

సమస్త పండ్ల నోప్పుల నివారణ  
దంతామ్యుటో  
మూల వ్యాధి, తెల్లమహులు, చర్చామహులతో పాటు అన్ని  
రకాల నోప్పులకు వసమూలికలతో వైద్యరేయబడును.  
శ్రీ చాట్ల ఆయుర్వేదార్థము  
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## Minister Vivek irked by illegal sand mining in Chennur

Mancherial: Labour Minister Dr G Vivek is apparently irked by illegal mining and transportation of sand by certain leaders from the Congress in Chennur Assembly constituency. He reportedly expressed anger against the leaders for bringing disrepute to the party and the government. Vivek, who toured Chennur town recently, was learnt to have warned the leaders against illicit mining and transport of sand from Godavari river at different parts of Chennur segment. He is said to have reprimanded them to mend their ways and stop the exploitation of the natural resource and affecting income of the government. "The Minister pointed out that certain Sarpanch candidates managed to win local body elections by distributing money earned through sand mining. He cautioned that stern action would be taken against the leaders and activists who support the wrongdoers. He affirmed that the mining of the sand would not be tolerated in Chennur Assembly constitu-

ency," a local Congress leader said, not willing to be quoted. Similarly, Vivek warned officials from the police, revenue and other departments for backing the

leaders who were committing irregularities, causing inconvenience to the government. He expressed displeasure against police officials who were supporting the leaders and cautioned that none would be spared if found indulging in unlawful acts. However, remarks of Vivek created a flutter within the Congress leaders of Chennur segment. Cadres were flummoxed as to whom he targeted and what action he would take against erring leaders. They opined that certain greedy leaders were indulging in irregularities using the name of Vivek, drawing his ire.



## Rajiv Gandhi under-19 T-20 cricket championship to begin in Hyderabad on January 7

Hyderabad: Cricket Federation of Hyderabad, under the aegis of Cricket Federation of India, will organise the 19th All India Rajiv Gandhi Invitational T-20 Cricket Championship (under-19) here from January 7 to 10, according to V Hanumanth Rao, chief patron and former MP. Mr Rao informed the media that the matches would be held at LB Stadium, Vijayanand Ground and Amberpet Water Works Grounds. "I wish to reiterate that it was in this tournament that India fast bowler Mohd Siraj first showcased his talent long back before making it big in Indian cricket. So, this event has always been a platform for young talent who otherwise had no chance to come up with the kind of performances which give them due recognition," he said. "In this championship, Sri Lanka, Dubai, Ma-



laysia, Nepal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Chennai, Bihar, Vidarbha, Karnataka, Bengaluru, Telangana, CCF and Hyderabad will take part," Rao said. Hyderabad city guide "Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will be the chief guest for the prize distribution at LB Stadium," he said. "We will also organise All India Rajiv Gandhi under-17 and under-15 editions in Chandigarh and Chennai respectively," Mr Rao said.

## 13 terrorists killed in Balochistan province of Pakistan

Karachi: Pakistani security forces have killed at least 13 terrorists belonging to outlawed insurgent groups in different intelligence-based operations in the troubled Balochistan province, the ISPR said Saturday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, these terrorists were killed in two operations conducted on December 24 and 25 in the Kohlu and Kalat areas of the province. In two statements, the ISPR said the intelligence-based operations (IBOs) were conducted on the reported presence of terrorists in the respective areas. In the IBO in Kohlu on Thursday, the ISPR said it killed five terrorists after a heavy exchange of fire with them. In another operation on Wednesday, security forces effectively engaged the terrorists' location and, after an intense exchange of fire, killed eight of them in Kalat.



"Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terror activities in the area," the statement said. Earlier this month, 12 terrorists were killed in Kalat by security forces. The statement said security forces and law enforcement agencies are constantly conducting operations to eliminate terrorists under its "Azm-e-Istehkam" campaign.

## Farmers continue to wait in serpentine queues for fertilizers



Warangal: Despite tall claims of the Congress government in introducing app-based fertilizers supply system, farmers continue to wait in serpentine queues for fertilizers at different places. On Saturday, braving cold weather, farmers, including women turned up in large numbers at the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society centre in Khila Warangal. Much before the centre was opened, farmers stood in the serpentine queues for their turn to secure fertilizers bags.

