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Constitutional morality goes for a toss in Telangana as Speaker dismisses disqualification pleas

Hyderabad: In a move that has sharp- termed the decision a 'brutal attack on ened accusations of constitutional hypocrisy against the Congress, Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Wednesday dismissed disqualification petitions filed by the BRS against MLAs who defected to the ruling party, citing technical grounds and lack of 'sufficient evidence'. Hyderabad Local Events .The decision comes despite the Congress led by Rahul Gandhi repeatedly projecting itself as a defender of the sanctity of the Constitution, even as its handling of the defection issue had, from the outset, signalled a strategy of delay and reliance on procedural technicalities to wriggle out of an uncomfortable situation. The prolonged inaction by the Speaker had indicated that the ruling party would seek refuge in narrow interpretations rather than address the substance of the allegations. In a press release issued by State Legislature Secretary V Narasimha Charyulu, it was stated that the Speaker, acting as chairman of the tribunal on disqualification petitions, dismissed the pleas. The uploading of the detailed orders on the Assembly website, he said, was under process. Hyderabad City GuideBRS leaders, including party whip KP Vivekananda and general secretary Soma Bharat Kumar, appeared before the Speaker along with advocates representing both the BRS and the defected MLAs. Following the verdict, the BRS announced that it would challenge the Speaker's order in court.

Speaking to the media, Vivekananda

democracy' and said the BRS would pursue all legal remedies to ensure that the turncoat MLAs were held accountable. After 10 MLAs defected to the Congress after being elected on the BRS symbol, the BRS had filed disqualification petitions before the Speaker. With no decision forthcoming for months, the party approached the High Court and subsequently the Supreme Court, seeking directions to compel the Speaker to act. Notices were issued to all 10 MLAs, but only eight responded, denying that they had joined the Congress. Kadiam Srihari sought more time to file his response, while Danam Nagender, who even contested on a Congress ticket in between, is yet to submit his reply, with both these seen as Congress tactics to delay the entire process.

In the first phase, the Speaker's ruling covered petitions against five MLAs, Tellam Venkat Rao, Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy, Prakash Goud, Gudem Mahipal Reddy and Arekapudi Gandhi. Significantly, the order was pronounced just a day before the expiry of the four-week deadline set by the Supreme Court, which had repeatedly pulled up the Speaker for delays and warned of possible contempt proceedings. The apex court had earlier fixed a three-month deadline ending October 21, which was ignored, prompting in the State. The timing of the verdict, Hyderabad City Guide. Beyond the legal sharp observations. The BRS had argued before the court that no meaningful inquiry had been conducted into the defection of the 10 MLAs. While the Speaker



is yet to decide on the remaining five cases, the Supreme Court hearing scheduled for Thursday is expected to have a bearing on the course ahead. The Speaker's reasoning has drawn criticism as five MLAs were spared disqualification on the ground of "insufficient evidence" despite the BRS placing extensive material on record. This included affidavits, photographs, public statements, social media posts and documented participation of the MLAs in Congress programmes over several months. Some of them have openly campaigned for Congress-backed candidates in the recently concluded gram panchayat elections. Yet, the Speaker held that they were still technically with the BRS, effectively brushing aside the material presented during the hearings. The rejection of the disqualification petitions has reignited debate over the erosion of parliamentary norms delivered on the eve of the Supreme Court deadline, has been widely viewed as procedural compliance without substantive scrutiny, serving to shield the

defectors.

Despite repeated admonitions from the Supreme Court and explicit warnings of contempt, the Speaker's inaction stretched for nearly a year before culminating in a last-minute order that protected the turncoat MLAs. The Congress' attempts to justify the defections by citing the BRS's past record have also come under scrutiny. Legal experts have pointed out that equating individual defections with legislative party mergers permitted under the Tenth Schedule reflects a selective and untenable reading of constitutional provisions. The contrast becomes sharper in the national context. In Haryana, the Congress demanded the immediate disqualification of its MLA who joined the BJP, calling it a moral imperative. In Telangana, the same party appears willing to bend institutional processes to suit political convenience. battle, the political fallout is already visible. Defections have fuelled factionalism within the Congress, disrupted constituencies and affected governance.

