

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 5 JANUARY 2025

WEATHER

Max: 30.4°C
Min: 13.2°C
RH: 40%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky. Max/Min temp. 30/13°C

ASTROGUIDE

Krodhi: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Pushya Shukla Shashthi till 8.14 pm
Star: Purvabhadra till 8.16 pm
Varjyam: 5.24 am (Monday)
Durmuhurtham: 4.23 pm to 5.07 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rajjab 4, 1446 H
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.43 am
Zohar: 12.31 pm
Asar: 4.18 pm
Maghrib: 6.00 pm
Isha: 7.13 pm
SUNSET TODAY 05.55 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 06.47 AM
MOONRISE 10.53 PM
MOONSET 11.09 AM

COUNTER POINT



He is celebrating the fall of the rupee... his children are working in the US!

SHORT TAKES

TN fireworks unit blast kills 6

Virudhunagar: Six workers were killed and another was injured following an explosion at a firecrackers manufacturing unit near here on Saturday, an official said. The blast occurred in the morning when the workers were engaged in mixing chemical-raw materials, as part of the manufacturing process, leading to the deaths of 6 men and 4 rooms in the factory premises were flattened in the impact.

Full report Page 11

One killed in blast near city

Yadadri-Bhongir: One person died and three others were injured in a reactor explosion at Premier Explosive Company on the outskirts of Peddada Kandukur in Yadagirigutta mandal on Saturday. The incident occurred at around 9.45 am, just 15 minutes before the first shift's lunch break (6 am to 2 pm), thereby reducing the scale of the blast's impact. The deafening noise caused panic among the employees and nearby villagers.

The victim has been identified as 54-year-old Marka Kanakiah from Bachannapeta village in Jangaon district.

Full report Page 2

FOG DELAYS 400 FLIGHTS, 81 TRAINS IN DELHI

New Delhi, Jan. 4: Dense fog over Delhi for a second consecutive morning reduced visibility to zero in several areas, leading to 81 trains being delayed and 15 flights getting diverted, officials said on Saturday. The Met office said there was zero visibility since 11:30 pm on Friday at Palam and 12:30 am on Saturday at Safdarjung. The fog was accompanied by mainly calm surface winds that prevented it from dissipating. At 7 am, general visibility at the Indra Gandhi International Airport was zero in very dense fog. The Runway Visual Range at its runways was in the range of 100-250 metres.



WORLD | 14

Mike Johnson re-elected as US House Speaker



SPORTS | 16

Pant hits half-ton as Sydney Test picks pace

TABLOID

The elite opt for private, luxe celebrations



Farmer aid to be ₹12K for now, to cover landless agri labour

Revanth: Rythu Bharosa, new ration cards launch on R-Day

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced on Saturday that the Rythu Bharosa scheme would be launched on January 26, to mark Republic Day and the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat after the state Cabinet meeting, he outlined key features of the scheme aimed at extending the benefit to agricultural land under active cultivation and supporting farmers without any restrictions on extent of land besides agricultural labourers. Under Rythu Bharosa, farmers will receive ₹12,000 per acre annually — an increase from the ₹10,000 provided under the BRS government's Rythu Bandhu.

While the Congress had promised ₹15,000 per acre in its election manifesto, he explained that the initial amount was set at ₹12,000 due to financial constraints, with a plan to enhance it in phases. For the first time, land-



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and ministers during the Cabinet meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

less agricultural labourers will also benefit under the Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa scheme, receiving ₹12,000 annually.

This initiative, also starting on Republic Day, seeks to address the long-standing neglect of this vulnerable group, who were excluded under Rythu Bandhu.

"The BRS regime neglected landless agricultural labourers, who were facing many hardships. Our government is committed to rectifying this injustice," the Chief Minister stated.

Unlike the earlier scheme, the Rythu Bharosa will come with

stricter guidelines.

The benefits will apply to agricultural land that is being actively cultivated, regardless of the size or extent.

Non-agricultural land — including those used for real estate ventures, industrial purposes, or land acquired for government projects — will be excluded. Revanth Reddy said that the government would identify and remove such lands through village-level audits (gram sabhas) conducted by revenue officials.

Page 5: BRS govt misused public funds, says CM

Polavaram project big threat: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed officials of the irrigation department to prepare a detailed report, in collaboration with IIT-Hyderabad, on the potential impact of Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh on Telangana.

The Chief Minister sought the report in a month, and asked for the appointment of a special officer to coordinate with IIT-Hyderabad.

Revanth Reddy expressed concerns at the potential threat that the Polavaram project posed to the famed Bhadrachalam temple, which faced significant flooding in 2022 when the Godavari river saw an inflow of 27 lakh cuses of water.

Page 5: CM orders study to assess risks to temple town

Oppn spreading caste venom: PM

Modi for saving shared culture of villages

SHASHI BHUSHAN | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

Hitting out at the Opposition for trying to weaken society by spreading venom in the name of caste, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged people to thwart these conspiracies and preserve the shared culture of the village. The PM said his government has been focusing on rural development because villages will play a key role in achieving the Viksit Bharat goal by 2047.

Speaking after inaugurating Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital, Modi said that his government has launched a campaign to guarantee basic amenities in every village. In a veiled attack on the Opposition leaders, he said that some people are trying to spread poison in society in the name of caste and weaken the social fabric.

Noting the significance of harmony and love in village identity, Modi urged, "We have to thwart these conspiracies and preserve and strengthen the shared culture of the villages."

The Prime Minister said that since 2014, he has been constantly in the service of rural India. "Ensuring a dignified life for the people of rural India is the priority of my government," he said, adding that their vision was to ensure an empowered rural India, provide ample opportunities for villagers, reduce outmigration and ensure ease of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits stalls during the inauguration of the Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 in New Delhi on Saturday.

Modi: India firm on progress in AI

New Delhi, Jan. 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is committed to taking the lead in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), as he met entrepreneur and former Infosys CEO Vishal Sikka.

"It was an insightful interaction indeed. India is committed to taking the lead in AI, with a focus on innovation and creating opportunities for the youth," Modi said on X.

The prime minister was replying to Sikka's post, highlighting his detailed and wide-ranging discussion with Modi on AI, its impact on India, and several imperatives for the time ahead.

"I left the meeting both inspired and humbled by his extraordinary grasp of technology's impact on all of us, and how its use with democratic values can uplift everyone," Sikka said.

life of the people of villages. "The government had implemented a programme in each and every village to ensure basic

amenities," Modi said and highlighted that every house was provided with a toilet as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Army vehicle overturns in J&K, 4 killed

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs SRINAGAR, JAN. 4

An Army vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a gorge amid poor visibility in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday, claiming the lives of four soldiers. Four army personnel died and another was injured.

The accident occurred near SK Payen in the north Kashmir district where the soldiers were on duty, officials said. The region had received snowfall on Thursday and there were foggy conditions on Saturday. The Army said the injured soldiers were evacuated for medical care with assistance from Kashmiri locals, "for which we express gratitude."

On December 24, five soldiers were killed and five others injured when an Army vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down a 300-ft deep gorge in Poonch.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party leader Rahul Gandhi and other leaders paid tributes to the soldiers.

Page 13: BJP's list includes two women

BJP fields former MPs against Kejriwal, Atishi

SHASHI BHUSHAN AND BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

Setting the stage for a fierce political contest, the BJP on Saturday announced its first list of 29 candidates for the 70-member Delhi Assembly elections. Among the prominent names, former MP Parvesh Verma has been nominated to contest against incumbent Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal from the New Delhi constituency. Additionally, former MP Ramesh Bidhuri has been selected to run from Kalkaji, where AAP candidate Atishi is also vying for the seat.

As reported by this newspaper on December 5, the BJP has officially approved Verma's candidature against Kejriwal in the highly contested New Delhi seat. The party has also fielded national general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam from Karol Bagh and Goa in-charge Ashish Sood from Janakpuri.

Page 13: BJP's list includes two women

BATTLE FOR DELHI

Full report Page 13



Amit Shah

Shah: AAP focused on sheesh mahal

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday attacked AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of prioritising personal luxury, dubbing the CM's residence as 'sheesh mahal' over infrastructure development during his nearly decade-long tenure as Delhi's Chief Minister. He was speaking at the inauguration of the NDMC's working women's hostel.

Full report Page 13



Arvind Kejriwal

Kejriwal to waive water bills if voted

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

Delhi former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal promised to waive the "inflated" water bills received by people in Delhi if his party returns to power in the Assembly polls next month.

He said that people were "distressed" by the bills. He also asserted that women protesting outside his residence were affiliated with the Congress and BJP, not from Punjab.

Full report Page 13

No jail for Trump in hush cash case

New York, Jan. 4: US President-elect Donald Trump will be sentenced on January 10 in the criminal case in which he was convicted on charges involving hush money paid to a porn star, but is unlikely to face jail time or other penalties, a judge said on Friday. Justice Juan Merchan's ruling means Trump will be required to appear at a court hearing just 10 days before his Jan. 20 inauguration — an unprecedented scenario in US history. Before Trump, no US president — former or sitting — had been charged with or convicted of a crime.

The judge said Trump, 78, may appear at his sentencing either in person or virtually. He wrote that he was not inclined to sentence Trump to jail, and that a sentence of "unconditional discharge" — meaning



Donald Trump

no custody, monetary fine, or probation — would be "the most viable solution." The case stemmed from a \$130,000 payment Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen made to adult film actor Stormy Daniels to keep her quiet about a sexual encounter she said she had with Trump, who denies it. A jury in May found Trump guilty of falsifying records. — AP



Rajagopala Chidambaram

Chidambaram, atomic bomb expert, dead

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

Noted physicist Rajagopala Chidambaram, who played a key role in the nuclear tests of 1974 and 1998, passed away on Saturday, according to the department of atomic energy (DAE). He was 88. Dr Chidambaram was also associated with the nuclear weapons programme.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled Chidambaram's "ground-breaking contributions in strengthening India's scientific and strategic capabilities."

Dr Chidambaram's work was acknowledged in high-pressure physics, crystallography, and materials science. His work laid the foundation for modern materials science research in India.

He championed initiatives in energy, healthcare and strategic self-reliance. He was instrumental in initiating India's supercomputer development and conceptualising the National Knowledge Network, connect research and educational institutions.

Dr Chidambaram established the Rural Technology Action Groups and Society for Electronic Transactions and Security.

Page 11: 'Chaser' satellite captures video of Earth

MAJOR BOOST Seeds germinated 4 days after launch, Isro tests growing food for space-farers

ET farming: Isro germinates seeds in space

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, JAN. 4

"Life sprouts in space!" With these words, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced a milestone in its journey by germinating cowpea seeds in space, a successful experiment in extraterrestrial agriculture.

The seeds are being grown as part of an experiment called Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS), designed to explore the potential of

growing plants beyond Earth.

"Leaves expected soon," Isro said.

The five- to seven-day experiment has been planned to demonstrate seed germination and plant sustenance until reaching the two-leaf stage in space.

The seeds were germinated in the left-over Stage-4 portion of the PSLV-C60 rocket, which launched two satellites into space on December 30. The satellites are expected to dock on Tuesday, marking a new chapter in Isro's growth story. The CROPS experiment



The seeds were germinated in the left-over Stage-4 portion of the PSLV-C60 rocket.

was performed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, and the seeds germinated four days after launch. The CROPS payload was engineered to simulate and analyse plant growth in

space-like conditions. Eight cowpea seeds were housed in a controlled chamber with advanced thermal regulation.

Equipped with sophisticated monitoring tools, the module tracks growth through high-resolution imaging, atmospheric gas analysis, temperature control, humidity measurements, and soil moisture evaluation.

This innovation not only validates the concept of sustainable farming in space but also lays the groundwork for feeding astronauts on long-duration missions and con-

tributing to the development of self-sustaining habitats for potential human settlements on other planets, Isro said.

The experiment was part of the PSLV Orbital Experiment Module (POEM-4), a collaborative initiative that featured 24 payloads from Isro and academic institutions.

In another significant achievement, Isro operated its first robotic arm in space, advancing India's space exploration capabilities.

Page 11: 'Chaser' satellite captures video of Earth

EVENTS TODAY

- Know Your Army: Military mela**
Time: 10 am
Venue: Golconda Fort
- Annual day celebrations by Geetanjali Olympiad School**
Time: 9 am
Venue: Ravindra Bharathi
- International conference on electrical, electronics, communication & robotics Engineering**
Time: 9 am
Venue: Hampshire Plaza Hotel
- Telugu Velugu Samakya**
Time: 6 pm
Venue: Indian Institute Of Management & Commerce
- Indian Classical Dance Festival**
Time: 6 pm
Venue: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha
- Orchestra by Sri Kalanjali Kalaparishath Cultural Organisation**
Time: 9 am
Venue: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha
- NCC Alumni Association Golden Jubilee Celebrations**
Time: 10 am
Venue: Badruka College Of Commerce (College)
- Paigah Tombs heritage walk**
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Paigah Tombs
- Kalari Spirit: Workshop On Kalariyattam**
Time: 9 am
Venue: IRA Studios
- Workshop On Woodworking**
Time: 3 pm
Venue: Cove Speciality Café
- Workshop on theatre acting**
Time: 10 am
Venue: Samahaara
- Art and Dreams: Art exhibition by Amya Singh**
Time: 10 am
Venue: Sublime Galleria
- Indian Photo Festival**
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Telangana State Gallery Of Fine Art
- PC Sorcar Magic Show**
Time: 4 pm
Venue: Hari Hara Kala Bhavan
- Udyan Utsav: Celebrate Nature**
Time: 10 am
Venue: Rashtrapati Nilayam
- Numaish: All India Industrial Exhibition**
Time: 4 pm
Venue: Exhibition Ground
- Workshop on film directors andwriters by Om Sai Teja Arts**
Time: 9 am
Venue: Ravindra Bharathi
- Book introduction event about Manikonda Chalapathi Rao**
Time: 11 am
Venue: Hyderabad Press Club, Somajiguda

Neta's natter

REVANTH REVEALS REPORT CARDS TO MLAS

It was supposed to be a moment of joy, a bit of revelry from the night before carried over, but for various Congress leaders who flocked to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's residence in Jubilee Hills on January 1, their New Year celebrations and greeting Revanth Reddy on the occasion turned into an exercise in revelation of delivery of a dose of tough love instead of festive cheer. Those who called on Revanth at his house were seen leaving somewhat shaken, some visibly shaken. The reason? Revanth Reddy revealed that he had com-



iled performance reports of all ministers and MLAs over the past year, and, in a matter-of-fact tone, announced to them that these evaluations would soon be shared with them, and stressed the need for improvement. Revanth also disclosed he had revamped his approach after reviewing his performance report and urged others to do the same. "These reports will determine your political future," he warned, advising them to address any shortcomings identified. While some appreciated the wake-up call, others questioned the timing. "We came from far-flung districts to wish him a happy New Year, not to get graded like students in exams," one MLA murmured, summing up the mix of surprise and unease among attendees.

NEW TG CHIEF SECRETARY ON THE CARDS

The corridors of Telangana's Secretariat are abuzz with whispers, amidst an all pervading sense of intrigue as K. Ramakrishna Rao, finance special chief secretary, is being talked about as the likely candidate for the Chief Secretary (CS) post as incumbent A. Santhi Kumari retires in April. But there's a twist: Rao is set to retire in August, giving him a mere four-month stint if appointed. Not one to settle for brevity, Rao reportedly has his sights set on an extended run. The grapevine is that Rao is negotiating a sweet deal, citing Andhra Pradesh's precedent. Just last week, AP's CS Neerabh Kumar Prasad retired only after his tenure was extended by six months. Rao wants a similar extension, urging Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to pull strings with the Centre to secure at least three or six extra months. The bureaucratic chess game has sparked speculation — will the government oblige, or will Rao's ambitions be boxed into four fleeting months?

RECORD BOOZE SALE ON NYE

The spirited New Year celebrations, particularly the revelry the night before January 1 that came maudlin along after the night of December 31, have proved that the last day of the year was indeed a 'State Liquor Day', a spirited tongue-in-cheek name that many used for the day in Telangana. With the New Year's Eve being one of the biggest nights when demand for liquor soars, the numbers that rolled in later were sobering for all those teetotalers who refuse to get sozzled, hammered, tanked, or blitzed as the case may be, while those who croaked their way through the celebrations, barrelled through the night. Those who quiffed may have been bombed and entered an altered state, but for the good folks at the State Beverages Corporation who kept the brew flowing across stores and bars, pubs and other venues, it was good news what with excise revenue that the government got as more than ₹800 crore worth of booze of different kinds was sold in the state just on December 30 and 31.

Contributions from Laxmi Pranathi, L. Venkat Ram Reddy, P.V. Prasad, Sampat G. Samritan, Neeraj Kumar

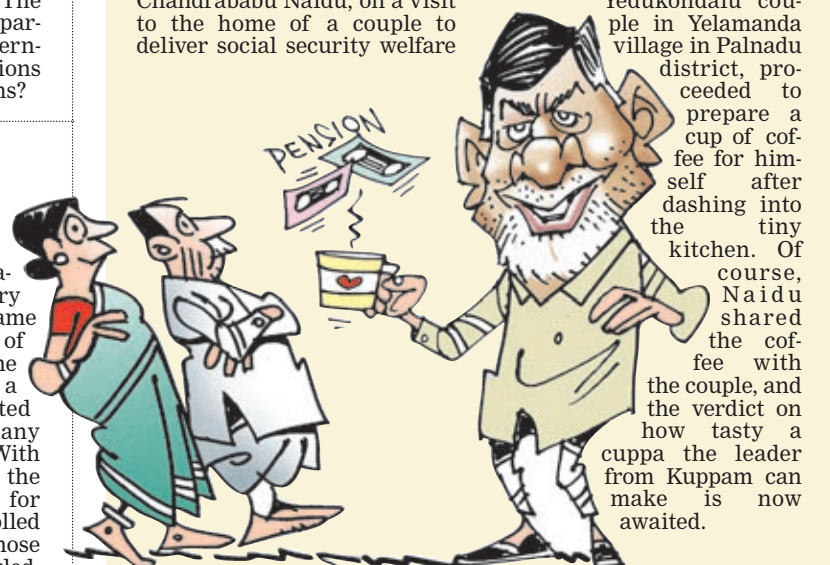
POT SMUGGLERS BATTLE POTHOLED ROADS OF AP

Bad roads, pockmarked with potholes, are the bane of everyone. But there are some who are rethinking about complaining on this issue, at least in some parts of Andhra Pradesh. For these folks, it is all about potholes making it harder for those transporting pot not being able to pick an easy getaway line on potholed roads. Apparently, some cops have realised that potholed roads have their virtues and have turned into a great help in catching ganja smugglers. Recently, a police officer couldn't help but chuckle about how Odisha's pristine roads are practically a getaway gift for criminals. Meanwhile, in AP, the bumpy rides are clearly making life tougher for smugglers. If the official was to be believed, the pothole-riddled obstacle courses in some parts of the state are making it hard for the bad guys to escape with their run from the cops going slower than what they hoped for.

COFFEE WITH CM — A GROWING TREND

Social justice can be accomplished by a cup of coffee made by the Chief Minister. AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, on a visit to the home of a couple to deliver social security welfare

pension, stayed back, and to the apparent delight laced by some nervousness of the Talari Saramma and Yedukondalu couple in Yelamanda village in Palnadu district, proceeded to prepare a cup of coffee for himself after dashing into the tiny kitchen. Of course, Naidu shared the coffee with the couple, and the verdict on how tasty a cuppa the leader from Kuppam can make is now awaited.



IAS BABU LIES LOW POST YSRC LOSS

Invisible After Sunrise. Invisible After Sunset. This is what those pursuing their IAS dreams are supposed to be like, or that is the joke that does the rounds at various coaching centres. But, once the IAS dream is achieved, a quick sidestep could well land someone into oblivion as former senior IAS officer Md Imtiaz Ahmed is apparently finding out in Andhra Pradesh. After throwing his lot with the YSRC before the last elections, and losing them in fairly quick succession with his political career lasting a bare three months, Ahmed is now keeping away from YSRC that lost the polls, leaving several in the bureaucratic circles wondering if Ahmed is now in an Incognito After Setback mode.

Hyd on the global growth path: CM

Revanth urges investors to avail opportunities

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stated that Hyderabad is on the global growth path, driven by a series of major infrastructure and developmental projects initiated by the Congress government. Addressing the American Progressive Telugu Association Global Business Conference held here on Saturday, the Chief Minister stressed Hyderabad's transformation into a global city and its potential as a hub for investment and development.



American Progressive Telugu Association (APTA) Chairman Dr Subbu Kota lights the lamp to mark the inauguration of Telugu NRIs Global Business Conference APTA Katalyst at HICC on Saturday.

Highlighting its status as a global destination, Reddy said, "Hyderabad is a global city. There are many opportunities here for investment across fields such as cinema, business and politics. Hyderabad offers abundant potential to each of them."

The Chief Minister outlined key infrastructure and developmental projects that his government is spearheading to bolster the city's appeal. These include the Musi River revival project, metro rail expansion, and the development of future city, AI city, and skills university. He also mentioned plans for a sports university, an EV (electric vehicle) hub, a green energy hub, and the regional ring road.

"These initiatives aim to ensure Telangana attracts maximum investments, fosters economic development, and generates employment opportunities for many people," he said.

Reiterating the state government's commitment to progress, he stated, "We are moving forward with a clear policy. Our aim is to make Telangana a beacon of growth and prosperity."

In a compelling appeal to investors, the Chief Minister urged global participation in the state's development.

"Come to Telangana, invest in Hyderabad and Telangana, and be partners in shaping the future of our state," he said.

THESE INITIATIVES aim to ensure Telangana attracts maximum investments, fosters economic development, and generates employment opportunities for many people.

Come to Telangana, invest in Hyderabad and Telangana, and be partners in shaping the future of our state,

— A. REVANTH REDDY
Chief Minister

Experts share views on doing business abroad

AISHWARYA GANDEED I DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Doing business outside the country is simple provided one identifies the right vendors and has a thorough understanding of the taxation structure abroad was the main messages drawn from a two-day global business conference that was held here on Saturday.

The inaugural day of the conference discussed opportunities and challenges of establishing businesses abroad, with insights from industry leaders.

Ravi Kumar Singiri from Singiri Auditing explained that Dubai offered a business licence within a day, while registrations could be completed within five days. He elaborated that with its straightforward taxation system, including five per cent VAT and nine per cent corporate tax on profits exceeding AED 3.75 lakh, it was the ideal place to start a company.

Vijay Movva of Ensoft Group highlighted Singapore's English-based business environment and efficient processes. Showrya Tirnati from T. Murty & Associates stressed the importance of aligning investments with international regulatory requirements.

They were speaking at 'Expanding Business Beyond Horizons — Compliance/Global Taxation' at the APTA Katalyst.

