

accelerates its next wave of economic expansion, the state is emerging as a decisive force, a centre of investment and innovation. With a government focused on clarity, reform and competitiveness, Telangana is reshaping its policies, infrastructure and investment landscape, scaling into the most compelling destination.

A STATE OF GREAT **GOVERNANCE**

With a clear path to becoming a \$3-trillion economy by 2047, the government's approach prioritises ease of doing business, transparent approvals, and a regulatory framework aligned with global expectations. Policy direction now focuses on strengthening industrial land frameworks, improving investor facilitation, and building long-term competitiveness across high-growth sectors.

INFRASTRUCTURE **DESIGNED** FOR THE FUTURE

Hyderabad, the city built for elasticity. Scaling rapidly, and sustainably. A 3-tier growth vision drives it forward.

CURE

(The Core Urban Region Economy), between the city and the ORR, anchored by high-tech services and advanced urban systems

PURE

(The Peri-Urban Region Economy), a belt between the ORR and RRR, for manufacturing, industries and MSMEs

RARE

(Rural Agri Region Economy), beyond the RRR, focused on smart agriculture, forestry, food systems and handlooms





A major driver within this plan is the Future City. A 30,000-acre urban and enterprise hub for global businesses, research institutes, innovation clusters and sustainable living spaces. Combined with rail, road and logistics expansion, the state is building the backbone required for multi-sectoral growth.

A MATURE INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

Telangana's industrial ecosystem spans pharma, life sciences, aerospace, defence, IT/ITeS, AI, food processing, and more. A reflection of the confidence global firms place in the state's direction. Pharma City, upcoming Al and Innovation Hubs, and support for GCCs and start-ups, are shaping Telangana into a competitive global investment hub built on talent,

infrastructure long-term planning

TELANGANARISING2047.ORG





THE RISE HAS BEGUN. THIS WAS DAY ONE.





We want to become \$1 trillion economy by 2034, and \$3 trillion economy by 2047. We comprise around 2.9% of India's population, but contribute around 5% of the national GDP. By 2047, I want to contribute 10% of India's GDP. The vision may look hard but we can do it.

Today, I am more confident than yesterday. Yesterday was a dream, a plan. Today, all of you have joined us. Telangana Rising is unstoppable. Come, join the rise.

> A. REVANTH REDDY CM, TELANGANA



VISION TAKES THE NEXT 2047 LEAP FORWARD.

The government's **8-point plan** outlines a transformation grounded in growth and inclusion.

3-zone state	Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), Hyderabad, for high-tech hubs; Peri-Urban Region Economy (PURE), between the ORR and RRR, for MSMEs and industry; Rural Agri Region Economy (RARE), beyond the RRR, for smart agriculture, forests and handlooms.
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2 \$3 trillion economy	5x growth driving 10% of national GDP through innovation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, tourism, and global competitiveness.
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3	Investment	Strong infrastructure, progressive policy, talent and logistics, enabling innovation and
	magnet	high-growth clusters.

4	Youth development and empowerment	Integrate education with skill development, to equip them for tech, industry and advanced manufacturing, for global opportunities, and start-ups.
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5	development and	Create 1 crore women millionaires, through life-cycle
၁	development and social inclusion	support of policies and entrepreneurship.

L	Farmer	Double incomes, promote crop diversification,
0	omnowormont	Contract Interesting FDOs and Interesting
	empowerment	agri-tech, irrigation, FPOs, market access.

7	Healthcare and human development	Strengthen primary and preventive healthcare, digital health, biobanks, skilled workers, and affordable and elderly care.

0	Net-zero	Focus on renewables, green infrastructure,
0	development target	circular economy, nature-based solutions.

KEY	EN.	ABL	ERS	

Tech & Innovation • Efficient Financing • Digital Governance

As India accelerates its growth trajectory, Telangana is aligning its governance, infrastructure and economic vision to match the moment. For investors and enterprises seeking clarity, stability, and opportunity, the state offers a landscape built for the future. A path that's never been more promising, and this is the moment to be a part of it. Join the rise.

Adani group to set up 48-MW Data Centre with ₹2500 cr outlay

The Adani Group is setting up a 48-megawatt cutting-edge AI green data centre in Telangana at an outlay of Rs 2,500 crores, said Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd on Monday.

Addressing the inaugural session of Telangana Global Rising Summit, he said the conglomerate has invested Rs 10,000 crore so far in infrastructure and manufacturing

sectors, among

others in Telangana. In the area of digital infrastructure, the Adani group is setting up a 48megawatt green data centre in Telangana with an investment of Rs 2,500 crores.

This facility will be at the forefront of cutting-edge AI, cloud investment of Rs 4,000 crores in road technology, and high-performance com- infrastructure, the Adani group has puting, and will play a crucial role in built over 100 km of highways connectmeeting the needs of rapidly digitising ing key districts such as Mancherial,

growth in capital infrastructure and logistics infrastructure. The group has played a key role in developing roads and making logistics more efficient, and positioning the state as a logistics gateway.

"In total, the group has so far invested nearly Rs 10,000 crores in the last three years in building state infrastructure and manufacturing facilities, and has contributed to employment generation of more than 7,000 people," he said.

According to Adani, with the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Adani Group has developed a leading defence and aerospace park in Hyderabad that manufactures UAVs, supplying products to both the Indian armed forces and the global market. The facility employs over 1,500 youth. With a total

India. In the last few years, Telangana Suryapet, Kodad, and Khammam.

Will invest ₹1L cr in Telangana

Announces Trump Media director

PNS Hyderabad

Eric Swider, Director of Trump Media and Technology Group Corp, on Monday said the firms he represents will be investing Rs 1 lakh crore in Telangana's upcoming "Bharat Future City" near here, over the next 10 vears. Addressing the inaugural session of Telangana Rising Global Summit, Swider said it would be blind not to see that the technology capitalists around the world are coming from India, and the country is on the rise.

"I would like the Honourable Chief Minister (A Revanth Reddy) to know that over the next 10 years, I intend to deploy through our organisations, up to Rs 1 lakh crore into the Future City and into the areas of development here, and I'm

very, very grateful for that opportunity," he said. Swider currently serves as the CEO and board member for Renatus Tactical Acquisition Corp, and previously served as the CEO of Digital World Acquisition Corp, which later merged with Trump Media and Technology.

"A lot of this talent is coming out of India. And now you move forward to today, and you would be blind not to see that the technology capitalists around the world are coming from India. India is on the rise, and I don't think India is going to stop. I think India will continue to be on the rise; it will lead the world in technology," he said. Telangana Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan requested Swider to inform Trump that a street in Hyderabad has been named after the US President.



HC stays CAT order allocating **IAS officer Amrapali to TG**

PNS ■ Hyderabad

In a setback to IAS officer Amrapali, the Telangana High Court issued interim orders Administrative Tribunal's (CAT) directions that had allocated the officer to Telangana state. In October last year, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued orders allotting Amrapali to Andhra Pradesh. Challenging the DoPT orders, she approached CAT. which directed Amrapali be sent back to Telangana as part of a "swapping" arrangement with IAS officer Harikiran.

However, the DoPT stated the swapping procedure did not apply to Amrapali because Harikiran belongs to a reserved category and hence it was not permissible. It appealed to the Telangana High Court which issued an interim stay in the CAT's decision. The next hearing has heen adjourned for six weeks

contribute to state's long term vision, progress'

'Global Summit will

PNS Hyderabad

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge wished for the success of the Telangana government's two-day Telangana Rising Global Summit' beginning Monday and hoped that the event would contribute to the state's long-term vision.

In a letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Kharge said it is heartening to see the state taking forward a visionary agenda aimed at inclusive development, innovation, and global engagement, driving the vision of 'Telangana 2047'.

He expressed confidence that Telangana will continue to evolve into a global investment destination and an innovation hub in urban infrastructure, sustainability, and technology.

Kharge, in the letter shared with the media here late on December 7, thanked the chief minister for the invitation to attend the summit but expressed his inability



owing to the ongoing parliament session. Telangana Governor Iishnu Dev Varma would inaugurate the summit here on Monday, where the government would unveil its vision document to make the state a USD three trillion economy by 2047.

Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi, representatives of the Republic of Korea, World Bank, Trump Media and Technology, and other top companies, including Amazon and IKEA, will attend the summit, an official release said on Monday.

CM Revanth Reddy would speak on the government's achievements during the last two years and the plans for the future.

Armoor MLA questions TG **BJP leadership**

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Signs of internal dissent surfaced in the Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after Armoor MLA P Rakesh Reddy expressed displeasure with the leadership and suggested a change in the "format" to win.

At the party's protest program held at Dharna Chowk coinciding with the two years of Congress rule, Rakesh Reddy cited the party's performance in Maharashtra and Bihar polls, said that Telangana people doubt its leaders' performance.

"Along with the leadership, the BJP party's strategy should change as well. Right candidates must be identified for elections, and those who can hit a six should be given an opportunity," he said.

"We need to adopt the 20-20 format to ensure success of matches played is not important, but winning the final is essential," he said, referring to the recently concluded Jubilee Hills byelection where the saffron party lost.

Five Nepalis held for dacoity at ex-Army captain's house

PNS ■ Hyderabad

In total, the group has so

far invested nearly Rs

three years in building state

manufacturing facilities, and

employment generation of

more than 7,000 people

10,000 crores in the last

infrastructure and

has contributed to

Five Nepal nationals, who allegedly broke into the house of a retired Army captain here last month and looted gold ornaments and cash, were arrested on Monday, police said.

Based on credible intelligence, the Commissioner's Task Force arrested the five accused, part of a 13member Nepali gang in Karkhana police station limits, a release said.

The gang forcibly confined the retired captain on the intervening night of November 15 -16 and assaulted him before decamping with the booty--gold ornaments weighing about 23 tolas and cash Rs 95,000, DCP (Task Force) Gaikwad Vaibhav

Raghunath said. Police seized gold ornasilver ornaments weighing 22.90 grams, Rs 43,050 in cash, and five cell phones from the accused.

Four of the five arrested accused worked as security guards. Eight other



members of the gang, all from Nepal were absconding and efforts are on to nab

Initially, the complainant (ex-captain) approached an agency to hire a Nepali couple as domestic workers. The agency subsequently contacted the two Nepali nationals (part of the gang) to arrange for help.

According to police, the and assaulted him. They duo conspired with criminal snatched the jewellery he plainant's house by planting two individuals-who would pose as husband and wife.

Thereafter, they began working at the com- offence, the accused divided plainant's residence from the stolen property among October this year pretending themselves, police added.

murdered in **Hyderabad**

Businessman

PNS ■ Hyderabad

A 46-year-old man was allegedly murdered by six Jawaharnagar police station limits here on Monday over previous "enmity", police said.

The man, who is into real estate business, was stabbed to death and the assailants are also suspected to have used firearms, a senior police official said based on preliminary investigation

The incident occurred at around 8 am when the man was returning to his house on a scooter after dropping his daughter at school. The six accused, who came in an autorickshaw and a twowheeler waylaid him and attacked him with knives and firearms, resulting in his death on the spot and later fled the scene.

It seems the man was earlier involved in antisocial activities in another locality and due to previous grudges, he was murdered, the official further said.



HYDRAA reclaims land worth ₹600 cr in Miyapur

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) carried out an antiencroachment drive in Mivapur and reclaimed over land valued at more than Rs

According to officials, illegal shops, private bus parking facilities and car wash units had encroached on the land.

Following a complaint during the weekly Prajavani. it was found that that fake survey numbers were used to grab the land and that the occupants were allegedly earning lakhs of rupees every month through

The occupied area and the private bus were cleared, and a fence has been erected around the reclaimed area, which also includes the lake buffer zone.

Rahul to initiate debate on election reforms in LS

PNS New Delhi

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will initiate the debate on election reforms in the Lower House on Tuesday. The opposition has been demanding a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Parliament since the monsoon session. but the government suggested having a debate on election reforms, citing that the Election Commission was an independent, autonomous and constitutional body.

The BJP is expected to field senior leaders Nishikant Dubey, P P Chaudhary, Abhijit Gangopadhyay and Sanjay Jaiswal in the debate, which will take place over two days. Besides Gandhi, the field K C Venugopal, Manish Tewari, Varsha Gaikwad, Mohammed Jawed, Ujjwal Raman Singh, Isa Khan, Ravi Mallu, Imran Masood, Gowaal Padavi and Iothimani in the debate.

CM: TG rising...

"I call upon you to be the problem solver and globalise compassion. I call upon you to be the partner in this dream. Let's begin with Telangana here and now. I am sure we will win," he

Observing that he was appointed by the UN Secretary General some years ago as a UN SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) advocate, he said he can confess that none of the goals can be accomplished in the given time, 2025 goals and 2030 goals. He wished that Telangana and India would make a major contribution to advancing sustainable goals in the coming five years or so.

In a video message, Nobel laureate economist Abhijit Banerjee said Telangana has taken an important step by articulating explicitly that everybody has to be made a full participant in the state's prosperity efforts.

"I like the fact that, amidst these thoughts about prosperity, growth, USD 3 trn economy, there is also a very concrete set of thoughts which are about how to get there, such as the thought about ensuring that 80 per cent of the children can do math and read at a great level when they are in third grade. This is a very doable goal," he

thinking that I totally endorse which is you need to break the whole claim of human liberation and human development into set of feasible steps," he said.

Will work with...

Observing that PM Modi often talks about his goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047', he said this development goal is possible only when all the states play a meaningful role in the transformation journey of development through the twin mantras of "cooperative federalism" and "competitive federalism".

Kishan Reddy said healthy competition among states to attract industry, talent and others raises standards and accelerates reforms and ensures better outcomes for

He highlighted the progress achieved under the Make in India and various sectors during the last decade, and also the support extended to Telangana by the Centre.

Record-breaking...

1. Deep Tech, Future City & Core Infrastructure (approx. Rs. 1,04,000 Crore)

This cornerstone investment cluster accounts for over half of the Day 1 total,

said. "It represents a way of focusing on next-generation urban and digital infrastruc-

Global Deep Tech Innovation City: The landmark Rs. 75,000 Crore commitment from the Brookfield | Axis Ventures Pvt Ltd consortium was the marquee agreement. This fund is dedicated to developing the Bharat Future City, a Net-Zero urban ecosystem for global R&D, Deep Technology, and highvalue services.

Sustainable Development: Vin Group formalised its Rs. 27,000 Crore pledge toward integrated projects, covering next-generation Renewable Energy generation, advanced EV infrastructure, and smart urban planning.

Innovation Ecosystem: The SIDBI Startup Fund of Funds confirmed a Rs. 1,000 Crore injection of critical seed capital for local ventures. This was complemented by the World Trade Centre Future City's Rs. 1.000 Crore commitment for a futuristic 'Walk to Work' innovation

2. Renewable Energy **Transition & Power Security** (approx. Rs. 39,700 Crore) Driving the shift towards energy independence and climate resilience with

massive-scale projects: Solar & Wind Mega-Projects: The single largest

energy deal came from Evren / Axis Energy with a commitment of Rs. 31,500 Crore, allocated entirely to scaling up Solar and Wind Energy projects, crucial for securing

to be a married couple.

To execute their plan, all

the accused assembled at

the room of one of the

accused in Tolichowki,

where they discussed the

of November 15-16, the

accused entered the com-

plainant's house, tied his

hands and legs to a chair,

tional jewellery and cash

before fleeing from the

After committing the

FROM PAGE - 1

scene, police said.

On the intervening night

conspiracy.

industrial power needs. Integrated Power & Mobility: The MEIL Group committed Rs. 8,000 Crore to a diversified portfolio including Solar Power Plants, vital Pumped Storage systems for grid stability, and advanced EV projects.

3. Aerospace, Defence, and Logistics Gateway (approx Rs. 19,350 Crore)

Reinforcing Hyderabad's position as India's strategic Aerospace and Logistics gateway:

Aviation and Logistics: GMR Group sealed its Rs. 15,000 Crore expansion for the Aerospace/Aviation sector, significantly boosting MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) capabilities and cargo infrastructure.

Defence Precision Manufacturing: The Defence segment secured nearly Rs. 5,000 Crore in MOUs, led by Apollo Microsystems Ltd (Rs. 1,500 Cr) and Solar Aerospace & Defence (Rs. 1,500 Cr) for the manufacturing of Defence and Artillery Systems, Avionics for Missiles, and Aero Engine Structures.

Supply Chain Infrastructure: MPL logistics hub (Rs. 700 Cr) and TVS ILP (Rs. 200 Cr) formalised pacts to develop large-scale warehousing and industrial parks. 4. Advanced Manufacturing

& Core Industry (approx. Rs.

13,500 Crore) Investments in high-value manufacturing that create quality, distributed industri-

Electronics & Hydrogen: The electronics sector saw nearly Rs. 7,000 Crore in MOUs from Renewsys, Midwest, and Akshat Greentech for PCB and specialised components. Sohhytech India added Rs. 1,000 Crore for Distributed

Hydrogen technology. Core Industry & Steel: Krishna Power Utilities committed Rs. 5,000 Crore for an Integrated Steel Plant, and cement majors like Ultra Bright Cements and Rain Cements added nearly Rs.

2,000 Crore. Textiles and Livelihoods: Seetharam Spinners committed Rs. 3,000 Crore for an Integrated Textile Unit, while the Solapur Telangana Textile Association and Genius Filters added over Rs. 960 Crore, boosting the power-loom and technical textile sectors.

It is the power...

it is the power to change the reality of Telangana, he said. It will provide the financial strength needed for every

school, every innovation, and every green initiative, the DCM explained.

Reinstating the unwavering commitment to inclusive development, Bhatti showcased the welfare and development programmes that the government has been implementing, women's empowerment to Rythu Bharosa. from Young India Residential Schools to

'These are not mere welfare schemes. They are investments in equality. ensuring no one is left behind in Telangana's development journey,' he said.

Committed to...

welfare initiatives-

He said 37 stations are planned to ensure emission compliance and improve road safety, adding that the Government permits 20,000 electric autos, 10,000 CNG autos, and 25,000 retrofitted electric autos.

He said that the government wants 25% of government vehicles to be EVs, promoting OEM growth in Telangana.

Saying that the government is focusing on the expansion of EV charging infrastructure, battery recycling, upskilling drivers, and integrating climate, transport, and urban planning

Nehru echoed...

leader Muhammad Ali Iinnah first stepped up his opposition to Vande Mataram on October 15, 1937, from Lucknow.

Nehru wrote to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose five days later, sharing Jinnah's sentiments and observing that Vande Mataram's 'Anandmath' background had the potential to "irritate the Muslims", Modi said.

"Instead of firmly countering the baseless statements of the Muslim League and condemning Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Congress president, did not reaffirm his and the Congress party's commitment to Vande Mataram, but began questioning Vande Mataram itself," he said.

Modi said it was ironic that Bankim Chandra's Vande Mataram underwent a review of its worth in his home state of Bengal at the Kolkata session of the Congress Working Committee in 1937, leaving the country in a state of shock and prompting patriots to take out processions against the decision of the Congress.

B'luru-Hyd can...

"Today, I am not here only as Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, but as a proud voice for bidding the south... I could see the vision you (Telangana) have. It is a global vision. I know Telangana is a small state, not like Karnataka," he said.

The IT exports from Bengaluru are about 43 per cent of total exports from the country, and Telangana could be a little less. However, the Telangana government's vision is big, and he was glad to attend the event, he said.

"When we talk about India's technology story, it is impossible to tell the story without speaking about Bengaluru and Hyderabad together. So, let us all join together. People have tried to frame Bengaluru and Hyderabad as competitors. But, truth is more powerful. We are not competitors. We support each other. We grow each other and build better India and the entire world," he said.

Quoting late Ratan Tata that one has to walk together if he/she wants to walk far, he suggested working together to make Bengaluru and Hyderabad progress fast.

While 13 lakh engineers work in California in the US, 25 lakh engineers work in Bengaluru, he said. "Even

Telangana, Hyderabad, has a very big potential. So, both of us will work together," he said.

