



TG to be a \$3 tn economy by 2047, says Tummala

2



GHMC meet on Hyd's Clean Air Action Plan

3



Kharge, Rahul not invited to Putin banquet: Congress

5



Nepal PM holds meeting with Gen Z leaders, political parties

8

Australia takes 44-run lead in second Ashes test

12



PIONEER IN SHORT

MUSIC DIRECTOR KEERAVANI TO PERFORM AT TG GLOBAL SUMMIT

Oscar-winning music director M M Keeravani will give a 90-minute musical concert at the 'Telangana Rising Global Summit', to be organised by the state government here on December 8 and 9. The delegates arriving from across the world would be welcomed with Telangana's traditional dance forms like Kommu Koya, Banjar, Kolatam, Gussadi, Oggu Dollu, women Dappulu, Perini Natyam and Bonala Kolatam.

FULL REPORT ON P2

TELANGANA SIGNS PACT WITH AUSTRALIA IN AI

The Telangana government on Friday, December 5, signed an agreement to establish a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence in partnership with Australia's Deakin University. This will be the first-of-its-kind skill development centre in the country dedicated to advanced AI capabilities, said state IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu.

FULL REPORT ON P3

CALCUTTA HC DECLINES TO STOP FOUNDATION OF BABRI-MODEL MOSQUE

The Calcutta High Court (HC) on Friday refused to intervene in suspended Trinamool Congress (TMC) Humayun Kabir's decision to lay the foundation stone of a mosque at Beldanga in Murshidabad district on Saturday. The Mosque is to be christened and modeled after the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya which was demolished on December 6th, 33 years ago....

FULL REPORT ON P5

NDRF COMPLETES RESCUE OPERATIONS IN SRI LANKA

India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams left for home on Friday after successfully completing search, rescue and relief operations in cyclone-hit Sri Lanka, according to the Indian mission. The island nation has been grappling with widespread flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse following Cyclone Ditwah, which has left over 450 people dead till Friday. It also left several districts isolated and severely strained the...

FULL REPORT ON P8

QUOTE OF THE DAY



GLOBAL SUMMIT WILL BE THE MAIN PLATFORM FOR THE GRAND VISION OF MAKING TELANGANA A 15-FOLD BIGGER ECONOMY IN THE NEXT TWO DECADES

— TUMMALA NAGESWARA RAO, AGRICULTURE MINISTER

HILTP challenged in HC, notice issued to State govt

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Industrial Lands Transformation Policy (HILTP), notified through GO 27, was challenged in the Telangana High Court on Friday. The court was hearing Public Interest Litigations (PILs) related to the GO, where one of the petitioners, retired professor K Purushotham Reddy,

argued that under the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HDMA) Act, 9,295 acres have been classified as industrial land and as per a 2013 master plan, no activity other than industrial is allowed in this area.

He also mentioned that, as per GO 20 of 2013, all industries must be moved outside the outer ring road (ORR) before the land in question is modified



to multi-purpose; that is, for the construction of residential, educational and healthcare facilities.

Responding to this, advocate general A Sudarshan Reddy, appearing for the state, said that no previous orders or regulations will be violated through the HILTP. He said that before changing the land use, a notification would be issued allowing people to put

forward objections. He said that GO 27 has been introduced to relocate polluting industries from the city and reduce pollution levels.

After hearing arguments of both sides, the court directed the state government and other authorities to submit their counters and posted the matter for its next hearing on December 29.

India-Russia to achieve \$100 bn trade target: PM

PNS ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday exuded confidence that the USD 100 billion bilateral trade target between India and Russia will be achieved ahead of 2030.

Speaking at the India-Russia Business Forum, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Modi invited Russian businesses to 'come and Make In India...and partner with India'. The Prime Minister recalled that last year, President Putin and he set a target of reaching USD 100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.

"However, after further discussions with President Putin and considering the tremendous potential in our partnership, I am confident that we will achieve this target well ahead of schedule. We are making rapid progress towards this goal," Modi said.

He further said that simplified and predictable mechanisms are being created for



businesses, and discussions have begun on the FTA between India and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Whether it is business or diplomacy, the foundation of any partnership is mutual trust, he noted.

"The greatest strength of India-Russia relations is this trust. It is this trust that gives direction to our joint efforts and also provides momentum," the Prime Minister said, adding that this is the launchpad that gives inspiration to take flight towards new dreams and aspirations.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

The greatest strength of India-Russia relations is this trust. It is this trust that gives direction to our joint efforts and also provides momentum

KCR: Villages in TG became self-sufficient under BRS

'Palle Pragathi contributed to strengthening of TG Panchayat Raj system'

PNS ■ Hyderabad

During the last 10 years of BRS rule, all the villages in the new Telangana State have become self-sufficient and have flourished as autonomous centres and rural economies, said former chief minister K Chandrasekhara Rao here on Friday.

He said the encouragement provided by the then BRS government to the Dalit, tribal, Bahujan and women's communities and caste professions, the schemes implemented by the then BRS government for rural development, and the financial assistance provided to Palle Pragathi have contributed to the strengthening of the Telangana Panchayat Raj system, and the administrative reforms undertaken by him as CM with his vision have become an example for the country, said KCR.

The new sarpanches of

New sarpanches of Erravelli and Narsannapet call on KCR



Erravelli and Narsannapet villages in his Gajwel constituency, which he adopted as the chief minister, and the ward members met KCR on Friday and took his blessings.

KCR welcomed them to his residence and, with the collective support of the villagers, felicitated the elected sarpanches with shawls and distributed sweets to them. On this occasion, he recog-

KCR enquires about the crops being harvested in the villages

KCR enquired about the weather, availability of basic facilities, and the condition of the crops being harvested in the villages by name. On this occasion, the villagers brought to KCR's attention the situation of the villages in Telangana, which had flourished greatly during the previous BRS rule, and today, under the Congress government, the situation has deteriorated in all ways, and expressed their concern. They remembered the support provided by KCR as CM for agricultural development, including electricity and irrigation, the funds regularly released by the KCR government for rural development, the schemes implemented specifically for Dalit, Bahujan, and tribal women, and the financial assistance provided to the caste professions including Golla Kuruma, Mudiraj Besta, Gouda and Padmasali.

The administrative reforms undertaken by me as CM with my vision have become an example for the country



CM, DCM review preparations for Vision Document

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu held a review meeting on the Telangana Rising 2047 Vision Document and Global Summit arrangements at Praja Bhavan on Friday.

The Chief Minister instructed the officials to improve the Vision Document in a more comprehensive and forward-looking manner to reflect Telangana's long-term

future goals and global competitiveness. He suggested that the Vision Document should be made available to the public in digital form and that priority should be given to transparency and public participation. He clarified that the Telangana Rising Global Summit should be designed to propose Telangana's potential, ambition and strategic priority at the World Economic Forum Summit to be held in Davos.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

GLOBAL SUMMIT

Min Komati Reddy invites AP CM Naidu

PNS ■ Amaravati

Telangana State Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy on Friday invited Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara



Chandrababu Naidu to participate in the Global Summit 2025. The Minister, who met the CM at the Chief Minister's Camp Office in Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, felicitated him with a shawl on behalf of the State government and handed over an invitation to participate in the Rising Telangana - Vision 2047 Global Summit, which the Telangana government has ambitiously planned to organize on the 8th and 9th of this month at Bharat Future City. In the meeting with the CM that lasted for about an hour-and-a-half, various issues of the two Telugu states were discussed.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

Sonia hopes summit will boost TG economy

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has hoped that the Telangana Rising Global Summit would mark a major step towards achieving the party-led government's goal of making the state a \$one trillion economy by 2034.

In a message shared with the media on Friday, she said the summit, to be organised here on December 8 and 9, provides a much needed common platform for all those interested in actively participating in the many promising projects and plans for the development and progress of Telangana.

The three pronged strategy being adopted in the



state aims at a 360-degree approach, ensuring equal emphasis is given to urban, peri-urban and rural-agro development projects. "This will enable Telangana's extraordinarily rich human and natural resources, the entrepreneurial brilliance of its people and its renowned knowledge and technological prowess, to flower to its full potential," she said in the message, dated December 3.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

INDIGO DISRUPTIONS

Naidu says ops to normalise in 3 days

PNS ■ New Delhi

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Friday said various operational measures, including keeping new flight duty norms in abeyance, will help address the IndiGo flight disruptions, and complete restoration of services is expected in next three days.

The government has also decided to institute a high-level inquiry to determine the reasons and accountability for the IndiGo disruptions that has resulted in hundreds of flight cancellations and delays in the past four days. The civil aviation ministry has taken urgent and



proactive measures to address the ongoing disruption in flight schedules, particularly those of IndiGo airlines, Naidu said in a statement.

"The Flight Duty Time

Limitations (FDTL) orders of the DGCA have been placed in abeyance with immediate effect. Without compromising on air safety, this decision has been taken solely in the inter-

est of passengers, especially senior citizens, students, patients, and others who rely on timely air travel for essential needs," he said.

According to him, the operational measures have been initiated to ensure that normal airline services are restored at the earliest.

"Based on the immediate implementation of these directives, we expect that flight schedules will begin to stabilise and return to normal by tomorrow. We anticipate that complete restoration of services will be achieved within the next three days," the minister said.

Warangal airport work to begin by March 2026: Revanth

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday said works of the proposed airport at Warangal would begin before the end of March next year. Addressing a public meeting at Narsampet in Warangal district as part of the Congress government's second anniversary celebrations, he said the previous BRS government failed to take steps for setting up a second airport in Telangana. The BRS government also failed to establish connectivity with a nearby port (in a neighbouring state) as Telangana is a landlocked State, he said.

The neighbouring Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have multiple airports, he said.

"We will complete land acquisition before the end of December by persuading farmers and start airport works in Warangal before March 31. We will also start underground drainage works and take up construction works for Outer Ring Road in Warangal," he said. The government would make efforts to establish the major development projects in Warangal which are available in Hyderabad, he said.

Observing that first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru is the inspiration for his government, he said irrigation and education and communication (roads, ports, airports, technology) are key priority areas for the government.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

TG to be a \$3 tn economy by 2047, says Tummala

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The main objective of the prestigious "Telangana Rising Global Summit - 2025" organised by the Telangana government is to make the State a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, said Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms & Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao. He stated that the State's economy is currently around \$200 billion and this global summit will be the main platform for the grand vision of making Telangana a 15-fold bigger economy in the next two decades.

At a review meeting on the preparations for the Global Summit held at the Secretariat on Friday, Minister Tummala gave directions to the officials on the content of the AVs to be displayed at the summit. He said that the AVs should be designed to clearly reflect the development potential of the Telangana agriculture sector, foreign investment opportunities and future vision.

The Minister made it clear that the agriculture sector is going to play a very crucial role in achieving the state's economic goals. He said that agriculture, which provides employment to 66 per cent of the rural population, accounts for 17 per cent of the state's GSDA, and therefore agricultural development will be the focal point of Telangana's economic growth.

Minister Tummala explained to the officials that increasing farmer income,



increasing productivity, expanding value-added agriculture and increasing exports are all key factors to achieve the 3 trillion economic target.

He said that initiatives like IoT-based micro-irrigation, soil health management, agritech research, TARCC, global seed leadership, horticulture mega clusters, oil palm expansion, farm tourism, linking FPOs with food delivery companies, growth of dairy, meat and fisheries sectors, and advanced agri-logistics will take Telangana agriculture to global standards. He said that these will not only significantly increase

HE SAID THAT AGRICULTURE, WHICH PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT TO 66 PER CENT OF THE RURAL POPULATION, ACCOUNTS FOR 17 PER CENT OF THE STATE'S GSDA, AND THEREFORE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE THE FOCAL POINT OF TELANGANA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

farmers' incomes, but will also pave the way for agri-exports worth thousands of crores of rupees. He expressed confidence that the Vision 2047 document will set a direction for the Telangana agriculture sector.

He expressed hope that through this global summit, Telangana will start a new chapter of agriculture-technology-investment. Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan, Director Gopi, Agriculture University VC Janaiah, Horticulture University VC Rajireddy, Mark Fed MD Srinivas Reddy, HACA MD Chandrasekhar Reddy and Marketing Director Lakshmi Bai participated in this meeting.

Liquor sales touch all-time high in TG

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The cold weather in Telangana State is threatening people. However, even in the cold weather, alcohol lovers are not holding back. They are enjoying chilled beers. In all, 5.89 lakh cases of beer were sold in four days. Last year, only 4.26 lakh cases of beer were sold in four days. This year, liquor sales have increased by 107 per cent compared to last year.

Now, liquor sales have broken records across Telangana. Liquor sales worth nearly Rs 600 crore were made in four days. From the night of December 1 to the night of the 4th, Rs 578.86 crore liquor sales were made.

The old liquor policy for 2023-25 expired on Sunday. Liquor sales have increased unexpectedly in these two years. In the last two years, 724 lakh cases of liquor and 960 lakh cases of beer were sold. A total of Rs 4,297 crore was traded in December 2023, when the old policy came into effect. Subsequently, liquor sales worth Rs 37,485 crore were made from January to December 2024.

Talasani criticises Cong of deceiving BCs

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Former minister and Sanathnagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav expressed anger that the government cheated the people of the State by promising to provide 42 per cent reservation to BCs but did not provide it.

Srinivas Yadav visited Sai Eshwar, who was undergoing treatment at Gandhi Hospital after attempting suicide due to the injustice being done to BCs, on Friday. He visited Sai Eshwar's wife and mother and assured them that they would stand by him. He enquired about Sai Eshwar's current health condition and the treatment he is receiving from RMO Kalyan and the doctors.

He urged them to provide better treatment. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Yadav said that while Srikanthachari sacrificed himself for the achievement of Telangana State, Sai Eshwar set himself on fire thinking that 42 per cent reservation for BCs would come with his death, and expressed regret that this is very painful. He urged the



BC children not to take rash decisions and to fight against the government to achieve 42 per cent reservation. He said that his wife and three children are depending on Sai Eshwar. He criticised the Congress for acting fraudulently for the past two years and implementing 17 per cent in the Panchayat elections, committing a huge fraud.

He expressed anger that the Congress party is committing abuse of power and atrocities in the Gram Panchayat elections. He questioned how 25 seats were won unanimously if there were 28 Gram Panchayats in the Chief Minister's constituency.

He said that in Nirmal district, the husband of a sarpanch candidate named Ravinder committed suicide due to threats and harassment by Congress party leaders, and in Yellamagudem in Nalgonda district, the husband of a sarpanch candidate, Mango Yadagiri, was kidnapped and made to urinate, he said this is a bad practice.

He said that BC associations and political parties will fight together and the government will bend its neck and the youth should not be subjected to hasty actions. He warned that if the BCs unite, they will set the state on fire.

Two Telugu students injured in US fire accident

PNS ■ Amaravati

A major fire accident happened in Birmingham, USA. Two Telugu students suffered serious burns in the incident. Thirteen students pursuing higher education at the University of Alabama were living in an apartment complex in Birmingham.

On Friday, a fire broke out in the apartment. Within minutes, thick smoke spread throughout the building. The students struggled to breathe and started shouting for help. Locals informed the fire station. Firefighters arrived shortly afterward and rescued all 13 students who were trapped inside. The two Telugu students were severely injured and were immediately shifted to the hospital.

Music director Keeravani to perform at TG Global Summit

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Oscar-winning music director M M Keeravani will give a 90-minute musical concert at the 'Telangana Rising Global Summit', to be organised by the state government here on December 8 and 9. The delegates arriving from across the world would be welcomed with Telangana's traditional dance forms like Kommu Koya, Banjara, Kolatam, Gussadi, Oggu Dollu, women Dappulu, Perini Natyam and Bonala Kolatam.

The attendees would also experience an instrumental and dance fusion show, a veena concert by P Jayalakshmi and Perini Natyam by Sri Kala Krishna, the government's 'Telangana Rising Global Summit' account said in a post on X on Friday.

The summit venue would be opened to the public from December 10 to 13 supported by free bus services from major points across Hyderabad, it said.



The Telangana government is gearing up to organise the summit on December 8 and 9 on a grand scale in a site on the outskirts of Hyderabad, where it proposes to develop the 'Bharat Future City', envisioned as India's first net-zero city and designed to be both sustainable and economically vibrant.

As part of the summit, the government would unveil its vision outlining how it plans to transform Telangana into a USD 3 trillion economy by 2047 and the developmental roadmap it plans to pursue in the coming years.

Harish flays limiting medical treatment to cops to NIMS

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The State government, which deducts money from the salaries of the police every month for health security, is showing severe discrimination in providing services to them, said former minister T Harish Rao. He said it is regrettable that the police, who work tirelessly for the safety of the people, are being denied medical treatment in corporate hospitals and are being limited to NIMS Hospital.

Due to the government's ill-considered decision, police families are facing serious difficulties due to lack of timely treatment, he said. Although ARSI Janardhan Rao, who suffered a heart attack in October last year, was shifted to a prominent private hospital during the 'Golden Hour', he died due to refusal to receive timely treatment through the police health security card, he alleged.

Police health security has become a lamp in the air during Revanth Reddy's rule. The Congress government is



supposed to protect the lives of the police, but it is lacking, Harish Rao said.

It is a heinous act to dilute the objective of the health security scheme that was started with the intention of providing support in times of emergency. Revanth Reddy, who is ruling under the constant police guard with restrictions and arrests, is now playing with the lives of those policemen, he alleged.

"Using thousands of policemen for your protection and trampling on their minimum rights is a proof of your dual attitude," he said and added that Revanth Reddy, who promised to bring a unified police system before the elections, broke that promise after coming to

power. Arresting, jailing and suspending the policemen who took to the streets to solve their problems and for their rights is a proof of the Chief Minister's arrogance. Is this what Indira's Rajyam is all about?, he questioned. Why do you have so much hatred for the police, Revanth Reddy? He asked.

