

సమస్త పండ్ల నోప్పుల నివారణ  
దంతామ్యుట్టి  
మూల వ్యాధి, తెల్లమహులు, చర్చామహులతో పాటు అన్ని  
రకాల నోప్పులకు వసమాళికలతో వైద్యరేయబడును.  
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మహబుబునగర్ జిల్లా నెల 9640418895

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## Congress MLAs, MPs and Ministers blame internal feud to cover up their failure in Panchayat elections

Hyderabad: Congress MLAs, MPs and Ministers are increasingly blaming internal feuds to explain the party's poor performance in the recent Gram Panchayat elections, even as signs of public discontent grow across constituencies. Several elected representatives have alleged that covert elements within the party worked against Congress-backed candidates. They claim this sabotage damaged the party's prospects in many areas. However, party leaders and local functionaries point out that the real setback came from fielding family members and close relatives of MLAs, MPs and Ministers. Many of these candidates suffered heavy defeats in the Panchayat polls. During a recent internal meeting, senior leaders, including AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, reportedly flagged this issue. They observed that nepotism had hurt the party's electoral prospects at the grassroots level. Despite this, some MLAs continue to blame internal rivals. Wanaparthi MLA T Megha Reddy publicly alleged that a senior leader in his constituency had instructed party workers to ensure the victory of BRS-backed candidates. Former MLA Mynampally Hanumanth Rao made similar claims, blaming covert elements for the Congress defeat in Siddipet and neighbouring districts. Labour Minister G Vivek Venkatswamy also accused dis-



gruntled leaders of working against the party. Addressing workers in Chennur on Thursday, he reportedly claimed that certain officials and police personnel had supported these elements. Local leaders, however, dismissed these allegations as excuses. They argued that MLAs and Ministers were attempting to deflect attention from rising public dissatisfaction with their performance. Several leaders pointed out that elected representatives had failed to secure adequate funds for development works. This, they said, had weakened the party's standing at the village level. In the past, Mahabubnagar MLA Yennem Srinivas Reddy had admitted that many legislators were unable to visit villages due to a shortage of funds. Jaddherla MLA Anirudh Reddy had also acknowledged difficulties in executing development works because of limited financial resources. In this backdrop, local leaders said it was unfair to blame party workers or alleged covert elements for the Congress party's poor showing in the Panchayat elections.

## CM Revanth Reddy faces criticism over Krishna water remarks

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's poor knowledge of the irrigation sector, especially on River Krishna water sharing, got exposed yet again. His contradictory assertions over Telangana's share in the River Krishna waters are drawing severe criticism from different sections. Interestingly, the Chief Minister contradicted his own statements and assertions over the State's share in the river waters. In June this year, the Chief Minister had demanded his counterpart from Andhra Pradesh N Chandrababu Naidu to issue NOC for using 1000 tmcft in River Godavari and 500 tmcft in River Krishna. These demands triggered strong criticism from former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao, who slammed the Congress government for its negligence in protecting Telangana's share. "Telangana already has hydrological clearances from the Central Water Commission for using 946 tmcft in River Godavari for projects in the State," Harish Rao pointed out, exposing the Chief Minister's poor command over the irrigation sector. Similarly, on September 13, the Chief Minister made another assertion of 904 tmcft share in River Krishna for Telangana. Contradicting his own assertion on September 24, the Chief Minister again claimed Telangana's share of 763 tmcft in Krishna water. Telangana tourism guide. Continuing his inconsistent stand over the river water share, the Chief Minister this month



made a new demand before the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal to allot 951 tmcft in the River Krishna basin. The BRS working president KT Rama Rao has been highlighting these inconsistencies, particularly the Chief Minister's contradictory stand on River Krishna water shares. "Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has zero knowledge of river waters impacting Telangana's share and interests. He continues to remain dangerously ignorant in irrigation issues," Rama Rao said while addressing party workers in Nalgonda on Tuesday. Like the strong counters from the BRS, people from different sections are also criticizing the Chief Minister for his "command" over the irrigation sector and river water shares. Sharing news report clippings of contradictory statements made by Revanth Reddy on X, Nayini Anurag Reddy, an entrepreneur, asked: "Every time the Chief Minister speaks, there's a new number. If they themselves don't know what they are asking for, who do you expect to take us seriously?" "And in all this confusion, it's not them who lose. It's the people of Telangana," he stressed.