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HC stays **CAT** order allocating IAS officer **Amrapali** to TG

2



Bengal CM Mamata slams **Centre over** IndiGo crisis



Zelenskyy hasn't read US peace proposal: Trump



PIONEER IN SHORT

GLOBAL SUMMIT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STATE'S LONG TERM VISION, PROGRESS: KHARGE

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge wished for the success of the Telangana government's two-day 'Telangana Rising Global Summit' beginning Monday and hoped that the event would contribute to the state's long-term vision. In a letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Kharge said it is heartening to see the state taking forward a visionary agenda aimed at inclusive development.

FULL REPORT ON P2

TG FAMOUS FOR ITS ATTIRE: KANCHI KAMAKOTI SEER

Kanchi Kamakoti Seer Shankara Viiavendra Saraswati said that Telangana is famous for its attire. He made it clear that hospitals, roads, factories, Vedas, Puranas, Shastras, cow protection, classical music and attire are very necessary in the State. He stated that he aspired for the Telangana state to be a place for spiritual programmes with dharma...

FULL REPORT ON P3

BJP CLAIMS LOPS SKIPPED PM'S SPEECH **OUT OF GUILT**

The BJP on Monday alleged that both Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra remained absent from the Lok Sabha out of a "sense of guilt" during Prime Minister's speech on the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram because he exposed their party and the Gandhi family. Initiating the discussion in the Lower...

TOP EU OFFICIAL WARNS US AGAINST **INTERFERING IN EUROPE'S AFFAIRS**

FULL REPORT ON P5

A top European Union official on Monday warned the United States against interfering in Europe's affairs and said only European citizens can decide which parties should govern them. **European Council President** Antonio Costa's remarks came in reaction to the Trump administration's new national security strategy, which was published on Friday and paints European allies as weak while offering tacit...

FULL REPORT ON P8

QUOTE OF THE DAY



AT A TIME OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC SHIFTS, RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND CLIMATE UNCERTAINTIES, TELANGANA INTENDS TO CONVERT

- DUDDILLA SRIDHAR BABU. MINISTER FOR IT AND INDUSTRIES

EMERGING CHALLENGES INTO

OPPORTUNITIES.

CM: Telangana rising unstoppable

Says the state aims to contribute 10 pc to national GDP by

PNS Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday asserted "TelanganaRising is unstoppable," adding that he wanted the state to contribute 10 per cent to the national GDP by 2047.

Speaking at the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025, he also said the state government wants to replicate the model of Guang-Dong province, whose economy was the largest of any province in China.

He said his government aims to make Telangana a USD 1 trillion economy by 2034 and a USD 3 trn dollar one by 2047.

"We comprise around 2.9 per cent of India's population but contribute around five per cent of the national GDP. By 2047, I want to contribute 10 per cent of India's GDP," he said. Citing the example of Guang-Dong in China, he said the province has achieved the highest investment and growth in the world in "20 plus years".

"We want to replicate the same model in Telangana," he added. After 10 years of its



formation, Telangana is now trying to become India's most developed state.

The CM said the state government's strategy is to make Telangana India's first and only state to be divided into three clear zones for services, manufacturing, and agriculture. "We call it the CURE, PURE, RARE model. Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), Peri Urban Region Economy (PURE) and Rural Agriculture Region Economy

population but contribute around five per cent of the national GDP. By 2047, I want to contribute 10 per cent of India's GDP

Observing that his government has taken inspiration from China, Japan, Germany, South Korea and Singapore, the chief minister said Telangana is now "getting ready" to compete with them. The state govern-

laborate, invest and support it in the 'TelanganaRising' journey, he added.

With the support of industry and other stakeholders who attended the event, the state can achieve all its goals.

Time to globalise compassion: Satyarthi

Nobel peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi said economies, markets and others have been globalised and that this is the time to "globalise compassion".

CONTINUED ON >> P2



TG govt: Kishan

PNS Hyderabad

Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy said the Centre is committed to working with the Telangana government for the state's progress.

"Today. India stands as the world's fourth-largest economy and is ready to achieve the third spot. Today. India has a strong security environment and internal stability. Under the able leadership of Narendra Modi. the Government of India is fully committed to working with the government of Telangana in this development journey." he said. The Centre sees Telangana playing a key role in the journey towards the goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047 (Developed India 2047), he

CONTINUED ON >> P2



TELANGANA RISING GLOBAL SUMMIT

Record-breaking capital influx

₹1.88 lakh crore worth investment commitments 35 key agreements on day-1 **Major wins in Deep Tech, Green Energy and Aerospace**

PNS Hyderabad

The Telangana Rising Global Summit delivered an economic declaration on its opening day, formalising over 35 major agreements that totalled approximately Rs. 1.88 Lakh Crore (approx. \$22.6 Billion USD) in investment commitments. This record-breaking capital influx, secured across critical, future-ready sectors, unequivocally validates Telangana's strategic Vision

2047and its accelerated path toward becoming a national economic powerhouse.

The successful first day prioritised Deep Tech, Green Energy, and strategic manufacturing, ensuring the investments are highimpact and future-proof.

The investments are strategically segmented across core high-growth clusters, ensuring balanced, high-skill employ-

CONTINUED ON >> P2

'It is the power to transform TG'

DCM on the aim of a triple trillion dollar economy

PNS Hyderabad

Speaking at the Global Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka emphasised that the Telangana Vision Document is not something drafted behind closed doors. It is the outcome of a democratic, bottom-up process shaped by the suggestions of eminent personalities, discussions with experts, and the opinions of citizens.

"That is why this is not merely a government document — It is the document of the people of Telangana", he said. Stressing that the State Government's goal is clear to



guests with a smile... We are always ready to

achieve Net Zero by the year 2047, adding that economic development and environmental protection are not opposing forces from now on, they will work hand in hand. "We don't just greet

serve them hot biryani,

khubani ka meetha, and a memorable feast," the DCM said about the hospitality

Noting that Telangana has never lacked ambition, he said. 'But for many years, what was missing was a comprehensive vision capable of channelling people's strength, aspirations, and potential in a unified direction. Today, we are unveiling that comprehensive document,".

He said making Telangana a \$3 trillion economy is not just a slogan it is a districtwise, sector-wise, fully structured action plan.

Committed to clean energy, public health: Min Ponnam

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Prabhakar emphasized Telangana's commitment to clean mobility, focusing on environmental goals, public health, economic growth, energy security, and urban livability. Speaking at the Telangana Rising Summit on Monday, he said the state policy aligns with India's net-zero commitments and Telangana Rising Vision 2047, aiming for a safe, smart, digital, and sustain-

able transport ecosystem. The Minister stated Telangana offers 100%

Nehru echoed Jinnah, betrayed

exemption on road tax and to boost EV adoption.

registration fees for EVs until December 31, 2026, in order

He elaborated that the Vehicle Scrappage Policy

tions, waiver of pending fines, and tax incentives for purchasing new vehicles after scrapping old ones.

includes green tax exemp-



Govt to take strict action against IndiGo

Airline adds flights after disruptions

PNS New Delhi/Mumbai

The government plans to take strict action against IndiGo to "set an example" for airlines that violate regulations, the Civil Aviation Minister said on Monday, as the country's largest carrier added more flights as its operations limp back to normalcy following a week of widespread flight cancellations.

IndiGo, whose delayed preparation for stricter pilot rest rules triggered last week's wave of cancellations, operated 1,800 flights on Monday, up from around 1,650 on Sunday. At the peak of disruptions, more than two-thirds of its roughly 2,300 daily flights were

grounded on December 5.

The sector regulator

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which had previously issued a show cause notice to IndiGo CEO to explain the disruptions, set up a four-member panel to probe the matter. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers

and COO Isidre Porqueras filed a "comprehensive" reply to DGCA show cause notices before the extended deadline expired on Monday evening, airline sources said.

IndiGo did not reply to an email sent for comments. Meanwhile, a DGCA state-

ment said it has received IndiGo's response to its show cause notice. IndiGo, the statement said, is "profusely" apologetic and deeply regrets the inconvenience and hardship caused to customers.

Vande Mataram: PM Modi 150th anniversary of national song Vande Mataram', Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted how Vande Mataram inspired the nation, energised the

PNS New Delhi

Modi on Monday said the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru betrayed Vande Mataram by echoing Muhammad Ali Jinnah's communal concerns and fragmenting the national song, which put India on the path of politics of appeasement, leading to

Initiating a debate on the

freedom struggle and became a symbol of national resolve, which prompted Mahatma Gandhi to liken it to the national anthem.

Penned by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1875, Modi said Vande Mataram challenged the British Empire that was unsettled by



and heaping injustices upon India and forcing its people

"Vande Mataram, which was a source of immense strength for every Indian both within the country and abroad, suffered grave injustice in the last century. wonder why Vande Mataram was betrayed and what forces overshadowed the sentiments expressed by Mahatma Gandhi and dragged the sacred inspiration into controversy,"

CONTINUED ON >> P2



can support each other to **build better India: DK**

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said Bengaluru and Hyderabad, major technology hubs in the country, are not competitors, but they can support each other to build a better

Shivakumar, who spoke at the two-day Telangana Rising Global Summit organised by the state government here, also said the country would rise further when the southern states make rapid progress.

He said that he thought Telangana is competing with Bengaluru and Karnataka, but it is not so. The state is competing "globally".

Shivakumar, who congratulated Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for completing two years in office, said the entire south stands with him for the progress of the country "to match the world".

CONTINUED ON >> P2

STATE BAR COUNCILS

SC orders 30 per cent seats for women advocates

PNS New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday directed that 30 per cent seats in state Bar councils, where the election process has not been set in motion, be kept for women advocates.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said for the current year, the state Bar councils where elec-

tions are yet to be held should fill 20 per cent seats with women candidates and 10 per cent by cooption if there are not many deserving lawyers to contest.

The top court directed that a proposal for co-option shall be placed before the court regarding

the state Bar councils where the number of contesting women lawyers is inadequate. At the outset, senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra, who is

also the chairperson of the Bar Council of India (BCI), informed the bench that the election process, as per the

direction, has commenced in six Bar bodies with the notification of the poll. He submitted that the

BCI, in principle, is of the view that there should be at least 30 per cent women's reservation in the state Bar councils, and suggested that for the present year, the councils should be permitted to fill up the posts by co-opting women

candidates.

He also proposed that 15 per cent of seats be filled by way of co-option of women members.

However, the bench said it would be appropriate if co-option is restricted to only 10 per cent of seats. The bench said it would not be prudent to reserve seats for women in the Bar councils, where the election process has already commenced.

TG not waiting for future, but building it: Min Sridhar Babu

Intend to convert emerging challenges into opportunities

PNS Hyderabad

Telangana is not waiting for the future but "actively building it," said Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu, while inaugurating the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025 on Monday. He noted that every major policy step taken by the government is aligned with the long-term aspirations of future generations.

Invoking the symbolism of the Phoenix, the Minister said the "Telangana Rising" vision aims to position the State as a global hub for innovation, human capital, sustainability and investment. At a time of global economic shifts, rapid technological change and climate uncertainties, Telangana intends to convert while the services sector

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Telangana government on Monday signed an MoU

with the organisers of

Vantara, a wildlife rescue

and rehabilitation centre in

Gujarat, to secure expertise in

setting up a new zoo in the proposed Future City to be

developed on the outskirts of

Hvderabad. The MoU was

signed for implementing

various procedures being fol-

lowed in Vantara in the pro-

posed new zoo, the state

forest department said in a

release. The key points in

the MoU, include providing

technical help with regard to

animal conservation and

rehabilitation measures,

designing night safari, techni-

cal advice for development of

emerging challenges into opportunities, he said. Sridhar Babu outlined the State's long-term target of contributing to India's journey toward a USD 3-trillion economy by 2047. Despite its smaller geographical size and population compared with several other States, Telangana accounts for nearly 5 per cent of India's GDP, he added.

According to official estimates, Telangana recorded a GSDP growth rate of 10.1% in 2024-25, higher than the national average of 9.9%. The State's per-capita income reached ?3.79 lakh, about 1.8 times the national average. The industrial and manufacturing sectors grew at 7.6%, compared with the national average of 6.6%,

TG govt partners with Vantara

for new zoo in Future City

Reliance



average of 10.7%. The Minister said Telangana's Industrial GSVA rose from ?2.46 lakh crore to ?2.77 lakh crore, reflecting a 12.6% growth rate. He added that growth across key subsectors-manufacturing, construction, mining and quarrying, eleccountry's first AI-powered village, calling it a model for "Tomorrow's Telangana." He also listed a series of

upcoming initiatives aimed at shaping the State's future: Bharat Future City, the Telangana AI Innovation Hub, the AI- based Data Exchange Platform (TGDeX), AI University, Skill University, Advanced ITIs, Al-integrated academic curricula, Young India International Schools. the OneBio Life Sciences Hub, and a Centre of Excellence in Quantum Technology. "These transformative steps will shapes Telangana's economic and technological identity for decades to come," he said urging industry leaders and innovators to collaborate

Robot, a special attraction at the Global Summit

benchmarks, demonstrating

the government's perfor-

mance in strengthening the

industrial base. Highlighting

technological developments,

Sridhar Babu drew atten-

tion to a remote village in the

Manthani constituency that

recently became the

PNS Hyderabad

Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 has started at of zoo in PPP mode, it said. Bharat Future City. Governor According to officials, the Jishnu Dev Verma was the MoU would help the prochief guest and inaugurated posed zoo in Telangana to it. However, a robot was a special attraction in the emerge as a major attraction not only in the country but Global Summit. Apart from in Asia and for the proposed welcoming the guests, the zoo to become a model zoo robot is explaining the objectives of the global summit to Spread over 3,000 acres, everyone. The robot also greeted Chief Minister Vantara, brainchild of Reliance Industries director Revanth Reddy, who was Anant Ambani, is located at present at the Global Industries' Summit, by saying hi.

Jamnagar refinery complex. The Chief Minister also said hi to the robot and moved It is a rescue centre dedicated to the welfare of forward. This robot is forest-based eco theme park, captive elephants and impressing everyone at the wildlife, providing sanctuary,



the Global Summit. Film actor Nagarjuna was also present with the Chief Minister.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Union Minister Kishan Reddy, State Ministers, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Government

inspected the stalls set up at Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, DGP Shivdhar Reddy, and national and international dignitaries from various fields attended the opening ceremony of the

Global Summit. A specially composed song on Telangana Rising was performed on stage.

of inclusive development

Telangana will fulfill its mission of becoming a US\$ 3 trillion economy by 2047, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma said on Monday during his inaugural speech at the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025.

"As the world takes note of the opportunities emerging in Telangana, I stand here with firm conviction to say Telangana will fulfill its mission of becoming a US\$ 3 trillion economy by 2047," the Governor said.

The Governor said the state's economic path is becoming more visible as it takes measured steps to match India's broader aim of becoming a US\$ 3 trillion economy by 2047. He explained that Telangana is moving with confidence, supported by transparent systems and active citizen participation.

He said that Telangana is choosing a story of inclusive development. He said this approach places women, farmers, youth and children at the heart of the state's



Guv: TG choosing a story

Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The Governor pointed to women-led initiatives such as electric bus operations, retail ventures, and solar projects that are helping women participate in the economy. He also said that women's groups managing lakes are improving both the environment and local income. In education, he said,

community involvement in schools draws from ideas in Young India, while new skills and sports universities are preparing young people for future opportunities.

He said the state's growing infrastructure, such as airports, renew-

able energy systems, transport networks, and smart zoning, is shaping a modern Telangana ready for longterm goals. Policies that bring stability, like support for women artisans through the gig workers policy, continue to attract new ideas and investment.

The Governor said training for a skilled workforce is a major focus, with vocational and technologybased programs planned to meet current industry needs and future demands. He added that Telangana's development roadmap is in line with the national vision of Viksit Bharat, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which stresses inclusive growth, sustainability and innovation.

He said the state's progress comes from learning from the past while planning for the future, showing how careful steps can lead to real change on the ground. This, he said, is helping Telangana build a model of growth that supports justice, prosperity and unity.

TOMCOM ties up with GWD, Nexwave to boost overseas jobs for TG youth

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Company (TOMCOM) signed two Memoranda Understanding (MoUs) on Monday, during the

Summit 2025. The first MoU was signed with Global Workforce Development (GWD) of Apollo Hospital Groups, which proposes a strategic collaboration to empower

Telangana Rising Global

nursing and healthcare GWD will support candi-

skill enhancement, provide language training, as well as globally aligned certification programs.

The initiative will offer overseas employment opportunities across Germany, Japan, the UK, Australia, and other countries where skilled healthcare professionals are in high demand.

The second collaboration is with Nexwave GmbH, Germany, offering 350 warehouse associate positions for English-speaking candidates with basic educational qualifications such as ITI, dates through specialised a diploma, or a degree.

Candidates will receive a gross salary of €2100 with a comprehensive predeparture guidance, flexible payment options for processing and travel, and full support throughout the recruitment cycle, states the MoU.

All selected candidates will receive accommodation facilitation, onboarding assistance, and a fiveday job training program upon arrival in Germany. Visa processing under this proposal is estimated to take 8-10 weeks, ensuring a streamlined transition for qualified candidates.

IndiGo cancels 112 flights at Hyd Airport

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Passengers at Hyderabad's Airport (RGIA) continue to have a harrowing time as IndiGo cancelled 112 flights on Monday.

For the seventh consecutive day, the airline's services remained disrupted. The cancellations on Monday include 58 arrivals and 54 departures. With no signs of normalcy returning to IndiGo's operations at RGIA, thousands of passengers continue to suffer. For the fifth consecutive day, the number of cancellations was over 100. More than 600 remained stranded due to flights have been cancelled at RGIA since December 2.



were cancelled on Sunday (December 7). The highest number of flights (155) was cancelled on December 5. while 144 flights were cancelled on December 6. Hundreds of passengers cancellations. Angry passengers were seen making As many as 126 flights enquiries. The Central

Industrial Security Force (CISF) stepped up security at the airport as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incident.

The cancellations on key domestic routes severely disrupted the travel plans of the passengers for the seventh consecutive day. Cancellation of departures

and arrivals on key domestic routes like Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Madurai and Bhubaneswar severely inconvenienced passengers.

IndiGo on Sunday announced that it resumed operations at 137 of its 138 destinations. The airline said it was on track to operate 1,650 flights for the day, compared to 1,500 flights on December 6. It also stated that its on-time performance had risen from 30 per cent on December 6 to 75 per cent on December 7.

The airline announced a full waiver on cancellations and rescheduling requests for bookings till December 15.

The Zonal-level Hackathon began at

and innovation.



dents and 65 mentors from Kendriya Vidyalayas in Ernakulam, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar are participating in the junior and senior categories. Students will complete AI-based tasks, showcase their technical skills and present their innovative solutions before a panel of expert judges. The two-day event will conclude on December 09. The winners will be announced by the Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, EV Ramana said that this hackathon provides a valuable opportunity for students to work collaboratively, think critically and develop effective solutions to real-world problems.

Bike taxi driver, woman killed in mishap Monday, December 8. The acciwere identified as Jyothi, 32, a dent occurred near Jyothi Milk resident of Venkat Ram Nagar A bike taxi rider and a woman Industry when a speeding lorry in Suraram, and Surender heading to work. The impact of

were killed in an accident in lost control and hit the bike

The deceased

According to Suraram police, lyothi had hired the bike while Reddy, 45, a bike taxi rider and the lorry was so severe that Jyoti

Dt:19.11.2025

FORM-VI

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, KHAMMAM

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

(See sub rule (1) of rule -19 and Section -11(1) of the Act-30/2013

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total an extent of Acs.00-05% Gts land is required in the BURHANPU-RAM Village of KHAMMAM (URBAN) Mandal of Khammam District for public purpose, namely for the proposed 3rd Railway line with electrification between Kondapalli to Kazipet Section in the village limits of BURHANPURAM Village of KHAMMAM (URBAN) Mandal and the notification is issued under Section 11(1) of the Right Fair Compensation and Transparency in land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 and the Publication is Made as shown in the below schedule.

