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మూల వ్యాధి, తెల్పుపులు, చర్చాపులతో పాటు అన్ని
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Sharp fall in unanimous sarpanch elects in panchayat polls signals anger against Congress

Sangareddy: The gram panchayat elections in the erstwhile Medak district reflected strong public anger against the Congress government, with voters in a majority of villages choosing to vote against Congress supported candidates. The discontent was evident in the sharp decline in unanimously elected gram panchayats, as several villages rejected consensus polls to register their protest through voting. Compared to the previous panchayat elections, the number of unanimous elections fell significantly across the district. In Sangareddy, the number of unanimously elected gram panchayats dropped to 21 from 96 in the last elections, despite a slight increase in the total number of panchayats. Medak recorded a similar trend, with unanimous panchayats declining to 21 from 84. Siddipet performed relatively better but still saw a fall from 48 in 2018 to 26 in 2025. Political observers said the trend indicated strong rural opposition to the government, with villagers deliberately



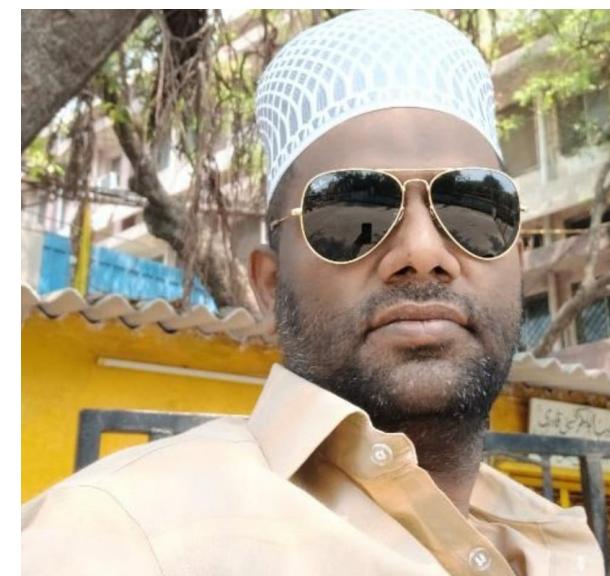
opting for contested elections rather than unanimous selections. The number of unanimously elected ward members also declined considerably. Political history books Polling percentages ranging between 85 and 90 per cent across three phases were also viewed by political experts as a sign of anti incumbency. A resident of a village in Zaheera bad constituency said Congress leaders attempted to push for unanimous elections but faced strong resistance. He added that the Congress backed candidate and panel were eventually defeated at the polls.

Service to humanity is service to God

““Arif Bhai, who performed Ganesh Bhaiya's last rites at his own expense, has demonstrated true humanity.

““Arif Bhai is an example of the Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb (a symbol of communal harmony).”

Secunderabad, December 19 : (Skynews) “It has been proven that humanity is still alive in Secunderabad. Poor laborer Ganesh Bhaiya received a dignified farewell. Ganesh Bhaiya, a destitute laborer from Kamar village in Bardhaman district, died while undergoing treatment. Ganesh Bhaiya was working as a laborer in Secunderabad for his livelihood. During this time, he suffered a severe illness due to paralysis, which made his condition very critical. He was admitted to a local hospital for treatment, but due to the family's dire financial situation and inability to afford better medical care, the doctors gave up. Unable to arrange for better treatment, the poor laborer Ganesh Bhaiya died while undergoing treatment. His family was in such a critical situation that they could not even afford the ambulance costs to take the body back to their native village. At this time, a Muslim man from Kishan Bagh, Mohammed Arif Bhai, came forward to help the victim's family, extending a helping hand. He performed Ganesh Bhaiya's



last rites with Hindu customs and traditions at his own personal expense, setting an example of humanity and brotherhood. An emotional scene unfolded when Ganesh Bhaiya's daughter, Meera Bhuiya, performed her father's last rites. During this time, Arif Bhaiya stood by the victim's family until the funeral was completed and provided support in every way. Locals praised this act of humanity as commendable. It is noteworthy that people commented that when system resources fail to provide support, the brotherhood of humanity becomes the greatest support. They also said that this humane example set by Arif Bhai is an inspiration to today's society and a testament to the Ganga-Jamuna culture of communal harmony.