"We, on behalf of BRS, demand that the government immediately pay all pending health security dues, restore medical services to the police and their family members in NIMS and all corporate hospitals, immediately pay the pending surrender leave and TA, and release station allowances every month," he added.

India turns to Belgium and Egypt for specialty fertilisers

PNS ■ New Delhi

Amid reports of China withholding exports of specialty fertilisers to India over the past few months, domestic companies have turned to alternative suppliers in Belgium, Egypt, Germany, Morocco and the United States to bridge the supply gap, the Government informed Parliament on Friday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Fertilisers Anupriya Patel clarified that specialty fertilisers fall outside the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme overseen by the Department of Fertilisers, and are thus unsubsidised. "Fertiliser companies are free to import these products based on market dynamics," she said. Patel highlighted ongoing efforts by Indian research bodies to foster self-reliance in nutrient management.

Institutions such as the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

and State Agricultural Universities are developing indigenous alternatives, including zinc EDTA, boron blends, nano-fertilisers and bio-fertilisers enriched with micronutrients like zinc-solubilising bacteria. These innovations, she noted, are aimed at reducing import dependence while promoting sustainable agricultural productivity.

ICAR's institutes, including the Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS) in Bhopal, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) in Bengaluru, have pioneered technologies such as nano-fertilisers, bio-fertilisers and customised nutrient blends. These advancements are bolstered by Government initiatives like Soil Test-Based Fertiliser Recommendations and Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM), which form the backbone of a comprehensive Integrated Nutrient Management Strategy.

Trump admin will expand travel ban to more than 30 countries, Noem says

PNS ■ Washington

The Trump administration will be expanding its ban on travel for citizens of certain countries to more than 30, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said, in the latest restriction to come since a man from Afghanistan was accused of shooting two National Guard members.

The expansion would build on a travel ban already announced in June by the Republican administration,

which barred travel to the US for citizens from 12 countries and restricted access to the US for people from seven others. In a social media post earlier this week, Noem had suggested more countries would be included. Noem, who spoke late Thursday in an interview with Fox News Channel host Laura Ingraham, would not provide further details, saying President Donald Trump was considering which countries would be included.

In the wake of the National



Guard shooting, the administration already ratcheted up restrictions on the 19 countries included in the initial travel ban, which include Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran and

Haiti, among others. Ingraham asked Noem whether the travel ban was expanding to 32 countries and asked which countries would be added to the 19 announced earlier this year.

"I won't be specific on the number, but it's over 30. And the president is continuing to evaluate countries," Noem said. "If they don't have a stable government there, if they don't have a country that can sustain itself and tell us who those individuals are and help us vet them, why should

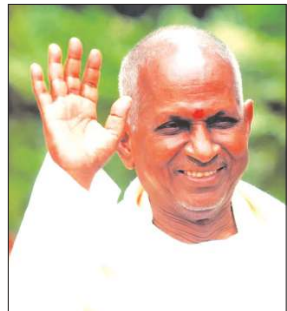
we allow people from that country to come here to the United States?" Noem said. The Department of Homeland Security did not respond to requests for comment about when an updated travel ban might go into effect and which countries would be included in it. Additions to the June travel ban are the latest in what has been a rapidly unfolding series of immigration actions since the shooting Thanksgiving week of two National Guard troops in Washington.

Film producer settles dispute with Ilayaraja by paying ₹50 lakh for using his songs

PNS ■ Chennai

The film producer, Mythri Movie Makers, settled a dispute with Music director Illaiyaraaja by paying ₹50 lakh to him for using his songs "Nooru Varusham" and "Karutha Machan" in its film 'Dude'.

Recording the joint memorandum of compromise, dated November 28, 2025, Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy of Madras High Court, in his recent order, closed the application arising out of a suit filed



by Illaiyaraaja. The order states that the suit was filed seeking relief with respect to the alleged copyright infringement. The parties

entered into negotiations and concluded a settlement. The terms thereof have been reduced to writing in the joint memorandum of compromise.

The said document has been signed digitally by the plaintiff and by the defendant. The respective counsel have also signed, the judge added.

On examining the joint memorandum of compromise, "I find no legal impediment for decreeing the suit in terms thereof," the judge said.

FROM PAGE - 1

India-Russia to...

He noted that India is a global leader in affordable, efficient electric vehicles, two-wheelers, and CNG mobility solutions, while Russia is a major producer of advanced materials.

By partnering in EV manufacturing, automotive components, and shared mobility technologies, the two countries can not only meet their domestic demands but also contribute to the development of the Global South, Modi said.

President Putin said Russia is for strengthening its mul-

tifaceted relations with India in various fields.

He also said that Russian companies are ready to increase purchases of a wide range of goods and services from India.

CM, DCM review...

Subsequently, the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, along with senior officials, visited the Summit War Room set up at Praja Bhavan and reviewed the preparations and the progress of the Summit activities in detail.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Advisor to the Chief Minister Vem Narendar Reddy and others participated in this meeting.

Min Komati Reddy...

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, a global conference like the Davos conference is being organised in Telangana, and the Minister explained the State government's plans to achieve a 3 trillion dollar economy to AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Chandrababu Vision 2020 issues came up for discussion on this occasion. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that it is a good development that the Telangana government is moving forward with the Vision 2047 plan and congratulated the Telangana State government.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu honoured the Minister with a shawl and presented a memento. The Minister was accompanied by government whips Beerla Ailaiah Yadav, Niranjana Reddy and others.

Sonia hopes...

Congratulating Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his initiative in organising the summit, Sonia Gandhi hoped that the event marks a major step towards making the state a \$one trillion economy by 2034.

She wished all those attending the event success in their endeavours to contribute to the growth and progress of Telangana.

The Telangana government's grand, 2-day event will be held on a location on the outskirts of Hyderabad, where it proposes to develop

the 'Bharat Future City', envisioned as India's first net-zero city and designed to be both sustainable and economically vibrant. As part of the summit, the government would unveil its vision outlining how it plans to transform Telangana into a \$three trillion economy by 2047 and the developmental roadmap it plans to pursue in the coming years.

Warangal airport...

The State government is organising 'Telangana Rising Global Summit' on December

8 and 9, he said. Saying that there is no land available to distribute as a poverty alleviation measure, he said education alone can transform the lives of poor.

The government is setting up Young India Integrated Residential Schools, Young India Sports University and Young India Skills University to promote education, Revanth Reddy said.

In a veiled attack on BRS Working President K T Rama Rao, he said a leader described the recent bypoll to Jubilee Hills assembly constituency in Hyderabad as a referendum

on the Congress government but people taught a lesson to him by ensuring a victory margin of 25,000 votes to the Congress candidate.

However, the leader is again spreading lies against the government, he said.

The BRS lost power in 2023, drew a blank in 2024 Lok Sabha polls and lost the recent Jubilee Hills by-election, he said.

Revanth Reddy said he, as Chief Minister, would not hesitate to seek funds from the Centre and not go back to fighting if the funds are not given to the state.

GHMC meet to strengthen Hyd's Clean Air Action Plan under NCAP

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Friday convened the City Level Monitoring and Implementation Committee (CLMIC) meeting under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) at the GHMC Head Office. The meeting focused on developing a strengthened, data-driven action plan for effective management of pollution hotspots across Hyderabad. Chaired by CN Raghu Prasad, Additional Commissioner, GHMC, the session brought together senior officials from the Traffic Police of all three Com m i s s i o n e r a t e s (Rachakonda, Cyberabad and Hyderabad), Telangana Pollution Control Board (TSPCB), TGSRTC, HMRL, Civil Supplies, Transport Department, TGIIC, EPTRI, Technical Consultants from CPCB (NCAP), and GHMC line departments.



The meeting aimed at gathering actionable inputs from committee members to enhance strategies under NCAP for reducing air pollution in identified hotspots across the city. The officials reviewed hotspot-wise pollution data, progress of the City Action Plan, and micro-level strategies related to: 1. Reduction of road dust; 2. Control of vehicular emissions; 3. Regulation

of industrial pollution; 4. Strengthened management of Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste; 5. Green cover expansion and 6. Real-time monitoring systems at major construction sites. GHMC Additional Commissioner Raghu Prasad emphasised the need for coordinated departmental efforts and strict enforcement measures to ensure meaningful improvements in air quality. Dr Prasad Dasari and N Jayasri, Environmental Scientists from TSPCB, presented detailed recommendations for strengthening pollution-control initiatives. They stressed the need for prioritised interventions at major hotspots such as: Punjagutta-Patancheru Corridor; Charminar-Nampally Heritage Zone; Hi-Tech City Transit Corridor and MGBS to Secunderabad

Railway Station Stretch. They outlined both immediate and long-term steps to improve Hyderabad's air quality through GHMC funds and NCAP support. Key points discussed were; Deployment of more electric buses by TGSRTC in high-traffic, high-pollution corridors; Promotion of electric three-wheelers to replace conventional auto-rickshaws and cut vehicular emissions; Mandatory PUC compliance for all vehicles, with strict checks on older, high-emission vehicles; Installation of Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) and Pelican Signals at critical traffic locations such as Telecom Nagar and Indiramma Nagar across Cyberabad, Rachakonda, and Hyderabad Commissionerates; Encouraging citizens to hand over C&D waste to GHMC-authorised agencies (Ramky, Soma Sreenivas Reddy) at nominal charges and use recycled construction materials.



No funds constraint to develop OU: Revanth

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday said that the state government would undertake development works at the century-old Osmania University (OU) here and the availability of funds is not a constraint for the works. Reddy, who held a meeting with the officials of government and the OU, said he would visit the university on December 10 to inspect the

hostels and academic blocks. He told officials to take steps to conserve the historic and heritage buildings in the university and to build new buildings instead of carrying out repairs to the ones which do not have any historical significance, an official release said. The CM asked the officials to conserve the existing waterbodies in the university and to explore the possibility of setting up new water resources on the premises. He suggested that funds under urban forestry be utilised for carrying out works in the forest area at the university. Reddy instructed the officials to build new hostels and academic buildings in such a way that they would be able to accommodate more students. The CM also told the officials to take suggestions from the students and teaching staff by arranging drop boxes on the campus, it added.

Court allows iBomma Ravi's custody for 3 days

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The hearing of the iBomma administrator Imandi Ravi case was held in the Nampally Court on Friday. The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police filed petitions seeking permission to remand the accused Ravi for the third time. The police also filed separate petitions seeking custody in four other cases. The Nampally Court allowed custody for three days in three cases. The court granted custody permission for one day in each case. However, custody was rejected in one of the four cases. Agreeing with the arguments of the police, it granted custody permission to iBomma Ravi. The cyber



crime police have already taken him into custody twice and interrogated him. The Nampally Court granted police custody for three days. The police will conduct a custody hearing of iBomma Ravi on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. In this context, the Nampally Court will once again hear the arguments on Ravi's bail on Monday.

TG signs pact with Australia to set up Centre of Excellence in AI

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Telangana government on Friday, December 5, signed an agreement to establish a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence in partnership with Australia's Deakin University. This will be the first-of-its-kind skill development centre in the country dedicated to advanced AI capabilities, said state IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. Addressing the media at the Telangana Secretariat along with Australia's minister for International Education Julian Hill, Sridhar Babu stated that the Centre



of Excellence will be set up within the upcoming AI University at the Future City in Hyderabad. "The Deakin Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute will jointly run this Centre of Excellence with the Telangana government," said Babu. The IT minister stated that the objective of this collaboration is to create

globally competitive and highly skilled professionals. Addressing the media at the Telangana Secretariat along with Australia's minister for International Education Julian Hill, Sridhar Babu stated that the Centre of Excellence will be set up within the upcoming AI University at the Future City in Hyderabad. "The Deakin Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute will jointly run this Centre of Excellence with the Telangana government," said Babu. The IT minister stated that the objective of this collaboration is to create



₹347 cr plan for Jogulamba temple development

PNS ■ Hyderabad

A plan has been prepared for the development of Jogulamba Amma temple, the 5th Shakti Peetham located at Alampur on the banks of the Tungabhadra river. A plan of Rs 347 crore has been prepared. It has been decided that Rs 35 crore is required to immediately start works like Balalayam, Vajra Lepamam, Kumba Abhishekam.

On Friday, State Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy, Principal Secretary of the Endowment Department Shailaja Ramayar, Staphathy Govinda Hari and Temple Development Architect Suryanarayana Murthy conducted a review on the development of Jogulamba temple at the Secretariat. It was decided in the meeting to hold a special meeting with Chief Minister A

Revanth Reddy soon. Chinna Reddy said that CM Revanth Reddy has a goal to develop the Jogulamba temple in a big way and that the CM is keen to provide all the facilities for the devotees on the temple premises. It was decided in the meeting that out of the Rs.347 crore plan, Rs 138.40 crore is required in the first phase, Rs. 117.60 crore in the second phase and Rs. 91 crore in the third phase.

DCM invites Jharkhand CM to Global Summit

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has specially invited Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren to attend the Telangana Rising 2047 Global Summit organized by the Telangana State Government on 8th and 9th of this month at Bharat Future City, Hyderabad. In this meeting held at the residence of the Jharkhand CM, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka handed over the Global Summit invitation letter specially printed by the State government to CM Hemant Soren. The Deputy CM explained that Telangana will move forward with a vision for the future with a target of 3 tril-



lion dollars economic growth. In line with this, Bhatti Vikramarka explained in this meeting that the Telangana Rising 2047 Vision Document has been prepared to analyse the growth targets of all sectors and the future plans to be followed. Bhatti Vikramarka explained to the Jharkhand CM that this vision document, prepared with the advice and suggestions of NITI Aayog and the brainstorming of experts from all sectors, will be unveiled at the global summit.

FAKE COURIER DELIVERY SCAM Banjara Hills man loses ₹2.49 lakh

PNS ■ Hyderabad

A 59-year-old resident of Banjara Hills lost Rs 2.49 lakh in the blink of an eye in a courier delivery scam. Believing he was paying some sort of a delivery fee to his courier via a message, the victim was tricked into eventually losing his money. According to the Hyderabad police, the victim was expecting a DHL delivery. After following up for two days, he received an SMS on December 2, around around 11:30 a.m. from an unknown number, which stated that two delivery attempts to him had failed. The message also requested a Rs 25 're-delivery charge' through a provided link. Believing it to be an authentic message from DHL, the victim clicked the link and entered his credit card details. He then received an OTP for the 'Rs 25' payment.



However, the moment he authorised it with the OTP, a fraudulent transaction of Rs 2.49 lakh was made from his card. He then lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad police's cyber crime station. The Hyderabad police in a public advisory has also cautioned the public of fraudsters sending fake SMS messages of such 'failed courier deliveries' which ask for small 're-delivery' charges. Citizens have been advised to not click on unknown links sent via SMS or WhatsApp and to never enter credit/debit card details, CVV, or OTP on unverified websites.

Fire breaks out at aircooler unit in Hyderabad

PNS ■ Hyderabad

A fire broke out at an air-cooler making unit and storage godown at Alinagar, Shahalibanda on Thursday night. No casualties were reported. According to police

sources, the fire started at the air cooler godown located at Alinagar around midnight. The premises is located in a residential area. The local people, on noticing the fire, started efforts to douse it by throwing buckets of water.

On information from local residents, the firemen arrived and started a fire fighting operation. After one hour, the fire was extinguished. The fire is suspected to have started due to a short circuit.

FLAG DAY FUND



Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma contributing to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund at a special function organised at the Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday

367 applications received in CM Prajavani

PNS ■ Hyderabad

A total of 367 applications were received in the CM Prajavani programme organized at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday. In all, 144 applications were received for the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, 23 for the Revenue Department, 83 for Indiramma Houses, 18 for the Municipal Department, and 30 for the Civil Supplies Department. Officials said that 69 applications were received for other departments. CM Prajavani in-charge and State Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy and State Nodal Officer Divya Devarajan received the applications, listened to the problems of the people, spoke to the officials concerned on the phone and resolved many issues. The 1,388 Public Service



Commission Group-3 candidates selected across the State through competitive examinations will be given postings soon, said Dr Chinna Reddy. A large number of Group-3 candidates turned up at the CM Praja Bhavan. They demanded that they be given postings soon. Chinna Reddy, who spoke to Public Service Commission Secretary Priyanka on the phone, told the Group-3 candidates that postings would be given soon. The candidates expressed happiness over this.



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Order Order

Temple money belongs to deity, cannot be used to save cooperative banks: SC



Thirunelly Temple, Kerala

The Supreme Court on Friday said that money belonging to a temple deity cannot be used to prop up financially distressed cooperative banks.

The sharp observations were made by a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi while hearing appeals filed by a few cooperative banks challenging a direction of the Kerala High Court asking them to return the deposits to the Thirunelly Temple Devaswom.

"You want to use the temple money to save the bank? What is wrong with directing that the temple money, instead of being in a cooperative bank which is breathing with great difficulty, should go to a healthy nationalised bank which can give maximum interest," the CJJ asked. Temple money belongs to the deity and hence, the money has to be "saved, protected and utilised only for the interests of the temple" and it cannot become a source of income or survival for a cooperative bank, the CJJ said.

The pleas against the High Court order were filed by Mananthawady Co-operative Urban Society Ltd and Thirunelly Service Cooperative Bank Ltd.

The High Court had directed five cooperative banks to close the Devaswom's fixed deposits and refund the entire amount within two months, following repeated refusals by the banks to release the matured deposits. The case arose from a plea filed by the Thirunelly Devaswom after several cooperative banks refused to repay the temple's fixed deposits despite repeated requests.

SC declines PIL on regulating AI use in judiciary, seeks suggestions

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking to curb the "unregulated" use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in the judicial system. The top court said it was aware of the ill effects of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) tools in the judiciary, but these issues can be appropriately addressed by it on the administrative side rather than through judicial directions.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi heard senior advocate Anupam Lal Das, appearing for petitioner Kartikeya Rawal, who had sought safeguards against the risks posed by AI-generated content and its alleged misuse in judicial processes.