The District Collector, Khammam has appointed the Revenue Divisional Office

Khammam as Land Acquisition Officer, vide proceedings Rc.No.G1/1027/2018, dated: 27.08.2018 for acquisition of Patla Land for the proposed 3rd Railway line with electrification between Kondapalli to Kazipet Section in the village limits of KHAMMAM Village of KHAMMAM (URBAN) Mandal

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in BURHANPU-RAM Village of KHAMMAM (URBAN) Mandal of Khammam District a

District Collector, Khammam Rc.No.G1/1027/2018

LAO/RDO, Khammam Rc.No.C1/4690/2018

District Gazette No.A3/59/2025

Zonal-level Hackathon - AI Vidya Setu 1.0 kicked off

PNS ■ Hyderabad

PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Uppal, Hyderabad on Monday. The event is jointly organised by IIT Delhi's Technology Innovation Hub I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS). The event was inaugurated by Dr D Manjunath, Vice-Chancellor, KVS RO, Hyderabad. In his address, he said that the hackathon will play a vital role in achieving the goal of Vikasit Bharat 2047 by developing innovative thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills among students. The inaugural function was attended by chief guests AA Israel, Assistant Commissioner: Yasra Khan, Senior Executive - Education, Research & Training, IHFC; N Hari Prasad and N Rajeshwari, Principals of nearby Kendriya Vidyalayas. They encouraged the participating students and congratulated the organisers for creating a national-level platform for experiential learning

In all, 64 teams, a total of 366 stu-

piece of land measuring an extent of Acs.00-05¼ Gts of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is under acquisition. SCHEDULE Mandal: KHAMMAM (URBAN) Acqui stion (in Sq 276/ Patta Dry OPEN PLOTS OPEN PLOTS omplete Sy.No. Complete Sy.No OPEN PLOTS OPEN PLOTS (NALA - (NALA -2 277/ Patta Dry 00-02 Complete Sy.No.) Complete Sy.No. Total Extent 00-051/4

This notification is made under the provision of Section 1 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparence in land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (Act No.30/2013), to all whom it my concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Khammam & in the office of the Revenue Distinct Officer, Khammam on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorized Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Khammam and his staff O/o the Revenue Divisional Officer, Khammam to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the prope execution of their work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale/pur-chase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition if any may be filed by the person interested within (60) sixty days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section-15 of the Act before District Collector, Khammam

Sd/- Land Acquisition

Sd/- Additional Officer & Revenue Divisional Collector (Revenue),

Woman murdered for spurning marriage proposal

PNS Hyderabad

An 18-year-old woman was murdered allegedly by her relative after she refused to marry him over his "behaviour" here on Monday, police said.

The accused went to the victim's house on Monday afternoon and picked up an

for tha year 2026

argument with her mother over their visit to Vijayawada last week.

> When the young woman told him that he was harassing her over phone after consuming alcohol and that she was not interested to marry him, he attacked her death, polcie said based on with a knife on her neck resulting in her instant



preliminary investigation. The families had initially

proposed their marriage, but recently the woman found out that he was "not behaving well" with her and refused to marry him, a police official said.

The accused fled the scene and efforts were to nab him, police said. Warasiguda Police were further investi-

Telangana Government has announced the list of holidays

TG famous for its attire: Kanchi Kamakoti Seer

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Kanchi Kamakoti Seer Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati said that Telangana is famous for its attire. He made it clear that hospitals, roads, factories, Vedas, Puranas, Shastras, cow protection, classical music and attire are very necessary in the State.

He stated that he aspired for the Telangana state to be a place for spiritual programmes with dharma, peace, comfort development. On Wednesday, the Seer, who bestowed a golden crown on Goddess Vijaya Durga at as well. He said that all 33 dis-

mandal of Siddipet district, said that in 1998, Jayendra Saraswathi, with the support of the then DGP HJ Dora, toured the Telangana State and campaigned for the establishment of dharma and peace. On this occasion, he wished

that the people of Telangana should have peace and comfort without any difficulties. He said that the Siddipet region has been spiritually flourishing for the last 30 years. Just as big temples are being renovated in the State, he called on donors to develop temples in rural areas Marpadaga in Kondapaka tricts should be developed in the



spiritual field with programmes like temples, Vedic schools, cow protection and distribution of Anna Prasad. There are many universities in the State.

He suggested that the government should establish religious universities with

development Hindu religion, culture and

He stated that he

Telangana state to be

a place for spiritual

programmes with

dharma, peace,

comfort and

aspired for the

traditions. The Seer suggested to the elders and parents that we should follow culture and traditions and inform the children of the future about their importance. He said that those who do business, agriculture

The Seer, who arrived at the temple on the occasion of the coronation of Goddess Vijaya Durga, was given a grand welcome by Vedic scholars with Vedic mantras. A large number of devotees, including District Collector Haimavati, participated in the

programme.

and manual labour should stay

in the villages as a family,

temple and village and that the

Telangana State should be pros-

perous. The Seer wished that

just as WiFi continues in today's

computer age, Vedas, sciences,

agriculture and religion should

continue as WiFi services.

In RamMunshi Bagh,

several houseboats occu-

pied by foreign nationals

during their brief stay in the

valley were found to be vio-

lating the norms. According

to a police spokesman,

Floating Castle owned by

Faroog Ahmad Guroo S/o

Late Gh Nabi Guroo R/o Ghat

No 15 Nehru Park, boarded by

Lee Ya Hui of Taiwan, Best

View Houseboat owned by

Faroog Ahmad Kutroo S/o Ali

Mohd Kutroo R/o Ghat No 09

Da Lake, boarded by

Maistruik Sergel of Russia ,

House Boat Crystal Palace,

owned by Gh Hassan Karnai

S/o Haji Gh Mohammad R/o

Abi Karpora Dal lake,

boarded by Naum Silviu of

Romania and Houseboat

Lake Palace, owned by

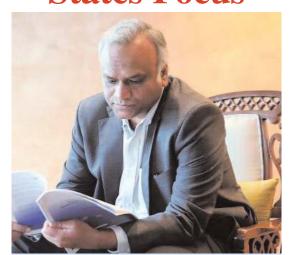
Mohammad Altaf Gunna S/o

Habibullah Gunna R/o Abi

Karpora Dal Lake, boarded by

Eduardo Tejerina Gonzalee of

States Focus J&K Police raid hotels over Form-C violations



PRIYANK KHARGE SLAMS BJP FOR **NEGLECTING OPPOSITION DUTIES**

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday hit out at the BJP ahead of the Assembly session, alleging that the party has abandoned its responsibilities as an opposition and was instead focusing only on trivial issues. Speaking to reporters on the premises of Suvarana Vidhana Soudha, Kharge took a dig at the BJP for remaining silent on matters that fall under the purview of the central government.

Responding to a question that the BJP was going to target the Congress government in the session, Kharge said, "Let them do it. They have abandoned their responsibilities as an opposition."



PM MODI URGES BIHAR NDA MPS TO SHOULDER 'GREATER RESPONSIBILITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told the NDA MPs from Bihar to work with more vigour for the welfare of the people after the ruling alliance's resounding victory in the recent Assembly elections, saying "with great victory comes great responsibility".

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) MP Shambhavi Choudhary said the prime minister conveyed the message to a delegation of NDA MPs when they called on him here to congratulate him for the NDA's massive victory in the

Jharkhand migrants killed in Goa nightclub fire cremated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

migrant workers from Jharkhand, killed in the fire at the Goa nightclub, were performed at their native places on Monday.

Pradeep Mahto (24) and Binod Mahto (20), two brothers from Fatehpur village in Lapung in Ranchi district, and Mohit Munda (22) of Govindpur village in Khunti district died in the inferno that ravaged the North Goa club post-midnight on Sunday. A total of 25 people, including 14 staff members of the nightclub, were killed in the fire. The bodies of Pradeep, Binod and Mohit, who used to work at the nightclub, were brought back to the state in the morning by a flight. The mortal remains of Pradeep and Binod were cremated on the bank of the Karo river in Lapung, around 60 km from the state capital, in the presence of villagers and block officials

The brothers had migrated to Goa about a year ago and used to send around ₹30,000 per month to their family. "Both were unmarried. They were scheduled to celebrate Holi with us next year," their elder brother

Mohit's last rites were performed as per tribal customs at his native village. Agriculture Minister Shilpy Neha Tirkey, who coordinated with the Goa government to bring back the bodies, said all three belonged to her Mandar constituency.

"The bodies were sent to their native villages in special ambulances. I will request Chief Minister Hemant Soren for some welfare provisions for the families of the victims," she told PTI. The Labour Department has handed ₹50,000 each to the families of the victims as

immediate assistance. Disaster Management Minister Irfan Ansari said compensation of ₹4 lakh each would be provided to the kin of the workers.

"There is no such particular provision in this regard. However, as it is a very propeople government led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, we have decided to give the compensation," he told reporters outside the

Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir police conducted a massive drive against several hotels and a homestay for violating the mandatory Form-C reporting norms required under the Immigration & Foreigners Act in Srinagar on Monday.

The drive was conducted close on the heels of the detention of a Chinese national who had entered Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir without permission and later stayed in an unregistered guest house in Srinagar in the last week of November 2025. The drive was conducted across several 'hot spots' of Srinagar frequented by foreign tourists.

Official sources claimed that after the Pahalgam terror attack, over 2500 foreign nationals have visited the valley along with domestic travellers.

The Chinese national was detained by the security forces after he was allegedly found using a social media app for chatting.

cials are trying to join the dots and figure out the purpose of his visit to Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, especially when, as per his tourist VISA, he was only permitted to visit Buddhist religious places in Varanasi, Agra, New Delhi, Jaipur, Sarnath, Gaya and Kushi Nagar. According to a police

spokesman, in the Rajbagh

area, Hotel Blossoms, Hotel

Grand MS, and Hotel Golden Forest had allowed foreign nationals to check in without submitting Form-C to the Foreigners Registration Office (FRO). Accordingly, FIR No. 65/2025 U/S 8 & 23-B of the Immigration & Foreigners Act was registered at Police Station Rajbagh. Similarly, in the Khanyar area, Hotel Khyber, located in Khayam, was also found violating Form-C reporting requirements. Despite repeated instructions, the management failed to produce any proof of Form-C submission. As a result, FIR No. 57/2025 was registered under relevant sections of law at Police

Station Khanyar, the police



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

ment had deliberately concealed the stay of the foreign guest and failed to submit the mandatory online Form-C reporting. Accordingly, FIR No. 60/2025 U/S 8 and 23(b) of the Immigration & Foreigners Act was registered at Police

Station Lal Bazar. In another hotspot of the

Nishat area, a house owner, namely Mohammad Ashraf Zargar S/o Mohammad Ramzan Zargar R/o Vakeel Colony, Brein was found in non-compliance with the mandatory reporting of Form C to FRO. In this connection, FIR No. 101/2025 U/S 8-23(b) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act was regis-

Spain, was found in violation of the norms for mandatory reporting rules. In this connection, FIR no. 94/2025 U/S 7,14, and 16 of the Immigration and Foreigner Act was registered in Police Station RM Bagh. viction rate. Investigative Units

BJP claims LoPs skipped PM's speech out of guilt



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

The BJP on Monday alleged that both Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra remained absent from the Lok Sabha out of a "sense of during Prime Minister's speech on the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram because he exposed their party and the Gandhi family. Initiating the discussion in the Lower House Drime Minister Modi spoke about how the original version of the Vande Mataram was "truncated at the behest of" Jawaharlal "appease" Nehru to Muhammad Ali Jinnah and "this seed of division" that he sowed at that time led to the partition of India later to "appease minorities", BJP MP and national

said. "Perhaps this is the reason why the Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were absent from the House on such an important day when it is the 150th anniversary of Vande Matram and the prime minister is speak-

spokesperson Sambit Patra

ing," Patra charged. "They were absent because of the sense of guilt they had in their hearts because their own family cheated, deceived and betrayed the Vande Mataram. They knew that they wouldn't be able to bear it," he told reporters in the Parliament House

Initiating the discussion on Vande Mataram in the Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Modi accused the Congress of breaking into pieces the national song under the guise of social harmony, and said it was still following the politics of appease-He also targeted Nehru for "agreeing" with the sug-

gestion that Vande Mataram could antagonise Muslims. Modi cited a letter written by Nehru to claimed the former prime minister had said that the background of Vande Mataram could antagonise Muslims. He said the letter was written following a protest by Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Lucknow.

Terming Modi's speech "historic", Patra said the prime minister exposed the Congress and its betrayal towards Vande Mataram.

"Today, the prime minister clearly told the House that the seed of division that Pt Jawaharlal Nehru sowed during 'division of Vande Mataram' to appease Jinnah later grew up due to appeasement of minorities and became the reason behind the partition of India," he said

What the prime minister told the House will "shake the roots" of the Congress "as never before". Patra said. "He completely exposed the Congress and the Gandhi family," he

Odisha records 40,947 crimes against women: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

spokesman said.

In the busy Lal Bazar area,

IMY Home Stay, Nowabagh

Bagwanpora, owned by

Mohammad Aslam Baktoo

S/o Late Habibullah Baktoo,

was found operating without

Form-C compliance for

Starobinsky Lior, a foreign

national from Israel, along

with others. The manage-

A total of 40,947 cases of crimes against women, including 3,205 rapes, were registered in Odisha in 15 months till September, according to data provided by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the assembly on Monday.

These cases were reported since July 1, 2024, Majhi said, in reply to a written question by BJD legislator Prasanna Acharya.

The BJP came to power in the state in June 2024,

ending the 24-year rule of

the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government. The opposition has been regularly criticising Majhi's government, alleging that crimes against women have increased after the BJP came to power in the state.

According to data provided by the CM, 202 cases of attempted rape, 1,476 cases of sexual harassment, 9,851

cases of molestations, 2,310 cases of public disrobing of women, 8,863 cases of kidnapping of women, 796 eve-teasing and 556 stalking cases were registered in the state during the period.

Among the other cases registered were 129 trafficking, 277 dowry homicides, 49 dowry suicides, 5,861 dowry tortures, 6,773 non-dowry tortures and 152 voyeurism. Four cases of acid attack were also lodged during the period. Majhi said several steps have been taken to improve the quality of investigation, fast-tracking of the cases and improving the con-

on Crime Against Women (IUCAW) are functioning in 29 districts. These units take up investigation of important and sensitive cases, he

The Bhubaneswar-based Crime Against Women and Children Wing (CAW&CW) monitors the monthly performance of Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (IAHTU), Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) and IUCAW units of the districts and issues instructions for improvement of functioning, he said.

"OVER 90% OF LARGE FARM FIRES IN PUNJAB, HARYANA NOW GO UNDETECTED"

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

More than 90 per cent of and Haryana are now going undetected by the official monitoring systems as farmers are shifting stubble-burning activities to late afternoons, according to a new analysis published on Monday. The Stubble **Burning Status Report** 2025 by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) said this led to major underestimation of the contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's air

pollution this year. IFOREST said the government's current monitoring protocol, run by the Consortium for

Research Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space (CREAMS) of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, is unable to detect most farm fires as it relies mainly on polarorbiting satellites that observe India only between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm.

This narrow time window no longer matches farmers' burning practices, it said.

At the same time, the report finds real progress on the ground. with burnt areas in Punjab and Haryana falling by 25-35 per cent over recent years. IFOREST said burnt-area mapping provides a more accurate picture than active fire counts. which currently suggest a much larger decline. Chandra Bhushan, CEO of iFOREST, said, "Our analysis provides incontrovertible evidence that India's current stubble-burning monitoring system is structurally misaligned with ground realities.

Total 0.023

Dry

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL COLLECTOR, KHAMMAM PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION (See sub rule (1) of rule -19 and Section -11(1) of the Act-30/2013) District Gazette No.A3/57/2025 Dated:02.12.2025 District Collector, Khammam Rc.No.G1/325/2019 LAO/RDO, Khammam Rc.No.C1/325/2019 Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total an tent of Acs.1.13 ½ gts land is required in the Dhamsalapuram village of hammam Urban Mandal of Khammam District for public purpose, namely hammam — Devarapally Green Field Highway provision for Entry & Exit Service sads at Dhamsalapuram Village of Khammam Urban Mandal and the notification is sued under Section 11(1) of the Right Fair Compensation and Transparency in land quisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 and the Publication is Made shown in the below schedule. Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in Dhamsalapuram village f Khammam Urban Mandal of Khammam District a piece of land measuring an klent of Acs. 1.13 ½ gts. of standard measurement, whose detail description is as SCHEDULE Mandal: Khammam Urban District: Khammar Area under Acqui stion (Gts) Total 0.12¹/₄ Dry 0.768 552 Patta Garlapeti Annapurana 2 756 1.6665 1824 Patta 0.140 488 0.051/-Total 2.4198 6448 Patta Dry 2.4198 6448 Total 0.093/4 Total Non-Agricul ture land Dry 2.74 9846 Shiva Nagireddy S/o Total 0.02314 2.74 9846 Total 0.001 Grand Total 1.131 This notification is made under the provision of Section-11 (1) of the Right to air Compensation and Transparency in land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and esettlement Act-2013(Act No.30/2013), to all whom it my concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collecto (hammam & in the office of the Tahsildar Khammam (Urban) on any working da luring the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-cum-Appropriat

ent is pleased to authorized Additional Collector (Revenue) Kham

is staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction

cause any transaction of land i.e., sale/purchase, etc., or create any encur prances on such land from the date of publication of such notification wit out prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any may be filed by the person intere ed within (60) sixty days from the date of publication of this notification provided under Section-15 of the Act before District Collector, Khammar

Sd/- LAO/ itional Collector

sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as ed and specified in Section – 12 of the said Act.

Randhawa slams Navjot Kaur's ₹500 crore CM chair claim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

After her " 500 crore for CMs claim, Congress general secretary Sukhjinder Randhawa on Monday said it was "unfortunate" that Navjot Kaur Sidhu made such a remark and asked how much was paid when her husband Naviot Sidhu was made a minister and then the Punjab Congress president.

Randhawa, the former deputy chief minister of Puniab, also said the Congress faces threat from no one in the state but from such people within.

"It is unfortunate that

Navjot Kaur Sidhu has made such a statement. Navjot Sidhu joined the Congress from the BIP, and he was made a minister. They should tell how much was paid for Sidhu to become a minister. He was made the number 2 minister. How much was paid? "Then he was made the **Puniab Congress Committee** (PCC) president. They should reveal how much was paid then," Randhawa told reporters outside Parliament. He also said they all worked with Sidhu and stayed with him when he was made the

president. "The party is supreme, the party president is supreme.

minister and then the PCC



under him and comes later,' the Congress leader claimed.

'My sister Navjot Kaur should tell how much money was paid for Sidhu to become the PCC president. For threeand-a-half years, Congress workers in Punjab have been

from the ruling dispensation in Punjab. Why were they (Sidhus) silent for all this time? "Now, when the election year is nearing, you suddenly start making such statements. Navjot Kaur also claimed proximity to Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and when Privanka went to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's constituency in Dhuri, Navjot Sidhu indulged in indiscipline," Randhawa, the Lok Sabha MP from Gurdaspur, said.

beaten up and facing action

"The Congress faces no threat from anyone in Punjab. It faces a threat only from such kind of people sitting within the party," the







Editor's TAKE Why India needs a legal right to disconnect

A nation cannot build a future on depleted minds and exhausted bodies. Supriya Sule's Bill offers not just legal protection but a cultural reset

Stress has become endemic in the corporate world, and "burnout" is now the widely accepted term for it. Burnout is a state of intense physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion caused by prolonged and excessive work-related stress. These two words capture the reality of today's corporate workforce on a massive scale. The death of 26-year-old chartered accountant Anna Sebastian Perayil, whose death was linked to severe work-related stress, is a case in point.

The irony is that most people do not even realise they are experiencing it, seeking treatment is a far cry. Reports of suicides and worsening mental health due to work pressure are increasingly common. Both mental and physical health deteriorate sharply, leaving individuals drained, cynical, and exhausted. Fatigue, insomnia, headaches, detachment, and disturbed sleep have become alarmingly routine.

The constant ringing of the smartphone and the rise of hybrid digital work culture have erased personal boundaries, making it difficult for many to have any "me time". Being available 24×7 has turned into a modern form of slavery that takes a heavy toll on lives.

To restore work-life balance, Supriya Sule has taken an important initiative. If her proposal succeeds, it may soon become law, introducing penalties for employers who overstep time boundaries and encroach on workers' personal lives. Supriya Sule's Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025, is a longoverdue intervention, seeking to restore a basic but endangered human need: the right to switch off and relax.

