Low Preparedness: Journalist Safety in 2026 Elections', revealed that almost 89% of journalists surveyed anticipate physical assault while covering the polls, a chilling indictment of the poll environment. What is more troubling is the expansion of violence beyond state actors. Mob justice, arson and targeted killings now supplement official repression, creating a dual system of abuse. The murder of BNP leader Belal

Hossain's seven-year-old daughter, trapped in a house fire set by unidentified assailants, illustrates how political rivalry has descended into acts of barbarism that transcend ideology. On December 9, two Juba Dal activists were shot in Cox's Bazar; on December 22, labour leader Mohammad Motaleb Sikder was attacked in Khulna. Each incident erodes public trust in the interim government, which has failed to offer protection to citizens caught between state violence and social brutality. Minorities face heightened insecurity as radical Islamic influence re-emerges in politics, undermining religious freedoms and emboldening leaders who inflame anti-Indian sentiment for electoral gain. Just days before Das's lynching, Hindu fish trader Utpal Sarkar was killed in Faridpur District, another chilling marker of minority vulnerability. The interim government's inability to protect Hindu communities has deepened scepticism and strained relations with New Delhi. India's dilemma is stark: its default support for Hasina's Awami League has been replaced by a dispensation hostile to New Delhi.

Cancellation of SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS' Announcement Points to Modi Govt's Naked Ambush

Behind the dramatic cancellation of the Sahitya Akademi awards' announcement last week, the first ever in its history, lies an attempt by the Narendra Modi government to usurp whatever space the autonomous institution has been left with in the last decade. First, here's a recap to help understand the abruptness of the ambush. The Akademi announces its prestigious awards in 24 languages each year. The juries of all the languages had finalised their awardees following due deliberation. The lists had been approved by the executive board of the Akademi, which had scheduled a press conference to announce the winners on Thursday (December 18). People had arrived at the Akademi to attend the ceremony. They were relishing samosas and chai, when a hurried circular arrived from the Ministry of Culture about the 'restructuring of awards'. Addressed to the 'heads' of the Lalit Kala Akademi, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Sahitya Akademi and the National School of Drama, the circular reminded them of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) they had earlier signed with the ministry, which "stipulated" that the "restructuring of Awards is required to be undertaken in consultation with the Ministry". Until the restructuring "is duly approved by the Ministry, no process for declaration of Awards shall be undertaken without the prior approval of the Ministry," it noted. The announcement was cancelled, leaving both the Akademi and the juries stunned. Before turning to the absurdity of the circular, note that the winners are chosen by a separate jury for each language, with each jury headed by a convenor. The juries were set up by Pallavi Prashant Holkar, who was appointed the Akademi's secretary by the ministry after the superannuation of K. Sreenivasarao in October. Holkar is an Indian Audit & Account Services officer of the 2011 batch. Her appointment, Akademi officials point out, was seen as a step by the ministry to extend its control over the institution. More than anyone else, the circular embarrassed Holkar because the Akademi had issued the press release about the ceremony in her name, and she was scheduled to announce the winners. The circular, Akademi officials say, is flawed on several counts. First, if the ministry wanted to restructure the awards, the directions should have been given to the

Akademi long before the juries were set up. Second, the award process had begun in January this year, six months before the MoU was signed in July. Any proposal to restructure the awards can't be applied post-facto. Third, what was the tearing hurry to issue the circular on the date of the announcement, and intruding into the affairs of an autonomous institution? The ministry could have told the Akademi well in advance. Fourth, the press conference was scheduled by the secretary, the ministry's permanent representative in the Akademi. Was the secretary also in the dark? Who gave the nod to the presser, only for it to be cancelled 24 hours after it was announced? "Fifth, while the circular is addressed to four institutions, the ministry, in its attempt to make it look like a wider exercise and not merely targeted at the Sahitya Akademi, overlooked that one of the four, the National School of Drama or the Sangeet Natak Akademi cannot be gauged by their ability to generate revenue. They are for public welfare," said a member of an institution's executive council.

"To promote 24 languages and various dialects, the Sahitya Akademi organises events across the country. Do you want us to put an entry

ticket to a story-reading session by a Bodo writer?" said an Akademi official. The present MoU stands apart because it will nearly amount to a takeover of the Akademi by the ministry. Selected by eminent names from each language, the annual awards still carry a gravitas, far more than many private awards clubbed together, and are keenly anticipated by writers across the languages. Some of India's most notable names have accepted these awards with great pride and honour. If the only pan-Indian awards in literature, music and paintings are to be decided by babus in Shastri Bhawan, their decline can be easily anticipated.

If the ministry persists with the 'restructuring', a senior official said, the awards would completely lose their worth. The Akademi, set up in the 1950s following the vision of India's first prime minister, have greatly shaped the building of a national culture that both draws upon its glorious past as well as looks to the future. A day after the Sahitya Akademi was inaugurated on March 12, 1954, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote a letter to the Akademi's secretary, Krishna Kripalani, expressing concern about Suryakant Tripathi Nirala.

Modi Govt's Repeal of MGNRE-GA Is an Assault on the Poor



In his article, 'The Sentinel' published in Young India on October 13, 1921, Mahatma Gandhi articulated his vision for assured livelihood opportunities for poverty-stricken people. He wrote, "To a people famishing and idle, the only acceptable form in which God can dare appear is work and promise of food as wages." In independent India, the fulfillment of that bold vision was not left to god. The government enacted legislations to guarantee employment to people on demand so that they could secure their wages and food. This was first done in Maharashtra, with The Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Act, 1977 mandating the government to give work to an applicant within 15 days of the date from which they seek work. It was a demand-driven legislation and that defining feature was incorporated by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's regime in the landmark Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA). MGNREGA expanded the guaranteed employment to 100 days throughout the year and ensured minimum wage. It also provided in the Act itself that 90% of the funds allocated to the scheme would be provided by the Union government and, in tune with the vision of Mahatma Gandhi, its implementation was left to the Panchayats, upholding the bottom up approach which remained central to the MGNREGA law in the world.

Pasi Community Pays Tribute to Social Justice Icon Maharaja Bijli Pasi

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Devghar: The Pasi community of Devghar observed the Parinirvan Day of the valiant warrior Maharaja Bijli Pasi on Thursday with deep reverence, enthusiasm, and dignity. The program was organized at Maharaja Bijli Pasi Chowk (Ranga Mod) in Devghar, where a large number of community members gathered to pay floral tributes and remember his legacy. On this occasion, members of the community discussed in detail the life, bravery, and heroic tales of Maharaja Bijli Pasi. Speakers highlighted that he remains a lasting symbol of social justice, courage, and self-respect, continuing to inspire society even today. As part of the program, floral tributes were offered at the statue of Savitribai Phule located in the Devghar College campus. Similarly,



flowers were offered at the statue of the Pasi community's brave woman warrior Uda Devi Pasi at Nandan Pahar, paying homage to her courage and sacrifice. The gathering also observed a two-minute silence to pay tribute to the departed souls of senior social workers of the community, late Dilip Kumar Mahatha, and late Arun Mahatha. Several prominent members of the Pasi community were present on the occasion, including Sushil Mahatha, Pappu Mahatha, Sunil Mahatha, Deepesh Mahatha, and many others.

Pawan Mahatha, Subhash Mahatha, Gorachand Mahatha, Gopal Mahatha, Tufan Mahatha, Mukesh Mahatha, Sudhir Mahatha, Prakash Mahatha, Kaju Mahatha, Mahendra Mahatha, Madan Mahatha, Ranjit Mahatha, Shibu Mahatha, Pentar Mahatha, Vipul Prakash, Suraj Kumar Mahatha, Mithun Mahatha, Jugnu Mahatha, Bablu Mahatha, Rohit Mahatha, Vikram Kumar, Arun Mahatha, Pago Mahatha, and many others.