Intermediate students allegedly assault Class IX students at tribal welfare school in Narsampet

Warangal: An incident of intermediate first-year students allegedly beating ninth-class students took place at Tribal Welfare Residential School and College (Boys) at Narsampet in the district. In the incident which was said to have taken place on Thursday night, a ninth-grade student Deepak fell unconscious. His fellow students rushed him to the government hospital at Narsampet for treatment. Two other ninth-grade students also sustained serious injuries in the attack. According to sources, an argu-

ment between the students suddenly turned violent, creating panic in the hostel. When the incident took place the warden and teachers were absent. Parents were expressing concern over the lack of supervision regarding the safety of students in the hostel. The exact reasons for the clash were yet to be determined and authorities have launched an investigation to ascertain the cause. The ninth class students speaking to the media complained that the intermediate students have been targeting them without any reason.

PSCs need to anticipate emerging challenges in tech, focus on transparency: President Murmu

Hyderabad: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said Public Service Commissions need to anticipate emerging challenges in technology and also focus on strengthening transparency and developing globally comparable teams of civil servants. Speaking after inaugurating the National Conference for Chairpersons of Public Service Commissions here, she also said the Public Service Commissions should give the highest priority to the aspect of honesty and integrity of candidates they recruit. “The Public Service Commissions need to anticipate the emerging challenges on the frontier of technology, strengthening transparency



and credibility as well as developing globally comparable teams of civil servants,” she said. Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma UPSC Chairperson Ajay Kumar and dignitaries were present.

Cong conspiracy behind blowing up of check dams : Madhu

Peddapalli: BRS leader and former MLA Putta Madhu has alleged that Congress party was behind the blowing up of check dams. Damage of check dams began only after the Congress government came to power in the state. Closed on the heels of the Thanugula check dam blast, Adavi Somanapalli check dam was damaged, he said while expressing doubts over the damage of the check dam. Speaking on the occasion, Madhu suspected that congress sarpanches in the neighbouring villages located along the Manair river might have demolished the check dam to transport sand illegally from the river. They spent huge money in gram panchayat elections to capture sarpanch posts. After the election, they deliberately damaged the check dam to clear the way to transport sand, he alleged. He expressed doubts over the delay in taking complaint by the police.



Though irrigation AE Nikhil filed the complaint two days ago, police refused to take the complaint. Moreover, police insisted on the AE to mention that the check dam was damaged due to poor quality works. With the officials refusing to modify the complaint, the Koyyur police have finally registered the complaint, he said and demanded that the police take action against the accused. On the other hand, senior BRS leader and former minister T Harish Rao examined the damaged check dam through a video call.

Forty-one Maoist cadres surrender before Telangana Police

Hyderabad: In a major setback to the banned CPI (Maoist) organisation, 41 underground cadres, including six senior functionaries, surrendered before the Telangana Police on Friday. The surrender took place in the presence of the Director General of Police, B Shivadhar Reddy. The cadres, 39 from Chhattisgarh and two from Telangana, laid down arms and renounced violence, handing over 24 firearms and 733 live rounds of ammunition, along with eight BGL shells. The weapons included INSAS and AK-47 rifles, SLRs, an INSAS LMG, a BGL gun and other firearms. The DGP said the mass

surrender reflects a significant erosion in the organisational strength and morale of the CPI (Maoist). “The surrendered cadres cited continuous pressure from security forces, logistical difficulties, ideological disillusionment, poor living conditions and prolonged separation from families as key reasons for quitting the outfit,” Shivadhar Reddy said. The decision also followed an appeal by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy urging Maoist cadres to abandon violence and return to the mainstream. Authorities said the surrendered members will be extended benefits under the State's rehabilitation and reintegration policy.

BJP-backed sarpanch contestant in Warangal fails to cast a vote in her favour!

Warangal: In a rather surprising development that unfolded in the third phase gram panchayat elections, a BJP supporter who contested for the sarpanch seat in the district did not get a single vote, probably not even her own vote. The contestant Boda Gauthami was in the fray for the Kirya thanda sarpanch seat in Khanapuram mandal. Out of 239 votes in the gram panchayat, 238 votes were

cast, of which three were declared invalid in the election held on December 17. The winning candidate Boda Vijaya, supported by the Congress, got 156 votes while her immediate opponent Badavath Lalitha got 79 votes. However, Gauthami did not get even a single vote, leaving people wondering whether she failed to vote for herself or her vote was among the invalid votes.