Delhi High Court refuses PIL seeking 4 times compensation for IndiGo flight cancellations

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on aviation sector, and due to sudden dis-Wednesday refused to entertain a PIL seeking direction to the Centre and IndiGo airline to pay a compensation of four times the full ticket price to all passengers whose tickets were cancelled in November and December after the rollout of the new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL). A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said it has already taken cognisance of the issue while hearing another Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and granted liberty to the petitioner to seek intervention in the pending petition."We don't see any reason as to why the concerns raised here cannot be taken up with the earlier petition. The jurisprudence developed by the Supreme Court and high courts around PILs permits the court to expand the scope of a petition in public interest..."We decline to entertain this petition with liberty to the petitioner to seek intervention in the pending petition. The writ petition stands disposed of," the bench said. According to the petition filed by the Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC) through its president, Prof Vikram Singh, the IndiGo fiasco has triggered widespread concern across the

ruption and last-minute cancellation of thousands of flights, stranded passengers faced severe inconvenience. Advocate Virag Gupta, representing the petitioner, said airports were overflowing with misdirected pieces of baggage, excessive holdups, inadequate communication from the airline and confusion regarding refunds or re-booking options. The plea also sought an enquiry by a retired judge or Lokpal to identify the negligence and lapses of the Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in triggering the crisis. At the outset of the hearing, the bench said it recently dealt with the issues in another petition that is still underway and no final adjudication has been made.

The petitioner's counsel claimed that the issues raised by the court in the earlier petition had not been addressed yet. He pressed for the prayers raised in his plea, contending that over 12.5 lakh passengers suffered due to over 5,000 flight cancellations in December and the refunds have not been processed. As the counsel continued to argue, the bench asked, "Why are you so charged? Are parties restricted from raising these points in the earlier petition? What benefit will you or the stranded passengers get from



the multiplicity of petitions? Why can't you file an impleadment application in the earlier petition?"The bench further said PILs are not to score "brownie points". As Gupta argued that the passengers be given a compensation of four times the total ticket price, the additional solicitor general, who was representing the Centre and DGCA, said, "When it comes to the trauma of stranded passengers, why restrict it to four times compensation? It could be 4,000 times compensation also."The petition further sought to direct the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Department of Consumer Affairs to initiate a "class action suit" according to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act against IndiGo for the suffering and damages caused to the passengers due to the crisis in the last couple

of months. "IndiGo operates around 410 aircraft with 5,700 pilots, translating to roughly 14 pilots per aircraft. This skeletal staffing model is insufficient as new rest rules require more pilots to operate the same flight schedule...

"When the new FDTL rules reduced pilot availability, the numbers stopped crunching, which led to a national aviation crisis. Instead of taking remedial, penal action and giving appropriate compensation as per the existing laws, the matter is being diverted in the name of an enquiry and emphasis on the need for new laws," it said. The PIL said that to avoid a repeat of the crisis, action on six aspects dominance, refund, compensation, damages, penalty according to loss to the economy, and contempt for non-compliance with court orders — are needed.

Editorial

On the Bondi Beach shootings, hate crimes

Bondi Beach in Sydney, one of Australia's most iconic locations, turned into a scene of massacre on December 14, the first day of Hanukkah, when two gunmen opened fire at a Jewish gathering. At least 16 people, including a 10year-old girl and an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor, were killed and 40 others wounded. Police said the attackers were a 50-year-old man, who held licensed firearms, and his 24-year-old son, who had been under investigation by Australia's domestic intelligence agency for six months. The father was shot dead by police, while the son has been taken to hospital under custody. The attack was the deadliest shooting since the 1996 Port Arthur massacre in Tasmania, in which 35 people were killed. In recent years, Australia has witnessed growing antisemitic incidents, targeting its Jewish community, which makes up some 0.4% of its population. Last year, in October, a kosher-food business in Bondi was targeted, while in December, a synagogue in Melbourne was firebombed. In August this year, Australia accused Iran of directing such attacks, and expelled the Iranian Ambassador and three other diplomats. After Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel and Israel's retaliatory genocidal war on Palestinians in Gaza. antisemitic incidents in Australia rose by 316%, between October 2023 and September 2024, with more than 2,000 cases reported, according to the country's special envoy to combat antisemitism.