## Road widening works for SCB elevated corridor at Gymkhana Grounds at a brisk pace

Hyderabad: Works related to road widening for the proposed 18-kilometre elevated corridor between Gymkhana Grounds and Shamirpet ORR on State Highway-1, Rajiv Rahadari, in Secunderabad Cantonment, have progressed at a brisk pace. The Gymkhana Grounds, opposite Martyr's memorial at Parade Grounds, marks the starting point of the elevated corridor project, which is being constructed by Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) with a cost of Rs 3,700 crore, connecting ORR at Shamirpet. The HMDA inspected the route while the State government finalised tenders last week. "An official announcement of tenders will be made in a day or two. The works regarding the demarcation of properties affected en route to the corridor were already completed three years ago," sources of the HMDA told *Telangana Today*. A few trees near Gymkhana Grounds (at Rajiv Rahadari pylon) were chopped off, and compound wall works have already started.

## Gazette notification on 300 GHMC wards issued

Hyderabad: Confirming the boundaries of 300 GHMC wards, the State government issued a Gazette notification on December 25. With this, the merging process of 27 Urban Local Bodies into the GHMC has been completed, officially. On Friday, following the merger of the unified Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation into 12 Zonal Circles, 60 Circles and 300 GHMC wards, the Zonal Commissioners assumed charge of their respective jurisdictions.

These Zonal Commissioners now oversee the administration and implementation of GHMC orders in the Malkajgiri, Uppal, LB Nagar, Shamshabad, Rajendra Nagar, Charminar, Golconda, Khairatabad, Secunderabad, Serilingampally, Kukatpally, and Qutubullapur GHMC zones.

Each GHMC Zonal circle consists of five circles.

### 12 Zones and their circles:

Malkajgiri: Keesara, Alwal, Bowenpally, Moula Ali and Malkajgiri

Uppal: Ghatkesar, Kapra, Nacharam, Uppal, and Boduppal

LB Nagar: Nagole, Saroornagar, LB Nagar, and Hayathnagar

Shamshabad: Adibatla, Badangpet, Jalgally, and Shamshabad

Rajendranagar: Rajendranagar, Attapur, Bahadurpura, Falaknuma, Chandrayangutta and Jangampet

Charminar: Santosh Nagar, Yakutpura, Malakpet, Charminar, and Moosarambagh



Golconda: Goshamahal, Karwan, Golconda, Mehdiyatnam, and Masabtam

Khairatabad: Khairatabad, Jubilee Hills, Borabanda, Yousufguda, and Ameerpet

Secunderabad: Kawadiguda, Musheerabad, Amberpet, Tarnaka, and Mettuguda

Serilingampally: Narsingi, Patancheru, Ameenpur, Miyapur and Serilingampally

Kukatpally: Madhapur, Allwyn Colony, Kukatpally, and Moosapet

Qutubullapur: Chintal, Jeedimetla, Kompally, Gajularamaram, Nizampet, Dundigal and Medchal

GHMC Commissioners for 12 Zones: (GHMC zone)

Bhorkhade Hemant Sahadeorao, Serilingampally

Apurv Chauhan, Kukatpally

Sandeep Kumar Jha, Qutubullapur

S Srinivas Reddy, Charminar

G Mukunda Reddy, Golconda

Priyanka Ala, Khairatabad

Anuraag Jayanti, Rajendranagar

N Ravi Kiran, Secunderabad

K Chandrakala, RDO, Chevella,

Shamshabad

Hemanta Keshav Patil, LB Nagar

Sanchit Gangwar, Malkajgiri

Radhika Gupta, Uppal

## Digital innovations launched to tackle Red Palm Weevil



Hyderabad: A global effort to stop the destructive Red Palm Weevil entered a new phase today with the launch of Workstream 3 on Digital Innovations at ICRISAT in Hyderabad. The work is part of the Consortium for Red Palm Weevil Control, supported by the Presidential Court of the UAE and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The launch brought together scientists from ICRISAT, ICARDA, CGIAR's Digital Transformation Accelerator, and the University of California, Davis. The partners aim to build early detection and early warning systems that can identify the pest before visible damage appears. Dr Stanford Blade, Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation at ICRISAT, said the pest continues to destroy date palms across many regions. He stressed the need for practical solutions that can reach communities that depend on the crop. ICRISAT leads the digital workstream. According to Dr Srikanth Rupavatharam, Senior Scientist for Digital Agriculture, the team will combine tools from remote sensing, IoT devices, citizen science and climate modelling.