Editorial

Temporary relief: On trade performance, deeper distress ahead

India's remarkable merchandise trade performance in November should come as some relief for the government, but should not be the basis for any complacency. India's merchandise exports, hit by the stiff headwind of 50% tariffs by the United States, the biggest export destination, unexpectedly grew 19.4% to \$38.1 billion in November 2025. This is the highest it has been in any November in the last 10 years. Also, India's exports to the U.S. grew 22.6% to \$6.98 billion in November 2025 as compared to November 2024. This was also 10.7% higher than in October 2024. This is all certainly welcome news, but it hides an element of deeper distress that will make itself apparent in the months ahead. While exports to the U.S. recovered in November, exporters say that this is because they are absorbing the hit of the higher tariffs, hoping that they will be short-lived. The other option, of losing customers and trying to win them back later after moderation of tariffs, is seen to be harder, at least for now. However, it might soon be the only option. Indian exporters to the U.S., a large chunk of which are micro, small, and medium enterprises in labour-intensive sectors, cannot continue absorbing the tariff impact for too long. The depreciating rupee is helping offset some of the impact, but India's tariff differential with competing countries is too big to overcome. It also takes some time for supply chains to reroute. Reports are already coming in that exporters are seeing a significant drop in orders for January.

The trade deficit also shrank because India's merchandise imports fell 1.9% to \$62.7 billion in November 2025. Reducing imports is a tricky topic for India. While it is preferable to reduce import dependence in the medium term, India's domestic capabilities are not yet robust enough to shoulder the load. Falling merchandise imports, therefore, suggest slackening demand. Coming so soon after the Goods and Services Tax rate reductions, this should be monitored carefully by the government. The broad outlines of the government's Export Promotion Mission show that the government is thinking about how to alleviate the financial stress being faced by exporters. However, the detailed schemes have not been notified yet. These must be expedited. The government could also perhaps adapt some of its more successful COVID-era relief measures as well. For example, a credit guarantee scheme for exporters will do them more good than the planned moratorium on loan repayments will. Of course, these troubles will go away once the tariffs issue is resolved, which the government is saying will happen "very soon". But the decision on this lies with the mercurial U.S. President Donald Trump. As such, the most prudent way forward is to hope for the best but continue preparing for the worst.

BRS gains upper hand as defected MLAs pushed into legal arena

Hyderabad: Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad's decision dismissing the disqualification petitions against defected MLAs has turned the tables. On the surface, it may be a relief for the turncoat MLAs. However, it has landed them in deeper trouble, while handing the BRS an unexpected strategic victory. The Speaker rejected petitions against five MLAs, including Gudem Mahipal Reddy, T Prakash Goud, Tellam Venkat Rao, Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy and Arekapudi Gandhi, citing lack of conclusive evidence. The fate of three others is expected to be finalised in a couple of weeks, while two more MLAs, Kadiyam Srihari and Danam Nagender, are yet to face proceedings. What is crucial is the context in which the ruling came. The decision was delivered under intense pressure from the Supreme Court, which repeatedly almost pulled up the Speaker for inordinate delay and warned of contempt. With deadlines closing in and judicial observations hanging over him, the Speaker was compelled to deliver his decision to avoid personal consequences, effectively bringing his role to an end. By doing so,

the Speaker has washed his hands of the matter. The discretionary shield that protected the defected MLAs within the Speaker's domain has now vanished. The ball has decisively moved out of the Assembly and into the courts. Political party merchandise This is precisely where the BRS strategy appears to have worked in its favour. "The BRS leadership is aware that the Speaker's decision might not be in its favour, but by pushing relentlessly for a ruling, the party ensured that the Speaker's discretion is exhausted. From hereafter, the defected MLAs will have to defend themselves in the High Court and even the Supreme Court. Unlike proceedings before the Speaker, judicial scrutiny offers little room for procedural delay, selective interpretation or political convenience, putting the defected MLAs on the defensive," one of the petitioner MLAs told *Telangana Today*.

He pointed out that the Speaker's claim of lack of evidence and the turncoat MLAs' claim of not defecting might not hold strong in the courts. The BRS has already placed voluminous material, including photographs, public statements, participation



in Congress programmes, attendance at Congress meetings and visible alignment on the Assembly floor. These are matters of public record and judicially testable facts. Telangana tourism guide "The same evidence has prompted the Supreme Court to ask the Speaker to decide on the petitions. The courts will now examine whether political defection can be denied despite such overt conduct," he added. For the defected MLAs, the prolonged comfort of procedural delay is over as court appearances, legal scrutiny and binding timelines now await them. For the BRS, the Speaker's dismissal is not a setback but a tactical breakthrough, ensuring that the final word will come from the courts. What was once a political waiting game has turned into a legal battle where the defected MLAs, not the opposition, now face the real test.