Australia's Labour Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, has urged unity and asked citizens to be "each other's light". The rise in antisemitic violence should be a grave concern for Australia, which hosts the world's eighth largest Jewish community. His government must swiftly investigate the attack and bring all to justice. He should also remain alert to forces, domestic and foreign, that seek to divide Australian society. While antise mitic extremists target the local Jewish community, critics of Mr. Albanese, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — under whose watch Hamas killed 1,200 people in Israel have sought to blame Mr. Albanese's policies, including his government's recognition of Palestinian statehood earlier this year, for the Bondi shooting. Mr. Albanese should ignore such attacks and focus instead on healing society, combating hate crimes, and addressing concerns over gun violence. Australia introduced tough gun control laws after the Port Arthur massacre and enforcing a strict licensing regime, leading to a significant decline in gun-related violence and deaths. However, the Bondi shooting has again raised concerns about gun safety. Australia should now tighten regulations further, enhance monitoring of extremist ideologies and isolate and punish those who perpetrate hate crimes.

Congress activists attack sarpanchelect candidate in Peddapalli

PEDDAPALLI: Sarpanch-elect Ambothu Ravi Kumar was reportedly attacked by Congress activists in Anther gaon mandal on Monday night. Ravi Kumar had contested the Anthergaon sarpanch post as an independent candidate and won the seat in the second phase of Gram Panchayat elections held on Sunday. On Monday night, Ravi Kumar visited the village to thank voters for electing him, going door to door along with his supporters. While they were moving through the village, some Congress activists allegedly attacked them.

Mystery surrounds whereabouts of former CPI Maoist chief Ganapathy

Hyderabad: The whereabouts of legendary Maoist ideologue Ganapathy remain a closely guarded secret, even years after he stepped down from the leadership of the CPI (Maoist). Despite sustained intelligence efforts, security agencies have not been able to trace his location. Hyderabad Local Events Ganapa thy, whose original name is Muppala Laxmana Rao, led the Indian revolutionary movement for over 25 years. He handed over the reins of the CPI (Maoist) to Baswaraj, also known as Namballa Kesava Rao, in February 2017. Baswaraj was later killed in an encounter with security forces in the Abujh Mad forests of south Chhattisgarh on May 21, 2025. Ganapathy had become general secretary of the then CPI ML People's War in June 1992. Following its merger with the Maoist Communist Centre of India in 2004, the CPI (Maoist) was formed. Under his leadership, the movement expanded to nearly

157 districts (out of 600) across the country, with the unification of revolutionary groups considered his major contribution.

After stepping down, Ganapathy's status and location were kept strictly confidential. Even the leadership transition was not disclosed for more than a year and was officially acknowledged only after media reports revealed the change. A party document prepared after the CPI (Maoist) Central Committee meeting in February 2017 suggests that Ganapathy may have been moved out of active conflict zones due to health concerns. The document indicates that only a small inner circle of the party may remain in contact with him, possibly once or twice a year. The resolution on party veterans stated that senior leaders should gradually be relieved of responsibilities based on physical and health conditions. It also said that if adequate security could not be ensured amid intensified counter insurgency operations, veterans



should be shifted to non-struggle areas, either rural or urban. According to the document, regional or state committees were tasked with coordinating their security and maintaining contact at least once every six months. It also noted that if political conditions improved, such veterans could be allowed to enter public life and contribute openly to the movement. The security of such 'veterans' should be taken care of by the Regional Bureaus or the State committees. In a situation where the party could not establish a contact with them in six months, the veterans should continue on their own till the party established the contact again.