# Editorial

## Fragile attractive- ness: on the latest FDI data and India

The latest foreign direct investment (FDI) data show how India's attractiveness as an investment destination is not yet cemented and remains fragile. Net FDI remained negative for the third consecutive month in October 2025, which means that more direct investment was taken out of India than invested in it. The timing reveals a lot. At the end of July, U.S. President Donald Trump revealed that he would be levying a 25% tariff on India. A week later, he raised this to 50%. That is when investment began to leave India. Prior to August, India's net FDI position in 2025-26 had been quite comfortable. In the April-July 2025 period, net FDI totalled \$10.7 billion, more than triple what it was in the same period of the previous year. However, in August 2025, investors pulled out \$622 million more than they put in, followed by \$1.7 billion in September, and \$1.5 billion in October. India's cumulative net FDI position in 2025-26 by the end of October 2025 had fallen to \$6.2 billion. This is still nearly double what it was in April-October 2024, but the point is that the direction has changed. One defence of the FDI numbers has been that the net FDI figure looks poor because outflows are simply exceeding robust inflows. However, in both August and October, gross inflows themselves were lower on a year-on-year basis. This contrasts against an average growth rate of about 33% in April-July 2025. In addition, this financial year has shown that the increase in outflows has been driven by Indian companies looking to invest abroad. One way to look at this is with satisfaction — that Indian companies are increasingly becoming internationally competitive in scale and resources. However, with the Indian economy far from saturated in terms of supply, the question to be asked is why these companies are not investing here. This is not merely a shifting of profits abroad in the form of repatriation. It reveals a deeper issue.

From the 2019 corporate tax rate cuts, to Production Linked Incentives, to trying to boost demand through income-tax and Goods and Services Tax cuts, the government has done a lot to encourage the private sector to invest. These were all welcomed by Indian and foreign corporations, who touted them as "structural reforms". Yet, it took just one episode of tariffs by one country to rock India's image as a good investment destination. Even the Reserve Bank of India said that uncertainty over the U.S. trade deal was pushing foreign portfolio investors to exit Indian equities. This goes to show that shiny headlines of 'fastest-growing', 'largest market', and 'third-fastest' do not cut much ice with investors. They work in fair weather, but are flimsy in the face of the slightest headwinds. Such claims need real structural reforms to bolster them.

### 29-year-old security guard killed as car mows down bike in Mancherial

Mancherial: A 29-year-old security guard was killed on the spot when a car mowed down a two-wheeler on a flyover in Bellampalli town on Thursday night. Police said that Sai Kumar from Ravindranagar received critical injuries after the car hitting the motorcycle, causing instantaneous death for him. He works with a government area hospital on a contract basis in Bellampalli town.

## Vikarabad: Chicken shop owner killed during knife attack in Tandur

Hyderabad: A violent incident in Rajiv Colony of Tandur town in Vikarabad district claimed the life of a chicken shop owner on Thursday. The victim has been identified as Noor Ahmed, who operated a chicken shop in the locality. According to police, the incident was the result of an old rivalry between Gopal, a resident of Khanjapur village, and Kittu from Indiramma Colony. Gopal allegedly chased Kittu with a knife following a dispute. Fearing for his life, Kittu ran into a chicken shop owned by Noor Ahmed in Rajiv Colony. When Noor Ahmed and his son Abbu questioned Gopal about the fight, he reportedly lost his temper and attacked both of them with a knife. Noor Ahmed and Abbu suffered serious injuries in the attack. Local residents rushed the injured to the Tandur District Government Hospital. As Noor Ahmed's condition was critical, doctors referred him to Hyderabad for advanced treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries while being shifted. The body was later shifted to Tandur Government Hospital for autopsy. The Vikarabad police are investigating the case. Six people were arrested in connection with the incident. Police are yet to announce further details.

## Superbugs now threatening vision recovery after cataract surgery

Hyderabad: Resistance to antibiotics is impacting eyes also! Yes, a growing number of cataract patients are unable to recover quickly, because of resistance to certain antibiotics. A new multi-center study helmed by Hyderabad-based L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) has warned of the rising 'silent threat' of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is complicating recovery among cataract patients. Unlike the common, manageable bacteria of the past, nearly 90 percent of multidrug-resistant cases are now linked to aggressive Gram-negative bacilli. These 'superbugs' are increasingly showing resistance to standard frontline antibiotics, forcing doctors to turn to last-resort treatments to save the eye.

The LVPEI researchers in their study, published in the prestigious journal Retina (October, 2025), analysed post-cataract eye infection known as bacterial endophthalmitis. While such infections, traditionally caused by common bacteria, are easily managed with standard antibiotics, the LVPEI study reported a disturbing shift where nearly eight percent of these infections are now classified as multidrug-resistant (MDR). About 87.5 percent of these resistant cases were caused by Gram-negative bacilli, such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. These bacteria are notoriously aggressive and have developed a biological shield against the very drugs doctors frequently prescribe to patients.