Decline in unanimously elected panchayats as people decided to vote against Congress

Sangareddy: During the gram panchayat elections, people of the erstwhile Medak district expressed their anger over the failures of the Congress government by voting against it in a majority of villages. The failure of the government was also exposed as many villages refused to go for unanimous elections, as they wanted to register their protest by voting against Congress-supported candidates. This came to light as the number of unanimously elected panchayats has come down considerably compared to the previous panchayat elections in the erstwhile Medak district. The number of unanimously elected panchayats came down to 21 from 96 in the last elections in Sangareddy, though there was a slight increase in the number of gram panchayats. In Medak, the number also came down to 21 from 84 in the last elections. Siddipet performed slightly better, though it too

witnessed a decline in the number of unanimously elected panchayats from 48 in 2018 to 26 in 2025. As there was strong opposition against the government in rural parts of Telangana, villagers chose to register their protest by participating in voting rather than electing their representatives unanimously. The number of unanimously elected ward members also came down considerably.

The polling percentage, which was recorded between 85 per cent and 90 per cent in three phases, was also seen as anti-incumbency by political experts. Speaking to *Telangana Today*, a man from a village in Zaheerabad constituency said that Congress leaders forced them to make the panchayat unanimous. However, he said the attempt faced strong opposition. Eventually, he said the Congress-supported candidate and his panel were defeated in the election.

Technical snag grounds Vizag-bound Air India Express flight

Vijayawada: A Visakhapatnam-bound Air India Express flight was cancelled at the Gannavaram Airport on December 18 night due to a technical snag detected before take-off, an airport official said. Among the passengers were high-profile figures, including former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister K Atchennaidu and senior YSRCP leader B Satyana rayana. "While taxiing, they detected an engine problem, so they (aircraft) returned to the bay and the flight was cancelled," Vijayawada airport director Lakshmi kanth Reddy told PTI late on Thursday. According to Reddy, the aircraft suffered a technical snag around 8:30 pm on Thursday. Meanwhile, an Air India Express spokesperson said the engine-related problem was identified prior to the departure. "In the interest of safety, our



Vijayawada – Visakhapatnam flight returned to the ramp after the pilot identified a technical issue prior to departure. The flight was subsequently cancelled," the spokesperson said on Friday. Further, passengers were provided accommodation at a hotel and options for a full refund and complimentary rescheduling of their flight. The airlines expressed regret for the inconvenience caused and reiterated that safety remained paramount on all aspects of its operations. The airport officials clarified that it was an Air India flight which was cancelled on Thursday night.

Man dies after falling from MMTS train in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A 35-year-old man died after accidentally falling from an MMTS train between Secunderabad Railway Station and James Street on Thursday night. The incident occurred around 11

pm, when the man identified as K Sai Ganesh, a mason by profession and a resident of Jagadgirigutta Housing Board Colony, fell from Train No. 47218 and died on the spot of grievous injuries. The loco

One killed on the spot, another injured as two bikes collide in Mancherial

Mancherial: A person was killed on the spot, while another sustained serious injuries when two motorcycles collided at an opencast mining project in Kasipet mandal on Thursday night.

Police said that the deceased person was identified as Durishetti Hariprasad (26), while the injured person was Ramesh. Both belonged to Kyathanpalli. Condition of Ramesh was said to be critical. Hariprasad and Ramesh received serious head injuries when the two-wheelers dashed against each other, resulting in instantaneous death for Hariprasad.

Owaisi urges Telangana govt for permanent elephant

Hyderabad: The All India Majlis e Ittehadul Muslimeen, president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi asked the State government to arrange a trained elephant permanently for various religious processions in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Hyderabad city guide In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, A Revanth Reddy, the AIMIM party president said that in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, many religious processions are held every year. "Trained elephants are used in these religious processions like Muharram, Bonal, Gyarvi Shareef etc. There used to be a trained elephant available in Telangana State which was utilized during these processions. But since the death of the elephant there is no trained elephant in Telangana. Every year, during these occasions a trained elephant needs to be arranged from other States, which is causing a lot of hurdles and inconvenience," Asaduddin Owaisi stated. He urged the government to seriously look into the issue and initiate action.

pilot alerted railway authorities, following which police rushed to the spot and took up investigation. The body was shifted to Gandhi Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Migrant tiger continues to move around coal mines in Mancherial