Chairman Dr. Subbu Kota said that the event was a platform to increase entrepreneurship and generate business transactions worth ₹five lakh

crore in the future. "Wealth can only be created by great ideas and entrepreneurship," Dr. Kota said. Among other aspects like panel discussions, what stood out was a competition in which 16 start-ups pitched their ideas. With a focus on rural entrepreneurship, the competition attracted 10 rural-based teams, four of which qualified for the finals.

Meanwhile, venture capitalists like Aroa Ventures and SucSeed pledged up to \$10 million for investment-worthy ideas. The top three winners, whose names will be announced on the final day, will be richer by ₹2.5 lakh, ₹1.5 lakh and ₹one lakh, respectively.

Discussions on renewable energy, real estate, and women in business drew further attention. Renewable energy experts stressed India's need for innovative solutions, with Maurya Pydah of Greenko sharing insights on utilising five per cent of India's wasteland for solar energy.

The speakers asked young entrepreneurs to explore bio-fuels and renewable energy components as viable investment avenues.

The real estate panel highlighted consumer preferences post-Covid-19, with the demand rising for villas and spacious homes in the city outskirts.

Umesh Kunapureddy of Lansum Properties spoke about the rising trend of mixed-use developments, while K. Murlu Krishna of Cybercity Builders stated that urban congestion was a pressing issue.

Mental healthcare inaccessible to marginalised: Experts

SHRIMANSI KAUSHIK | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Access to mental healthcare remains challenging for low and middle-income groups. While private therapy sessions cost an exorbitant ₹1,500-₹3,000 per session, government facilities are often approached only in emergencies.

Stress, depression, and anxiety are the primary factors driving people aged 18-35 to seek help, often triggered by economic struggles, social inequality, financial issues within families, and personal or familial health problems.

However, accessing mental health professionals remains difficult for various reasons. Raj, a 26-year-old government job aspirant, spoke of his struggles with economic distress, inequality and inflation.

"I attended a few private sessions costing ₹2,600-₹3,000 each. While helpful, they were unaffordable. I would continue therapy if affordable options with Bahujan therapists, who understand my marginalised background, were available," he told Deccan

PRIMARY FACTORS

STRESS, DEPRESSION, and anxiety are the primary factors driving people aged 18-35 to seek help, often triggered by economic struggles, social inequality, financial issues within families, and personal or familial health problems.

I ATTENDED a few private sessions costing ₹2,600-₹3,000 each. While helpful, they were unaffordable. I would continue therapy if affordable options with Bahujan therapists, who understand my marginalised background, were available, stated Raj, a 26-year-old government job aspirant.

FOR STUDENTS, ACADEMIC PRESSURE IS A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF STRESS.

mental health programme (DMHP), which is part of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). "DMHP focuses on building mental health infrastructure in rural areas. We primarily receive cases of depression, peer pressure, substance abuse, gambling, and smartphone addiction. Treatments include pharmacotherapy and individual, family, and group counseling," he explained.

Dr Akula noted that while awareness of mental health has improved, social stigma remains a significant barrier, especially for marginalised groups lacking support systems and

SHORTAGE of psychiatrists and trained counsellors in rural areas further hinder the district mental health programme's efforts.

awareness. "Drug abuse, suicidal tendencies, and loneliness are prevalent, particularly among young people without parents or with single parents. Group therapy often works better in these cases, allowing participants to share struggles and success stories," he added.

Shortage of psychiatrists and trained counsellors in rural areas further hinder the DMHP's efforts. Therapists rely on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) to address individual thought processes, but building district-level mental healthcare facilities and manpower remains a challenge.

Tele-Manas helpline gets about 3,500 calls per day

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Tele-Manas (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States), a national mental health helpline (toll-free numbers 14416 or 1-800-891-4416) launched by the Centre in November 2022 to provide accessible mental health services across the country, claims to have received over 10 lakh calls as of May 2024, with an average of about 3,500 calls per day.

Notably, 74.4 per cent of the callers belonged to the 18-45 age group. The primary reasons for seeking assistance included sleep disturbances, mood-related issues, stress, and anxiety. The data also showed that among the callers, 55.8 per cent were men and the remaining 44.2 per cent were women.

Youngsters have shown little awareness about this helpline. "I know about the helpline but I am con-

FROM AROUND 12,000 in December 2022 to over 90,000 in May 2024, the calls indicate a significant rise in the use of this service.

—DR VISHAL AKULA, Head of the department of psychiatry, Government Medical College, Jagtial

cerned about my privacy," said Dhruv, an 18-year-old student at Mahbub Degree College. He is caring for an ailing mother and a strict father, who is in constant argument with him over career-related issues.

"I would rather speak to a friend or a senior about these issues rather than a stranger that too over the phone. I am sure I would be able to establish the connection. I am afraid of doing that even in person. More so because of the fear that they might go and tell my father about it, that

could escalate issues at home rather than resolving them," he said.

"The data shows that there is an increase in the number of calls received over the portal. From around 12,000 in December 2022 to over 90,000 in May 2024, the calls indicate a significant rise in the use of this service, said Dr Vishal Akula, head of the department of psychiatry, Government Medical College, Jagtial.

"In Telangana and our hospital, we have observed that language is the main barrier in availing this service, despite it claiming to be multi-lingual. People from low-income groups find it inaccessible," he said. "For people who know how to use technology, it has helped in preventing many impulsive suicide tendencies. Since loneliness is a major factor causing suicidal ideation, talking to a mental health professional in that moment helps them to take a step back and calm down," Dr Akula added.



1000 KMS

Indian Metro Network achieves a historic milestone of 1000 kilometres under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

PM MODI GIVES GIFT OF NEW METRO PROJECTS AND NAMO BHARAT TO PEOPLE OF DELHI

A journey that began in 2002 with initiation of modern metro in Delhi by Vajpayee ji, has reached the nationwide 1000-kilometre milestone under Modi ji

WE NOW HAVE THE WORLD'S 3rd LARGEST METRO NETWORK

KILOMETRES ADDED



3X
INCREASE



STATES COVERED



NOW **11 States- 23 Cities**

In 2014 **5 States - 5 Cities**

DAILY PASSENGERS TRAVELLING

OVER **2.5X**
INCREASE



TOTAL DISTANCE BY METRO TRAINS DAILY



IN BRIEF

NDPL bottles worth ₹1.5L impounded

Hyderabad: A state excise task force team seized 117 non duty paid liquor (NDPL) bottles worth ₹1.5 lakh that were being smuggled into the city in a train on Saturday. The bottles were seized during an inspection at the Shamshabad station, and one Joseph who was found transporting the bottles, was arrested.

Cops play cricket with Army staffers

Hyderabad: The DCP north zone police personnel organised a cricket match with staff of the Military Hospital to build strong bonds between the two forces. The match was held at MH cricket ground, north zone DCP Sadhana Rashmi Perumal said. She thanked MH Commanding Officer (CO) Brigadier Nikahat Jahan for facilitating the match.

A.R. Srinivas is new V&E director

Hyderabad: The state government on Saturday issued orders appointing retired IPS officer A.R. Srinivas as director of vigilance and enforcement department for two years.

DGP pats police shooting team

Hyderabad: Director General of Police Jitender on Saturday congratulated the police shooting team for winning medals the 67th National Shooting Championship. D. Narayana Dasu, 13th Battalion TGSP, secured a bronze in the 25m rapid pistol event, V. Suvarna, ASI, Subedari Warangal, won a bronze in the masters individual rifle prone event.

Wife of journalist dies by suicide

Hyderabad: A woman died by suicide in Madhapur on Friday. Her body was discovered in the Durgam Cheruvu waters on Saturday. The victim was identified as Durga Madhavi Adepu, 55, wife of a TV journalist, after the police retrieved the body and issued circulars to nearby police stations and media outlets to identify her. She was identified by her husband.

TWO NABBED FOR TRAPPING VICTIM ON DATING APP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Swift police action led to the arrest of Shoeb Khan and Mohd Sohai, who had trapped a 21-year-old victim through a dating app and extorted ₹47,000 from him. The accused were picked up from their houses in Kishanbagh on Saturday, within 24 hours of receiving the complaint. The duo used to trap and blackmail victims through the dating app, Attapur station house officer G. Venkata Reddy said. "We received a complaint from the victim who stated that he was called by the duo to an isolated place in Arsh Mahal and attacked," the officer said. The victim paid the duo online. Based on a complaint, police registered a case (3 of 2025) and BNS arrested the accused within 24 hours. Police recovered ₹31,000 from the duo.

WESTERN RAILWAY - DAHOD
SUPPLY AND FITMENT OF EPDM BASED CABLE TRANSIT AND PROTECTION SYSTEM
Tender Notice No. - M247GLRSEPD2440. Date: 01-01-2025. Name of work: Supply & Fitment of EPDM based cable transit and protection system of 140 Electric Locomotives. Location: Office of CWM / Dahod W.Rly. Estimated Cost of the work: ₹2,17,76,950/- Bid Security: ₹2,59,500/- Date & time of Submission & opening of E-Tender: Submission of E-tender: Upto 14.30 Hrs. on 23.01.2025 and Opening of E-tender at 15.00 Hrs. on same day. The Tender Notice and documents available on the website: www.ireps.gov.in/E-Tenders/Works/IR Electrical.
For Chief Workshop Manager, Dahod
SNP-361
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM
TENDER NOTICE CORRIGENDUM
No. RTM-2024-25-122 (Open Tender). Date: 01.01.2025. Name of Work: Godhara-Ratlam Section: Improvement of Road surface and drainage system at RUB No. 173A, 177A, 292A, 293A and 305A etc. under ADEN-East jurisdiction and at RUB Nos. 8A, 13A, 13B, 47A, 47B etc. under ADEN-S-DHD Jurisdiction. Tender Closing Date Time: Existing Date: 13/01/2025, 15:00, Modified Date: 14/01/2025, 15:00
Divisional Rail Manager (RAM) SNP-362 Western Railway, Ratlam
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

Firm tried to avoid sample test

UP supplier cheated SCR of ₹78L, supplying substandard bed sheets

MOULI MAREEDU | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

The Uttar Pradesh-based Bunkar Jantiya Hathkargha Sahakar Samithi Ltd (BJHSSL), which obtained a purchase order (PO) to supply bed sheets to South Central Railway (SCR), Secunderabad, reportedly influenced some officials and supplied low quality material. A day after CBI registered cases, the agency officials focused on internal and inspection reports to establish the offence. According to officials, BJHSSL supplied 1.4

lakh bed sheets on October 5 and 6 last year. On receiving complaints over the poor quality of the material, the SCR vigilance department conducted checks and sent samples to the textile committee at Hyderabad for testing. "The test report dated November 9, 2023, disclosed that the supplies made by BJHSSL were not in accordance with the specifications," the CBI said. Accordingly, the vigilance department's letter dated November 10, 2023 along with the test report was forwarded to the con-

signee general and signal stores depot (G&S/stores depot), Mettuguda, and principal chief materials manager (PCMM), SCR for action. Conspiring to cheat SCR, BJHSSL in its letter on September 14, 2023, falsely reported that RITES, which is the inspecting agency for testing the quality of bed sheets as per the purchase order dated July 28, 2023, did not inspect the material claiming that they are overburdened. BJHSSL urged SCR to change the inspection agency. Accordingly, the PCMM issued a letter on September 15, 2023 replacing RITES with Intertek India Pvt. Ltd., without making the change in IMMS (Integrated Material Management System). Subsequently, the deputy CMM/HQ issued unauthorised directions to G&S stores depot and the mechanical coaching depots at Hyderabad and Secunderabad for diverting and accepting the material in the name of emergency minus any indent. By this manipulation, BJHSSL caused SCR a loss of ₹78,27,946, which is yet to be recovered.

THREE ABDUCT WORKER AND MURDER HIM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

A 28-year-old tent house worker, Mohammed Nabi, was kidnapped from his house at Bapunagar, Amberpet, and murdered on the Musi riverbed on Friday night, Uppal police said on Saturday.

Police said three assailants, who were known to the victim, spoke about striking a compromise on previous disputes, and forcibly took him to the Musi riverbed, where they murdered him. The victim and the accused were reported to be relatives. Nabi was a prime accused in the murder of his grandfather over family disputes, police said. His cousin Zakir was the prime suspect in Friday's murder. Uppal inspector Election Reddy said that the police had formed a special team to investigate the murder.

DRIVER FOUND MURDERED IN BOYS' HOSTEL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

A cab driver was found dead in a working boys' hostel in Medipally on Saturday. The victim, P. Mahender Reddy, 36, was a native of Jangaon. His body was discovered by hostel residents, who alerted the authorities. Upon arriving at the scene, police found that the victim had suffered severe injuries and initial findings suggested that he was murdered. Police were working to identify the murder weapon, which has yet to be recovered.

They convinced the victim by explaining that they would support him in earning profits through trading and created an account on the company's website, the officer said. Fraudsters later created an ID in the name of the victim's wife. Initially, based on the scammers' suggestions, the victim deposited money into the trading app. They manipulated the app to show fabricated profits, which convinced the victim to make additional payments, the officer said. After some time,

Private firm staffer loses ₹12.5 lakh to cyber cheats

SYED OMAR FAROOQ | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

A 39-year-old private employee was duped of over ₹12.5 lakh by cybercheaters in the name of online trading. The scammers identified the victim when he responded to an advertisement on a social media platform. In his complaint to the city cybercrime unit (CCU), the victim said the cyberfraudsters named a global securities firm lured him by claiming to help individuals build trading skills. The victim filled out the information form provided in the advertisement. Subsequently, scammers contacted the victim and persuaded him to join their online trading platform, a cybercrime officer told Deccan Chronicle.

They convinced the victim by explaining that they would support him in earning profits through trading and created an account on the company's website, the officer said. Fraudsters later created an ID in the name of the victim's wife. Initially, based on the scammers' suggestions, the victim deposited money into the trading app. They manipulated the app to show fabricated profits, which convinced the victim to make additional payments, the officer said. After some time,

3 scammers dupe woman of ₹48.38L

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Three cyber fraudsters posing as police officials, who cheated a woman of ₹48.38 lakh, were arrested by a special team from the city cybercrime unit (CCU). The cyber extortionists were identified as Aman Joshi from Ramkote, Prashanth, of Shahinayathunji and Rohit Sharma from Kala Hanuman. The fraudsters repeated their extortion threats till she got emotionally distressed and attempted to die by suicide, a CCU officer said. "On August 22 of last year, the CCU received a complaint from a woman, who reported that she had been targeted by Aman Joshi, whom she had initially met on a social messaging platform," city police commissioner C. V. Anand, told Deccan Chronicle.

"Joshi borrowed ₹15,000 from the victim and did not repay it. The gang, impersonating the police, contacted her and accused her of possessing illegal gold linked to Aman Joshi," Anand said. Threatening the victim with arrest, they demanded ₹1.6 lakh for bail, which was later increased to ₹2 lakh. The victim, fearing for her career and reputation, transferred funds to the accused under duress, the commissioner said. "Our officers counselled the victim as she panicked after she suffered a financial loss totalling ₹48.38 lakh. Based on her complaint we registered a case (3041 of 2024) under the IT Act and BNS. Our special teams identified and arrested the trio on Saturday, Anand said. During interrogation the prime accused Joshi disclosed that he initiated contact with the victim, gained her trust and borrowed money. Police seized three mobile phones, five cheque books of various banks, five debit cards, a credit card and three SIM cards, said city cybercrimes DCP Dara Kavitha. The accused along with the seized property have been produced before the court for judicial remand.

When he tried to withdraw his money, the victim was unable to do so. The scammers refused to refund the

money and denied withdrawal requests, leaving the victim helpless. The victim realised he had lost ₹12,59,288.

Blurry recordings



In the absence of a camera, a traffic constable is clicking the picture of a violator on his mobile phone, on Saturday. Picture gets blurred when it is taken on a cellphone of a moving vehicle. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Vacant posts to be filled after resolving legal issues: Sridhar

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

The government is committed to filling all vacant government positions on a regular basis by resolving legal and procedural challenges in the recruitment process, said IT and industries minister D. Sridhar Babu, adding that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had placed special emphasis on filling vacancies in the home department. The minister was addressing the passing out parade of 196 fire

driver operators at the Telangana State Fire Services and Civil Defence Training Institute, Vattinagulapally, Rangareddy district, on Saturday. "The recruitment process, which was stalled for the past decade, has been revived under the lead-

ership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy," the minister stated. Sridhar Babu praised the services of the fire department personnel, particularly their critical role during the floods in Khammam. "Whenever a crisis arises, they step forward with determination to safeguard lives. Their work is exemplary, embodying the spirit of service and brotherhood," he said. Addressing the newly inducted driver operators, who completed a

four-month training programme, the minister congratulated them on their achievement. "As you step into your roles, I urge you to uphold integrity, efficiency and professionalism. Treat the public with respect and fulfill your duties with dedication," he advised. Special chief secretary, home, Ravi Gupta and fire services DG Y. Nagi Reddy, Rajendranagar MLA T. Prakash Goud, MLC B. Dayanand and others were present in the meeting.

VARINA
VARINA will be held today 5th January (SUNDAY) at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Hyderabad. Sampathi Sri Akand saheb will be held at 9.30am. KATHA and KIRTAN from 9.30am to 10.45am followed by Guru Ka Langar.
Inserted by: Sdn & Sd Prithpal Singh Bagga Sdn & Sd Shyam Sunder Narang Sdn & Sd Karan Narang Sdn, Niyati Kaur Bagga Sd, Sukhveer Singh Bagga

5th ANNIVERSARY IN HEAVEN
17th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

DUMPALA SELEENA HELEN
Wife of Late Dimpala Swami Dass
DoB - 04/06/1936 DoD - 05/01/2020
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Late Sri M.V. NARASIMHA RAO
DEAR DADDY
Wishing you a very happy birthday
We miss your words of wisdom and always cherish your memories.
FAMILY
(S2425/D00927)

DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory Of Our Dear Parents

Late. BANDI ESHWARAIH
S/o. Bandi Pochiah
D.O.B: 05-01-1991
Late. BANDI DAMAYANTHI
D/o. K. Rajiah
D.O.D: 27-08-2009
You will always remain in our hearts
Inserted by: Son: Bandi Sai Krishna, Daughter-in-law, Daughter's, Son-in-law, Grand Children's, Bandi Family & Relatives (S2425/D00921)

VARINA

MATA SATWANT KAUR JI BAGGA
W/o. Late Sd Santokh Singh Ji Bagga
Left for Heavenly Abode on 03-5-2024
You are always in our Hearts Guiding us in every moment of our Lives
In grief: Sdn Ravinder Kaur Chhabra (Daughter) Sd Samrajit Singh Chhabra (Son in Law) Sd Simran Singh Chhabra (Grandson) Sdn Komal Kaur Chhabra (Grand Daughter) & CHHABRA Family

Sad Demise

Loretta Teresa Caeiro
Passed away on 1st Jan 2025
RIP dear sweet Loretta.
We miss you.
Friends from 108, 1985 batch, Rosary Convent Hyderabad

10th Day Ceremony

Shri Yogender Jaiswal
S/O Late Jagath Pershad Jaiswal
D O D - 27/12/24
10th Day Ceremony at our Nampally Residence Jagath - Chandra Nivas.
Inserted by Jagath - Chandra parivaar
Contact No: 9985386006/9949037773

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Late Sri M.V. NARASIMHA RAO
DEAR DADDY
Wishing you a very happy birthday
We miss your words of wisdom and always cherish your memories.
FAMILY
(S2425/D00928)

OBITUARY

Shri Ramvallabh ji Fofalia
(S/o Late Sri Devkaran ji Fofalia)
left for the heavenly abode on Saturday 4th Jan. 2025 in Rishikesh
You will be always remembered in our hearts forever
In grief: Fofalia Family
Devkaran Ramvallabh Fofalia (R) Begumpet (O) Seetalamandi (M) 932901878, 984801626

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Heaven is a place of fullness of joy and unending delights. Ps: 16:11

VINOD THALLURI
(BABLAL / VINNY - USA)
S/o Late T.D. Samuel & Vazaleela Thalluri
Join us on Jan 6th at 6pm at the Marriott Convention Centre Tank Bund (Sapphire Ballroom) to celebrate Vinod (Babial, Vinny) Thalluri's Life.
Inserted by: Family Members
Mobile: 8019456969, 9392456223

3rd ANNIVERSARY
"The memory of the righteous is blessed" Prov 10:7

Meesala Anand Jonathan
(Rest. 64)
Three years without you were quite Challenging, but your love remains as a guiding light and brings smiles to all those lives whom you touched during your short stay on this earth.
Profoundly missed by Esther Jonathan (Wife) Vincent Jonathan (Son)

Thanksgiving Service
..whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. Rom 14:8

ANANTA RACHEL BENJAMIN
B/O Late Anantha Benjamin & Late Ganetta Louise Benjamin
(Narasayagudi) W/O Late Sri Ram Singh
Narasayagudi, 25.12.1952 - 1 January 03, 2025
Memorial Service: January 05, 2025 at 7 PM At Wesley Church Parish Hall Musheerabad
Contact: 9849122392, 9000177791

SHRADHANJALI

Sri. SATHYANARAYANA KONERI
Smt&sri .D.Prakash yadav Smt.Neetha Hari pamani
Inserted by: Smt& Dr.Alladi Raj Kumar Smt&sri .D.Prakash yadav Smt.Neetha Hari pamani

VARINA

MATA SATWANT KAUR JI BAGGA
W/o. Late Sd Santokh Singh Ji Bagga
Left for Heavenly Abode on 03-5-2024
You are always in our Hearts Guiding us in every moment of our Lives
Management & Staff: M/s. SUNDAR SINGH CHHABRA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, CHHABRA PROPERTIES CHENNAI, CHHABRA COUNTRY CHICKEN FARMS CHENNAI, FRESH IN THE BOX PVT. LTD.

3rd Death Anniversary
The memory of the righteous is blessed - Prov. 10:7

Late Sri Banda Jaya Prasad Rao
DOB: 25.05.1950 - DOD: 05.01.2022
"Days are passing into years we remember you in silent tears"
Inserted by: Wife, Son, Daughter-in-law and Grand Daughter

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

Late Mr. PEEKA DEVAVARAM
S/o. Peeka Devadass
DOB: 23-08-1945 DOD: 05-02-2024
MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held on 05th JANUARY, 2025 (Sunday) Evening 06:30 pm at Diocesan Office, Secunderabad.
Inserted by: Children, Grand Children, Near and Dear.

12th ANNIVERSARY

Late D. SABITHA DEVI
W/o. Late Sri D.V. Vittal Naidu
DOD: 05-01-2013
Beloved Mother you always live in our hearts.
Inserted by: P. Subhashini & P.V. Ramesh K. Shalini & K.V.V. Prasad B. Vikram Naidu & Swarnalatha D. Vikram Naidu & Shashi Rekha D. Vidur Naidu & Sandhya & Grand Children Ph:984554373 / 9701902998

14th ANNIVERSARY

ASHA RANI BAJAJ
W/o. Late. Shri Gangadhar Bajaj
DOD: 05.01.2011
You left us but your memories are still alive with us today & forever may your soul rest in peace
Inserted by: Son: SUNIL BAJAJ & FAMILY

IN BRIEF

SCR reschedules 2 trains on Jan.5

Hyderabad: South Central Railway has rescheduled two trains on January 5 due to operational reasons. Train 12723 Telangana Express, from Hyderabad to New Delhi, will depart at 9.30 am as per the changed timing. Train 12285 Durgam Cheruvu Express will leave Secunderabad for H. Nizamuddin at the new timing of 4.20 pm on January 5.