The senior lawyer said the AI tools create non-existent judicial precedents or judgements and they finally become part of judicial pronouncements.

While acknowledging the concerns, the CJJ said this a lesson for the Bar and the judges both.

Lawyers, ex-judges object to CJI remarks on Rohingyas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Former Judges, advocates and the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms (CJAR) headed by noted lawyer Prashant Bhushan have written an open letter to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant expressing their concern over the "unconscionable remarks" made regarding Rohingya refugees by the CJJ's bench in a recent hearing.

The letter states that the CJJ is not just a legal functionary but also the custodian and final arbiter of rights of the poor, whose words carry weight in the conscience of the country and have a cascading effect. "As the head of the judiciary, the Chief Justice is not just a legal functionary — but is also the custodian and final arbiter of the rights of the poor, the dispossessed, and the marginalised. Your words carry weight not simply in the courtroom but in the conscience of the nation and have a cascading effect on the High Courts, the lower judiciary and other Government authorities."

"The remarks from the bench are contrary to core constitutional values. They have had the effect of dehumanising Rohingya refugees whose equal humanity and equal human rights are protected by the Constitution, our laws and by international law," said the open letter to CJJ.

Former Judges and advocates said that the remarks made on December 2 dehumanise those fleeing genocidal persecution and weaken the moral



Chief Justice of India Surya Kant

authority of the judiciary. "The Rohingya, as indeed any person residing in India, is entitled to the protections of Article 21 and not just protections from "third degree measures".

This fundamental right is available to an individual who is a citizen or any other person residing in India. In NHRC v State of Arunachal Pradesh, 1996 SCC (I) 742, this Hon'ble Court has held that, "the State is bound to protect the life and liberty of every human being, be he a citizen or otherwise" the letter states. The letter goes a step further to say that the remarks provide a reasonable basis for apprehension of prejudice on the part of the CJJ bench.

"The majesty of the Supreme Court

and your office is measured not merely by the number of verdicts or administrative measures but more by the humanity with which those verdicts are delivered and considered", said the open letter to CJJ.

The signatories are : Justice AP Shah, former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court Justice K. Chandru, Former Judge, Madras High Court Justice Anjana Prakash, Former judge, Patna High Court Prof. Mohan Gopal, Former Director, National Judicial Academy Senior Advocates Rajeev Dhavan, Chander Uday Singh, Colin Gonzalves, Kamini Jaiswal, Mihir Desai, Gopal Shankar Narayan, Gautam Bhatia, Shahrukh Alam and CJAR headed by Prashant Bhushan.

National Herald case: Delhi Police issues notice to Karnataka Dy CM Shivakumar



DK Shivakumar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi Police has issued a notice to Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar seeking financial and transactional details as part of its probe into the National Herald case, an official said on Friday.

The notice issued by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) states that Shivakumar is "supposed to be having vital information" pertaining to the National Herald case registered on October 3 this year, against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

In the notice dated November 29, the EOW has

asked Shivakumar to appear before it or provide the requested information by December 19 latest. Investigators have sought details about his personal background, his association with the Congress party, and a complete break up of funds allegedly transferred by him or associated entities to Young Indian.

"This is to inform you that the EOW, Delhi Police is investigating the above cited case FIR and that you are supposed to be having vital information in respect of the above case," the notice stated. The EOW posers include the purpose of Shivakumar's bank transfers, the source of these funds, details of any communication between him and

Young Indian or AICC (All India Congress Committee) functionaries, if the payments were made on anyone's instructions, and whether he was aware of the intended use of the funds. The EOW has also asked for income tax records, financial statements and any donation certificates issued in relation to the payments.

The National Herald case, originally triggered by a 2013 private complaint by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, is based on allegations that Associated Journals Limited (AJL) assets worth more than ₹2000 crore were acquired by the Young Indian for ₹50 lakh through a 2010 transaction involving the AICC.

Transfer of HC judges are made in public interest: Law Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

All transfers of High Court judges are made in "public interest" for promoting better administration of justice and there is no timeline for such transfers, the Government said on Friday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that as per the memorandum of procedure (MoP) for appointment and transfer of High Court judges, the proposal for transfer of High Court judges is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.

The CJJ is also expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of the High Court from which the judge is to be transferred, as also the Chief Justice of the High Court to which the transfer is to be effected, besides taking into account the views of one or more Supreme Court judges who are in a position to offer views.



Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal

The personal factors relating to the judge concerned, including the chief justice, and his response to the proposal, including his preference of places, should invariably be taken into account by the Chief Justice of India.

"All transfers are to be made in public interest — for promoting better administration of justice throughout the country.

No timeline has been prescribed in the MoP for transfer of judges from one High Court to another," Meghwal said.

Reach consensus or court will appoint VCs: SC to Kerala CM, Guv

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will intervene to resolve the ongoing deadlock over the selection of vice chancellors for two technical universities in Kerala if Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Governor-cum-chancellor Rajendra Arlekar do not reach a consensus. A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and PB Varale was hearing the matter related to the appointments of VCs of the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, and the University of Digital Sciences Innovation and Technology.

The bench asked Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Governor, and senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, representing the Chief Minister, to find out some amicable solution to the impasse. Venkataramani submitted that the Justice (Retd) Sudhanshu Dhulia committee had recommended two sets of names and the chancellor had picked two names. "The Chief Minister has some difficulty with some names. There are some common names," the AG said.

Advocate Gupta said that



Governor of Kerala Rajendra Arlekar

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

the name, which is not acceptable to the chief minister, is the only one that the governor-cum-chancellor agrees upon.

"I think a resolution has to be found by this Court," Gupta replied.

Justice Pardiwala told the senior counsels that Justice Dhulia led committee had recommended four names each for two universities and the governor and chief minister should appoint the most meritorious candidates from both the batches.

Noting that it will intervene and make the appointments itself if the consensus is not reached by December 9, the apex court said, "Reach consensus by Tuesday or we will appoint the vice chancellors and

resolve the issue." The top court has posted the matter for hearing on Thursday.

Venkataramani said the chancellor found two of the names figures in both the lists, then they are the best candidates to be recommended.

On November 28, the top court took serious exception to Kerala Governor and chancellor "not looking" at the Dhulia committee report on the appointment of vice chancellors of two universities and remarked it is not just an ordinary piece of paper.

The top court had asked the Kerala Governor to take a call on the report within a week and apprise the decision to the apex court on December 5.

SC shaped, reshaped contours of freedom of speech since Independence: Ex CJI Gavai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The Supreme Court has steadily shaped and reshaped the contours of freedom of speech and expression in the last 75 years, former Chief Justice of India BR Gavai said here on Friday. "The evolution of free speech jurisprudence in India reflects a larger constitutional commitment to ensure that the State's power to restrict expression does not overshadow the citizen's right to think, to speak and to participate freely in the democratic set-up," he asserted.

He was delivering the Justice KT Desai Memorial Lecture 2025 on 'Freedom of Speech and Expression: Its Scope and Limitations Under the Constitution'. Citing several landmark judgments of the Supreme Court since Independence, the former CJJ traced out the evolution of law over the years and role played by the judiciary in protecting citizen's rights.

"Over the last 75 years, the Supreme Court has steadily shaped and reshaped the contours of the freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 1(A), while simultaneously defining the permissible limit under Article 19 (2)," he said. "What



Former CJI BR Gavai

TRADITIONAL FREE SPEECH PRINCIPLES MUST BE RECALIBRATED TO RESPOND TO THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES POSED BY THE ONLINE WORLD, INCLUDING MISINFORMATION, SURVEILLANCE AND THE MONOPOLISTIC POWERS OF DIGITAL INTERMEDIARIES

emerges from this constitutional journey is a conscious and consistent judicial effort to preserve the breadth of free speech and constraint the scope of restrictions so that the right is not diluted through overreach, vagueness and excessive state control," Gavai said.

Recognising that freedom of

speech and expression protects diverse and highly personal modes of expression integral to dignity, autonomy and democratic participation, the court has expanded the understanding of expression to include personal and identity based freedom, he pointed out. In this reference, he cited a judgement in which the apex court held that transgender persons have a constitutionally protected right to express their gender. He highlighted that as the 21 century began the "court also increasingly recognised that freedom of speech and expression is integral to the health of democracy, particularly in ensuring transparency and enabling citizens to make informed electoral choices".

Gavai pointed out that, in the recent past, the SC has been increasingly called upon to navigate the complexities of digital communication, its unprecedented reach, its potential for misuse and its fundamental role in shaping public discourse. "Traditional free speech principles must be recalibrated to respond to the unique challenges posed by the online world, including misinformation, surveillance and the monopolistic powers of digital intermediaries," the ex-CJJ said.

Don't test patience, Madras High Court on comments on judge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Madurai

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Friday remarked that it will not tolerate comments degrading the judiciary. Those who comment should remember not to test the patience of the court, a division bench orally observed when advocate MR Venkatesh representing the writ petitioners in the Thirupparankundram lamp lighting (Karthigai Deepam) row, said personal remarks were being made against the single judge who allowed the lighting of the lamp on the ancient stone pillar atop the Thirupparankundram hill near a Dargah.

"Persons violating the law think that there won't be any reaction. Please instruct your clients not to test the patience of the court and degrade the judiciary," the court said. It warned that action would be taken if they continued to demoralise the judicial institution. "Whether you are in power or not, you have tongue or no tongue. Whatever it is, if you are going to demoralise the institution, the constitution will remain only on paper," the Bench comprising justices G



Thirupparankundram temple

Jayachandran and KK Ramakrishnan remarked. Merely because judges cannot openly react, persons should not keep on provoking the court. Strict action would be taken if they exceeded the limits, the Bench warned while hearing the appeal against the single judge, Justice GR Swaminathan's order directing the management of the Arulmighu Subrahmanya Swamy temple to facilitate the lighting of Karthigai Deepam at the Deepathoon (stone pillar) on December 3 evening. However, since the order was not complied, the petitioners sought Justice Swaminathan to initiate contempt proceedings against the temple authorities. On the other hand,

the executive officer of the temple, Madurai District Collector and the police commissioner moved the division bench to quash the single judge order. The Bench said it would hear the Karthigai Deepam case verdict on December 12 after all the parties already involved in the case filed their appeals. "We will hear everyone together. All those parties already involved in the case will be allowed to file pleas. No one will be allowed to implead," the Bench said. Meanwhile, Justice Swaminathan adjourned to December 9 the contempt petition filed by petitioner Rama Ravikumar over non-compliance of the December 1 verdict.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY
COLLECTOR, LA, HAML, HYDERABAD

FORM-F

Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML

(See rule 7 (c))

File No.: C6/770/2025-RHS Dated: 05-12-2025

Whereas the following Notifications were issued and published in the Gazettes for acquisition of the land under Extension of Metro Rail Project, Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGBS to Chandrayangutta, Corridor-VI, situated at Bandlaguda (Village & Mandal) of Hyderabad District for the Public purpose.

In response to the said Notifications the following affected persons (Property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiations. The details of the willing affected persons/Land Owners are as follows.

S. NO.	NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE	GAZETTE NO. & DATE
1	No C6/770/2025-RHS (504 to 516)	HAML No.97, Dt: 26-08-2025

Sl. No.	Name and address	Sketch No.	Premises No.	Extent in Sq.yds
1	2	3	4	5
1	Syed Mohammed Ali Hashmi S/o Syed Asad Ali Hashmi, represented by father Syed Asad Ali Hashmi S/o Syed Idris Ali, R/o: 18-2-43/3/A/16/A/9 G M Colony Saba Colony Chandrayangutta, Bandlaguda, Keshogiri, Hyderabad.	RHS-513/B	18-9-30/21/A	65.00
2	Ahmed Bin Salam Bakaraiba S/o Late Salam Bin Ali Bakaraiba, 18-9-450/1, Chandrayangutta, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad.	RHS-513/C	18-9-70/14/A/1 and 18-9-70/15/1 to 3	316.84

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District/Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad within the **Seven days** of publication of this Notification.

Signature of:

Special Deputy Collector, LA,
HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.

Date: 05-12-2025.

DIPR No.925/LA/PP-Adv/Agency/2025-26

States Focus



BIHAR GOVT CREATES 3 NEW DEPARTMENTS TO BOOST JOBS

The Bihar Government on Friday announced the creation of three new departments, directorate of micro, small and medium enterprises and the state marketing promotion corporation to provide more employment opportunities for the state's youth.

According to an official, the newly created departments are the Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department, the Higher Education Department and the Civil Aviation Department. Announcing the decision, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar wrote on social media, "We have set a target to provide jobs to one crore youth in the next five years (2025-30). For this, it's essential that more youth be trained for skill development. For this, instructions have been given to create three new departments: Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department, Higher Education Department, and Civil Aviation Department."



WORLD BOOK OF RECORDS HONORS NITISH'S 10TH OATH

The World Book of Records, London, on Friday recognised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's "milestone" of having taken oath as chief minister for the 10th time.

Announcing the development, Janata Dal (United) national working president Sanjay Jha posted on social media, "It is a matter of great joy and pride to share that the World Book of Records, London, has recognised the extraordinary milestone achieved by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has taken oath as Chief Minister for the 10th time."

Calcutta HC declines to stop foundation of Babri-model Mosque

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

The Calcutta High Court (HC) on Friday refused to intervene in suspended Trinamool Congress (TMC) Humayun Kabir's decision to lay the foundation stone of a mosque at Beldanga in Murshidabad district on Saturday. The Mosque is to be christened and modeled after the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya which was demolished on December 6th, 33 years ago.

The Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul, after hearing a public interest litigation seeking stay on the foundation stone laying ceremony for the proposed mosque — as it could trigger law and order situation — observed that it was the duty State Government to maintain law and order.

The petitioner in his draft pleaded that "the MLA (Kabir) has been using filthy and derogatory statements and hate speech against a community, which causes breach of public tranquility.

Such kind of statements and hate speech over social media, being a Member of Legislative Assembly, may break the communal

harmony of our state as well as our country," hence the petition sought to "stop foundation stone laying of Babri Masjid to maintain Law and order."

Meanwhile the suspended TMC MLA continued to fire salvos at his former outfit and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for committing "showing her true colours when it comes to the construction of constructing a mosque."

A fuming Kabir who was on Thursday suspended from the party for making "irresponsible remarks and refusing to follow the party line" on Friday said "it is the same Chief Minister who has been constructing temples, organising carnivals during Durga Pujas encroaching Government land in Kolkata and granting ₹1.10 lakh from public money to clubs organising Durga Pujas but when it comes to constructing a mosque and that too on a private land with private money she tries to stop me from laying the foundation stone of the mosque and suspends men, she has shown her true colours and the kind of secularism she practices, she has committed

a big blunder and will have to pay high price in 2026 Assembly elections."

Senior Congress leader and former MP Adhir Chowdhury too slammed the Chief Minister for opening the Pandora's box "by constructing Jagannath Temple at Digha and preparing to construct Durga Temple and Mahakal Temple out of Government funds, she has set the trend in order to project herself as a Hindutva champion so as to contain the BJP, now she will have to face the music."

Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on the other hand said that his party was not opposed to constructing any mosque but what bothered was its name. "Anyone can construct a mosque, temple, Gurudwara or church but when you construct it in the name of a Moghul invader every nationalistic person will object to it," he said.

Meanwhile, the State police on Friday made a massive security bandobast in Murshidabad, particularly at Beldanga block to preempt any law and order problem, sources in the State administration said.

Rijju rules out extending registration deadline for Waqf properties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Friday ruled out extending the deadline for registering Waqf properties on the UMEED portal but said a way would be found for those who attempted registration but could not complete and that they will be exempted from penalties for the next three months.

He also said that 1.51 lakh properties had been registered by Friday morning.

The minister stressed that those *mutawallis* (Waqf property caretakers) who have not registered on the portal at all can approach their respective Waqf tribunal.

The Centre launched The Unified Waqf Management,

Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development (UMEED) Act central portal on June 6 to create a digital inventory after geo-tagging all Waqf properties.

According to the provisions of the portal, details of all registered Waqf properties across the country must be uploaded within six months. The six-month deadline for registration ends on Friday.

"After making the Waqf law, we had launched the UMEED portal and a six-month duration was given to the concerned parties to register all the Waqf properties on the portal. Today is the last day, and lakhs of Waqf properties have still not been registered," Rijju said.

"Many MPs and social leaders came to me request-



ing that problems are being faced in registering more than 9 lakh Waqf properties and it is the last day today, so the deadline should be extended. Till now, more than 1.51 lakh Waqf properties have been registered on the UMEED portal," he said.

Some states have done well like Karnataka and Punjab and also Jammu and Kashmir but some others have lagged behind.

Rijju said in some places, the UMEED portal was slow while some people did not have the papers.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Congress on Friday said Leaders of Opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi have not been invited to the banquet for Russian President Vladimir Putin, and took a swipe at its own MP Shashi Tharoor for accepting the invite.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "There has been speculation whether the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha have been invited for tonight's official dinner in honour of President Putin. The two LoPs have not been invited."

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara accused the Government of breaking protocols daily and not believing in democratic principles. "There is no invite to both the



LoPs, (Mallikarjun) Kharge and (Rahul) Gandhi. This comes as a surprise but I don't think we should be surprised. This Government is known to be breaching all protocols. What

else to say, ask the Government," Khara said.

Asked about party MP Tharoor getting invited to the banquet and accepting the invitation, Khara said,

"Ask Tharoor. All of us who are in the party, if our leaders don't get invited and we get invited, we need to question our own conscience and listen to our

conscience. Politics has been played in inviting or not inviting people, which in itself is questionable and those who accept such an invite is also questionable," Khara said.

Earlier, Tharoor said there was a time when the chairman of the external affairs committee was routinely invited but that practice seems to have stopped from some years.

"It has been resumed, I have been invited, yes. I will definitely go," the chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs said.