10 Ahmedabad schools get bomb threat, turns out to be hoax after search



Ahmedabad: As many as 10 private schools in Ahmedabad received an email on Wednesday threatening bomb blasts, which later turned out to be a hoax as nothing suspicious was found during searches, police said. As a precautionary measure, these schools declared a holiday for the afternoon shift as the morning shift was already over when they received the emails, having a common text, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone 1, Harshad Patel said. After being alerted, police, along with the bomb detection and disposal squad, dog squad and anti-sabotage teams, reached the schools and conducted a thorough search, Patel told reporters. "In the email sent to the schools, it was claimed that bomb blasts will be carried out in these establishments during the afternoon. As a precautionary measure, these schools declared a holiday for the afternoon shift as the morning shift was already over," he said. "Our teams reached the schools and conducted a thorough search. However, nothing suspicious was found. Cybercrime teams are now investigating the source of these emails and who was behind them," Patel said. The exact contents of these emails are not disclosed because the matter is under investigation, he said.

Hyderabad Police implement 'Zero Delay' policy across commissionerates

Hyderabad: City Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar on Wednesday said police should not be restricted by jurisdictional boundaries in crime control and stressed strict implementation of the 'Zero Delay' policy for immediate response

to crimes. Speaking at a coordination meeting of the Hydera bad, Cybera bad and Rachakonda police commissionerates at the TGICCC, he said the nearest police unit must act promptly, regardless of limits, to prevent criminals



from exploiting delays. The three commissioners discussed joint surveillance on habitual offenders, intelligence sharing and coordinated traffic enforcement. Key decisions included uniform 'No Entry' timings for heavy vehicles, joint drunk-driving checks, special drives to collect pending challans and real-time coordination at border junctions.

Woman throws seven-year-old daughter from third floor in Malkajgiri

Hyderabad: In a shocking and inhuman incident, a woman allegedly pushed her seven-year-old daughter from the third floor of a residential building in Vasanthapuri Colony under the limits of the Malkajgiri police station. According to police, the woman identified as Monalisa, threw her daughter Sharon Mary from the building on Tuesday. The child suffered seriousl injuries and was immediately rushed to a hospital by family members. Despite treatment, she succumbed to her injuries. Upon receiving information, the Malkajgiri police rushed to the spot, took Monalisa into custody, and initiated an investigation to ascertain the circumstances and motive behind the incident.

Congress workers attack BRS cadre in Warangal's Chennaraopet mandal

Warangal: An argument over the election of a sarpanch turned violent at Cheruvukommu thanda of Chennaraopet mandal in Warangal district as Congress workers attacked BRS workers. According to sources, a heated argument broke out between Congress and BRS party workers around 11 pm on Monday. The argument escalated over the debate on who would win the sarpanch election. The Congress workers, asserting that their party supporter would win the election, attacked BRS workers, who made the same claim, with sticks from the bonfire lit up by the locals for warmth. Then the BRS cadres also retaliated.

In this clash, both BRS and Congress party workers sustained head injuries. The

injured were shifted to a hospital in Narsampet town. Upon receiving the information, the police reached the spot, dispersed both groups and brought the situation under control. Based on the complaints from both sides, the police have registered a case and are investigating. The BRS cadres alleged that nearly 20 workers of the ruling Congress party indiscriminately attacked them and warned that they would not spare a single BRS worker. This incident has caused tension to build up at the thanda, where sarpanch election would be held on Wednesday in the third and final phase of gram panchayat election. Tight security measures have been taken to prevent further attacks at the thanda, the po-

BRS reschedules key party meeting due to Parliament winter session

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has postponed its State executive committee meeting and Legislature Party (BRSLP) meeting, originally scheduled for December 19, to December 21. Hyderabad Local Events The decision was taken on the directions of party president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao to ensure the participation of BRS Parliamentary Party members, as the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament is set to conclude on December 19.In a statement issued by senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao, it was announced that the meetings would now be held on December 21 at Telangana Bhavan. Telangana Travel Guide Parliament members, Legislative Council members, and Legislative Assembly members are expected to attend the rescheduled State executive committee meeting.