NATION

HYDERABAD
SATURDAY DECEMBER 27, 2025

7

Digital India Thunders Clinch Atal Bihari Vajpayee Women's Cricket Title

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna: On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the sixth edition of the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Women's Cricket Championship, organised by the BJP Krida Prakoshth, concluded with Digital India Thunders lifting the coveted title. The final match was played at the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium, where Digital India Thunders defeated Jal Jeevan Strikers by eight wickets to emerge champions. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha and Sports Minister SOn the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the sixth edition of the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Women's Cricket Championship, organised by the BJP Krida Prakoshth, concluded with Digital India Thunders lifting the coveted



title. The final match was played at the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium, where Digital India Thunders defeated Jal Jeevan Strikers by eight wickets to emerge champions. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha and Sports Minister Shreyasi Singh honoured the winning and runner-up teams by presenting trophies and

encouraged the players for their performance. Kumhrat MLA Sanjay Gupta and Umesh Singh were also present on the occasion. The guests were formally welcomed by BJP Krida Prakoshth State Convener Satish Raju. The event witnessed the presence of several prominent personalities from the sports and social sectors. Those present included Co-conveners Vikas Kumar Goldy, Santosh Mishra, Rajeev Ranjan Yadav and Kanchan; Women's Convener Varsha Pandey; Treasurer Vikas Singh; J.P. Mehta, Dhirendra Sinha, Sumit Sharma, Kanchan Sharma, Jyoti, Dr Ravi, Dr Abhiram Sharma, Raju Rai Dhavak, Saurabh Chakravarti, Bihar Under-23 coach Pawan Kumar, Prakash Singh, former State President of BJP Yuva Morcha Durgesh Singh, Mukesh Paswan and many others. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said that organising sports events by the Krida Prakoshth on the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a commendable tradition. He said the Bihar government is committed to women empowerment and that positive results of encouraging youth participation in sports are now clearly visible across the state.

MONTHLY REVIEW OF GENDER-SENSITIVE HEALTH SERVICES HELD

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Biharsharif: Under the Gender Program implemented in Nalanda district in collaboration with the Bihar Government and Piramal Foundation, a monthly review meeting of gender-sensitive health services was held at Sadar Hospital, Biharsharif. The program aims to strengthen safe, sensitive, and survivor-centered

health services for women and girls affected by violence. Piramal Foundation's Program Leader, Veena Kumari, provided technical support and coordination for this initiative. The meeting was chaired by ACMO Dr. Rammohan Sahay and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Kumar. Participants included Dr. Surjeet Kumar Akela, Dr.

Sangeeta Kumari, consultants from the Emergency Department, Labor Room, Male and Female OPDs, nodal officers from all departments, physiotherapy in-charge, security and sanitation supervisors, and Mamta workers. During the meeting, cases of violence reported at the hospital were presented, and institutional responses were reviewed. Health staff

were instructed to ensure timely identification, counseling, psychological support, and safe referral for cases of violence. Each patient and beneficiary must be treated with respect, sensitivity, and cooperation. Special emphasis was placed on proper communication and assistance by security and Mamta workers to maintain a gender-sensitive environment in the hos-

pital. Dr. Surjeet Kumar Akela shared his personal experience of assisting an injured person who had fallen in the hospital and ensured they received safe treatment. He urged all attending staff and officials to create a safe, sensitive, and fear-free environment for every individual visiting the health facility. The Deputy Superintendent also highlighted the rights of preg-

nant women under the Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Initiative, emphasizing confidentiality, informed consent, and the provision of quality services. A counselor from the One-Stop Center informed participants that cases referred from Sadar Hospital receive legal aid, counseling, and psychological support, and urged all departments to promptly refer cases

to the One-Stop Center to ensure comprehensive support for survivors. Hospital Manager Mr. Imran Khan emphasized developing Sadar Hospital as a model gender-sensitive hospital. He announced that soon, information boards with the Women's Helpline number (181) and Child Helpline number (1098) would be installed within the hospital

premises to provide women and children easy access to legal and social support. This monthly review meeting represents a significant step toward strengthening district-level health system responses, enhancing multi-departmental coordination, and ensuring respect, safety, and justice for survivors of violence under the Gender Program.

Poet Rishabh Dev Honoured with Bharat Ratna Atal Samman



Lucknow: Bihar-based poet Rishabh Dev has been conferred with the prestigious Bharat Ratna Atal Samman at a felicitation ceremony organized under the aegis of the Print Media Working Journalist Association. The award was presented at the Information and Broadcasting Department office in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The honour was bestowed upon Rishabh Dev by the National President of the association, Abdul Aziz Siddiqui, and Vice President Dr. Reema

Sinha. He received this recognition for his significant contributions to Hindi literature and for promoting nationalist thought through his literary works. The Print Media Association extended its best wishes for his bright future. Rishabh Dev's poetry vividly reflects themes of love, life, and various social dimensions. He has published several poetry collections, including Tevari, Tarkash, and Taaki Sanad Rahe, which have earned him recognition in contemporary Hindi literature.

Royal Orchids International School, Margomunda Organizes Educational Picnic at Khandoli: Students Learn Discipline, Nature, and Teamwork



OUR CORRESPONDENT
Madhipur: Royal Orchids International School in Margomunda organized an educational and recreational picnic for its students, focusing on their holistic development. The outing was held at Khandoli, a renowned tourist destination in Jharkhand, where students traveled safely and in an organized manner by bus. The primary objective of the excursion was to connect children with nature, foster a sense of cooperation, and provide practical experience in social behav-

ior alongside academic learning. During the picnic, students exhibited high levels of enthusiasm and enjoyment while engaging in various activities. School Director Mr. Mohammad Shahzad Alam highlighted that such events contribute significantly to the mental, social, and moral development of children. Principal Ms. Neha Alam described the picnic as a perfect blend of learning and fun for the students. Teachers Nunita, Simran, Sania, Jasmine, Sana, and Mr. Sahil played a key role in

supervising and guiding the students throughout the program. Parents also contributed actively, with Kishore Singh being particularly praised for his support in ensuring the smooth execution of the event. Emphasis was placed on safety, discipline, and cleanliness throughout the picnic. Students not only enjoyed the natural beauty of the surroundings but also participated enthusiastically in games and team activities, learning valuable lessons in collaboration and environmental appreciation.

Local MLA and Jharkhand Assembly Speaker Lays Foundation of High-Level Bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Jamta: Local MLA and Jharkhand Assembly Speaker Ravindranath Mahto on Thursday laid the foundation for the construction of a high-level bridge between Shagajoria and Sindurkunia on the Nala-Chittaranjan main road at Zoria. The ceremony included traditional rituals of breaking a coconut and cutting a ribbon. Prior to the event, local residents warmly welcomed the Assembly Speaker by garlanding him and raising slogans in his honor. The initiation of the bridge construction after a long period has brought immense joy to the people of the surrounding areas. Addressing the gathering, Speaker Mahto emphasized that the comprehensive development of the region and the promotion of local employment sources are

SHIRRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032

Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710

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The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrowers(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantors

NPA DATE: 31.03.2021

Date Of Demand Notice: 17.11.2025

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 34,53,512/-

Loan Amount: Rs. 12,00,000/-

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 34,53,512/-

Loan Amount: Rs. 12,00,000/-

.....Barrowers/Co-borrower/Guarantors/Legal heirs

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Dated: 26.12.2025

Authorized Officer

SHIRRAM FINANCE LTD.

Place: RANGAREDDY, NALGONDA, KARNATAKA

SHIRRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032

Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710

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Dated: 26.12.2025

Authorized Officer

SHIRRAM FINANCE LTD.

Place: RANGAREDDY, NALGONDA, KARNATAKA

.....Barrowers/Co-borrower/Guarantors/Legal heirs

Exhibition on the Life and Legacy of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee Organised at BJP Office

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna: On the occasion of the 101st birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Bihar BJP State President Sanjay Saraogi paid rich tributes, recalling his unparalleled contribution to the nation. A programme was organised at Patliputra Park in Patna, where Sanjay Saraogi offered floral tributes at the statue of the former Prime Minister and bowed in reverence. The state-level function was attended by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers



Sanjay Saraogi, Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, along with several senior leaders. Member of Parliament Ravi Shankar Prasad and former Assembly Speaker Nand

Kishore Yadav were also present on the occasion. Speaking at the event, Sanjay Saraogi said that the contributions of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee set benchmarks in every field. On the occasion of Vajpayee's birth anniversary, a grand exhibition

Vajpayee will always be remembered. He described Vajpayee's life as a symbol of patriotism, visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to the people. He said that Vajpayee's ideas and initiatives laid a strong foundation for a self-reliant and powerful India, on which the nation continues to progress today. Whether it was nuclear capability, promotion of language and culture, or ensuring political stability, Vajpayee set benchmarks in every field. On the occasion of Vajpayee's birth anniversary, a grand exhibition

based on his life and achievements was organised at the BJP state office. The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Sanjay Saraogi along with Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha. A large number of BJP leaders, party workers and members of the public visited the exhibition to gain insights into the life and legacy of the former Prime Minister. The Bihar BJP President said that Atal Ji's thoughts, personality and ideals of national service continue to inspire generations.