Spot counselling for agri varsity

Hyderabad: Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University registrar D. Shivaji announced that spot counselling for filling vacant seats in general and special quotas for agricultural, horticultural, and veterinary (fisheries) degree courses will be held on January 6. Counselling for general quota seats is scheduled at 10 am in the university auditorium at Rajendranagar, followed by special quota counselling at 2 pm. Details on vacancies, fees, and other specifics are available on the university's official website, www.pjtsau.edu.in, Shivaji said.

SHORT TAKES

AAP, BJP FOLLOW SAME IDEOLOGY, ALLEGES OWAIISI

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party led by Arvind Kejriwal was also an offshoot of RSS, like the BJP, and charged that the party's government in Delhi had not opened schools in mohallas where large numbers of minorities live and was instead dumping garbage there.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Owaisi, the Hyderabad MP, opined that the AAP and BJP follow the same ideology. He raised doubts on the way AAP leaders Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia got bail in different cases.

On asking whether the AIMIM would field those who were accused of involvement in the Delhi riots, Owaisi hit back by questioning which party gave tickets to those involved in anti-Sikh riots after the killing of then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

AI TRAINING FOR POLICE IS MUST, SAYS BANDI

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Union minister of state for home Bandi Sanjay Kumar lauded the services provided by the Directorate of Coordination Police Wireless (DCPW) in strengthening the police communication systems. He emphasised the need to introduce special training programs on emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning (ML), internet of things, blockchain and cybersecurity at the Regional Police Wireless Training Institutes across the country.

During his visit to Bengaluru, Sanjay laid the foundation stone for a new hostel block at the DCPW's RPWTI. He said the RPWTI, Bengaluru, founded in 1964, is serving as a nodal agency between police, security forces and disaster management agencies.

MOTHER TONGUE

Organisations worked to safeguard language

Kishan for protecting Telugu

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Despite severe restrictions on the Telugu language during the Nizam era, a number of initiatives by Andhra Mahila Sabha, the Library Movement and other organisations have played a key role in protecting the language and a similar movement must start every home, said Union minister for coal and mines G. Kishan Reddy.



NIZAM IMPOSED restrictions on the Telugu language and made it mandatory to study in Urdu medium in schools. Even in such conditions, a number of organisations worked to safeguard Telugu language.

G. KISHAN REDDY, Minister

Participating in the 12th biennial International Conference of the World Telugu Federation at the HICC, Madhapur, Kishan Reddy pointed out that Nizam had imposed restrictions on the Telugu language and made it mandatory to study in Urdu medium

in schools. Even in such conditions, a number of organisations worked to safeguard the Telugu language. He said that Avadhana Prakriya is a unique feature of poetic performance in the Telugu language. Such uniqueness is found only in Sanskrit and no

other language in the world has such a rare practice. Kishan Reddy pointed out that a number of progressive countries like China, South Korea, Japan, Germany, Italy, Spain and Taiwan, which made rapid development in different sectors, continue to have their mother tongues as

their media of education. However, the use of Telugu has largely stopped from primary education in our Telugu states. Expressing concern over the growing preference for the English language, Kishan Reddy said that the colonial rulers have spread a false impression that English alone provides jobs and development. Many people now hardly use 30 per cent Telugu words in their communication and consider the use of English words as a status. He also pointed out that the Narendra Modi government had given importance to mother tongues in the New Education Policy and started efforts to bring all textbooks in different Indian languages.

Cabinet flags BRS govt's power sector shockers

Govt receives judicial panel report, to punish all involved in PPA

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

The state Cabinet, in its meeting held at the Secretariat on Saturday, deliberated extensively on the findings of a judicial commission, led by retired Justice Madan B. Lokur, official sources said.

The commission's report detailed alleged irregularities in power purchase agreements (PPAs) with the Chhattisgarh government and in the construction of the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant by the BRS regime.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reportedly tabled the judicial commission's report for discussion in the Cabinet meeting. Official sources revealed that the Cabinet has decided to refer the report to the Advocate General for legal opinion. Based on his advice, the state government is expected to initiate action against those implicated in the irregularities.

The commission's report alleged that flawed decisions by the BRS government concerning PPAs and the Yadadri power plant had resulted in substantial financial losses to the state exchequer over the past nine years.

Cabinet members reportedly expressed concern that these irregularities could lead to even greater financial losses if not addressed. The meeting stressed the need for strict action against those identified as being responsible for the financial mismanagement. "This issue must be taken seriously, and those responsible for causing losses to the exchequer should face severe consequences," the Cabinet is said to have agreed.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has decided to rename the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation scheme after the late Union minister S. Jaipal Reddy in recognition of his contributions to the state. The Singur project canal will now bear the name of the late minister Rajanarsimha, father of incumbent minister Damodar Rajanarsimha. To address irrigation challenges in Mahabubnagar



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Dy CM discuss Cabinet decisions on power irregularities, irrigation projects, and water supply schemes on Saturday. —DC

BRS misused public funds: CM

FROM PAGE 1

In addition to these measures, the Cabinet has decided to issue new ration cards to all eligible BPL families, with the distribution also commencing on January 26.

The Chief Minister highlighted the significance of aligning these welfare measures with the Republic Day celebrations, stressing the 75th anniversary of the Constitution as a milestone of justice and equity. He said that Rythu Bharosa assistance will be distributed in two installments — ₹ 6,000 each for the kharif and rabi seasons. This represents a ₹2,000 increase compared to the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

Farmers and landowners are encouraged to voluntarily disclose land converted for non-agricultural purposes to

avoid misuse of public funds, he said.

Revanth Reddy accused the BRS government of mismanagement and misuse of public funds by extending benefits to non-agricultural lands. He stated that lands classified as agricultural in the Dharani portal, despite being converted for other uses, will now be thoroughly audited. Revenue officials will conduct gram sabhas in every village to inform farmers about the lands excluded from the scheme.

Revanth Reddy reiterated his government's commitment to increasing state revenues and ensuring equitable distribution among citizens. "Our policy is to maximise government revenue and use it to uplift the people of Telangana," he stated.

district, the Cabinet approved the constitution of an expert committee to examine alternatives for providing irrigation water from Jurala project to new ayacut areas.

It will assess water availability, explore options for enhancing water usage from existing sources and determine the feasibility of constructing new reservoirs. In a move to secure Hyderabad's long-term water needs, the Cabinet

has approved Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Godavari drinking water supply scheme. The project, which transfers water from Mallannasagar, will now deliver 20 tmc ft of water instead of the previously planned 15 tmc ft, ensuring sufficient drinking water supply for the city in the future. The Cabinet gave its nod to upgrade Kothagudem municipality to a municipal corporation.

HARISH REMINDS CONGRESS OF ₹15K PROMISE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Senior BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao on Saturday charged the Congress government with betraying farmers and cutting down the promised ₹15,000 per acre per year under Rythu Bharosa to ₹12,000 per year.

Harish Rao, in a statement following the announcement of the Rythu Bharosa amount by CM after a Cabinet meeting, said, "During the election campaigns, CM claimed that Congress, once in government, would pay ₹15,000 per acre against ₹10,000 per acre each year that was given by the BRS government." Harish Rao said, "we strongly demand immediate payment of the pending Rythu Bharosa for the rainy season and fulfillment of the promised ₹15,000."

SANJAY ACCUSES CONGRESS OF CHEATING FARMERS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Union minister of state Bandi Sanjay said that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's announcement to provide ₹12,000 to farmers as 'Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa' was wickered as the Congress had, during the Assembly poll campaign, promised ₹15,000 for every farmer and tenant farmer and ₹12,000 to farm workers.

In a statement, Sanjay alleged that cheating people was in the Congress' DNA. "There is no comparison between what the Congress had said in its 'Abhaya Hastham' promise and what is being announced by the CM," Sanjay said. The government owed the Rythu Bharosa amount for the last year wanted to avoid that payment, he said.

Ponguleti promises full funding for 2BHKs

P. SRINIVAS I DC KHAMMAM, JAN. 4

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced on Saturday that the state government would allocate funds to complete the construction of 2BHK houses for poor families.

Accompanied by Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, the minister distributed cheques from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to 106 beneficiaries at his camp office in Kusumanchi.

Speaking at the event, Srinivas Reddy criticised the previous BRS government for leaving many double-bedroom housing projects unfinished despite claiming to prioritise housing for the poor. He said that these projects would be completed by Sankranti and allocated to eligible families.

The minister reiterated that 3,500 Indiramma houses will be allocated to each Assembly constituency in the first phase.

Of the 80 lakh applications received for Indiramma houses statewide, surveys for 64 lakh



Minister for revenue and housing Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy sip tea after inaugurating Indira Mahila Shakthi tea stall at Warangal Cross Road in Khammam on Saturday.

have been completed, with the remaining to be finalised within four days.

Highlighting the Congress government's focus on welfare, Srinivas Reddy stated that upcoming announcements would benefit farmers and reaffirm commitments to women and youth made during the elections. He noted that efforts were being made to avoid financial constraints impacting welfare schemes.

He also emphasised women's empowerment through the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme, aimed at financial self-sufficiency. Encouraging women to leverage government initiatives like loans to become entrepreneurs, he stressed the importance of standing independently.

Earlier, the minister inaugurated an Indira Mahila Shakti tea stall at Warangal crossroads in Khammam.

Revanth orders study to assess risks to temple town

FROM PAGE 1

Revanth Reddy ordered a comprehensive study to assess the risks and propose measures to mitigate future flooding of the temple town.

During the meeting, attended by irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and government adviser (irrigation) Adityanath Das, officials briefed the Chief Minister on another contentious issue — construction of the Godavari-Banakacherla project by the Andhra Pradesh government.

Officials said that the AP government had recently made a presentation of the Godavari-Banakacherla project, which, they said, were being undertaken without proper permissions. They said that this project, which plans to utilise floodwaters, could

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy instructed officials to immediately lodge objections with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary, also directed them to take it up with the Godavari River Management Board.

adversely affect Telangana's water resources and violate inter-state agreements. Reddy instructed officials to immediately lodge objections with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary.

He also directed them to take it up with the Godavari River Management Board and, if necessary, the union ministry of Jal Shakti as a means to safeguard Telangana's interests.

It may be recalled that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had on December

30 unveiled plans for the Godavari-Banakacherla project, a key part of the state's ambitious 'intra-linking of rivers' initiative.

The project, with an estimated cost of ₹80,112 crore, aims to supply drinking water to 80 lakh people and irrigate 7.5 lakh additional acres.

Calling it a "game changer for Andhra Pradesh", Naidu had highlighted the project's potential to transform water infrastructure in the state.

He announced that the detailed project report (DPR) would be completed within three months and tenders called for subsequently.

The initiative, referred to as 'Telugu Thalli Ki Jala Harathi,' symbolises a water offering to Telugu Thalli, aiming to address water scarcity for future generations.

Kayaking at dusk



Kayakers in silhouette practice on the serene waters of Hussainsagar Lake, as the sun sets behind them, creating a picturesque and tranquil scene for onlookers on Saturday. — R. PAVAN

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HIGHLIGHTS
 (Information given below is for general awareness only & legally invalid)
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Category	Description
Type of Entry	Short Service Entry (Technical) (SSC(T)-65) & (SSCW(Tech)-36)
Age	20 and 27 Years as on 01 Oct 2025
Open for	Unmarried Male & Female
Education Qualification	Engineering Degree in notified streams
Acceptable Streams	As listed
How to apply	Apply Online at www.joinindianarmy.nic.in
Application window	07 Jan 2025-05 Feb 2025
Medical Standards/ Examination	as given on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in
Selection Process	Application > Shortlisting > SSB > Medical > Merit List > Joining Letter
Date for publication of cut-off % of marks for Shortlisting	First week of Mar 2025
Likely Duration and dates for SSB	Five day SSB between May- Jul 2025 (choice for SSB dates open for two week in Mar 2025)
Pre Commission Training Academy	Officer Training Academy, Gaya, Bihar
Duration of Training	49 weeks from Oct 2025 to Sep 2026
Stipend during Training	Rs 56,100 per month
Rank after Training	Lieutenant
Salary on Commissioning	CTC approx 17-18 Lac per annum (Excluding Free Medical cover & Travel to Home town once a year)
Type of Commission	Short Service Commission
Minimum Engagement Period	10 Years
Maximum Engagement Period	14 Years
Option for Release	First - After 5 Years, Second - After 10 Years Third - After 14 Years
Option for Permanent Commission	After 10 Years
Primary Arms / Service for Commission	Corps of Engineers, Corps of Signals and Electronics and Mechanical Engineers. Candidates may get commissioned in other Arms/service also.
Release Benefits	Depending on service on release

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DECCAN Chronicle

5 JANUARY 2025



Shashi Warriar

Off the beaten track

How to avoid being spoiled by your AI

Christmas Day dawned bright and pleasant, and, as usual, friends dropped in. First in was a lady, a professor at an architecture school, bearing gifts and worry. She handed me a box of chocolates for my wife Prita and a gift-wrapped rectangular object for myself. "Open it," she said when I looked at my present hesitantly. It turned out to be a book, *Why Nations Fall*.

She's a nice lady, so I knew I was going to try to read the book though it was beyond my pay grade and all. "Are you afraid this country's going to fall?" I asked, wondering whether that was her worry.

I was wrong, as usual. "No," she replied, sitting down. "I worry about the future of teaching and architecture."

"Why?" I asked.

"An essential part of teaching is finding out how much students have learnt from classes," she explained. "The trouble is that I haven't figured out how to ask students to do assignments that they can't get AI tools to do for them, so I don't know how to figure out whether they've learnt anything or not."

I had nothing to offer her except sympathy and a vast ignorance of teaching, AI, and architecture, so I nodded and asked the question that struck me immediately: "Does it matter so much what they've learnt?"

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"If they can get what they need out of an AI program," I said, "that's good enough, isn't it? Does the student have to mug up all that stuff?"

"Look, they're budding architects," she said. "They've got to know something about architecture when they finish their course."

"What does the university tell you?" I asked.

"Nothing useful," she replied. "Maintain the status quo until we tell you otherwise."

I tried another tack. "Isn't it enough that students know how and where to find out what they need to know?" I persisted.

She muttered something under her breath — I think I heard the word "ignoramus" — and began to clench her fists, something people do frequently when talking to me. I've never understood why. "Architects have to know some technical details of architecture to be able to experiment and innovate," she said. After a pause, she added, an edge to her voice. "Besides, depending entirely on AI would make the teaching profession redundant."

Prita, who had been busy in the garden, joined us at this point. "What's going on?" she asked.

Our visitor's fists came unclenched. "We were discussing AI and exams," she said.

Prita looked at me. "And what do you know about AI or her subject?" she asked. "Very little," I said.

"Okay," she said, and turned to the professor and began discussing chocolates and I lost interest. After all, chocolate is meant to be eaten, not discussed.

The professor left soon after. "Why so grim?" Prita asked when she returned after seeing the lady off.

"I've been thinking about AI and what it might do to us," I replied, "and I have no idea!"

"Have you tried any AI programs?" she asked.

"N-no," I stuttered. "I don't know how."

She, too, muttered under her breath. After a moment's thought, instead of clenching her hands, she picked up her cellphone and said, "Let's try it now. There should be an app on the phone. Google said so." She looked at the apps on her phone for a moment, then said, "Here it is!" She showed me the icon on her phone.

"Great!" I said. "I don't have it on my phone. I never installed it."

"You don't have to install it," she said. "Google's done that for you without being told. Look for it."

I looked, and, sure enough, there it was! "I didn't know," I said lamely. "I don't know what these people mean by sneaking apps on to our phones."

"They didn't sneak anything onto your phone," she said. "I told you Google told you so. Pay attention!"

"Right," I said. "How do we find out what it can do?"

"Simple," she said, beginning to clench her fists, "we ask it!"

"Ah!" I said.

She was already making progress. In a firm, clear voice, she said to the app, "What can you do for me?"

After a pause, she continued, "Wow! It says it's good at brainstorming ideas, clarifying tricky concepts, recapping meetings and helping with research! It can even chat!"

"Thank goodness we're retired!" I said, echoing the professor's fears. "Otherwise, it would have made us redundant!"

"Let me see how I can get something out of this," said Prita. "Umm... Yes! I need curtains." She turned to the phone. "Fetch me some good designs for curtains!"

"Sure," said a disembodied female voice with a noticeable American accent. "What kind of designs are you looking for?" It continued, offering some options that I don't remember. Then I remembered that I was supposed to have my medicines and rushed off to find and swallow them, and it took me some time because I have trouble remembering where I leave small things like tablets.

When I got back, I asked, "Did you get any designs?"

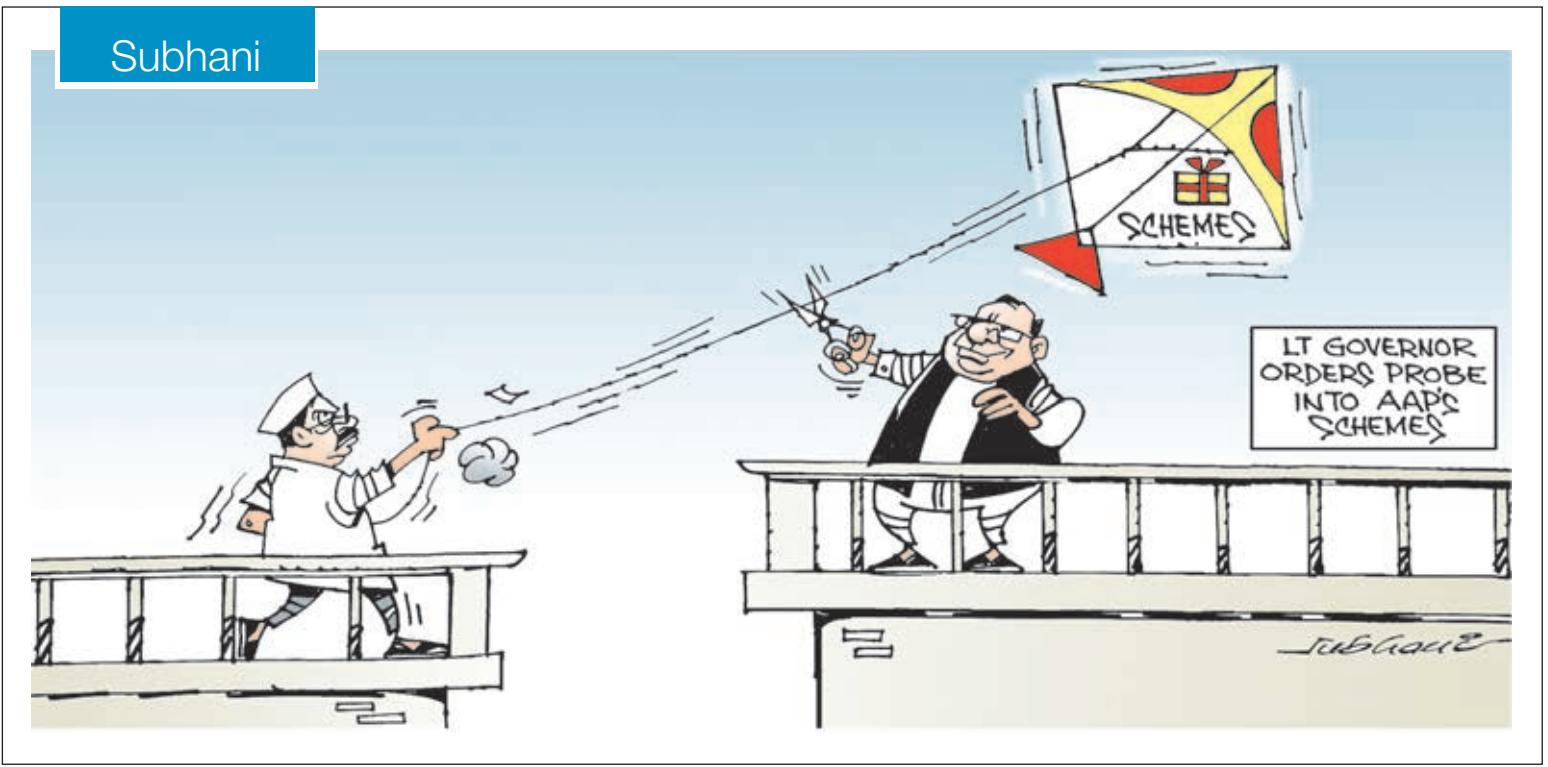
She shushed me with a finger to her lips. Her voice was louder when she spoke to the app. "Give — me — some — designs — for — my — drawing — room — curtains!"

"Would you prefer prints or checks?" asked the app in the same disembodied, emotionless voice.

That was the last straw. "Stop asking questions and give me some designs!" snapped Prita, thumping the table. "Stop talking so much and do something!"

I had only got her clenching her hands. AI had got her thumping the table. AI would not be a problem, I thought, reassured.

Shashi Warriar has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Teaching is his favourite pastime.



Manmohan peaked by 2009, elegantly faded into history



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

In May 2009, just before I was leaving to take over as Ambassador of India to Bhutan, T.K.A. Nair, the powerful principal secretary to Prime Minister (PM) Dr Manmohan Singh, asked to see me. When we met, he came to the purpose of the meeting straightaway. The PM, he said, wanted me to join as his media adviser. Although gratified by the request, I wasn't mentally prepared to take up my new assignment, and I did not want to stay back. With difficulty, I persuaded him to let me leave, promising to suggest a suitable substitute.

By now, the obituaries have been written. Every word of praise for Dr Manmohan Singh is true. A self-made man, from a lower middle-class family, coming as a refugee after Partition, he went on to become one of the world's leading economic academics, with a degree from Cambridge, and a DPhil from Oxford. Appointed finance minister in 1991 by PM Narasimha Rao, he was the architect of India's single biggest economic reforms, boldly dismantling the licence raj era, saving India from imminent sovereign debt default, and setting it on a path of economic recovery whose impact is undiluted even today.

However, in retrospect when I think about it, one of the reasons why I said no to joining him in 2009 — and again when the offer was repeated a year later — was because I realised the difficulties in working for a PM who was hardly his own man in a dispensation where the real power lay, just a short distance away from the PM's residence, at 10 Janpath, where Congress

president Sonia Gandhi lived. Possibly, my assessment today has the unfair benefit of hindsight. It was not as though Dr Manmohan Singh's first term had been unsuccessful. He had, against formidable odds, succeeded in signing the landmark nuclear deal with the USA; the UPA had just won a second term; a new term of five years lay ahead of him; the cover story of a leading magazine had the tagline "Singh is King".