CM Chandrababu Naidu defends PPP model for new medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday defended the decision to develop medical colleges under the Public Private Partnership mode, saying it will ensure efficient services. Speaking at the fifth collectors conference at the secretariat here, the Chief Minister addressed the politically sensitive issue of developing 10 medical colleges under the PPP model, a move vehemently opposed by the YS Jaganmohan Reddy-led YSRCP. According to the government, these 10 medical colleges were part of the 17 colleges sanctioned during the previous YSRCP government by the Centre. "Services will be better through PPP mode. Some people say that medical col-

leges are being privatised. Though they

are being built through PPP mode they

will operate as government colleges," said Naidu. Asserting that rules for the medical colleges will be set by the government, the CM said 70 per cent of their services will be extended to NTR Vaidya Seva scheme (welfare health scheme), and that medical seats were also increased. Noting that the Centre is also taking up projects under the PPP mode, Naidu said he was not afraid of criticism and that the truth must be told to people. Hitting out at YSRCP, the CM said Rs 500 crore was spent on the 'Rushikonda Palace' in Vizag during the previous YSRCP government, which otherwise could have funded two medical colleges."The past government (YSRCP) had made several mistakes. It was not even in a position to pay salaries and availed loans at the highest in-

Congress MLAs hand out death threats to BRS-backed sarpanch candidates

Hyderabad: Congress MLAs have continued to issue threats to BRS-backed sarpanch candidates, warning of serious consequences including 'death' even if they are elected in the ongoing gram panchayat elections. Hyderabad Local Events Jadcherla MLA J Anirudh Reddy, known for his controversial remarks, has once again stirred a row by threatening to "kill" BRS-supported candidates even if they get elected as sarpanches. Addressing a campaign progra mme in his constituency, the Jadcherla MLA cautioned BRS-backed candidates that development of their respective panchayats would not be possible without his support. "Even if you (BRS-supported candidates) win the elections by invoking sympathy, I will anyway kill you. I will not release funds for your Panchayat. Indiramma houses will be approved through my Indiramma committees and rest other works will not video that is being circulated on social media. The Jadcherla MLA also ridiculed BRS MLA from Huzurabad, Padi Kaushik Reddy, referring to his appeals to voters during the Assembly elections



held in 2023. The Congress MLA recalled that the BRS MLA had pleaded with voters to elect him, failing which he would commit suicide. Most of the BRS-backed sarpanch candidates were now using similar tactics in the panchayat elections, he alleged in the video. Anirudh Reddy's comments came a day after Wanaparthy MLA T Megha Reddy warned that if BRS-backed sarpanches were elected, they would not be allowed entry into his house. He had also cautioned that requisitions submitted by such sarpanches for be approved," Anirudh Reddy said in a road works and other development activities would not be approved. Earlier, Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ilaiah had similarly warned voters in his constituency against casting their votes in favour of BRS-supported candidates.

Former govt whip Balka Suman protests against Congress in Mancherial



Mancherial: Former government whip Balka Suman alleged that the Congress was indulging in illegal casting of votes by taking assistance from polling staffers. He along with activists of BRS staged a sit-in at a polling station at Mittapalli village in Jaipur mandal on Wednesday.Suman charged that the ruling party was exploiting the power to in-

fluence the results of the voting by fraudulently casting votes in favour of a candidate supported by the Congress.He accused the polling staff of extending support to the Congress in stealing votes. He demanded officials to take steps to prevent wrongdoings of the Congress and to take stern action against errant staffers.

terest rates. It created problems by availing debt at 13 to 14 per cent (interest rate)," Naidu said while addressing the collectors of 26 districts. Further, the CM issued a warning to officials regarding bureaucratic inefficiency, particularly in the Revenue Department. "Identifying the loopholes in the system and making use of them gave rise to a situation where work is being forsaken. This scourge is the highest in the Revenue Department," he said. The Chief Minister stressed the need to give priority to public satisfaction and urged the collectors to adopt a speed of delivering government services strategy. Numbers alone will not serve the purpose and district collectors should initiate measures to increase satisfaction among people at field level with speedy delivery of government services, including redressal of grievances, he added.

Describing district collectors as "ambassadors of the government", the CM expressed happiness over achieving 92



per cent satisfaction level in disbursal of pensions. Also, he directed the collectors to focus on data-driven decisionmaking in governance to achieve the best results. Citing the functioning of the Revenue Department as an example, the Chief Minister said blockchain technology would be used to ensure accountability for every employee. He set a deadline to move all government files and services available online by January 2026, and also instructed officials to focus more on 'data lake' to get real-time information. According to the CM, Google came forward to set up an Artificial Intelligence data centre in Visakhapatnam with the existence of proactive governance.