Mancherial: A migrant tiger which moved from Maharashtra, continued to roam around coal mines in Srirampur for the third day on Friday. Forest officials said that the tiger roamed at a hillock near RK5 underground mine on the fringes of Srirampur till Thursday night. They stated that 40 CCTV camera traps were installed to capture movement of the tiger, while 16 trackers were deployed to trail the animal and to ensure smooth passage for it. Awareness was being created among coal miners and locals, they added. According to the officials, two tigers migrated to the district crossing Kumram Bheem Asifabad district a few weeks back. They were sighted at different coal mines and opencast projects in Srirampur, triggering panic among coal miners. One of them entered Peddapalli district by crossing Godavari river on December 15. This tiger has been staying in the forests of Srirampur since then. On the other hand, a



female tiger titled T1 is shuttling between the forests of Devapur and Tiryani ranges in Bellampalli division at regular intervals for quite a long time. Already, another tigress named L1 made the forests of the district as its home for over a year. The two had migrated to the district from Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve of Chandrapur in Maharashtra in November last. Meanwhile, another migrant tiger has been residing in the forests of Vemanapalli mandal. It had attacked a herd of cows in the forests of Chamanpalli village in Vemanapalli mandal recently.

Harish Rao mortgages his Siddipet home to help PG medical student secure education loan

Siddipet: In a rare gesture by a politician, Former Minister T Harish Rao has decided to mortgage his own house in Siddipet to help a PG medical student to get an educational loan. Harish Rao took the decision after the girl and her father approached him seeking his help in Siddipet recently. The girl Konka Mamatha, who has completed her MBBS from Siddhartha Medical College in Vijayawada, has got PG (Ophthalmology) in SVS Medical College located in Mahabubnagar. Since she needs to pay Rs 7.50 lakh per annum tuition for three consecutive years, Mamatha along with her father Ramachandram, who was working as a tailor in Siddipet, approached a bank. However, the bank management had asked the girl to mortgage some property to accept her application. Harish Rao Since the family owned no properties, they approached Harish Rao seeking his help. The girl actually would need to pay the tuition fee before December 18. After talking to the bank management, Rao mortgaged his own house in Siddipet and



helped the girl to get Rs 20 lakhs loan. He helped the girl in getting the loan intime. Rao, who met the girl's family over breakfast, also presented Rs one lakh cash from his own pocket to help Mamatha pay her hostel fees. Earlier, Rao also mortgaged his house to help the Siddipet auto credit cooperative society to borrow loans some three years ago after encouraging the auto drivers to set up the cooperative society. Ramachandram and Mamatha thanked Harish Rao for his help. Since there was none to help them, Mamatha said that they have approached the former minister seeking his support. The young doctor said that Rao also helped her when she joined MBBS.

After Mynampally, now Wanaparthy MLA Megha Reddy says party senior leaders deceived him

Wanaparthy MLAT. Megha Reddy has alleged that senior Congress leaders betrayed the party during Gram Panchayat elections, costing it several Sarpanch posts. He said evidence of internal sabotage would be submitted to the party high command. Wanaparthy: After former MLA Mynampally Hanumanth Rao, now Wanaparthy MLA T Megha Reddy charged that a few senior leaders in the party had deceived him and ensured that Congress did win more Sarpanches posts in the Gram Panchayat elections. Since Assembly elections, former MLA G Chinna Reddy and Megha Reddy have been at loggerheads over many issues. Differences between the two leaders came to the fore on several occasions. There are about 140 gram panchayats in Wanaparthy. Of these, the Congress MLA claimed that the party had won 85 sarpanches and in about 10 to 15 gram panchayats, a few senior leaders deceived the party, Megha Reddy charged at a press conference here on Friday. Citing the example of Tiruma lapur village in Gopalpet mandal, the Wanaparthy MLA said a Congress-backed candidate was fielded by the senior leaders. However, after the BRS-supported candidate won the elections, he was welcomed into the Congress party within one hour of the results being declared, he said. "The se-



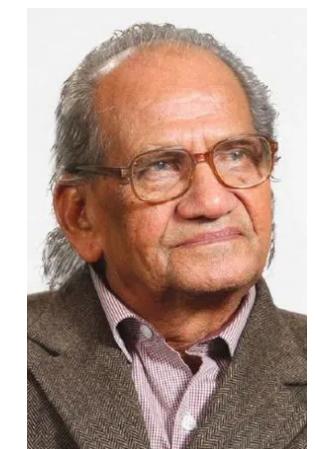
nior leader personally called over 130 people in the village and I have all the proof. Similarly, at Chinnagumudam village in Pebbair, when I went to campaign, locals informed me that a senior leader had called and directed them to support the BRS-backed candidate," Megha Reddy said, without disclosing the name of the senior leader. It was not about these two villages, such backstabbing happened in Jangalapally, Upparpally, Appareddypally, Gopalpet and Polikapadu. These were not baseless allegations and all evidence has been secured, the MLA maintained. Wanaparthy people were aware of the senior leader and his political tactics. The issue would be taken up seriously with party leadership and a complaint would also be lodged with party high command. Political history books Last week, former MLA Mynampally Hanumanth Rao had charged that many BRS coverts were working in Congress and due to their presence, the Congress had lost elections in many villages in Siddipet, Medak and neighbouring areas.