In the report, the researchers noted that nearly 40 percent of these deadly bacteria were completely resistant to the standard antibiotics for eye care, including fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, and

cephalosporins. The study indicated that over 93 percent of patients could only perceive light or hand motions, underscoring the severity of the damage caused by these superbugs. The researchers, however, identified Colistin, as a last resort antibiotic that continues to remain an effective alternative, which is preventing total destruction of and loss of eye among the patients. Tragically, despite multiple surgeries and specialized injections into the eye, nearly half of the patients saw no improvement in their vision. Roughly one in ten eyes eventually developed phthisis, a condition where the eye shrivels and becomes entirely non-functional, while only a tiny fraction of patients manage to recover.

### Fact Sheet

Antimicrobial resistance affects eyes also

Growing number of cataract patients not recovering with proven antibiotics

The damaged caused by the superbugs is significant

93 percent of patients in the study could only perceive light/ hand motions

India's broader AMR crisis is fuelling this trend

OTC sale of antibiotic eye drops and frequent use of prophylactic antibiotics is allowing bacteria to evolve.



## Two best friends lose lives after bike hits a stationary truck

Kamareddy: Two best friends lost their lives after their bike hit a stationary truck at Lachapeta village in district here on Thursday. Sai and Ajay, residents of Lachapeta village had gone to Machareddy Chowrasta and were returning to their village. However, near the substation on the Lachapeta village fringe area the bike lost control and hit the stationary truck from behind. Both Ajay and Sai suffered severe head injuries in the incident. Locals immediately shifted them to Government Hospital in Kamareddy, according to reports. The parents later shifted the in-



jured to a private hospital in Hyderabad, where the duo breathed their last while undergoing treatment. Based on the complaints lodged by the parents of the deceased, the police registered a case and investigation is under progress, the reports said.

## Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad lead magicpin's food delivery volumes in 2025

New Delhi: Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Hyderabad led food delivery volumes for magicpin in 2025, with the food delivery platform adding over 6 lakh student and corporate users through its Inner Circle programme during the year, the company said on Friday. The country's third-largest food delivery firm onboarded more than 80,000 merchants across food delivery, budget dining and fine dining segments in 2025. magicNOW, its 15-minute quick delivery service, contributed 13 per cent of the food delivery orders after scaling to 20 cities in 2025, the company said. magicpin also unveiled insights on food delivery

## UP: Man kills wife, buries body in backyard over 'cheating'; arrested

Gorakhpur: A man allegedly strangled his wife to death over suspicion of infidelity and buried her body in the backyard of his house in the Belghat area here, police said on Friday. "The accused, identified as Arjun, was arrested on Thursday, four days after the incident, following suspicion raised over the woman's disappearance," Superintendent of Police (South) Dinesh Kumar Puri said. The police said the accused killed his wife, Khushboo (25), late on the night of December 21, when other family members were asleep. He allegedly dug a six-foot-deep pit behind the house around 11 pm and buried the body, covering it with soil, dry grass and weeds to destroy evidence. At the time of the incident, Arjun's father, Shyam Narayan, was away from home for work in Uruwa, while his mother and younger brother were present, unaware of the crime, the police said. After Khushboo was not seen for several days, Arjun allegedly misled family members, claiming she had gone to her parental home following an argument. As rumours spread in the village, locals advised the family to inform the police. During questioning, Arjun gave evasive replies and later confessed during sustained interrogation, following which the body was recovered from the pit, the officer said. According to the police, the accused, a labourer who had recently returned from Ludhiana, suspected his wife's alleged closeness with another man, leading to frequent quarrels. Further investigation is underway, the SP said.

## Housing sales volume down 14 pc in 2025 in 7 cities: Anarock

New Delhi: Housing sales declined 14 per cent this year to nearly 3.96 lakh units across seven major cities, mainly due to high prices and poor demand following layoffs in the IT sector, but rose 6 per cent in value terms to Rs 6 lakh crore, according to Anarock. The average housing price rose by 8 per cent in the top seven cities. On Friday, Anarock, one of the country's leading real estate consultants, released data on India's seven major primary housing markets. Housing sales in the top seven cities witnessed a 14 per cent decline in 2025 to 3,95,625 units, from 4,59,645 units in the preceding year, the consultant said, while attributing the fall to hardening property prices, layoffs in the IT sector, geopolitical tensions and other economic uncertainties. Sales declined in six major cities, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Pune, Kolkata and Hyderabad, while the demand rose only in Chennai. Anarock, however, noted that the total sales value grew 6 per cent to over Rs 6 lakh crore this year from Rs 5.68 lakh crore in 2024. "2025 has been a year of broad-spectrum upheaval, including geopolitical turmoil, layoffs in the IT sector, tariff tensions and other uncertainties," Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said. As per the data, the housing sales in MMR fell 18 per cent to 1,27,875 units this year, from 1,55,335 units in 2024.