Telangana Inter Board to implement jumbling system for inter practical exams

Hyderabad: Commencing this academic year, the intermediate students appearing for the practical exams will not be tested in familiar lab settings with the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TG BIE) deciding to implement the jumbling system. Hyderabad Local Events The jumbling system means students from one junior college will be allotted a centre in another college for practical examinations, commencing February 2, 2026. So far, this practice was limited to theory examinations.TG BIE will initially implement this new system in government-sector junior colleges allotting students from these colleges to centres in different colleges that have all the laboratory facilities. This new practice will enable colleges and students to overcome any challenges arising due to deficiencies in lab facilities."The best colleges among the government-sector ones in an area will be selected and students will be allotted a centre there," a senior TG BIE official told 'Telangana Today'.In addition to the jumbling system, the practical examinations will be coningly," the TG BIE said. ducted under CCTV cameras surveil-

lance. All junior colleges have already been directed to install CCTV cameras in the laboratories and connect those cameras to TG BIE's command control centre. This will enable officials to directly monitor the exams and prevent any malpractice or irregularities in the exam. The practical exams will be held from February 2 to 21, including on Sundays, in two sessions i.e., 9 am to 12 noon, and 2 pm to 5 pm. Prior to science practical exams, English practical exams for the first and second-year students are scheduled for January 21 and 22 respectively. Further, the ethics and human values exam, and environmental education exam will be conducted on January 23 and 24 respectively. Timings of the both exams are 10 am to 1 pm.

"If dates of intermediate practical exams 2026 coincide with JEE Main 2026 schedule, candidates appearing for the JEE Main will be provided a special provision or alternative arrangement to write the intermediate practical exams accord-

Suspected gunman in Bondi Beach shooting charged with 15 counts of murder

Sydney: A suspected gunman in Sydney's Bondi Beach massacre was charged with 59 offences, including 15 charges of murder, on Wednesday, as hundreds of mourners gathered in Sydney to begin funerals for the victims. Two shooters slaughtered 15 people on Sunday in an antisemitic mass shooting targeting Jews celebrating Hanukkah at Bondi Beach, and more than 20 other people are still being treated in hospitals. All of those killed by the gunmen who have been identified so far were Jewish.Police said that Naveed Akram, the 24-year-old suspected shooter, was charged on Wednesday after waking from a coma in a Sydney hospital, where he has been since police shot him and his gunman father at Bondi. His 50-year-old father, Sajid Akram, died at the scene. The charges include one count of murder for each fatality and one count of committing a terrorist act. Akram was also charged with 40 counts of causing harm with intent to murder in relation to the wounded and with placing an explosive near a building with intent to cause harm.Police said the Akrams' car, which was found at the crime scene, contained improvised explosive devices. Funerals began as a country reeling from its deadliest hate-fueled massacre of modern times turned to searching questions, growing in volume since the attack, about how it was able to happen. As investigations unfold, Australia faces a social and political reckoning about antisemitism, gun control and whether police protections for Jews at



events such as Sunday's were sufficient for the threats they faced. First, however, was a day of anguish for families from Sydney's close-knit Jewish community who gathered, one after another, to begin to bury their dead. The victims of the attack ranged in age from a 10-yearold girl to an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor. A father of 5 who ministered in prisons is buried The first farewelled was Eli Schlanger, 41, a husband and father of five who served as the assistant rabbi at Chabad-Lubavitch of Bondi and organised Sunday's Chanukah by the Sea event where the attack unfolded. The London-born Schlanger also served as a chaplain in prisons across New South Wales state and in a Sydney hospital. "After what happened, my biggest regret was — apart from, obviously, the obvious – I could have done more to tell Eli more often how much we love him, how much I love him, how much we appreciate everything that he does and how proud we are of him," said Schlanger's father-in-law, Rabbi Yehoram Ulman, who sometimes spoke through tears.

Praveen, Aditi win individual titles in Senior National archery championship

Hyderabad: Ojas Praveen and Aditi Gopi Chand Swami, both from Maharashtra, emerged champions in the individual category of the NTPC-sponsored Senior National archery championship at the Hyderabad Public School (Begumpet) here on Monday.In the women's final, Aditi Gopichand Swami defeated Sakshi Choudhary (Uttar Pradesh) with a score of 146-145.