HEADLINES

Harshita Rai Wins Silver Medal in Taekwondo at MP Sports Festival



OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna: Harshita Rai, a talented athlete from Patna Taekwondo Academy, brought laurels to her academy and the city by winning the silver medal in Taekwondo at the MP Sports Festival 2025. The competition, held on December 24 and 25, witnessed participation from skilled athletes across the state. Harshita's outstanding performance was recognized by former Minister and Patna Sahib MP Ravi Shankar Prasad and other dignitaries, who presented her with the silver medal and wished her a bright future. BJP Yuva Morcha State Media Incharge Jay Prakash Prasad, along with her family members and academy officials, congratulated Harshita for her achievement.

Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee Remembered on Birth Anniversary in Bikram



OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bikram: BJP workers commemorated the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna awardee Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Thursday at the residence of Surya Narayan Sinha in the local market area. The programme was organised under the chairmanship of Surya Narayan Sinha and conducted by Yogesh Tiwari. BJP members offered floral tributes to the portrait of the former Prime Minister and paid their respects. Speakers at the event highlighted Vajpayee's life and contributions in detail and urged people to follow the footsteps shown by him. Present at the occasion were BJP Patna District Vice President Tej Narayan Sharma, Assembly Incharge Vinod Singh, BJJ Yuva Morcha General Secretary Avinash Kumar Upadhyay, Lal Babu Singh, Shyam Kishore Sharma, Sunil Bihari Verma, Siddharth Kumar, Dharmendra Kumar, Pappu Yadav, Mukesh Singh, Shivji Singh, Pankaj Kumar, Vipin Kumar, and several others.

Sending Teachers for Training During Holidays is Improper: Mrityunjay Thakur

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna: According to the holiday schedule issued by the Education Department, the state is currently observing winter vacation from December 25 to December 31. During this period, calling teachers for training is entirely inappropriate and impractical, stated Mrityunjay Thakur, State Media Incharge of the Parivartankari Shikshak Mahasangh, Bihar. He explained that the purpose of holidays is to provide teachers with physical and mental rest so that they can return to academic duties with renewed energy. Organising training during the holiday period not only violates the rules of leave but also generates dissatisfaction among teachers. The Parivartankari Shikshak Mahasangh, Bihar, has strongly objected to this decision and urged the Honourable Education Minister and the Additional Chief Secretary of the Education Department to immediately suspend all training programmes scheduled during the winter vacation period.

KISAN SEMINAR ON "JAI JAWAN, JAI KISAN, JAI VIGYAN AND RESEARCH" HELD IN BIKRAM



OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bikram: On the occasion of Good Governance Day, a farmer's seminar on the theme "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan" was organised on Thursday at the local Krishi Bhawan in Bikram. The event witnessed participation from hundreds of farmers along with prominent personalities including ATMA President Ram Kumar Yadav, progressive farmer Satish Kumar, Shyam Kishore Sharma, Tej Narayan Sharma, Suresh Verma, Tulsi Prasad Singh, Arun Singh, innovative farmer Gautam Kumar, Lal Babu, Yogesh

Tiwari, Ran Vijay Kumar, Pappu Kumar, women farmers Babli Devi, Rajmuni Devi, Renu Devi, and Sushma Devi. The seminar, organised by ATMA Patna, was facilitated by Block Technical Manager Pankaj Kumar, Assistant Technical Manager Ashwini Kumar, Farmer Advisor Shiv Kumar Singh, and staff of the Block Agriculture Office, who welcomed the attending farmers. During the seminar, farmers highlighted the interdependent roles of soldiers and farmers, stating that while soldiers protect the nation, farmers provide food.

Grand Glorious Miss and Mrs India World Event Held in Patna, Sanya Sonal Wins 'Pride of India' Title

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna: A grand edition of the Glorious Miss and Mrs India World competition was successfully organised in Patna under the banner of Sai Glorious Entertainment Private Limited. This national-level event witnessed participation from contestants representing almost every state of the country, presenting an impressive blend of fashion, talent and confidence on Bihar's soil. At this prestigious platform, Phulwari Sharif's Sanya Sonal showcased her exceptional talent and emerged as the winner of the coveted 'Pride of India' title. Meanwhile, Asmita Singh was honoured with the title of Brand Ambassador of Bihar. The judging panel for the competition included Bollywood film director and actor Manish Vatsalya, actor and model Arjun Yadav, and Glorious Mrs India winner Rimjhim Singh. The judges appreciated the confidence, presentation and talent of all participants and congratulated the winners for their remarkable performances. Speaking



to the media after winning the title, Sanya Sonal said that her goal is to establish a strong identity in the Bollywood industry through modelling, acting and entertainment. She stated that states like Bihar and Jharkhand are rich in talent, but carving out a place in Mumbai's highly competitive environment requires immense hard work and perseverance.

Massive Fire Breaks Out at Ward Member's Threshing Yard, Paddy, Straw and Tractor Reduced to Ashes; Losses Worth Lakhs

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Phulwari Sharif: A massive fire broke out late Wednesday night at the threshing yard of a ward member in the Lahiyan Chak area of Alampur-Gonpura Panchayat under the Phulwari Sharif police station limits. The fire spread rapidly, destroying paddy, straw and agricultural equipment stored at the site. As soon as the incident came to light, farmers and local residents from nearby villages rushed to the spot and attempted to douse the flames on their own. Meanwhile, the Phulwari Sharif police station and the fire department were informed. Fire tenders reached the location promptly and, after considerable effort, managed to bring the blaze under control. However, by then, substantial damage had



already occurred. Providing details of the incident, Ward No. 8 member of Gonpura Panchayat, Shankar Kumar, stated that he received a phone call after midnight informing him about the fire at his threshing yard. He immediately rushed to the spot

Grand Prabhat Pheri Taken Out on Prakash Parv, City Resonates with Jaikaras

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna: On the occasion of the 359th Prakash Utsav of the Tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, a grand Prabhat Pheri was taken out in Patna on Thursday amid devotional fervour and resounding jaikaras. The procession began from Takht Sri Harmandir Ji Sahib under the leadership of the Panj Pyare, with the Nishan Sahib gracefully swaying at the forefront. The Prabhat Pheri passed through Chamdoriya, Hajiganj, Purab Darwaza and reached Patna Sahib Station via Morna Road. After a brief halt, it proceeded through Chauk Shikarpur ROB and Guru Gobind Singh Path before returning to Takht Sahib. The procession, accompanied by band music, featured impressive martial displays by Gatka parties, including a traditional showcase by a Gatka group from Punjab. Devotees, both men and women, walked together chanting hymns, performing kirtan, and raising reli-



gious slogans throughout the route. Several prominent members of the Takht Sri Committee participated in the procession, including Committee President Sardar Jagot Singh, General Secretary Inderjeet Singh, spokesperson Sudip Singh, and Prabhat Pheri conveners Tejendra Singh Bagga, Prem Singh, Ranjit Singh and Inderjeet Singh, along with a large number of devotees.

Severe Cold Grips Bihar in the Final Week of the Year, Residents Asked to Brace for Intense Chill



OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna: With the beginning of the final week of the year 2025, severe cold has started showing its harsh impact across Bihar. The state capital Patna, along with nearly all districts, is reeling under biting cold and dense fog. The Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for cold wave conditions and heavy fog, making it clear that there is little chance of relief from the cold until December 29. As a result, people in Bihar are expected to welcome the New Year amid shivering conditions. On Thursday, Patna and adjoining areas witnessed brief spells of mild sunshine, but they proved ineffective against strong, icy westerly winds. Cold gusts throughout the day discouraged people from stepping out of their homes. A further drop in temperature was recorded in the afternoon, leading to deserted markets as people were seen relying on bonfires and warm clothing. With the onset of evening, the intensity of the cold increased even more. According to the Meteorological Department, continuous snowfall in the hilly regions and an active western disturbance are directly

affecting the plains of Bihar. Icy winds blowing in from North India have pushed both daytime and nighttime temperatures below normal levels. Due to the lack of sunshine for several consecutive days, "cold day" conditions have prevailed in many parts of the state, severely impacting daily life. During the past 24 hours, the weather across the state remained completely dry, but the impact of the cold reached extreme levels. Purnia recorded an extreme cold day, while Bhagalpur, Gaya and Madhubani experienced cold day-like

conditions. Maximum temperatures were recorded between 16.2 and 20 degrees Celsius, while minimum temperatures in several areas dropped to around 7 degrees Celsius. Dense to very dense fog enveloped Gaya and Bhagalpur, reducing visibility to just 20 metres and disrupting both road and rail traffic. Weather experts have warned that the cold spell will continue throughout the coming week. Dense fog and cold day conditions are likely to persist in many parts of the state over the next four to five days.