## Andhra govt issues NOC to Vedanta Ltd to drill 20 onshore oil, gas wells



Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has issued a conditional 'No Objection Certificate' to Vedanta Limited (Cairn Oil & Gas Division) for drilling 20 onshore wells in Krishna district. According to a recent Government Order, Vedanta Limited (Cairn Oil & Gas Division) has submitted a representation, stating that their firm was awarded the work of development of the Onshore Oil and Gas Field under the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy, 2018. Further, they requested to grant a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for drilling wells at 35 locations in the block located in various village limits for Onshore Oil and Gas Development and Production, from the Water Resources Department of Andhra Pradesh, as the Bandar Canal passes through the centre of the proposed block.

"After careful examination of the matter, the government hereby issues 'No Objection Certificate' to M/s Vedanta Limited (Cairn Oil & Gas Division), Mumbai, for drilling 20 Nos. of wells at the locations mentioned at para (2) above subject to the terms & conditions as men-

tioned at para (3) above," the order said. The Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation), Water Resources Department, Vijayawada, the Chief Engineer, Krishna Delta System, Vijayawada, and the Collector of Krishna District shall take necessary action accordingly, it added. According to the order, the NOC can be issued only from the irrigation point of view and is purely temporary in nature. The applicant shall obtain all required permissions from the departments concerned before commencing operations, as per norms.

No water shall be drawn from irrigation canal sources such as the Bandar Canal, KDS canal network, drainage network, ponds, reservoirs, or any other surface-water source, it said. Cairn Oil & Gas, a division of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest private oil and gas exploration production company, contributing approximately a quarter of the country's domestic crude production, with a vision to increase this contribution to 50 per cent through sustainable and responsible practices.

## Andhra High Court work commences in Amaravati

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Municipal Minister P Narayana inaugurated the raft foundation works for the new High Court building in the greenfield capital city here. This marks a major milestone in the state government's push to accelerate the development of 'iconic structures' in the capital city. The High Court building is designed by world-renowned architectural firm Norman Foster and Partners. The work was initiated after performing special prayers at the site. "The High Court will be constructed as an iconic B+G+7 floor structure over a total built-up area of 21 lakh square feet, housing 52 court halls," said an official press release on Thursday. The Minister noted that construction across Amaravati is pro-



gressing rapidly and the HC is one of the seven buildings being developed as iconic structures to define the capital's skyline. According to Narayana, court halls will be located on the second, fourth and sixth floors, while the Chief Justice's court will be situated on the eighth floor. The Municipal Minister said the target is to complete the High Court construction by the end of 2027.

## AP pastors get one-year payout

Amaravati: As part of Christmas gift, the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh has released Rs 50.50 crore towards honorarium for last one year to pastors in the State. The amount has been credited to the bank accounts of 8,148 pastors. The TDP-led coalition released funds to the tune of Rs 50,50,80,000 towards payment of honorarium to pastors from December 2024 to November 2025. Each pastor has received a monthly honorarium of Rs 6,000 for 12 months. While participating in Semi Christmas celebrations on December 22, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced that funds would be released for honorarium to pastors. In April, the government disbursed honorarium for pastors from May 2024 to November 2024. The government had released Rs 30 crore ahead of Good Friday. The NDA government has enhanced the monthly honorarium from Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000. The ruling alliance, which includes the BJP and Jana Sena, had promised in last year's elections that the schemes for the welfare of minorities, including honorarium for pastors,

would continue. The National Christian Council had last year thanked Chief Minister Naidu for the resumption of honorarium payments to pastors. The Council said that the Christian community has long awaited this development, along with the continuation of the subsidy scheme for pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The state government has been paying honorariums to Archakas or priests of Hindu temples, imams, muezzins and pastors. The government recently completed the disbursement of honorarium to imams and muezzins for six months. The government released Rs 45 crore for this purpose. It was in 2019 that the then YSR Congress Party government, headed by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, had launched payment of honorarium to pastors as promised during the elections.

## Jayesh Ranjan shifted along with many other IAS officers

HYDERABAD: Days after the Telangana Rising Global Summit, the State government on Thursday transferred Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary & CEO, Industry & Investment Cell in the Chief Minister's Office as Special Chief Secretary to Government, Metropolitan Area & Urban Development (HMDA Limits) duly relieving Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao from Full Additional Charge (FAC) of the said post. Jayesh Ranjan will continue to hold the FAC as Special Chief Secretary to Government, YAT&C and Sports and also Director, Archaeology. The FAC of Special Chief Secretary & CEO, Industry & Investment Cell in CMO and Smart Proactive Efficient and Effective Delivery (SPEED) will remain the Chief Secretary. Similarly, ahead of the New Year, the State Government has also transferred a few IAS officers. Accordingly, M Haritha, Collector & District Magistrate, Rajanna Sircilla is transferred and posted as Secretary, Telangana Public Service Commission (TPSC) as Priyanka Ala is transferred.