On the LoPs reportedly not getting an invite, Tharoor said, "I don't know on what basis invitations were sent. I think the custom that usually used to be followed was for a wide representation. Certainly, I remember in the olden days, they used to invite not only the LoPs,

(but) various other cross section of representatives of different parties. It conveys a good impression."

"I don't know the basis (of invitation), this is all done by the Government, by the protocol by the Rashtrapati Bhawan, what do I know. All I can say I have honoured to have been invited. Of course I will go," Tharoor told reporters in the Parliament House complex.

Rahul on Thursday had alleged that the Government tells visiting foreign dignitaries not to meet the Leader of the Opposition due to its "insecurity". His remarks had come hours ahead of Putin's two-day visit to India.

The Congress leader had said it is a tradition that visiting foreign dignitaries meet the LoP but Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of External Affairs were not following this norm.

Champai Soren backs delisting converted Adivasis from ST list

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jamshedpur

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and BJP MLA Champai Soren on Friday said delisting Adivasis who have converted to other religions from the Scheduled Tribe category (ST) was essential to protect tribal identity and traditional practices.

Religious conversion is a major threat to the existence of the Adivasi society, Soren said in a statement.

"If conversions continued, no one would be left in the tribal community to offer prayers at our Jaherthan, Sarna Sthal and Deshawli in the future, and our tradition, culture and existence would be wiped out," he claimed.

Soren said people from the Adivasi community who choose to adopt another religion were free to follow their faith, but "should not be entitled to reservation benefits and other constitutional rights meant for Scheduled Tribes."

Delisting them, he claimed, "could save our orthodox systems and existence." He also alleged that rampant infiltration from Bangladesh posed a serious threat to the tribal community.

According to him, infiltrators were grabbing tribal land and misusing reservation quotas through marriages in some areas.

Strongly pitching for the Special Intensive Review (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state,

the BJP leader said it would not only help identify infiltrators, but also make the process of "removal from the electoral system and deportation smoother".

Meanwhile, BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha national executive member Ramesh Hansda said municipal elections in the state should be conducted only after the SIR is completed.

The proposed civic polls, which have to be completed by March 31, 2026, will not be impartial if held before SIR is completed, Hansda, a working committee member of BJP Jharkhand, said. The last revision of voters' list in the state was held before the 2024 Assembly polls.

Lok Sabha members seek new site for Nashik Sadhugram project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

A strong demand was made in the Lok Sabha for an alternate site to develop a 'Sadhugram' in Nashik instead of building it in the Tapovan area by felling over 1,800 trees.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Shiv Sena-UBT member Rajabhau Waje urged the Centre to stop the development of Sadhugram at Tapovan ahead of the 2027 Kumbh Mela in Nashik-Trimbakeshwar.

Waje said locals of Nashik-Trimbakeshwar have been opposing the felling of trees in Tapovan and urged the Centre to look for an alternative site.

BJP member Anurag Thakur raised the issue of the Pong Dam project-affected persons from Himachal Pradesh who were to be rehabilitated in Rajasthan.

Thakur, a former Union minister, said 6,500 families were still awaiting rehabilitation in the project that was taken up in 1970 during the Congress Governments.

"Fifty years ago, the then Congress Government promised land allocation in Rajasthan to the displaced families from 339 villages — 20,772 families — for the construction of the Pong Dam in Kangra, Himachal, and that promise remains unfulfilled to this day," Thakur said.

He demanded that the Centre set up inter-ministerial consultations with Jal Shakti and Home ministries and setting up of a joint task force of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh Governments to speed up rehabilitation efforts.

Congress MP from Meghalaya Saleng A Sangma said more than three lakh youth aged 15-29 are drug addicts, and thousands are suffering from HIV/AIDS in the north-eastern state.

"In Meghalaya, there is no rehabilitation centre and no system in place to offer convenience for patients. I request through you to the Government to set up at least 2-3 rehabilitation centres," Sangma said.

Karnataka LoP hits out at Siddaramaiah, calls him shameless

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bengaluru

Targeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Congress Government in Karnataka on alleged corruption, BJP leader R Ashoka on Friday said, being foolish was forgivable, but being "shameless" in public life was not.

The Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly claimed that in just 30 months of its tenure, the Congress administration has broken every previous record on corruption-related controversies.

He was responding to Siddaramaiah's post on social media on Thursday hitting back at the BJP, stating that Upa Lokayukta Justice Veerappa's claims of "63 per cent corruption" were based on his report in November 2019, when BJP's BS Yediyurappa was the CM.

"But Ashoka, without understanding the Upa Lokayukta's statement properly, has ended up tying the BJP's own bells of sins onto our heads and has effectively shot himself in the foot," the CM had said, as he accused Ashoka of foolishness for trying to twist Veerappa's statement to target the

current Government.

Responding, Ashoka said, "it is one thing to be called foolish in politics, that can be forgiven."

"But in public life, especially in the Chief Minister's chair, one must never become shameless," Ashoka posted on social media on Friday addressing Siddaramaiah.

Noting that the CM himself had admitted on the floor of the Assembly that a ₹87 crore scam took place in the Valmiki Development Corporation, he said that when a CM acknowledges such a massive irregularity inside the floor of the House, the natural expectation is immediate action and accountability.

"But instead of taking responsibility, you continue in office as if nothing has happened. What should the people of Karnataka call this, if not sheer shamelessness," he asked.

Pointing out that the CM's Economic Advisor and senior Congress MLA Basavaraja Rayareddy had publicly stated that under Congress rule, Karnataka has become number 1 in corruption, Ashoka said, "Yet, you still cling to the Chief Minister's chair without a moment of introspection. What should the



people of Karnataka call this, if not sheer shamelessness."

Senior Congress MLA CR Patil had exposed the "money for House" racket in the Housing Department and even warned that the Government would collapse if the details he has were made public, Ashoka said.

"Despite such serious allegations from within your own party (Congress), you neither initiated an inquiry nor acted against the concerned minister. What should the people of Karnataka call this, if not sheer shamelessness," Ashoka asked the CM.

Highlighting the "40 percent commission" allegation Congress made against the previous BJP Government, the Opposition leader said, the commission that the Siddaramaiah

Government appointed concluded that the accusation was baseless.

"After your own panel demolished your own claim, what moral right do you have to continue repeating that allegation. What should the people of Karnataka call this, if not sheer shamelessness," he asked.

For the last two and a half years, Karnataka has been 'drowning' in corruption, scandals, irregularities and allegations across departments. Ashoka said, "If I begin listing every case that emerged under your Government, even 24 hours would not be enough."

"And the most tragic aspect of your administration is this: the unbearable pressure, corruption demands and administrative harassment under your

Government pushed several officers and contractors into extreme distress — including the suicide of Chandrasekharan which exposed the Valmiki Development Corporation scam — a sign of how deeply broken the system has become under your watch," he said.

Instead of fixing this hopeless environment, the Government has tried to bury every complaint and silence every voice, he charged.

"Being foolish is forgivable, but being shameless in public life is definitely not."

"When your own ministers admit scams, when your own advisors certify Karnataka as number 1 in corruption, and when your own MLAs expose rackets inside your departments - clinging to power without accountability is not leadership. It is shamelessness in its purest form." PTI KSU

Earlier on Thursday Ashoka had demanded that the corruption case and allegations in the state against the Congress Government be handed over to a CBI investigation, citing a reported statement by Upalokayukta Justice Veerappa alleging "63 per cent corruption."

Lok Sabha row over lamp-lighting at Tamil Nadu hilltop temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The issue of lighting of a traditional lamp at a hilltop temple near Madurai rocked the Lok Sabha on Friday, with DMK leader TR Baalu accusing the BJP of trying to "ignite" communal tensions in Tamil Nadu and Union Minister L Murugan hitting back at the Tamil Nadu Government for "denying the right to worship".

DMK members stormed the Well of the Lok Sabha and tried to raise the issue of the lighting of the 'Karthigai Deepam' at the stone lamp pillar on the Tirupparankundram hillock near Madurai and forced the adjournment of the

Question Hour.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Baalu accused the BJP of trying to "ignite" communal tension in Tamil Nadu and claimed that the Madras High Court judge, who permitted lighting of the lamp at the stone lamp pillar 'Deepathoon' on the Tirupparankundram hillock, owed allegiance to a particular ideology.

"Who should light the deepam on the hill? Whether the Hindu Religious Endowment Board representative or some miscreants who have got a judgement from a Madras High Court's judge?" asked Baalu.

Baalu's reference to the high court judge's ideology drew a sharp riposte from

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, who asserted that the DMK leader cannot cast aspersions on the judiciary and urged the chair to delete the remarks.

Hitting out at the DMK, BJP leader and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs L Murugan accused the Tamil Nadu Government of denying the right to worship to devotees at the Arulmighu Subramaniya Swamy Temple.

As Murugan was speaking, some DMK members walked up to the seat of Rijju, prompting TDP member Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the chair, to appeal to protesting members to confine themselves to the Well.



Editor's TAKE

Airborne crisis unfolds at Indian airports

IndiGo's cancellations expose structural weaknesses in the country's busiest airline, raising concerns about preparedness and sectoral resilience

This was the week of meltdown at Indian airports. Chaos ruled as passengers flying IndiGo did not know when their flight would take off, with no one to tell them the truth that the flight they had been waiting for was cancelled. Even those that took off were off the mark by hours. India's airports have descended into unprecedented chaos as IndiGo – the country's largest airline – struggles to keep its operations in the air. More than 1,000 cancellations across major hubs like Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad have left passengers stranded, frustrated and confused. This chaos is caused suddenly but is the culmination of accumulated structural weaknesses, regulatory tightening and a failure of planning on the part of airlines in question.

IndiGo hit an air pocket when the implementation of new Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) rules – reforms designed to address pilot fatigue, long flagged as a serious safety concern in a rapidly expanding aviation market – kicked off. The DGCA issued revised norms which mandate increased weekly rest, stricter limits on night operations and capped duty hours for pilots engaged in late-night flying. These rules, long demanded by pilot bodies and aligned with global safety standards, were upheld by a recent court order.

But that sent IndiGo operations haywire, which has the lion's share of the Indian aviation sector.

In more than two decades of its operations, IndiGo has not only survived but also flourished, servicing almost all major sectors. IndiGo survived while others came and left, but that came at the cost of air safety – long and often back-to-back duty hours for pilots, shorter turnaround times at airports by squeezing more flights into a given time, lower taxi times and reaching destinations ahead of schedule to cut costs. In fact, IndiGo went further – selling premium seats, doing away with cooked meals, no in-flight entertainment, leaner ground staff and using a single-type fleet – to slash costing and maximising profits.

While some cost-cutting measures are acceptable, others do compromise air safety – especially maximum utilisation of aircraft and reduced rest time for pilots. It has shied away from hiring more pilots earlier, leading to around 25 daily cancellations even before this week. The DGCA has done the right thing, as air safety is paramount. The big question, then, is: why did IndiGo not see it coming, as the new norms did not arrive overnight; they had been discussed for months. IndiGo underestimated the quantum of crew required under the revised framework, leading to what the airline itself now acknowledges as "misjudgment and planning gaps."

This is not merely a rostering issue but a failure to build scheduling buffers and enable higher-rest regimes. IndiGo's lapse has triggered turbulence across Indian skies, causing widespread airport chaos. The way forward demands a realistic schedule reset, clearer communication and close coordination with the regulators, prioritised routes and fewer night operations – without compromising safety of the passengers.

Tributes to Baba Saheb Dr Ambedkar: From labour leader to a nation builder

As we honour the countless contributions of labourers in nation-building, guided by the enduring spirit of *Shramev Jayate*, Dr Ambedkar's Mahaparinirvan Diwas offers a fitting moment to reflect on the vision and actions of this great nation-builder



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

Today, we commemorate the 70th Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, a larger-than-life figure and a champion of progressive measures that have shaped the course of modern human society. As a jurist, economist, philosopher, reformer, and above all, a nation-builder, his tireless efforts laid the foundation of modern India. He did not merely draft a Constitution; he provided a blueprint for an inclusive and empowered nation, where every citizen enjoys dignity and opportunity. Inspired by these foundational values, the Modi government has undertaken numerous initiatives promoting welfare and good governance.

On November 27, 2025, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, the world paused to witness the unveiling of a bust of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution. Among global dignitaries, the statue stood not merely as a tribute to an Indian leader but as a universal symbol of justice. The plaque reads "Architect of the Indian Constitution," yet these words barely capture the legacy of a man who not only drafted laws but helped shape an entire nation in totality.

During his entire lifetime, Baba Saheb Dr Ambedkar carried forward the struggle for justice, championing labour rights and welfare. As the representative of the Depressed Classes at the Round Table Conference, he strongly advocated living wages, decent working conditions, freedom for peasants from oppressive landlords, and the eradication of social evils affecting the downtrodden. He had personally witnessed the suffering of workers and the marginalised. In Bombay, he lived for over 10 years in one-room tenements of the Bombay Development Department alongside mill workers, where there were no modern facilities and each floor had only one lavatory and one tap for all purposes. These conditions gave him firsthand knowledge of workers' lives. He mobilised the masses and founded the Independent Labour Party (ILP) in 1936 with a comprehensive programme for landless people, poor tenants, agriculturists, and workers. On September 17, 1937, during the Poona session of the Bombay Assembly, he introduced a Bill to abolish the Khoti land tenure system in Konkan. In 1938, he led a peasants' march to the Council Hall in Bombay, becoming a popular leader of peasants, workers, and the landless. He was the first Indian legislator to introduce a Bill to end the serfdom of agricultural tenants. He also strongly opposed the Industrial Disputes Bill, 1937, because it curtailed workers' right to strike.

When the world order was in uncertainty during the Second World War, Dr Ambedkar, as Labour Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, was guiding the path for labourers in India. As economies transformed and industries expanded, entrepreneurs gained opportunities for prosperity, but labour did not receive its fair share. Dr Ambedkar introduced key measures for labour welfare, laying the foundation of the Government's labour policy. He handled complex labour issues with great efficiency and earned the respect of both employees and employers.

In his 1943 All India Radio address from Bombay, Dr Ambedkar urged securing a "fair condition of life" for labour, grounded in liberty, equality, and fraternity. His efforts helped bring workers under social security. He made lasting contributions through key labour legislation, including the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Bill, the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1943 – addressing unsafe inspections that caused many mill deaths – the Indian Mines and Trade Unions



ON NOVEMBER 27, 2025, AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS, THE WORLD PAUSED TO WITNESS THE UNVEILING OF A BUST OF DR BHIMRAO RAMJI AMBEDKAR, COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION. AMONG GLOBAL DIGNITARIES, THE STATUE STOOD NOT MERELY AS A TRIBUTE TO AN INDIAN LEADER BUT AS A UNIVERSAL SYMBOL OF JUSTICE. THE PLAQUE READS "ARCHITECT OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION," YET THESE WORDS BARELY CAPTURE THE LEGACY OF A MAN WHO NOT ONLY DRAFTED LAWS BUT HELPED SHAPE AN ENTIRE NATION IN TOTALITY

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Amendment Bills, the Miners' Maternity Benefit Amendment, the Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Amendment, and the Workmen's Compensation Amendment.

On December 9, 1943, Dr BR Ambedkar visited the Dhanbad coalfields, going 400 feet underground to inspect operations and labour conditions. This visit led to the Coal Mine Labour Welfare Ordinance of January 1944, creating a fund for workers' welfare. He strengthened this fund by doubling the tax on extracted coal, ensuring better health and safety measures for miners. On 8 November 1943, he also introduced the Indian Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, requiring employers to recognise trade unions.

On February 8, 1944, during the Legislative Assembly debate on lifting the ban on women's underground work in coal mines, Dr BR Ambedkar stated: "It is for the first time that I think in any industry the principle has been established of equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex." This marked a historic moment for the nation. Through the Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1943, he strengthened maternity benefits and addressed absenteeism. In 1945, he amended the Act further to prohibit women from underground work for ten weeks before childbirth and ensured fourteen weeks of maternity leave – ten weeks before and four weeks after confinement.

Addressing the Indian Labour Conference in New Delhi on November 26, 1945, he reviewed the State's obligations to labour and urged laws to raise Indian labour standards to international levels. Emphasising the need for progressive labour welfare legislation, he said:

"Labour may well say that the fact that the British took 100 years to have a proper code of labour legislation is no argument that we should also in India take 100 years. History is not to be studied merely with a view to know how well to imitate the mistakes of other countries. We study history with a view to know the errors people have made and how they could be avoided. History is not always an example. More often it is a warning."

The next day at the same conference, he proposed legislation to reduce working hours to a 48-hour week in factories, introduce statutory industrial canteens, and amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1934. He also announced plans to draft laws for minimum wages and to amend the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926. On February 21, 1946, Dr BR Ambedkar moved the Factories (Amendment) Bill to reduce weekly working hours to 48, fix overtime rates, and provide paid leave. After review by the select committee, this landmark leg-

islation – championed by Ambedkar – was passed on April 4, 1946.

The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill, introduced by him to create a fund for welfare activities in the mica mining industry, was passed on April 15, 1946. It improved amenities and working conditions for child and women labourers, including hours and wage issues. Dr Ambedkar also moved a Minimum Wages Bill on April 11, 1946, proposing advisory committees and boards with equal employer-labour representation. This Bill was later enacted into law on February 9, 1948.

Dr Ambedkar opposed the labour movement led by communists, rejecting Marx's totalitarian approach of controlling all means of production. He disagreed with Marx's view that abolishing private property would end poverty and suffering. In his essay *Buddha or Karl Marx*, he writes:

"Can the Communists say that in achieving their valuable end they have not destroyed other valuable ends? They have destroyed private property. Assuming that this is a valuable end can the Communists say that they have not destroyed other valuable end in the process of achieving it? How many people have they killed for achieving their end? Has human life no value? Could they not have taken property without taking the life of the owner?"