But Singh had peaked by then, and there were troubling straws in the wind. He had his way on the Indo-US nuclear deal, but his persistence did not have the unstinted support of Sonia, who was worried about the survivability of the government, given the unbending opposition of the Left parties, the government's principal allies. In Singh's success, which was partially responsible for the UPA's return to power in 2009, lay the seeds of the problems ahead. Two swords cannot fit into a single sheath; and the sheath did not belong to him.

From 2009 to 2014, the "political paralysis" that gripped the UPA-2 government was largely due to the fact that Manmohan Singh as PM bore the brunt of decisions being made beyond his control. That he could do nothing about it, was part of the compact that made him PM. When in 2004, the UPA unexpectedly came to power, Sonia wisely did not want to become PM herself; Rahul wanted power without responsibility; Manmohan was the acceptable compromise, and for good reasons. Politically, he was not a threat to the Gandhi fam-

ily. He had no political base of any significance himself, having lost in 1999 the only Lok Sabha election he fought from Delhi. He was competent, quietly efficient, unambitious, and could be expected to not assert himself, or become part of any hostile political grouping. The person with perhaps a much higher claim to the job was Pranab Mukherjee, but there was an undeniable trust deficit between him and the Gandhi family. Singh was thus the ideal, most non-controversial, choice from the point of view of the interests of those selecting somebody for the top job. He thus became the beneficiary of unexpected largesse. But it was a conditional gift. He could be PM without the powers to act like one. It was an unsustainable situation.

Under the onslaught of an aggressive BJP led by an ascendant Narendra Modi, the UPA government in its second term lurched from one crisis to another: Unconvincing responses to allegations of scams; weakness against demands for ministerial resignations; the aftermath of the 26/11 terrorist attack and the Sharm-al-Sheikh capitulation on equating India with Pakistan on the issue of terrorism; complete confusion in handling the Anna Hazare movement; economic stasis, and growing unpopularity. By many accounts — also contested by others — the National Advisory Council set up by Sonia Gandhi, became the focus of disproportionate power, with the government forced to adopt many of its deci-

sions, some of which, to be fair, were, good for the country and for governance. The key point, however, was that Manmohan was not his own man, with the powers to run the government unfettered as any PM should. Ever the thorough gentleman, he was akin to the man in the boxing ring who has his hands tied, getting pummelled around, but even so never losing his personal dignity. In this shadow game of one-sided power, visible to all, possibly Dr Singh could have somewhere drawn the line. Personally, I think that when Rahul publicly tore up in 2013 the ordinance passed by the Cabinet, while Dr Singh was away in Washington on an official visit, the good Dr should have said enough is enough, and resigned. The issue was not the ordinance itself — which was possibly undesirable — but the outrageous humiliation of the PM and his government in such an in-your-face and arrogant manner. If Singh had then, indeed, resigned, he would have, in his own self-esteem, and in that of the public at large, become "king" again.

But he did not. After the BJP came to power in 2014, he gradually yet elegantly faded into the sepia pages of history, a spectacle I witnessed in the Rajya Sabha, where, greatly respected, he sat in the front row of the Opposition benches, attended Parliament regularly, but rarely spoke. Perhaps, in his press conference of June 2014, he wrote his own most accurate obituary: "History will be kinder to me than the contemporary media, or for that matter, the Opposition," parties in Parliament. People in public life of the civility and learning of Dr Manmohan Singh are fast becoming an extinct species.

The writer is an author, diplomat and former member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

LETTERS

SPORTS HEADLINES

Your sports page headlines like SCOTTLED, samsUN SHINES, PERTHQUAKE, PROS AND KONSTAS, etc are amusing and interesting. They rouse curiosity among readers.

Bison Mathew Mancheril

CUSTOMS BRIBE

Customs officials have become very rude and they seem to be intimidating passengers. Customs officials getting involved in bribe-taking is condemnable (*Customs inspectors in CBI net over bribe, Jan. 4*). Jewellery weighing around 30 gms is not abnormal and no one carries invoice of what they are wearing.

Amjad Baig Hyderabad

ASSETS OF POLITICIANS

Lifestyles of politicians in office and out of office are so different (*Shabbir: KCR's wealth up by 30 times in 14 yrs, Jan. 4*). Such studies are essential in case of everyone in politics. It would help voters understand values of elected politicians.

G. Siva Rama Krishna Hyderabad

REGULAR BAIL TO ALLU

It is unfortunate that Allu Arjun got bail (*Allu Arjun granted regular bail, Jan. 4*). A family is fully disturbed and the son is still to recover and the children are left with no mother. At this juncture, a person who is responsible for the episode had no courtesy to visit and console the family. He does not deserve any concession.

Dr Malkaiah Hyderabad

SCHOOL FEES

I sincerely hope that Telangana government acts immediately and stops schools from charging exorbitant fees for children admitted to nursery (*Parents seek govt control on fee hikes, Jan. 3*). I would also like to point out that some reputed schools in Hyderabad are paying the teachers poorly.

Sridhar Hyderabad

MANIPUR BURNING

Nero fiddled when Rome was burning (*Subhani's cartoon of January 3 on Manipur*) is reliable to another quote, "Is Paris Burning?"

M.I. Khan Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com.



Anita Katyal Political Gup-Shup

Modi atoning for memorial mess? Why Kejriwal is so kind to priests

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meeting with popular Punjabi actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh is clearly part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's ongoing effort to woo the Sikh community which has repeatedly spurned its overtures. The BJP has failed to make a dent in Punjab even as its neighbouring states have handed out handsome electoral victories to it. Not only was this meeting an attempt to reach out to the Sikh youth, it also had the desired result of creating a rift between Dosanjh and the protesting farmers who felt betrayed by the singer since he has consistently supported their cause. This meeting also comes shortly after the Modi government paid fulsome tributes to the late Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his passing while its top brass turned up for his funeral. Despite going all out in praise of Manmohan Singh, the Modi government found itself on the defensive as it could offer no plausible explanation for holding the late Prime Minister's last rites at the public Nigambodh Ghat and not at the Rashtriya Smriti Sthal which was set up in 2013 on the banks of the Yamuna

river as a common place for the cremation of national leaders. Atal Behari Vajpayee was cremated here in 2018. Finding itself on the backfoot, the government is now working overtime on setting up a memorial for Singh following a request by the Congress.

When the BJP came to power over a decade ago, a senior party ideologue had exultantly declared in an informal conversation with media persons that they would ensure that Jawaharlal Nehru's legacy is completely destroyed and his name erased from public spaces. Among the various steps this government has taken is to rename the Nehru Museum and Library as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library while Nehru's residence, which was converted into a museum, has been dwarfed by a new modern building in the compound housing the new Prime Ministers' Museum. Now there is talk about a move to rename Delhi's popular Nehru Park. According to the Delhi grapevine, an official committee has been set up to zero in on a new name, preferably in the memory of RSS leaders like Veer

Savarkar and Deendayal Upadhyaya. This is actually a minor issue as compared to the highly effective campaign being run by the BJP to devalue Nehru's work through the use of social media and agenda-driven writings of right-wing writers and columnists.

The Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party is anxiously awaiting the names of candidates for the upcoming Assembly polls, especially as the Election Commission is expected to announce the election schedule very soon. While hectic lobbying is underway for the prized ticket, a guessing game is on about who will eventually make the cut. The latest speculation is that as in the case of other states, the BJP will field several former MPs in what promises to be a fiercely-contested battle. Smriti Irani, Meenakshi Lekhi, Parvesh Verma and Ramesh Bidhuri are among those whose names are doing the rounds. In fact, Mr Verma has virtually launched his campaign by reaching out to women voters and organising a bhandara at Delhi's well-known Hanuman Mandir. Smriti Irani, it is said, has

abandoned Amethi and enrolled as a voter in Delhi though the BJP insists these are rumours spread by the Aam Aadmi Party.

Meanwhile, the ongoing battle between political rivals, Bharatiya Janata Party and the Aam Aadmi Party has taken a fresh turn after former Delhi chief minister announced that his government would pay Delhi's temple priests and gurdwara granthis a monthly salary of Rs 18,000 if elected back to power. While the BJP has hit out at Mr Kejriwal, saying these freebies will put a strain on the exchequer, AAP insiders had their own explanation. According to them, this was in response to reports that the Delhi government's Religious Committee, currently headed by lieutenant governor V.K. Saxena, had ordered the demolition of temples in the capital as a precursor to branding the AAP as "anti-Hindu". Mr Kejriwal, it was said, pre-empted the BJP move by announcing salaries for priests and granthis even though this scheme could prove to be non-starter as no criteria has been laid down to identify the

priests who will be entitled to this salary.

As Congress members await the long overdue organisational reshuffle, quiet moves are on to push for the replacement of key office-bearers like K.C. Venugopal known for his proximity to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. Instead of running a direct campaign against them, which often proves counter-productive, it is being argued that general secretaries who have completed five years in office should be either moved out or given a fresh assignment. According to them, the 2022 Udaipur Declaration adopted by the Congress had laid down that no one will hold an organisational post for more than five years. Pro-changers are feeling hopeful after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's address at the Belagavi meeting of the party's working committee where he reiterated that the Udaipur Declaration will be implemented.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist

IN BRIEFS

Aramghar flyover opening on Jan. 6

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the Aramghar flyover, the second longest in the city, on Monday. The 4.04-km flyover is bi-directional with six lanes. The longest flyover in the city is the 11-km PVNR Expressway. The Aramghar flyover, costing ₹736 crore, connects Aramghar to the Nehru Zoological Park. It is intended to ease traffic flow at six major junctions — Aramghar, Shastripuram, Kalapathar, Darul Uloom, Shivrampally and Hassannagar.

SCB DISMANTLING HOARDINGS ON ROOFTOPS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

The Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) on Saturday intensified efforts to dismantle rooftop hoardings, in view of safety concerns and urban aesthetics. The decision to prohibit rooftop hoardings was first introduced in 2023, following growing apprehensions about the risks they pose, particularly during severe weather conditions. The board said the move aligned with the regulations enforced by the GHMC. Despite initial notices to property owners and multiple deadlines, compliance remained low, forcing the SCB to extend timelines and renew its campaign. Legal challenges from property owners temporarily slowed the process, but the Telangana High Court upheld the board's authority. Back then, over 160 property owners were issued notices, yet the response was inadequate, prompting the SCB to engage specialised agencies for the dismantling process. While some expressed concerns over revenue loss from advertising, public sentiment largely favoured the SCB's initiative, recognising its importance in maintaining safety and regulating development.

Become tech-savvy, Tharoor tells teachers

Congress' LS MP meets 200 principals of CBSE schools

MRITTIKA BANERJEE | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Congress MP and writer Shashi Tharoor on Saturday described artificial intelligence (AI) as a tool that could transform education while underlining the importance of retaining a humane touch, especially in teaching.

"AI is the future, and we must learn to use it wisely," he said. Students are already quite advanced as regards to technology and thus, educators too must upskill themselves, he said, while adding, "Technology should not replace humanity." Tharoor was in the city where he addressed two gatherings.

He spoke about education, artificial intelligence and leadership.

He engaged with over 200 principals of CBSE-affiliated schools from six Gulf nations at the 37th Gulf Sahodaya principals' conference and later spoke at



Congress MP and writer Shashi Tharoor takes a selfie during his whirlwind visit to the city on Saturday. — DC

the IIMUN Hyderabad on politics, reading and communication.

The CBSE Gulf Sahodaya conference, organised by the Oman Chapter, brought school leaders from the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Some principals raised questions about using AI, including for inclusivity, particularly for students with special needs. Tharoor acknowledged its potential to build confidence and create equality, but said that it could not replace traditional teaching methods.

His address was titled, 'Emerging Role of School Leadership in the AI Era'.

Later in the day, Tharoor addressed over 1,000 students at Johnson Grammar School during the IIMUN Hyderabad conference.

He encouraged the young participants to view politics as a way to serve society and spoke about his belief that true leadership came from a sense of responsibility.

Tharoor spoke on his passion for reading, explaining how books shaped his worldview and helped him develop critical thinking.

He marked the occasion, by introducing his books, 'Battle of Ideas' and 'Wonderland of Words' during the session and spoke about the importance of language and communication. To engage students, he conducted a vocabulary activity, inviting them to explore different words.



A mandal revenue officer and GHMC officials conduct inspections on Saturday, ahead of demolition works by HYDRAA at Nacharam. — DC

HYDRAA inspections in Serilingampally mandal

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath on Saturday inspected an illegal building in Ayyappa Society, Khanamet village, Serilingampally mandal. The building, constructed on a 684-square-yard plot, includes a cellar, ground floor and five additional floors.

Despite GHMC notices and High Court orders,

the construction continued, prompting complaints from local residents to HYDRAA.

Acting on these complaints, the HYDRAA commissioner, along with revenue and GHMC officials, conducted a site visit and reviewed the GHMC's cause notices and the High Court's orders, which had declared the construction illegal.

GHMC issued a show cause notice on February 14, followed by a speaking

order on February 26. On April 19, the High Court reiterated that the building was illegal and directed authorities to take action.

Based on these directives, GHMC partially demolished the illegal structure on June 13. The building construction resumed, disregarding the orders of both GHMC and the High Court. Local officials highlighted these violations to the commissioner during his visit.

Governor wants youth to preserve culture

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma stressed the importance of preserving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage, especially amongst the younger generation.

He recalled his association with Spic Macay (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) in transforming the youth to connect with the heritage for almost half a century.

He was speaking at an advisory board meeting of the organisation at Raj

Bhavan here on Saturday. Spic Macay will hold its tenth international convention at Indian Institutes of Technology Hyderabad from May 26 to June 1.

Prof. B.S. Murthy, Director, Indian Institutes of Technology Hyderabad, said the series would feature artists who had won the nation's highest civilian honours.

Spic Macay founder Dr Kiran Seth shared the conceptual idea for creating an ashram-like atmosphere at the convention. He noted the strong connection between science and music, citing eminent

scientists like Albert Einstein, German theoretical physicist Max Planck, renowned Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman who were classical music practitioners.

Lakshmiwalli Kona, convener, said the convention aimed to bring together thousands of students, artistes and cultural enthusiasts from across the world.

The advisory board discussed the logistics, programme structure and strategies to expand Spic Macay's activities globally by involving international universities and cultural institutions.



Governor Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurates the poster of Spic Macay's (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) 2025 international convention in the city on Saturday. — DC

GHMC INAUGURATES FOUR WORKS, LAYS STONE FOR 2 MORE IN K'BAD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

The GHMC inaugurated four works and laid the foundation stone for two more in the Khairatabad zone on Saturday. They include, junction improvement at Taj Krishna junction (₹11.5 lakh), another opposite GVK mall (₹12.75 lakh), an amphitheatre inside Jalagam Vengala Rao Park (₹25 lakh) and an installation of Cheriya art (₹1.96 lakh) at the junction near

FOUNDATION STONES were laid for a CC road near Nandinagar, Banjara Hills Road No. 14, (₹145.8 lakh) and another near Brahma Kumaris Rajyoga Meditation Centre (₹148 lakh).

KBR park. Foundation stones were laid for a CC road near Nandinagar, Banjara Hills Road No. 14, (₹145.8 lakh) and another near Brahma Kumaris Rajyoga Meditation Centre (₹148 lakh).

Investing with Bulls on Social media?

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INDEX

INDEX

INDEX

INDEX

INDEX

INDEX

INDEX

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INDEX

INDEX

INDEX

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KONDAPUR, NEAR Indira Vija city, first floor and second floor 3000 sq ft each, car parking, built without any walls for sale. Ph:9866105059 (HY/24/25/C04730)

HEART OF Hyderabad City, Kott, Bank street, Main road facing 600 Sq. Ft. Commercial property, 20 yards undivided land, lower ground floor is for sale. Ph:9866105059 (HY/24/25/C04730)

OFFICE SPACE of 415 sq ft at a commercial complex for sale with all utilities & parking @ Lakdi ka pul- main road Ph:9052241823, 703228252 (HY/24/25/C04908)

MADHAPUR PRIME Leased Property A-Grade Office space. Located at Sarifulla, 1200 Sq.Ft, 6003 Sq Ft for Sale. Rate 17K per Sq Ft negotiable. Interested buyers Contact: 9866105025. (A/24/25/C00650)

COMMERCIAL SPACES for sale/lease and pre leased commercial spaces available for sale in Jains Balaji Bldg at Sarifulla, Malabar Road, Secunderabad. Ph.No: 9715874874 (HY/24/25/C05141)

MASAB TANK Shantinagar nearby Hockey ground old G+1 independent house, 1000 sq.yds., east facing for sale. Contact: 9349692763 (HY/24/25/C05177)

2000 SFT commercial property available for sale in Nanakramguda/financial district area, ph:9866105025 for more details. (HY/24/25/C05063)

SECRETARIAT TARAMDAD 2nd floor ground floor, North facing, 2 car parking, owner selling. Contact: going USA. Contact: 9702607071, 9845615966. (B/24/25/C00572)

COMMERCIAL SPACE for sale 3100 sq ft third floor fully furnished prime location paradise circle, Jade Acres Secunderabad with for more details Ph:384410026. (HY/24/25/C04974)

COMMERCIAL SPACE fully provisional and furnished, 1st floor OYO Rooms with AC, 2 car parking, 2nd floor with 5500 Sft, open space with shed 5500 Sft provision for net Cricket. Ample parking with Lift facility. Address: Secunderabad. Mobile: 7995250168, 9866133532. (S/24/25/C02130)

SOMADHURA PRAGATHI Chamber's lawyer ground floor shop for sale 710 sq ft suitable for computers, trading, shop opposite Chennai trading centre. Contact: 9845722939, 9391061287. (HY/24/25/C05240)

HUDA APPROVED Commercial Plot 5000 Sq. Ft. 2nd floor. 1200 Yards Open Plot for Sale at Thimmaipally adjacent to Petrol Pump. Rate 250000/- Negotiable. Contact: 9845722939, 9391061287. (HY/24/25/C05240)

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FOR SALE office space 2000 sq ft with cabins on somajiguda main road above coffee in VV Vintage apartment. Contact: 9399991810 (HY/24/25/C04799)

SOMAJIGUDA RAJ Bhavan road 755 sq.ft. 2nd floor. 1200 Yards Open Plot for Sale at Thimmaipally adjacent to Petrol Pump. Rate 250000/- Negotiable. Contact: 9845722939, 9391061287. (HY/24/25/C05240)

COMMERCIAL SPACE for sale @ Somajiguda. Grand 110 Sport, 2015, MT, Reg. 69 879. BS5, 110 Magna. 2012, MT, White, Km 68.62, BS4. Wagon R, 2020, MT, Silver, Km 40.016. Contact: 9100012697, 9666919000. (S/24/25/C02097)

COMMERCIAL SPACE for sale @ Somajiguda. Eon D Lite+, 2014, MT, Km 82.655. Magnite, XV Premium, 2023, MT, Km 10.038. Magna, XV, 2023, CVT, Km 12.161. Micro, XL, 2012, MT, Km 35.000. BS4. Magnite, XL, 2021, Km 75.000. Magnite, XV, 2021, Km 65.000. Swift VXi, 2019, Km 4.000. Contact: 9100012697, 9666919000. (S/24/25/C02101)

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2 BHK corner and road facing flat for sale at Gachibowli, behind Radisson Hotel on DLF road, at 1140 sq ft. Parking. Rented to hostel. Water & electricity mths. Call: Ph:949554400. (HY/24/25/C04353)

ASMGADH- SAIDABAD- Adjacent lane. Capital Hotel- Sai Sundaram Opposite to Holy Mother Grammar School- 2 BHK Flats of 1108 Sft, work commenced. Contact: 9000204280. (A/24/25/C00641)

2 BHK Flat on 7th floor, near parklane (Secbad) for sale/ rent. Poss. by 1st Feb. 25. Genuine buyers only. Contact: 9948121763, 9885359923. (HY/24/25/C04952)

JUBILEEHILLS, 2 BHK, east facing, 1500 sq ft, semi furnished, 2nd floor with car parking, lift, 24 hours water, Apollo hospital back side road, 986, 1 hills. Ph:9550151919 (HY/24/25/C04986)

KATEDAN, RAJENDRA Ngr 980 sq ft 2 BHK, 25. Genuine buyers only. Prestigious gated community Rs. 50 L Ph:8331021107, 9440201771. (HY/24/25/C05023)

HIGH RISE apt, Kavajiguda 2 BHK, 3nos, 3 BHK- 1no Sai Sadan SBI colony, Gandhinagar, 2 BHK, 2nos. Ph:9866651350 (HY/24/25/C04976)

FLAT FOR Sale 1150 Sft, Fully furnished. Parking 200 Sft, Two year Old. Achantanites Anand Nagar Colony, Khairatabad, Hyderabad. Contact: 8919889986, 9000112347. (A/24/25/C00623)

KOMPALLY 2&3 BHK Flats 920-2048 in gated community near Sachu (Jaswani International School, Jayabher colony, 5000/- sq feet. Ph:9000995416. (HY/24/25/C04929)

MADHAPUR THREE bedroom deluxe semi furnished with all amenities flat for sale flat no.17, Pioneer Plaza, Megha Hills. Contact: 9550237706 (HY/24/25/C04933)

READY TO Occupy new 3 bhk 1575 sq ft, super deluxe flats for sale at Madhapur. Nacharam. Rathi constructions Mahesh. 9848577552, 6302946914 (HY/24/25/C05232)

SHANTI Nagar, Masab Tank luxurious new 3 bhk flat for sale. 1500 sq ft in prime location with premium amenities, 100% vaastu, spacious car parking & ample water. Ph: 9849245768. (HY/24/25/C05329)

3 BHK For Sale, 4th floor, 1436 sq ft. Masab tank area. Fitted wardrobe, 2nd floor with 1700 sq ft of community hall. 55 Lacs. WhatsApp:9177701137 (W/24/25/AT000795)

NALLAGANDLA 2 & 3 bhk flats for sale prime location, ready to occupy in a month, owner moving abroad ph: 8688811491 (HY/24/25/C05199)

NALLAKUNTA, SHIVAM road new 3 BHK 1647 sq ft north & east facing flat for sale @ prime location. Contact: 939339594. (HY/24/25/C04992)

ANANDRAMPADA, SUMADHURA Acropolis, flat no.g-03, ground floor, east facing, 1700 sq ft of community hall. 2 car parking for sale. Ph:936629958. (HY/24/25/C05130)

BEAUTIFUL 3 bhk flat fully furnished in posh Nandagiri hills overlooking KBR park having balconies with sunrise and sunset view. 2300 sqft west facing. Only serious buyers contact 958193240. Stricly no brokers. (HY/24/25/C05045)

NARSINGI, TELLAPUR gated community with all amenities ready to occupy 3 bhk flats for sale. Contact: 9703066669 (HY/24/25/C05202)