The core premise of the Bill is simple yet transformative. It states that employees should not be penalised for choosing not to respond to work-related communication after office hours. The bill sets to end the culture of checking messages throughout the day, during dinner, on weekends, and even on holidays. Studies have repeatedly shown that such constant pressure to check phone leads to sleep deprivation, chronic stress, emotional burnout, and a slow erosion of family life.

The Bill recognises that mental health is not separate from productivity; it is its very foundation. Importantly, the legislation does not ignore the realities of India's competitive and diverse business landscape. Sule's proposal allows companies to set their own after-hours communication norms through Employees' Welfare Committees. Companies that disregard these provisions could face penalties equivalent to one per cent of their total employee remuneration, ensuring that compliance is mandatory and damages are for real.

Yet the path ahead is not without challenges. India's workforce is vast and varied, and cultural attitudes often equate overwork with dedication. Smaller firms may fear compliance burdens, while multinational companies may worry about servicing their offshore clients. Besides, enforcement remains a perennial weakness in India.

Despite these obstacles, the direction is clear and the move is a step in right direction. For India to continue its progress, it must safeguard the well-being of its workers.

SAARC@40: An idea that refuses to die

As the world reorganises around regional blocs and shared vulnerabilities, South Asia cannot afford to remain disconnected. SAARC may be dormant, but its spirit endures, waiting for a political moment that restores its relevance



SANTHOSH MATHEW

Forty years ago, on a December morning in 1985, South Asia embarked on an ambitious experiment. Seven neighbours — united by shared histories yet separated by borders, suspicion and political complications — met in Dhaka to outline a collective vision for peace, prosperity and cooperation. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) emerged from that hope, designed to transcend bilateral tensions and forge a regional identity grounded in development. Four decades later, that optimism feels remote. The organisation has been effectively frozen since 2014, its institutional vitality drained by enduring political hostilities. Yet, paradoxically, the idea of SAARC is more essential today than ever. The phrase "SAARC is dead, long live SAARC" captures this duality: the institution may be dormant, but the logic of regional cooperation remains compelling.

South Asia itself embodies profound contradictions. It is home to nearly 40 per cent of the world's democracies, each with its strengths and complexities. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka together represent one of the most diverse political landscapes on earth. Bangladesh's strides in poverty alleviation, Bhutan's pioneering Gross National Happiness framework, Sri Lanka's social indicators, Nepal's federal evolution, Maldives' climate resilience, Pakistan's active civil society, Afghanistan's enduring cultural heritage and India's unmatched electoral scale all testify to a region rich in innovation and vitality.

To see South Asia only through the prism of conflict is to overlook its immense civilisational, demographic and strategic advantages. This potential, however, has been consistently undermined by geopolitical mistrust, particularly between India and Pakistan. SAARC's stagnation is rooted in this unresolved hostility. Without political trust at the highest level, regional structures lose momentum. The cost of this paralysis has been significant. South Asia remains among the least economically integrated regions in the world. Intra-regional trade hovers around a mere 5 per cent, compared with ASEAN's over 25 per cent. High tariffs, rigid borders and bureaucratic obstacles have stifled the movement of goods, services and ideas that could dramatically uplift the region.

Against this backdrop, the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) deserves renewed focus. Operational since 2006, SAFTA was designed to dismantle tariff and non-tariff barriers and build a seamless regional market. Fully implemented, it could transform South Asia economically by strengthening supply chains, reducing logistics costs and opening vast new opportunities for employment and investment. The stakes are large: nearly 736 million South Asians still live in



TO SEE SOUTH **ASIA ONLY** THROUGH THE PRISM OF **CONFLICT IS TO OVERLOOK ITS IMMENSE** CIVILISATIONAL **DEMOGRAPHIC** AND STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES. THIS POTENTIAL, HOWEVER, HAS

AND PAKISTAN

Santhosh Mathew is a

Professor at Puducherry

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The Pioneer

SAKSHI

iversity, and Inputs by

BEEN **CONSISTENTLY** political divides. These efforts draw UNDERMINED BY on the ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world is one family - and demonstrate that **GEOPOLITICAL** meaningful regional collaboration does not MISTRUST, always require formal institutional momentum. **PARTICULARLY** BETWEEN INDIA

India's neighbourhood-first policy has, in many ways, kept the idea of SAARC alive. The South Asia Satellite exemplified technological cooperation, supporting communication and disaster management across the region. India's vaccine diplomacy during the COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted its role as a regional first responder. When global supply chains collapsed, India supplied vaccines and essential medical aid to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh and other neighbours. More recently, India's rapid assistance during the Sri Lankan floods under Operation Sagar Bandhu reaffirmed its consistent commitment to regional humanitarian support. Such gestures cannot replace formal diplomacy, but they help rebuild trust and demonstrate the tangible value of cooperation.

what is possible. The African Continental Free

Trade Area is projected to raise Africa's region-

al income by 7 per cent and lift 30 million people

out of extreme poverty by 2035. With its larger

consumer base and energetic private sector,

South Asia could achieve even more if SAFTA

were revived with genuine political commitment.

South Asia's civilisational heritage — Hinduism,

Buddhism and Sufi traditions — offers a reser-

voir of cultural connections that can be har-

nessed to rebuild trust even when politics stag-

nates. India's soft power initiatives, such as the

Buddhist Circuit, the revival of

But cooperation must extend beyond trade.

Every member of SAARC, however, must recognise what is lost by leaving the organisa-

tion dormant. South Asia faces shared, transnational problems - climate change, water scarcity, terrorism, cybercrime, unemployment and migration — that no country can solve alone. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure provides a useful example of how coordinated security cooperation strengthens collective resilience. A comparable mechanism within SAARC could enhance intelligence-sharing and counter-terrorism efforts at a moment when radicalisation and cyber

threats are growing. Equally significant is the demographic challenge. South Asia has the world's largest youth

population, with nearly 100,000 Nalanda University, the International Solar Alliance and the International Big Cat Alliance, create platforms that transcend

SINCE 1865

people entering the iabout force each day, yet UNICEF estimates that more than half will lack the skills needed for employment by a skills needed for employment by without regional frame-2030. Without regional frame-

works for mobility, innovation, skilling and academic exchange, this demographic dividend could be squandered, even though instruments such as the dormant SAARC Youth Charter offer a ready framework for collaboration.

A reimagined SAARC must also prioritise mobility. Visa liberalisation, academic exchanges, cross-border tourism and digital corridors can revive cultural linkages and unlock economic potential. Drawing on Europe's multiple-entry visas or ASEAN's reciprocal arrangements, South Asia could adopt Mutual Favourable Access to facilitate travel, study and business with transformative impact.

Ultimately, SAARC's future may lie in redefinng it as a flexible development platform focused on digital public goods, climate resilience, health networks and research collaboration. India's digital governance tools — UPI, Aadhaar architecture, e-governance and tele-health could anchor such a partnership, reaffirming a shared South Asian destiny rooted in cooperation, connectivity and collective prosperity.

DIG TALK



Artists from Punjab perform at the National Craft Fair in Prayagraj.

SETHI

ND OPINION THE PIONEER

In the relentless pulse of our digital era, silence has become a scarce commodity. Screens glow from dawn to midnight; alerts blink with the insistence of tiny sirens; content arrives in bursts designed to captivate and distract. In this environment of continuous cognitive stimulation, a troubling behavioural pattern has entered educational conversations: Popcorn Brain Syndrome. Though not a medical diagnosis, the term vividly expresses a growing reality-minds conditioned to crave rapid, high-intensity digital input, much like kernels bursting unpredictably in hot oil. For educators, this is no passing metaphor but a looming crisis. Increasingly, teachers observe shrinking attention spans, heightened restlessness, and an erosion of the ability to engage in deep, sustained thinking. The modern student,

equipped with limitless access to information, is paradoxically losing the capacity to grapple with it meaningfully. When the brain becomes accustomed to the quick bursts of dopamine offered by fast-paced media, slower, more reflective tasks-reading, writing, analytical reasoning-

begin to feel burdensome. The very foundation of real learning is compromised. The signs are subtle yet unmistakable. A student sits in class eyes fixed on the teacher but sits in class, eyes fixed on the teacher, but their attention flickers. A phantom notifica
SINCE 1865

Simple routines-journalling, mindful breathtion tugs at their mind; an impulse to check

Confronting popcorn brain in the digital age

a device momentarily derails focus. This mental hopping mirrors popcorn in motion-bright, brief, and directionless. What suffers in the process is not merely academic performance, but the deeper capacities that shape intellectual maturity: critical thinking, creativity, emotional steadiness, and the ability to connect ideas in meaningful ways. Reflection, that slow and steady cultivator of insight, becomes a rarity.

Teachers now carry a dual mandate: to deliver curriculum content and to rebuild the cognitive stamina necessary to absorb it. It is a daunting task-almost like teaching a child to find stillness while surrounded by whirlpools of distraction. Yet it is not an impossible one. Recognising that Popcorn Brain is a cultural construct-not a personal failing-is the first step. Our digital environment is designed to hook, stimulate, and fragment; young learners are simply

responding to the architecture around them. The solution, therefore, is not to reject technology but to reintroduce balance. Classrooms can become places where deliberate pauses are woven into the learning fabric. Slow reading exercises, device-free discussions, and moments of reflec-

tion can act as anchors. Teachers can cultivate an atmosphere where depth is celebrated over speed, where observation matters as much as reaction.

ing, silent thinking-can gently retrain wandering minds. Parents, too, play a pivotal role. Children absorb what they see, not what they are told. A home where conversation, play, and unstructured time coexist with digital tools helps restore natural rhythms of attention. The partnership between school and family is essential to recalibrating young minds. The broader education system must recognise this phenomenon as a silent disruptor of learning outcomes. As curricula grow more rigorous, attention has become a critically limited resource, making investment in executive function, emotional regulation and digital discipline urgent. Without intervention, Popcorn Brain will continue to fragment focus across classrooms, undermining deep engagement and sustained understanding that

are essential for shaping thoughtful, purposeful thinkers. The writer is an educator and counsellor

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THE NAMAMI GANGA PROGRAMME: GANGA **GHATS REVEAL ADMINISTRATIVE LAPSES**

The front-page report of 8 December on the deteriorating condition of Ganga ghats exposes a grim and deeply troubling account of man-made neglect. The collapse of ghat infrastructure across Uttarakhand and along the Gangetic plains is the result of multiple failures, foremost among them weak municipal accountability compounded by persistent local political interference.

Ghats are often sanctioned to serve constituency interests, even when locations are ecologically fragile or geographically unsuitable.

The Namami Ganga programme was conceived as an ambitious and essential initiative to conserve the river and protect surrounding plains from floods during the monsoon. Yet, crores of rupees have been squandered

due to poor planning, inadequate supervision, and indifference on the ground. Public apathy has further aggravated the problem, with citizens frequently neglecting their responsibility to maintain cleanliness and preserve environmental assets created for their benefit.

Ganga ghats are sensitive environmental interventions requiring expert design and sustained oversight by conservation architects and geological scientists, yet serious consultation with such specialists appears largely absent. Local municipal authorities must therefore be held fully accountable for maintenance and for regulating public access during vulnerable periods to prevent further degradation VINOD JOHRI | DELHI

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IndiGo disruptions signal deeper crisis

There has been widespread chaos at several airports as turbulence in IndiGo's operations continues unabated, leaving passengers anxious, exhausted, and stranded for over a week. Mass cancellations and delays have transformed terminals into scenes of distress, with travellers sleeping on floors and, in some cases, near operational areas. Many passengers missed job interviews, family emergencies, and long-planned commitments, despite tickets being reissued multiple times only to face repeated cancellations. While IndiGo has stated that operations will stabilise by December 15, this assurance rings hollow for those still marooned without clarity or support. The situation reflects not merely operational failure but a deeper issue of regulatory oversight. Both IndiGo and the DGCA ignored early warning signs arising from new pilot duty norms.

Instead of adjusting manpower to meet regulatory requirements, IndiGo expanded its winter schedule, fully aware of its staffing limitations. It is deeply concerning that regulatory authorities appeared to yield under pressure, easing norms to manage public inconvenience. Such short-term relief undermines aviation safety and accountability. This crisis must serve as a moment for corrective action, not quiet compromise.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

Goa tragedy highlights safety failures

Apropos "Goa nightclub blaze kills 25" (Dec. 8), the devastating incident once again exposes how routine disregard for safety norms turns leisure spaces into sites of avoidable tragedy. Reports indicate a convergence of structural violations, inadequate exits, and delayed emergency access-conditions that make disaster inevitable rather than accidental. More troubling is the apparent awareness of these violations by multiple authorities, followed by delayed or diluted action.

As Goa's tourism economy expands, the need for professional oversight becomes critical, especially in venues with high crowd density and limited evacuation options. Safety cannot depend on goodwill or postincident outrage. Mandatory clearances, transparent licensing, and regular inspections must be strictly enforced. Officials who ignore violations must be held as accountable as operators who commit them. Infrastructure issues such as narrow access roads and informal expansions further compound risk and must be addressed urgently. A coordinated emergency protocol involving municipal bodies, fire services, and police should be standard, not reactive. A time-bound review of all public entertainment venues would be a constructive first step toward preventing future tragedies.

A MYILSAMI | TAMIL NADU

Aviation regulation under scrutiny

It takes years to build a reputation, but only days to destroy it. The ongoing IndiGo crisis appears less accidental and more self-inflicted, aided by regulatory inertia. Despite being aware of revised pilot duty norms, both the airline and the DGCA failed to act in time. IndiGo's decision to expand its winter schedule without adequate crew strength reflects corporate arrogance rather than operational prudence.

Equally culpable is the regulator's delayed auditing and passive oversight, which allowed the situation to escalate into a national disruption. When the crisis peaked, the DGCA appeared compelled to dilute enforcement to ease passenger hardship, effectively allowing the airline to escape accountability. Such precedents are dangerous in a safety-critical sector like

This year has already witnessed tragic incidents, including an aircraft crash in Ahmedabad, helicopter accidents in Uttarakhand, and an ATC systems failure

Together, these point to systemic vulnerabilities. The current disruption offers the aviation ministry a crucial opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review and

institute reforms.

BAL GOVIND | NOIDA

Misuse of FRA: Undermining forest rights framework

From recognising ineligible encroachments to manipulating community forest rights, the law meant to protect vulnerable groups and safeguard forests is being bent and exploited. This misuse now threatens both conservation goals and the long-term credibility of India's forest rights framework







SINHA KUMAR JHA

Although the Forest Survey of India, in its 2023 report, indicates an increasing trend in the country's forest cover, a major undisclosed ailment is affecting the heart of India's forest conservation efforts: the alleged widespread misuse of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. Apart from procedural irregularities and misreading of provisions noticed in the implementation of the FRA, the major and substantive issues are the recognition of post-2005 encroachments on forest land as Individual Forest Rights (IFR) for habitation or cultivation, and the massscale grant of management rights (named Community Forest Resource Rights, or CFRR, under the FRA Rules amended in 2012) in cases of grossly ineligible claims.

The pattern of misuse of the FRA was initially highlighted by the 2011 NC Saxena Committee Report. The Committee, an inter-ministerial body, raised serious concerns about the recognition of ineligible claims. It found evidence that "fresh encroachers, with business interests in forest lands", were manipulating the Act in states such as Maharashtra and Assam. The Committee pointed to specific instances of forest land being cleared after the cut-off date of December 13, 2005 in protected areas such as Kawal Sanctuary and Yaval Sanctuary, stressing that the FRA was never intended to be a "ploy to distribute national wealth of forest land to all claimants irrespective of their real legal eligibility". The FRA is meant exclusively for Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs).

The Maharashtra Forest Department launched a detailed study in 2012 covering 35,044 finally approved Individual Forest Rights (IFR) cases, encompassing over 60,000 hectares of forest land across

The Department established a system using Cartosat-1 satellite images from 2005, 2007, and 2011, overlaid with GPS polygons delineating land parcels for each claim. Data on granted cases was available on the website of Maharashtra's Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI), which had developed and utilised a robust, transpar-



THE FACT ALSO REMAINS THAT **GENUINE COMMUNITIES AND** ELIGIBLE LANDS. SUCH AS SACRED **GROVES AND** COMMUNITY-OCCUPIED, CUSTOMARILY AND **RULE-BASED** MANAGED AREAS **AWAITING** FORMALISATION OF

THEIR MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE UNDER THE FRA, HAVE SIMPLY BEEN

BKP Sinha is Former PCCF,

LEFT OUT



system for comparing land-use status before and after the December 2005 cutoff date, documenting approximately 2.9 lakh polygons under IFR claims.

Despite this technological safety net based on satellite imagery, it was found that about 16 per cent of the studied cases were granted IFRs on lands that were clearly ineligible-being fully barren, treecovered, or a mixture of both, as seen in satellite images. More than 3,000 cases showing land-use change, specifically conversion to cultivation after the 2005 cut-off date, were also found to have been cleared as valid claims. Additionally, approximately 4 per cent of cleared claims exceeded the maximum permissible limit of The Pioneer four hectares.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs SINCE 1865 (MoTA) amended the FRA Rules

in 2012, effectively downgrading the evidentiary value of satellite imagery. Such imagery, as well as other uses of technology, could thereafter be used only to "supplement" other forms of evidence and not as a replacement. Critics argue that this move prioritised subjective claims over objective science. As a result, while many Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, reportedly discontinued their use, local governance envisioned by the FRA

ent, and technology-driven verification Maharashtra's well-grounded system was not only derailed but the invaluable dataset of 2.9 lakh GPS polygons embedded in satellite imagery also reportedly became untraceable. Notably, in response to a requirement from the Forest Survey of India (FSI) for analysis in compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's February 2019 order in Writ Petition (C) No. 109/2008, Maharashtra did not make the data available. With regard to eviction of encroachers, no state has initiated proceedings against those with rejected claims, and even the Hon'ble Supreme Court, on February 28, 2019, stayed its own eviction order within fifteen days.

The right to minor forest produce is mandated to be limited to the quantity traditionally collected by beneficiaries. However, the recognition process has been

misused to grant rights over the entire commercial MFP output and trade, often to Gram Sabhas, disregarding the heterogeneity and occupational diversity of their members. As a result, new intermediaries are emerging in states such as Maharashtra and Odisha. They operate as contractors in league with tendu leaf traders, while the intended empowerment states, including major ones such as of FDST and OTFD communities for resource conservation and democratic

is subverted. A similar atmosphere is being created in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to dismantle their federationbased systems.

With regard to CFRRs, these are being illegally recognised almost unabated on government forest lands (such as Reserved or Protected Forests under working plans), even though their specified location is statutorily limited to "customary common forest land" or "community forest resource" as defined in the Act. Further, CFRRs are being granted to ineligible communities that do not meet the criteria under Section 3(1)(i), which requires proof of a traditional role in protection and conservation of the land under claim. Such grants to ineligible entities have been facilitated by amendments to the FRA Rules themselves, whereby the presence of even a few Scheduled Tribes or OTFDs qualifies a Gram Sabha to submit a claim. Shockingly, scrutiny of 80 randomly selected sanctioned cases from districts in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh reveals that all are illegal recognitions. Meanwhile, genuine communities and eligible lands, such as sacred groves and customary rule-based managed areas awaiting formalisation under the FRA, have been

Unfortunately, misuse of the FRA has been continuously and systematically

ignored despite repeated complaints. Foresters objecting to ineligible claims in Sub-Divisional and District-level Committee meetings are often branded anti-tribal and persecuted. Pressurised, and frequently backed by political authorities and civil society, Committees tend to exceed the Act's provisions with impunity, without recognising that the long-term sustenance of forest rights depends on the sustainability of forest resources. While the MoTA issues regular instructions for reconsideration of rejected claims, it has never mandated scrutiny of approved claims, even on a sample basis. By reiterating that implementation responsibility lies with States and Union Territories, it overlooks the implication that reviewing rejected cases while ignoring illegally granted ones amounts to implicit permission for continued misuse.