While drafting the Constitution, Dr Ambedkar placed labour in the Concurrent List to ensure uniform legislation and alignment with international standards. His foresight also eliminated bonded labour by declaring it illegal in the Constitution.

Guided by the mantra of "Reform, Perform, Transform," and taking inspiration from Dr Ambedkar's values, the government has implemented four comprehensive labour codes – the Codes on Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security and Welfare, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions. These reforms aim to ensure universal social security, protect workers' rights, boost productivity, create jobs, and strengthen India's economic growth towards a Viksit Bharat by 2047. The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, launched in February 2019, provides old-age protection for unorganised workers, while the Maternity Amendment Act, 2017, extends maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks and mandates crèche facilities.

As we honour the countless contributions of labourers in nation-building, guided by the enduring spirit of *Shramev Jayate*, Dr Ambedkar's Mahaparinirvan Diwas offers a fitting moment to reflect on the vision and actions of this great nation-builder. His ideals remain a guiding light, inspiring us to achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

PIC TALK



Farmers warm themselves around burning stubble on a winter morning at Ranbir Singh Pura in Jammu district. PHOTO: PTI

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

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HONOURING AMBEDKAR'S LEGACY OF EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

Ambedkar Vardhanthi is observed annually on 06 December, the day he passed away in 1956. His Jayanthi, celebrated on April 14, since 1928, is observed nationwide and abroad as Equality Day. Born into a Dalit family on April 14, 1891 in Mhow near Indore, Madhya Pradesh, this year marks the 69th death anniversary of a towering figure in Indian history. Academically brilliant, he studied at Elphinstone College, Mumbai, and went on to earn two doctorates in Economics from Columbia University and the London School of Economics - becoming the first Indian Dalit to obtain a doctorate abroad.

Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was not only the principal architect of the Constitution but also India's first Law Minister, an eminent jurist, economist, and

social reformer. He served as Principal of the Government Law College and as Professor of Political Economy in Mumbai. As Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee from 29 August 1947, he oversaw the adoption of the Constitution on 26 November 1949, which came into force on 26 January 1950. He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990.

Ambedkar championed social justice, equality, civil liberties and Dalit empowerment. He founded the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha and led temple-entry, anti-caste and equal-rights movements. He supported the establishment of the RBI, reduced working hours from 12 to 8, and remains the only Indian with a statue placed near Karl Marx in the London Museum.

BURRA M REDDY | KARIMNAGAR

Please send your letter to the info@dailypioneer.com. In not more than 250 words. We appreciate your feedback.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Foreign dignitaries must meet opposition

Rahul Gandhi's allegation that the Government is discouraging foreign dignitaries from meeting the Leader of the Opposition raises an issue that deserves serious democratic scrutiny. If visiting leaders are being subtly prevented from interacting with the Opposition, it marks a clear departure from India's long-standing political conventions and our proud tradition of openness.

For decades, India's strength has rested on allowing foreign interlocutors to hear multiple political voices. Governments have changed, but the democratic convention of enabling meetings with Opposition leaders remained intact. The Government may insist there is no formal restriction, yet even the perception of behind-the-scenes gatekeeping is damaging. The Opposition represents a vast section of the electorate and has every right to present its views before international visitors. Denying that space creates the impression of a curated political landscape, where access is managed and political diversity is concealed.

A confident democracy does not fear dialogue. Visiting dignitaries must be free to meet all legitimate leaders, including the Leader of the Opposition – without barriers, signals, or subtle discouragement of any kind.

KV CHANDRA MOULI | MYSURU

Putin visit marks strategic shift

President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to India will remain a watershed moment in bilateral relations. The evident warmth between the Indian Prime Minister and the Russian President sent a clear message to the world: both countries continue to remain steadfast, all-weather partners. The newly realised Strategic Economic Accord 2030, which facilitates freer trade and smoother labour mobility, could become a genuine game-changer in an increasingly uncertain global economy.

India can rely on Russia in its fight against terrorism, just as Russia can rely on India during its challenging geopolitical moments. Should both nations find common ground in helping resolve the Ukraine conflict, it would greatly strengthen the cause of global peace.

In today's multipolar world order, relations guided by mutual respect and pragmatic cooperation stand to influence other nations in positive ways. India and Russia, both resilient powers with long-standing ties, now have an opportunity to shape regional and global dynamics with maturity, balance and strategic foresight. Their partnership, anchored in trust and consistency, remains one of the most stable bilateral equations of the contemporary era.

SANKARA RAO | ANDHRA PRADESH

Indians must rethink America obsession

Indians continue to aspire to move to the United States even though visa rules have become stricter and far more unpredictable. The American authorities now screen applicants' social-media activity and repeatedly emphasise that a visa is a "privilege, not a right". Fear of sudden deportation, often without proper opportunity to counter allegations, adds to the anxiety. It is increasingly evident that the United States is becoming reluctant to welcome outsiders.

It is widely perceived as a land of opportunity, offering higher salaries, advanced research facilities, and employment in global companies. Families hope for better education, healthcare, and a safer environment for their children. Many professionals believe India offers slower growth due to competitive job markets, limited avenues, and lower wages. They see moving abroad as a quicker route to recognition and stability.

The large and successful Indian diaspora in the US provides emotional and logistical support, making the transition appear smoother. For many, the risks posed by stricter rules are outweighed by hopes of success, global exposure, and a brighter future. Yet Indians must reconsider this instinctive craving for America and recognise the growing opportunities within India itself.

O PRASADA RAO | HYDERABAD

FROM THE WORLD
UK
Indian delivery riders detained

Indians are among 171 delivery riders caught working illegally in a UK-wide crackdown and have been detained for deportation from the country, the British Government has said. The UK Home Office Immigration Enforcement teams undertook an 'Operation Equalise' over seven days last month, which involved stopping to check the documents of delivery riders operating in villages, towns and cities across Britain. Those found to be working illegally, which also included Bangladeshi and Chinese nationals, were arrested on the spot and detained for removal to the countries of their origin. "On 17 November, officers were deployed to the High Street in Newham (east London). Four riders of Bangladeshi and Indian nationality were arrested for illegal working.

UAE
Ship attacked by pirates

A ship travelling Friday through the narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait came under attack by suspected pirates, officials said. The incident saw a ship chased by smaller vessels that opened fire on it, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said. The private security firm Diaploous Group said the vessel twice came under attack and armed guards aboard it opened fire in response. It said the crew was safe and described the ship as a bulk carrier. The Bab el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, separating the African continent from the Arabian Peninsula. The area had seen attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels over the Israel-Hamas war, as well as a rise in piracy from Somalia as well. The Houthis have halted their attacks, however, as an uneasy ceasefire holds in the Gaza Strip.

Nepal PM holds meeting with Gen Z leaders, political parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Kathmandu

Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Friday held an interaction with representatives of political parties, officials of the Election Commission and Gen Z group focusing on preparations for the general election next year.

The discussion mainly focused on the issues pertinent to preparation for the House of Representatives (HoR) election slated for March 5, according to Prime Minister Office's sources.

The joint meeting held at the PM's official residence at Baluwatar was attended by officials of the Election Commission, leaders of major political parties including Nepali Congress, Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) and Nepali Communist Party, Gen Z representatives and chiefs of security agencies.

They mainly discussed issues relating to election preparation, security arrangement and environment for election, according



to PM Karki's secretariat. Besides PM Karki and ministers, the meeting was attended by acting chief election commissioner Ram Prasad Bhandari, general secretary of Nepali Congress Gagan Thapa, UML general secretary

Shankar Pokharel and RSP leader Shishir Khanal. In September, President Ramchandra Paudel appointed Karki as the new Prime Minister following the Gen Z movement that forced PM Oli to resign from the top

executive post.

The president then dissolved the House of Representatives as per the prime minister's recommendation and announced fresh elections to be held on March 5 next year.

Poll body calls political parties in Nepal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Kathmandu

The Election Commission (EC) has called on political parties interested in contesting under the Proportional Representation electoral system for the upcoming House of Representatives election.

Issuing a notice on Friday, the EC asked the interested political parties to submit their applications from December 7 to December 10. The EC has asked to submit their applications within three days. The EC has already set up the office of the Election Officer, and EC Secretary Mahadev Pantha has been assigned as election officer for the purpose.

The list of political parties submitting their applications for the proportional category will be published on December 10. The political parties filing their applications for the proportional category should submit the list of their candidates on December 28 and 29, EC Spokesperson Narayan Prasad Bhattarai said.

As per the election programme under the first-past-the-post election category, nomination of the



candidates would be registered on January 20, and the list of candidates would be published on the same day. There are 275 seats in the House of Representatives, among which 60 per cent or 165 members will be elected directly or through the FPTP system, while the remaining 40 per cent of 110 members will be elected through proportionate

voting system. The deadline to file complaints against candidates has been fixed at January 21. The list of candidates will be published on January 22. Candidates could withdraw their names on January 23 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, and the election symbol would be allocated to candidates after publishing the final list of candidates on the same day.

Damaged roads, debris slow relief operations in Asia after deadly floods

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Aceh Tamiang

Emergency crews were racing against time on Friday after last week's catastrophic floods and landslides struck parts of Asia, killing more than 1,500 people.

Relief operations are underway, but the scale of need is overwhelming the capabilities of rescuers.

Authorities said 867 people were confirmed dead in Indonesia, 486 in Sri Lanka and 185 in Thailand, as well as three in Malaysia.

Many villages in Indonesia and Sri Lanka remained buried under mud and debris, with nearly 900 people still unaccounted for in both countries, while recovery was further along in Thailand and Malaysia.

As the waters recede, survivors find that the disaster has crippled their villages' lifelines. Roads that once connected the cities and districts to the outside world are severed, leaving some areas accessible only by helicopter. Transmission towers col-



lapsed under the weight of landslides, plunging communities into darkness and causing internet outages.

In Aceh Tamiang, the hardest-hit area in Aceh province, infrastructure is in ruins. Entire villages in the lush hills district lie submerged beneath a thick blanket of mud. More than

2,60,000 residents fled homes once on green farmland. With wells contaminated and pipes shattered, the floodwaters have turned necessities into luxuries.

Food is scarce, and the stench of decay hangs heavily in the air. Helicopters began deploying to drop food, medicine, and blan-

kets into Aceh Tamiang's isolated pockets, where clean water, sanitation and shelter top the list of urgent priorities. For many, survival hinges on the speed of aid.

Trucks carrying relief supplies crawl along roads connecting North Sumatra's Medan city to Aceh Tamiang, which reopened almost a

week after the disaster, but distribution is slowed by debris on the roads, said National Disaster Management Agency's spokesperson Abdul Muhari.

Television reports showed widespread devastation in Aceh Tamiang after flash floods tore through the area, with cars overturned and

homes badly damaged. Animal carcasses are scattered among the debris.

Two hospitals and 15 community health centres stood idle. Medical teams improvised in crowded shelters, battling shortages of medicine and staff as waterborne diseases loom.

On a battered bridge spanning the swollen Tamiang River, families cling to survival under makeshift tarpaulins. Children shiver in damp clothes. A survivor there, Virra, broke down in tears, "We have nothing left," she cried. "We drank floodwater from discarded bottles and scavenged for scraps. Whatever the current carried to us," Virra, who goes by a single name, said in a television interview on Thursday.

Another resident, Angga, recounted how he and 13 relatives and neighbours clung to the tin roof of a shattered building for four nights.

"Even now, eight days after the floods erased our village, no aid has reached us — no helicopters, no rescue teams," Angga said.

INDIAN ENVOY MEETS SRI LANKA MINISTER ON DITWAH RECONSTRUCTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Colombo

Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha met Sri Lanka's Housing and Construction minister to discuss reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts following Cyclone Ditwah, which has killed 486 people so far in the island nation. Jha's meeting with Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply Susil Ranasinghe took place as Sri Lanka is grappling with widespread flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse triggered by Cyclone Ditwah. It has left several districts isolated and severely straining the country's disaster-response capacity.

The two "discussed avenues to build on existing robust India-Sri Lanka development cooperation in the Housing sector to address reconstruction and rehabilitation requirements in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah," the Indian High Commission said in a post on X on Friday.

According to a report by the island nation's Disaster Management Centre early on Friday, 486 people have been killed and 341 are missing due to catastrophic floods and landslides caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16.

As many as 2,303 houses have been fully damaged while 52,489 have been partially damaged in the aftermath of the cyclone, according to the data.

India has been extending humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu, with extensive air, sea and ground operations delivering urgent relief to those affected.

US military conducts strike on another suspected drug boat

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Washington

US Southern Command announced that it conducted another strike against a small boat in the eastern Pacific Ocean, following a pause of almost three weeks. Thursday's strike is the 22nd the US military has carried out against boats in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean that the Trump administration claimed were trafficking drugs.

There were four casualties in Thursday's strike, according to the social media post, bringing the death toll of the campaign to at least 87 people. In a video that accompanied the announcement, a small boat can be seen moving across the water before it is suddenly consumed by a large explosion. The video then zooms out to show the

boat covered in flames and billowing smoke.

The strike was conducted the same day Admiral Frank "Mitch" Bradley appeared for a series of closed-door classified briefings at the US Capitol as lawmakers began an investigation into the very first strike carried out by the military on September 2. The sessions came after a report that Bradley ordered a follow-on attack that killed the survivors to comply with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's demands.

Bradley told lawmakers there was no "kill them all" order from Hegseth, but a stark video of the entire series of attacks left some lawmakers with serious questions. Legal experts have said killing survivors of a strike at sea could be a violation of the laws of military warfare. Bradley spoke to lawmakers alongside the chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, in a classified session. His testimony provided fresh information at a crucial moment as Hegseth's leadership comes under scrutiny, but it did little to resolve growing questions about the legal basis for President Donald Trump's extraordinary campaign to use war powers against suspected drug smugglers.

Lawmakers offered differing accounts of what they saw on the video. Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas said he saw the survivors "trying to flip a boat loaded with drugs bound for United States back over so they could stay in the fight".

Connecticut Rep. Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said, "What I saw in that room was one of the most troubling things I've seen in my time in public service."

NDRF completes rescue operations in Sri Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Colombo

India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams left for home on Friday after successfully completing search, rescue and relief operations in cyclone-hit Sri Lanka, according to the Indian mission.

The island nation has been grappling with widespread flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse following Cyclone Ditwah, which has left over 450 people dead till Friday. It also left several districts isolated and severely strained the country's disaster-response capacity.

India was the first country to respond to Sri Lanka's international appeal for assistance under its Operation Sagar Bandhu. The NDRF teams comprising 80 personnel and K9 (search and rescue dogs) units, arrived in Sri Lanka on November 29 and "were immediately deployed to

INDIA WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RESPOND TO SRI LANKA'S INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

some of the worst-affected areas," the Indian High Commission said.

Working in close coordination with and under the guidance of Sri Lankan authorities, the NDRF carried out extensive operations across multiple districts. "After successfully completing their Mission, the NDRF teams departed from Colombo today," it said.

The teams undertook sustained rescue efforts in flood-affected and landslide-hit areas in Badulla, Kochchikade, Puttalam, Colombo, and Gampaha. Their operations involved navigating submerged neighbourhoods, reaching stranded house-

holds, assisting those trapped inside damaged structures, recovering mortal remains, distributing aid and providing immediate medical attention where needed.

The teams rescued and evacuated about 150 persons, recovered several mortal remains and stranded animals, and responded to every call for assistance "despite hazardous water conditions, damaged access routes, and unstable terrain", it said. They also assisted pregnant women, infants, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable community members, reflecting the deeply humanitarian approach of the operation, the high commission said.

In Badulla district — one of the worst impacted by landslides — NDRF personnel trekked long distances on foot with specialised equipment and K9 search support. They operated through chal-

lenging weather, unstable slopes, and debris as deep as 8-10 feet for the recovery operation, it added.

According to a report by the island nation's Disaster Management Centre early on Friday, 486 people have been killed and 341 are missing due to catastrophic floods and landslides caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16.

Separately, Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha met Sri Lanka's Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply Susil Ranasinghe to discuss reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts following Cyclone Ditwah.



Germany approves plan to attract more military recruits

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Berlin

German lawmakers on Friday approved the Government's plan to attract more military recruits as the country tries to boost the ranks of its armed forces in the face of rising concern about the threat posed by Russia. The plan also foresees mandatory medical checks for young men. It stops short of reintroducing conscription, though it leaves open the possibility of compulsory service for at least a limited number should the need arise. Parliament's lower house, the Bundestag, approved the plan by 323 votes to 272, with one abstention. It's a modified version of a plan that Chancellor Friedrich Merz's Cabinet approved in August. Germany has committed billions to improving its military's equipment after years of neglect and the Government has turned its attention to trying to persuade more people to join up.

US raid allegedly killed Syrian undercover agent

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Dumayr

A raid by US forces and a local Syrian group aiming to capture an Islamic State group official instead killed a man who had been working undercover gathering intelligence on the extremists, family members and Syrian officials told. The killing in October underscores the complex political and security landscape as the United States begins working with interim Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa in the fight against remnants of IS. According to relatives, Khaled al-Masoud had been spying on IS for years on behalf of the insurgents led by al-Sharaa and then for al-Sharaa's interim Government, established after the fall of former President Bashar Assad a year ago. Al-Sharaa's insurgents were mainly Islamists, some connected to al-Qaida, but enemies of IS who often clashed with it over the past decade.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
QUOTATIONS NOTICE
No.: 352597/01/J1/IT/GHMC/2025-26 Dt:05.12.2025
Name of Work : Quotations are invited for arriving estimate rates to float rate contract Tenders from authorized dealers (in Sealed Cover or through email) Hiring of (434) no of 4G LTE (Data Radio) based walkie talkie wireless communication sets for Officers (Staff of Health Wing, Electrical Wing, Sanitation Wing, Engineering Wing & Monsoon Teams of GHMC for a period of (2) Year. Start Date / Last Date & Time for Submission of Quotes : Start date : 06.12.2025 @ 11.00 AM. End date: 12.12.2025 @ 04.00 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: O/o Additional Commissioner (IT), 3rd floor, CC complex Building, GHMC, Liberty Circle, Hyderabad 500063. Phone: 630999458/9963551523 deelt-ghmc@gov.in, sairam.315@gov.in For more details visit GHMC website https://ghmc.gov.in/ Sd/- Additional Commissioner DIPR.No. 11752-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2025-26, Dt: 05.12.2025 (Information Technology), GHMC.