Garima Agrawal, Additional Collector (Local Bodies), Rajanna Sircilla continues to hold FAC of the post of Collector & District Magistrate, Rajanna Sircilla, until further orders. Bhavesh Mishra, Deputy

Secretary to Government, ITE&C Department is placed in FAC of the post of Additional CEO, Industry & Investment Cell & SPEED as EV Narsimha Reddy is transferred.

On transfer, EV Narsimha Reddy is posted as Managing Director, Musi River Development Corporation Ltd. (MRDCL). Narayan Amit Malempati, Sub-Collector, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda district is transferred and posted as Additional Collector (Local Bodies), Narayanpet as Sanchit Gangwar, is transferred. A Nirmala Kanthi Wesley, Secretary & CEO, TG Human Rights Commission is placed in FAC of the post of Director, Employment & Training, duly relieving Dana Kishore, from the FAC of the said post.

B ShafiuLlah, Secretary to Government, Minorities Welfare Department is placed in FAC of the posts of VC & MD, TG Minorities Finance Corporation and MD, Telangana Christian Minorities Finance Corporation duly relieving A Nirmala Kanthi Wesley from the FAC of the said posts. Telangana tourism guide G Jitender Reddy, who is waiting for posting is posted as Additional Collector (Local Bodies), Hyderabad as P Kadhiravan is transferred.

## Seven from Telangana killed in two accidents in Andhra Pradesh

Hyderabad: Four persons travelling in a car were killed on the spot and two others were injured critically when their vehicle collided with an oncoming private bus between Nallagatla and Battaluru villages in Nandyal district in the early hours of Friday. Reports said the accident took place around 3 a.m. The car driver is believed to have lost control of the vehicle, crossed over the road divider and hit an oncoming private bus. The bus was on its way to Puducherry from Hyderabad. The deceased passengers were

identified as Gunde Rao, Shravan, Narasimha and Bunny all hailing from Nizampet locality of Hyderabad. In yet another incident reported from Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, three persons hailing from Suryapet district of Telangana were killed on the spot near Ankireddypalem village of Guntur district on Friday morning. The deceased persons were identified as Sushila (64), Venkaiah (70) and Mahesh (28). They were reportedly returning from Tirupathi, when the accident occurred.

## US overhauls H-1B selection process citing system abuse

Washington: The US government has cited concerns related to manipulation and abuse in the H-1B visa system as a key driver behind its decision to overhaul how visas are selected each year. The Department of Homeland Security, in a federal notification this week, asserted that the changes were needed to strengthen "process integrity" and preserve fairness in the cap-subject H-1B program. These new rules outline a range of practices that the DHS said raised red flags during recent filing cycles, including wage manipulation, inconsistent job information, and the filing of multiple registrations tied to related entities. Making a strong case, the DHS asserted that the amendments aim to reduce incentives for employers to game the system and to ensure that selections reflect legitimate job offers rather than strategic filings. One concern flagged in public comments was the potential for employers to inflate wages on paper to improve selection chances. DHS said the rule includes safeguards to discourage such behavior and promote consistency between registrations and final petitions. The department also pointed to risks of manipulation involving job locations. Some commenters warned that listing higher-paying locations during registration, while intending to place workers elsewhere later, threatens the system's credibility. DHS said it would focus on consistency between the information submitted during registration and the details provided in the full petition, including job duties, wage levels, and work locations. Another issue raised involved the use of multiple

registrations for the same worker, the DHS said, adding that it related to entities filing separate registrations for a single beneficiary, distorting selection outcomes and weakening trust in the process. The final rule reinforces certification requirements and outlines consequences for inaccurate or misleading filings. DHS said this is intended to deter abuse and reduce unnecessary strain on adjudication resources. While the department dealt with concerns regarding manipulation of job classifications under the Standard Occupational Classification system, several commenters warned that employers could strategically select job codes to justify higher wages without showing real job duties, according to the federal notification. The rule was intended to furnish a clearer legal standard and reduce ambiguity, helping both employers and regulators understand compliance expectations, it said, and noted that it is limited to changes within existing H-1B regulations and does not add new environmental, tribal, or federalism impacts requiring additional review. The department maintained that the revised process would improve transparency while preserving access to high-skilled workers. The H-1B program, capped annually by Congress, has faced repeated scrutiny over fraud, fairness, and enforcement as demand for visas continues to far exceed supply. US immigration authorities have increasingly relied on regulatory changes rather than legislation to address weaknesses in the system during stalled reforms on Capitol Hill.

## 3rd Women's T20I: India look to seal series with another dominant show against Sri Lanka

Thiruvananthapuram: A dominant India will look to seal the five-match series with another ruthless display when they take on a low-on-confidence Sri Lanka in the third women's T20 International here on Friday. India have been outstanding with both the bat and the ball in the first and second T20Is, registering comprehensive eight-wicket and seven-wicket wins respectively in Visakhapatnam to underline their overall dominance over Sri Lanka. It was India's ninth win in their last 11 T20Is against the island nation, who last tasted victory against the hosts in July 2024 at Dambulla. India boast of an enviable batting line-up, with different players stepping up in the two games. While newly-appointed Delhi Capitals captain Jemimah Rodrigues starred in the opening T20I, opener Shafali Verma finished the job in the second. The bowling unit has been equally sharp, with the spinners calling the shots by restricting Sri Lanka to 121 for 6 and 128 for 9 in the two matches. Youngsters N Shree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma and Kranti Gaud have shared the workload effectively, bowling with discipline and control. India's bowling depth was on display when experienced all-rounder Deepti Sharma missed the second T20I with a mild fever and Sneh Rana stepped up with a frugal 1 for 11 in four overs. Fielding was the lone area of concern in the opening game, where India dropped five catches, but they showed marked improvement in the second match with three sharp run-outs. Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, India will aim to continue raising their standards as the series moves to Thiruvananthapuram, which will host the next three matches. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will hope that the change of venue brings a change in their fortune for a side battered by back-to-back heavy defeats. While the gulf in quality has been evident, Sri Lanka will be particularly disappointed



by the manner of their batting collapses. Asked to bat first in both matches, Sri Lanka failed to post competitive totals. They showed some promise early on but lost momentum as wickets tumbled in clusters during the latter half of their innings. In the opening game, Vishmi Gunaratne laboured to 39 off 43 balls, while Hasini Perera and Harshitha Samarawickrama also struck under a run-a-ball, denying the innings any late acceleration. The second T20I followed a similar script. Sri Lanka appeared on track before losing captain Chamari Athapaththu, after which they collapsed spectacularly, losing six wickets for 26 runs, including three run-outs, to finish with another sub-par total. Their bowling too has lacked the penetration required to trouble India's deep batting line-up. "We had a good powerplay but lost a couple of wickets, then struggled in the middle overs," Athapaththu said after the second T20I. "Batters played too much with the horizontal bat, which is an area for improvement. We need to score more than 150 batting first. We are trying to rotate strike, but we need to hit more boundaries."

### The Squads:

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Harleen Deol, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Renuka Singh Thakur, Richa Ghosh (WK), G Kamalini (WK), N Shree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma.

## England lose Archer as Australia prepare pace attack for Ashes

Melbourne: Australia will not attempt to replace injured Nathan Lyon with another spin bowler for the fourth Ashes Test against England and will go into Friday's match with a 12-man, pace-heavy squad. After Lyon suffered a long-term hamstring injury in the Ashes-clinching win in Adelaide and later underwent surgery, off-spinner Todd Murphy was called into the squad. But with the MCG pitch showing plenty of grass, Australia opted to leave Murphy out when it named its squad Thursday. Captain Steve Smith will wait until the toss at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday before confirming the starting XI. England lost each of the first three Tests, allowing Australia to retain the Ashes in just 11 days of on-field action. It is unusual for an Australian team not to select a spinner at the MCG, a venue where Shane Warne and Lyon have enjoyed success. "A lot of the wickets we are playing on at present are certainly more seam-friendly than spin-friendly," Smith said on Thursday. "Last week in Adelaide was an anomaly; we saw some rough and we saw Nathan come in to play big-time. It is a tricky one. You just have to play the surface you are presented with, and this one looks like it will offer a fair bit of assistance for the seam bowlers." Joining Lyon and captain Pat Cummins on the sidelines are Josh Inglis,



with fast bowlers Jhye Richardson, Brennan Doggett and Michael Neser included. Left-handed veteran Usman Khawaja was preferred to Inglis after making 82 and 40 in the third Test in Adelaide. Richardson is in contention to play his first Test in more than four years after a bad run of injuries. Doggett and Neser played in the second Test in Brisbane but were left out in Adelaide when Cummins and Lyon returned. England named its team on Wednesday, with the big news being the loss of star bowler Jofra Archer for the rest of the series, including the fifth and final Test starting January 4 in Sydney. Australia squad: Travis Head, Jake Weatherald, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith (captain), Usman Khawaja, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Michael Neser, Mitchell Starc, Jhye Richardson, Brennan Doggett, Scott Boland. England team: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jacob Bethell, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith, Will Jacks, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue.

## Vijay's swansong 'Jana Nayagan' builds frenzy

Chennai: Actor Vijay's final film 'Jana Nayagan' ramps up excitement with the third single 'Chella Magale' releasing on Friday at 5.04 pm. The song was sung by the superstar himself. On December 27, the makers have also scheduled a grand audio launch in Malaysia, while the trailer will be released on New Year's Day. "Jana Nayagan", Directed by H Vinoth, is a political action thriller and it marks Vijay's cinematic swansong before his full-time plunge into politics. "Chella Magale", composed by Anirudh Ravi chander, features Vijay in a touching father-daughter moment as teased in the poster. Social media is already abuzz with fans' excitement, who hail it as an emotional highlight following foot-tapping songs, "Thalapathy Kacheri" and "Oru Pere Varalaaru" — both are already declared massive hits that celebrate his legacy. Made on a Rs 300 crore budget by KVN Productions, "Jana Nayagan" stars Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Prakash Raj, Priyamani, Gautham Vasudev Menon



and Mamitha Baiju in key roles. Sources said the three-hour-six-minute saga packs 10 high-octane action sequences with political undertones. The film is also likely to be released in Hindi as "Jan Neta". The sold-out audio launch at Kuala Lumpur's Stadium Bukit Jalil, dubbed "Thalapathy Thiruvizha" with Anirudh headlining, expects 90,000 fans, but drew flak over Malaysian police bans on political speeches, TVK symbols, banners or messaging. As per news reports, Malaysian authorities warn of strict action if the event is not kept "entertainment only". Organisers affirm compliance and have said the event is a pure music fest with cast and directors like Atlee reportedly attending.

## Amitabh Bachchan gorges on cookies: 'Chapad chapad kha rahe hai'



Mumbai: Amitabh Bachchan is soaked in the festive cheer this Christmas, and delicious cookies seem to be at the centre of his celebrations. The megastar shared his joy over freshly baked treats, describing the aroma of dough, special breads and the warmth of a holiday kitchen that makes the season so special. Taking to his blog, Amitabh revealed that he ordered cookies and couldn't stop relishing them. "It's Christmas time .. Merry Christmas .. The smell of fresh dough, the special breads, and the warmth of a holiday kitchen .. The cookies are DELICIOUS .. ordered some today from #HouseofDoh.. go for it .. cookie mangwaaye ke khaaye hai humne, kya bataye, mazza aa gaya abhi aur mangwaise rahe hai (sic)," Big B wrote. The star said that he ordered more cookies and was savoring them. "Khoob khaye cookies abhi abhi mangwa ke. Zabaan ekduum lalcha rahi, thoda aur mangwa ke. Chapad Chapad ka rahe hai swadisht.... Thodi dere main aur mang waayengay (sic)," he added. Even amid the festive season, Big B also shared that remains firmly rooted

in his work ethic. He wrote a thoughtful note on the constant pressure of deliveries, timelines and the need to finish tasks on schedule. "The delivery anxiety and the consciousness of time lines .. the work to finish on time and deliver .. an entire day spent in honouring that .. looks satisfactory, but still work to be done .. hence .. back to work.. (sic)." Talking about Amitabh, the icon is currently seen hosting the new season of Kaun Banega Crorepati. It is the official Hindi adaptation of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Franchise. The format follows contestants, who are asked multiple choice questions and must select the correct answer from four possible choices, and are provided with lifelines that may be used if they are uncertain.

## Cambodia says Thai fighter jets bomb its border village



Phnom Penh: Cambodian Defence Ministry's Undersecretary of State and spokesperson Lt. Gen. Maly Socheata said on Friday that Thai F-16 fighter jets dropped as many as 40 bombs in a border village in Banteay Meanchey province. She said in a press briefing that the bombardment destroyed civilian houses as well as public infrastructures in Chok Chey village. The Thai military also fired artillery shells into a civilian residential area in Poipet Municipality of Banteay Meanchey province, she added. Earlier on December 25, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio had urged the full implementation of the Peace Accords amid ongoing violence between Cambodia and Thailand. During a phone conversation with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, "Secretary Rubio reaffirmed that the United States stands ready to facilitate discussions aimed at ensuring peace and stability between Cambodia and Thailand," said State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott. Rubio had stressed the importance of both countries fully implementing the Kualal Lumpur Peace Accords. The recent clashes along the Thailand-Cambodia border, stemming from long-standing territorial disputes dating back to the colonial era, reignited