Special Anti-Liquor Raid in Gaurichak, Three Accused Arrested; Smuggler Flees Leaving Liquor-Laden Auto in Janiyapur

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Phulwari Sharif: As part of a special drive to strictly enforce prohibition laws, the police carried out a major operation in the Phulwari region and achieved significant success against illegal liquor trade. During a raid conducted in the Gaurichak police station area, three persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in illegal liquor business. According to the police, Pujan Kumar, son of Nakul Manjhi, and Tuntun Manjhi, son of Kailash Manjhi, both residents of Mustafapur village under Gaurichak police station in Patna district, were taken into custody. The third accused, Upendra Manjhi, son of Naga Manjhi, a resident of Danara village under Bhagwanganj police station in Patna district, was also arrested. All three have been booked under the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, and further legal proceedings are underway. Meanwhile, the police also achieved a breakthrough against liquor smugglers in the Janiyapur police sta-



tion area. Janiyapur Station House Officer Naveen Kumar said that during routine patrolling near Hadap village, the police team noticed a suspicious tempo parked along the roadside. On spotting the police, the smugglers fled the scene, abandoning the vehicle and the consignment. Upon searching the tempo, the police recovered around 130 litres of locally brewed liquor.

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Remembered on His Birth Anniversary in Paligan



OUR CORRESPONDENT

Paliganj: The 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna awardee Atal Bihari Vajpayee was observed with reverence on Thursday at Goraiya Sthan in the local market area of Paliganj. On the occasion, Ashok Dom from the Mahadalit community of Paliganj lit ceremonial lamps and offered floral tributes to the portrait of the former Prime Minister. Sweets were also distributed among the people to mark the occasion. The programme witnessed participation from leaders and workers of various political and social organisations. Those present included Paliganj Nagar Mandal President Uttam Kumar, Nagar Mandal Yuva Morcha President Karan Gupta, State Trade Cell Media Co-incharge Dheeraj Gupta, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) women leader Prabha Devi, Mahila Morcha representative Renu Devi, along with Kanhaiya Kumar, Mithilesh Kumar Verma, Mukesh Thakur and several other workers.

Indian markets open flat amid consolidation phase

Mumbai: Indian benchmark indices opened flat with a mild negative bias on Friday, as markets are apparently in the consolidation phase amid lack of major cues. As of 9.30 am, Sensex edged down 83 points, or 0.09 per cent to 35,325 and Nifty eased 17 points, or 0.06 per cent to 26,124. Main broadcap indices outperformed benchmark indices in terms of gains, with the Nifty Midcap 100 advanced 0.35 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 added 0.27 per cent. Cipla, Dr Reddys Labs and ONGC were among the major gainers in the Nifty Pack, while losers included Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Max Healthcare and TCS. Among sectoral gainers, the Nifty Consumer Durables index was the top performer, rising 0.4 per cent, followed by Nifty Metal and Nifty Chemicals, which gained 0.3 per cent each. The Nifty could extend its advance toward resistance levels at 26,202 and 26,330, while 26,000 is expected to provide near-term support. With



only four trading days left in 2025, what seemed to be a Santa rally appears to be fading as markets apparently consolidates without new triggers like a US-India trade deal, analysts said. US GDP growth of 4.3 per cent in Q3 2025 is imparting resilience to the US market and the rising profitability of US companies, including AI ones, may prompt other FIIs, particularly fleet-footed hedge funds, to increase their investments there, they added. Sustained buying by the cash rich DIIs

will support the market and prevent a sharp pull back, market watchers said, adding that a market rally in early 2026 is likely, and valuation should be the top investment consideration. Asia-Pacific markets traded higher in the morning session, with several indexes closed for the Boxing Day holiday. In Asian markets, China's Shanghai index advanced 0.17 per cent, and Shenzhen edged up 0.31 per cent. Japan's Nikkei added 0.99 per cent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index

gained 0.17 per cent. South Korea's Kospi added 0.7 per cent. The US markets ended mostly in the green zone on the last trading day, as Nasdaq advanced 0.22 per cent, the S&P 500 edged up 0.32 per cent, and the Dow moved up 0.6 per cent. On December 24, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 1,721 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers of equities worth Rs 2,381 crore. Shares of Vedanta Ltd surged to a one-year peak on Friday,

hitting an intraday high of Rs 607.65. The oil-to-metals conglomerate has gained over 35% on the BSE in 2025, reflecting strong investor interest and robust market momentum for the stock. Coforge board approves acquisition of Encora US Holdco, Encora Holdings for Rs 17,032 crore at Rs 1815.91/shares. The Regional Rapid Transit System is emerging as a key driver of corridor-led investment, with nearly 80 per cent of surveyed users linking improved RRTS connectivity to better economic opportunities in their region, a report said on Friday. Transport Corporation of India (TCI) on Friday said it has expanded its cold chain warehousing operations in Gurugram by adding a 1.5 lakh sq ft facility at Taj Nagar, Haryana. Sahaj Insurance Services, a corporate agent, on Friday announced a partnership with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to distribute insurance products across rural and semi-urban regions of the country.

Jingle bills: Arkansas Powerball player strikes \$1.8bn jackpot on Christmas Eve



A Powerball player in Arkansas won a whopping \$1.817bn (£1.34bn) jackpot in a Christmas Eve drawing, making it the second-largest lottery prize ever claimed. The single winning ticket matched all six numbers - 4, 25, 31, 52, 59 and red Powerball 19 - giving the winner the option of taking a lump-sum cash payment of \$834.9m. This marks only the second time a Powerball jackpot has been won by a ticket sold in Arkansas, according to the lottery operator. Powerball did not identify the winner. The largest single-ticket prize remains the \$2.04bn jackpot won in 2022 by a player in Altadena, California. In order to win the jackpot, a lottery ticket holder must match all five white balls and the red Powerball selected during a drawing. Tickets for the lottery cost \$2 each - and the odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 292.2 million, according to game organizers. A winner has an option to choose a lump-sum payment or receive the full amount in an annuity paid over 29 years, but most winners opt for the upfront cash option. The game, which began in 1992, is played in 45 of the 50 US states, the capital city of Washington, and in the US territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The winnings are subject to federal taxes of between 24% and 37%, and, in most cases, state taxes.

GST reforms and RDI scheme mark 2025 as turning point for pharma



New Delhi: With GST reforms and Research Development Incentive (RDI) Scheme, the year 2025 has been a crucial turning point for Indian pharma, said industry experts on Thursday, while highlighting innovation and increased access as key factors for the sector's growth in 2026. Indian pharma is standing at a defining moment. In the past 25 years, the industry has grown from \$3 billion to \$60 billion. The next 25 years will be shaped by innovation, quality, and access. "The year 2025 has been an inflection point for Indian pharma, signalling the country's push to move up

the value chain. The landmark next-gen GST reform emerged as a key policy milestone, strengthening affordability and expanding patient access to medicines," said Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance. "The government's focus on quality, reflected in the implementation of the revised Schedule M guidelines, further reinforces India's alignment with global standards. The High-Level Committee's work on regulatory reforms and the ease of doing business for Viksit Bharat 2047 will set the foundation for the next phase of industry growth," he added.