Madhura (Maharashtra) won the bronze. Hyderabad City Guide

In the men's final, Ojas Praveen defeated Abhishek Verma (Delhi) with a

Sahil Rajesh Yadav (RSPB) won the bronze.

In the men's team event, the team comprising Abhishek Verma, Priyanshu, Aman Saini, and Ritik Chahal (Delhi) won the gold medal. In the women's team event, the team of Samaniya, Anshu, Raj Kaur, and Sukhpreet Kaur (AIPSCB) also secured the gold medal. Telangana High Court Justice K. Dhamangaonkar Lakshman, HPS Society President J. Gusti Noria, Telangana Archery Association President T. Raju, General Secretary Arvind, and senior members Shankarayya, Ashwin, and Pawan score of 150-148 to win the gold medal. Kalyan graced the valedictory function.

Telangana skaters return with rich haul of medals



HYDERABAD: Telangana skaters put up an impressive performance in the 63rd Senior national skating championship in Visakhapatnam winning 19 gold, 10 silver and nine bronze. The State skaters won medals across various individual, pair, couple and group events across various age groups ranging from six to eight years to below 18 years."The Championship ended on a high note with extraordinary individual, pair and couple events performance and beyond extraordinary and exemplary performances in the group events making Telangana Skaters stand out from the rest of the competitors, former World champion and Arjuna 30," he said.

Awardee Anup Kumar Yama said."The Senior Nationals were very challenging with skaters from various states competing with the best of their skills and talent and it was exciting to compete with them all and win the gold," he said. "The golden girl Advika Muthar, winner of three gold medals and one silver in the 10-12 years age group," Anup said.

"The Skaters have undergone rigorous and intensive training throughout the year 2025 by practicing for six hours a day and the regular periodic training camps along with the exclusive State camp conducted from November 15 to

Hyderabad's Shaswat Kumar makes rare global karate milestone

HYDERABAD: Hanshi Shaswat Kumar of Hyderabad, founder of Senkoukai Karate, has become the world's first karate master to be honored with the "World Supreme Grandmaster Crown of Martial Excellence Award", one of the highest recognitions ever bestowed in the martial arts world. The prestigious award was conferred in Osaka, Japan, by Soke Ahmad Al Hasani (Japan), Black Belt 10th Dan and President of Shotokan Ryu Traditional Karate Osaka Japan (HQ). The award recognizes Hanshi Shaswat Kumar's extraordinary contributions to international martial arts, his lifelong dedication to karate, and his global leadership in preserving the true spirit of tradi-

tional Budo. On the same occasion, Hanshi Shaswat Kumar was also honored with the "World Sokeship Recognition Certificate", officially recognizing him as SOKE (Founder) of the unique and original karate style Senkoukai Karate. With this recognition, Hanshi Shaswat Kumar is formally acknowledged as Soke – Founder of Senkoukai Karate, 10th Dan Black Belt (Japan), a globally respected martial arts leader and innovator and a historic first in Karate HistoryThis Award also means that the Hyderabadi has won 20 international awards in just one year from different countries.

Tickets on sale for India-Sri Lanka women's T20I matches in Vizag

HYDERABAD: Tickets for India-Sri Lanka women's T-20 International Series matches in Visakhapatnam on December 21 and 23 at the ACA-VDCA International Cricket Stadium are on sale now. Tickets for both matches, scheduled for December 21 and 23, went on sale tonight at 7:00 PM IST.Fans can purchase tickets exclusively through the District Zomato app. Ticket prices have been set affordably at ?200, ?300, ?350, and ?400, offering options for supporters across all



budgets. This bilateral series promises thrilling action as India takes on Sri Lanka in front of a passionate home crowd. Early booking is recommended as demand is expected to be high. For more details and to secure your seats, download the District by (Zomato) app immediately.

Shilpa Shetty denies EOW invoking Section 420 against her, Raj Kundra

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra has categorically denied "the baseless and motivated allegations" about the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police invoking Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code against her and her husband, Raj Kundra.