PADMARAO NAGAR, OC received, no GST, luxury flats for sale 3 bhk, 1550 to 2150 sq ft, west facing, north, 100% vaastu, 12 floor building, 30+ ultra modern amenities. Ready to handover. GR discount offer ph: 9849016805. (HY/24/25/C04902)

3BHK FLAT at c-6/503 Sanskriti township near Pocharam, infosis near Durgam Cheruvu. High water contact: 9440476684/ 9550163401 (HY/24/25/C05239)

READY TO move in apartments @ Saibaba colony 2.5 & 3 bhk apartments, 100% vaastu compliant modern and quality construction. Last flat in the colony. Call on 9076767606 for details (HY/24/25/C05144)

4 BHK luxury flat 3rd floor. P-213, Attapur 2400 sqft, 5425 sq ft lift facility. Lift, AC, wardrobe, 2 car parking. Call: 63015 89098 (HY/24/25/C05066)

BANJARAHILLS NEAR JubileeHills semi finished 1680 sq ft total 2 car parking, near to 10500/-, east/ facing. Ph:7675091500 (HY/24/25/C04998)

ADIBATAB 2 & 3 BHK flats for sale, price 2.999 including amenities & car parking, near to TCS, Foxkon & Tata Aerospace, adjacent to ORR, 5 acres gated community. Call: 9849245768. Email: kattaakumar1975@gmail.com. Ph:9346095149 (HY/24/25/C04917)

3 BHK Flat Ashoknagar 1350 Sft, 3 Balconies, 2 Toilets, Pujja room, 2 ACs, 1 Geyser, ample storage cupboard. 2 car parking, high water, car parking. No common walls. UDS 60Sq Yds, 23 Years old. Contact: 9048602769, 9246155823 (W/24/25/AT000795)

ABIDS 1980 sq ft super deluxe full furnished 3 bhk & 2 car parking, 2 car parking, near to 10500/-, east/ facing. Ph:7675091500 (HY/24/25/C04998)

ADIBATAB 2 & 3 BHK flats for sale, price 2.999 including amenities & car parking, near to TCS, Foxkon & Tata Aerospace, adjacent to ORR, 5 acres gated community. Call: 9849245768. Email: kattaakumar1975@gmail.com. Ph:9346095149 (HY/24/25/C04917)

3 BHK East Facing Apt for sale in Banjara Hills 2150 Sft. Car Parking 4th Floor with Swimming Pool, Gym and all Amenities. Contact between 10am to 9pm. 799222012 (A/24/25/C00651)

RESIDENTIAL 3 bhk flat for sale @ BanjaraHills rd#13, near Saibaba temple, Dwarapark colony, built up area 3000 sq.ft, east facing, 2 car parking, price 3.20cr. Call for details 9000004874. (HY/24/25/C05216)

BANJARAHILLS -road no.14, near KBR Park, Swarna Heavens, opposite S.N Reddy colony, 2000 sq ft, super deluxe flat for sale, 2400 sq ft, 2 car parking, semi furnished, ready to occupy Ph:7075203999. (HY/24/25/C05015)

BANJARAHILLS 4 BHK, deluxe, 3,700 sq. ft. flat for sale, very prime area, 99% vaastu, car parking, near to malls near Durgam Cheruvu. Ph:9885025441. (HY/24/25/C05001)

BANJARAHILLS, ROAD no2 sagar colony, 110 sq.ft, 2406 sq.ft, 2nd floor full power backup 3bhk marble flooring all interiors done. Including modular kitchen, with 3acs and 3geysers. 77.15 sq.ft. 2406 sq.ft. share all leak doors and windows extra large. 1 parking is also included in Price. Ph: 9849045891 (HY/24/25/C05056)

34TH FLOOR, 3 bhk, 1746 sq.ft, prestige high rises, financial district, 2.1 cr, immediate sale. Contact, owner directly: 7660951982 (HY/24/25/C04057)

JUBILEE HILLS Road No:14 4BHK Flat East Facing 4200 sq ft with 175 yds of Servant's Quarter Road Occupancy. Gated Community. Ph:9866342654. (HY/24/25/C05023)

ANANDNAGAR COLONY, Khairatabad, Premium Apartments, under Construction 5 Units, Single Unit per Floor, 3 BHK, 2313 Sft, Car parking, with Multipurpose 37000 GYM. Contact: 798936344, 9866939993. (A/24/25/C00649)

BRAND NEW 4 bhk duplex flat in Lanco Hills, Khajajuda, Manikonda. This 4358 sq.ft. ground and first floor villa like feel home features a double height living area, marble staircase, internal lift provision, servant room with washroom, and mini gym. Serious buyers, contact/ whatsapp 9959591419 (HY/24/25/C05176)

KOKAPAT GOLDENMILE Road flat near Allu Studios Luxurious 3BHK 2BHK, 2nos. Ph:9866651350 (HY/24/25/C05193)

HMDA & RERA: luxurious 3 BHK (1600 sq-ft -2035 sq-ft) fully gated community flats @ Cineplannar road, Kompally, Hyd. Possession by Dec 2025. Mob: 8074300286 (HY/24/25/C04647)

BRAND

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

PRIME BUILDING for lease/rent area 22,000 sq.ft. cellar+ground+4 floors lift access available...

INDEPENDENT HOUSE Ground plus two floors, plinth area 1200 sq.ft. parking area with garages @ Durga Bai Deshmukh Colony...

BANJARA HILLS Road No 2, Premium Ground Floor 7023 sft Retail space for Lease 9701740879

KAMALAPURI CLY Banjara Hills Main Road Grd Flr 2500 Sft Rs.62,500/- and 2nd Flr 1250 Sft Rs.37,500/- Suitable for Office/Showroom Call 991211011

OFFICE-SPACE @ BanjaraHills, 4000 sft, semi-furnished, cabins, wash, toilet, floor, lift, car parking, rent. Suitable for IT, architecture, construction, corporate offices...

COMMERCIAL SPACE 1500 Sft for rent at BanjaraHills, Road No.1, Just 5th Building from Main Road, Rent 1 lac. Negotiable. Ph:9848110768

ROAD NO. 3, BanjaraHills: ind ground floor, 2000 sft, office/commercial space rent on Nagarjuna Circle, chutneys lane, 70,000/- pm. Ph:9849254077

BEQUEST 15000 sft, area available at SP Road in Ashoka My Home Complex, Amberpet, Hyderabad. Ph:9949833484

SCHOOL FOR Lease/ Rent A running recognized, High School (English) with 150 students is for lease/rent in the old city at Shahgunj, near Charminar, Hyd. The interested school management can contact 9859178051

SHED For rent at hasmathpet inside Anjalpet, nagar beside bownapally market yard. Secunderabad,900 yards, 5800 sft, Patnam Swamy Narsama Goud estate. Ph:7702539769

2 SHUTTER area 1300 sft in ground floor rent suitable for godown, cargo, vehicle, transport, etc. transport road, sec-bad. 7671960858

COMMERCIAL SPACE for rent 8200 sft, 65 HP Power, Phase-I, IDA, Jeedimetla, 6000 sft open area. Suitable for Warehouse. Ph:9849415660

JUBILEE HILLS 1400 yds 5 BHK south east 6 car parkings. Commercial use rent 5 lakhs. Narsing colony. Ph:9949169535

JUBILEE HILLS 5 BHK independent. Banjara Hills. 1000 to 4000 sq ft building, Madhapur 5000 sq ft building rent, suitable for corporate office, school, company, ping me @ 8125066001

AVAILABLE RENT Godown 8000 Sq.Feet (G+1) Suitable for Industries, Warehouse, Distribution, etc. Contact Center at Rasoolpura, Begumpet. Interested Parties Contact: 9246597374

COMMERCIAL OFFICE spaces available for rent in a premium location. Available in either bare shell or fully furnished. Contact: 8121285678

FURNISHED UNFURNISHED Offices space available @ Kondapur, Main Road, Near Kinara Hospital 1000 to 4000 sq ft. Contact: 8885531468

EXCELLENT TWO-SIDE main road facing Ground Floor space suitable for Banks with Locker room, ATM room and ample parking available for rent in Vijayanagar area. Kukatpally, Hyderabad. Call: 9640341310

RENT/ LEASE godown/warehouse/ industrial shed/ logistic etc about 25 km Mehdiapattam Hyderabad about 15000 sq feets near Moinsabad. Contact: 9910196686

COMMERCIAL OFFICE Space for rent at first floor, 3500 Sft and 1500 Sft at Mettuguda main road above Canara Bank with car and bike parking. Contact: 7790971991

MOOSPAT 6300 sft 1st & 2nd floors building & 4200 sft shed mainroad 2nd bit available. Contact: Ph:9006286239

A Newly constructed warehouse shed available located on Durgam main road, includes ground and mezzanine floors with flooring, six restrooms, ample parking, and a double height space total area 21,100 sq ft. Contact: 9959591419

TWO BEDROOM 1250 Sq.Ft 4th Floor East Face with Lift, 24hrs Water, Wardrobes, Car Parking and Bikes. Beside NIMS Hospital, Business, IT Center, Secunderabad. Ph:990817560

RENT/ LEASE G+ 4 floors for commercial and hotel. Near Saaba temple Dwarakapuri Colony Punjagutta. Contact: 9652036661

TILAK ROAD commercial space for rent G+3 floors two shops main road Ramkrishna prime location area 1 floor 800 sq ft. Ph:9848539037

OFFICE SPACE 1469 Sq.Ft @ Rs.50/- Sft, 4th Floor, Vaishnava's Krishna Grandeur, Ranginji, Secunderabad. 24/7 Amenities, Lift, Power, Parking, Water. Ph:990817560

OFFICE SPACE 1950 Sft, 5-4-23/309. Distillery road, 1st floor, Bhavan, Ranginji prime property with 24/7 amenities, water, power, parking. Contact: 990817560

PRIME LOCATION S.R.Nagar & Balkampet, 8000 Sft. Part time timings: 3pm to 10pm. Preferable Education Institutions, Study Rooms, Spoken English. Ph:939322238

WAREHOUSE, GODOWN, Store any Purpose for Rent, 4500 Sft at Shadnagar Mandal, Farooq Nagar after Raikar Toll Plaza. Opp Surya Joythi Company. Contact: 9949737575

VENTAGE LINE 3rd floor, shop No. 306, 2202 Sft on Sun City, abutting Sun City Main road, Bandlaguda Jagti Municipality, having Zudio Starbucks and other commercial shops in first & 2nd floors. Contact: 985921602

PRIME OFFICE space for rental 1st floor 1500 sft at Barabagh, lower Tank bund. Contact: 9177785904

VIDYANAGAR MAIN road, ground floor, three shops, each shop 450 sft, rent each shop 40000/-

4500 SFT open space and 1500 sft with furnature for rent at jagadamba in Visakhapatnam call: 8374816236

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

RESIDENTIAL FLAT Prime Location, Fully furnished, 1600 Sft, Locality: Sri Chakra Avenues, Alwal, Amenities 24/7 Lift, Power, Separate Parking, Water. Ph:990817560

TWO BHK Car Garage Rental at Snehapuri Colony, Tarnaka Office, Secunderabad. Ph:990817560

AC GUARDS 2 bhk, semi furnished with ac's built wardrobes, kitchen cabinets well ventilated @ 4th floor, metro class apartment, income tax tower road. Contact: 6303505586

SECUNDERABAD, EAST Marredpally, Teachers Colony, Two Bedroom, 2500 sq ft, 2 units, 24 hrs water, 2500/-, pm. Ph:9440049541

2 BHK and 1 BHK Flat available on 1st floor at A.G.Arcade, Transport Road near Diamond point, Secunderabad. Contact: 9391290875

THREE & MORE

3 BHK flat available at Manikonda Bayouth colony, Alkapur road with all amenities. Fr family residence. Contact: 9849771108

BANJARAHILLS/SRINAGAR Colony: Fully Furnished 3 Bed Rooms BHK Flats for Families @ 75,000 (Doctors Employees). Contact: 9391290875

BANJARA HILLS Road No.13, 5 BHK Independent House rent 3 Lakhs. GMR Trends @ 4 BHK 2 Lakhs. Banjara Hills, Contact: 9849771108

BANJARAHILLS ROAD No.13, 5 BHK Independent House rent 3 Lakhs. GMR Trends @ 4 BHK 2 Lakhs. Banjara Hills, Contact: 9849771108

BANJARAHILLS prime residential area 3 floors 3 BHK+ attach bathroom+ powder room, each floor 1 flat total G+3 floors, brand new flats & interiors, Contact: 9849771108

BANJARAHILLS 5 BHK independent. Banjara Hills. 1000 to 4000 sq ft building, Madhapur 5000 sq ft building rent, suitable for corporate office, school, company, ping me @ 8125066001

DELUXE 3 BHK N/E Corner, Domalguda, Vaastu adheer, 2 attached, one common toilet, wash area, balcony, Contact: 9849771108

TO-LET 3 bed room flat 2nd opp Chaitanya College south Kamala Nagar ECIL, Meenakshi apartment. Ph:9160112801

JUBILEE HILLS: fully furnished, beautiful 3 bhk luxurious lift rent, kitchen, cooker, cutlery, glass, Contact: 9849771108

KOMPALLY 3 BHK Semi-furnished Flat, Modular Kitchen, 2 Car Parking, all amenities, Subishi Gowtham, Minerva Grand, Kompally. Call: 9704824618

KONDAPUR, GATED, 3 bkh, 2380 sft, 2 parkings, luxurious, fully furnished car modular kitchen, gated, PGAs. 7799168174

WEST MARREDPALLY, East Marredpally & Mahendra Hills, 2, 3 & more bedrooms flats, independent houses & villas for rent. Contact: 9394098924

3 BEDROOM flat, west facing, semi furnished, gym, children play area, walking track, aduty to Hyderabad university compound, corner flat, fully vastu features, 1645 sqft for rent in Vijayodaya colony, Nallagandla. Contact: 9490168682

TARNAKA KIMTEE Colony, 3 BHK, 2380 sq ft, 2nd floor, 3 Floor Independent new building fully furnished for Rent/ Lease. Contact: 9440893653

FLAT in Prime Location, East Facing Semi Furnished 3 BHK Flat Area 2700 Sq.Ft in West Marredpally, Contact: 990817560

FINANCIAL DISTRICT, 3 bhk, fully furnished, 2133 sq.ft with all amenities in a posh gated community. Suitable for companies lease. Contact: 9849271600

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

SINGLE BEDROOM

DR.A.S.RAO NAGAR, MIG-A 23 single bedroom portion on the ground floor available for rent with spacious frontage, Manjera & bore water contact: 916006686

DOUBLE BEDROOM

1500 SFT 2 BHK ground floor with shelves in gated colony, 24/7 water at D.R.A.S.Rao Nagar, Hi-Tension line, Kpra, ECIL contact: 9999691220

THREE & MORE

JUBILEEHILLS VVIP location newly built renovated interiors perfect natural vastu, 550 yds 5.600 sft, (4+3) 7 bhk, 2- unit's fresh airy, granite, duplex house, 2- servant, families, office cum Contact: 9849771108

BANJARA HILLS house for rent 3000 sq.ft, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, also parking, opposite Brinova hospital, road no.12, Banjara Hills, rent RS.1,30,000/- PM. neg. Call: 9391040063

3.5 BHK fully furnished villa, chandrabagar, immediately available. Ph:9392468058

GACHIBOWLI- 3 bkh, semi-furnished independent first floor house (ef) for rent with lift, in G.O'S Colony, Phase-1, Financial District. Contact: 93911 62666

SAFILGUDA Near Krupa Complex BHK Ground Floor, 100% vastu, West Face, 24hrs Water, Carp Parking, 22000/- per month. Ph:7702499000

BRAND NEW 4 BHK, 5 bath, G+2 villa with servant quarter have more than 4000 sq ft built up area and more than 1300 sq ft lawn and plants located in Green Dale villa, Rajapushpa, Telapur Hyderabad. Contact: 9246101799

MULTIPLE INDP HOUSES

AT EAST Marredpally 2 bhk 1200 sft ground floor 120,000 and at Mahendra Hills 3 bhk 2000 sft 1st floor 135,000/ with cupboards both drinking water and bore well provided. Contact: 9949992978

INDUSTRIAL SHEDS

WAREHOUSE, COMMERCIAL space available for Lease/ Rent at Gandi Maisamma, Narsapur Road very close to C.O Ring Road. 5 Durdigal suitable for Commercial space, Warehouse, Godown, Cold store, Software Companies & many more with all amenities 100% parking & with all amenities 100% as per Vastu. Contact: 9246566156

SHED For Lease. Shed area 9200 Sq.Ft & R.C.C 4500 Sq.Ft Office Building facing 100 feet Main Road in Prime Location, 1963 Sq.Yards in Hyderabad, 4kva Power, Borewell Manjera Water, DG Set, Lift 30 ton EOT Crane Etc. Ph:990817560

WAREHOUSES KOMPALLY NCL north avenue opposite apple hospital 25, 28 sqft 3 nos 5000-2 nos 8000 in ground floor 45 sqft 6000- nos 8000- 2 nos in first floor rent Rs 23 sqft 955399903

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING for rent (non pharma) aleap industrial area Pragathi Nagar 1st floor 3000 sft with 25 HP Power. Contact: 9949867111

REQUIRED

WANTED SHOWROOMS, Godowns, Sheds above 3000 Sft to 20,000 to 50,000, in and around Gacowli, Kondapur, Madhapur, Nallagandla, Kukatpally, Miyapur, Suchitra, Sanathnagar, Banjara Jubilee Hills, Panjagutta, L.B.Nagar, Attapur etc. Contact: 9949867111

GROUND FLOOR spacious fully furnished 2 BHK in MD farm road Trimgulherry near DMart Ph:9297204407

LEASE

COMMERCIAL

OPEN SPACE 1000 Sft, 2000 Sft, 3000 Sft, 5000 Sft, 10000 Sft available for lease at Amerpet. Contact: 990817560

OFFICE SPACE at Amerpet grade a office space for lease. Ameerpet 5078 sft fully furnished office space for lease in Amerpet. Contact: 990817560

BACHUPALLY- PRIME location, multi-story structure, 5 floors, each plot 2450 sft, carpet 2000 sft. For supermarkets, showrooms, hotels, boutiques, restaurants, Contact: 990817560

AVAILABLE RENT: Plug & Play Office at Begumpet, Rasoolpura first floor extent of 2000 Sft, for Branch Office, Trade centre, Amerpet. Contact: 9246597374

GODOWN FOR lease 17000 sft, with open land near Awal GHMC, Bollaram ph:8008803744

3,000 SQ.YARDS open land for lease near Ayappa Temple, Bollaram. Contact: 9032230001

BUILDING FLOORS suitable for schools, colleges available area 15000 sft plus parking in clear plenty of water @ Chaderghat Malakpet road. Contact: 941272054956

PLOTS 1100 & 600 sqyd @ Lakkaram n Choutuppal & 300 sqyd @ Suryavamsli colony on Vijayawada highway. Both plots 800 meters from main road. Ph:9398187684

SCHOOL BUILDING for lease near 15000 square feet located, Disukh Nagar, 2000 meters from main road, high infrastructure recognition till 2032 Nursery to 10th class. Ph:8121463100

POLYCLINIC WITH attached Pharmacy for lease & cabins available for doctors prime location near Kondapur, Jubilee hills, Hyderabad. Ph:9502266888

PRIME INDEPENDENT building @ Humayunnagar for lease 12000 sqft on 500 sqyds ground plus three floors, near aziza masjid suitable for schools, hospitals, admin office, contact: 9849771108

WAREHOUSE 60,000 Sft for Lease at Kandiyakula Village, Medchal inside ORR, just 200 meters with Ample Surrounding space for heavy vehicles and parking. Contact: 9392004468

WEST MARREDPALLY: toilet-for office rentals only 2BHK, 2nd floor, 1200 sqft. rent Rs: 19k per month contact: 9811560160

GODOWN FOR rent behind Honda market g/ 800 sft 1st floor 1000 sft suitable for any other storage. Call: 9247844402

LAND on NH- 65 opp MRF Sandashivpet 3 side road north (65 & 39 feet optional) NH- 65, 198 feet, 40 feet road, South (60 feet) 33 feet road total 1234 Sq.yds. Ph:9096005566

WEST MARREDPALLY: toilet-for office rentals only 2BHK, 2nd floor, 1200 sqft. rent Rs: 19k per month contact: 9811560160

WAREHOUSE 3 units Ready to Occupy. Area: 1.18 lakhs sq.ft., 76000 sq.ft., 69000 sq.ft with kirby structure. FM2 flooring, CC roads 7.5 to 12 mt wide, lift, fire hydrant, 24 hrs water, contact: 9949771108

WARASIGUDA MAIN Road Secunderabad Fully Furnished with all Equipment Restaurant 2600 Sft For Lease/ Rent. Contact: 9121603446

3.5 BHK fully furnished villa, chandrabagar, immediately available. Ph:9392468058

TRIMULGHERRY 200 Sq.yds, plot available for Lease/ Rentals will develop construction with carpet area 3500 Sft (G+2) plan as per business requirement for Corporate Offices, Private Clinic, Diagnostics Centre, Play School, Tutorials Institution and wear house with all amenities, location prime area near Barkhana Trimgulherry cross road, Secunderabad. Ph:7032262626

INDUSTRIAL SHEDS

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY for lease 25000 sft G+2 with 74 HP power at IDA Gandhinagar Balanagar contact no 9393002772

SITUATION VACANT

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

WANTED ACCOUNTANT/ Office Manager/ Assistant Manager/ Management/ Tally/ Education field. please contact: a1taabulsultan86@gmail.com

ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

PRAGYAN IIT/ NEET Academy & Junior College residential requires marketing persons PROs tele callers & sales agents to do the admissions for 2025-26 at ECIL X Lakes, Hyderabad. Contact: 9398184178

URGENT REQUIREMENT for sales and business development manager for a reputed printing & publication house in Hyderabad. Qualification: degree experience: min 2 years in a managerial post. Contact: 9849771108

HIRING MARKETING executives experience in selling uniforms, bags, 2nd hand clothes to schools, colleges, Contact: 9624292000

WANTED: 25K- Field Executive, 20K- Tele Caller, Freshers Only, ID Degree, B.Tech. Ph:9492030699

SURAJ BHAN Jewellery hub is having vacancy for showroom manager and senior sales team, good salary, attractive benefits. Contact: 9949771108

WANTED SALES manager for technical textiles mfgs+ MF, MBA (marketing) or equal exp: min 5 yrs preferably in similar industry job location: Hyd/ Gauram vil and Bellary. Contact: 9949771108

WANTED: Experienced marketing manager, general manager, and director, candidate should possess effective communication skills, personal integrity, and a passion for marketing. Contact: 900262938

FIELD SALES Representative, We require Sales Representatives & related products to manufacturing firms. Seeking a professional to visit Pharmaceutical Companies, Other Manufacturers for Sales & Marketing. Contact: 9949771108

MARKETING EXECUTIVES Male/Female to work at kompally, Prestige Infra, svpreddy64@gmail.com. Phone: 9900999415