Objective and verifiable scientific evidence must be treated as the primary defence against fraudulent claims, not merely a supplement to easily manipulated traditional evidence. The FRA Rules must therefore be amended to restore the high evidentiary value of satellite imagery and GPS data. The government, in accordance with Section 13 of the FRA, must demonstrate a genuine commitment to enforcing all existing laws.

Prosecution of powerful individuals misusing the FRA for land speculation or for harming the interests of genuine beneficiaries can act as a strong deterrent. While the Central Empowered Committee's recent action regarding alleged irregularities in IFRs granted to Podu cultivators in Telangana is welcome, rectifying errors requires significant resources and political neutrality. Comprehensive retraining must therefore be provided to Committee members to ensure strict implementation of the Act, and they must be held accountable for permitting demonstrably false claims.

The government should prioritise the establishment of a National Audit Mechanism for technology-based scrutiny of approved cases and cancellation of all illegally recognised rights. The MoTA, in collaboration with the FSI and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), must develop and maintain a centralised database to securely store GPS polygons and records of recognised claims nationwide. Given the scale of potential error, the FRA must not be allowed to undermine conservation laws or the rights of genuine, eligible forest dwellers.

Towards a home-grown knowledge ecosystem







KARKUN

India's Viksit Bharat aspiration by 2047 transcends traditional capital investment. While tangible infrastructure remains critical, the primary constraint to sustained, high-quality growth is the knowledge ecosystem deficit. To successfully tran-

sition from a middle-income economy to a fully developed nation, India must aggressively cultivate a robust, home-grown intellectual infrastructure; one encompassing R&D, credible think tanks, advanced data infrastructure, and scalable domestic innovation capacity. India's gross expenditure on R&D (GERD)

remains persistently low at just 0.65 per cent of GDP; far below advanced economies such as the US and Germany (3 per cent), as well as emerging markets like China (2 per cent). This places India well under the global average of approximately 1.8 per cent, reflecting a structural underinvestment in innovation. This structural weakness is compounded by a profound imbalance: only about 5 per cent of India's R&D spending comes from the private sector, compared to approximately 70 per cent in the US.

While the 2025-26 Union Budget increased national R&D allocations to ₹61,028 crore, representing only 1.28 per cent of the Central Budget, the scale is still insufficient to trigger the kind of innovation acceleration India needs. The government's announcement of a ₹1 lakh crore Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund in 2025 could be transformative, but its impact will hinge on execution discipline and meaningful alignment with private-sector investment. For the fund to succeed, execution discipline must include transparent governance, mandated industry cofunding, and a focus on measurable outcomes

tied to national priorities. This chronic underinvestment depresses innovation output, technological absorption, and productivity growth. OECD studies show that a 1 per cent rise in business R&D increases productivity by approximately 0.13 per cent, and an equivalent increase in public R&D yields about 0.17 per cent productivity growth. If India does not in R&D intensity typically delivers a 0.13-0.17 per correct its R&D deficit, it cannot realistically close its productivity gap with peer economies

India's innovation output has improved. Patent grants have grown fourfold, from 7,509 (2010-11) to 28,391 (2020-21), and patent applications have risen from approximately 39,400 to 58,500 (Economic Survey 2022). In 2023, India was among the fastest-growing patent origins globally (WIPO). The gap, though, remains large. India's patent portfolio is still only a small fraction of

of high-quality publications come from fewer than intensity; for example, gradually increasing from 200 institutions, signalling an ecosystem that approximately 0.65 per cent to at least 2 per cent

Yet India has proven that strategic investments yield transformative outcomes. ISRO's space programme, built on modest budgets and indigenous capabilities, has delivered

world-class missions such as Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan at a fraction of global costs. India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) has revolutionised financial inclusion and service deliv-

ery and now serves as a model for developing nations worldwide. These successes demonstrate that when India invests in knowledge systems with clarity and commitment, the results can leapfrog conventional development paths. Talent is not the constraint. Institutional depth is.

A successful knowledge ecosystem requires more than isolated R&D labs; it needs the systemic translation of research into actionable policy and practice. Strong, independent domestic think tanks, policy centres, and data institutions are critical for:

Contextualisation: Bridging the gap between academic research and on-the-ground implementation, generating timely, governance, which global

firms often lack. Diffusion: Ensuring technology and best practices are adapted and diffused to MSMEs and lagging regions, mitigating the concentration of innovation within a few large firms or urban

Intellectual sovereignty: Protecting India's development agenda from being shaped by foreign-funded or non-contextual research, and offering a cost-efficient alternative to large, protracted global consulting engagements for structural and social reforms.

India's current policy research landscape remains fragmented. While NITI Aayog plays an important role in policy formulation, the broader ecosystem of independent think tanks and research institutions operates at a limited scale with constrained resources. Many rely heavily on external grants, limiting their ability to pursue long-term, strategic research agendas.

Global studies show that a 1 per cent increase cent annual boost in productivity growth (OECD). Raising R&D spending could help India break into upper-middle-income bracket, strengthen industrial competitiveness, and power high-skill job creation in digital technology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and clean technology

To realise this vision, policymakers must act with long-term focus. Key steps should include: Raising R&D investment to globally compet-China's or the United States', and over 70 per cent itive levels. Set a clear national target for R&D

the private sector. This will require not only higher government outlays but also incentives such as tax credits, grants, and public-private partnerships.

 Institutionalising long-term funding for domestic think tanks and policy The pioneer research bodies. Create a dedicated Viksit Bharat Knowledge Fund or SINCE 1865 similar endowment, allowing multiyear grants, seed funding for new institutions, and

stable operating resources. Building a National Knowledge Ecosystem. Link universities, research institutes, think tanks, industry, and government into a network that facilitates research, innovation, technology transfer, policy formulation, and diffusion of knowl-

edge, especially to MSMEs and lagging regions. Promoting technology diffusion beyond large firms. Provide support for smaller firms and regional enterprises to adopt or adapt technologies through subsidies, incubation, outreach, and

technical assistance. Expanding the notion of a "domestic Big Four" beyond consulting firms. Encourage the emergence of large, credible, Indian-owned knowledge institutions and think tanks that can compete granular, India-focused PAHLÉ INDIA FOUNDATION globally in consultancy, policy research, data for evidence-based PUTTING INDIA FIRST TO MAKE INDIA FIRST data analytics, design, and technology

India's CSR spending has grown sharply, from ₹26,278 crore in FY22 to ₹34,909 crore in FY24 (Bharat CSR Performance Report, 2024), yet less than 3 per cent of this pool supports research, policy, or knowledge infrastructure. Redirecting even 5-10 per cent of CSR funding towards knowledge creation-such as think tanks, public data systems, applied research labs, and digital public goods-would significantly strengthen India's intellectual capacity. In parallel, industry must deepen its own R&D investment by leveraging fiscal incentives, building in-house research capabilities, and expanding industry-academia collaboration. Together, these shifts would reduce dependence on imported technologies and external consulting, while building the longterm competitiveness required for India's inno-

vation-driven growth. For India to become a developed nation, it must invest as much in brains, ideas, and institutions as in roads, ports, and industrial parks. Countries that mastered the knowledge game-South Korea, Germany, and Japan-used it to leapfrog into highgrowth, high-productivity, high-innovation economies. India's story must now follow that path. Viksit Bharat requires Viksit Buddhi; a developed nation needs developed minds. The time to build is now.

Ravi Pokhama is Executive
Director at Pahle India Foundation & Kuntala Karkun is a Senior Fellow

@dailypioneer

Understanding the Yogi factor



MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH

The figure of Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, invariably triggers a familiar, polarised debate. To his supporters, he is the 'Hindu Hriday Samrat', a decisive administrator who has restored order and pride. To his detractors, he is a deeply divisive communalist and a symbol of majoritarian assertion that undermines India's secular fabric. This binary, however, is a lazy and inadequate framework — a relic of an older political vocabulary that fails to capture the complexity of his political project. To understand Yogi Adityanath's enduring influence, one must look beyond the simplistic communal-versus-secular

His politics represents a far more sophisticated and potent synthesis: a unique blend of spiritual authority from the Gorakhnath Peeth, a strategic project of "subaltern Hindutva", and a governance model framed around "Lok Kalyan" (public welfare). This model is rooted in a politics of labharthi (beneficiary) and a law-and-order situation unimaginable in Uttar Pradesh before 2017. It fulfils a public craving not just for a normal life but for a quality of life that many felt was sacrificed under the previous guise of social justice. These elements converge into a powerful form of identity politics cific silos. This strategic inclusion is not about erasing that is fundamentally reshaping the

At the core of Yogi Adityanath's identity is his role as the Mahant, or head priest, of the Gorakhnath Peeth.

This is not merely a religious title; it is the bedrock of his philosophical outlook and an autonomous source of political legitimacy. The Peeth, belonging to the Nath Panth tradition, carries a legacy of spiritual and temporal influence that predates modern political parties by centuries. This role grants him an authority insulated from the whims of party politics, setting him apart from career politicians. Crucially, the Peeth's ideology provides a philosophical bridge connecting the spiritual to the material.

The principle of 'Lok Kalyan' is central here. Adityanath articulates a vision in which spiritual values are not antithetical to material progress but are its very foundation. He has often stated that India's spiritual traditions provide a "moral compass to humanity", rooted in compassion and the principle of 'live and let live'. He argues that "spirituality, cultural advancement, and material development all require a safe, civilised, and clean environment". This philosophy allows him to seamlessly frame the construction of a temple and the building of an expressway as complementary, not contradictory, acts-both presented as

venation. This refutes the Western-inspired dichotomy that separates the sacred from the opment is imbued with cultural and spiritual

Perhaps the most politically astute element of the Yogi model is its project of 'subaltern Hindutva'-a conscious effort to broaden the social base of Hindu nationalism beyond its traditional upper-caste anchor. This is a strategic move to dismantle the caste-based political fortresses of parties such as the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, whose politics of social justice gradually converted into fiefdoms of specific families and castes. This re-engineering operates on multiple fronts. First, there is the radical inclusivity historically associated with the Gorakhnath Peeth itself, an unorthodox institu-

tion known for its openness to lower castes. Second, and more crucially, was the founding of the Hindu Yuva Vahini, an organisation that gave prominent positions and a sense of agency to youth from OBC and Dalit communities, alongside their mobilisation in the Ram Janmabhumi Andolan by his guru, Mahant Avaidyanath. This created a populist, often aggressive, form of 'non-Brahmin Hindutva'. It empowered non-dominant castes by tapping into their "anxieties and aspirations" — their desire for recognition and a share of power that they felt was denied to them by established 'social justice' parties. By offering a platform within a pan-Hindu identity, the Yogi model convinced a significant section of the subaltern electorate that their interests were better served by aligning with a majoritarian project than by remaining within caste-spe-

> caste but about subsuming it within a larger religious-political identity positioned against a perceived common 'other'.

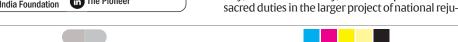
This leads to the third pillar of his strategy: a distinct form of identity politics that constructs a pan-Hindu social coalition while positioning itself as a corrective to the "politics of appeasement", a term used to critique policies aimed at Muslim minorities. His discourse consistently contrasts this alleged appearement with his government's commitment to 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', reflected in his labharthi politics. The implicit-and often explicit-message is the dawn of a new era in which the majority community receives its due. This is identity politics on a grand scale, appealing to a sense of historical grievance and majoritarian entitlement. The success of this strategy is starkly evident in electoral outcomes. The BJP, under his leadership, secured a massive majority in the 2022 State Assembly elections without fielding a single Muslim candidate.

Please read the complete article online at https://www.dailypioneer.com

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FROM THE

Coup leader

missing The apparent leader of a failed coup in Benin was on the run and the fate of hostages remained unclear a day after a group of soldiers attempted to overthrow the Government of the West African nation. The soldiers calling themselves the Committee for Refoundation stormed the national television station early Sunday morning. Led by Benin army officer Lt. Col. Pascal

Tigri, eight soldiers appeared in a broadcast announcing the removal of President Patrice Talon, dissolution of the Government and suspension of all state institutions. By Sunday afternoon, the

coup was foiled by Benin's military, supported by Nigerian air and ground forces, which launched a series of attacks against fleeing mutineers. At least a dozen soldiers were arrested while others remained at large Monday.

TURKEY Officer killed in drug raid

A police officer died on Monday after being shot and seriously wounded during an early morning drug raid in Istanbul, Turkish officials said. Officer Emre Albayrak died of his wounds in a hospital. He was part of a special operations team carrying out the raid in the Cekmekoy district on Istanbul's Asian side. "Our police officer Emre Albayrak, who was seriously injured in a narcotics operation in the Cekmekoy district, could not be saved despite all interventions in the hospital to which he was taken and became a martyr," the Istanbul Governor's Office said in a statement.

on police was killed, and two other suspects were detained, the office said. Turkiye has experienced a rise in drug-related crime 23 per cent rise in drugrelated incidents last year.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA <

Nepal's Home Minister Om

Prakash Arval on Monday

said that the Government

is committed to institu-

he sought cooperation

from all stakeholders to

conduct the next year's

general elections in a free,

"The effective implemen-

fair and fearless manner.

tation of human rights is

racy is strengthened, as

democracy and human

possible only when democ-

rights are interdependent,"

Aryal said while addressing

the inaugural ceremony of

National Magna Meet 2025

In the present context,

the Government is com-

mitted to institutionalis-

ing democracy, he said.

cooperation from all

The minister sought

stakeholders to conduct

elections in a free, fair and

Aryal underscored the

Justice Process, both relat-

need for a logical conclu-

sion to the Transitional

ing to the decade-long

the upcoming general

fearless manner.

the 17th Human Rights

in Lalitpur district.

tionalising democracy as

Kathmandu

The man who opened fire

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kyiv

President Donald Trump on Sunday claimed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "hasn't read" a US-authored peace proposal aimed at ending the Russia-Ukraine war.

Trump was critical of Zelenskyy after US and Ukrainian negotiators completed three days of talks on Saturday aimed at trying to narrow differences on the US administration's proposal. But in an exchange with reporters on Sunday night, Trump suggested that the Ukrainian leader is holding up the talks from moving forward.

"I'm a little bit disappointed that President Zelenskyy hasn't yet read the proposal, that was as of a few hours ago. His people love it. But he hasn't - Russia's fine with it," Trump told reporters on the red carpet at the Kennedy Center Honors. "Russia is, I believe, fine with it, but I'm not sure that Zelenskyy's fine with it. His people love it, but he hasn't read it."

Putin also hasn't publicly expressed approval for the White House plan. In fact, Putin last week had said that aspects of Trump's proposal were unworkable, even though the original draft heavily favoured Moscow.

Trump has had a hot-andcold relationship with Zelenskyy since riding into a second White House term insisting that the war was a waste of US taxpayer money. Trump has also repeatedly urged the Ukrainians to cede land to Russia to bring an end to a now nearly four-year conflict he says has cost far too many lives.

Zelenskyy said Saturday he had a "substantive phone call" with the American officials engaged in the talks with a Ukrainian delegation in Florida. He said he had been given an update over the phone by US and Ukrainian officials at the

"Ukraine is determined to keep working in good faith with the American side to genuinely achieve



peace," Zelenskyy wrote on social media.

Trump's criticism of Zelenskyy came as Russia on Sunday welcomed the Trump administration's new national security strategy in comments by the Kremlin spokesman published by Russia's Tass news agency. Dmitry Peskov said the updated strategic document, which spells out the administration's core foreign policy interests, was largely in line with Moscow's vision.

"There are statements there against confrontation and in favour of dialogue and building good relations," he said, adding that Russia "further constructive cooperation with Washington on the Ukrainian settlement."

The document released Friday by the White House said the US wants to improve its relationship with Russia after years of Moscow being treated as a global pariah and that ending the war is a core US interest to "reestab-

lish strategic stability with in Florida.

Speaking on Saturday at the Reagan National Defense Forum, Trump's outgoing Ukraine envoy, Keith Kellogg, said efforts to end the war were in "the last 10 meters."

He said a deal depended on the two outstanding issues of "terrain, primarily the Donbas," and the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power

Russia controls most of Donbas, its name for the Donetsk and neighbouring Luhansk regions, which, along with two southern regions, it illegally annexed three years ago.

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is in an area that has been under Russian control since early in Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and is not in service.

It needs reliable power to cool its six shutdown reactors and spent fuel, to avoid any catastrophic nuclear incidents.

Kellogg, who is due to leave his post in January, was not present at the talks

Zelenskyy hasn't read US peace proposal: Trump

Separately, officials said the leaders of the United Kingdom, France and Germany would participate in a meeting with Zelenskyy in London on Monday.

As the three days of talks wrapped up, Russian missile, drone and shelling attacks overnight and Sunday killed at least four people in Ukraine.

A man was killed in a drone attack on Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region Saturday night, local officials said, while a combined missile and drone attack on infrastructure in the central city of Kremenchuk caused power and water outages.

Kremenchuk is home to one of Ukraine's biggest oil refineries and is an industrial hub.

Kyiv and its Western allies say Russia is trying to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water for a fourth consecutive winter, in what Ukrainian officials call "weaponising"

Ukraine President visits London for peace talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ London

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was meeting the French, German and British leaders in London on Monday as Kviv's European allies try to strengthen Ukraine's hand in thorny talks on a USbacked plan to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer was due to gather with Zelenskyy, President Emmanuel Macron and Chancellor Friedrich Merz at the British leader's 10 Downing St. Residence.

Zelenskyy said late Sunday that his talks with European leaders this week in London and Brussels will focus on security, air defence and longterm funding for Ukraine's The leaders are working to

ensure that any ceasefire is backed by solid security guarantees, both from Europe and the US, to deter Russia from attacking again.

US and Ukrainian negotiators completed three days of talks on Saturday aimed at

Telegram that talks had been all of the territory. Ukraine this afternoon," he told Honours in Washington.

cooperation to conduct free, fair elections

Maoist insurgency and the

that toppled the KP Oli-led

As human rights are the

backbone of any civilised,

inclusive and democratic

ensure freedom, equality

and security of the people,

Since the Gen Z organ-

society, the first duty of

the Government is to

recent Gen Z movement

Government in

September.

he said.

Nepal's Home Minister Aryal seeks



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer (left), Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (centre) and French President Emmanuel Macron (right) meeting at 10 Downing Street in London

"substantive" and that National Security and Defence Council Secretary Rustem Umerov and Chief of the General Staff Andrii Hnatov were travelling back

to Europe to brief him. A major sticking point in the proposal is the suggestion trying to narrow differences that Ukraine must cede on the US administration's control of its eastern Donbas

and its European allies have baulked at the idea of handing over land.

Starmer said he "won't be putting pressure" on Zelenskyy to accept a peace settlement.

"The most important thing is to ensure that if there is a cessation of hostilities, and I hope there is, it has to be just Zelenskyy said in a post on gally occupies most but not is what we will be focused on

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Cairo

The head of the World Health

Organisation said on Monday

that the death toll from drone

strikes on a kindergarten and

other sites in Sudan's

Kordofan state last week is

now at 114 people killed,

WHO said there were three

separate drone strikes on

Kagoli last Thursday. The first

targeted the kindergarten,

and the subsequent strikes

targeted paramedics as they

were transporting the sur-

vivors to a hospital. The death

was

immediately clear at the time,

in part due to communica-

tions outages.Dr Tedros

Ghebreyesus, the director of

the WHO, said on X that the

organisation "deplores these

senseless attacks on civilians

and health facilities, and calls

again for an end to the vio-

lence, and increased access to

humanitarian aid, including

health."The Sudan Doctors'

Network and Emergency

Lawyers, groups that track vio-

lence against civilians in

Sudan, blamed the Rapid

Support Forces paramilitary,

also known as the RSF, for the

toll

including 63 children.

broadcaster ITV.

In an exchange with reporters on Sunday night, US President Donald Trump appeared frustrated with Zelenskyy, claiming the Ukrainian leader "hasn't yet read the proposal."

"Russia is, I believe, fine with it, but I'm not sure that Zelenskyy's fine with it," part in the Kennedy Centre

In a statement Saturday,

Emergency Lawyers called

the attack "a flagrant violation

of international humanitarian

law, including the protection

of civilians, especially chil-

dren, and vital civilian infra-

two-year war between the RSF

and the Sudanese military.