OFFICE OF THE KARIMNAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Email:knrmn@rediffmail.com.
Request for proposal (RFP)
No. E1/DB/MCK/8201/RFP-Biogas/MCK/2025-26, Date: 04-12-2025
RFP for setting up of a biogas plant based on CSIR- Indian institute of Chemical Technology (CSIT-IICT) Anaerobic Gas lift Reactor (AGR) Technology or all any other relevant technologies for generation of Biogas for cooking fuel cum Electricity generation (To Grid/off grid, whichever is feasible at lower cost for practical implementation) using segregated 3 TPD segregated organic fraction of Municipal waste under Karimnagar Municipal Corporation on Turn key basis & operating and Maintaining the plant for a period of two (2) years (1st Recall). RFP Submission start date & Time: 06-12-2025 04.00 PM. RFP Submission closing date & Time : 16-12-2025 04.00 PM. Further details can be seen at on www.tender.telangana.gov.in website Sd/- Commissioner, Karimnagar DIPR.NO. 11752-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2025-26, Dt: 05.12.2025 Municipal Corporation.

Chinese media spotlight Putin's New Delhi visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Beijing

Chinese official media on Friday highlighted President Vladimir Putin's remarks calling both India and China the closest friends of Russia while emphasising that Moscow has "no right" to interfere in their bilateral ties. China, a close ally of Russia, is yet to officially comment on Putin's visit to India, while keeping a close watch on the outcome.

While Putin's visit to India is largely ignored by the official media, which focused more on French President Emmanuel Macron's current visit to Beijing, State-run Global Times, however, carried a report on Putin's remarks on how he viewed Russia's relations with India and China.

The daily, which is part of the ruling Chinese Communist Party's official publications, quoted Putin's remark to India Today stating that "India and China are our closest friends - we treasure that relationship deeply."

But at the same time, it highlighted Putin's guarded comment that despite sharing close ties with India and China, Russia has "no right" to interfere in their bilateral ties. "We know this very well — India and China are our closest friends. We treasure that relationship deeply, and I do not believe we have the right to inter-

GLOBAL TIMES CARRIED A REPORT ON PUTIN'S REMARKS ON HOW HE VIEWED RUSSIA'S RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND CHINA

fere in your bilateral relations," the daily quoted Putin as saying in the interview. Quoting a report by Russian news agency TASS, the daily's report said Putin expressed confidence that Indian and Chinese leaders are committed to finding solutions to all intergovernmental issues, including the most sensitive ones.

He cited their wisdom as the key factor enabling the two countries to reach agreements. "At the same time, Russia does not feel entitled to intervene, because these are your bilateral affairs."

Experts say that while China and Russia enjoy a close strategic partnership, Moscow's enduring ties with New Delhi remain a source of unease for Beijing. While developing its close ties with Beijing, Moscow for its part has ensured its close with New Delhi remained intact even when Sino-Indian relations reached their lowest in 2020 following the Ladakh confrontation.

Besides Putin's comments on India-China ties, his remarks refuting US accusations over India's purchases

of Russian oil were briefly carried by state-run Xinhua news agency.

For its part, China tops the list of countries purchasing Russian oil and gas and rejected US calls to halt the imports to penalise Moscow for continuing its war on Ukraine.

"The US itself still buys nuclear fuel from us for its own nuclear power plants. That is also fuel," Xinhua quoted Putin as saying in his India Today interview.

He further added, "If the US has the right to buy our fuel, why shouldn't India have the same privilege? This question deserves a thorough examination, and we stand ready to discuss it, including with President Trump," Putin said.

Significantly, days ahead of Putin's visit to India, China and Russia held their annual strategic dialogue in which they discussed security interests of both countries, including "Asia-Pacific and neighbouring regions".

The "two sides also had in-depth communication and coordinated positions on other international and regional issues of mutual concern, including the maintenance of global strategic stability, major-country relations, and the situation in the Asia-Pacific and neighbouring regions, and reached a broad consensus", a Chinese Foreign Ministry press release here said on Wednesday.



Tents sheltering displaced Palestinians stand amid the destruction left by the Israeli air and ground offensive in Gaza City on Friday

Russian strike kills boy in Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS N KYIV

Russian drones struck a house in central Ukraine, killing a 12-year-old boy, officials said, while long-range Ukrainian strikes reportedly targeted a Russian port and an oil refinery as US peace efforts continued out of public view.

US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, were set to meet Thursday in Miami with a Ukrainian delegation but there was no official confirmation whether the meeting took place.

Those scheduled talks came after discussions between President Vladimir Putin and the US envoys at the

Kremlin on Tuesday. Previous diplomatic attempts to break the deadlock have come to nothing and the nearly four-year war has continued unabated. Officials largely have kept a lid on how the latest talks are going, though Trump's initial 28-point plan was leaked.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country's delegation in Miami wanted to hear from the US side about the talks at the Kremlin. Zelenskyy, as well as European leaders backing him, have repeatedly accused Putin of stalling in peace talks while the Russian army tries to press forward with its invasion. Zelenskyy said in a video address late Thursday that officials wanted

to know "what other pretexts Putin has come up with to drag out the war and to pressure Ukraine." Meanwhile, Kremlin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov, who accompanied Putin on a visit to India on Friday, repeated the Russian leaders' recent criticism of Europe's stance on the peace talks. Kyiv's European allies are concerned about possible Russian aggression beyond Ukraine.

Kyiv's allies in Europe are "constantly putting forward demands that are unacceptable to Moscow," Ushakov told Russia's state-owned Zvezda TV. "Putting it mildly, the Europeans don't help Washington and Moscow reach a settlement on the Ukrainian issues."

Congo fighting threatens Trump-brokered peace



ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Goma

Residents of eastern Congo said fighting has intensified despite a peace agreement that was signed by the Congolese and Rwandan presidents in Washington, DC, with US President Donald Trump in attendance.

Presidents Felix Tshisekedi of Congo and Paul Kagame of Rwanda met with Trump on Thursday to sign a wide-ranging deal that attempts to stop the ongoing war between the Congolese armed forces and the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group in the eastern part of Congo. But residents said Friday the fighting has intensified in recent days, with the town of Kamanyola near the borders with Rwanda and Burundi bearing the brunt. "People are fleeing; they are leaving the neighbourhoods where the bombs are falling to go to areas considered calm, and others are fleeing towards Rwanda," Kamanyola resident Urbain Dunia told The Associated Press by telephone Friday. "Yesterday, we saw that agreements were signed, but we don't see any positive impact on this situation, and that worries us," said Samson

Alimasi, also from Kamanyola. "We only see bombs falling without knowing which side they are coming from." Lauded by the White House as a "historic" agreement brokered by Trump, the pact between Tshisekedi and Kagame followed monthslong peace efforts by the US and other partners including the African Union and Qatar. The agreement finalized a deal signed in June.

M23 spokesperson Lawrence Kanyuka blamed the Congolese Army.

"It's the governing coalition that continues to bomb us. I've always told you that this regime never respects agreements. Besides, what happened in Washington doesn't concern us," Kanyuka said.

M23 leader Bertrand Bisimwa claimed in a post on X that the shelling reported by residents was coming from Burundian Army positions across the border. The AP was unable to independently verify the claim.

Throughout eastern Congo, residents have reported pockets of clashes. M23 and Congolese forces have repeatedly accused each other of violating the terms of the ceasefire agreed earlier this year.

Iran launches massive missiles: Report

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Tehran

Iran launched massive missiles in the Sea of Oman and near the strategic Strait of Hormuz during the second day of a naval drill, State TV reported Friday.

The report said the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched the missiles from the depth of Iran's mainland, hitting targets in the Oman Sea and neighbouring area near Strait of Hormuz in a drill that began on Thursday. It identified the missiles as cruise Qadr-110, Qadr-380 and Ghadr that have a range of up to 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles). It said the Guard also launch a



ballistic missile identified as 303, without elaborating.

TV footage showed the missiles' launch and hitting their targets. The drill is the second one following the

end of the war, Iran has increasingly insisted that it is ready to counter any future Israeli attack. Iran launched its first naval drill in the area in August.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard is mainly in charge of operations in the Persian Gulf and its narrow mouth, the Strait of Hormuz. The national navy is in charge of Sea of Oman and beyond.

Iran long has threatened to close off the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of all global oil traded passes. The US Navy has long patrolled the Mideast through its Bahrain-based 5th Fleet to keep the waterways open.

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Around the world, refugees are shut out of US by Trump's new policies

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Washington

When US President Trump suspended the refugee programme on day one of his current administration, thousands of people around the world who'd been so close to a new life in America found themselves abandoned.

As part of Trump's crackdown on legal and illegal migration, the Republican president has upended the decades-old refugee programme that has served as a beacon for those fleeing war and persecution.

In October, he resumed the programme but set a historic low of refugee admissions at 7,500 — mostly white South Africans. New restrictions were announced after an Afghan national became the suspect in the shooting of two National Guard members last week. The Trump administration also plans a review of



President Donald Trump arriving for a signing ceremony with Rwanda's President Paul Kagame and Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi at the Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace in Washington

refugees let in during the Democratic Biden administration. Trump's administration has cited economic and national security concerns for its policy changes.

About 6,000,000 people were being processed to come to the US as refugees when the programme was halted, according to the administration. Aside from

dozens of white South Africans let in this year, only about 100 others have been admitted as a result of a lawsuit by advocates seeking to restore the refugee programme, said Mevlude Akay Alp, a lawyer arguing the case. The Associated Press spoke to three families whose lives have been thrown into disarray because

of the changing policies. The Dawoods fled civil war in Syria and settled in northern Iraq. They hoped to find a new home that could provide better medical care for a daughter who had fallen from the fourth floor of the family's apartment building.

After they were accepted as refugees to the US, son Ibrahim and his sister Ava

Munir officially appointed as Pak's Chief of Defence forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Islamabad

Pakistan's defence ministry on Friday officially notified the appointment of Field Marshal Asim Munir as the first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), a move aimed at the major restructuring of the military command since the 1970s. The development came a day after President Asif Ali Zardari approved Munir's appointment. The "president, on the advice of the prime minister, is pleased to appoint Field Marshal Asim Munir (NI) M as the chief of army staff, concurrently the chief of defence forces for a tenure of five years," Dawn reported, citing the notification. Last month, the parliament passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment, creating a new post of CDF with the objective of a unified command and expediting decision-making in critical situations.

The CDF replaced the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCJSC), a position now abolished. The new arrangement consolidates operational, administrative and strategic authority in a single office - CDF. Munir was appointed as Army Chief in November 2022 initially for three years, but his tenure was extended

in 2024. Munir, who was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal just days after the four-day conflict with India in May, is only the second military officer in Pakistan's history to be elevated to the position, after Field Marshal Ayub Khan in the 1960s. Talking to the media, Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry on Friday said the establishment of the CDF headquarters was one of the most important steps towards providing the requisite synergy and jointness for military operations. "This was debated a lot in the media, and we understand that the character of warfare has changed — now there are multi-domain operations taking place. It's no more just land, sea and air; it's in space, it's in cyberspace, it is the informational domain, it's intelligence-based, and war is fought in multiple domains," he said. "The wars have become violent, short and intense, so to get efficiency, efficacy and economy of effort in that, the CDF headquarters was a long-awaited essential requirement, and it's not only in Pakistan, but there are more than a dozen countries, almost more than 70 countries, where synergetic headquarters of the chief of defence are available," he said.

German President visits WWII bombing site



ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ London

Germany's president laid a wreath Friday at Coventry Cathedral in central England, symbolically atoning for the atrocities of World War II as his country and the United Kingdom seek to bolster an alliance to combat the new war raging in Europe. Frank-Walter Steinmeier's pilgrimage commemorates the Nazi bombing of Coventry on the night of November 14, 1940, which destroyed the 14th-century Gothic cathedral, leaving behind a roofless ruin that stands as a reminder of the ravages of war. At least

568 people were killed and more than half of Coventry's homes were damaged or destroyed in what was the single most concentrated attack on a British city during the war. Britain was represented at the event by the Duke of Kent, who has long fostered UK-German reconciliation. He served as the royal patron of the Dresden Trust, which seeks to build bonds between the people of Britain and Dresden following the Allied bombing that destroyed the German city's historic centre and killed an estimated 25,000 people in February 1945.



Pak General accuses Imran of anti-army onslaught

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad

A senior Pakistani general on Friday accused jailed former premier Imran Khan of orchestrating a well-planned onslaught against the armed forces through the media, describing him as a "narcissistic" and "mentally sick" person. Director-General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the army, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhary, also warned Khan that such acts would no longer be tolerated. "That threat emanates from a delusional mindset of a delusional person who has become captive to his own ego, thinking that his wishes are bigger than those of the state of Pakistan," Chaudhry said while talking to the media. "His ego, his wishes, and frustrations have increased to such an extent that he thinks that the world would cease to exist without him," he said.



Burkina Faso Council plans to restore death penalty

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Dakar

Burkina Faso's Council of Ministers has adopted a bill to restore the death penalty, targeting offenses such as treason, terrorism, and espionage, authorities said. "The adoption of this bill is part of reforms. To have a justice that responds to the deep aspirations of our people," Minister of Justice Edasso Rodrigue Bayala said in a Facebook post late Thursday. The death penalty was abolished in the country in 2018. The bill has to be adopted by parliament and reviewed by the courts before becoming law. Since taking power in a 2022 coup, the West African country's military leaders have launched sweeping reforms, including postponing elections that were expected to restore civilian rule and dissolving the country's independent electoral commission.



The Indian Silk Gallery Expo inauguration by Shailaja Ramaiyar, Telangana Handloom Textiles and Endowment Principal Secretary, organized by the Indian Silk Gallery at Sathya Sai Niganagam in Srinagar Colony. The handloom artisans from 14 states of the country after viewing their products, organizers Srinivasa Rao and Vinay Kumar, who bring together handloom artisans from all over the country and provide their products directly to the consumers. in 80 stalls at this exhibition till 10th of this month.



Jismat Jail Mandi, formerly inauguration by Hero Dharma Mahesh. known as Gismat, proudly announced the grand opening of its second branch expressed gratitude to loyal customers and supporters, stating, at vv. Colony, Pillar no 1557, Dilsukhnagar



Grand Launch of India Med Expo - 22nd Edition in Hyderabad at Hitec Exhibition Centre, on 5th, 6th, 7th December 2025. Arun Sharma Organizer India Med Expo along with Chief Guest Dr Ilaiyah Mandala fro Surabi Institute of Medical Sciences, Uma Mahesh Katta Vice President Rijuven Medicare India Pvt Ltd and Tele Medicine Society of India



Boring to binge-worthy: lenskart x netflix's Stranger things 5 makes eyewear apop-culture essential

Lenskart has announced an electrifying partnership with Netflix for the highly anticipated fifth and final season of the global phenomenon, Stranger Things. This collaboration sees the launch of an exclusive, limited-edition eyewear collection of eleven eyewear designs, fusing the nostalgic allure of the Upside Down with Lenskart's cutting-edge style, firmly establishing eyewear as a must-have fashion statement for the Gen Z and OTT communities. "We have always believed that eyewear is a powerful tool for self-expression, and what better way to highlight this than by tapping into the cultural zeitgeist of Stranger Things," said Peyush Bansal, Co-Founder and CEO at



Lenskart. "This collaboration goes beyond simply creating frames; it's about making eyewear undeniably cool, bringing the excitement of pop culture to a category often perceived as 'boring.' We're engaging with our audience where they live, online on OTT platforms, and giving them a tangible piece of their favorite show to wear with pride." The limited-edition Lenskart x Stranger Things 5 collection draws inspiration from the iconic aesthetics and thrilling narratives of the series. Fans can expect frames that subtly nod to the 80s retro vibe, bold futuristic elements, and details that evoke the show's mysterious world, all crafted with Lenskart's signature precision and comfort.



Ode Spa Wellness, in collaboration with Mind Sutra, hosted Harmony Within, an exclusive sound healing experience designed to introduce guests to the power of vibrational wellness. Held at Ode Spa Jubilee Hills, The session was led by Dr. Girija Reddy, Ritesh Mastipuram, Founder & MD, Ridhira Group, Surya Swapna and Aman Preet Kaur, Founders of Mind Sutra. "At Ode Spa, our ethos is rooted in creating wellness



Xiaomi India launch of the REDMI 15C 5G, a smartphone designed to deliver a sleek aesthetic, a spacious 17.53 cm immersive display, and dependable all-day performance for users who seamlessly switch between work and entertainment. Anuj Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer, Xiaomi India said, "With REDMI 15C 5G, our goal was to build a phone that feels effortless in the hands of everyday users.



The World Telugu Information Technology Council (WTITC) has announced the appointment of Mahesh Babu Pittala as the Organising Secretary - Telangana State, following formal approval from the WTITC Governing Council. His official oath-taking ceremony will be held at the World Trade Center, Dubai, during the World Telugu IT Conference 2025.