REQUIRED MARKETING Executives & Sales Man for Famous Cookie Manufacturer for Sales & Marketing. MBA, 3+ years experience. Strong communication & negotiation skills, fluent in Hindi, English & Telugu. Interview: Jan 6 to 8, 10am-5pm. Contact: 9949771108

WANTED MARKETING executives- 50 nos, only ladies qualified; minimum 10 yrs. salary 30,000 to 40,000/ in good places: Hyderabad, Patancheru & Sangareddy. Ph:6308304956

WANTED RMO (Clinical) accommodation provided. DMO, Nutritionist, Pharmacist, Lab Technician for Woodlands Hospital, Barkatpura, Hyderabad. Contact: 940-7569802

WANTED FEMALE computer operator for Jb kumar document writer near sub-registration office Sagar Road Champampet, Karmanthapet. Contact: 9441281951

WANTED PROFESSIONAL Nallakunta req 2-3 yrs experience in windows server admin, network system, MCSC, CCNA. Knowledge preferable. Ph:9652755544

D.T.P OPERATORS

WANTED CORAL Draw and Photosop designer, MS Office, Tally with minimum experience at Talagadda, Mehdiapattam. Contact: 9391144144

DOMESTIC

URGENT REQD/ Avail. Female US & Canada visa holder. Also Regd.: Japa, nany & governess for India, UK, Dubai, Singapore, Australia, etc. Contact: 9874737137

DRIVERS

WANTED DRIVERS with Min 5 to 10 Years experience, weekly 2 days off. Contact: 9859545529

WANTED PROFESSIONAL English speaking only location: financial district @ Hyderabad, salary: 35,000+ based on experience contact: Ph:7013446671

WANTED DRIVERS with minimum 5 to 10 years experience on automatic transmission, Secunderabad, Fresh Secunderabad. Interested person living in Secunderabad area may contact: 040-4445000

WANTED DRIVERS with Hmv, Lmv with batch number, contact at Mamta High school, Viman Nagar, SP Road, Secunderabad. Ph:040-27390208

ENGINEERS

JOB OPPORTUNITY: mechanical Engineers join invincible US infrastructure pvt ltd, a leading manufacturer of cement, steel, power plant equipment, and specialists in high-quality structural works. Location: Chittoor, Telangana. Contact: 9849010002

HOTEL

SOLOMON RESTAURANT Tolichowki Hyderabad requires staff 1) resaurant manager 2) kitchen store keeper 3) HR assistant 4) accountant 5) driver, 2 calls whatsapp resume: 9866320177

WANTED PROFESSIONAL English speaking only location: financial district @ Hyderabad, salary: 35,000+ based on experience contact: Ph:7013446671

HRD & ADMINISTRATIVE

REQUIRED QUOTATION maker very good knowledge of excel & internet, pdf, email and communication skills, job location Gaganpahad, Shamshabad. Contact: 9859545529

WANTED (MBA) marketing m/f, marketing executives m/f, data entry operator m/f, delivery executive, for a reputed ice cream company, office @ khairatabad, Hyderabad. Email: foofactor800@gmail.com

WANTED A retired graduate from the brahmin community to look after administration in a doctor's office at Kukatpally, Ph:897855855

MANAGERS

WANTED PRODUCTION Manager for a Fast Growing Custom Vehicle Manufacturer in Mallapur, CTC 4 lacs per month. Contact: 9949771108

OTHER VACANCIES

COLLECTION EXECUTIVES for credit card needed with experience salary 16-22k plus petrol urgent joining Ph:9398787590

REQUIRED EXPERIENCED female air ticketing staff AL zain tours & travels Ph:9963161066

WANTED: A smart lady typist with intermediate (CE) qualification and good computer skills for a position at Punjagutta. Call: 9248089200

TEACHERS

WANTED FEMALE experienced english teacher for a CBSE school at Banjara Hills. Walk in interview. Time 10.00 am to 02.00 pm. Contact: 9849771108

WANTED MARKETING manager & executives, promoters, telecallers, sales, all subjects (nur-X), wardens for Rockwoods International Schools - Bibinagar, Food & accommodation. Contact: 9949771108

JOHNSON GRAMMAR School, ICSE- Habsguda requires 1.Teachers to teach High School english B.A English HOD for grades 5 & 7 B.A English, B.Ed., computer science BCA /MCA, Chemistry B.Sc. Chemistry, B.Ed., Economics BA Contact: 9949771108

WANTED SALES manager for technical textiles mfgs+ MF, MBA (marketing) or equal exp: min 5 yrs preferably in similar industry job location: Hyd/ Gauram vil and Bellary. Contact: 9949771108

WANTED: Experienced marketing manager, general manager, and director, candidate should possess effective communication skills, personal integrity, and a passion for marketing. Contact: 900262938

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REQUIRED MARKETING Executives & Sales Man for Famous Cookie Manufacturer for Sales & Marketing. MBA, 3+ years experience. Strong communication & negotiation skills, fluent in Hindi, English & Telugu. Interview: Jan 6 to 8, 10am-5pm. Contact: 9949771108

WANTED MARKETING executives- 50 nos, only ladies qualified; minimum 10 yrs. salary 30,000 to 40,000/ in good places: Hyderabad, Patanch

SHORT TAKES

CHINNA REDDY
REJECTS HARISH'S
CRITICISMDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Prajavani incharge Dr G. Chinna Reddy, vice-chairman of the State Planning Commission, condemned BRS senior leader T. Harish Rao's allegations that the programme was ineffectual and had failed to resolve grievances.

Speaking to the media along with Prajavani nodal officer Divya Devarajan, Chinna Reddy invited Harish Rao to visit the programme, and witness the officials' dedication to resolve public grievances. He asked Harish Rao not to spread false news and instead focus on contributing constructively to public welfare.

He said that Prajavani, held twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays, had seen 92 sessions which 92,115 grievances were received and 63 per cent of them were resolved.

FALAKNUMA ROB
WORKS TO
FINISH BY MARCHV. SHIVANI REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

To alleviate traffic congestion between Chandrayangutta and Charminar, central and state governments had taken up, in March 2021, construction of rail overbridge (ROB) running in parallel to the existing structure at Falaknuma. The works are progressing at a tardy pace.

The project, first approved on July 31, 2018, pertains to construction of 360-metre-long fly-over. The existing bridge is a busy one connecting highways and several areas in the Old City, which is a key route for commuters.

Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi had raised concerns about the incomplete ROB in the Lok Sabha recently during a discussion on the Railway Amendment Bill, 2024. Owaisi stated that these projects, pending for four years, could make it to the Guinness record books for taking so long.

A GHMC official said "The works are almost at last stage. Erection of girders and slab work are to be executed by the railway department. The project is expected to be completed by March."

SCR chief engineer Sambasiva Rao said, "that the works are progressing steadily with active coordination between the railways and GHMC. The steel girders have been fabricated." SCR said it would hand over the structure to the GHMC by the end of February.

NTR stadium left
in mess post-fair

It's over week since book show ended

PRATHYUSH
NALLELLA | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

The state of NTR stadium, strewn with debris after the hugely popular annual Hyderabad National Book Fair concluded on December 29, has drawn the ire of hundreds of children, aged persons and locals who use it on a regular basis. Although it has been over a week since the book show ended, the ground's management is yet to remove the temporary sheds and carpeting installed for the fair.

The trash will lie on the stadium ground for two more days, it was learnt. The fair occupied nearly 60 per cent of the stadium's 14-acre land. Now walkers, youth and children are finding it difficult to walk, go about their exercises or play in what remains of the space. Carpets, banner material, shelves and other trash are across the ground. Many are questioning why the organisers have not cleared the area and blamed the authorities for their laidback approach that has resulted in



Garbage uncollected, sheds unremoved after Book Fair at NTR Stadium. — S. SURENDER REDDY

litter all over.

Chandrashekar, a regular visitor to the stadium, said "It is meant for the public, especially children and fitness enthusiasts. With a majority of the stadium space still having makeshift sheds and litter, the remaining space is cramped and remains a

health hazard." Asked about the trash, Vasu, a book fair organiser, told *Deccan Chronicle*: "The contractor who arranged the sheds and carpeting should remove the sheds. They are busy with the book fest in Vijayawada, and they will remove it in two days."

Kawal gates
shut 9pm-6amPILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, JAN. 4

S. Shantharam, conservator of forests and field director of Kawal tiger reserve, has ordered the closure of checkpoints from 9 pm to 6 am for wildlife protection.

Previously, forest officers were collecting environmental fees from four-wheelers at the Thapalpur checkpoint in Jannaram, Mancherla district. Shantharam criticised field officers for not adhering to the rules and conditions set by the State Board of Wildlife (SBWL). He reported that field staff were allowing non-local vehicles to pass after 9 pm, which posed a

threat to the wildlife in the reserve. He instructed the field officers to strictly follow the SBWL's regulations regarding the night-time closure of checkpoints and warned of disciplinary actions for any violations of these orders.

Additionally, Shantharam requested the district forest officers of Mancherla, Nirmal, and Adilabad, along with the forest divisional officers of Jananram, Khanapur, and Utnoor, to issue instructions to all field officers. The directive emphasised the importance of adhering to the closure of checkpoints from 9 pm to 6 am to ensure the safety and protection of the reserve's wildlife.

HYDERNAGAR,
KUKATPALLY
TRAFFIC DIVERTEDDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Cyberabad traffic police has imposed traffic diversions at Hydernagar, Kukatpally, till January 19 to facilitate the construction of a stormwater drain.

According to the advisory, traffic from Hydernagar towards Nizampet will be diverted either at GPR Cinemas towards Konaseema tiffin centre and Kolan Raghava Reddy function hall or at Addagutta.

Traffic coming from Nizampet to Nizampet crossroads will be diverted to Thulasinagar crossroads and HMT Ramalayam towards JNTU.

State suggests precautions against virus

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Responding to reports of a human metapneumovirus (hMPV) outbreak in China, the health department has stated that no cases had reported in the state. As a precautionary measure the department released a set of do's and don'ts against respiratory infections.

The health ministry, along with the National Centre for Disease Control, said in a statement that hMPV behaved like other respiratory viruses. It causes cold

and flu-like symptoms, particularly affecting younger children and older adults.

People were advised to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or handkerchief while coughing or sneezing, wash hands with soap or sanitiser, and avoid crowded spaces and maintain distance from those showing flu symptoms. Staying at home when sick, was advised.

People were asked to avoid shaking hands, reusing tissues or handkerchiefs, and having close contact with those who are unwell. It is

important to refrain from touching the face frequently, spitting in public places, and taking medication without consulting a doctor.

ABVP PROTEST

ABVP activists held a protest at the welfare office in Masab Tank, demanding better facilities in Gurukul schools and welfare hostels. Police allegedly resorted to a lathicharge to disperse the protesters. ABVP leaders claimed that around 500 students were present at the scene. A few stu-

dents were taken into preventive arrest and released later.

TCC HALL TICKETS

Hall tickets for the Technical Certificate Course (TCC) examinations, scheduled from January 11 to 17, will be available on the official website of the Board of Secondary Education starting Sunday.

For further clarification, candidates may approach the respective district educational officers or visit www.bse.telangana.gov.in

Plea: Avoid untimely film shows

L. RAVICHANDER
HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy took on file a writ plea challenging inter alia the executive order of home department permitting exhibition of cinemas between 1.30 am and 8.30 am. The judge was hearing a writ plea filed by Mallangi Sai Vijay Reddy, a construction worker and member of Aam Admi Party (AAP). The petitioner is challenging the executive order dated November 29, 2024 on the ground that the same is contrary to cinema licensing conditions and cinema regulations and rules. The petitioner also sought a direction for considering the issuance of a rule making minimum 90-minute gap mandatory between two shows at any single theatre so as to manage crowds and avoid stampedes. It is also the case of the petitioner that the respondent department must ensure the cinema licence holders do not resort to victory celebra-



LEGAL STORIES

tions or use firecrackers or inflammable material. The judge directed the government pleader to get instructions and posted the matter to next week.

CLASS VI ADMISSION TEST
DATE UNDER LENS

The Telangana High Court will hear a writ plea seeking rescheduling of the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test for admission to sixth standard across the state. Justice T. Vinod Kumar took on file a writ plea filed by P. Sreeja, a student, seeking a direction to permit her to take the examination on April 12, instead of January 18. The petitioner requested that the test date be in sync with

the second phase of JNVST to held across the country. The petitioner argued that the current schedule for the first phase of JNVST 2025 was causing undue hardship for candidates in Telangana. It is claimed that the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and other respondents failed to consider a representation for rescheduling the exam. The judge, while adjourning the matter to January 6, ordered notices and sought a reply from the government.

UNDER-19 CRICKETER
CHALLENGES BAN

The Telangana High Court will hear a writ plea filed by an under-19 cricketer challenging the two-year ban imposed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on allegations of age discrepancies. Justice Nagesh Bheemappa took on file a writ plea filed by Anudeep Juvvaji contesting the ban communicated to him via email on

November 14. The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) had earlier requested police intervention to investigate age discrepancies among players in the U-19 age-group. Following the investigation, the report was submitted to the BCCI, which imposed a two-year ban on six players, including the petitioner, effective from November 4, 2024. During this period, the players are barred from participating in BCCI and state association tournaments. The petitioner argued that the ban was imposed without him being afforded an opportunity to present his case nor defend against the allegations. Additionally, the petitioner requested a directive to the respondents, including the BCCI and state associations, to allow him to participate in forthcoming tournaments. The matter is posted to Monday for further adjudication.

Full reports in
deccanchronicle.com

Allu Arjun granted regular bail

AISHWARYA
GANDEED | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Actor Allu Arjun was on Friday granted regular bail by the Nampally court in connection with the Sandhya theatre stampede case. He was asked to furnish two sureties of ₹50,000. He was directed to appear before the Chikkadpally police every Sunday as part of the bail condition. The actor, who was granted interim bail for a period of four weeks by the HC, had

filed a regular bail petition in the Nampally court. After hearing the arguments from both parties on December 27, the II additional metropolitan sessions judge had reserved the orders for January 3. Arjun's counsel argued that his client had no direct involvement in the incident and mentioned that charges stated in the FIR under Section 105, 118(1) r/w 3(5) against him were baseless. The prosecution, however, claimed that as a high-profile figure, the actor should have been more cautious.



Actor Allu Arjun appeared at the Metropolitan Criminal Court in Hyderabad on Saturday to submit sureties after being granted regular bail in connection with the Sandhya Theatre incident. — R. PAVAN

सार्वजनिक सूचना

कृपया ध्यान दें: प्राथमिकता III, IV & V उम्मीदवारों के लिए सरासत्र सेना चिकित्सा सेवा प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में पोस्ट-ग्रेजुएट डेंटल (एमडीएस) पाठ्यक्रमों में NEET MDS-2025 के माध्यम से प्रवेश

महानिदेशक सरासत्र सेना चिकित्सा सेवा (DGAFMS) इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों को AFMS प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में पोस्ट-ग्रेजुएट डेंटल (MDS) पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए, नई 2025 से शुरू होने वाले सत्र के लिए, सेवा आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के पर्याप्त बनी हुई सीटों के लिए प्रवेश देगा। यह प्रवेश स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के तत्वावधान में राष्ट्रीय सेवा परीक्षा (एनबीई), नई दिल्ली द्वारा आयोजित NEET (MDS)-2025 के आधार पर होगा।

(क) उम्मीदवारों को सीटें कमानुसार प्राथमिकता III (पैरा मिलिट्री/भारत सरकार प्रायोजित उम्मीदवारों), प्राथमिकता IV (पूर्व एसएससी आर्मी डेंटल कोर अधिकारी) और प्राथमिकता V (असैनिक दंत राज्य चिकित्सक) के आधार पर उपलब्ध होगी। यह भी संभावना है कि प्राथमिकता श्रेणियों में से कुछ के लिए कोई सीट उपलब्ध नहीं हो, यदि सीट को प्राथमिकता और योग्यता में उच्च परीक्षार्थियों के आवंटित कर दिया गया हो।

(ख) NEET प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में पोस्ट-ग्रेजुएट डेंटल (MDS) करने के लिए इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों को NEET (MDS)-2025 के लिए उपस्थित होना अनिवार्य होगा। उम्मीदवारों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे NEET (MDS)-2025 की अधिसूचना पर नजर बनाए रखें। उम्मीदवारों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे इन्फॉर्मेशन बुलेटिन को सावधानी से पढ़ें।

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION ALL: ADMISSION TO POST GRADUATE DENTAL (MDS) COURSES IN ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES TRAINING INSTITUTES FOR PRIORITY III, IV & V CANDIDATES THROUGH NEET MDS-2025

Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) will admit desirous candidates for Post Graduate-Dental (MDS) Courses at AFMS Training Institutes, for balance of seats, if any after fulfilling the service requirements, for the session starting in May 2025 on the basis of NEET MDS-2025 to be conducted by National Board of Examinations (NBE), New Delhi, under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Gol.

(a) The seats will be available to Priority III candidates (Para Military/ other Govt. of India sponsored candidates), Priority IV (Ex-SSC AD Corps Officers) & Priority V (Civilian Dental Surgeons) in that order. It is also likely that no seat may be available for some of the prioritized categories, if the same have been allotted to candidates higher in priority and merit.

(b) Candidates desirous of pursuing Post Graduate-Dental (MDS) Courses in these training institutions will have to mandatorily appear for NEET MDS-2025. Candidates are, therefore, advised to keep a lookout for the notification of NEET MDS-2025. Candidates are advised to read the Information Bulletin carefully. CBC 10601/11/0057/2425

सार्वजनिक सूचना

कृपया ध्यान दें: उम्मीदवार (बीडीएस/ एमडीएस) जो आर्मी डेंटल कोर में शॉर्ट सर्विस कमीशन-2025 के लिए इच्छुक हैं।

महानिदेशक सरासत्र सेना चिकित्सा सेवा (DGAFMS), आर्मी डेंटल कोर में शॉर्ट सर्विस कमीशन-2025 के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करेंगे। यह प्रक्रिया स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के तत्वावधान में राष्ट्रीय सेवा परीक्षा (एनबीई), नई दिल्ली द्वारा आयोजित NEET MDS-2025 के आधार पर होगी।

(क) शॉर्ट सर्विस कमीशन के लिए इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों (बीडीएस और एमडीएस) को NEET MDS-2025 के लिए उपस्थित होना अनिवार्य होगा। उम्मीदवारों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे NEET MDS-2025 अधिसूचना पर नजर बनाए रखें।

(ख) NEET MDS-2025 के स्कोर के आधार पर, उम्मीदवारों को साक्षात्कार के लिए जाँचा/लघुसूचित किया जाएगा।

(ग) उम्मीदवारों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे इन्फॉर्मेशन बुलेटिन को सावधानी से पढ़ें जब कभी इसे अपलोड किया जाता है।

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION ALL: CANDIDATES (BDS / MDS) DESIROUS OF GRANT OF SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION IN ARMY DENTAL CORPS-2025

Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) will invite applications from Civilian Dental Surgeons (BDS / MDS) for Grant of Short Service Commission, for the commissioning cycle of 2025 on the basis of NEET MDS-2025 to be conducted by National Board of Examinations (NBE), New Delhi, under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Gol.

(a) Candidates (BDS / MDS) desirous for Grant of Short Service Commission will have to mandatorily appear for NEET MDS-2025. Candidates are advised to keep a lookout for the notification of NEET MDS-2025.

(b) Based on the Score in NEET MDS-2025, candidates will be screened/ shortlisted for the Interview.

(c) Candidates are advised to read the Information Bulletin carefully as & when it is uploaded.

CBC 10601/11/0050/2425

IN BRIEF

IndiGo flight diverted safely

Hyderabad: An IndiGo flight, 6E 5248, from Mumbai to Visakhapatnam, was diverted to the Shamshabad airport here on Saturday morning, after the pilot identified a technical issue mid-flight. The plane, carrying 144 passengers, landed safely without incident. All passengers were debarked after completing necessary procedures. IndiGo arranged an alternative aircraft for the passengers to continue their journey to Visakhapatnam. Refreshments were provided during the wait to minimize the inconvenience. "The safety of passengers and crew is our topmost priority, and we regret the inconvenience caused due to this delay," said an IndiGo official.

AIRPORT RUN SEES RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

The fourth edition of the Hyderabad Airport Run, organised by Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao (GMR) Hyderabad International Airport, saw a record 4,300 runners taking part in its 5K and 10K categories. Themed "Run, Unwind and Njoy," the event brought together people from the city and the airport community. The run was flagged off by Pradeep Panicker, CEO of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, along with other senior officials. The 5K run was open to men and women of all ages, while the 10K timed run had six categories based on age and gender such as 18-39 years, 40-59 years and 60 years and above. After the run, the crowd attended a live performance by singer Nakash Aziz, known for his songs in the movie Pushpa. The event included exciting activities such as dance performances, flash mobs, nail art stalls, a flea market, a kids' play zone, and food stalls.

Biting cold in state, some areas hit 6°C

Kids, elderly face brunt of extreme weather

RACHEL DAMMALA and PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD, ADILABAD, JAN. 4

With biting cold conditions expected to persist for 48 hours more, there is no immediate respite for children and elderly people who are facing various cold-related issues like throat infections, coughs, headaches, and colds. In the districts, Sangareddy's Kohir mandal emerged as the coldest place at 6°C. Other locations included Komuram Bheem's Sirpur (6.1°C), Adilabad's Tiryani (6.2°C) and Kamareddy's Dongli (6.8°C). In Rangareddy, Nyalkal recorded 6.3°C. Within Hyderabad, Ramachandrapuram and Patancheru recorded the lowest minimum temperature at 8.2°C, followed

by Serilingampally and Rajendranagar at 9.1°C. Other areas such as Malkajgiri (9.5°C), Chandanagar (12°C), and Secunderabad (11.8°C) also experienced unusually low temperatures. Residents of Chandrayangutta, Kukatpally, and Hayathnagar saw minimum temperatures ranging from 13°C to 14°C while Jubilee Hills recorded 17.2°C. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a cold wave alert for Telangana for the next two days, with special warnings for Nirmal, Adilabad, and Komaram Bheem Asifabad districts. Minimum temperatures are expected to range between 5°C and 10°C. People living in former Adilabad are experiencing fluctuating weather.

Elderly persons are staying indoors and avoiding going out before 8 am as temperatures begin to drop early in the evening. As a result, many are visiting government and private hospitals with health complaints. In response to the cold wave, the district administration of Adilabad and Komaram Bheem Asifabad has adjusted school timings to 9.40 am to 4.30 pm, effective since December 19. Areas located on the fringes of forests and hilly regions are experiencing the lowest temperatures, while plain areas and towns remain relatively warmer. Night temperatures have significantly dropped, prompting villagers to use bonfires in the evenings and mornings to stay warm.