Jayathri Infrastructures MD arrested in money laundering case

Hyderabad: Kakarla Srinivas, the managing director of Jayathri Infrastructures India Pvt. Ltd., was arrested by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad officials in Chennai in connection with a money-laundering case. Hyderabad city guide . The probe is based on multiple FIRs alleging that the company collected around Rs 60 crore from homebuyers through deceptive pre-launch schemes, but failed to deliver flats or issue refunds. According to the ED, the proceeds of crime were diverted through several shell companies with no genuine business activity, many operating from fictitious or residential addresses, to conceal and layer investor funds. Searches resulted in the seizure of digital devices and incriminating documents, and the freezing of several bank accounts. The material reportedly includes records related to undelivered housing projects, project land transactions and diversion of funds. Preliminary investigation indicates coordinated collusion to misappropriate public investments and alienate project lands to third parties. Srinivas will be produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody on Friday. Further investigation is on.

KCR condoles renowned sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar

Hyderabad: K. Chandrashekhar Rao, former Chief Minister and president of Bharat Rashtra Samithi has expressed grief over the demise of Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vanji Sutar, renowned sculptor who designed the iconic 125-foot statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Hyderabad. Ram V. Sutar, widely regarded as one of India's greatest monumental sculptors, passed away due to age-related ailments. In his condolence message, K Chandrashekhar Rao recalled Sutar's extraordinary contributions to the field of sculpture, describing him as a "Kohinoor diamond" whose world-class talent brought life to statues of prominent figures. He particularly praised Sutar's design of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's 125-foot statue, constructed during the previous BRS government with global



standards. Sutar made it a lasting landmark in Telangana's history that stands out as a source of inspiration. The former Chief Minister stated that availing Sutar's services for the Ambedkar statue was a matter of immense pride for the state. He added that the sculptor would forever remain etched in the hearts of the people of Telangana. Calling Sutar's passing an irreparable loss to the art of sculpture, he extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.

Parts of Asifabad, Adilabad continue to experience freezing cold

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: Parts of both Kumram Bheem Asifabad and Adilabad districts reported freezing weather conditions on Friday. Sirpur (U) mandal centre of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district registered the minimum temperature of 6.3 degrees Celsius as against 5.7 degrees C recorded on Thursday. Arli (T) village in Bheempur mandal of Adilabad district saw the minimum temperature of 7.3 degrees C. It had registered the minimum of 7.7 degrees C on Thursday. The normal minimum temperature of Sirpur (U) was 9.7 degrees. It had recorded the minimum temperature 7.3 degrees C on this day in 2024. Arli (T) saw the minimum temperature of 5.8 degrees C on this day last year. While Kumram Bheem Asifabad district



recorded a deviation in average minimum temperature by 3 degrees when compared to previous year, Adilabad registered a departure by 2 degrees. In the meantime, Pembi mandal centre in Nirmal district experienced the minimum temperature 8.4 degrees. People were forced to remain indoors following chilly weather conditions till 9 am.

Andhra Minister Nara Lokesh slams PILs against Vizag IT parks

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Friday expressed concern over a series of Public Interest Litigations filed against major IT Park projects in the state, saying they threaten employment opportunities to youth. The IT Minister noted that the PILs have been filed against IT park developments by global giants Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Cognizant and Sattva Group, and Raheja Corp in Visakhapatnam now. "YSRCP has moved PILs against TCS, Cognizant, Sattva and now Raheja IT parks – projects that together mean over 1 lakh jobs for Andhra Pradesh. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, why this hatred towards the future of our youth? Why sabotage AP (Andhra Pradesh) at every step?" Lokesh asked in a post on X.

The latest PIL has been filed by G Srinivasa Rao of the 'Society for Protection of Constitution' against the land allotment for Raheja Corp's proposed IT Park in Visakhapatnam, said an official press release. According to Lokesh, repeated filing of PILs against marquee investments sends a deeply negative signal to investors and undermines Andhra Pradesh's efforts to position itself as a leading destination for technology, innovation and high-quality employment.



The coalition government is committed to 'transparent, lawful and investor-friendly processes', he said and vowed to defend projects that create livelihood and economic growth. "The future of Andhra Pradesh lies in jobs, skills and growth. Any attempt to stall such projects is an attack on the aspirations of our youth," he added. The Andhra Pradesh government has implemented the Land Incentive for Tech Hub (LIFT) Policy 4.0, 2024-2029, which offers land at Rs 0.99 (99 paisa) per acre to eligible entities throughout the state. Following the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh and the loss of Hyderabad, this policy has been formulated to utilise the infrastructure and talent in Andhra Pradesh, keeping in mind the need for new economic centres. Hyderabad city guide IT major Cognizant Technology Solutions is a beneficiary of this policy.

Messi fiasco fallout: Sourav Ganguly slaps Rs 50 cr defamation suit on football fan club official

Kolkata: Sourav Ganguly has slapped a Rs 50 crore defamation suit notice on an official of a Kolkata-based football fan club for "falsely" dragging his name into the Lionel Messi fiasco and making derogatory and defamatory public statements about the former India cricket captain. Cricketer-turned-sports administrator Ganguly had also lodged a police complaint against Uttam Saha of 'Argentina Football Fan Club' on Thursday. "Besides the police complaint, I have sent this official of the football fan club a Rs 50 crore legal notice. They keep saying anything that comes to their mind," Ganguly told PTI. Saha, while speaking to a journalist, had accused Ganguly of being the actual man behind organising Messi's G.O.A.T India tour and alleged that it's now-arrested prime organiser Satadru Dutta was only a front. In his complaint emailed to the Cyber Cell of the Kolkata Police, Ganguly said the person's statements have adversely affected his reputation and mental peace. "The complaint states that he deliberately levelled serious allegations against Ganguly without any factual basis," a police officer said, adding that an



investigation is currently underway based on the complaint. Ganguly added in the complaint that such "baseless allegations appear to be an attempt to tarnish his hard-earned reputation". In his e-mail, Ganguly stated that in his professional career, spanning over several decades, he earned a reputation in the country and worldwide as a sportsperson and sports administrator and that "baseless" statements aim to tarnish that image. Ganguly was scheduled to remain on the platform to felicitate the Argentine football legend and his entourage alongside Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and other dignitaries on December 13, but the programme was cancelled in the wake of widespread spectator rampage inside the Salt Lake stadium following Messi's premature exit from the venue.

Retired NASCAR driver Greg Biffle, family among 7 killed in North Carolina plane crash



Statesville: A business jet crashed on Thursday while trying to return to a North Carolina airport shortly after takeoff, killing all seven people aboard, including retired NASCAR driver Greg Biffle and his family, authorities said. The Cessna C550 erupted into a large fire when it hit the ground. It had departed Statesville Regional Airport, about 72 kilometres north of Charlotte, but soon crashed while trying to return and land, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol said. Flight records show the plane was registered to a company run by Biffle. The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known, nor was the reason for the plane's return to the airport in drizzle and cloudy conditions. Federal Aviation Administration records show Biffle was rated to fly helicopters and single and multi-engine planes. It wasn't clear if Biffle was piloting the plane at the time of the crash. Biffle was on the plane with his wife, Cristina, and children Ryder, 5, and Emma, 14, according to the highway patrol and a family statement. Others on the plane were identified as Dennis Dutton, his son Jack, and Craig Wadsworth. "Each of them meant everything to us, and their absence leaves an immeasurable void in our lives," the joint family statement said. Biffle, 55, won more than 50 races across NASCAR's three circuits, including 19 at the Cup Series level. He also won the Trucks Series championship in 2000 and the Xfinity Series title in 2002.

NASCAR said it was devastated by the news.

"Greg was more than a champion driver; he was a beloved member of the NASCAR community, a fierce competitor, and a friend to so many," NASCAR said. "His passion for racing, his integrity, and his commitment to fans and fellow competitors alike made a lasting impact on the sport." The plane, bound for Florida, took off from the Statesville airport shortly after 10 am, according to tracking data posted by FlightAware.com. Golfers playing next to the airport were shocked as they witnessed the disaster, even dropping to the ground at the Lakewood Golf Club while the plane was overhead. The ninth hole was covered with debris. "We were like, Oh my gosh! That's way too low," said Joshua Green of Mooresville. "It was scary." The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration were investigating. The Cessna plane, built in 1981, is a popular mid-sized business jet with an excellent reputation, aviation safety expert Jeff Guzzetti said. It has two engines and typically seats six to eight passengers and two pilots. In 2024, Biffle was honoured for his humanitarian efforts after Hurricane Helene struck the US, even using his personal helicopter to deliver aid to flooded, remote western North Carolina.

'Champion' trailer revives a forgotten chapter from Hyderabad's past

Hyderabad: The makers of director Pradeep Advaitam's period drama 'Champion', featuring actors Roshan and Anaswara Rajan in the lead, have now released a gripping and intense trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Political history books Taking to its social media timelines to share the link to the trailer of the film, Swapna Cinemas, which is producing the film, wrote, "From the pages of history comes a revolutionary saga. The epic unfolds now. Presenting #ChampionTrailer to you all! #Champion in cinemas worldwide from DECEMBER 25th, 2025." The trailer shows that the story is set in the year 1948, a year after India gained its independence. While the other parts of the country are experiencing freedom, those in one region called Bairanpally that is in the province of Hyderabad, are still languishing under the control of the Nizams. It is under these circumstances that the hero, who is in the services of the government as a cop, enters the fray. The trailer shows that he is a brilliant footballer who harbours dreams of someday going to London and becoming a world champion. However, his dreams are dashed when he realises that he is not



going to London but to Bairanpally. He agrees, nevertheless, and heads to the place where he meets Anaswara Rajan, who stages plays with her troupe for a living. After initial scuffles, the two take a liking for each other. However, a struggle then breaks out at Bairanpally. What was the task Roshan was assigned at Bairanpally? Did he succeed in his mission? Champion is likely to give answers to all these questions. The film has triggered huge expectations as it boasts of a wonderful technical team.

'Dhurandhar' is a quantum leap for Indian cinema, says Ram Gopal Varma

Mumbai: Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma claimed that Aditya Dhar has single-handedly changed the future of Indian cinema with his latest release "Dhurandhar". Calling the movie a "QUANTUM LEAP IN INDIAN CINEMA", he shared on social media, "I believe that @AdityaDharFilms has completely and single handedly changed the future of Indian cinema, be it north or south.. That's because Duradhar is not just a film.. it is a quantum leap. What Dhurandhar achieves is not just scale, but a never before experienced vision not just in sight but in the mind. Aditya Dhar doesn't direct scenes here... he engineers the states of minds of both the characters and the audience (sic). RGV shared his opinion about Ranveer Singh and Akshaye Khanna starrer using the following words, "The film doesn't ask for your attention... it commands it. From the very first shot, there's a sense that something irreversible has been set in motion, and the audience is no longer a spectator but an accomplice to the happenings on screen. This is a film that refuses to be polite. The writing cuts with intent, the staging breathes menace, and the silences are as weaponized as the thunderous sound effects." Ram Gopal Varma added

that Dhar, as a filmmaker, understands that the power of storytelling does not lie in the volume, but in pressure building. He further went on to praise the performances in the film, which, according to him, have been designed to linger long after the audience leaves the theatre. "Characters walk in carrying history on their shoulders, and the film trusts the audience enough to read their scars rather than spoon-feed their backstories. This confidence, which could be easily mistaken for arrogance, is precisely what marks Dhurandhar as a turning point for Indian cinema," added the director. Ram Gopal Varma pointed out that when most filmmakers believe in dumbing down their films, Dhar is someone who assumes that the audience is intelligent, "the highest respect a director can pay to an audience. The 'Satya' makers said that "Dhurandhar" is not a film chasing trends or validation. "It is a solemn declaration that Indian cinema doesn't need to dilute itself to become successful and doesn't need to mindlessly copy Hollywood," he added.



Hyderabad: Maya by film students selected at international festivals

Hyderabad: Maya, a graduation film by the final-year students of Annapurna College of Film and Media, has garnered acclaim at several national and international film festivals. The film has been officially selected at the 44th VGIK International Student Film Festival, Midnight Monster Club Short Film Festival, Flame FirstCut, Kuala Lumpur International Film Awards, Chennai International Short Film Festival, 5th India International Star Film Festival Awards and The Corner Seats International Film Festival 2025, among others. Written and directed by Swarna Reka Prabhu, Maya reflects imagination, creative courage and collaborative efforts. "Maya portrays various emotions like a roller-coaster ride that we all experience in our dreams. This at times makes no sense, but later, when it is put together,



we can decode the encrypted message that our subconscious delivers," Prabhu said. Annapurna College of Film and Media director Amala Akkineni said Maya represents the spirit of learning through practice and added, "It is heartening to see our students push creative boundaries and receive recognition on global platforms."