More than 40,000 people have

been killed to date, according

to the World Health

Organisation, and 12 million dis-

placed. However, aid groups

warn that the true death toll is

The battle is now concen-

trating on the oil-rich

Kordofan region, after the

RSF took over the last military

stronghold, el-Fasher, in

the RSF has been marred by

violence. There have been

reports of executions of civil-

ians, rapes and sexual

assaults, and other atroci-

ties. Over 100,000 people

have fled since the takeover,

according to the UN Migration

agency. The UN human rights

chief, Volker Turk, warned

last week that Kordofan could

face new atrocities like those

in el-Fasher.

The takeover of el-Fasher by

Darfur, in western Sudan.

likely far higher.

The strikes come amid a

structure."

114 people were killed, including

63 children, in last week's drone

strikes in Sudan: WHO

in Europe's affairs **ASSOCIATED PRESS** ■ Brussels

A top European Union official on Monday warned the United States against interfering in Europe's affairs and said only European citizens can decide which

Antonio Costa's remarks came in reaction to the Trump administration's new national security strategy, which was published on Friday and paints European allies as weak while offering tacit support to far-righ political parties.It's "good" that the strategy depicts European countries as an ally, but "allies don't threaten to interfere in the domestic political choices of their allies," Costa said.

threat of interference in European political life. The United States cannot replace European citizens in choosing what the good or the bad parties are," he said in Paris at the Jacques Delors Institute, a think tank. The strategy was critical of European free speech and migration policy. US allies in Europe face the "prospect of civilizational erasure," the document said, raising doubts about their long-term reliability as American partners.

But Costa, who chairs summits of the 27 national EU leaders, said Europe's "history has taught us that you can't have freedom of speech without freedom of information.

The security strategy is the administration's first since President Donald Trump returned to office in January. It breaks starkly from the course set by President Joe Biden's Democratic administration, which sought to reinvigorate US alliances.

It comes as the US seeks an end to Russia's nearly 4-year-old war in Ukraine, a goal that the national security strategy says is in America's vital interests.But the text makes clear that the US wants to improve its relationship with Russia after years of Moscow being treated as a global pariah and ending the war is a core US interest to "reestablish strategic stability with Russia."

Greenland holds Annual talks with US after takeover buzz

ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ Nuuk (Greenland)

Greenland is hosting annual meetings with US officials to discuss bilateral ties at the end of a year in which US President Donald Trump ramped up talk of a US takeover of the mineral

rich island that is a semiautonomous territory of Denmark.

The meeetings starting Monday will include a bilateral "joint committee" meeting between Greenland and US officials that will discuss cooperation "in a number of

important areas," according to a statement from Greenland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Science.

A separate "permanent committee" meeting will involve the Danish Government. Similar meetings were held last year in the United States.

Top EU official warns US against interfering

parties should govern them.

European Council President

"What we can't accept is the

The former Portuguese prime minister also warned "there will never be free speech if the freedom of information of citizens is sacrificed for the aims of the tech oligarchs in the United States.'

NMENT OF TELANGANA FORM-VII OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR (LA)

IPT&RAILWAYS, KHAMMAM

PRELIMINARY DECLARATION

(See sub rule (1) of rule -25 and Section -19(1) of the Act-30/2013) District Gazette No.A3/60/2025 Dated:03.12.2025 District Collector, Khammam Rc.No.G1/59559/2024 Dt.02.12.2025

LAO/SDC (LA), IPT & Rlys, Khammam Rc.No.B/19/2025 Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/District Collector Khammam District that a total an extent of Acs.1.32 gts land is required in the Patharlapadu village of Tirumalayapalem Mandal of Khammam District for public purpose, namely for excavation of canal under 5R Mino of 16 L/DBM 60 of SRSP Stage-II project and the following Declaration made under Sub-section (1) of section 25 and Section 19(1) of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehalt

Therefore, declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less Acs. 1.32 Gts of standing measurement under acquisition for excavation of canals under SRSP Stage – II Project in the village limits of Patharlapadu village of Thirumalayapalem Mandal of Khammam District whose detailed description is as follows:

and Resettlement Act, 2013.

SCHEDULE

Village: Patharlapadu			M	landal: Tirur	District: Khammam			
SI No.	Sy. No as per SS DR	Sy. No as per Dha rani	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area under Acqui stion (Ac. Gts)	Name of the Pattadar	Name of the Enjoyer	Struc tures/ Trees
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	483 /2	484/ LU/3, 485/ AA	Patta	Dry	0.16	Boda Bikshapathi S/o Rajaram	Boda Naveen (Aliyas) Bikshapathi S/o Rajaram	Nil
2		483/ AA/ 1/1	Patta	Dry	0.01	Dharavath Hatcha S/o Dalsingh	Dharavath Hatcha S/o Dalsingh	Nil
3	484 /2	483/ AA 1/1	Patta	Dry	0.08	Dharavath Hatcha S/o Dalsingh	Dharavath Hatcha S/o Dalsingh	Nil
4		483/ AA/ 1/3	Patta	Dry	0.09	Dharavath Nagi Wo Dall Singh	Dharavath Prameela Wo Ravi (Late)	Nil
5		483/ AA/ 1/3	Patta	Dry	0.18	Dharavath Nagi Wlo Dall Singh	Dharavath Ramesh S/o Salsingh	Nil
6		483/ AA/ 1/3	Patta	Dry	0.01	Dharavath Nagi Wlo Dall Singh	Citti Reddy S/o Sathyana rayana Reddy	Nil
7		483/ AA/ 1/3	Patta	Dry	0.18 1/2	Dharavath Nagi Wo Dall Singh	Dharavath HatchaWo Dalsingh	Nil

This declaration is made after verifying the objections of persons interested there is no objections are received as provided U/s 15 of the Right to Fair Compensation and ransparency in land Acquisition, Resettlement, Act-2013. As none of the families are displaced under this land acquisition. Therefore, the familie which likely to be displaced due to this land acquisition are to be treated as "Nil".

Total Extent in Acs.Gts 1.32

Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construc-tion phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Khammam & Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector (LA), IPT & Railways, Khammar on any working day.

Sd/- Land Acquisition Sd/- Additional Officer/ Special Deputy Collector, Collector, Collector (LA), IPT &

Railways, Khammarr

2 men found alive as 17 dead found on migrant boat near Crete ASSOCIATED PRESS Athens Greece's coast guard said Monday. A search and rescue operation was Two men found alive among 17 dead underway, the coast guard says, but bodies in a partially sunken migrant strong winds and rough seas have

ised protests in September

against impunity, corrup-

tion and lack of good gov-

ernance, it is the duty of

formed as per the

mandate of the Gen Z

group to crack down on

the general election on

rights activist Charan

corruption, impunity and

nepotism, besides holding

March 5, 2026, said human

the caretaker Government

come across the half-sunken migrant



GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

<u>'e' Procurement Short Tender Notice</u> NIT No.GHMC/KC/E/1/21/2025-26

Name of the Work: 9 Nos. BT Patches & Other works in Kapra Circle-1 GHMC. Amount in Lakhs: Rs. 72.80 Lakhs. Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Download Start Date: 08.12.2025 @ 5.00PM. Bid Submission Closing Date: 11.12.2025 @ 3.00PM. Last Date & Time fo Receipt of Bids: 11.12.2025 3.00 PM. Price Bid Opening Date: 11.12.2025 @ 3.01 AM. Name & Address Office Ph No: Executive Engineer, Kapra Circle-1, GHMC, ECIL, Hyderabad. 9989930401. Further details can be seen at https://tender.telangana.gov.in. DIPR.NO. 11818-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 08.12.2025

boat south of the island of Crete over the weekend told Greek authorities the vessel had been carrying a total of 34 people, and that 15 had fallen overboard and were missing,

been hampering efforts. The survivors' revelation could mean the death toll might increase to 32. On Saturday, the coast guard said a passing Turkish merchant vessel had

boat 36 nautical miles southwest of the town of lerapetra in southern Crete. Seventeen of the passengers on board, all men, were already dead, and there were only two survivors, the coast guard said, revising its initial count of 18 bodies.

Thailand strikes Cambodia as border tensions flare

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Bangkok

Thailand launched airstrikes along the disputed border with Cambodia on Monday as both sides accused the other of breaking a ceasefire that halted fighting earlier this year.

Longstanding border disputes erupted into five days of combat in July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. US President Donald Trump pushed the Southeast Asian neighbours to sign a truce agreement in October, but tensions have continued to simmer.

The Thai army said that more than 50,000 people have left areas near the border for shelters, while Cambodia's Information Minister Neth Pheaktra said that residents of several villages near the border have been evacuated.

The latest round of clashes has killed at least one Thai soldier and four Cambodian civilians officials said

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said in a televised speech that military operations would be carried out as necessary to defend the country and protect public safety.

"Thailand has never wished for violence. I'd like to reiterate

UK care home agency boss

jailed for hiring

Indian migrants

A director of a care home

agency based in south-east

England has been jailed for

two-and-a-half years after

being found guilty of repeat-

edly employing immigrants

from India with no right to

Benoy Thomas was con-

victed after a trial at Lewes

Crown Court in July and sen-

tenced on Friday, the UK's Crown Prosecution Service

The 50-year-old was found to have recruited Indian nationals to work as care

assistants through his A Class Care Recruitment Ltd at

Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex,

despite being aware of their 'Benoy Thomas knowing-

ly breached immigration laws

by employing people who

had no right to work in the

UK," Katie Samways,

Specialist Prosecutor for CPS

South East, said in a state-

employed were working with

some of the most vulnerable

people without adequate

training or medical expertise,

putting the safety and well-

being of those who needed

Service will continue to

prosecute those who exploit

our immigration system,"

An investigation by

Immigration Enforcement, an

agency of the UK Home Office,

determined that Thomas

assisted the "unlawful immi-

gration" of 13 individuals

between 2017 and 2018.

"The Crown Prosecution

care at significant risk.

she said.

"Many of those he illegally

illegally

work in the UK.

(CPS) said.

London

PRESS TRUST OIF INDIA



A wounded Thai soldier is carried to be transferred to a hospital in Sisaket province Thailand on Sunday after, according to a Thai army spokesperson, Cambodian troops fired into Thai territory

that Thailand has never initiat- announce that it would indefed a fight or an invasion, but will never tolerate a violation

of its sovereignty," he said. Fighting followed the exchange of fire on Sunday

in early November after Thai troops were injured by land mines, leading Thailand to

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Aden

The airspace of war-torn

Yemen was briefly closed

Monday, an official said, as

tensions escalated in the

country's south after a sep-

aratist group, backed by the United Arab Emirates, took

over of an oil-rich region in

a rift that could fracture the

A Yemeni government

official said that the Saudi-

led coalition didn't issue

required permissions for

flights to or from Yemen,

briefly halting flights to and

from the southern city of

Aden — the seat of the inter-

nationally recognized

anti-Houthi alliance.

initely suspend implementation of the agreement. Both sations over responsibility, even as they are supposed to

Trump said in mid-November that he'd inter-

move as a "Saudi message"

to the separatist Southern

Transitional Council's latest

clashes across southern

Yemen, including its seizure

of much of the sprawling oil-

rich province of Hadhramaut.

which borders Saudi Arabia.

reversed, allowing flight

where hundreds of passen-

An Associated Press journal-

The move was later

vened to preserve the ceasefire as tensions simmered between the two countries.

fighting took place along the border Sunday, after which both sides said the other fired first. The Thai army said Cambodian fire injured two Thai soldiers, and Thai troops exchange of fire that lasted around 20 minutes. Cambodia said that the Thai side fired first and that its own troops did not retaliate.

On Monday, Thai army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Winthai Suvaree said the Cambodian troops fired first into Thai territory in multiple areas. He said at least one Thai soldier was killed and about eight other soldiers were wounded, and civilians were being evacuated from the affected areas.

Thailand used aircraft "to strike military targets in several areas to suppress Cambodian supporting fire attacks," he said.

The Thai army said artillery rounds landed near residential areas on the Thai side, but reported no civilian casualties so far. Cambodian Defence Ministry spokesperson Maly Socheata said the Thai military attacked the Cambodian troops first on Monday, and that Cambodia did not retaliate during the initial attacks.

"Cambodia urges that Thailand immediately stop all hostile activities that threaten peace and stability in the region," she said.

Neth Pheaktra, the Cambodian Minister of

Thai forces killed four Cambodian civilians and injured about nine others. The prime minister of

Information, said fire from

regional neighbour Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, called for restraint in a statement posted to social media and said that his country is ready to support efforts to avert further fighting.

"Our region cannot afford to see long-standing disputes slip into cycles of confrontation," he wrote.

Centuries of rivalry lie beneath the territorial dispute Thailand and Cambodia have a history of enmity going back centuries, when they were warring empires.

Their modern territorial claims stem largely from a 1907 map drawn when Cambodia was under French colonial rule, which Thailand has argued is inaccurate.

The International Court of Justice in 1962 awarded sovereignty to Cambodia over an area that included the 1,000year-old Preah Vihear temple

which still rankles many Thais. The ceasefire does not spell out a path to resolve the underlying basis of the dispute, the longstanding differences over where the border should run.

'One Battle After Another' leads **Golden Globe nominations**

Earthquake triggers tsunami on

centimetres struck the

Urakawa and the Aomori

prefecture port of Mutsu

injured at a hotel in the

public broadcaster NHK

reported

Aomori town of Hachinohe,

Prime Minister Sanae

damage. "We are putting

people's lives first and doing

everything we can," she said.

Takaichi, in a brief comment to

reporters, said the government

set up an emergency task force

to urgently assess the extent of

Hokkaido prefecture town of

Ogawara. Several people were

northern coast of Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Tokyo

A powerful 7.6-magnitude

tsunami of up to 40

Agency said.

centimetres in coastal

Japanese Meteorological

The agency said the

east of Aomori, the

magnitude quake struck just

northernmost prefecture of

and just south of Hokkaido

Japan's main Honshu island,

island. It said a tsunami of 40

earthquake struck off northern

Japan on Monday, triggering a

communities in the region, the



ASSOCIATED PRESS Beverly Hills (US)

Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another" scored a leading nine nominations to the 83rd Golden Globe Awards on Monday, adding to the Oscar favourite's momentum and handing Warner Bros. A victory amid its deal to be

acquired by Netflix. "One Battle After Another" landed nominations for its cast - Leonardo DiCaprio, Teyana Taylor, Sean Penn and Chase Infiniti – along with nods for Anderson's screenplay and

direction. It's competing in the Globes' category for comedy and musicals.

Close on its heels was Joachim Trier's "Sentimental Value," a Norwegian family drama about a filmmaking family. The Neon release's eight nominations included nods for four of its actors: Stellan Skarsgard, Renate Reinsve, Elle Fanning and Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas.

The Globe nominations, a tattered but persistent rite in Hollywood, are coming on the heels of a potentially seismic shift in entertainment.

sides continue to trade accu-But another brief episode of

The ceasefire was strained

be cooperating in getting rid of the mines.

UAE-backed separatists tighten grip of southern Yemen The official described the sengers of a Cairo-bound flight that was supposed to

take off early Monday.

Since the entry of a Saudiled coalition into Yemen's war in 2015, the coalition has controlled the country's airspace. Saudi Arabia didn't acknowledge closing Yemen's airspace on Monday.

The Southern Transitional operations in Aden airport, Council (STC) — an umbrella of armed groups trained and financed by the UAE gers were stranded for hours, said the official, who has expanded its control spoke on condition of over Yemen's south earlier anonymity because he this month. wasn't authorised to brief

They seized control of Seiyun in Hadhramaut, including crucial oil fields ist at the airport said workers and energy installations have begun processing pas- following brief clashes with

the Yemeni military, and allied tribes.

Forces of the secessionist group were deployed across strategic Wadi Hadramout area, which includes major urban centres and military bases, according to STC-allied media. They took over the presidential palace and the international airport in Seiyun last week, and advanced to the province of Mahra, which borders

Oman, the group said. STC hoisted the flag of South Yemen over government buildings across the country's south including on the border crossing with Oman. Images circulated on STC-allied media showed the South Yemen flag,

with its light blue chevron and a red star, flying over government buildings and schools in the south.

The separatists enjoy loyalty through much of southern Yemen and have repeatedly pushed to break up Yemen into two countries, as it was between 1967 and 1990.

Hundreds of STC supporters took to the streets in Aden to call for the establishment of an independent state in the south.

The demonstrators raised the flag of South Yemen, and pictures of Aidarous al-Zubaidi, the STC leader, who is also vice president of the country.

Rubio, Hegseth meet Australian counterparts on Indo-Pacific security

ASSOCIATED PRESS

government.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth are meeting their Australian counterparts Monday in Washington for annual talks expected to focus on Indo-Pacific security and countering China's increasing assertiveness in the region, including in the South China Sea and directed at Taiwan.

Rubio, Hegseth, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Defence Minister Richard Marles gathered at the State Department, with many eyes also on the Russia-Ukraine war, fragile ceasefire in Gaza and US military strikes against alleged drug traffickers in the Western Hemisphere that have raised questions about

the use of force there. "This is a very strong partnership, it's a strong alliance, and what we want to do is continue to build on it. We leader Xi Jinping met later

think we have a lot of momentum behind this alliance," that month, Beijing said it would pause those rules for tion between Washington and Canberra on critical minerals, defense production and

troop deployments. None of the four mentioned China by name in their brief comments to reporters before the formal meeting began, but the challenges posed by Beijing throughout the Pacific and elsewhere for years have been a central theme of the

US-Australia relationship. President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese signed a critical minerals deal at the White House in October after China imposed tougher rules on exporting its own critical minerals, used in technology from cellphones to fighter jets and of which Beijing is the top producer and processor.

After Trump and Chinese

ical mineral supplies and supply chains that are reliable, and that are diverse, and not overly invested in one place where they can be used as leverage against us or our partners of the world," Rubio said Monday.

One element of that is the AUKUS pact, a Biden administration-era agreement under which the US, Britain and Australia committed to building an Australian fleet of submarines powered by US nuclear technology.

Rubio is to meet later Monday with British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper. 'The alliance has always been to ensure it delivers concrete benefits for our security and prosperity and for that of the US. And AUKUS is central to that: a win for Australia, a win for the US and a win for the United Kingdom," Wong said.

China positive on Putin's India visit; calls for stronger trilateral cooperation

PRESS TRUST OF IDNIA

China on Monday reacted positively to Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India, framing the three countries as an important part of the Global South and saying that sound trilateral ties are conducive to regional and global peace and stability, besides

their own national interests. "China, Russia and India are emerging economies and important members of the Global South," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here, reacting for the first time to Putin's high-profile visit to New Delhi last week and his interactions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Guo said that the "three countries maintaining sound relations is not only in line with their own interests but also conducive to regional



and global peace, security, stability and prosperity".

Putin's visit was watched here closely, considering Beijing's close and strong ties with Moscow.

Responding to a question about Putin's comments about New Delhi and Beijing ahead of his visit, Guo said that "China stands ready to work with Russia and India to continue advancing the bilateral relations".

In an interview ahead of his visit, Putin had said, "India and

China are our closest friends we treasure that relationship deeply.'

On India-China relations currently on a path of normalisation after the Eastern Ladakh confrontation, which resulted in a freeze in ties from 2020 until last year -Guo said China wants to promote sustained and strong ties with New Delhi with a long-term perspective. "On China-India ties, China

stands ready to work with India to view and handle the Russian oil.

term perspective, promote the sustained, sound and steady development of China-India ties, so as to better benefit the two countries and two peoples and make due contributions to peace and prosperity in Asia and beyond," he said.

Besides terming New Delhi and Beijing as close friends of Moscow, Putin, in the interview with an Indian news channel, also expressed confidence that the leaderships of India and China are committed to finding solutions to their issues, and Russia has no right to interfere in their bilat-

eral affairs. Chinese official media highlighted Putin's comments on India-China relations.

The state-run Xinhua news agency carried his remarks refuting US accusations over India's purchases of

Corío Deepwater Port: India's strategic gateway to South America



JAVIER PAULINICH

As India accelerates its global economic expansion, the need for diversified and resilient supply chains has become central to long-term national planning. With nearly 90 per cent of global trade dependent on maritime routes, India's future industrial growth, food security, and energy transition hinge on access

to strategic ports around the world. In this context, the Corío Deepwater Port in southern Peru emerges as a rare geoeconomic opportunity-an asset capable of shaping India's commercial and strategic trajectory for the next 30 to 50 years.

Its 28-metre natural depth and scalable capacity of over 100 million tonnes position it as one of the deepest and most future-ready ports on the Pacific

coast of South America, offering India an unprecedented gateway into a resourcerich continent.

Peru's importance to India is rooted in both mineral security and agricultural diversification. As the world's thirdlargest copper producer, Peru holds the key to India's rising demand for critical minerals essential for renewable energy, electric mobility, data centers, and advanced electronics.

With India projected to import more than 90 per cent of its copper needs by 2047, securing steady access to Peru's southern mining corridor becomes strategically indispensable. At the same time, Peru's \$24 billion agricultural transformation has positioned it as a global powerhouse for high-value agroexports such as avocados, blueberries, quinoa, grapes, and speciality grains.

By 2040, Peru's agro-exports are expected to triple to \$40 billion, creating new avenues for India to diversify food imports and build integrated coldchain and logistics networks.

What makes Corío uniquely valuable is its ability to serve as a continental gateway. The port connects India not



only to Peru but to four additional South American economies-Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile-each with substantial reserves of minerals, lithium. agricultural commodities, and industrial products.

This single-entry platform allows Indian companies to access the broader Andean, Amazonian, and Southern Cone

markets through interconnected overland routes. For example, Bolivia and Argentina provide strategic lithium access. Brazil's western states offer sov and protein exports, and northern Chile adds further copper and mineral capacity. Corío thus becomes India's multicountry springboard into South America. A dedicated Corío-Visakhapatnam

form trade flows between India and South America. Vizag, one of India's leading deepwater ports, is already a major industrial and export hub on the A direct corridor linking Vizag with

(Vizag) maritime axis can further trans-

Corío would create predictable, highvolume trade routes for copper, lithium, grains, and fresh produce outbound from South America, while enabling inbound shipments of Indian pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, heavy machinery, engineering goods, and digital infrastructure solutions. Such balanced cargo flows reduce empty return voyages and improve shipping economics, making the corridor attractive for private investment, Indian shipping lines, and

long-term logistics planning. Realising this opportunity requires proactive strategy. India should consider forming a public-private investment consortium, initiating government-level engagement with Peru, and commissioning an Indian-led pre-feasibility and ESG baseline study tailored to

India's long-term needs. Aligning Corío with India's critical

mineral plan and maritime strategy would ensure sustained national benefits. Ultimately, Corío is far more than a port-it is a strategic bridge to South America's natural resources, agricultural strength, and industrial potential.

For long-term investors, it represents a rare infrastructure platform capable of delivering commercial viability, supply-chain resilience, and geopolitical value for decades to come.

The Corío Deepwater Port is a rare, next-generation infrastructure asset. Situated in Peru's Arequipa region, it offers a natural depth of 28 metresamong the deepest on South America's Pacific coast-making it capable of accommodating Very Large Bulk Carriers (VLBCs). This depth, coupled with a scalable capacity exceeding 100 million tonnes per year, positions Corío as a long-term maritime platform that can evolve in tandem with India's expanding industrial and logistical requirements.

This article has been written by Amb. Javier Paulinich. the Ambassador of the Republic of Peru





announced the official public launch of Chai Shots, India's first regional shortseries OTT platform. Built specifically for the "Third Screen" – the smartphone, Chai Shots offers premium, vertical, scripted entertainment with episodes under 2 minutes, designed to turn daily micro-moments into storytelling experiences. Rana Daggubati gust of the event. At Park Hyatt, Hyderabad



75,000 indians ditch traditional forex cards

as wise travel card launches

With the country records its highest-ever outbound travel figures and neaus into peak international travel surged to a record 3.89 crore departures in 2024, driven travel season. India's outbound travel surged to a record 3.89 crore departures in 2024, driven travel season. India's outbound travel surged to a record 3.89 crore departures in 2024, driven travel season. India's outbound travel surged to a record 3.89 crore departures in 2024, driven travel season. India's outbound travel surged to a record 3.89 crore departures in 2024, driven travel season. India's outbound travel surged to a record 3.89 crore departures in 2024, driven travel season. India's outbound travel surged to a record 3.89 crore departures in 2024, driven travel season.

by leisure travel (42.5%), diaspora visits (34.7%) and business trips (14.9%). Spending has jumped

holidays according to data from the LRS, but over the last two years, this has shot up to an average of

\$17 billion. Despite this travel boom, Indians continue losing substantial amounts to non-transparent

markups applied on the exchange rate by traditional forex providers. Banks and travel companies have

market rate. The Wise Travel card, available from today, uses the mid-market exchange rate — the rate

Wise Travel card waitlist in just a month, announced at the Global Fintech Festival, signalling demand

travel season kicks off," said Taneia Bhardwaj, South Asia Expansion Lead at Wise. Wise is waiving its

visible on Google – with only a small, transparent conversion fee. Over 75,000 people joined the

for a transparent alternative to traditional forex cards. They want transparency, convenience, and a

great product experience. We're excited to bring this to international spending in India, just as the

standard 460 INR card issuance fee for customers who sign up before 10 February 2026. The card

carries no annual fees, subscription charges or inactivity penalties

even more dramatically - prior to FY22, Indians spent roughly \$3-4 billion annually on overseas

long dominated India's forex card market, with most providers adding 2-4% margins to currency

conversion, these hidden markups can cost travellers ?4,000-?8,000 extra compared to the mid-

conversions – costs that are rarely made explicit to customers. On a ?2 lakh foreign currency

ise has launched its multi-currency travel card in India today, entering the market just as the

Hyderabad
TUESDAY | DECEMBER 9, 2025







—he Credicon Mavericks are set to light up the city on Wednesday, December 10, 6 PM onwards, as they host a high-energy home match against Team Titans, adding fresh nomentum to the rapidly growing pickleball movement in Hyderabad. The clash will be played at The League, Financial District, with an enthusiastic hometown crowd expected to show up in full force. The Hyderabad Pickleball League (HPL) known for its franchise-owned, auction-driven format, has been a major sporting attraction this season. Compact match formats, stadiumstyle energy within the city, and the blend of top-tier racquet talent are driving fan interest and community engagement like never before. "Hyderabad loves fast, competitive sport and pickleball is proving to be the perfect fit," said Abhishek, spokesperson of Credicon Mavericks. "Our supporters have been incredible, and we are ready to give them a performance to remember on Wednesday. Matchdays at HPL go beyond sport with food & beverage counters, family cheering zones, fan chants, customised banners, and city-focused fandom emerging across the stands.

against team titans



Hyderabad witnessed a night of inspiration, pride, and powerful stories as She's India, an exclusive and heartfelt pageant, brought together 23 remarkable women from all walks of life. With participants ranging from the age of 18 to 81, the event stood as a living testament to the fact that strength, beauty, and ambition know no age. For further information, collaborations, or participation in upcoming initiatives, please connect with the She's India team.



Expanding marketing, increasing sales, team responsibilities, cash flow issues, profitable business model, hiring a high-performing team and other important factors are important for achieving development in business sectors, said Venu Kalyan, a prominent business development strategist. The 'Ultimate Business Mastery' orkshop on the topic 'How to achieve development in the business sector?' was held on Monday at Taj Vivanta, Begumpet, Hyderabad, under the auspices of Unique Life Organization. About 300 industrialists and businessmen from the service, industries, textile, hospitality management, MSME, real estate, net marketing, insurance and other sectors from the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kamataka attended the workshop, which was led by Unique Life Organization.





Students should move forward with discipline and patriotism, as it will lead to good results and contribute positively to society, said Deputy Commandant, Army Major General Puneet Kapoor. He attended the Pancha Bhooth Sports Day program held at Meridian School, Banjara Hills, as the chief guest. The cultural programs performed by the students impressed the audience. Meridian Educational Institutions Founder Butta Renuka, Principal Poonam Jha, Vice Principal Rahat Rashid, and others participated in the event.

oca Loka, the globally acclaimed tequila brand, co-founded by entrepreneur Sree ■Harsha Vadlamudi, actor Rana Daggubati and composer Anirudh Ravichander, makes an entry into India's booming premium spirits market today, ushering in a new era for agave aficionados. The brand, which debuted internationally in late 2024 in the US and Southeast Asia has since expanded distribution across multiple markets, will introduce its Blanco and Reposado variants to Indian audiences, Loca Loka was imagined in India and authentically produced in Jalisco, marrying Mexican distillation heritage with Indian creative sensibilities, hence its name: Loca (Spanish for "crazy") meets Loka (Sanskrit for "world") Since launch, the brand has earned serious shelf credibility, including medals at prestigious international competitions, and has been steadily building a premium foothold in duty-free and key export markets as part of their international strategy designed to build global equity before

local release. The India debut signals a targeted push into urban,

experience-led retail and on-trade channels across the country. LOCA LOKA LAUNCHES The launch was the talk of the town as the brand hosted an exclusive, invite-only tasting and conversation where the three founders explored the nuances of the tequila. Loca Loka Blanco and Reposado, that picked up medals at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2025. Sree Harsha Vadlamudi, co-founder and CEO, Rana Daggubati, Anirudh Ravichander, co-founder. Willy Bañuelos Ramírez, Head of Production at the Jalisco distillery, Loca

Loka carries forward a legacy of precision and pride. Joining the founders at the India launch, Willy added "Bringing Loca Loka to India feels like the most natural next chapter in our journey



ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK







GARFIELD









SPEED BUMP





NANCY







SUDOKU

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	6			8	1		
2						9	
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	3						
9			1		8	3	
4			6	7	2		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

R	ules	
•	Each	row

6 8 4 5 3 9 7 1 2 2 5 3 7 1 6 9 4 8

179824536

The sum of all numbers in

ACROSS 6 A railway engine

CROSSWORD

- 8 Wear these on fingers 10 An orchestra conductor's
- 13 Glass buildings for
- growing plants 14 Small cities
- 17 Nairobi is the capital of this country in Africa
- 19 In the middle of lots of people

DOWN

- 1 The middle of the day
- 2 Things to play with 3 A wartime explosive 4 Birthday present



5 A day of the week

7 Opposite of dullest

9 The colour of grass

11 Make smile or laugh

15 This lives in soil

16 Cold winter flakes

17 He wears a crown

12 Timid

18 Require

RIGHTO, MATE! YOU'RE ALL SET. NOW, MAKE SURE YOU DELIVER ALL OF THESE!

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BLASÉ CAPITAL

SENSEX-ED



Yesterday, the Sensex, or the Bombay Stock Exchange index fell by 600 points. It was kind of unexpected since it had turned around its southward movement over the past few sessions. Once, the pundits began to explain the reasons behind the fall, there was a feeling of hollowness, and inexplicability about them. For example, one of the factors was the two-day meeting of the US Federal Reserve Board, which was expected to announce another minor rate cut. But then this was expected for weeks, and one thought that the stock markets, like it does with future expected events, had discounted it. Indeed, one of the reasons for the earlier rises was that the minor rate cut was unlikely to change things materially in the form of foreign outflows, which are turbo-charged when the US interest rates seem attractive, and the money flies to a safer less-risky

Another factor that the experts harped on was the fall of the rupee, and it having crossed the ₹90 mark against the dollar. One can partially accept it. But then again, the rupee breached ₹90 days ago, and has firmed up since then, or at least has not gone down further, as the Reserve Bank of India stepped in to support the currency. One thought that the investors would be enthused by the intervention. No one can say. Maybe they believe the doomsayers, who contend that it is a matter of when, and not if, for the rupee to fall to ₹100 a dollar. Maybe the investors were more concerned by the central bank's opinion, which chimed with that of the finance minister, rather than the former's actions. In the recent past, both maintained that they have no stable, steady, and appropriate level.

The stock markets are uncertain about the India-US trade deal, which has been delayed. Thus, they reacted to the growing apprehensions. One can flip this argument, and contend that an American delegation is on its way to New Delhi to discuss the tariffs. This is good news as it shows an urgency among the two nations. Indian ministers have repeatedly claimed that an agreement will be in place by December 2025 since most of the issues are finalised, and the two sides need to dot the i's, and cross the t's. Of course, the investors are peeved that the earlier deadline was November 2025. But that one passed more than a week ago. Why should the Sensex and Nifty crash on December 8? This factor seems to be a non-factor that was cooked up by some of the experts as a reasonable factor to provide some logic to the market madness on Monday.

Several analysts reiterated a view that the Indian valuations were overstretched. For several months, in fact this entire year, valuations were raised as a worry. This is one of the major reasons why the markets behaved so erratically during 2025, and Indian equities were among the worst performers among Asian peers, and emerging markets. Hence, a concern about a persistent past concern, which has shaken up investors for more than 11 months, cannot be a legitimate one to explain a one-day fall of 600 points. Another twisted logic: Same analysts say in the same breath that steady (domestic) inflows, and long-term retail participation suggest continued optimism. In addition, high valuations may persist, supported by investor confidence, and consistent domestic equity inflows. Please explain clearly whether valuations are stretched or not, whether investors will sell to book profits or not, or whether the high valuations do not matter because of the steady inflows. We are suitably confused.

To add to the confusion and uncertainty, the stock markets went down on Monday because of the steady outflows by foreign investors. For months, and throughout this year, the foreigners have proved to be net sellers in the secondary market. Yet, they have aggressively participated in the IPOs (Initial Public Offerings), which provides clear hints that they feel the listed stocks are overvalued, and there are chances to earn higher returns on new stocks. But again, this trend is evident for the past several months, and is nothing new. It is not that on Monday the foreigners dumped the stocks. One can add this as a factor if the Indian equities had consistently gone down due to this regularly-occurring trend. But stocks went up in the past few sessions, and the same analysts remarked that this was the great turnaround, which would push the Sensex past 1,00,000 points by December 2026. Moreover, one is unsure which section is more important, foreigners or domestic investors.

At one level, the net selling by the foreigners pulls down the market indices. At another, there is a feeling that valuations will remain stretched because of huge domestic inflows. There is a tussle between the two, and one is not sure who will win. Both cannot, or maybe they can. The foreigners will book profits, and the locals will take valuations to higher levels to book profits later. A clear win-win.

The Dioneer hyderabad | Tuesday | December 9, 2025

Marathon, steeplechase & sprint

In the third global business race, India is fast losing to China

and China were the favourites, South Korea, Taiwan, and Brazil were the dark horses. India lost, China won, and the smaller Asian nations stood on the podium. In the steeplechase in the software and hardware space, India and China are the joint winners. The former vaulted over the oceans to emerge as the world's IT leader, and China overcame the obstacles to directly compete with the US in chips, and Artificial Intelligence. In the ongoing healthcare sprint, while China is about to touch the tape, India has not even left the blocks.

Until a few years ago, 'Big Pharma' in the West focused on the discovery and launches of billion-dollar blockbuster drugs, India became the global supplier of generics (off-patent medicines), and China mastered the science of Active Pharma Ingredients (APIs). Today, after America, China is the world's largest developer of new molecules and drugs. According to a recent article in 'The Economist,' Chinese firms conducted a third of the global clinical trials last year and, in the first six months of 2025, they were responsible for a third of the licensing deals signed by 'Big Pharma.'

Over the next decade, the battles in areas such as biosciences, medical research, and discovery of life-saving medicines (cancer) will be aggressively fought between China and America. India is more likely to pursue its generics journey, and take advantage of the steep 'patent cliffs,' "as drugs expected to generate more than \$300 billion in total revenues over the next six years will lose their patent protection by 2030. Yet again, India will be left behind in this third global race. Americans and Europeans, who will intensify their global searches for new molecules, will increasingly find them in China.

The signs are visible, and the writing on the medical wall is getting clearer. Early this year,

It was a manufacturing marathon. While India Pfizer, the largest manufacturer in the US, paid \$1.25 billion to a Chinese biotech firm for the rights to make-and-sell a new cancer drug. GlaxoSmithKline of Britain paid \$500 million to another Chinese firm for lung-disease treatment, and unbelievably committed a further \$12 billion for 11 drugs in the pipeline. China's share in global licensing has gone up four times in four years. In comparison, except for a small oasis of new discoveries, India is way behind despite a slew of ongoing clinical trials.

Like the Indian market, the Chinese one is rugged, and difficult.
Both are price-sensitive, with political and social pressures to enable the poor to access the medicines. In **SINCE 1865** China, "state insurance covers most

purchases," which forces private firms into bidding wars." Drugmakers need to "slash" prices by half or more to reach a wide patient pool." Hence, it made sense for the Chinese, as well as Indians, to work with generics, which are cheaper. India extended the business model in the overseas markets, either by exporting, or setting up generics' plants in the West. China

In conjunction with the policy-makers, Chinese firms looked at America and Europe as "big prizes," or markets where they could sell new drugs, rather than continue to export generics or APIs. They decided to boost research, and ink licensing agreements with 'Big Pharma' to boost profits, and margins. According to the article in The Economist,' "A growing model is the 'New-Co,' under which a biotech company sets up a legally distinct company in America, often backed by foreign investors, and spins off promising assets into it." Since 'Big Pharma' spends billions of dollars to launch a new drug, the deals with Chinese pharma seem lucrative, and tempting.

Governance models make a huge difference. In the recent past, India has struggled with clinical trials due to irregularities, even illegality, which were highlighted by the judiciary, and activists. These rightfully delayed, and derailed them. In China, the period to secure human trials shrank from more than 500 days to less than 90. Unlike India, the workforce at China's regulator quadrupled, and cleared a backlog of 20,000 drug applications within two years. Despite reforms, Indian drugmakers continue to complain about

red tape. In a sense, China has reinvented regulation. One is not sure if it is for better or worse, but it has speeded up the approval processes. Of course, given the existing secu-

rity, economic, energy, business, defence, and trade tensions between China and the West, China's regulatory framework is being questioned and scrutinised. The US drug regulator is stricter when it deals with medicines based on clinical trials only in China. There are concerns about data security, and data privacy. The US halted trials that exported American genetic data to China. The US policy-makers, states the piece in 'The Economist,' "fret about the security risks at the junction of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology." India faces some of these challenges as the US questions its drug-effi-

This explains the Indians' penchant to make generics in America through the inorganic M&A route. China innovated to produce "fast followers," which enhance the safety and/or delivery of the existing drugs. The next step was to move on to the "first-in-class" medicines, which have proteins or genes, or mechanisms to boost functions. The first, according to experts, provided the firms with the courage to do the second. This led to the making of new drugs. For example, according to a media report, of the 160 obesity drugs in development across the world, a third are being made in China.

India has the potential for drug discoveries. The skills, management, and research were evident during the pandemic, when India emerged as a leading drugmaker, and a low-cost exporter. But this was due to the help from the Government, which cajoled and pushed the private sector. Similar impetus lacks in other cases, and Indian firms are generally happy with their march in the generics segment. They are low-hanging fruits, with ample margins, especially when they are sold in the US and Europe. In most cases, Indian firms lack the risk-taking abilities to spend billions on a new discovery.

However, as of now, China, which won the manufacturing race comfortably, and raced ahead in chips and AI, is comfortably placed in healthcare and biosciences. India needs to build an efficient ecosystem to achieve similar results. It has the right ingredients such as scientific temper, cheap manpower, research and manufacturing units, and government support. What it requires is access to foreign capital, and a change in entrepreneurial mindset so that producers switch from off-patent mentality to new-patent one.



The Cynical Optimist

Even as IndiGo Airline grounds flights, passengers go crazy, regulators take refuge behind inquiries, pilots blame managers, and the country's civil aviation sector goes for a six, the central minister, K Rammohan Naidu claims that this is the best "time to start an airline in India." He adds that the country needs "five big airlines," and the ministry encourages competition, and wants "more airlines to join the industry" with the Government's support. He predicts that the demand is likely to grow at a rapid pace in the future. While the desires are noble, the in-air realities are turbulent.