NMDC Signs MoU with Colorado School of Mines, USA

Hyderabad, December 26: NMDC Limited, India's largest iron ore producer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Colorado School of Mines (CSM), USA, to establish a long-term research collaboration aimed at advancing mining technologies, mineral processing, and the extraction of critical minerals, particularly from mining waste and complex ores. The MoU was signed between NMDC's R&D Centre, Hyderabad, and the Board of Trustees of Colorado School of Mines. The agreement was signed by Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical), NMDC, on behalf of NMDC. This strategic collaboration marks a significant milestone in NMDC's vision to integrate global best practices, cutting-edge research, and emerging technologies into India's mining ecosystem. Under the MoU, NMDC and Colorado School of Mines will collaborate in key frontier areas including iron ore beneficiation and agglomeration; development of technologies



for mining waste utilization; alternate ironmaking technologies using indigenous raw materials; and extraction of critical minerals, including rare earth elements. The partnership will also focus on technology-driven mining solutions such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML), data analytics, Internet of Things (IoT), Mining 4.0, and autonomous systems including drones and self-driving vehicles. A key highlight of the collaboration is its strong emphasis on sustainable mining and value creation from waste streams such as tailings, coal ash, and low-grade

ores. This aligns with global efforts to reduce environmental impact while unlocking new sources of critical minerals essential for clean energy transitions, advanced manufacturing, and strategic industries. Highlighting the significance of this MoU, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD, NMDC, said, "This collaboration marks a new chapter in advancing the extraction of critical minerals from mining waste. Through this MoU with the Colorado School of Mines, NMDC is strengthening its research capabilities and accelerating the adoption of advanced technologies in mining. Our larger goal is to make India self-reliant in critical minerals while ensuring sustainable and responsible mining practices." With India's growing focus on securing critical mineral supply chains and deploying advanced mining technologies, the NMDC - Colorado School of Mines MoU represents a strategic international partnership that will contribute to technological innovation.

GITAM Alumna Aims to Create History with 9 New Guinness World Records



GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, proudly announces that its School of Technology alumna (2016-2020), Shivali Johri Srivastava, along with her mother Kavita Johri Srivastava, is attempting to set nine new Guinness World Records for the world's largest displays of origami art. The record attempts include the largest displays of origami dogs (3,500), caps (1,600), bears

(2,500),

pine leaves (3,900), excavators (3,500), dolphins (2,500), paper surf designs (3,100), and quilled angels (3,500) and dolls (2,700). The submissions are currently under adjudication by Guinness World Records, with official results expected shortly.

Shivali Johri Srivastava

is already a celebrated name in the world of paper art, having secured an impressive 21 Guinness World Records, making her the individual with the highest number of Guinness World Records in India. Her achievements include record-breaking displays of thousands of handmade paper dolls, quilled flowers, origami animals, vehicles, birds, leaves, and decorative forms, reflecting extraordinary precision, creativity, and dedication. In addition to her Guinness accolades, Shivali has earned 15

Assist World Records and 15 Unique World Records, further underscoring her exceptional talent and perseverance in the field of origami and quilling art. The GITAM leadership—including Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D. V. S. R. Varma, Resident Director; Ambika Philip, Director – Hospitality & Campus Life; and Dr. D. Mallikarjuna Reddy—along with Heads of Institutions, Heads of



Departments, faculty members, and students, have extended their wholehearted support and encouragement to Shivali in her pursuit of these new global milestones. GITAM Deemed to be University congratulates Shivali Johri Srivastava and her family on their remarkable journey and wishes them continued success in bringing global recognition through art and innovation.

Kamineni East Hyderabad Half Marathon to see participation of 2,000 runners



Hyderabad, December

26th, 2025: All prepara-

tions are in place for the Kamineni East Hyderabad Half Marathon 2025, an annual event aimed at promoting health awareness and fitness among the public. The marathon is being organized under the aegis of LB Nagar Runners, a unit of Hyderabad Runners, and will be held on Sunday, December 28th. As part of the pre-event celebrations, the official marathon T-shirts and medals were unveiled on Friday at the Indira Auditorium, Kamineni Hospital, LB Nagar. The unveiling ceremony was conducted by Dr. Gokul

Raghuram, Administrator, Kamineni Hospitals, along with A. R. S. Satyanarayana, Vice President (Marketing), Kamineni Hospitals. The event saw enthusiastic participation from runners representing four race categories: Half Marathon (21.1 km), 10 Miles (16.1 km), 10 km, and 5 km. Across all categories, close to 2,000 runners are expected to participate this year. Organizers from LB Nagar Runners have invited health and fitness enthusiasts to join the marathon on Sunday morning. The Kamineni East Hyderabad Half Marathon has witnessed growing enthusiasm and participation, with runners and fitness enthusiasts from Hyderabad and

other regions taking part in increasing numbers. Individuals who regularly engage in running and walking have consistently shown strong interest in the event. The 2025 edition of the marathon will feature four race categories: Half Marathon (21.1 km), 10 Miles (16.1 km), 10 km, and 5 km. Vision, Samsung becomes more fluent in food recognition and expands the reach of kitchen experiences. Previously, it could recognize up to 37 types of fresh food and 50 types of pre-registered processed food on-device. The latest version ready to be unveiled at CES is built to unlock its existing limitations to recognize more food items, offering a comprehensive and flexible experience. Mr. Park said Samsung employs more than 10,000 bright engineers in India who are involved in AI transformations that the brand has set its sights on for the next 30 years. "We have three R&D centres in India besides a design centre that contribute not only to innovations in India but also to global products and technology. I believe as we focus on smart homes, connected living and intelligent devices driven by AI, India will play a key role in leading global innovations," he added.

Samsung To Unveil Next Phase of AI Appliances, Push Boundaries of TVs at CES: JB Park



This section is part of Vijayawada - Gudur Tripling & electrification project, one of the ongoing major projects in the state of Andhra Pradesh and this stretch of railway line falls under Prakasam District. With the tripling of this stretch, now, continuous stretch of 81 Kms between Bapatla - Surareddipalem will have third line facility along with electrification.

with smarter fabric care, intuitive temperature control and more convenient cleaning experiences—all designed to adapt to users' lifestyles through seamless synergy between its devices. Featured innovations at CES include the upgraded Bespoke AI AirDresser, Bespoke AI Laundry Combo, Bespoke AI WindFree Pro Air Conditioner and the flagship Bespoke AI Jet Bot Steam Ultra robot vacuum. Samsung, the world's leader in TVs for 20 years running, will also show-

case an expanded Micro RGB TV lineup. The new expansive range introduces the next evolution of Samsung's Micro RGB display technology, setting a new standard for premium home viewing. Samsung will also present a new Bespoke AI Refrigerator Family Hub, equipped with the upgraded AI Vision. The feature's key upgrade is its functions built with Google Gemini, which marks the first time that it is being integrated into a refrigerator. With the upgraded AI

US LAUNCHES STRIKES AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE IN NIGERIA

The US has launched strikes against militants linked to the Islamic State group (IS) in north-western Nigeria, where militants have sought to establish a foothold. Camps run by the group in Sokoto state, which lies on Nigeria's border with Niger, were hit, the US military said, adding that an "initial assessment" suggested "multiple" fatalities. US President Donald Trump said the Christmas Day strikes were "powerful and deadly" and labelled the group "terrorist scum", saying it had been "targeting and viciously killing, primarily, innocent Christians". Nigerian Foreign Minister Yusuf Maitama Tuggar told the BBC it was a "joint operation" and had "nothing to do with a particular religion". Tuggar said the strikes had been planned "for quite some time" and had used intelligence information



provided by Nigeria. He also did not rule out further strikes. Referencing the timing of the strikes, he said they did not have "anything to do with Christmas, it could be any other day - it is to do with attacking terrorists who have been killing Nigerians". The Nigerian government has for several years been fight-

ing a complex network of jihadist groups, which includes Boko Haram and IS-linked splinter groups, but largely in the north-east of the country, hundreds of miles away from Sokoto state. The Trump administration has previously accused the Nigerian government of failing to protect Christians from jihadist

attacks and has claimed a "genocide" is being perpetrated. Trump has previously labelled Nigeria a "country of particular concern", a designation used by the US state department that provides for sanctions against countries "engaged in severe violations of religious freedom". The US military was ordered to pre-

pare to intervene in Nigeria in November. At the time, an adviser to Nigerian President Bola Tinubu told BBC News that militants had targeted people "across faiths", and said any US military action should be carried out jointly. Groups monitoring violence say there is no evidence to suggest that Christians are being killed more than Muslims in Nigeria, which is divided roughly evenly between followers of the two religions. In a social media post late on Christmas Day confirming the strikes, Trump said that he would "not allow Radical Islamic Terrorism to prosper".

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Thursday that he was "grateful for Nigerian government support & cooperation". "Merry Christmas" he added, writing on X. The US Department of Defense

US JUDGE BLOCKS DETENTION OF BRITISH SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNER



American wife and child. Praising the judge's decision, he told BBC News he would not be "bullied". Secretary of State Marco Rubio had said online that the individuals were blocked over concerns that they had organised efforts to pressure US platforms to censor and "punish American viewpoints they oppose". Mr Ahmed filed a legal complaint on Wednesday against officials including Rubio and US Attorney General Pamela Bondi over the decision to have his visa removed. In court documents seen by the BBC, US District Judge Vernon S Broderick said on Thursday he had granted Mr Ahmed's request for a temporary restraining order. The judge also temporarily blocked the officials from detaining Mr Ahmed without the chance for his case to be heard. The BBC has contacted the state department and White House for comment. When approached by AFP news agency, a state department spokesperson was quoted as saying.