World humanitarian and spiritual leader Didi Krishna Kumari to visit Hyderabad on the 7th

World humanitarian and spiritual leader and Global Head of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission Didi Krishna Kumari will visit Hyderabad on the 7th of this month. On this occasion, she will speak on the topic: "Design Your Destiny - Who Shapes Your Path? You Do" at an event organized by the Sadhu Vaswani Mission of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, jointly with Sadhu Vaswani International School, Kompally, at Imperial Gardens, Sikh Village, Secunderabad, on Sunday the 7th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Entry to this event is free, and those interested may register through the organization's QR code, said Dr. Harish Mirchandani and Mrs. Heera Rupani, Trustees of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The program is expected to attract students, professionals, homemakers, academicians, spiritual aspirants, and members of the wider community, they said in a statement. Sadhu T.L. Vaswani, revered saint, philosopher, and educationist, and Dada J.P. Vaswani, internationally respected spiritual master, spread the Mission's message of humanitarianism and interfaith harmony across the world.

Angel one alerts investors about fraudulent social media

Angel One Ltd, a leading player in the FinTech sector, warns investors about the increasing prevalence of fraudulent social media groups misusing Angel One's name and impersonating its senior executives. The company has observed multiple unauthorized groups being created across social messaging platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram, which are unlawfully and deceptively misusing the brand name and logo of Angel One Limited, as well as the names and images of its senior officials. Angel One has identified that these fraudulent groups are engaging in illegal activities, including providing securities-related advice or recommendations without necessary SEBI registration/permission, as well as making unauthorized claims about returns and performance related to securities without SEBI approval. Angel One clarified that it does not add customers to unofficial social media groups, request sensitive personal information through messaging platforms, solicit funds through unauthorized channels, or make promises of guaranteed returns. All legitimate transactions should only be conducted through official platforms of Angel One, and applications should only be downloaded from official sources and authorized app stores. The public is strongly advised to refrain from engaging with such entities and report any suspicious activities to law enforcement agencies immediately. If you encounter any potential scams, these can be reported through the Cybercrime portal at cybercrime.gov.in, by calling the dedicated helpline at 1930, by visiting your nearest police station, or by writing to us at ceosescalation@angelone.in.

QS master's fair to bring leading global universities to hyderabad

QS, a global leader in higher education services and university performance analytics, is hosting the QS Discover Master's Fair in Hyderabad to connect students with top international universities across the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe and Asia. Scheduled for 13 December 2025 at ITC Kakatiya, Begumpet, from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM, the fair will bring together 30+ leading global institutions to guide students on postgraduate programmes, admissions, funding, and international career pathways. QS aims to support this momentum by offering credible information, expert guidance and direct access to global universities through its Discover Master's Fair. Speaking about the upcoming fair, Pieter Funnekotter, Senior Vice President, Candidate Engagement, QS, said: "Students in Hyderabad continue to demonstrate a strong appetite for international postgraduate education, especially in fields that offer global mobility and strong career outcomes. They increasingly seek reliable, transparent guidance to navigate the many choices available across universities, countries and disciplines. The QS Discover Master's Fair brings leading institutions directly to students, enabling them to engage with admissions experts and gain practical insights that empower informed and confident decision-making." The event will also feature a special Panel Discussion on Admissions Application Tips, hosted by Carey Business School Event Details: Date & Day: 13 December 2025, Saturday, Time: 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM, Venue: ITC Kakatiya, Begumpet, registration visit: <https://eu1.hubs.ly/H0pR8Cw0>

Solve for tomorrow 2025: how young india is using AI for a safer, smarter & inclusive bharat

Artificial Intelligence is now at the heart of India's digital transformation-driving safety, accessibility and everyday empowerment. Reflecting this shift, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow (SFT) 2025, in collaboration with IIT Delhi, brought together thousands of students from across the country to design real-world AI solutions under the theme "AI for a Safer, Smarter and Inclusive Bharat." Here are the key highlights from this year's theme: "AI for Safer, Smarter and Inclusive Bharat." 1. A Theme Focused on Social Impact: The AI theme encouraged students to design technology that enhances safety in public spaces, improves accessibility for the visually impaired, and supports real-time emergency response. 2. The Innovators & Their Breakthroughs: Teams like Chakravayuth, Error 404, Passionate Problem Solver, Percevia, and Sicario brought forward solutions ranging from AI-enabled surveillance networks and women's safety apps to smart energy meters and wearable navigation devices for the visually impaired. Chakravayuth (Uttar Pradesh): Drone-enabled AI monitoring system to send alerts on infiltration activities on borders. Error 404 (Uttar Pradesh): AI-powered safety app for women with real-time fall detection & ER Passionate Problem Solver (Delhi): Decentralized smart energy meter system with AI-based encryption and predictive alerts Sicario (Delhi): AI glasses providing real-time face recognition & offline navigation support for blind

FUN

ARCHIE



GARFIELD



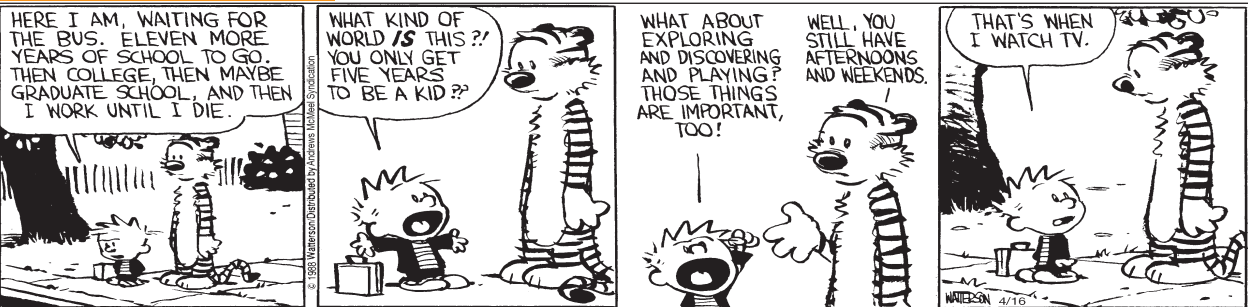
NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



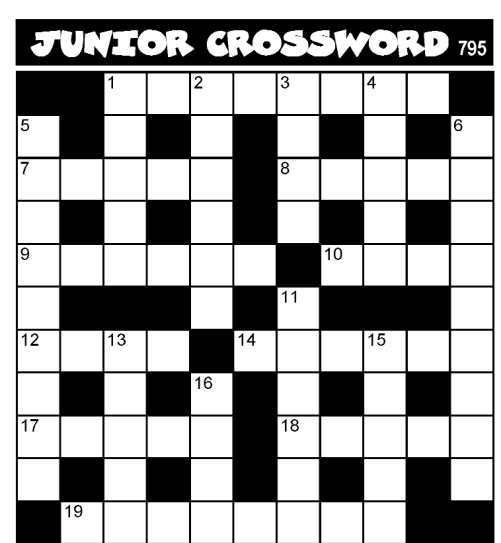
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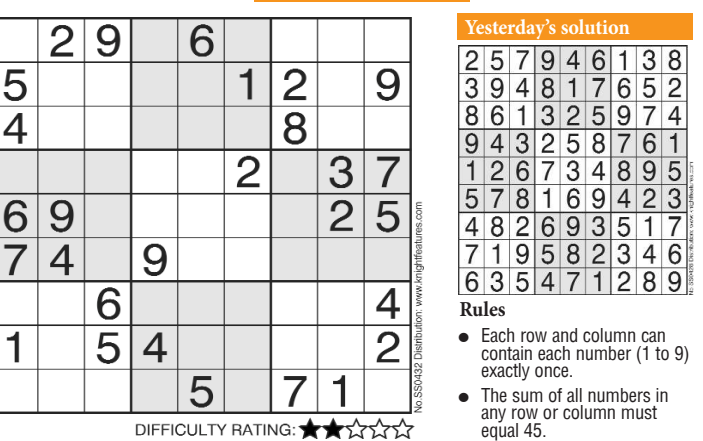
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



ACROSS

- 1 Gets better after illness
- 7 An item of furniture
- 8 Move
- 9 Painter or sculptor
- 10 At this place
- 12 Pleased
- 14 A meal outdoors
- 17 Arrive at
- 18 A large lifting machine
- 19 A bird's covering

DOWN

- 1 A mechanical person
- 2 A mark from a fold
- 3 A holder for cut flowers
- 4 Lift up



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RBI REACTIONS

Benign inflation outlook provides policy space to support the growth momentum. The language seems to indicate one more rate cut in the coming months as current year CPI inflation has been revised lower to two per cent, and GDP growth upwards to 7.3 per cent. As per the RBI Governor, core inflation pressure is still low given that 50 basis points of increase in core inflation is contributed by the metal prices.

Murthy Nagarajan,

Head-Fixed Income, Tata Asset Management

For the real estate sector, this rate cut builds on the momentum created during the recent festive season and GST rationalisation of key construction materials. Lower borrowing costs will improve affordability and buyer sentiment, particularly in affordable and mid-income housing segments.

Vimal Nadar,

National Director, Colliers India

The RBI delivered what the bond market was hoping for. The unanimous decision underscores confidence in the disinflation trend and signals a supportive stance for growth. Moreover, front-loading OMOs creates the possibility of additional liquidity.

Siddharth Chaudhary,

Head (Fixed Income), Bajaj Finserv AMC

The MPC's decision was assertive. The governor noted disinflationary pressures in the economy, which created room for a rate cut despite ongoing trade uncertainties, and early signs of weakness in indicators such as the IIP and electricity demand. We anticipate an additional 25 bp rate cut in February '26 based on our forecast of further downside surprises in inflation over the next 2-3 months.

Radhika Piplani,

Chief Economist, Motilal Oswal Group

With inflation printing significantly below projections, real rates were getting too high, potentially choking future growth. Nominal growth needed a boost in order that fiscal targets remain realistic. The policy addresses the live issues in comprehension, and is expected to significantly boost growth in coming quarters. Going ahead, as the possibilities for further rates remain alive, interest rates are expected to ease gradually and marginally.

Mahendra Kumar Jajoo,

CIO (Fixed Income), Mirae Asset Investment

It reinforces a supportive monetary environment for boosting consumer sentiment. Coupled with the income-tax relief measures announced in the Union Budget, and the landmark GST 2.0 reforms, this creates strong enablers for further enhancing affordability and accessibility. SIAM remains optimistic that this alignment of monetary and fiscal measures will accelerate growth of the Indian auto industry.

Shallesh Chandra,

President, SIAM

The central bank clarified that the primary purpose of the OMO was to manage liquidity, and not to directly influence yields. The RBI governor assured to provide ample system liquidity in the current rate environment, with OMOs to be conducted across maturities. He noted that the tolerance towards the rupee depreciation had not changed, and repeated that it will be allowed to move as per the market forces. Growth-inflation dynamics continues to provide space to support the growth momentum, implying that conducive financial conditions are here to stay.

Naval Kagalwala,

COO, Shriram Wealth

The repo-rate cut would bring more relief to both prospective and existing home loan borrowers. Transmission of the rate cut would be faster for floating rate loans linked to repo rate. The date of transmission would depend on the interest reset dates set by their lender. As banks would fully pass the benefits over time, we should see stronger demand for credit for the next few months. The rate cut should boost spending and investments from existing borrowers.

Santosh Agarwal,

CEO, Paisabazaar

The RBI's decision is a timely signal that the larger economic cycle is shifting toward growth, and it comes at a particularly important moment for the mid-segment where affordability plays a defining role. The mid-income category has been the backbone of residential demand through 2024 and 2025, and this policy move strengthens that foundation further. This adds to the confidence that the real estate market is entering a more balanced, expansionary phase.

Mohit Goel,

MD, Omaxe

The RBI's decision will significantly support housing demand in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where affordability plays a central role in purchase decisions, and homebuyers are sensitive to EMI movement. Improved borrowing costs are expected to bring greater confidence to end-users, and accelerate decision-making among families. For developers in emerging cities, reduced funding pressure helps maintain construction momentum and encourages investment.

Amrita Gupta,

Director, Mangalam Group

The Pioneer

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 6, 2025

11

Missing regulators in our lives

Across sectors, many firms operate without checks and balances

OUR TAKE

Sutanu Guru

Author, Journalist and Academician

A few weeks ago, I suffered multiple fractures and muscle ruptures on my left shoulder. Although the hospital did not have a cashless facility for medical insurance, I presumed that I could pay upfront, and claim reimbursement. Post-surgery, even as I was recovering in the hospital, I started reading up on insurance claims. It was horrifying to learn that more than ₹26,000 crore of medical claims were not paid by the insurers. According to the portal managed by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the sector's regulator, more than 95 per cent of the claims and complaints against the firms are about the failures to repay claims that the policyholders felt were legitimate and genuine.

There were more shocks. As I began to fill up the reimbursement form to claim the medical expenses, I struggled with the complicated paperwork that ran into dozens of pages, which included supplementary documents, attachments, proof, and photocopies. This was despite the help from my elder brother. Fortunately, the hospital was cooperative, and aided with the requisite documents. When I reached the insurer's office, I was informed that the paperwork was incomplete and, despite my pain, I had to get more documents from the hospital. Thankfully, the reimbursement came quickly.

However, the episode made me realise how insurers make life hell for the policyholders despite the claims of ease, simplicity, and efficiency. IRDAI makes huge claims of how effectively it regulates the companies, but the on-ground reality is different, and people struggle to get the claims. If an educated professional like me needs to spend so much time, what is the state of normal, semi-literate, and illiterate individuals? What about those in the small towns and villages? Maybe, this state-of-affairs is limited to insurance.

Weeks after my surgery, I toyed with the idea of taking a flight, but gave up since it was not urgent. Thank God for it! Usually, I would have booked a IndiGo flight, and I was relieved that I did not when I saw the newspaper headlines about how the airline, and its passengers were battered and shattered with canceled and delayed flights. Things are so bad that tens of thousands of passengers were across the airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and even the smaller cities like Bhubaneswar.

In Bhubaneswar, for example, 18 flights were cancelled. On December 4, 2025, more than 400 flights were cancelled. The next morning, the headlines screamed that not a single domestic flight would leave the Delhi airport until midnight. This is scandalous. Even more scandalous is the reason, or shall we say, the excuse given by the airline for the inexplicable and unacceptable delays and cancellations. According to IndiGo, the situation is due to a shortage of staff. The pilots' union contends that the airline has limited its hirings due to its business model that focuses on costs and expenses.

Just imagine a situation if the Indian Railways suddenly, and without prior notice, cancels thousands of trains, and because it does not have enough engine drivers, and ticket collectors. The commonsensical question, which is not being asked by the media, is that how can an airline, which is operating for close to 20 years, has expanded at a rapid rate, is highly profitable in most of the years, and boasts of a 95 per cent punctuality rate, suddenly, find itself without adequate crew and staff. How is this possible?

According to a recent report by the aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), IndiGo's domestic market share is almost two-thirds, and its cancellation rate for scheduled flights in August this year was an amazingly-low 0.51 per cent. How can a seemingly-efficient airline resort to gross mismanagement tactics that it has to cancel not 1-2 flights, but hundreds of them? It seems mysterious, intriguing, disturbing, and glaring. There is something inherently wrong in the manner IndiGo operates, and none of us have looked at its business model closely or carefully.

Of course, apart from the airline, the behaviour of the DGCA is perhaps more scandalous. What exactly has the regulator done in the recent past, and what is its monitoring exercises that it could not pinpoint that things were so wrong with IndiGo. In any case, DGCA's performance in 2025 is not something to be proud of. Most of us can recall the horrifying crash of the Air India flight, which was travelling from Ahmedabad to London a few months ago, and in which all, but one, passengers died. Inquiries were ordered. DGCA ordered one, and the preliminary inquiry report was submitted in time.

Shockingly, the internal confidential report was selectively leaked to foreign media outlets, which suggested that the crash was possibly due to pilot error. The 83-year-old father of the captain of the unfortunate flight approached the Supreme Court to clear his son's name, and demand a fair inquiry into what exactly happened during the flight. The DGCA, of course, while publicly claiming that the investigations were on, did not explain how the inquiry report was leaked. The ongoing IndiGo's imbroglio probably adds to the growing image of either a lax regulator, or an inefficient one.

Unfortunately, in India, this is the story with most regulators across major sectors. The harsh reality is that in the twenty-first century, most industries have moved towards a phase of consolidation, with repeated takeovers, mergers, and acquisitions. This wave of M&As have created either duopolies or oligopolies in the marketplace. One sees this across sectors and segments, from steel to tires, aluminum to telecom, aviation to e-commerce. While there is sufficient, and seemingly-stiff competition on paper, there is little or no doubt that there are indications of cartels, or dominance in market shares.

Sadly, the regulators have not done much to reverse the trends. India has the Competition Commission of India, which takes crucial decisions to pinpoint, and stop anti-market, anti-consumer, and monopolistic practices by the large firms. Although it does a commendable job legally, the actions and judgments have had a weak impact in some sectors, and minimal impact on the consumers. Perhaps, the policymakers need to think of how to make the regulators better, and more efficient. In contrast, political pressures, and industry lobbies aim to influence some of the regulators.

Do not forget that 60 per cent of India's GDP is related to private consumption expenditure. The consumers, therefore, need better protection, and more incentives to open their wallets.

The Pioneer

SINCE 1865

The author has worked for leading media houses, authored two books, and is now Executive Director, C Voter Foundation

The Tech Wrecker

New-age vs old-age tech vs IT

Tech firms are valued differently in India and the US

56 +1.13%

102 +7.51%

178 +3.28%

205 +0.19%

242 +0.39%

282 +5.10%

307 +4.12%

397 +6.39%

Valuations of technology firms in the US and India are being fiercely debated among analysts, experts, and investors. They make comparisons between the gaps between US-based mega-cap tech firms, and India's IT and "new-age" tech stocks. DSP Mutual Fund's recent report highlights that Indian IT stocks underperformed the Nasdaq 100 by roughly 48 per cent since the Artificial Intelligence (AI) trade took off. There is overvaluation in US tech rather than in Indian IT. The former is "overbought, over-owned, and overvalued," and the latter "under-owned, oversold, and underperforming."