Many farmers, especially women, fumed at the officials for failing to arrange sufficient quantities of fertilizers ahead of the season. The State government seems to have not learnt any lessons from the hardships faced by farmers during last season. The same issues were being faced again this season. Who should be held responsible for this negligence, farmers' reportedly asked at the

centre. Similarly, videos and images of farmers, especially the aged, waiting for their turn to get fertilisers at the PACS centre in Mahabubabad on Friday, were shared extensively on social media. Many farmers from Vemur, Uttarathanda, Idulapusalpally, Shanigaram and other areas said they have been doing rounds of the PACS centre but there was no stock. Unable to bear the cold weather, farmers were seen covering themselves with blankets and waiting for their turn at the PACS, according to reports.

After standing in the queues since early morning in the cold weather, officials informed the farmers that there was no stock and it was still to arrive at the centre. Irked over the officials apathy in supplying the fertilizers, farmers even staged demonstrations on the road in the town, resulting in disruption of traffic movement in the town.

## GHMC transfers 60 deputy commissioners for 60 circles for better administration



Hyderabad: For better administration of the newly formed circles, the GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan on Saturday transferred 60 Deputy Commissioners to as many circles. The orders issued by the Commissioner said that the deputy commissioners will have to join their duties with immediate effect. All the transferred deputy commissioners previously

worked in 30 circles and other wings of the GHMC and received new postings. The transfers come in the wake of the recent Gazette notification issued by the state government regarding formation of 12 zones, 60 circles, and 300 wards, and the appointment of zonal commissioners for the 12 zones.

## Sankranti vacation holidays likely to be changed

Hyderabad: The Sankranti vacation schedule for educational institutions, particularly schools, is likely to be changed. According to the vacation announced by the Telangana School Education department, schools will have a five day holiday from January 11 to 15. Additionally, as January 10 falls on the second Saturday schools will get an extra holiday. The State government recently notified holidays for 2026, declaring January 15 as a holiday for Sankranti festival and January 16 as an optional holiday for Kanuma festival. Going by this order, schools are to reopen the day



after the festival holidays. However, according to teacher unions, most parents will not send their children immediately after the Sankranti festival. The teacher unions urged the government to extend holidays until January 18 and that schools be reopened on January 19.

# Editorial

## Gates and windows: On the SIR and single-appeal window

The Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has a reasonable aim: to prune the duplicates, outdated addresses and entries for people who have died or moved, which India's electoral rolls have a tendency to gather. But the ECI's design of the ongoing SIR, modelled on the one in Bihar, infuses systemic flaws in the process that the body seems unwilling to address or even acknowledge despite many of the same problems in Bihar reappearing in multiple States. The process is happening at great speed that, together with the burden of inclusion being shifted from the state to the voter, suggests that the ECI is treating the exclusion of eligible voters as an acceptable risk. The speed would be justifiable given the availability of digital technologies today but they have their own tendencies to exclude, exemplified by the fact that the 2002-2005 electoral rolls, details from which the ongoing SIR expects citizens to invoke, are not machine-readable and the ECI has treated even minor mismatches as cause for deletion. The scale of exclusions reported in the phase I draft rolls should thus be read as a warning sign. It is not obviously reasonable to expect that one round of appeals will fix this in the final rolls.

The claims and objections processes correct errors only to the extent that affected voters detect and pursue them. That is, the appeals stage only adds a new filter, selecting for those with the time, literacy, connectivity, social support and confidence to deal with the state. If a person does not realise they have been deleted, cannot take time away from work, travel to an office, assemble documents or navigate forms and hearings, the error will become an official fact. Important information is not consistently available in a form that enables real-time public scrutiny, such as the precise reasons for deletions at granular levels and demographic break-ups, including gender-wise patterns, preventing civil society, smaller political parties, journalists and voters from identifying where the process is failing while it can still be corrected. Finally, the SIR depends on house-to-house work, form distribution and collection, digitisation and repeated visits executed by State staff who simultaneously have other duties. When they are further constrained by tight deadlines, the risk of chasing targets instead of completing tasks becomes great. The current SIR in sum comes across as a form of administrative gatekeeping that stratifies the electorate into two tiers: those who can continuously re-prove themselves in the state's preferred format and those who cannot. That outcome will not be corrected by a single-appeal window because the window is itself part of the gate.

## ATMs looted in Nizamabad, leaves residents worried

Nizamabad: Residents in different police station limits in the town are tense after thieves damaged the ATMs on Saturday early morning and took away cash. The burglars targeted two ATMs – one in Pangra branch under Town IV police station limits and the other at Varni chowrastha under Town V limits. Equipped with gas cutters, the burglars using gloves and other equipment got into the DCB Bank ATM under Town IV limits. They broke open the ATM machine and are believed to have stolen Rs.25 lakh cash, reports said.