Zelensky hails 'new ideas' on peace after talks with US envoys



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has given a positive assessment of a conversation he had with US envoys on how to end the Russia-Ukraine war. Zelensky said Thursday's call with Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, which lasted nearly an hour, had yielded "new ideas in terms of formats, meetings, and... timing on how to bring a real peace closer". He added later that he would hold another meeting with President Donald Trump "in the near future". Earlier this week Zelensky gave details of an updated 20-point peace plan, agreed by US and Ukrainian envoys in Florida. The Kremlin said it was analysing proposals brought back from the US by a Russian envoy. Trump and his envoys have been holding talks with both Ukraine and Russia in an effort to reach a deal to end the war which was started by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. There appears to have been

some progress in recent days with Ukraine's president praising the "good ideas" put forward by Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Kushner. Zelensky said it had been an "active day" for his country's diplomacy, as he went into details with the US envoys. He conceded that there was still "work to be done on sensitive issues" but added that "together with the American team, we understand how to put all of this in place".

Zelensky added that Ukraine's top negotiator Rustem Umerov, the country's top security official, "will continue discussions with the American team". The 20-point peace plan agreed by the US and Ukraine is seen as an update to the initial draft prepared by Witkoff several weeks ago. That draft was widely seen as heavily geared towards Russia's maximalist pre-invasion demands, which Kyiv and its European allies said would mean the de facto capitulation of Ukraine.

Should a top Russian archaeologist face trial for digging in occupied Crimea?



A Russian archaeologist detained in Poland is at the centre of an intense debate over the role of museums and experts and the role they play in Kremlin war propaganda. Alexander Butyagin is under arrest in Warsaw, awaiting a Polish court decision on a request to extradite him to Ukraine. Until now, courts across Europe have been reluctant to extradite Russians to

Ukraine, citing the European Convention on Human Rights. Butyagin's case has divided opinion. A senior scholar at the Hermitage, Russia's largest art museum in St Petersburg, he has led the museum's expedition at the site of Myrmekion in Crimea since 1999, well before Russia's illegal land-grab of Ukraine's southern peninsula in 2014. Supporters argue his work has helped preserve Crimea's ancient heritage, but critics say he is no better than a looter of Ukrainian history making the most of Russia's occupation. Myrmekion dates back to the 6th Century BC, when the Ancient Greeks settled in Crimea as democracy was being born in Athens.

Heavy rain storms in California leave three dead



Heavy rain storms across large parts of California triggered floods and mudslides and left three dead as of Christmas night, local officials said. The storms - which were expected to continue through Friday - brought 11 inches (27 cms) of rainfall to some parts of Los Angeles County, prompting evacuations and shut down major roads. Emergency responders have had to perform several rescues, including people stuck in vehicles as flood waters rise. California's Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on Wednesday in Los Angeles and other southern Californian counties. About 100,000 people in the state were without power as of Thursday evening. The US Weather Prediction Center said on Thursday that "numerous flash flooding events are possible". In addi-

tion, many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers." A 64-year-old man from San Diego was killed on Wednesday morning by a fallen tree, the police department told US media. Another person, a 74-year-old, died from flood waters over the weekend as police tried to rescue him from inside a vehicle in Redding, the town's mayor told local news. And on Monday, a woman in her 70s died after she "was knocked off a rock

Francisco Chronicle reported. In Altadena, near Los Angeles, flooding caused a mudslide in a vegetation-stripped area that was less able to absorb water due to the wildfires that scorched the neighbourhood in January, the BBC's US partner CBS News reported. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has also declared an emergency from the storms and warned residents to be cautious on roads during a time of busy holiday travel. "I am urging all Angelinos to stay safe and be extremely careful on the roads if you absolutely must travel," she said in a statement on Wednesday. "Please do not take this storm lightly." The storms came from multiple atmospheric rivers that carried large plumes of moisture from the tropics during one of the busiest travel weeks of the year.

INDONESIANS RAISE WHITE FLAGS AS ANGER GROWS OVER SLOW FLOOD AID



For weeks now, angry and distressed residents in Indonesia's westernmost province have been raising white flags over the state's slow response to a series of deadly floods. Triggered by a rare cyclone in November, the deluge killed more than 1,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands across the island of Sumatra. In Aceh, the worst-hit province which accounted for nearly half of the deaths, many still do not have ready access to clean water, food, electricity and medical supplies. In a sign of just how frustrating managing the crisis has become, the governor of North Aceh broke down publicly earlier this

month. "Does the central government not know [what we're experiencing]? I don't understand," a tearful Ismail A Jaiil said in front of cameras. But President Prabowo Subianto has refused foreign aid, insisting the situation is "under control". "Indonesia is capable of overcoming this disaster," he told his cab-

inet last week. Prabowo has also ignored calls to declare it a national disaster, which would unlock emergency funds and streamline relief efforts. Prabowo's administration has increasingly been criticised as reactive, disorganised and out of touch - adjectives that some analysts say have come to

Pope Leo urges 'courage' to end Ukraine war in first Christmas address



Pope Leo has urged Ukraine and Russia to find the "courage" to hold direct talks to end the war during his first Christmas remarks to crowds in St Peter's square. He called for an end to conflicts around the world during his Urbi et Orbi address, which is traditionally delivered by the pontiff on Christmas Day to worshippers gathered in Vatican City. Speaking about Ukraine, the Pope said: "May the clamour of weapons cease, and may the parties involved, with the support and commitment of the international community, find the courage to engage in sincere, direct and respectful dialogue." His plea comes as US-led negotiations on a deal to end the fighting continues.

The US has sought to put together an agreement acceptable to both sides, but direct talks between Russia and Ukraine have not taken place during this latest round of diplomatic efforts. Pope Leo also decried turmoil and conflict plaguing other parts of the world, including Thailand and Cambodia where deadly border clashes have flared up despite a ceasefire in July. He asked that the South East Asian nations' "ancient friendship" be restored and "to work towards reconciliation and peace". During an earlier Christmas Day sermon in St Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo lamented conditions for homeless people the world over, and the damage caused by conflicts.

Front-runner to be Bangladesh PM returns after 17 years in exile



Tarique Rahman, the front-runner to be the next prime minister of Bangladesh, has returned to the country after 17 years in exile ahead of landmark general elections. The 60-year-old is the figurehead of the influential Zia family and the son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia. The party he leads, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), is eyeing a return to power when Bangladesh goes to the polls in the new year. Rahman, who has lived in London since 2008, is expected to become the country's new leader if the BNP emerges as the largest party. Rahman's return comes in the wake of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being ousted last year. He had been the subject of various criminal investigations launched while her Awami League party was in power but was cleared of all charges when her regime fell. Hasina is living in exile in India and her party is unlikely to be permitted to take part in the elections, which many view as among the most consequential in Bangladesh's history. Last month, Hasina was sentenced to death for her role in suppressing anti-government protests. According to UN investigators.

Turkey detains 115 IS suspects planning New Year's attacks'



Turkish authorities say they have disrupted planned attacks on Christmas and New Year's events after detaining more than 100 suspected members of the so-called Islamic State group. Mass raids were carried out at 124 addresses across Istanbul, the city's chief prosecutor said, with firearms, ammunition and "organisational documents" seized. Officials said IS supporters had been actively planning attacks across Turkey this week, particularly against non-Muslims. Police detained 115 suspects but efforts are ongoing to trace a further 22, an official statement read. The prosecutor's office said the suspects were in contact with IS operatives outside Turkey. The

announcement comes two days after Turkish intelligence agents carried out a raid against the group on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. A Turkish national who is alleged to have held a senior role with the IS wing operating in the region was detained and accused of planning attacks against civilians. Turkey's security serv-

ices regularly target people with suspected links to IS. The country shares a 900km (560 mile) border with Syria, where the group continues to operate in parts of the country. Syria's president Ahmed al-Sharaa, who has close ties to the Turkish government, has vowed to work with the US and Europe to root out surviving elements of IS.