Of course, there is a difference between a need, desire, or wish, and what the market dynamics can accommodate. In the past three decades, each time, the Indian skies became competitive, airlines either nosedived, and crashed, or found it difficult to take off, and were forced into a competitor's lap. Despite the growing demand, competition curtailed ticket prices, and profitability which, in turn, ended up killing competition. Thus, closures, mergers, and acquisitions became the regular norms in the aviation sector. Higher the number of airlines, the more the pressures

that grounded them. Not just this but each time an airline attained a dominant position vis-à-vis domestic market share, the cost structures ate into its financials, which bankrupted it, or forced it on the auction block. Look at Jet Airways, which ruled the skies, and was sold under the insolvency laws. Sahara and Deccan aimed big, and flew into competitor's hangars. The state-owned Indian Airlines, and Air India were prisoners of their monopolistic successes, until they were merged, and then sold to the Tata Group. Today, the largest airline, IndiGo, faces a similar situation, and critics blame its seemingly-successful business model as the reason for its problems.

Globally, airlines grapple with volumes, costs, market shares, apart from the impact of policies and regulations on them. Volumes are obviously critical but they cannot be universal, national, or international. The trick is to acquire passengers on select, highly-profitable, and fast-churning routes. For example, domestically, Delhi-Mumbai, Bangalore-Delhi, and local regional routes are more coveted given the number of passengers who travel to these cities. Internationally, Delhi-London, Delhi-Hong Kong, and India-US journeys are crowded, and desired by the airlines. Getting overall volumes, as national share is irrelevant, and dicev.

However, volumes imply huge one-time

India goes, India grounded

Why does competition invariably crash in the aviation sector?



acquire aircraft. In most cases, the planes are purchased before the demand increases, which create a lag time before the investments pay off. Despite the lucrative financeand-lease deals offered by the manufacturers, airlines can find themselves in a tailspin, and get stuck in financial air-pockets. Several airlines are in trouble because either they buy too many planes, and are forced to operate them on low-profit routes, or buy too less, and lose volumes, and market shares on highprofit ones. It is a delicate balance that keeps changing, and needs to be tweaked.

Thus, the levers to control and manage costs fall on manpower since most other expenses are necessary, and continuous. This

forces even the dominant and successful airlines, or rather only these ones, to short-circuit salaries and benefits. This implies that they understaff certain areas,

overwork others, and underpay most. This creates a vice-like cycle of safety concerns combined with apathy and unhappiness among the employees. Morale is down, even as the senior management claims profitability over a few years. The medium-term

Policies, regulations, and external non-controllable factors play a part. For instance, the global prices of crude oil and, hence, aviation fuel fluctuates, and eats into profits. In several quarters, IndiGo went from profits to losses, largely because of the prices of aviation fuel. Sudden policy changes impact operational and business models, especially for low-cost airlines. Regulations can create havoc, and force the planes to fly off the radar. The flight-schedule rules imposed by the regulator after the recent crash in Ahmedabad apparently forced Indigo's delays, and cancellations. The low-cost structure spun out of control, which was blamed

on management errors. According to experts, aviation fuel accounts for 20-30 per cent of the total costs, and the prices

can be highly-volatile. Leased engines, and aircraft result in "significant fixed monthly rent payment," which is around 16 per cent of the revenues. Add the various taxes such as landing fees, gate charges, and navigation fees, which account for another nine per cent of the revenues.

Under such a rigid structure, regular socalled fixed expenses can account for almost 60-70 per cent of the costs, not revenues. There is little leeway for the airlines to immediately counter shifting changes.

Profit margins are wafer-thin despite high volumes, or market shares. During competition, there are downward pressures on ticket prices. This happens even when there is minimal competition as the airlines scamper to sell more seats on relatively-low traffic routes. Unexpected events like wars and pandemics, policy and regulation changes, and economic slowdowns can rapidly change things. "This pushes down profit margins to low levels, typically 2-5 per cent globally, which makes it different to absorb financial shocks, or support high capital investments." It is a typical catch-22 situation. You need to spend more to grab volumes. This creates cost pressures.

Consider the case of Southwest Airlines, which faced a huge crisis during the winter holiday season in the US in 2022. While other airlines recovered from the severe winter effect within days, Southwest went south for days and weeks. It was its unique and, till then, highly successful business and operational model that was unable to react to the new unusual challenges. According to a case study (2024), the IndiGo-like crisis, which led to the cancellations of thousands of flights, "provides an opportunity to dig deeply into the need for scalability, challenges of risk management... and the wide variety of challenges of managing airline supply

Concludes the same case study, "Airlines are not easy businesses to run. They are capital and labour intensive, they are subject to impact from weather, politics, public health, and other unexpected issues. And they are competitive, seeking not only to provide good price and performance for customers but also an appropriate yield for every seat on the plane, and to keep planes in the air, and generate revenues." Thus, competition, and five airlines, as the civil aviation minister desires, may be the wrong solution for the wrong pinpointed problems. IndiGo did not crash because of lack of competition. It could not take off because of its straitjacket-

▼ BRIEFLY

DORTMUND BEATS HOFFENHEIM 2-0 IN BUNDESLIGA



Former Tottenham defender Mauricio Taricco will resign as assistant coach of South Korean champion Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors after receiving a five-match ban for an alleged racist gesture during a K League game, the club said on Tuesday. On November 8 as Jeonbuk faced Daejeon Hana, the Argentine assistant was sent off by referee Kim Woo-seong for vehemently protesting a penalty decision. Subsequently, Taricco placed his index fingers besides the corner of his eyes – a gesture the referee interpreted as racist and reported to the league's disciplinary committee. On November 19, the committee banned Taricco for five games and fined him 20 million won (\$13,646). The 52-year-old, who featured for Tottenham between 1998 and 2004 and also played for Ipswich Town, West Ham and Brighton in England, denied any racist intent, insisting that he was asking the official if he had seen the incident.

HORNBILL E-SPORTS FESTIVAL KICKS OFF IN KOHIMA



The Hornbill Esports Festival 2025, the second edition of Nagaland's premier competitive gaming showcase, will feature competition in three categories including E-chess. The event that began Monday is being organised by the Esports Association of Nagaland (ESAN) in collaboration with the Department of Youth Resources and Sports.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Abu Metha, advisor to the Chief Minister and Vice President of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), said, "E-Sports is a modern-day trend and a billion-dollar industry that cannot be ignored." He emphasised that Nagaland does not want its youth to miss opportunities in this fast-growing sector.

India beat Wales in FIH Junior Women's World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Santiago (Chile)

Out of quarterfinal contention, India defeated Wales 3-1 to remain in the hunt for a ninth-place finish at the FIH Junior Women's World Cup.

Hina Bano (14'), Sunelita Toppo (24'), and Ishika (31') scored for India, while Eloise Moat (52') netted the lone goal for Wales. India had logged two wins and a loss to finish outside the top eight in the pool stage.

In Sunday's match, India began with a penalty corner in the first 30 seconds. They were playing between the lines to carve out opportunities on regular occasions, but ty to surge ahead with a scores level. couldn't find the opening goal early on.

Wales had the opportuni-



penalty stroke, but were a sharp stop to keep the towards the end of the first

India eventually managed denied by Nidhi as she made to break the deadlock work by Sakshi Rana.

ment drive to fill up these

vacancies but asked the Sports

Ministry to complete the

process in the next six months

and "furnish an Action Taken

year, the government allo-

cated ₹3,794 crore to the

Ministry of Youth Affairs and

Sports. Of this ₹830 crore were

SAI is based on the proposals

submitted by them for the

respective financial year. Any

additional requirements that

arise during the year are

examined at the RE stage and,

where appropriate, consid-

"The budget allocation to

In its annual budget this

Report (ATR)."

earmarked for SAI.

quarter, courtesy a tap-in from Hina after some neat

ALLOCATED ₹3,794

MINISTRY OF YOUTH

CRORE TO THE

AFFAIRS AND

SPORTS. OF THIS

₹830 CRORE WERE

EARMARKED FOR SAI

Looking to double their

the pressure with another penalty corner at the start of the second quarter.

They continued to create chances regularly, and were rewarded for their persistence after Rana's initial shot fell in the way of Sunelita, who made no mistake from close range. With 14 circle penetrations in the first half, ndia held a deserving 2-0 lead at the break.

India extended their lead to 3-0 early in the second half as Ishika found the back of the net after a rebound from the Welsh goalkeeper fell in

Jyoti Singh's side controlled the tempo of the game, stretching the Welsh defense by playing between the lines and pressing high, while remaining disciplined and the overall standings.

advantage, India maintained compact at the back. India continued to create chances, pushing Wales back in their own half to close out the

third quarter. With the lion's share of possession, India remained in pursuit of more goal-scoring opportunities to further increase their advantage in

the final quarter. Wales had an opening on the other end and Eloise Moat (52nd) made it count, pulling one back for her side. However, that only proved to be a consolation goal as India held firm to secure a welldeserved 3-1 win.

India will next play Uruguay on Tuesday and the winner of this match will progress to the ninth place showdown. The losing team will fight for the 11th spot in

1191 posts lying vacant in SAI: Sports minister THE GOVERNMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday acknowledged that over 1,000 posts are currently lying vacant in the Sports Authority of India (SAI), a concern that was highlighted in a recent Parliamentary Standing Committee report which had described the body as "critically" under-funded and under-staffed.

The minister was responding to a question from Congress MP Adoor Prakash, who represents Kerala's Attingal constituency, in Lok Sabha. Asked whether the government has noted the concerns raised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee over severe shortage of funds and staff in SAI, Mandaviya said, "The Government has taken note of the observations."

"A total of 1,191 posts are lying vacant in the SAI. The recruitment process of certain posts has already been initiated," he added.

In its report in August, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on sports, headed by Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, observed that about 45 per cent of sanctioned posts in the SAI are



Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament in New Delhi

presently vacant.

"The fact that these shortfalls in staff are being managed through contractual appointment may at best be only an ad hoc arrangement," it had pointed out. The Committee, which also includes cricketer and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Harbhajan Singh, and BJP MPs Sambit Patra and Bansuri Swaraj, among others, expressed "grave" concern over the shortage of staff and low funding of SAI.

The panel "heard the views" of Sports Secretary, and SAI representatives in its meeting held on June 6 this year.

It commended the recruit-

ered through supplementary grants," the minister stated in Lok Sabha. Dealing with sexual harassment To another question on whether the government has a consolidated record of sexual harassment complaints

> minister reiterated that no such dedicated database exists. He, however, listed the measures that have been in place to "ensure a safe and positive environment". "In order to provide a safe

filed by sportspersons, the

environment in sports, the SAI also runs a 24x7 helpline for the players," he said. In addition, National Sports

Federations have been told to mandatorily have women coaches in contingents that feature female athletes during camps and competition exposures. They have also been asked to increase the strength of women Coaches and Support Staff in camps.

Santos stuns Cruzeiro

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Sao Paulo

Neymar's Santos secured its survival in Brazil's Serie A on Sunday with a 3-0 win over Cruzeiro, and the 33-year-

old soccer star later con-

firmed he will undergo

surgery on his left knee. Playing its last league match of the season, Santos which achieved a global following with all-time great Pelé — avoided what would have been the club's second relegation in its history. Santos was relegated in 2023 for the first time almost a year

after the death of Pelé. Neymar struggled to recover from a torn ACL in October 2023 during a World Cup qualifier against Uruguay. But he proved key for Santos in its successful fight to avoid relegation in the Brazilian championship after its promotion last year.

Neymar, who returned to Santos in January, was decisive for the club where he started his professional career. In the last three rounds of the league, Neymar scored a goal against Sport Recife in a 3-0 win, netted a hat trick against Juventude on Wednesday in another 3-0 victory, and on Sunday was an effective playmaker.

NEYMAR, WHO RETURNED TO SANTOS IN JANUARY, WAS DECISIVE FOR THE CLUB WHERE HE STARTED HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Thaciano (26th and 28th minutes) and João Schmidt (60th) scored against Cruzeiro at Vila Belmiro Stadium as Santos finished 12th with 47 points. Neymar played only 19 of the 38 rounds of the league, which started in April. He scored eight goals.

"I came for this, to try to help the best way I can. These have been tough weeks for me," Neymar said after the game. "I thank those who were with me to lift me up. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't have played these matches because of these injuries, this knee problem. I need to rest and then we will have this knee surgery."

Neymar did not give more details about the knee injury and surgery. He still hopes to be included in Brazil's final squad for the 2026 World Cup, though coach Carlo Ancelotti is yet to pick the former captain since he took

Napoli beat Juventus 2-1 in Serie A

Luciano Spalletti's return to the team he led to the Serie A title was spoiled by Rasmus Højlund's brace as host Napoli beat Juventus 2-1 on Sunday. The result also lifted Napoli back to the top of the Italian league. The defending champion moved a point above Inter Milan and three points above AC Milan, which visits Torino on Monday.

It was Juventus coach Spalletti's first time at Napoli as opposition manager since he led the southern team to its first scudetto in more than 30 years in 2023.

Napoli coach Antonio Conte was also facing his former team. He steered Juventus to three Serie A titles during his time in charge and also played for the Bianconeri for 13 years, winning numerous trophies.

Adding to the occasion, it was the first time the two coaches had faced each the far bottom corner.



other. Napoli got off to a great start as the in-form David Neres got away down the right before rolling the ball across for Højlund to tap it in with less than seven minutes on the clock.

Napoli had the better of the chances but Juventus leveled in the 59th minute as the Bianconeri went on the counterattack and Kenan Yildiz played a one-two with Weston McKennie before placing an angled drive into

McKennie inadvertently also played a role at the other end in what proved to be the winner for Napoli in the 78th.

The United States international tried to head away a cross for Neres but his attempt was rather weak and went to Hojlund to head in from four yards (meters). Roma loses ground

Roma lost ground in the title race as it fell to a 1-0 defeat at Cagliari after playing most of the match

Roma remained fourth but slipped four points below Napoli. It was Cagliari's first win since September and lifted the Sardinian team four points above the drop zone.

The match turned in the 49th minute when Roma defender Zeki Çelik brought down Cagliari midfielder Michael Folorunsho right on the edge of the area.

The referee initially awarded a penalty but realized the foul was just outside the area after reviewing the incident. He revoked the spot kick but showed Çelik a straight red card for denying a clear scoring occasion.

Roma goalkeeper Mile Svilar pulled off a number of impressive saves but Cagliari broke the deadlock in the 82nd minute.

Gianluca Gaetano was left completely unmarked to chest down a corner and fire the ball in off the inside of the far post.

La Liga: Real Madrid lose 2-0 to Celta Vigo

Madrid

Real Madrid had two players sent off in its 2-0 home defeat to Celta Vigo on Sunday and lost more ground to Spanish league leader Barcelona.

Madrid conceded early in the second half and then saw red cards for Fran García and Álvaro Carreras in its first defeat of the season at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in all competitions. Unused Madrid substitute Endrick also was shown a red card for complaining.

Williot Swedberg scored for the visitors with a nice flick from near the penalty spot in the 54th.

Madrid lost García with a second yellow card in the 64th and Carreras in stoppage time. Swedberg sealed Celta's victory in a breakaway shortly after Madrid was reduced to nine players.

"We are all upset. It wasn't the game or the result that we wanted," Madrid coach



Xabi Alonso said. "The of the Champions League in referee's decisions threw us off balance. I didn't like the refereeing.

Madrid has won only two of its last seven matches across all tournaments. It next hosts Manchester City in the Champions League on Wednesday. Madrid's only other league

loss this season was a heavy defeat at Atletico Madrid in September. It also lost at Liverpool in the league phase November.

Sunday's setback left Alonso's team four points behind Barcelona. The Catalan club won 5-3 at Real Betis on Saturday. Madrid is only one point ahead of thirdplaced Villarreal, which has a game in hand.

Vinícius Júnior and Kylian Mbappé both had good chances to equalize for Madrid but couldn't capitalize on their opportunities.

Militão had to leave the game in the first half because of an

Celta moved to 10th place with its second win in three league games.

Goalkeeping mistakes Girona goalkeeper Paulo

Gazzaniga had an afternoon to forget in Girona's 3-0 loss to Elche at home. The Argentine goalkeep-

er's mistakes led to two Elche goals, including one after he passed the ball straight to an opponent inside the area while trying to send it to a defender. Earlier, he had failed to make a routine save on an angled shot by the near post.

Gazzaniga also had a nightmare game in Girona's opening league match, when his blunders led to a goal and a penalty and his ejection in a 3-1 loss to Rayo Vallecano.

Girona, sitting inside the relegation zone in 18th place, has only one win in its last six games in all competitions.

Nice fans boo team during 7th loss

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Nice (France)

Nice was booed on the field a week after its players were attacked by supporters. The French team's crisis on and off the pitch deepened as it lost 1-0 at home to Angers in Ligue 1 on Sunday for a seventh straight loss across all

competitions. After last week's defeat at Lorient, Nice players were confronted by a large number of their supporters when they returned to the club's training and

academy centre. Players and staff were reportedly assaulted and fans shouted insults and demanded greater commitment from the squad. Jérémie Boga and Terem Moffi took multiple blows,

including to the head and groin. Those two players were absent against Angers and their teammates took the field with the names of either Boga or Moffi on the backs of their jerseys

instead of their own. The jeers rang out right from the start.

Yassin Belkhdim scored for Angers in the 33rd minute and Nice's hopes of ending its losing streak diminished early in the second half when Tom Louchet was sent off for a foul on Jacques Ekomié.

Surprise win Lorient upset fifth-placed Lyon 1-0 to move up to 13th.

Lvon had to play the entire second half with 10 men after Ainsley Maitland-Niles was sent off in the 42nd minute following two quick yellow cards.

Lorient had taken the lead three minutes before the dismissal with a goal from Pablo Pagis.

Off the bottom Auxerre moved off the bottom of the table with a

3-1 win over Metz, which took its opponent's spot. The result ended a ninematch winless run for

Lassine Sinayoko's penalty and a goal by Oussama El-Azzouzi three minutes later put Auxerre 2-0 ahead before Gauthier Hein halved the deficit on

the stroke of halftime. But Kévin Danois scored his first Ligue 1 goal late on to secure the win.

Le Havre forward Issa Soumaré failed to convert a penalty as another relegation fight, against Paris FC, ended in a 0-0 draw.

F1 in 2026: Key dates, new title hopefuls and Cadillac's debut **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Abu Dhabi

Say goodbye to DRS, and hello to a battery power boost. Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix marked the last time Formula 1 uses the Drag Reduction System overtaking aid, introduced in 2011.

Next year, drivers will have to manage the car's systems more closely than ever with a more visible role for aerodynamic and electrical technology.

After a season-long title battle ended with Lando Norris' first title, here's what to expect in 2026:

Smaller, lighter, more electric The biggest regulation changes in years make cars shorter, narrower and lighter, with movable "active aerodynamics" — X-mode for straight-line speed, Z-mode



for cornering — and more reliance on electric hybrid

The FIA's target was for electrical power to make up half of total output along with a traditional V6 turbo engine. Instead of DRS, drivers can deploy extra electrical power at key moments. That makes driving even

more strategic but could lead to drivers lifting off the power and coasting on some straights to allow the electrical systems to harvest energy.

The FIA claims the rules emphasize driver skill but there have been mixed reviews from those who've tried 2026 designs in their teams' simulators.

could help overtaking but the fastest and slowest cars may be up to four seconds per lap apart on pace, tire supplier Pirelli has reported. In F1 terms, that's an eternity. Expect to see more engine failures as teams balance reliability with performance.

Mercedes, Aston Martin aim for more

Could this be the year Lewis Hamilton finds his form again at Ferrari and chases an eighth title? Maybe not.

Even though he never got on with the 2022-25 cars, Hamilton told the BBC he was "not looking forward" to 2026 after the Las Vegas Grand Prix last month, yet another disappointment

Mercedes has designed some of F1's most dominant engines before, but its eye-

since he joined Ferrari.

Smaller, more agile cars catching "zero-pod" aerody namic concept was a bust when the last regulation period began in 2022. Get both aspects right this time and George Russell could be a title contender after two wins in 2025.

Another team to watch is Aston Martin, which has its first car created with design great Adrian Newey in charge, and is hoping it can make two-time champion Fernando Alonso an F1 race winner for the first time in 13 years. Williams too could make a step forward after abandoning its 2025 projects early to focus on 2026.

New Cadillac team, old faces

The F1 grid expands to 22 cars for the first time since 2016 as Cadillac becomes the 11th team with backing from