# Jagtial DMHO dies suddenly after complaining of chest pain

Jagtial: District Medical and Health Officer Dr Akula Srinivas died of a cardiac arrest in the early hours of Saturday. According to family members, Dr Srinivas complained of chest pain around 4.30 am. He was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Dr Srinivas had recently taken charge as DMHO following the transfer of his predecessor on deputation. Earlier, he had served as a programme officer in the health department. A native of Jagtial town, Dr Srinivas was well known among local residents and had close links



with various sections of society. Medical and health department officials, members of walker associations, and political leaders expressed deep shock and grief over his sudden demise.

## Lack of PPA holds up NTPC's 2,400 MW power project in Telangana

Peddapalli: Construction of Stage-II of the Telangana Super Thermal Power Project has not begun despite receiving all required approvals. The National Thermal Power Corporation, which is executing the 4,000 MW project, is yet to start work due to the absence of a power purchase agreement with the State government. As 85 per cent of the power generated is meant for Telangana, a formal power purchase agreement between the State and NTPC is mandatory before construction can commence.

However, the State government has not shown interest in entering into the agreement, delaying the project. The 4,000 MW thermal power project was sanctioned to Telangana under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, with NTPC entrusted with its execution. Stage-I of the project, comprising 1,600 MW through two 800 MW units, has already been completed and power generation has begun. For Stage-II, NTPC plans to develop the remaining 2,400 MW through three 800 MW units. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has been awarded the construction con-



tract. The project received environmental clearance two months ago. The NTPC board has also approved the project cost of Rs 29,485 crore. Despite all clearances being in place, the lack of a power purchase agreement continues to stall the start of construction. Eight months ago, the Union Ministry of Power wrote to the State government seeking a written response on the agreement, but no reply has been received so far. While the reasons remain unclear, reports suggest the State government is unwilling to sign the agreement. Earlier, there were reports that the State might agree to a power purchase agreement for only 800 MW instead of the full 2,400 MW under Stage-II. However, no agreement was finalised.

## Financial stress tied to online gaming claims young life in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A 24-year-old man died by suicide at his residence in Suraram, allegedly after suffering financial losses linked to online gaming, police said. The deceased was identified as Ravinder, a resident of the area. According to preliminary findings, he had been heavily involved in online games and slipped into depression after losing money. Police said Ravinder recorded a selfie video before his death in which he stated that he had lost interest in life and clarified that no one else was responsible for his decision. After receiving information, po-



lice rushed to the spot and shifted the body for postmortem examination. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

# Congress leaders attack resident for supporting BRS-backed Sarpanch candidate

Kamareddy: Even after the newly-elected Sarpanches have sworn in at many places, Congress leaders' attacks on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders continue unabated in the State. On Friday night, Ranjith, a youngster and resident of Mudheli village in Yellareddy constituency was brutally attacked by local Congress leaders with an axe. The 38-year-old suffered severe injuries on the neck and head and was immediately shifted to an area hospital in Banswada. He was later shifted to Government General Hospital, Nizamabad where his condition is said to be critical.

The Congress leaders, particularly Narsimulu, who is also resident of the same village, bore a grudge against Ranjith for supporting the BRS-backed candidate Laxman in the Sarpanch elections. After Laxman was elected in the elections, the Congress leaders, especially Narsimulu, were furious at Ranjith. Accordingly, in the guise of a party, Narsimulu invited Ranjith to a place in the village and attacked him with an axe.

The locals lodged a complaint against Narsimulu with Gandhari police. They also wanted the police to initiate stern action against others involved in the incident. Interestingly, as

the entire episode was taking a political turn, the police tried to dismiss the issue stating it was due to personal differences. According to reports, the Gandhari Police stated that both Narsimulu and Ranjith were relatives. They had consumed alcohol on Friday night and heated arguments took place between the two over some issues. In a fit of rage, Narsimulu attacked Ranjith with an axe. There was no political rivalry behind the attack, the police reportedly said.

A case has been booked against Narsimulu and the investigation is under progress, they added. In the last fortnight, this is the second such incident in Yellareddy constituency, which is represented by Congress MLA Madanmohan Rao. On December 15, in Sommarpet village, Congress-supported Sarpanch candidate's brother allegedly had attacked the BRS-backed candidate Balaraju. After the election results were declared, the Congress candidate's brother Kurma Chiranjeevi drove a tractor at the BRS candidate while he was speaking with relatives outside his house. Six persons, including two women, had suffered injuries in the incident.



## First-ever tiger sighting reported in Siddipet

Siddipet: A tiger has entered Siddipet district for the first time, triggering panic among farmers. The animal is the same tiger spotted in Kamareddy district around 10 days ago. A farmer noticed the tiger on Friday in Thoguta mandal and alerted forest officials. While tracking its movement, officials found that the tiger had crossed several villages. It passed through Thornala, Baswapur, Irkode and Marrikunta in Siddipet rural mandal. The animal also came close to Siddipet town. Later, the tiger moved through villages in Thoguta and Mirudoddi mandals. Forest officials suspect it entered Siddipet from Kamareddy after passing through Jagtial and Rajanna-Sircilla districts. Based on pug marks, officials identified the animal as a young male. So far, there have been no attacks on humans or cattle. Officials said the tiger first entered Telangana from Maharashtra through Komaram Bheem Asifabad district while searching for territory. It later moved through Mancherial, Kamareddy, Jagtial and Rajanna-Sircilla before reaching Siddipet. Hyderabad city guide. Forest officials have intensified monitoring and alerted residents in Siddipet district. With this sighting, Siddipet has become the 14th district in Telangana where a tiger has been reported.

## Overall crime rate dips in Hyderabad, but violence against women sees uptick

Hyderabad: The crime rate in Hyderabad reduced by 15 percent in 2025, with police registering 30,690 cases as against 35,944 cases the previous year. Grave bodily offences, which include murder and attempt to murder, came down by 4 percent, and property offences reduced by 28 percent. However, crime against women increased by 6 per cent, and POCSO cases rose by 27 per cent. Hyderabad CP VC Sajjanar said the overall crime rate came down due to visible policing in the city. "In the coming days, we will work harder to curb property offences and the activities of seasoned criminals," he added.

## Army, Assam Rifles conduct joint drill in Arunachal's Changlang

Itanagar: The Indian Army and Assam Rifles (AR) carried out a joint helicopter-borne troop insertion exercise in the strategically important Vijaynagar salient in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, aimed at testing rapid deployment capability and improving operational preparedness in difficult and remote terrain, a defence statement said on Saturday. The exercise, carried out on Friday, involved the quick induction of acclimatised troops into a simulated operational area to assess readiness for responding to emerging security challenges, it said. The drill focused on speed, coordination and precision to ensure smooth execution under near-real conditions, defence spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Mahendra Rawat said in the statement. He said the operation showcased the forces' ability to deploy troops swiftly and efficiently in challenging environments. The



participating troops demonstrated high levels of professionalism, adaptability and combat readiness throughout the exercise, the spokesperson said. The joint drill also strengthened coordination and mutual understanding between the Assam Rifles and the Indian Army, enhancing their overall operational reach. Lt. Col. Rawat added that such exercises are crucial for fine-tuning standard operating procedures, improving interoperability and reinforcing collective response mechanisms in strategically sensitive areas.

## Protests outside Lok Bhavan in Jammu, LG's effigy burnt over medical college admission row

Jammu: Dozens of protesters on Saturday gathered outside Lok Bhavan here and set ablaze an effigy of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, demanding revocation of the MBBS admission list of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi. Raising slogans such as "LG go back", the protest was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti, a recently-formed conglomeration of various right-wing organisations. JK BJP's women activists and several trade leaders including president of Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries Arun Gupta also joined the protest. The protest led to the blocking of the main road outside Lok Bhavan, resulting in traffic snarls on adjoining roads and causing hardship to commuters for more than one-and-a-half hours. Police personnel were deployed in strength outside the Lok Bhavan to maintain law and order and regulate traffic, and a tough time to push back protesters who tried to move inside the complex. "We will continue our protest till the resolution of our genuine demands which are related to our faith. We are not against students of any particular religion, we just want the seats in the medical college to be reserved for Hindu students alone," Samiti convener



Colonel Sukhvir Singh Mankotia told reporters. He said they have staged the protest outside the Lok Bhavan because Lt Governor is the chairman of the shrine board and it is his responsibility to ensure that the religious sentiments of any community should not be hurt. Mankotia said the government should close the medical college if there is any problem in reserving the seats for the Hindu students. The controversy began after admissions for the inaugural MBBS batch of 50 students were completed through the NEET merit list last month. This batch includes 42 Muslim candidates, mostly from Kashmir, seven Hindu students from Jammu and one Sikh candidate. The protests were started by right-wing Hindu groups which later led to the formation of the Sangarsh Samiti and its leaders have already held talks with Lt Governor and leaders of the central government including Union health minister.

## Rajasthan: Fog in parts of Udaipur, Kota; Karauli coldest at 3.1 degrees C

Jaipur: Rajasthan witnessed cold and dry weather over the past 24 hours while fog was witnessed at isolated places in the Udaipur and Kota divisions, the Meteorological Centre here said on Saturday. According to the weather office, minimum temperature dipped sharply in several parts of the state, with Karauli being the coldest place in the state at 3.1 degrees Celsius. Pali recorded a low of 3.4 degrees Celsius, Anita 4.5 degrees, Dausa 4.7 degrees, Alwar 5.2 degrees, Nagaur 5.3 degrees, Lunkaran 5.8 degrees and Sirohi 6.2 degrees Celsius. Jaipur, the state's capital, recorded a minimum temperature of 9.6 degrees Celsius on Saturday morning. Barmer was the hottest place in the state, registering a maximum temperature of 29.0 degrees Celsius, the department said. The Met office said the weather is likely to remain dry and cold across Rajasthan in the coming days.



## Cong leader held for sharing AI image depicting Kerala CM with Sabarimala gold case accused

Kozhikode: A Congress leader was arrested on Saturday for allegedly sharing an AI-generated photograph depicting Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan along with Unnikrishnan Potty, an accused in the Sabarimala gold case, police said. The Chevayoor police took N Subarahmanian, a member of the state unit of Congress's Political Affairs Committee, into custody after registering a case against him. Later, his arrest was recorded after the interrogation and he was released on station bail, police said. He was booked for sharing a post on a social media platform carrying a photograph depicting the Chief Minister and Potty together, with a caption questioning the reason for their alleged close relationship. As part of the probe, a police team reached Subarahmanian's house on Saturday morning to record his statement. Later, it was decided to take him to the police station for detailed interrogation, officials said. The CPI(M) has claimed that the picture circulating on social media is AI-generated. Before being taken to the police station, Subarahmanian told reporters that the picture he shared was not AI-generated, but was taken from a video released by the Chief Minister's Office.

"What the police say are the words of the government. They are branding everything as AI-generated," he alleged. He further claimed that one of the photographs he posted was also seen on the social media account of BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on November 29, but no case was registered against him. "I will try to prove the authenticity of the photograph. Anyway, the case will reach the court," he said. Subarahmanian alleged that the government's policy was to take action against people criticising the CM by sending them to jail. "People will not shut their mouths with such actions," he said. He also said that in his social media post, he had mentioned that the photograph was taken from Facebook. "Let's wait and see," he added. The Police said a case has been registered under Section 192 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita for wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause a riot and Section 120(o) of the Kerala Police Act for causing annoyance through communication. Congress activi-

sts led by Kozhikode DCC president K Praveenkumar held a protest in front of the police station, terming the police action as illegal and unreasonable, as only bailable sections were invoked against Subarahmanian.

He alleged that police surrounded Subarahmanian's house as if action was being taken against a hardcore criminal. "Subarahmanian was in Kozhikode, and the police could have served a notice instead of creating drama by surrounding his house. The police will face the consequences of their actions," he said. KPCC president Sunny Joseph said the Chief Minister's Office was trampling upon democracy and freedom of expression by registering a case alleging incitement to riot against N Subarahmanian for sharing the picture. "Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is now leading Kerala along the same path shown by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government. These actions will not weaken or destroy democratic and secular Kerala, nor will they succeed in silencing the state," he said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly V D Satheesan, said fake campaigns using AI tools were mostly carried out by the CPI(M). "Mr Pinarayi Vijayan, who are you trying to scare? Are you trying to scare us? This is the end phase of your governance," he said. He alleged that a CPI(M) leader who was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for hurling explosives at police personnel was granted parole by the government just a month after being jailed in Kannur. "You are in charge of the police and the Home department. Your DIG is accepting bribes and releasing prisoners on bail," he alleged. Satheesan said the Chief Minister should not attempt to intimidate Congress workers, as they would not budge under such tactics. "If you act in an autocratic manner, we are not afraid of you. You will have to arrest all of us. Such a chief minister is a shame for Kerala," he said. He said the CPI(M) had failed to learn from the public warning delivered through the local body elections. "There is a bigger lesson waiting for you in the Assembly elections," he said.

## Delhi HC restores ex-CISF officer's 'honour', quashes forced retirement

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has restored the 'honour' of a 72-year-old former CISF officer, who was forced to retire 20 years ago over allegations of sexually harassing a woman colleague, saying the complaint appeared to be motivated. The high court said the charge levelled against the petitioner was not proved, and even if it is presumed that it has been found to be proved by the enquiry officer, the punishment as grave as compulsory retirement ought not to have been imposed. "Having regard to the fact that a period of about 25 years (since the allegation) has since passed and the petitioner has attained 72 years of age, we feel that the least we can do is, to restore his honour, which according to us, has been destroyed by the action of ordering 'compulsory retirement,'" a bench of Justices Dinesh Mehta and Vimal Kumar Yadav said in an order passed on December 19. The bench said it feels that the letter by the complainant was motivated or actuated by some ulterior motive, maybe because of the fact that the petitioner had initiated action against her. "The possibility that the exaggerated, if not false, complaint was filed because of the warning issued to her cannot be ruled out. Such defence, which appeared plausible, has not



been given any credence by the investigating officer," it said, adding the allegations "reek of vengeance rather than genuine harassment". The court passed the order on a plea by the petitioner, ex-assistant commandant in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), challenging an October 2005 order of Deputy Inspector General (L&R) by which he was compulsorily retired from service. The petition was filed in 2006. The court noted the petitioner prayed that, except for restoring the honour, he is not interested in any monetary gain, and he would not ask for any consequential benefits and remain satisfied with whatever pension or monetary benefits he is getting. The high court quashed the 2005 order and also the enquiry report of 2004 while holding that the conducting of the third preliminary enquiry and consequential disciplinary enquiry was itself uncalled for and the finding recorded by the enquiry officer was not in accordance with the evidence.

## Carrom champions from Telangana seek recognition and support

Hyderabad: Not many disciplines can boast of the impressive list of achievers from Telangana like carrom over the years. Yet, it has long been neglected for being a non-Olympic sport and not being spectator friendly. Officials of the then Hyderabad Carrom Association, with Mr B K Haranath as one of the founder-members, and the incumbent Secretary S Madanraj along with President Mr K Santhosh Kumar of Navyabharathi Global School (Nizamabad), have been passionately putting in efforts to sustain the interest of die-hard carrom fans.

At the end of the day, what matters more is not just the officials conducting tournaments and grooming champions, but some recognition from the State Government. Not many may be aware that carrom produced the first world champion (seniors), S Appoorwa, in any sport from Hyderabad. Critics might question the number of countries taking part, but it is worth reminding how many countries play cricket globally. When the Tamil Nadu Government recently announced huge cash incentives to medallists of the sixth World Cup — M Khazima (Rs 1 crore), K Nagajothi (Rs 50 lakhs), V Mithra (Rs 60 lakhs) — and the seventh World Cup — L Keerthana (Rs 1 crore), M Khazima (Rs 50 lakhs), V Mithra (Rs 40 lakhs), the feeling of disappointment was strong in Telangana, with no hint of



similar financial help or job support. This has demoralised the carrom fraternity. Hyderabad city guide "We also play the sport with all passion and it is never easy to be a World Champion in any discipline," said one champion player. Top achievers include K Srinivas of IOCL, multiple World Cup medallist, and S Aditya, bronze medallist in men's singles, gold in team championship, silver in men's doubles and silver in Swiss league, whose trips have been self-funded because of his passion for the sport. "We are fortunate that the Carrom Association of Telangana has been a huge support to our cause. But we will be more grateful if we get some support, by way of jobs and cash incentives like Tamil Nadu does," said Aditya. Winners have many takers and losers are often ignored in sport. But in the case of carrom champions, there is no difference in terms of Government attitude. Will fortunes change? Only time will tell.

## Rishiket Sisodia powers Deccan Wanderers into final with century

Hyderabad: Rishiket Sisodia's impressive century (161, 89b, 15x4, 11x6) helped Deccan Wanderers score an eight-wicket win against Sporting XI, for whom Jasmeet Jain (152, 98b, 13x4, 10x6) batted well, in the A-Division one-day league knock-out tournament semifinal here on Friday. In another match, N Rakesh (116 n.o., 125b, 12x4) and Shashank Lokesh (103, 90b, 15x4) batted well to help Cambridge XI record a thumping nine-wicket win against East Marredpally, for whom C P Venkatesh (126, 122b, 7x4, 5x6) batted with authority.

### The scores:

#### A-Division one-day league-cum-knock-out:

Seamfinal: Sporting XI 282 in 49 overs (Shaik Sohail 53, Jasmeet Jain 152, B Rathan Teja 40, Tejavath Harish 3/51) lost to Deccan Wanderers 283/2 in 38.4 overs (Rishiket Sisodia 161, P Nitish Reddy 52 n.o., M Vasu Deva Raju 41 n.o.). East Marredpally 290/7 in 50 overs (Aashlesh Vaman 30, C P Venkatesh 126, S Rohit Reddy 55, K Ranjith Kumar 3/52) lost to Cambridge XI 293/1 in 44.1 overs (N Rakesh 116 n.o., Shashank Lokesh 103, Sunkari Dheeraj 62 n.o.). Sayi Satya 77/7 in 14.2 overs (Ankit Agarwal 36, A Bharath 3/12) lost to Imperial 79/1 in 5.4 overs (S Loknath 52 n.o.). Telangana 127/9 in 17.3 overs (Rithwik Raj Goud 70,



Shashank Lokesh N Rakesh C P Venkatesh  
Ankit Raj 3/32, S Trishir Pavankumar 3/12 lost to Sportive 128/7 in 17.2 overs (E Nihaal Reddy 37). Hyderabad city guide Apex 171/7 in 20 overs (Ritesh Sai Eswar 53, Vignesh Agarwal 39) bt Mahmood 162/6 in 20 overs (Sachin Kalarickal 33, Hariom Singh 57, P Kalyan 30, N Siddharth Reddy 4/38).

Ensconce 139/7 in 17 overs (Keshav Upadhyay 58, N Sri Harsha 3/10) bt Ours 99/9 in 17 overs (Shaumik Kapoor 6/17). Vijay Hanuman 126/8 in 20 overs (S Vikas 43) lost to Charminar 127/6 in 19.4 overs (Shaik Muddassir 32, G Sankeerth 31). Venus Cybertech 153/6 in 20 overs (P Harshith 86) lost to Osmania University 156/6 in 18.3 overs (S Vamshhi Kumaar 52, Sudharshan Thanda 3/21). Khammam District 179 in 20 overs (M Tejaram 71, Akash Kurre 3/34, Prerith Reddy 3/19) bt Classic 83/9 in 13 overs (D Janmesh Singh 42). Gouds XI 143/10 in 19.1 overs (V Nithin Yadav 78, D S Keerthan Praise 4/27) lost to Nalgonda District 147/4 in 17.5 overs (M U Manish 35, G Prakash Reddy 65 n.o.).

## AIU inter-zonal women's table tennis begins in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The All India Inter-University inter-zonal table tennis tournament for women will be held at VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Arts & Science (Bachupally) here from December 27 to 29. A total of 16 teams from across India will vie for top honours. The tournament features the top four teams from each zone, with winners of their respective zones participating. South Zone teams: Jain University (Bangalore), SRM IST University (Chennai), Anna University (Chennai) and University of Madras. North Zone teams: Chitkara University (Punjab), Chandigarh University

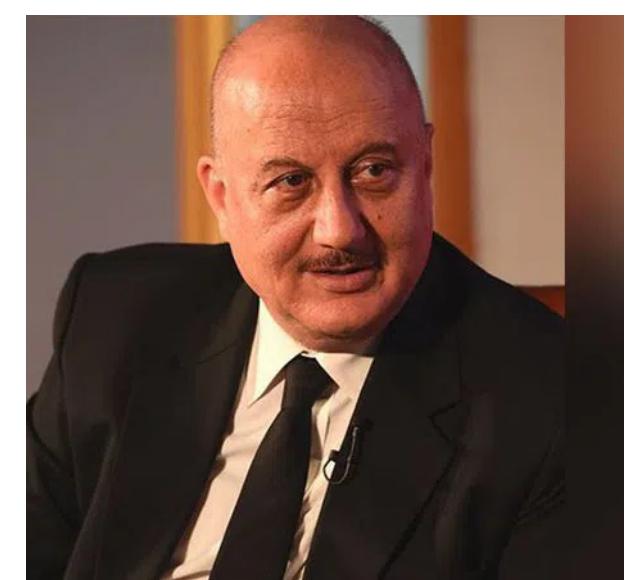
(Mohali), Lovely Professional University (Jalandhar) and Punjab University (Chandigarh). West Zone teams: Savitribai Phule University (Pune), MIT World Peace University (Pune), Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (Surat) and University of Mumbai (Mumbai). East Zone teams: Adamas University (Kolkata), LN Mithila University (Darbhanga), University of Calcutta (Kolkata) and Hemchand Yadav Vishwavidyalay (Durg).



## Dhurandhar's success proves conviction beats narrative wars: Anupam Kher

Mumbai: Veteran actor Anupam Kher has praised heaped praise on Aditya Dhar's "Dhurandhar", saying the film has risen above accusations of being "propaganda" and added the response to the film was a "slap" to those attempting to label it. In a heartfelt video message shared from abroad, Anupam said that despite having no association with the film, its success filled him with an unexpected sense of peace and pride. "I don't have a role in this film. I am not connected to anything. But I don't know why, with the success of this film, my heart is very peaceful. And I have felt peace and pride. I have felt pride. His great success."