MAN NEVER WEARS SHIRT, DRAWS CURIOSITY

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC KARIMNAGAR, JAN. 4

A 50-year-old resident of Ailapur, known for never wearing a shirt, even during harsh winters, is called 'Gandhi' for his distinctive habit, in Korutla mandal, Jagtial district. Mukkera Bakkaiah stopped wearing shirts from an early age, and defied advice from everyone around him. He told Deccan Chronicle that he found wearing shirts uncomfortable as they caused him to perspire. To protect himself from the cold, he preferred a blanket. Former village sarpanch P. Radha said that Bakkaiah lived alone and worked on his brother's farmland. Bakkaiah was formerly a ward member and attended official gatherings in a lungi with a kanduva draped over his shoulders.

Sankranti kite rush



With just a week left for the Sankranti festival, children and youngsters are flocking to the city's kite shops. The vibrant kites, available in various shapes and sizes, are in high demand this season. — P. SURENDRA

Court asks Waqf Board to take control of Ibadat khana

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

The Telangana High Court directed the Telangana Waqf Board to forthwith take control of Ibadat Khana at Darulshifa, under its direct management. The court faulted the proceedings issued for the constitution of the working committee of Ibadat Khana, which earlier had prohibited women from performing religious functions in its premises. The court also directed the Waqf Board to constitute a managing committee for the Ibadat Khana with an equal representation of Shia Imamia Isna Ashari community, that is Akhbhari and Usooli, to put a quietus to the litigation. Justice Nagesh Bheemappa was dealing with a petition filed by Anjuman-e-Alavi, Shia Imamia Ithna Ashari Akhbhari, which challenged the Waqf Board proceedings of June 1,

2023, regarding the nomination of mutawali committee and incorrect mention of the municipal number of Ibadat Khana at Darulshifa. Senior Advocate P. Venugopal submitted to the court that two wakifs, through a Wakf deed dated 15.02.1953, envisaged that the property would be used for conducting majlis, jashans and other ibadat for the benefit of the Shia community. The Waqf Board in 2007 appointed one Syed Alamdar Hussain Moosvi as president of the mutawali committee without mentioning names of the other members. They called him a successor of the original committee in the absence of continuous succession since 1953. Further, one Capt. Syed Hadi Sadiq, a self-styled president of mutawali committee, in 2018 made an application to demolish the existing Ibadat Khana together with the five mulgias attached to it, which was approved by

the Waqf Board. Senior counsel also brought to the notice of the court that the Ibadat Khana was demolished but no construction permission was obtained by Capt. Sadiq. It was alleged that he and his associates had purchased small extents of land of the Ibadat Khana and approached the GHMC for residential permission. It was stated that on obtaining individual permissions, they clubbed them with Ibadat Khana and constructed a large building without mulgias. Counsel submitted that instead of treating such persons as encroachers, the Waqf Board issued the impugned proceedings of constitution of the committee. The court also considered the point that a committee is to be constituted with equal representation to both Akhbhari and Usooli sects, as the waqf deed clearly stated that the subject waqf institution was for Shia Imamia Ithna Ashari community.

Inspections at Monginis, Vac's Pastries

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 4

Inspections conducted by the state food safety task force on Friday revealed violations at two well-known bakeries, Monginis cake shop in Alwal and Vac's Pastries in Kharkhana, Secunderabad, including rat faeces in the former and liquor being used in cakes without excise permission in the latter. At the Monginis cake shop in Machabolaram, inspectors found several breaches of hygiene and safety standards. The bakery had failed to display its FSSAI license prominently and storage conditions were inadequate, with packing materials and food products stored directly on the ground and

steps. Mould vessels used in cake preparation were in a highly unhygienic state, while rat faeces and live cockroach infestations were discovered in the storage area. The AC unit in the cold room was leaking, posing a contamination risk to food stored there. Employee health records and mandatory food safety training and certification (FoSTaC) documents were unavailable. Inspectors also found several expired ingredients, including kesar syrup, butter and various flavour compounds, some of which had expired as far back as September 2022. The walls and ceilings of the facility were in a deteriorating condition, with flaking particles presenting fur-

ther contamination risks. Moreover, seven chiller vehicles used for transportation were operating without licenses. At Vac's Pastries in Kharkhana, the task force observed the absence of water analysis reports, medical records of food handlers and trained FoSTaC personnel. Alcohol, specifically rum, was being used in the preparation of plum cakes without the necessary excise permission,

and the ingredient was not disclosed on product labels. Inspectors also noted that bulk preparations of dry fruit and jam pulp used in cakes were stored in plastic drums without proper labelling or details of preparation and expiry dates. The bakery was found in violation of labelling requirements for food items, including plum cakes, biscuits. These products lacked information such as the FSSAI license number, manufacturing address, ingredient details, nutritional information, batch numbers, and veg/non-veg logos. Food and non-food items, including chemicals, were stored together; some food items in refrigerators were uncovered.

SOUTH

SHORT TAKES

SIX KILLED IN EXPLOSION AT TN FIREWORKS UNIT

Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Jan. 4: Six workers were killed and another was injured following an explosion at a firecrackers manufacturing unit near here on Saturday, an official said. The blast occurred in the morning when the workers were engaged in mixing chemical-raw materials, as part of the manufacturing process, leading to the deaths of 6 men and 4 rooms in the factory premises were flattened in the impact. Fire and Rescue Services personnel immediately arrived at the spot and the injured worker, Mohammed Sudeen, was rushed to a government facility in nearby Madurai. A police official here said two persons, a supervisor and a foreman, have been arrested in connection with the explosion adding further probe into the incident was on. While Chief Minister M. K. Stalin announced a solatium of ₹4 lakh to the families of each of the deceased.

BJP DEMANDS PRIYANK KHARGE'S RESIGNATION

New Delhi, Jan. 4: The BJP on Saturday alleged that "open extortion" by the ruling Congress in Karnataka led to the suicide of a contractor and demanded the resignation of Priyank Kharge, a state minister and son of the Congress president. The Siddaramaiah government has proven to be one of the most corrupt governments in the history of Karnataka, BJP leader G. V. L. Narasimha Rao said in a statement. Civil contractor Sachin Panchal allegedly died by suicide on a moving train in Bidar district. In his suicide note, he accused Priyank Kharge's close aide Raju Kapanur of compelling him to take the drastic step as he was receiving death threats to pay ₹1 crore to him. Kapanur has rejected the charge. Rao alleged that this amounts to open extortion by the Congress party in Karnataka.

52-yr-old swims in sea from Vizag to Kakinada

Goli Shyamala took swimming to regain her sanity

VADREU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, JAN. 4

Once in the deepest pits of depression, 52-year-old Goli Shyamala took to swimming to regain her sanity. She has now recovered so much that she swam in the Bay of Bengal from Visakhapatnam to Kakinada, covering 30 kilometres. Shyamala started on December 28 from Vizag and reached Kakinada Beach on the afternoon of January 3. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, the swimmer said she had been a successful artist who sketched animation films which became a hit after being telecast by a media channel. However, after 26 episodes, she started suffering losses and went into a deep depression. She



Goli Shyamala, on a 150-kilometer swimming expedition from Visakhapatnam to Kakinada.

started recovering from depression after she took to swimming. On the path to successful recovery, Shyamala has swum 30 km from Ramasetu to Sri Lanka

in 2021 in 13 hours 43 minutes. "The same year, I swam from Santa Catalina Island to Los Angeles in 12-degree cold water covering 36 kilometres in 19 hours. In February 2024, I

swam 50 km to Kiltan Island in Lakshadweep in hot waters. I am now happy that I have successfully swam in the Bay of Bengal from Visakhapatnam to Kakinada," she stated. While swimming in the Bay of Bengal, Shyamala had been accompanied by three boats with a crew of 14 members. When a whale came to a distance of within 10 metres from her, the crew pulled her into the boat for safety. When she resumed swimming, a turtle accompanied her for a long distance, she recalled recounting her experiences. Shyamala's husband Mohan is happy that not only has she recovered but is now making achievements at sea. Syamala and Mohan have a son Pawan Vihari who is doing his B. Tech. in Hyderabad.

Weapon display



Children visit the Indian Army's 'Weapon and Equipment Display' stall during the curtain-raiser event for the 77th Indian Army Day celebrations, at the Terminal 1 of the Kempegowda International Airport, in Bengaluru on Saturday. — PTI

Sabarimala readies for makaravilakku festival

Sabarimala, Jan. 4: Preparations for this year's 'makaravilakku' festival at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple here on January 15 have reached their final stages, temple authorities said.



A file photo of devotees thronging Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple.

"The focus is on ensuring that every devotee who visits Sabarimala for the 'makaravilakku' festival can have darshan and return safely," Sabarimala Administrative District Magistrate Arun S Nair said in a release on Friday. "Currently, the temple is witnessing a heavy rush, with more than 90,000 devotees arriving daily," Nair added. The release said the 'thiruvabharanam' procession, part of the festival, will commence from Pandalam on January 12. It added that all government departments have stepped up efforts to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival. All necessary arrangements for the procession will be completed by January 10, following a review by various departments, it said. An inspection led by the Pathanamthitta District Collector will be

conducted in coordination with the police, forest, and health departments at key locations where devotees gather to witness the 'makaravilakku' (sacred light), the release added. Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday underscored the importance of art festivals in fostering love, brotherhood, and communal harmony among people in the state. Speaking at the inauguration of the 63rd state School Youth Festival here, the CM highlighted the need to promote artistic talents while ensuring equal prominence to values like unity and mutual respect. — PTI

TEMPLE CUSTOMS MUST BE DECIDED BY TANTRIS: MIN.

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan. 4: Differing from Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's view that temple customs should change with the times, state Transport Minister K. B. Ganesh Kumar on Saturday said that practices in temples should be decided by the tantris. The minister, who is also a director board member of the Nair Service Society (NSS), said that if the government felt some changes were necessary, they should be made in consultation with the tantris or after holding a 'devaprasna'. NSS general secretary G. Sukumaran Nair had strongly criticised the chief minister for endorsing Sivagiri Mutt chief Swami Satchidananda's statement that temples should abandon the custom of not allowing male devotees to wear shirts. — PTI

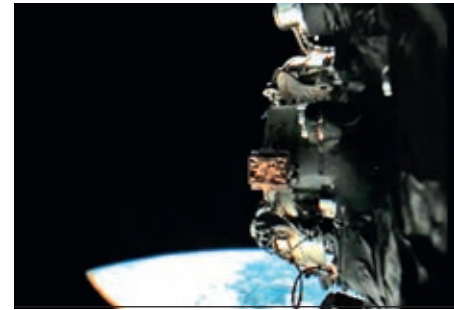
LOKAYUKTA PROBE FINDS ₹16.85 CR IN LAND SCAM

Bengaluru, Jan. 4: A land allotment scam worth ₹16.85 crore has come to light in the Vijayapura District Ambedkar Development Corporation, where bogus documents were created for land that was meant to be distributed to landless women from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the wake of the recent revelation of financial irregularities in Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation to the tune of ₹88 crore, the scam in the Ambedkar Development Corporation was uncovered after Lokayukta sleuths raided several officers' offices based on a complaint. The accused officers failed to give possession to the SC/ST women, violated the rules. — PTI

'Chaser' satellite captures stunning videos of Earth

FROM PAGE 1

The remote robotic arm is part of Isro's SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment), launched on December 30 from Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space Centre. "RRM-TD, India's first space robotic arm, is in action onboard POEM-4. A proud Make In India milestone in space robotics", Isro announced, sharing a video of the breakthrough on platform X. The Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD), also known as the walking robotic arm, is India's first space robotic arm capable of "walking". Developed by Isro's Inertial Systems Unit (ISU), the arm features seven movable joints, allowing it to relocate like an inchworm to specific



The Chaser satellite is set to dock with the target satellite in space on January 7.

targets on the POEM-4. The arm showcases cutting-edge technology, including advanced robotic joints, grappling mechanisms, precise camera-based movement, obstacle-avoidance software, and a high-performance processor. Knowledge gained from the experiment will help India's future Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), where microgravity oper-

ations, inspections and remote-controlled tasks can be conducted "digital twin" model. Meanwhile, the 'chaser' satellite, part of SpaDeX mission, captured a video of Earth from 400 km, featuring azure oceans and swirling clouds. The footage highlights the satellite's advanced imaging capabilities and readiness for the mission's next phase.

SHORT TAKES

MAHAPANCHAYAT HELD AT KHANAURI

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

Braving cold and fog, farm union activists flocked to the Khanauri protest site on the Punjab-Haryana border to attend the 'kisan mahapanchayat', which was addressed by farmer leader Jagjeet Singh Dallewal, whose indefinite hunger strike entered its 40th day on Saturday. In his address, Dallewal said that the fight for a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) is not Punjab's fight alone and urged the farmer outfits in other states to join the agitation.

During his over 11-minute address at the kisan mahapanchayat at the Khanauri border, Dallewal tried to send across a message that his life was not more important than farmers.

The 70-year-old farmer leader was brought out in a stretcher and addressed the gathering of farmers while lying on a bed from a stage at the protest site.

IIT INDORE STUDENT FROM TG DIES BY SUICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, JAN. 4

A first-year B.Tech student from Telangana, studying in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore, Madhya Pradesh, died by suicide in his hostel room, police said on Saturday.

The body of Rohit Kumar, 17, hailing from Nalgonda was found in his hostel room in the campus by his friends at around 8.30 pm on Friday, police said.

Although no suicide note has been recovered in his room, police suspected that he might have suffered heavy losses in the online betting.

In the WhatsApp status in his mobile phone, recovered by the police, Rohit reportedly said that he was addicted to online betting which he found as addictive as drugs, and said, "good bye to all my loved ones".

The WhatsApp status read, "reason behind my suicide is (.) i would addicted to online betting games (.) if my parents can excuse (.) but in my future i would do same thing again because its a one part of drug so in my next life lets see (.) good bye to all my loved ones".

MAHA: BJP PLANS TO REGISTER 25L NEW MEMBERS

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JAN. 4

The BJP has set a target to register 1.5 crore new members in Maharashtra. Party's Maharashtra in-charge Ravindra Chavan on Saturday informed that the membership drive will carry out a mega drive on Sunday and all state ministers, including the chief minister, will participate in it. The membership drive is being undertaken in view of the upcoming municipal elections in the state.

The BJP has planned to enroll 25 lakh new members across the state within a single day on Sunday. Chavan, who is likely to become the state BJP president replacing Chandrashekhar Bawankule, informed that senior party leaders will lead the campaign.

TWO KILLED BY ARMED ROBBERS IN ODISHA

Jajpur (Odisha), Jan. 4: Two persons were shot dead by armed men during a robbery attempt in Odisha's Jajpur district on Saturday afternoon, police said.

The victims were identified Sunil Kumar Ray, a jewellery store employee at Panikoiil, and Nila Madhab Panda, a resident of Soti village, they added.

According to police, Ray was riding his motorcycle to a bank to deposit the store's cash when he was shot around 1.30 pm. He was admitted to the district headquarters hospital in critical condition but succumbed to his injuries, police said.

According to sources, four unidentified armed men on two motorcycles arrived at the scene and fired at Ray, injuring him critically. Hearing Ray's screams, locals rushed to the spot. Anticipating trouble, the armed men fired on the locals killing Panda on the spot.

Soon after, local chased the armed men and overpowered two of them while two others managed to escape.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with others sending a chadar on his and the party's behalves to Ajmer Sharif dargah on the occasion of Urs of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, in New Delhi on Saturday. — PTI

'BJP is the matchstick which burnt Manipur'

Kharge slams Centre over no action amid clashes

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JAN. 4

Amid the report of clashes between security forces and Kuki-Zo groups, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of having "some vested interests" in ethnic conflict in Manipur.

The charges of Kharge came after the superintendent of police (SP) M. Prabhakar was injured in a mob attack in Kangpokpi district on Friday evening.

The attack took place after the shutdown call of

Kuki-Zo Council opposing the deployment of central armed forces in the region. The protesters, upset with the deployment of BSF and CRPF personnel in Saibol village, targeted the SP's office.

Several district police vehicles within the office compound were vandalised. Prabhakar was struck on the forehead by a projectile, but authorities have confirmed that he is now stable and actively leading the response operations.

Kharge, taking note of fresh violence, also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not

paying a visit to the strife-torn state since it began.

"Your last visit to Manipur was for seeking votes for BJP, way back in January 2022. Violence erupted in the state on 3rd May 2023. More than 600 days have passed, and media reports through satellite images have now revealed that villages after villages have been wiped off in the state," Kharge said in a social media post.

"We are repeating with utmost responsibility that the BJP has some vested interests to keep the beautiful border state on the boil, with over 250 deaths and 60,000 being displaced.

People are still living in camps for 20 months," Kharge added.

He also pointed out that I.N.D.I.A. bloc parties had made three requests to the Central government - Visit Manipur before 2024 ends, but you did NOT. Call representatives of All Political Parties at your office in Delhi, but you haven't. Involve yourself directly in Manipur, but it doesn't seem that you have. "Even if you do either of the above, you cannot escape the Constitutional culpability of not following the Rajdharma. BJP is the matchstick which burnt Manipur!," said Kharge.

BJP'S LIST INCLUDES TWO WOMEN

FROM PAGE 1

Former ministers Arvinder Singh Lovely and Kailash Gahlot have been chosen to contest from Gandhi Nagar and Bijwasan, respectively. Satish Upadhyay, the former Delhi BJP chief, will be contesting from Malviya Nagar.

The BJP's candidate list includes two women: Rekha Gupta from Shalimar Bagh and Kumari Rinku from Seemapuri. Ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls, the BJP has presented its initial slate featuring four sitting legislators, two former MPs, and eight former MLAs, notably excluding any candidates from the Purvanchal region.

Among the candidates are four former Delhi ministers—Kailash Gahlot and Raaj Kumar Anand from the outgoing AAP government, and Arvinder Singh Lovely and Rajkumar Chahuan from Sheila Dikshit's tenure (2003-2013). Lovely is replacing current MLA Anil Kumar Bajpai, while Gahlot has shifted his contesting seat from Najafgarh to Bijwasan. Anand will run from the reserved Patel Nagar constituency, and Chauhan from the reserved Mangolpuri constituency.

Tarwinder Singh Marwah, a former Congress MLA, will contest from Jangpura against former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. Current BJP MLAs, including Vijender Gupta, Om Prakash Sharma, Ajay Mahawar, and Jitender Mahajan, will seek re-election from Rohini, Vishwas Nagar, Ghonda, and Rohatas Nagar respectively.

Shah: Kejriwal's building Sheesh Mahal not infra

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday launched a scathing attack against AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of prioritising personal luxury over essential infrastructure development during his nearly decade-long tenure as Delhi's Chief Minister. Speaking at the inauguration of the New Delhi Municipal Corporation's working women's hostel, Sushma Bhavan, Shah lambasted Kejriwal for constructing what he termed a "sheesh mahal" instead of focusing on the city's pressing needs.

During his address, Shah enumerated the

extravagant items and appliances present in Kejriwal's official residence, expressing disbelief over their necessity. He recalled Kejriwal's initial promise to reject government perks, including the use of a government car or bungalow, and to introduce a new form of politics.

Shah contended that Kejriwal abandoned these vows, opting instead to build a sprawling "sheesh mahal" across 50,000 square yards at a cost of ₹45 crore, heavily burdening the taxpayers of Delhi.

Shah further criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for failing to establish a robust water supply system in Delhi. He highlighted that while essential services remained

inadequate, Kejriwal had invested ₹14 crore in a water plant solely for his family. Detailing the lavish expenditures at his residence, Shah alleged that over ₹6 crore was spent on designer marbles, another ₹6 crore on motorized curtains, ₹70 lakh on automatic doors, ₹50 lakh on carpets, and ₹64 lakh on smart TVs since Kejriwal took office.

Taking a jab at Kejriwal's leadership, Shah mentioned his suggestion on social media to allow public tours of the "sheesh mahal." He recounted an incident where young visitors challenged him, accusing Shah of being unfair for criticizing Kejriwal despite the latter's construction of the opulent residence.

Rahul: Govt needs to spend on edu.

New Delhi, Jan. 4:

Quality education cannot be achieved through privatisation and financial incentives, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Saturday, underlining the importance of governments spending more on education and strengthening public institutions.

In a conversation with IIT Madras students held sometime back, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha talked on a host of issues including on the changes he would want to initiate to improve the education system. "I believe it is one of the foremost responsibilities of any government to

guarantee quality education to its people. This cannot be achieved through privatisation and financial incentives".

"We need to spend a lot more money on education and strengthening government institutions," he said in a post on X, while sharing an edited video of his conversation with the students.

Asked how the Congress and the BJP are different in terms of how they operate, he said the Congress and UPA generally believe that the resources should be distributed more fairly and growth should be wider and inclusive. — PTI

Nagar Kirtan procession



Sikh devotees take part in a Nagar Kirtan procession ahead of the 358th birth anniversary (Gurupurab) of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru, at Golden Temple, in Amritsar on Saturday. — PTI

MP CM: Union Carbide waste disposal on hold

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 4

Rumours regarding the start of Union Carbide waste disposal at the Pithampur facility sparked fresh protests in the industrial town on Saturday. In response, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced that the government would inform the court about the people's sentiments on the matter.

Yadav declared that the disposal of Union Carbide waste at the Pithampur facility would remain on hold until the court issues an official order. "No further action will be taken till the court's order," he asserted.

An emergency meeting was convened by Yadav around midnight on Friday to assess the situation. Addressing the media after the meeting, which was attended by Deputy Chief Ministers Jagdish Devda and



A waste disposal facility at Pithampur is seen where a huge quantity of waste from Bhopals Union Carbide factory has been brought for disposal, in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh. — PTI

Rajendra Shukla, State urban development minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, State BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma, top officials from administration and police, and legal experts, Yadav stated, "I appeal to the people not to believe in rumours. The Union Carbide waste will only be dumped in Pithampur and not dis-

posed of." He emphasised that the state government is committed to protecting the interests of the people at all costs. "We will move the court to apprise of people's sentiments and it has been decided to keep on hold the disposal of the Union Carbide waste till the court's order," Yadav reiterated.

Congress, BJP women behind protest: Kejriwal

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asserted that women protesting outside his residence were affiliated with the Congress and BJP, not from Punjab. "These women belong to the Congress and the BJP, not Punjab. All women in Punjab stand with AAP. They trust us," he stated.

Kejriwal further demanded that the Congress and BJP officially declare any electoral alliances, condemning what he described as "covert, behind-the-scenes collaboration." Criticising the BJP, he claimed the party lacks a credible chief ministerial candidate and agenda, accusing its leaders of attempting to undermine him without presenting any substantial achievements. "Now, the people of Delhi will decide whether they want those who work or those who only believe in abusing," he declared, contrasting

AAP's decade-long track record and future plans with BJP's alleged lack of constructive offerings.

In response, Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav challenged Kejriwal to explain the rising water bills under AAP's administration. Yadav questioned, "Why doesn't he give relief to people now? Why wait till after the Assembly elections when people will oust him from power?"