Saddled, and nestled between the two is India's young but growing cohort of "new-age" tech firms such as Zomato, Nykaa-parent FSN, PB Fintech, Delhivery, MapmyIndia, and Nazara that allow exposure to platforms, logistics, and gaming. Their revenues, and stock prices seem to follow the trajectories of the US-tech growth stories. But the former's valuation logic is dominated by price-to-sales ratio, rather than price-to-earnings one, and unit economics, rather than cash flows. Thus, there is a mismatch when one compares Indian new-age tech to America's old-age tech, and the latter to Indian IT.

In a July 2025 note, Jarvis Invest places Indian IT stalwarts such as TCS and Infosys at about 22-6 times earnings with 12-15 per cent five-year earnings growth. Compare these to global tech names like Nvidia and Apple, which are at 35-90 times earnings with 20-40 per cent growth. The analyst firm feels the IT stocks are "reasonably valued," and global tech ones "overvalued, (with) high expectations." Clearly, the valuations of core tech firms (especially beyond AI) are at different junctures. In addition, tech in New York, and Bengaluru are not the same thing, even though they are often lumped together.

In the US, a handful of names drive earnings and sentiments. These include Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Nvidia, and are accompanied by a long tail of suppliers of software services, cloud infrastructure, payments, and semiconductor. As of early December, the Nasdaq 100 traded at a price-to-earnings multiple of 34, which was above its five-year average of 27-33 times. The S&P IT was at almost 40 times earnings, versus a five-year average closer to 27-35 times. The Nifty IT index is still overwhelmingly an IT services basket, with names such as TCS, Infosys, HCL Tech, and Wipro.

The Nifty IT trades at about 27 times earnings, and 7.2 times book value, with a dividend yield just under three per cent. Recent reports suggest that the Nifty IT fell 16.7 per cent in terms of total returns this year, while the broader Nifty 500 eked out a small gain. While Indian IT looks cheaper than US tech, investors are not paying for the same thing. In the former, they buy exposure to products and platforms with embedded pricing power and, in the latter, they are excited about billing-hour leverage on global IT budgets.

In a recent report, Goldman Sachs outlines how the AI trade amplified an already-extreme concentration in the US tech indices. Valuation excesses, index concentration, and investor exuberance combine to give global equities some of the "early stage bubble" characteristics of the late 1990s. But Goldman Sachs concludes that the global stocks are "not yet" in a classic bubble because the earnings and balance sheets are stronger, and the universe of the beneficiaries is narrower. BlackRock expects AI to dominate markets in 2026, and remains constructive on US equities. It does flag the risks related to heavy concentration, crowded positioning, and high leverage among hedge funds that can lead to sharp corrective episodes, as was evident in this November's pullback.

The tech market has narrowed in the US because an extraordinary volume of global capital is concentrated in a small cluster of mega-cap companies. Their dominance creates a self-reinforcing cycle. As the prices of these stocks rise, index funds allocate more capital to them, and their size and liquidity attract institutional money. The narrowness is thus a product of excess capital clustering around perceived certainty rather than a shortage of opportunities. Hence, at the top sit firms with immense pricing power, deep cash reserves, and the ability to fund multi-year investment cycles.

India's IT market is narrow for a different reason. Here, capital has thinned because the sector's core growth is under questioning. Large IT exporters deliver steady margins,

The Pioneer

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strong balance sheets, and dependable cash flows, but the investor appetite is restrained by doubts about the future of their labour-led, billing-hour-driven model in an era defined by automation, cloud consolidation, and generative software. This hesitation is reinforced by a cyclical slowdown in global tech budgets after years of digital spending. Unlike the US, where money crowds into dominance and scale, India reflects a deficit of conviction about the durability of businesses.

Another interesting layer to look at is what the investors pay for. At the top in the US market are the AI-adjacent mega-caps. Nvidia trades at rich price-to-earnings, and price-to-sales multiples. Microsoft, Alphabet, and Amazon combine earnings from mature cloud and advertising franchises with options on AI productivity tools and foundation models. Apple sits apart, sustained more by brand, ecosystem, and buybacks, and trades at a high multiple. A second tier of "old tech" names like Cisco, Intel, IBM, and Oracle are the previous generation's market darlings, and are now valued more for their high cash flows, and huge dividends, rather than growth.

A third tier of high-beta chip and software plays, from AMD and Broadcom to Arm and more-specialised AI software firms, makes the valuation debate acute. Their earnings are less diversified, business models more dependent on the durability of the current upgrade cycle, and their share prices more sensitive to changes in the narrative about AI spending and macro conditions. In India, the classic IT services group is the equivalent of US old tech, except that it is treated as a growth sector. But this feeling can change due to the disruptions, and the impact of generative AI.

The Indian new-age consumer tech and fintech names give a more direct parallel with the US. Zomato and PB Fintech are profitable, but still priced on revenue growth and market share. Nykaa, Delhivery, and Nazara face intense competition, shifting regulation, and consumer demand cycles, which makes their high price-to-sales ratios fragile, and unstable. These businesses rely on domestic discretionary spending, and regulatory stability. They may become the future darlings, and replace the software giants.

BRIEFLY

SENTHILKUMAR, ANAHAT WIN SQUASH INDIAN TOUR



National champions Velavan Senthilkumar and Anahat Singh clinched the men's and women's titles respectively at the Squash Indian Tour 4, which concluded at the Indian Squash Academy, here Friday. Top seed and World No. 46 Senthilkumar overcame Egypt's Adam Hawal 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-4 to lift the men's crown. The Chennai player displayed superior control in the closing stages to quell the challenge of the rising Egyptian. In the women's final, Delhi teenager and World No. 29 Anahat Singh battled past former World No 10 and veteran compatriot Joshna Chinappa in a pulsating five-game contest, winning 11-8, 11-13, 11-13, 11-6, 11-8. This was Anahat's second straight victory over the seasoned campaigner after the Daly College Indian Open last month.

MAN UNITED HELD 1-1, MISS PREMIER LEAGUE TOP-5 SHOT



Manchester United blew the chance to move up to fifth in the Premier League when West Ham salvaged a late 1-1 draw at Old Trafford. Soungoutou Magassa's 83rd-minute equalizer on Thursday cancelled out Diogo Dalot's opening goal that had put United on course to move level on points with fourth-place Chelsea. Bruno Fernandes squandered two chances to score a winner in added time – blazing a shot wide from inside the box and then volleying another off target. It was another setback for United, which has only won one of its last five games – drawing three.

McIlroy's late birdie burst keeps him alive at Australian Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Melbourne

Not before a bit of back-nine drama at Royal Melbourne, Rory McIlroy has made the weekend at the Australian Open after shooting a 3-under 68 on Friday to finish inside the 36-hole cut line.

McIlroy, who was 2-under on the tournament, was seven strokes behind leaders Daniel Rodriguez (64) and Rasmus Neergaard-Peterson (66), who had 9-under totals of 133.

The leading pair were one shot clear of third-place Min Woo Lee, who shot 65 Friday. Adam Scott (66) was in a tie for fourth with Cameron Smith (65), who avoided adding to his tally of seven consecutive missed cuts. Scott and Lee were playing in the same featured threesome as McIlroy.

McIlroy started the day at 1-over after a 72 on Thursday, tied for 57th and trailing the leaders by seven shots. At



the time, that was just one shot inside the expected cut of 2-over.

He birdied one hole and had eight pars on his front nine Friday, then had four more pars before making a bogey on the par-5 14th. He missed the fairway to the right off the tee and ended up under a tea tree. McIlroy then whiffed on his next shot as his club got stuck in a branch but he recovered to make a 6.

Australia takes 44-run lead in second Ashes test

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Brisbane

Australia took a 44-run first-innings lead after two days of the second Ashes cricket test, with the top order all getting starts Friday to help the hosts reach 378-6 at stumps.

Five dropped catches and some wayward bowling dented England and allowed the batters to capitalise.

Opener Jake Weatherald led from the start of Australia's innings with 72 from 78 balls, Marnus Labuschagne (65) completed back-to-back half centuries, and stand-in skipper Steve Smith made 61 as bat dominated ball despite some uneven bounce at the Gabba.

Alex Carey was dropped before he'd scored and again on 25, but survived to be unbeaten on 46 off 45 balls at stumps. Michael Nesar also got a reprieve before finishing not out 15 in a 49-run seventh-wicket stand.

The series-opener in Perth was all over on Day 2, with Australia winning by eight wickets, but this day-night test in Brisbane seemingly

still has a long way to go. Joe Root's unbeaten 138 — his first Ashes century for England in Australia — remains the standout innings. The Australians were coasting at 291-3 in the night session until Brydon Carse took two wickets in four balls against the run of play. He ended a 95-run fourth-wicket partnership when Cameron Green (45) backed away too far from a half-volley and was bowled.

Carse then got a thick edge with a short ball to Carey from the next delivery but Ben Duckett grassed a regulation chance at gully.

Two balls later Smith pulled a short ball and Will Jacks reached out one-handed to pluck it out of the air at deep backward square. Australia suddenly was 292-5. Carey and Josh Inglis, both wicketkeeper batters, added 37 for the sixth wicket to get Australia within range of England's first innings 334.

Duckett put down another catch, going with one hand at gully when Inglis edged Ben Stokes. But the England captain didn't rely on any



England's captain Ben Stokes, centre, celebrates with teammates the wicket of Australia's Glenn Maxwell, left, during the second Ashes cricket test match between Australia and England in Brisbane

help two balls later when he angled a cutter back into Inglis' middle stump, bowling the Australian No. 7 for 23.

Stokes hit Nesar on the pad first ball but it was given not

out, and England wasted a review. Carse then put down a catch off Jofra Archer's bowling when Nesar was on six, yet another reprieve for the Aussies. It got worse for England when Root put

down a catch to his right when Carey edged between wicketkeeper and slip.

The England pace bowlers had heavy loads and weren't able to stick to a consistent length, with Archer bowling

20 overs and returning 1-74, Stokes having figures of 2-93 in 17 overs and Carse going for 3-113.

England resumed Day 2 at 325-9 and added nine runs in 14 balls before No. 11 Archer was dismissed.

Root, the number 1-ranked batter in test cricket, was 135 overnight and remained unbeaten when the 70-run last-wicket stand ended.

Travis Head, the star of Australia's series-opening win, added 30 more runs after a getting a reprieve when he was dropped on three by wicketkeeper Jamie Smith off Archer in the ninth over.

Head ran out of luck when he rushed through his shot to a ball from Carse and skied a catch to Gus Atkinson, ending a 77-run opening stand.

Weatherald made the scoring look easy as he raced to 50 from 45 balls, stroking nine boundaries and a six with a series of cut shots and uppercuts. He moved to 72 before he was hit on the foot by a full delivery from Archer that trapped him in front.

Chandigarh retain title at KIUG 2025 with 67 medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Jaipur

Chandigarh University defended their overall championship crown at the Khelo India University Games, finishing their campaign with 67 medals, comprising 42 gold, 14 silver and 11 bronze.

Olympian and India's top swimmer Srihari Nataraj was the most successful athlete of KIUG 2025 as he ended with nine gold and two silver medals to help Bengaluru's Jain University clinch a total of 27 gold, nine silver and nine bronze.

Chandigarh University won 23 out of the 30 gold medals on offer in Canoe and Kayaking, a sports discipline which made its



debut at the KIUG, six in swimming and five in athletics, two in wrestling and one each in weightlifting, shooting, cycling, archery, table

tennis and kabaddi. Lovely Professional University (LPU) finished their KIUG campaign as the runner-up with 78 medals, 11

medals more than the champions, but with less number of gold medals. LPU took home 32 golds, 25 silver and 22 bronze.

Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) also finished with 32 gold medals but their tally of 22 silver and 18 bronze meant that they had to settle for the third spot.

The fifth edition of KIUG was being held across seven cities in Rajasthan with a whopping 4448 athletes from 222 Universities competing in 23 medal disciplines. The Games were held under the aegis of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with the Rajasthan State Sports Council and is being hosted by Poornima University.

Germany beats France to enter junior hockey WC semi-final

SAUMOJYOTI S CHOUDHURY
■ Chennai

Seven-time champions Germany had to dig deep to keep their hopes of title defence alive as they progressed into the semifinals of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup, edging out a gutsy France 3-1 in shoot-out after both the teams were locked 2-2 at the end of regulation time here on Friday.

In the 2023 edition, seven-time champions Germany eked out a narrow 2-1 win over France in the final to claim the title.

In the shoot-out, Jonas von Gersum, Justus Warweg and Lukas Kossel, who scored from a penalty stroke, were the goal getters for Germany, while France's lone strike in the shoot-out came from Aristide Michaelis. All credit goes to German goalie Jasper Ditzer, who produced a superlative show, not just in the shoot-out but all throughout the enthralling contest.



On Friday, it turned out to be a hard-fought contest between the two sides but France had better share of circle penetrations and chances.

France had the first real scoring chance in the form a penalty corner in the 13th minute but the effort was saved by German keeper Ditzer.

But both the teams matched each other stick-for-stick as the deadlock continued after the first 15

minutes.

The second quarter produced enthralling contest with the tempo and intensity of the game increasing to a different level. If not for German goalkeeper Ditzer, France would have had a sound lead by halftime.

France secured their second penalty corner in the 23rd minute but Ditzer produced another fine save.

The Germans too had their chances but failed in final execution. (PTI)

Himanta inaugurates new Umrangso cricket stadium



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma batting in the newly inaugurated stadium

TONY DAS
■ Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today inaugurated a state-of-the-art cricket stadium featuring an impressive earthen gallery with 15,000-seat capacity in the picturesque surroundings of Umrangso in Dima Hasao district. Developed by the Assam Cricket Association (ACA), the modern facility also includes the newly constructed Senga Tularam Pavilion. The initiative forms part of the State government's efforts to encourage Assam's emerging cricket talent and foster a positive sporting environment.

The foundation stone of the stadium was laid on 25 September 2021. Built amid a serene natural landscape, the complex features five centre wickets and practice arena with five dedicated practice pitches ensuring year-round training opportunities. To support its operations, the complex also houses eight residential quarters for staff. The project area

also houses an advanced pavilion with accommodation for around 32 players.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister announced that a new football stadium will also be constructed adjacent to the cricket ground. Once completed, the twin stadiums will create a vibrant sporting ecosystem in Umrangso, he said. Sarma added that plans are underway to host cricket matches in the presence of national star players in the near future in the stadium. He noted that night matches at the scenic venue would enhance the viewing experience for sports lovers.

Sports Minister Nandita Gorlosa, ACA president and MLA Taranga Gogoi, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council CEM Debolol Gorlosa, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council CEM Tuliram Ronghang, NCHAC chairman Mohit Hojai, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, ACA secretary Sanatan Das, members of the District Council and several dignitaries were present at the event.

US prioritises visas for fans travelling for World Cup and Olympics

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Washington

The Trump administration has instructed US Embassies and consulates around the world to prioritise visa applications from foreigners wishing the visit the United States to either invest in America or attend the 2026 World Cup, 2028 Olympics and other major sporting events.

At the same time, the administration has added new criteria for highly skilled foreign workers seeking a particular visa.

The new rules would deny entry to those deemed to have directed or participated in the censorship of American citizens on social media through content moderation initiatives that have sprung up throughout Europe and elsewhere to combat extremist speech.

In a series of cables sent this

week to all US Diplomatic missions that were obtained by *The Associated Press*, the State Department said visa applications for businesspeople considering "significant investments" in the United States should be at the top of the list for consideration along with applications from those wanting to travel "for major sporting events which showcase American excellence."

It is the latest effort by President Donald Trump's administration to crack down on migrants and visitors entering the US but with major sports events planned in the United States, the administration is looking to ensure that fans are able to attend those competitions.

The policies are getting heightened attention ahead of Friday's World Cup draw.

As part of a broader initiative to control the entry of foreigners into the U.S., the State Department has said all those



who require visas to enter the country would need to submit to an in-person interview and screening to vet them for potential national security

risks.

This has led to lengthy wait times at many embassies and consulates for interviews to apply for what are known as

"B1" and "B2" visas despite a surge in consular staffing.

Last month, Trump announced a new initiative, dubbed "FIFA Pass," for for-

eigners travelling to the U.S. For the World Cup that will allow them to get interviews for visas more quickly. Nonetheless, he still encouraged them to apply for their visas "right away."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the administration had dispatched more than 400 additional consular officers around the world to handle the demand for visas for the World Cup and that in about 80% of the globe, travellers to the U.S. can get a visa appointment within 60 days — something reflected in the cable. The new steps in the cable this week go beyond the FIFA Pass initiative to expedite applications for those looking to travel to the United States for the Olympics and other major sports events.

Posts "should ensure sufficient appointment capacity to accommodate spectators and other fans travelling for events surrounding the (World Cup)

tournament," said one of the two cables sent Tuesday.

"These should take priority over all other B1/B2 applications, except those related to American re-industrialization."

Others to be prioritized include foreign diplomats, government officials travelling on official business, temporary agricultural workers, religious workers, physicians and nurses, and students attending academic institutions with less than 15% foreign enrolment. "Posts should ensure that applicants of higher ranked groups get priority over applicants and lower rank groups, regardless of demand by lower ranked applicants," the cable said.

"Posts may significantly reduce the number of appointment slots available to lower rank groups in order to accommodate demand from higher rank groups."

A second cable sent Tuesday to all embassies and

consulates set out new criteria for considering H-1B visa applications, instructing diplomats to "be on the lookout" for those who may have been or are "responsible for or complicit in the censorship of Americans" online and elsewhere. Those visas allow American companies to bring in people with technical skills that are hard to find in the United States, and President Donald Trump has said he would slap a USD 100,000 annual fee on them.

The department said evidence of this could lead to visa denial. It defined such information as having "adopting global content moderation policies inconsistent with freedom of expression, complying with global content moderation or censorship demands from a foreign entity and providing access to private data on American citizens in connection with content moderation."