The actor said he won't talk about the technicalities of the film and noted only a handful of films go on to become landmarks. "For example, Godfather was a landmark film. Sholay was a landmark film. Mughal-e-Azam was a landmark film. If I have to include my films and the films I am not taking their names it means they are not landmark films. Because they are not in my mind. I am not making this video as a historian. I am making it as a cinema-goer." He spoke about his films Saaransh, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jaayenge, A Wednesday, Khosla Ka Ghosla!. He said that they were 'path-breaking films. Because they gave a new perspective to cinema-goers.' Praising director Aditya Dhar, Anupam said the filmmaker did not rely on patterns or preconceived formulas. "But I like Dhurandhar from Aditya Dhar. Not only because he is a Kashmiri. He comes from a family of people who were persecuted. And with his work, he has shown what success is all about. And what courage is all about. Not only because of that. As a filmmaker, he has not followed any pattern or formula. No formula. Just conviction." The actor said that even though the film has broken box-office record, it's the "kind of people who are praising this film" "This proves that there was a clique of people who were behind proving propaganda to the film. This is the same clique who tried to prove propaganda to the film. And they succeeded. This is the same film who tried to prove propaganda to The Kashmir Files. And I say, 30% of them succeeded. They debated. But Dhurandhar has slapped such people." Anupam added:



"He has slapped them. Don't teach us what propaganda is. You are not going to decide what is a propaganda film. Don't make us feel small. That is what the audience is saying to people like that." He shared that when people want "to make art look small for his purpose, for his selfish purpose, then one day art turns around and slaps you once and says that you can't make me look small."

### He said that he is happy about that.

"But I am so generously proud and happy about the success of the film, and about the film shutting so many people's thought processes. Try a lot. And people are calling me from abroad. I have nothing to do with them — that you have seen Dhurandar, you have done a great job."

Calling 2025 a defining year for Aditya Dhar, Kher also mentioned the success of films featuring Yami Gautam, including Article 370 and Haqq. "What an amazing journey you had. And in fact, this year belongs to you, my friend. Not only because of Dhurandar, but Yami's films — Article 370, then Haqq. What a thing, my friend. What a thing. The pages of history. What are the pages of history? Today's pages are important." Taking to the comment section, Aditya Dhar wrote: "Wow. This truly means so much, sir. Such pure emotion and generosity in your words... And to be mentioned in the same breath as those films is an honour I do not take lightly at all." The line you said "Don't make us feel small, that is what the audience is saying," holds so true in today's time. It has always been my intention as a film maker. Words like these push me to do better. I hope to keep making films that are honest, fearless and hopefully stand the test of time.

## 'Aap salamat rahein Malik': Shera wishes Salman Khan on his 60th b'day

Mumbai: Salman Khan's bodyguard Shera, who has been with the Bollywood superstar for decades now, wished his 'Malik' on his special day with a heartfelt post on social media. Shera praised Salman for his unique ability to face every obstacle of life with style, strength, and silence, which is something that according to him makes Salman one of the biggest superstars in the country. Dropping a photo of himself twinning with the 'Sultan' actor in black on his IG, Shera wrote on the photo-sharing app, "Happy 60th Birthday, My Malik @beingSalman... I've walked beside you through countless ups and downs, and one thing that has never changed, is your attitude to face every challenge with style, strength and silence. (sic)." Shera further expressed his gratitude to Salman for giving him a chance to earn a lot of love and respect, all thanks to him. "That's why you're not just a star, you're the biggest Superstar. Because of you, I've earned so much love and respect and an identity I'm truly proud of. May God bless you with all the happiness, success and the best of health, always. Aap salamat rahein,



Malik," the post concluded. Shera is probably one of the most well-known bodyguards of a Bollywood celebrity. He even made a small appearance in Salman's 2011 release "Bodyguard". Salman kicked off his 60th birthday by having a blast with his family and close friends at his Panvel farmhouse. Along with his parents and siblings, he was also accompanied by his industry folks. Many big names from Bollywood, such as Sanjay Dutt, Karisma Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur, Genelia Deshmukh, Rakul Preet Singh, Huma Qureshi, MS Dhoni, Sangeeta Bijlani, Mika Singh, Maniesh Paul, Pragya Jaiswal, Zeeshan Siddiqui, and Rahul Kanwal, along with others, were also a part of Salman's 60th birthday celebration.