Additionally, the DPCC chief accused the Kejriwal government of corruption within the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). He refuted Kejriwal's claims of providing 20,000 liters of free water per family and benefiting 12 lakh families with zero water bills, asserting that most colonies are not receiving adequate water supply. "Kejriwal claims to provide free water and zero bills, but in reality, the AAP Government is neither providing free water nor ensuring that 12 lakh families receive zero water bills," he stated.



Mukesh Chandrakar

SLAIN SCRIBE'S 2 RELATIVES AMONG 3 HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT RAIPUR, JAN. 4

Three people were on Saturday arrested in connection with the murder of 32-year-old journalist Mukesh Chandrakar in Bijapur district under south Bastar in Chhattisgarh, the police said. Two of the arrested people are relatives of the deceased, the police said.

The arrested people were identified as Ritesh Chandrakar, Dinesh Chandrakar and Mahendra Ramtek, while another suspect Suresh Chandrakar was absconding, the police said.

A special investigation team has been constituted to further probe the incident, Bastar range inspector general of police P. Sunderraj said.

The slain journalist has recently exposed an alleged corruption scandal involving a ₹120 crore road construction project from Gangaloor to Nelsanar village in Bastar.

The project was being handled by contractor Suresh Chandrakar, also his relative.

U.S. NSA JAKE SULLIVAN IN INDIA TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 4

The US on Saturday formally announced a two-day visit by national security adviser (NSA) Jake Sullivan to New Delhi on January 5-6. During the visit, he will meet his Indian counterpart NSA Ajit Doval and external affairs minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar. The discussions will cover a wide array of issues, including space, defense, strategic technology cooperation, and shared security priorities in the Indo-Pacific region.

This visit marks Sullivan's final trip to the Indo-Pacific as NSA under the Biden administration, which is set to leave office in about two weeks. A White House spokesperson described the visit as a "capstone meeting" to strengthen the U.S.-India partnership. Sullivan will also visit the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, where he will meet young Indian entrepreneurs and deliver a speech on the progress made under the US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET). — PTI

COLD | WAVE Dense fog, cold conditions hit most part of the country disrupting normal life

Delhi sees season's longest zero visibility spell

New Delhi, Jan. 4: Dense fog enveloped the national capital on Saturday, reducing visibility to zero for an unprecedented nine-hour stretch, the longest spell of the season, according to the weather department.

The dense fog led to the delay of 81 trains while 15 flights got diverted on Saturday, according to officials.

"Zero visibility prevailed for nine hours at Palam between 6 pm and 3 am (UTC), marking the longest spell of the season.

The city's primary weather station, Safdarjung, recorded eight hours of zero visibility, as per the IMD." With the the maximum

temperature in the city settled at 20 degrees Celsius, 0.7 notch above average and the minimum temperature was recorded at 7.8 degrees Celsius, 0.9 notch above the normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The relative humidity during the day ranged between 96 and 100 per cent, it said.

For Sunday, the weather department has predicted a partly cloudy sky. The predominant surface wind is expected to blow from the southeast at a speed of less than 4 kmph during the morning hours.

Smog and moderate fog are likely in most areas,



Vijay Chowk engulfed in a layer of fog, in New Delhi, on Saturday. — PTI

with dense fog expected in a few places during the morning. The wind speed is forecast to gradually increase to 8-10 kmph from the southeast in the after-

noon, before decreasing to less than 6 kmph in the evening and night. Smog or shallow to moderate fog is likely during the evening and night, it said.

Meanwhile, the driver of the bus was killed and four passengers were injured after it collided with a truck parked in the wrong lane amid dense fog near the Kalinger toll plaza on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, officials said on Saturday.

A thick layer of fog engulfed parts of Kashmir on Saturday as the valley braces for widespread snowfall, with the possibility of heavy snow over the middle and the higher reaches, officials said.

Dense fog engulfed several parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar, in the morning, they said. A thick blanket of fog also enveloped most parts

of Punjab and Haryana on Saturday morning and visibility in several places in the states, including Amritsar, Ludhiana and Ambala, dropped to zero, the MeT department said.

Meanwhile, Cold wave conditions gripped parts of Odisha on Saturday with the mercury dropping to 4.6 degrees Celsius in G Udaygiri in Kandhamal district, the IMD said. Cold conditions prevailed in the desert state of Rajasthan on Saturday morning, with Vanasthali in Tonk district recording the lowest minimum temperature of 6.4 degrees Celsius, MeT officials said. — PTI

SHORT TAKES



In a file picture taken on May 23 last year, Japanese woman Tomiko Itooka celebrates her 116th birthday. — AFP

WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON DIES AT 116 IN JAPAN

Tokyo, Jan. 4: The world's oldest person, Japanese woman Tomiko Itooka, has died aged 116, the city where she lived, Ashiya, announced on Saturday. Itooka, who had four children and five grandchildren, died on December 29 at a nursing home where she resided since 2019, the southern city's mayor said in a statement.

She was born on May 23, 1908 in the commercial hub of Osaka, near Ashiya — four months before the Ford Model T was launched in the United States. Itooka was recognised as the oldest person in the world after the August 2024 death of Spain's Maria Branyas Morera at age 117.

6K PRISONERS RELEASED IN MYANMAR

Bangkok, Jan. 4: Myanmar's military government has released more than 6,000 prisoners and has reduced other inmates' sentences as part of a mass amnesty marking the 77th anniversary of independence from Britain on Saturday.

They included just a small proportion of hundreds of political detainees jailed for opposing army rule since the military seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. That takeover was met with massive nonviolent resistance, which has since become a widespread armed struggle. Reports said Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the military government, granted amnesties covering 5,864 prisoners from Myanmar, as well as 180 foreigners who will be deported.

SOUTH AFRICA'S CARNIVAL DRAWS THOUSANDS

Cape Town, Jan. 4: Thousands of colourfully costumed minstrels paraded through Cape Town Saturday in an exuberant century-old carnival rooted in the South African city's history of slavery that drew large crowds of spectators.

In glitzy uniforms matched with flashy hats, parasols and face paint, the marchers walked and danced through the city's historic centre in an annual event that an organiser said had grown to become the biggest such parade on the continent.

The highly anticipated New Year parade celebrates Cape Town's mixed-raced community descended from slaves brought from Africa, Southwest Asia and Indian Ocean territories after the city was settled by the Dutch in the 1650s. Organisers said 18 troupes of around 20,000 performers took part in this year's event, with marchers from all ages and accompanied by trumpets, trombones and tambourines.

ETHIOPIANS EVACUATED AFTER SERIES OF QUAKE

Addis Ababa, Jan. 4: Evacuations were underway in Ethiopia Saturday after a series of earthquakes, the strongest of which, a 5.8-magnitude jolt, rocked the remote north of the Horn of Africa nation. The quakes were centred on the largely rural Afar, Oromia and Amhara regions after months of intense seismic activity.

No casualties have been reported so far. Ethiopia's government Communication Service said around 80,000 people were living in the affected regions and the most vulnerable were being moved to temporary shelters.

"The earthquakes are increasing in terms of magnitude and recurrences," it said in a statement, adding that experts had been dispatched to assess the damage. The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission said 20,573 people had been evacuated to safer areas in Afar and Oromia, from a tally of over 51,000 "vulnerable" people.

Trump's immunity is 'violated' by sentence

Republican spokesman calls order 'deeply conflicted'

New York, Jan. 4: A New York judge's decision to go ahead with sentencing in Donald Trump's hush money case — set for 10 days before the January 20 White House inauguration — is a "violation" of presidential immunity, the Republican's spokesman said on Friday.

"Today's order by the deeply conflicted, Acting Justice Merchan in the Manhattan DA Witch Hunt is a direct violation of the Supreme Court's Immunity decision and other longstanding jurisprudence," Steven Cheung, Trump's incoming communications director, said.

Trump was convicted in May of 34 counts of falsifying business records to cover up a hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels on the eve of the 2016 election to stop her from revealing an alleged 2006 sexual encounter.

Trump's attorneys had sought to have the case dismissed on various grounds, including the SC's landmark ruling last year that former US presidents have sweeping immunity from prosecution for a range of official acts committed while in office. Judge Juan Merchan rejected that argument but he noted that Trump will be immune from prosecution once he is sworn in as president. — Agencies



In a file picture, Donald Trump waits for the start of proceedings in Manhattan criminal court on April 23, 2024, in New York.

Hillary, Soros to get President's medal

Washington, Jan. 4: US President Joe Biden has named former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, fashion designer Ralph Lauren, football superstar Lionel Messi, former defence secretary late Ashton Carter, and controversial investor George Soros, along with 14 others for the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the nation's highest civilian honour, would be presented to the awardees at a White House ceremony by Biden Saturday afternoon.

The prestigious award is presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavours, the White House said Saturday. Biden believes great leaders keep the faith, give everyone a fair shot, and put decency above all else. These nineteen individuals are great leaders who have made America and the world a better place. — Reuters

MIKE JOHNSON REELECTED HOUSE SPEAKER

Washington, Jan. 4: Republican Mike Johnson narrowly won reelection Friday as House speaker on a first ballot, overcoming hard-right GOP holdouts in a tense standoff and buoyed by a nod of support from President-elect Donald Trump.

The uneasy scene brought an ominous start to the first day of the new Congress. A small collection of hardline Republicans convened in the back of the House chamber, one by one declining to vote or choosing another lawmaker. Johnson's face turned grim, acknowledging fresh turmoil and signaling trouble ahead for him as Trump returns to the White House with unified GOP control of Washington.

In the end, however, Johnson was able to flip two holdouts who switched to support him, with help from Trump, who called the dissenting Republican lawmakers from the golf course. The final tally was 218-215. Johnson, visibly relieved, vowed to reject business as usual in his first speech with the gavel. — AP

Declined offer to go on exile for three years, says Imran

Lahore, Jan. 4: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that he was offered a chance to leave the country on exile for three years but he declined.

In a post on X on Friday, the 72-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician said, "I was offered the opportunity of a three-year exile while I was in Attock Jail, but I will live and die in Pakistan."

In conversation with mediators at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail where he is incarcerated since August 2023, Khan said he has been indirectly approached with an offer to transfer him to



Imran Khan

his Bani Gala residence in Islamabad.

However, he said on X that he refused the offer: "My stance is clear: release my detained workers and leaders first. Only then will I consider discussing my personal situation."

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder further said that he believes

Pakistan's decisions should be made within the country. However, when it comes to basic human rights, voices will naturally rise globally. Institutions like the UN exist for this purpose. Enlightened people all over the world raise their voices against violation of basic rights.

Khan said during this authoritarian era, the breach of personal freedoms, violation of fundamental legal rights, and destruction of institutions have not only disrupted the country's social and political systems but also its legal and economic frameworks. — Reuters

SIX INDIAN AMERICANS IN U.S. HOUSE

Washington, Jan. 4: In a momentous occasion for Indian Americans, six of their leaders on Friday were sworn-in as the members of the US House of Representatives, the largest so far for this minority ethnic community in the United States.

When I was first sworn in twelve years ago, I was the sole Indian American Member of Congress and only the third in US history. Now, our coalition is six strong! I am excited to welcome even more Indian Americans to the halls of Congress in the years to come! Congressman Dr. Ami Bera said in a post on X. — Reuters

Downed 8 US-supplied ATACMS missiles: Russia

Moscow, Jan. 4: Russia said on Saturday it had shot down eight US-supplied Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles, whose use Moscow has warned could spark a hypersonic ballistic missile attack on central Kyiv. Outgoing US President Joe Biden authorised Ukraine to use the 300-kilometre-range arms last year, in a move the Kremlin denounced as a grave escalation.

"Air defence systems downed eight ATACMS US-made missiles and 72 drones," the Russian defence ministry said.

The ministry also said it had captured the Ukrainian village of Nadiia, one of the few settlements in the eastern Lugansk region still under Kyiv's control.

Moscow advanced by almost 4,000 square kilometres (1,540 square miles) in Ukraine in 2024, according to an AFP analysis, as Kyiv's army struggled with chronic manpower shortages and exhaustion.

Both sides have accused each other of fatal attacks on civilians since the year began.

A Russian strike on a village in Ukraine's northeast Kharkiv region earlier on Saturday killed a 74-year-old man, regional governor Oleg Syneubov said. — AFP



Joe Biden

KYIV: ATTACK ON POKROVSK TO CUT OFF SUPPLY LINES

Kyiv, Jan. 4: Russian forces continue to launch attacks near the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk in an effort to bypass it from the south and cut off supply routes to Ukraine's troops, the Ukrainian military said on Saturday.

The capture of the road and rail hub in the eastern Donetsk region could create serious difficulties for the Ukrainian army on the eastern front and also allow Russia to reinforce and advance its front line to the west.

"The Pokrovsk direction remains the hottest and there the Russians attacked 34 times (in the past 24 hours) and tried to break through our defences south of Pokrovsk," Viktor Trehubov, spokesman for Ukraine's Khortytsia group of forces, said. — Reuters

RUSSIA ARRESTS 4 FOR PLOTTING 'TERROR' ATTACK

Moscow, Jan. 4: Russia has arrested four teenagers on suspicion of planning a "terror" attack on the city of Yekaterinburg, Russian state news agencies reported on Saturday.

The four, born between 2007 and 2008, allegedly planned to detonate homemade explosive devices in busy areas of the city for an unspecified "terrorist" cause, the agencies reported, citing Russia's FSB security services.

Two of the suspects were also accused of setting a police car on fire, they added. A video published by the state TASS news agency purported to show one of the suspects confessing to setting the police car alight after subscribing to "neo-Nazi channels on Telegram".

"I read in the same channels it is necessary to commit acts against police," the person said. Russia has seen domestic security — already fragile — deteriorate in recent years, as the Kremlin channels resources into arresting those suspected of collaborating with Ukraine. — AFP



Supporters of impeached South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol stage a rally on Saturday. — AP

Chaos continues over Yoon's arrest

Seoul, Jan. 4: South Korean investigators again asked the country's acting president on Saturday to order the presidential security service to comply with an arrest warrant for impeached president Yoon Suk Yeol.

The security service, along with military troops, on Friday prevented prosecutors from arresting Yoon Suk Yeol in a six-hour standoff inside Yoon's compound. The investigators secured the warrant to arrest Yoon over his brief declaration of martial law last month.

The corruption investigation office for high-ranking officials, which is investigating the case,

said on Saturday it had again asked acting president Choi Sang-mok, the nation's finance minister, to order the presidential security service to cooperate with the warrant.

The police asked the chief of the presidential security service to appear for questioning on Tuesday.

Yoon's December 3 martial declaration stunned South Korea and led to the first arrest warrant to be issued for a sitting president. Yoon's lawyers have repeatedly said that the warrant issued by the court is "unlawful" and "illegal", pledging to take further legal action against it. — AFP, Reuters

MUSICAL TRIBUTE Jay Chou is a world-renowned Taiwanese singer, musician

Spider species named after pop songs

Beijing, Jan. 4: A Chinese scientist has named 16 new spider species after songs by popular "Mandopop" musician Jay Chou.

Mi Xiaoli, a professor at Tongren University in China's southwestern Guizhou province, listed the newly-discovered arachnids in a paper published in the academic journal *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*.

The paper, published in December, has gone viral since being discovered by netizens this year, with a related hashtag on microblogging platform Weibo racking up over 26 million views since Wednesday. Weibo users have since dubbed Mi, 44, the "Ultimate Fan".

RARE SPIDER NAMES

STARRY MOOD spider is named after a hit love song from Chou's debut album "Jay".



OTHERS ARE named after similarly beloved tunes, including "Rainbow spider", "Dragon Fist spider", and "Excuse spider".

One of the arachnids — the 3.5-millimetre long *Cyclosa xingqing* sp. nov. or "Starry Mood spider" — is named after a hit love song from Chou's debut album *Jay* released in 2000. Others are named after similarly beloved tunes, including "Rainbow spider", "Dragon Fist spider", and "Excuse spider". Taiwan-born Chou,

renowned for his dramatic romance ballads and pop beats, is one of the world's most popular Mandarin-language artists having sold over 30 million records.

The 45-year-old has been a household name on the Chinese mainland and beyond for over two decades. Now his songs will be immortalised as the

names of the eight-legged critters that Mi and his colleagues recently discovered in China's Yunnan province.

The Secret Code spider, a 2.36 millimetre yellowish brown web-weaving arachnid, is named after Chou's 2002 love song featured on his acclaimed album "The Eight Dimensions".

It's unclear how the song, in which Chou croons "Don't ever leave, you are missing the missing piece in my world," relates to the spider.

Excuse spider, a fuzzy brown and white critter, shares its name with a track from Chou's 2004 album "Common Jasmine Orange", the best-selling physical album in China this cen-

tury according to Guinness World Records.

Mi, who published the paper with fellow researchers Wang Cheng and Li Shuqiang, has been a Jay Chou fan since his undergraduate days, according to state media outlet Xinhua.

"Naming spiders after Jay Chou's songs brings scientific research closer to the public. I hope more people will pay attention to scientific research and support ecological protection," he told Xinhua news agency.

This is not the first time Chou's name has been used for scientific discoveries. In 2011, astronomers in Taiwan named an asteroid after the singer. — AFP

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE
1. NIT No. and Tender Inviting dates: SO/SE/Urban/1117/VKPB/C/CC. Issue Date: 2024-25. Dt: 03.01.2025 12:01 PM. From Dt: 06.01.2025 10:30 AM to 16.01.2025, 4:30 PM.
2. Name of Works: Laying of GC road from Assam Bazar to DIET Road in Unincorporated Municipality (SC Category) - 1 Work.
3. Total value of Works: Rs. 52.00 Lakhs.
Tender documents will be available in e-procurement market place in between 06.01.2025, 10:30 AM to 16.01.2025, 4:30 PM. The tender letters can be seen by login into www.tenders.telanganagov.in.
DIPR No.: 8659-PP/CL/AdvT/2024-25. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH), Unil-III, Mahabubnagar @ Hyderabad.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PR CIRCLE, PEDDAPALLY
E Procurement Tender Notice
NIT No. 294 to 343/SE/Tenders/2024-25, Dt: 04.01.2025.
Total No. of works (50) calling the works under Available Fund, ZP Fund, IMSE CSR, CRP 2024-25, DMFT, SDF and 15th Finance Grant pertaining to Peddapally and Jayashankar Shilpaipally Districts. Total Est. Cost: Rs. 5,02,495 Lakhs. Tender Schedules can be had from e-procurement market from Dt. 07.01.2025.
Further details can be available from e-procurement market place www.tenders.telanganagov.in.
DIPR No.: 8668-PP/CL/AdvT/2024-25. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PR Circle, Peddapally.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Superintending Engineer (R&B), Headquarters Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 500004.
Amendment No. 1, Date: 02.01.2025
NIT No: 07/12/TS/SE/HQ/Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Sectt./FMS/2024-25, Dt.: 28.12.2024
In partial modification to the NIT Dated: 28.12.2024, the following amendment is made:
S. No. Description As Notified New Dates
1. Last Date and Time of Issuance of Tenders 31.12.2024 from 3.00 PM to 21.01.2025 up to 3.00 PM 02.01.2025 from 6.00 PM to 22.01.2025 up to 3.00 PM
2. Last Date and Time of Receipt of Tenders 31.12.2024 from 3.00 PM to 21.01.2025 up to 3.30 PM 02.01.2025 from 6.00 PM to 22.01.2025 up to 3.30 PM
3. Date of opening Tenders Technical Bid: 21.01.2025 at 4.00 PM Financial Bid: 24.01.2025 at 2.00 PM Technical Bid: 22.01.2025 at 4.00 PM Prices Bid: 25.01.2025 at 2.00 PM
All other conditions remain unaltered. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (R&B), Headquarters Circle, Hyderabad.
DIPR No.: 8639-PP/CL/AdvT/2024-25

SOUTHERN RAILWAY (SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION WORKSHOP) PODANUR E-TENDER
For and on behalf of the president of India, The Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication Workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore - 641023, invites E-Tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The Bid Security deposit should be made through online payment gateway or through available modes as mentioned in Tender document.
Corrigendum NOTICE No SGW-S-203-HDG-472189-1-25 dt: 03.01.2025
1. Name of work Hot Dip Galvanizing of Ground connections for 143 & 220 mm strokes of IRS Point machines for S&T Workshop podanur
2. Approximate cost of the work ₹ 57,20,215.20/- Including GST @ 18%
3. Earnest money to be deposited ₹ 1,14,400/-
4. Completion period of work 12 Months
5. Date and time of closing of tender. 15.00 Hrs of 27.01.2025
6. Website particulars <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
For further details, visit internet site www.ireps.gov.in or contact office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore 641023. Dy.CSTE/S&T/P/TJ For Chief Workshop Manager S&T Workshop, Podanur

कार्यालय में दत्तेश्वरी मक्का प्रसंस्करण एवं विपणन सहकारी समिति मर्यादित कोण्डागांव, जिला कोण्डागांव (छ.ग.)
पंजीयन क्रमांक-AR/KN/9 dms-12-02-2019
(Email Address- HYPYERLINK@mailto:mmpsgn@gmail.com)
क्रमांक/मक्का प्रसं./स्था/2025/09 कोण्डागांव, दिनांक-03/01/2025
-:- रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति :-:-
मौ दत्तेश्वरी मक्का प्रसंस्करण एवं विपणन सहकारी समिति मर्यादित कोण्डागांव छत्रीसंगम के द्वारा निर्माणवाचन 80KLPD क्षमता मक्का आचारित इकोनॉल प्लांट में उत्पादित इकोनॉल के विक्रय के लिए क्रेताओं के अनुसूचिकरण हेतु ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट की वेबसाईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में ई-निविदा क्रमांक 163846 दिनांक 03/01/2025 से EOI जारी की गई है. जिसकी विस्तृत जानकारी जिला-कोण्डागांव के आधिकारिक वेबसाईट <https://kondagaon.gov.in> एवं ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट की वेबसाईट से प्राप्त कर सकते है।
निविदा प्रकाशन तिथि :- 03.01.2025 अपरान्ह: 07-30 बजे
निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 23.01.2025 अपरान्ह: 05-30 बजे
निविदा खोलने की तिथि :- 24.01.2025 पूर्वाह्न: 11-30 बजे
महाप्रबंधक
मौ दत्तेश्वरी मक्का प्रसं. एवं विप.सह.स.मर्या. जिला कोण्डागांव
S-42662/3

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NAVA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR (CENTRAL TENDER CELL) E-Procurement Tender Notice
Main Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
Tenders are invited for the Following works:-
S No. System Tender No./Date Name of Work PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs)
1 163592 First Call 30.12.2024 Construction of Adbhar to Bundell Road Length 3.00 Km. 426.62
2 163629 First Call 31.12.2024 Construction of Semariya Bhainsbod Sendri Road Length 5.70 K.M. including Bridges & culverts at Distt. Bemetara (C.G.) 716.75
Last Date of Tender Downloading date 21.01.2025. For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Central Tender Cell) Office Of Engineer In Chief G-242505048/8 P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar