

సమస్త పండ్ల నోపుల నివారణ

**దంతామృతం**

మూల వ్యాధి, తెల్లమచ్చలు, చర్మవ్యాధులతోపాటు అన్ని రకాల నోపులకు వనమూళికలతో వైద్యరేయబడును.

శ్రీ కె.వి.దత్తయ్య రాజాయోగి

**శ్రీ చిత్త ఆయుర్వేదాశ్రమము**

నారాయణపేట రోడ్డు, ఊటూర్ మండలం  
మహబూబ్ నగర్ జిల్లా సెల్ 9640418895

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### CRPF jawan injured in leopard attack at camp in Kashmir

Srinagar: A CRPF jawan was injured after a leopard attacked him at a camp of the paramilitary force in Jammu and Kashmir’s Anantnag district on Wednesday, officials said. The leopard strayed into the CRPF camp in Kapran area of Verinag in south Kashmir while personnel were having breakfast in the mess, they said. The animal attacked one jawan before fleeing into the nearby forest, the officials said. The injured jawan was



rushed to a nearby hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, they added.

### ISRO launches US communication satellite BlueBird Block-2 aboard LVM3 from Sriharikota

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh): In a dedicated commercial mission, ISRO on Wednesday launched a next-generation US communication satellite BlueBird Block-2 onboard its heaviest vehicle LVM3-M6 from here. As the 24-hour countdown concluded, the 43.5 metre tall rocket supported by two S200 solid boosters lifted off majestically at 8.55 am from the second launch pad at this spaceport, situated about 135 km east of Chennai.



making it the largest commercial communications satellite ever deployed into Low Earth Orbit, about 600 km altitude by ISRO. Till Tuesday, ISRO had scheduled for lift off at 8.54 am. On Wednesday, the lift off had been revised to 8.55 am. ISRO sources said the revision was done so that the satellite can be placed in the desired orbit following the change in timings. “Earlier, the lift off had been planned at 11.30 am, but it was gradually revised and now, it has been revised to 8.55am”, an official told PTI on Wednesday.

### Officials must work with accountability, says Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: Continuing to express his discontent over senior officials’ performance, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said they should work with accountability. Hyderabad city guide All the Secretaries from different departments must submit a report to the Chief Secretary every month. The Chief Secretary would review the Secretaries’ performances every month, he said. “I will personally review your performance every three months,” Revanth Reddy said to the Secretaries of different departments during a meeting with them here on Tuesday. Irrespective of the action plan framed by the government, officials’ cooperation was essential. Without coordination between departments and among departmental officials, results could not be achieved, he stressed. A mechanism must be established to ensure coordination between departments on matters of development, he suggested. Meanwhile, instructions were issued to the Secretar-



ies to submit complete details of regular, outsourced, and contract employees in their respective departments to the Chief Secretary by January 26. All the Heads of Departments (HODs) of the concerned departments should verify whether outsourced employees are receiving their salaries and EPF & ESI benefits, he said. The Chief Minister also stated that the government had decided to stop operating government offices from rented buildings. “Government offices currently operating in rented buildings must vacate them and move into government buildings by January 26,” Revanth Reddy said.

### Railway track damaged after bomb explodes in Pakistan’s Balochistan

Quetta: A portion of the railway track was damaged after a bomb planted on the track exploded near Dera Murad Jamali in Pakistan’s Balochistan, while police defused another explosive device, local media reported on Wednesday. Police said miscreants had planted an improvised explosive device (IED) on the main railway track near the Notal area of Nasirabad district. The device exploded before the Jaffar Express heading from Peshawar to Quetta reached the site on Tuesday, Pakistan’s leading daily Dawn reported. A section of the track was damaged after the explosion, forcing the suspension of train services. Railway officials halted the Jaffar Express at Dera Murad Jamali and suspended train services between Quetta and other areas until the tracks are fully repaired. After the blast, a heavy contingent of police, the bomb disposal squad and security forces reached the site and started a search operation to find those involved in the incident. Earlier in November, the Jaffar Express was attacked in the Bolan Pass area of Pakistan’s Balochistan. Railway officials said the Jaffar Express was travelling from Quetta to Peshawar when the armed men targeted the train, Dawn reported. According to railway officials, armed men opened fire at the train when it reached near Aab-i-Gum. Security personnel, including Railway police, travelling on the train, retaliated. However, the attackers escaped from the site after a brief exchange of fire with security



personnel. According to railway officials, no casualty was reported in the shooting. On October 7, at least seven people were injured after a blast targeted the Quetta-bound Jaffar Express in the Shikarpur district of Sindh, according to officials. Shikarpur Deputy Commissioner Shakeel Abro said that a blast took place on the train tracks at 8:15 am (local time) on October 7. According to him, the blast happened at a distance of one kilometre from the Sultan Kot railway station. Abro said that seven people were injured in the incident. Earlier this year, the Jaffar Express passenger train on its way from Quetta to Peshawar was hijacked by the Baloch Liberation Army’s (BLA) Majeed Brigade, and over 400 people were taken as hostages. The train was forced to come to a halt on March 11 after blowing off the track in the Dhabar area of Bolan Pass in Balochistan. Security forces and the railway authorities had confirmed that the train had come under attack near Tunnel No. 8 of the Bolan Pass. The standoff ended after more than 24 hours. The BLA claimed to have killed at least 20 of the abducted security personnel after checking their IDs.

### Narayana High School, Hasthinapuram Celebrated Farmers’ Kisan Day”



Hyderabad, December 24, (Skynews): “Narayana High School, Hasthinapuram, celebrated Farmers’ Kisan Day with great respect and enthusiasm on December 24, to honor the invaluable contribution of farmers to the nation. “The program was graced by the esteemed presence of Principals GVL sarada , Anil Kumar Coordinator Gayathri, R&D Head Maheshwari, GM Gopal Reddy , AGM Hemember RI Ravi Prasad , vice principal vijaya lakshmi AO, s Rajesh & Karunaker whose participation added dignity and inspiration to the occasion. The event began with a warm welcome and highlighted the significance of farmers in sustaining the country’s economy and ensuring food security. “Students actively took part in the celebration through speeches, skits, posters, and cultural presentations, expressing gratitude towards farmers and spreading awareness about their hard



recognize the role of farmers as the backbone of the nation and to adopt values of gratitude, sustainability, and responsibility in their daily lives. The R&D Head and other officials spoke about innovation in agriculture and the need to support farmers through education and technology. “The celebration concluded on an inspiring note, leaving students with a deeper appreciation for farmers and their selfless service to society. The event successfully reinforced the message of respect, gratitude, and national responsibility among young learners.



# Editorial

## A good template: On India’s FTA with New Zealand

India’s recently announced closure of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with New Zealand marks a maturing in New Delhi’s approach to global trade. Unlike the earlier headline-grabbing mega trade pacts, this agreement has been negotiated from a position of sectoral caution and strategic clarity. Both countries begin from a relatively low base. India’s Commerce Ministry data indicate that total trade in goods and services in FY25 was a little over \$2 billion, modest by India’s contemporary trade standards. Yet, the shared ambition to double trade within five years is notable — not because of the headline number, but because of how the agreement seeks to get there. The most striking feature is India’s success in negotiating a mobility clause, where 5,000 Indian professionals “at any given time” will be eligible for three-year work visas in areas where India enjoys strong domestic capabilities IT services, health care, education and traditional medicine. This goes well beyond the limited precedents set elsewhere. Even the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA) only provides for 1,000 “working holiday” visas annually, which allow young professionals to work short term, typically in hospitality or services, while travelling.

Read alongside New Zealand’s decision to allow uncapped entry of Indian students into higher education institutions and a minimum 20-hour weekly part-time work entitlement, the agreement creates a deeper, people-centric economic bridge. On tariff exclusions, nearly 30% of India’s tariff lines have been kept out, reflecting hard-won carve-outs to protect rural livelihoods. Dairy products; animal products other than sheep meat; and some vegetable products have been excluded. This is no small concession, given that dairy accounts for roughly a third of New Zealand’s global exports. The absence of similar safeguards was a key reason India exited the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in 2019 — a pact in which New Zealand and Australia were central players. The agreement also includes New Zealand’s commitment to investments in India of about \$20 billion over 15 years. In that sense, the deal moves past a narrow goods trade lens and gestures towards a more holistic economic partnership. If ratified by New Zealand’s Parliament, as expected, the agreement could come into force within seven months. These are modest gains in the face of mounting global trade headwinds. But for India, the real test lies ahead: ensuring the removal of non-tariff barriers — from recognition of Indian educational qualifications to quality standards and rules of origin — and actively popularising the agreement among sectors poised to benefit. That sustained, patient work will determine whether this FTA becomes a template rather than an exception.

## Farmers stage bandh demanding procurement of soy and maize



Adilabad: Farmers urged the State government to take steps to buy both soy and maize grains and avoid inconvenience to them. They observed a day-long bandh of commercial establishments and educational institutions demanding the government to procure both soy and maize produce, in Bazarhathnoor mandal centre on Wednesday. The agitating farmers wanted the government to immediately purchase the grains and prevent inconvenience to them. They asked how they

could sell the grains if the procurement centres, arranged by the marketing department, were closed. They regretted that they would be forced to depend on private traders and incur huge losses in cultivating the crops. Considering a bandh call given by a joint action committee, commercial establishments, schools and colleges remained closed. Police personnel were deployed to prevent untoward incidents. The bandh went off peacefully till afternoon, police said.

## Transient tiger returns to Mancherial after straying towards Ramagundam

Mancherial: A transient tiger which moved towards Ramagundam in Peddapalli district after crossing Godavari river returned to the district. Forest officials said that the tiger returned to the district and was now moving around coal mines and opencast projects near Srirampur for the last two days. The tiger apparently could not find the landscape in and around Ramagundam conducive and returned to the district and was sighted in places where it used to stay a few weeks back. The tiger moved from Maharashtra to the district after crossing Kumram Bheem Asifabad district in the first week of this December. It initially entered Kannepalli forests and then strayed into Jaipur forests before reaching the mining area triggering a panic among coal miners. Already, another tiger has been moving around the coal mines in Srirampur for over three weeks. Forest officials laid a special focus on the tigers considering their current place is located close to human settlements and to ensure safety of the tigers. They installed 50



CCTV cameras to capture images of the tigers and deployed 20 trackers to trail the wild animals, besides creating awareness among the public. According to the officials, there were five tigers including two female and three male tigers. The presence of a comparatively higher number of tigers for the first time in recent times has delighted environment enthusiasts and officials as well. Meanwhile, a female tiger recently set its foot in the core of Kawal Tiger Reserve after a gap of four years, but drifted towards Kamareddy district by crossing Godavari in Nirmal district a few days back. Forest officials expressed concern over its safety considering the increased threat of poaching to wildlife in Kamareddy.

## Chilly weather to persist in Hyderabad on Christmas eve and the next day

Hyderabad: Hyderabad and districts continue to experience cold wave conditions with minimum temperatures below normal by 3 degree Celsius and 4 degree Celsius at many locations. Telangana tourism guide While day time temperatures on Wednesday are expected to climb up to 28 degree Celsius, temperatures during Christmas eve on Wednesday night and early hours of Christmas on Thursday morning are expected to be chilly. Between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, the minimum temperature at certain places in Hyderabad and its surroundings hovered between 8.4 degree Celsius and 10 degree Celsius. Patancheru region recorded a minimum of 8 degree Celsius while Rajendranagar and Hayathnagar recorded 9 and 11 degree Celsius respectively, the IMD-Hyderabad weather data indicated. The minimum temperatures in core areas of Hyderabad, however, like



Begumpet etc ranged between 13 degree Celsius and 14 degree Celsius. In its Wednesday morning forecast, the IMD-Hyderabad said “Minimum temperatures are likely to be below normal by 3 degree Celsius and 4 degree Celsius, at isolated pockets during next 2 days over Telangana”. The minimum temperatures in Hyderabad and its surrounding districts including Medchal-Malkajgiri, Bhongir, Medak and Rangareddy will hover between 11 degree Celsius and 15 degree Celsius in the coming 48-hours, the IMD-Hyderabad forecast indicated.

## South Zone sub-junior aquatics to begin in Hyderabad from December 27

Hyderabad: The 36th South Zone Aquatic Swimming Championship for sub-junior and junior boys and girls will be held at the GMC Balayogi Stadium aquatic complex here from December 27 to 29. Swimmers born between 2008 and 2017 (and after) will be eligible to participate as per the prescribed age groups. The championship will be conducted in accordance with World Aquatics rules and regulations.



## Al Hind Air, FlyExpress get govt nod for operations



New Delhi: Two new airlines — Al Hind Air and FlyExpress — are set to take to the skies, with the carriers receiving their no objection certificates from the civil aviation ministry. In 2026, apart from these two carriers, Uttar Pradesh-based Shankh Air, which already has a No Objection Certificate (NOC), is likely to start operations. Al Hind Air is being promoted by Kerala-based alhind Group. The ministry is keen to have more airline operators in the country, which is one of the world’s fastest growing domestic civil aviation markets. Currently, there are nine operational scheduled domestic carriers in the country. Fly Big, a regional airline, suspended scheduled flights in October. IndiGo and Air India Group — Air India and Air India Express — together have over 90 per cent of the domestic market share. Concerns about apparent duopoly in the fast-growing domestic airlines’ industry got amplified this month in the wake of the massive operational disruptions at IndiGo, which has a market share of more than 65 per cent. “Over the last one week, pleased to have met teams from new airlines aspiring to take wings in Indian skies- Shankh Air, Al Hind Air and FlyExpress. While Shankh Air has already got the NOC from the Ministry, Al Hind Air and FlyExpress have received their NOCs this week,” Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said in a post on X on Tuesday. According to him, it has been the endeavour of the ministry to encourage more airlines in Indian aviation which is amongst the fastest growing aviation markets. Schemes like UDAN, have enabled smaller carriers Star Air, India One Air and Fly91 to play an important role in the regional connectivity within the country and there is more scope for further growth, he added. Apart from Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo and state-owned Alliance Air, other scheduled carriers are Akasa Air, SpiceJet, Star Air, Fly91 and IndiaOne Air, as per latest data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). In the past years, many airlines, including Go First and Jet Airways, stopped flying amid debt woes.

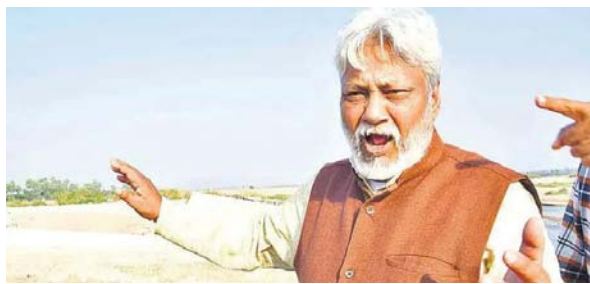
## Telangana: ACB books transport official in disproportionate assets case, seizes properties

Hyderabad: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) registered a case of assets disproportionate to known sources of income (DA case) against Mood Kishan, Deputy Transport Commissioner of Mahabubnagar district and conducted searches at multiple locations in the State on Tuesday. Hyderabad city guide During the searches, the ACB detected extensive assets, including a 50 per cent share in Lahari International Hotel in Nizamabad, ownership of a 3,000 sq yards Royaloak Furniture space, residential flats, 31 acres of agricultural and 10 acres of commercial lands in and around Nizamabad, a polyhouse and shed spread over 4,000 square feet, bank balances exceeding Rs. 1.37 crore, over one kilogram of gold ornaments, and two high-end cars. The ACB maintained that movable and immovable properties valued at Rs. 12.72 crore. Officials stated that the market value of the seized property is much higher. Searches were conducted at the officer’s residence and 11 other locations linked to his family members and associates in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Mahabubnagar district.



## Waterman of India Rajendra Singh warns against demolition of check dams in Telangana

Hyderabad: Renowned environmentalist and Ramon Magsaysay Award winner Rajendra Singh, known as the Waterman of India, has alleged that recent destructions of check dams in Telangana are deliberate acts of sabotage aimed at illegal sand mining. After inspecting damaged sites in Karimnagar and Peddapalli districts, he urged the state government to act swiftly, warning that neglect could lead to further losses for farmers and rural communities. Hyderabad city guide. Singh, who has spearheaded the construction of over 15,800 check dams across 23 rivers in India to revive water bodies, visited the affected check dams in Tanugul village (Jammikunta mandal, Karimnagar district) and Adavi Somanapalli village (Manthani mandal, Peddapalli district). He described the incidents as unprecedented in his decades-long career in water conservation. "Upon close inspection, it's clear these are outright demolitions," he said. "Holes were drilled, and gelatin sticks were used to blast them. Check dams typically collapse under water pressure from the flow direction, but these fell against the natural flow—something impossible without human intervention." Telangana tourism guide. He dismissed claims of structural failures or natural causes, noting that the dams had withstood heavy floods but collapsed only after the water receded. "If a barrage survives intense floods and heavy rains, how can it fall when it is stable and dry? This wasn't natural. It was demolished," he emphasized, pointing to sand mining as the motive. Singh highlighted the critical role of check dams in rural livelihoods. "These small barrages, of-



ten just 2.5 metres high, provide irrigation and drinking water to communities on both sides of the river. The sand in the riverbed naturally purifies water, supporting economic, cultural, and ecological aspects of life. But selfish individuals are destroying them for profit, leading to injustice for farmers and environmental degradation. "Expressing deep concern over the involvement of the 'sand mafia', he called for immediate government intervention. "The government must respond urgently—arrest the culprits, conduct a war-footing investigation, and punish them severely." He announced the formation of a People's Inquiry Commission to probe these incidents, warning that any delay would endanger more check dams. Singh recalled that farmers had previously filed police complaints against similar conspiracies. "Farmers protect nature and sustain life. They don't destroy it for greed. The government should identify these selfish actors and jail them. No one has the right to harm the environment for personal gain." Singh outlined his action plan, stating that "Water conservation should be the mission of all stakeholders." Water resource experts such as W Prakash Rao, former Chairman of Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation, accompanied Singh during the inspections.

## Axis Energy, Reliance top bidders in coal gasification mine auctions



New Delhi: Hyderabad-based renewable energy firm Axis Energy and Reliance Industries Ltd emerged as top bidders in the latest auction of coal block auctions aimed at boosting domestic coal gasification and cleaner energy production. According to bid participant details released following the opening of technical bids, Axis Energy Ventures India Pvt Ltd and Reliance Industries Ltd jointly bid for 17 blocks in Odisha, Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, underscoring their strong strategic interest in coal gasification and downstream value-added applications. Other bidders included Penna Enterprises, which bid for one block in Odisha. NRSK Mines and Minerals Pvt Ltd and Caliber Mining and Logistics Ltd bid for two blocks each. Sai Surya Professional Services Pvt Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd-Telangana Power Generation Corp Ltd, MMPL Commercial Mines Pvt Ltd-Mohit Minerals Ltd were the other bidders. The government had, in October, offered a total of 41 coal mines in the 14th round of commercial auctions, including provisions for underground coal gasification (UCG) for the first time. Of the 41 mines, 21 were specifically identified as possessing potential for UCG. The round was aimed at promoting coal gasification to produce cleaner fuels like syngas, hydrogen, and metha-

nol, reducing India's dependence on imported natural gas and crude oil. The government has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030. UCG allows for the harnessing of deep-seated coal reserves that are uneconomical to extract through conventional mining methods. A total of 49 bids were received for 24 of the 41 blocks. Axis Energy and Reliance Industries bid for UCG-potential blocks, reflecting private sector confidence in the new policy framework. The two companies were common participants in bids for coal blocks located in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh, including prominent blocks such as Badibahal-Kendudihi, Chhatabar Combined, Ustali, Recherla, and Chintalpudi Sector A1. In several other blocks, Axis Energy and Reliance Industries were part of consortium bids alongside other mining and logistics firms, highlighting their intent to secure feedstock for large-scale gasification and industrial use. The Ministry of Coal had put up 41 coal mines for auction as part of its push to promote coal gasification, reduce import dependence, and support India's transition towards cleaner and more efficient use of coal resources. Bids were opened only for blocks that received participation from two or more bidders, with Axis Energy and Reliance Industries featuring prominently among the qualified bids.

## Urban women delaying motherhood, study flags rising pregnancy risks

Hyderabad: The traditional timelines of a woman's journey from marriage to parenthood is shifting rapidly, with women in urban centres like Hyderabad prioritizing education, financial independence and professional growth over early motherhood. A landmark study titled 'Maternal Risk Factor Stratification and Outcomes of Births at Tertiary Referral Centre in India' by doctors from Hyderabad, published in the prestigious Springer (20 December, 2025), reflects the significant shift of reproductive choices among women. The percentage of women, according to the study taken-up by doctors from Hyderabad-based Fernandez Hospital between January 2013 and December 2023, covering 1,02,683 births, conceiving after 35 years of age nearly doubled in a decade, rising from 5.7 percent in 2013 to 11.5 percent in 2023. The percentage of women conceiving after 40 years also doubled, increasing from 0.6 percent in 2013 to 1.3 percent in 2023. The study clearly highlights these shifting trends in maternal characteristics as key factors that help in planning pregnancies and encouraging healthy lifestyle changes.

"It is a fact that preferences among women, especially educated women in urban centres are changing. Pregnancies are getting delayed, as women seek to become financially independent first. We have in our practice noticed the domino



effect on women's health due to delayed marriages and pregnancies," says Professor, Paediatrics, Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagarkurnool, Dr T Usha Rani. As a result of delayed marriages and pregnancies, the study has indicated that there is a significant increase in pregnancy-related Diabetes (now 30.5 percent and Thyroid disorders, which is at present 27.5 percent. The study indicated that 41.5 percent of women who start their pregnancy as 'low-risk' become 'high-risk' by the time of child birth. "Educated women want to be well established financially before they get into marriage. It takes at least five-years i.e. usually between 24 years and 26 years or even more to gain a solid 5 years of experience. As a result, motherhood is delayed," doctors said. The Hyderabad-based study also reflects the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), covering the 2019-2021 period, the urban trends. The NFHS has said the median age of women at first birth is significantly higher in urban populations.

## Girl 'raped, murdered' in Odisha's Bhadrak, one held; locals stage protest

Bhadrak: A 10-year-old girl was allegedly raped and killed in Odisha's Bhadrak district, triggering a protest by locals, police said on Wednesday. Bhadrak Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar Rout said one accused was arrested from Jagatsinghpur district in connection with the case. The incident came to the fore when some people found the blood-soaked body of the minor near a bush in Baligaon under the Chandbali Police Station limits on Tuesday evening, another officer said. The girl's family lodged a complaint with the police, alleging that she was raped and murdered. Local people staged a road blockade in Baligaon on Tuesday night, demanding immediate arrest of those involved in the crime. The protestors also gheraoed the Chandbali Police Station this morning. "The girl's father complained that his daughter had been missing since Tuesday evening. He also alleged that the girl was raped and murdered, and those involved in the crime dumped the body in the bush. We are in-

vestigating the incident. Prima facie, it seems to be a case of sexual assault and murder," the police officer said. The police will take all necessary legal action in the case, and one platoon of police force has been deployed in the area to maintain the law and order situation, the SP said. SDPO Trilochan Sethi, Chandbali Tahsildar, and Chandbali Police Station Inspector-in-Charge Paresh Mohanty have been camping there. Sethi said the situation is now under control. The SP said the police are looking into allegations by locals that unauthorised shops were set up and liquor was sold illegally in the locality.

"We will remove illegal shops and take strong action against those involved in unlawful activities. We will launch a special drive to curb illegal liquor and ganja sale in the district," he said. Local Tahsildar Bhabatosh Mallik said the unauthorised shops have been identified and will be evicted from the encroached land.

## 15 long-billed vultures tagged in Maharashtra's Melghat Tiger Reserve

Mumbai: The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Maharashtra Forest Department have recently carried out the tagging of 15 long-billed vultures at Melghat Tiger Reserve in Amravati district. Birds are tagged primarily to study their movements, migration, lifespan, survival, and population dynamics for scientific research and conservation. The tagging programme conducted on December 19, was led by Dr Sachin Ranade with support from Bhaskar Das and Athira, who are part of the Vulture Reintroduction Programme. Out of the 15 vultures, 11 were fitted with GSM tags and four with satellite PTT tags. The tags were attached using a backpack-style harness, a safe method known as harnessing, the BNHS said in a press release on Wednesday. In addition, all vultures were fitted with blue-coloured leg rings carrying identification numbers. The blue colour shows that the ringing was done in India, and the letter "M" indicates Maharashtra as the release site. The tags are solar-powered

and will help scientists track the movement, travel distance, safety, and survival of the vultures after their release into the wild. Chief Wildlife Warden of Maharashtra Sreenivas Reddy is monitoring and guiding the entire project. The vultures were born at the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Pinjore, Haryana, which is BNHS's first such centre in India. They were later brought to Melghat, where they were given training of feeding on their own and allowed to acclimatise for the last eight months before being released. During this period, the birds are regularly checked for health and monitored through CCTV cameras to observe their natural behaviour. Kishor Rithe, Director of BNHS, said that making the landscape safe for vultures is a key step before their release.





## Alpine SG Pipers crowned Global Chess League champions in Mumbai



Hyderabad: Alpine SG Pipers upset two-time defending champions Triveni Continental Kings to be crowned champions of the third edition of the Global Chess League (GCL), a joint initiative of Tech Mahindra and FIDE, in Mumbai on Tuesday. Hyderabad city guide. The Pipers, who had sealed the final berth by the skin of their teeth as they edged Ganges Grandmasters by just one game point, were at their dominant best in the final. They won the first rapid match 4-2 with black pieces and then scored a 4.5-1.5 win with white. PBG Alaskan Knights finished third after beating Ganges Grandmasters in a tie-break. The finale of the Global Chess League lived up to the hype as the final day turned out to be as topsyturvy as the league stage. Triveni Continental Kings went into the final as favourites, but the Pipers, who found form in the second half of the league stage, carried the momentum. Nino Batsiashvili and Leon Luke Mendonca, on the prodigy board, once again proved their value by winning their respective games. Nino prevailed over Alexandra Kosteniuk in a bishop-knight endgame, while Mendonca forced Marc'Andria Maurizzi into resigning after 52 moves. Continental Kings star player Alireza Firouzja defeated Fabiano Caruana on the icon board to bring his team back in contention, but Anish Giri's win over Wei Yi meant that Pipers took the first match 4-2. The Continental Kings had an uphill task of scoring four points

with black to stay alive in the match. But R Praggnanandhaa handed the Pipers the early advantage with a win over Vidit Gujrathi, and Anish Giri then registered his second win over Wei Yi to put the result beyond doubt. "Yesterday I had mixed feelings because I had a terrible match but the team reached the final. But today there is no mixed feeling," said Giri after being named the Player of the Match for his two victories. On the icon board, Caruana then scored a full point against Alireza, who ran out of time. Firouzja, who had beaten all his opponents in the first five matches, was named the Male Player of the Tournament, while Hou Yifan, who played an important role in helping Pipers reach the final with three wins in three matches in the business end of the league stage, was recognised for her contribution. "It feels great. The last two times, we were quite close to making the final. This time we barely made it. But in the final everyone showed up with their best game and it is a great feeling," said Praggnanandhaa after the title triumph. Earlier, world champion D Gukesh finally managed to beat the legendary Viswanathan Anand when it mattered the most to help PBG Alaskan Knights finish third. The play-off went to the wire as the Ganges Grandmasters took a 4-2 lead in the first rapid clash with white pieces, only for the Alaskan Knights to bounce back with white to take the match into a blitz tie-break.

## Rutuja Gunwant and Sudha Rani complete AFC A Diploma course

Hyderabad: Two Indian coaches, Rutuja Gunwant and Sudha Rani, have successfully completed their AFC A Diploma Course in coaching this month through the FIFA Coach Education Scholarship (individual). Hyderabad city guide The two coaches were recommended for the scholarship by AIFF Technical Director Sabir Pasha and AIFF Head of Coach Development Vivek Nagul. Their profiles were subsequently verified and approved by the FIFA Women's Development Programme Division, with confirmation to fully support the two coaches.



## Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Animal' to release in Japan on February 13

Chennai: The makers of director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's immensely popular film 'Animal', featuring actors Ranbir Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna and Bobby Deol in the lead, on Wednesday announced that the film would release in Japan on February 13 next year. Taking to its X timeline, Bhadrakali Pictures, the production house that made the film, wrote, "Kono otoko wa Darenimo Tomerarenai. The most talked-about, debated, and unforgettable cinematic experience is coming to Japan. Animal releases in Japanese theatres on February 13, 2026. #Animal #AnimalinJapan #AnimalTheFilm. Japan Distribution @GEEK PICTURESinc @geekpictures\_d @geek pictures\_IN @Arjunarcv @moksha moggill." It may be recalled that only at the beginning of this month, Bollywood superstar Anil Kapoor and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga had celebrated the

second anniversary of the film. The actor and the director marked the milestone with emotional posts and stories on their social media accounts. Anil shared a series of on-set pictures and wrote, "Two years of a film that didn't just release, it erupted #yearsof Animal". The director of the movie, Sandeep Reddy Vanga, echoed the sentiment with a powerful still of Ranbir Kapoor in full intensity and captioned it as "Two years for 'ANIMAL'." Anil Kapoor shared various clips of the movie and also a BTS of the same. From preparing for scenes and interacting with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga to sitting in character as Balbir Singh, Anil shared a collage of all the pictu res.



## 'Mirzapur: The Film' begins shooting in Rajasthan, Ali Fazal shares BTS video

Mumbai: "Mirzapur: The film", which brings back the most loved characters from the hit crime series, is currently being shot in Rajasthan, actor Ali Fazal, who plays Guddu Bhaiya, informed fans by sharing a behind the scenes video from the set. Fazal also thanked the people of Jaisalmer and Jodhpur for their hospitality. "MIRZAPUR THE FILM. Shooting now. Raja sthan Schedule. Thank you Jaisalmer and Jodhpur for the immense love and hospitality that knows no bounds. Aapne humein apna samjha... To all the hotels that made us feel at home while we were toiling away from our own homes. Khammaghani. You have to meet everyone, the whole paltan is playing," he said, referring to the return of some of the most popular characters from the series. Presented by Amazon MGM Studios and Excel Entertainment, and created by Puneet Krishna, the film adapts one of India's biggest and most successful OTT series into a cinematic event slated for next year. Fans are also awaiting the comeback of Munna Bhaiya (Divyendu) in a theatrical avatar as the Gurmmeet



Singh-directed movie returns with Pankaj Tripathi as Kaleen Bhaiya, Fazal as Guddu Pandit, Divyenndu as Munna Tripathi, along with Abhishek Banerjee. The film is scheduled for a nationwide theatrical release in 2026, after which it will stream exclusively on Prime Video. "Mirzapur", the series, is one of the most loved shows on streaming and revolves around a millionaire carpet exporter Akhandanand Tripathi, who is the crime lord of Mirzapur. His unpredictable and violent son is keen to inherit his father's legacy but things go awry and power equations shift when Munna crosses path with Guddu and Bablu. The series first debuted in 2018, followed by a second season in 2020 and the third one in 2024.

## Allu Arjun to reunite with Trivikram for grand mythological epic

Chennai: If rumours doing the rounds in the industry are to be believed, Icon Star Allu Arjun and acclaimed filmmaker Trivikram Srinivas are set to reunite for a spectacular mythological epic, marking their fourth collaboration together. This ambitious project, industry insiders say, will be based on a powerful script originally conceived for Allu Arjun. The rumours have triggered immense excitement among fans and the film fraternity. Allu Arjun and Trivikram share an exceptional creative legacy, having delivered multiple blockbuster films together. Their previous collaboration, 'Ala Vaikuntha purramulo', shattered several box office records across South India and emerged as one of the most celebrated films of its time. Industry sources claim that the upcoming film will be mounted on a never before seen scale, with a massive budget of over 1000 crores, making it one of the most ambitious mythological films ever produced in Indian cinema. The film is expected to blend powerful storytelling with grand visuals and cutting-edge technology, redefining the mythological genre for a pan Indian and global audience. An official announcement is expected in the coming weeks, and the film is scheduled to go on floors in February 2027. Anticipation is already at an all time high as this landmark collaboration promises to set new benchmarks in Indian cinema. This will be the third major project that Allu Arjun will be embarking upon. He already



has at least two other magnum opus projects in the pipeline. The actor will be seen in the third instalment of the blockbuster franchise 'Pushpa', which is being directed by ace director Sukumar. Apart from this, Allu Arjun also is working on his film with director Atlee, being tentatively referred to as AA22 X A6. A22 X A6 is the most eagerly awaited films in the industry. It may be recalled that the makers had, in June, welcomed actress Deepika Padukone onboard the film's unit. Sun Pictures, the production house producing the film, had then shared a video of Atlee meeting Deepika Padukone and narrating the script to her. A clip they had released then gave a glimpse of Deepika Padukone's motion capture portions in the film. The visuals gave the impression that Deepika Padukone was to play a queen, who would ride a horse and wield a sword in the film. The film, which has already triggered huge expectations as it is believed that it will be like no other film that has ever been done before, will have world class experts working on it.

## Venus Williams weds Andrea Preti in Florida

Palm Beach: Venus Williams and Andrea Preti are married, the tennis great announced Tuesday on social media. Williams and Preti became wife and husband over the weekend in Palm Beach, Florida, as part of a five-day celebration. After becoming the second-oldest woman to win a tour-level singles match in July, the 45-year-old Williams gave thanks to her fiancé, who was in the stands at the DC Open. Preti is a Danish-born Italian model and actor, according to the website IMDB. Williams hadn't played in a tour name event in 16 months until entering the event in Washington. The seven-time Grand Slams singles champion plans to play in a 33rd straight season on the WTA Tour, starting in Auckland in January.