On Wednesday, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a long note quashing the allegations. She wrote, "We categorically deny the baseless and motivated allegations being circulated. The issues sought to be raised are being given a criminal colour without any lawful basis. A Quashing Petition has already been filed before the High Court and is pending adjudication. Having fully cooperated with the investigation, we are sanguine that justice will prevail and have complete faith in the law enforcement authorities and the judicial system of our country. We respectfully urge the media to exercise restraint as the matter is subjudice".

The INR 60 crore fraud and cheating case involving Shilpa Shetty Kundra and her husband Raj Kundra was registered by the Mumbai Police Economic Offences Wing following a complaint by Mumbai-based businessman Deepak Kothari. The complainant alleged that between 2015 and 2023, he invested approximately INR 60 crore in Best Deal TV Pvt. Ltd., a company linked to the couple, based on assurances of returns ment Directorate (ED).



and repayment. As per the FIR, the funds were allegedly diverted and not returned despite repeated demands, leading to charges. The couple has earlier denied criminal intent in press statements, and stated that the dispute is civil in nature, linked to a business failure and insolvency proceedings of the company. During related proceedings, the Bombay High Court issued directions concerning travel restrictions. The investigation is ongoing, and no conviction has been recorded. Earlier, media reports stated that with the addition of Section 420 of IPC, which is a scheduled offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the complainant has instructed his legal team to initiate appropriate proceedings before the Enforce-

Shruti Haasan switches to 'vacay mode' after months of work

Mumbai: Actress Shruti Haasan has finally carved out some time for herself after months of work, as she heads off on a long-overdue vacation. Shruti took to Instagram stories, where she shared a selfie onboard a flight. The actress looks every inch happy in the picture, which she captioned: "Vacay time after ages and ages."Talking about Shruti, she was last seen in "Coolie," where she essayed the EventsThe actress will next be seen in role of Preethi Rajasekar in the film, which also starred the titans of Indian cinema like Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna Akkineni, Malayalam actor Soubin Shahir, and Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan in a cameo appearance. 'Coolie' follows the story of a former coolie union leader, who investigates the death of his friend which leads him to a crime syndicate. The film was officially announced in September 2023 under the tentative title 'Thalaivar 171' as it is Rajinikanth's 171st film as the lead actor. The official title was announced in April 2024. Principal photography took place between July 2024 and March 2025, in locations including



Chennai, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Jaipur and Bangkok. Hyderabad Local "Salaar Part 2: Shouryanga Parvam". The first installment of "Salaar: Part 1 -Ceasefire" released in 2023. The epic neonoir action thriller film directed by Prashanth Neel. The film stars Prabhas in the titular role, alongside an ensemble cast of Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, Jagapathi Babu, Bobby Simha, Sriya Reddy, Ramac handra Raju, John Vijay, Easwari Rao, Tinnu Anand, Devaraj, Brahmaji and Mime Gopi. In the fictional dystopian city-state of Khansaar, where monarchy still exists, the film follows the friendship between Deva, the exiled prince of Khansaar, and Varadha, the current prince of Khansaar.

Rakul Preet Singh criticises doctor claiming she had plastic surgery

New Delhi: Actor Rakul Preet Singh slammed a self proclaimed doctor on social media who claimed she went under the knife and urged her fans not to believe such "fraud" people making statements without factual checks. A user named Dr Prashant Yadav, who is a board certified plastic and cosmetic surgeon, according to his bio, shared a post on Instagram on Monday, comparing the pictures and videos of the actor. Yadav said the actor underwent botox, fillers and a nose job. He also pointed how Singh tries to avoid sharing the information about her real transformation with the public and rather talks about fitness. Singh re-shared the video on her Instagram story and said such content does nothing but mislead people. "Fraud alert: it's scary that people like him are claiming to be doctors and



making statements without any factual checks and misleading people," she wrote. The actor, who recently featured in "De De Pyaar De 2", said she has no issues with others going through procedures but attributed her changes to weight loss."Being an actor who understands ancient and modern science I have no issues if people do surgeries but there is also another thing called weigh loss that comes from hard work. Ever heard of that? (Beware Of Such Doctors)," she said.