Vaibhav Suryavanshi Honoured With 'Highest Civilian Award' For Children, Set To Meet PM Modi

At just 14 years old, Vaibhav Suryavanshi is proving that talent knows no age. The young cricketing prodigy from Bihar has captured the nation's attention, not only with his explosive batting but also by receiving the highest civilian honours for youngsters in India. Today, in the heart of the capital, New Delhi, Vaibhav was conferred with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP). The award ceremony, held in New Delhi, marks a historic chapter in Vaibhav's burgeoning career. Having arrived in the city on Wednesday, the young cricketer received the award from President Droupadi Murmu. Following the formal ceremony, Vaibhav and his fellow awardees will have the distinct honour of meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an interaction aimed at inspiring the next generation of Indian leaders and achievers. While the award is a moment of immense



pride, it comes with a professional trade-off. Due to his presence at the ceremony, Vaibhav will be unavailable for the remainder of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. For any dedicated athlete, missing time on the field is a difficult choice; however, being recognised on a national stage for his contributions to sport is a rare

and prestigious opportunity. Vaibhav's selection follows a string of breathtaking performances. He made headlines during Bihar's opening match against Arunachal Pradesh where, in a stunning display of dominance, he smashed a monumental 190 runs off just 84 balls. This record-breaking innings solidified

his reputation as one of the most explosive batters in the domestic circuit. Vaibhav's journey from the grounds of Bihar to the Rashtrapati Bhavan serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring athletes across the country. As he balances the weight of national expectations with his natural flair for the game, this award

acts as both a reward for his hard work and a catalyst for what promises to be an extraordinary international career. Why is the PMRBP Awarded? The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is India's highest civilian honour for children (aged 5-18). It is awarded annually for exceptional achievements in.

Vijay Hazare Trophy Live Streaming: How To Watch Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma's Matches Today



India's cricketing stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma made grand returns to the Vijay Hazare Trophy, playing the opening matches for Delhi and Mumbai respectively on Wednesday (December 24). The batting icons will be on the field yet again as Delhi and Mumbai look to continue their winning run in their respective second matches of the campaign today (December 26). Mumbai are set to square off against Uttarakhand in the Group C clash, while Delhi will be taking on Gujarat in their Group D match. The focus, once again, will be on Kohli and Rohit after the duo scored a hundred each in their previous matches. When will the Delhi vs Gujarat and Mumbai vs Uttarakhand, Vijay Hazare Trophy matches start? The Delhi vs Gujarat and Mumbai vs Uttarakhand, Vijay Hazare Trophy matches will take place on Wednesday, December 26. Where will the Delhi vs Gujarat and Mumbai vs Uttarakhand, Vijay Hazare Trophy matches live tele-

cast? The Delhi vs Gujarat and Mumbai vs Uttarakhand, Vijay Hazare Trophy matches will not be aired live on TV, even though JioStar is the official broadcaster of the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 campaign. Where to follow the live streaming of Delhi vs Gujarat and Mumbai vs Uttarakhand, Vijay Hazare Trophy matches? The Delhi vs Gujarat and Mumbai vs Uttarakhand, Vijay Hazare Trophy matches will start at 9:00 AM IST. Which TV channels will show Delhi vs Gujarat and Mumbai vs Uttarakhand, Vijay Hazare Trophy matches will not be streaming live on JioStar despite the platform being the tournament's official broadcasting partner.

KKR Star Suffers Nasty Head Injury While Fielding, Rushed To Hospital

Mumbai batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi was rushed to a hospital in Jaipur after sustaining a nasty head injury during the Vijay Hazare Trophy clash against Uttarakhand on Friday. The 21-year-old picked up the injury while fielding and had to be stretchered off the ground at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium. Media reports revealed that the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) star was taken to a nearby facility for evaluation. According to news agency PTI, the incident occurred in the 30th over, bowled by off-spinner Tanush Kotian. Right-handed batter Saurabh Rawat attempted a slog-sweep and Raghuvanshi, stationed at



deep mid-wicket, sprinted in towards mid-wicket to get hold of the top edge. However, his valiant one-handed effort didn't yield result but in the process he had a nasty fall which hurt his shoulder and his head hit the ground, resulting in a concussion. Raghuvanshi got back on his haunches for a few seconds but then lay on the ground, prompting Mumbai's physio to rush to the field. Once they understood that he was unable to get back on his feet, a stretcher was called and the waiting ambulance took him to the nearest SDMH Hospital where he will be kept under observation apart from per-

forming all the necessary scans. Raghuvanshi scored a 20-ball 11 as Mumbai posted 331/7, following half-centuries from Hardik Tamore, Musheer Khan and Sarfaraz Khan, respectively. Rohit Sharma, who had scored 155 in the team's campaign opener, returned empty-handed with a duck. However, the fifties from Musheer (55 in 56 balls, with seven fours) and Sarfaraz (55 in 49 balls, with six fours and a six) and a late flourish from wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore (93 in 82 balls, with seven fours and two sixes) took Mumbai to 331/7 in 50 overs from 230/6, with skipper Shardul Thakur (29) and Shams Mulani (48) also playing crucial knocks.

you for six, and then you bowl the same ball, and he blocks it. So, he is very hard to bowl to." In the first Ashes Test, Scott Boland achieved a huge milestone as he became the fastest to pick 50 Test wickets in Australia in terms of balls. The right-arm pacer achieved this feat during the opening Ashes Test against England in Perth. The veteran took 1,639 balls to reach

Not Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma: Australian Ashes Star Picks Toughest Batter He Has Ever Faced



Scott Boland has been in top form in the Ashes for Australia. After Mitchell Starc (27 wickets), Boland (18 wickets) has been the Aussies' best performer with the ball. In the 17 Tests that Boland has played, the 36-year-old has left his mark. Despite being part of a line-up that includes Starc, Josh Hazlewood, and Pat Cummins, Boland has often gained attention with his solid performances. Recently, in an interaction with Grasscricket, Boland was asked about the toughest batter he has ever faced. The Australian picked an Indian batter, but it was neither Virat Kohli nor Rohit Sharma. "Rishabh Pant from India," Boland said. "He's someone who's very unpredictable. Sometimes he slogs

the milestone of 50 wickets in Australia in the longest format. Overall, the Australian seamer has scalped 66 wickets in 15 Tests at an astounding average of 16.94, with best figures of 6/7. The veteran has two five-wicket hauls and one ten-wicket haul. In Australia, Boland has picked up 53 wickets in 10 matches at an average of 13.47, with best figures of 6/7. Both his

five-wicket hauls and his match ten-wicket haul came in Australia. The 36-year-old Boland also became the fourth-fastest to reach the milestone in terms of balls. The elite list includes former speedster Vernon Philander, who is the fastest to pick 50 Test wickets in terms of balls. Philander took 1,383 deliveries to reach the feat. Kagiso Rabada is ranked second on the list. The right-arm pacer from South Africa took 1,548 deliveries to reach this milestone. Left-arm seamer Marco Jansen achieved the 50-wicket milestone in 1,633 balls. Wagan Younis is fifth on the list. Younis reached the 50-wicket feat in 1,668 balls. Indian speedster Jasprit Bumrah reached the milestone in 1,746 balls, placing him in sixth position.

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), Gazim (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

No-Ball Controversy Hits Ashes 4th Test Over Mitchell Starc Dismissal: "Can't See It"



The fourth Ashes Test between Australia and England witnessed a major controversy after Brydon Carse dismissed Mitchell Starc on Day 1 of the encounter on Friday. Starc was dismissed for 1 after he mishit a lofted drive off Carse's bowling to Ben Stokes at mid-off. However, replays indicated that the England fast bowler may have overstepped. The third umpire, Ahsan Raza, took a look at the bowler's foot as Starc walked back to the dressing room, but he ultimately decided to rule in England's favor. The decision left some fans on

social media fuming, and even Australian great Mark Waugh was not convinced that the bowler had stayed behind the line. "I cannot see how he's got any part of

that shoe behind the line, unless my eyes are gone. I can't pay that ... I can't see it," Waugh said on commentary. "That's tighter than a second coat of paint. At first

Rohit Sharma Undone By Bouncer, Records Golden Duck. Fan Records Harrowing Moment



Rohit Sharma, after an exemplary 155-run knock against Sikkim in Mumbai's opening game of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, departed for a golden duck in the team's second game of the tournament against Uttarakhand on Friday. The Hitman was surprised by a bouncer from pacer Devendra Singh Bora on the first delivery he faced. Though Rohit is one of the finest when it comes to executing pull shots, he erred this time and got caught in the deep. Thousands of fans had arrived at the venue in Jaipur just to see Rohit play but the opening batter's early departure led to a huge disappointment. Since Rohit and Kohli last played internationally, and almost four months since they had played any professional cricket. Concerns grew when Kohli struggled in the first two ODIs, and Rohit looked

tentative. Timing was off, rust was visible, and people wondered if they could make it to the 2027 ODI World Cup. Then came the third ODI of the Australia vs India series. India had already lost the series, but that didn't matter. Rohit and Kohli, batting together again, led a chase that felt familiar. Since then, critics have found new reasons to cheer, as per Wisden.

SA20: MI Cape Town Look To Build On Proud Newlands Record



MI Cape Town captain Rashid Khan is hoping to extend his team's proud Newlands record in their opening SA20 Season 4 match against Durban's Super Giants (DSG) on Friday. The defending champions were unbeaten across five matches at home in Season 3, transforming Newlands into a fortress and their campaign into a title-winning success. The home side is packed with a host of superstars such as Proteas Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Ricketson, Corbin Bosch along with internationals Rashid Khan, Trent Boult and new arrival Nicholas Pooran ready to entertain the MI Cape Town faithful. Captain Rashid Khan feels his team are ready to express themselves after claiming the title last season. "There was more pressure last year than this year, you know we came at the bottom twice in a row and to come up from that and win the trophy was a big thing for us as a team," Rashid Khan said. "I think what we did right was we played col-

Comparisons with Mari Selvaraj Reflect the Film's Directional Voice and Dhandoraa Will Be Spoken About Throughout 2026" — Says Sivaji at the Non-Controversial Success Meet of Dhandoraa

The success meet of Dhandoraa was held in the presence of the film's cast, crew, producers, and media, marking the strong early response the film has received since its release. The event reflected the growing word of mouth surrounding the film, with the team speaking extensively about audience reception, reviews, performances, and the effort that went into bringing the film to screen. Actor Kamal said that Dhandoraa is currently one of the highest-rated films of the week and described it as a genuine blockbuster. He mentioned that although it has been just one day since release, the team is confident that the film will continue to grow in the coming weeks and urged audiences to watch the film in theatres. 'Hanuman' Producer and distributor K. Niranjan Reddy said that he wanted to speak about the director first for choosing such a subject. He noted that even very small characters were crucial and that every character in the film was memorable. He praised the actors, including Shivaji and Bindu Madhavi, for not sticking to stereotypes and expressed



confidence that the film would rise further in the coming days. Producer Benny thanked the media for attending the event and extended special thanks to reviewers who gave strong reviews to the film. He requested the media to continue their support in the coming days, stressing the importance of word of mouth in taking the film to a wider audience. Actress Mounika Reddy welcomed the press and said she was grateful to be part of such a film. She shared that her family comes from a very casteist village and that they

called her after watching the film, saying they were discussing it with friends even after the screening. She said this made her feel that the film's impact was real and meaningful and requested audiences to support the film by watching it in theatres. Actress Manika thanked everyone and expressed special gratitude to the media for their support. She said she has been receiving calls from many people who are speaking highly about the film and shared that she is still processing the fact that she was part of such a strong film

alongside such talented actors. She urged audiences to watch the film in theatres. Actor Ravi Krishna thanked the media for helping the film reach the audience. He said the ratings and reviews have been encouraging and spoke about the response he witnessed during theatre visits, particularly audiences discussing the "Chiru mashup" and the shock surrounding what happens to his character. He said he was very happy with the response. Actress Bindu Madhavi described Dhandoraa as her homecoming to theatrical cinema

"Mana Panel" Members Hold Press Meet Ahead of Film Chamber Elections

As the Telugu film industry eagerly awaits the Film Chamber of Commerce elections scheduled to be held on December 28, members of "Mana Panel" organized a press meet to address key issues concerning the industry and to present their vision. Speaking on the occasion, Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao said that the Film Chamber consists of four major wings and emphasized that mutual cooperation among all sections is essential for the growth of the industry. He alleged that over the past ten years, the industry has gone out of control due to the functioning of the Guild, which he claimed acted arbitrarily and selfishly. He stated that workers were made to wait for nearly 20 days without any proper response and that shooting schedules were halted by Guild members themselves. He further said that while the Guild leaders were more interested in taking photo-



graphs with Chief Ministers under the Chamber's name, they failed to genuinely work for the welfare of the industry. He pointed out that a recent workers' issue was resolved within 24 hours by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, even though it was the Chamber's responsibility. He also highlighted the difficulties faced by small producers due to systems like Qube and UFO, which were allegedly ignored by the Guild. He assured that "Mana Panel" members would remain accessible to everyone, even at midnight, if elected. C. Kalyan, addressing the media, criti-

cized the so-called "Progressive Panel," stating that their claims of self-respect and legacy were merely for personal benefit. He said that despite being supported and elected two years ago by small producers, they failed to deliver any meaningful results after assuming office. He accused Guild members of spreading false narratives and said that there was no real support for small films. He also questioned the claims made about the Chamber building, stating that it is not owned by any individual and does not belong exclusively to the film industry. He expressed concern over

Amaravathiki Ahwanam to post-production events; new poster released on the occasion of Christmas

Horror movies are the current trend. All the horror movies released this year have been huge hits at the box office. Now, the film, Amaravathiki Ahwanam, is made to give the audience an edge-of-the-seat thriller experience with a similarly suspenseful story and narrative. The title of this film has already received good support from the audience. Starring Siva Kantamneni, Dhanya Balakrishna, Ester, Supriya, and Harish in the lead roles, the movie also features senior actors Ashok Kumar, Bhadram, Gemini Suresh, and Nagendra Prasad in key roles. Director GVK is directing this movie. The film was produced by KS Shankar Rao and R Venkateswara Rao under the banner of Light House Cine Magic, presented by G. Rambabu Yadav and Production Supervision by renowned producer Muppa Venkaiah Chowdary. The film, which has been shot in multiple locations in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Madhya



Pradesh, is currently undergoing post-production activities at a rapid pace. The film unit will soon hold a grand release in theaters with massive promotional activities. The makers have recently released a new poster and glimpses with Christmas wishes on this occasion. Hero Siva Kantamneni said - Our title has received a good response. We have completed shooting in several loca-

tions in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh. We are very happy to have good casting like Dhanya, Ester, and Supriya, as well as senior actors like Ashok Kumar, Gemini Suresh, and Bhadram being a part of our film. Director GVK has brought a good output to this film with his vision. He has created this film with a good story that gives importance to all the characters.

Raju Gaari Pelli Ro Adds High-Energy Wedding Vibe to Anaganaga Oka Raju

A spectacular dance number has taken center stage with the release of the wedding song of the year from Anaganaga Oka Raju. The second single, Raju Gaari Pelli Ro, is now out and is already creating a festive buzz with its high-energy visuals and mass appeal. Star entertainer Naveen Polishetty and Meenakshi Chaudhary emerge as the major attractions of the song, delivering electrifying performances filled with infectious energy. The song is staged on a grand scale, with renowned choreographer Sekhar Master designing vibrant dance moves. The entire sequence comes alive with the participation of the main cast, including Rao Ramesh and others, making it a visually rich and celebratory experience. After the blockbuster response to the first single Bhimavaram Balma, the makers have once again struck the right chord with this lively wedding anthem. Raju Gaari Pelli Ro is sung



by Anurag Kulkarni and Sameera Bharadwaj, with lyrics penned by Chandrabose and music composed by Mickey J Meyer, adding to the song's festive charm. The track captures the true spirit of celebration, blending colorful visuals, energetic choreography, and a foot-tapping musical score. Every frame reflects grandeur and joy, with the ensemble cast bringing blockbuster energy throughout the song. All the content released so far from the film has received an overwhelming response from audiences across platforms. With the release date nearing, the team is set to roll out more exciting updates and engaging promotional content in the coming days.

MADHAM SET FOR INTENSE NEW YEAR THEATRICAL RELEASE ON JANUARY 1

Madham is a hard-hitting drama thriller packed with intense emotions, gearing up for a grand theatrical release on January 1 as a New Year special. The film promises to offer audiences a powerful and immersive cinematic experience right at the beginning of the new year. Speaking on the occasion, producers Suryadevara Ravindranad and Ramesh

Babu Koya said that the film, produced under the banner of Ekaiva Homes Private Limited, has been crafted with an uncompromising narrative. The film features Harsha Gangavarapu, Inaya Sultan, Anurop, and Latha Reddy in key roles. The story and dialogues are written by Ramesh Babu Koya, adding a strong sense of realism and depth to the narrative.



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