

సమస్త పండ్ల నోప్పుల నివారణ

దంతామృతం

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

శ్రీ చత్త్ర ఆయుర్వేదాశ్రమము

నారాయణపేట రోడ్డు, ఊటూర్ మండలం
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Cyberabad police book 928 drunk driving cases on New Year eve

Hyderabad: A total of 928 persons were caught driving under the influence of alcohol by Cyberabad police during drunken driving checking conducted on Wednesday night. Cases were booked against them. The vehicle-wise breakup includes 695 two-wheelers, 31 three-wheelers, 199 four-wheelers, and 3 heavy vehicles. The driving licence of the offenders is seized and forwarded to the concerned RTA offices for suspension under Section 19 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, said Gajarao Bhupal, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Cyberabad. As part of this drive, 55 teams were deployed across Cyberabad and the checking continued till early hours of Thursday. Among those booked, 419 persons recorded alcohol levels above 100 mg/100 ml of blood, 35 persons recorded above 300 mg/100 ml, and 5 persons recorded extremely high levels exceeding 500 mg/100 ml. Most cases were reported from traffic police station limits of Miyapur, RC Puram, Raidurgam, Gachibowli,



Kukatpally, Medchal, Narsingi, Rajendranagar, and KPHB. Meanwhile the New Year celebrations across Cyberabad passed off smoothly, peacefully, and without any major incidents, owing to meticulous planning, continuous monitoring, and coordinated field-level enforcement by the Cyberabad Police, said the official. The security arrangements were closely supervised at the highest level, with Cyberabad CP, Dr. M. Ramesh directly monitoring the situation throughout the night from his office. With extensive planning and sustained enforcement by Cyberabad Traffic Police, no major road accidents were reported anywhere in Cyberabad during the New Year celebrations.

KCR's return as CM in 2028 is BRS aim, says KTR

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the party's sole objective was to see party chief K Chandrashekhar Rao return as Chief Minister in 2028. Notwithstanding the combined attack by the Congress and the BJP, he urged cadres to stay focused and not be disheartened by temporary setbacks. He wanted them to continue fighting for the rights of people of Telangana. Unveiling the BRS New Year diary and calendar at Telangana Bhavan and extending New Year greetings to people of Telangana here on Thursday, Rama Rao stated that despite a change of calendars, people's lives had worsened under the Congress rule over the past two years. He said the State was slipping into regression, with hardships of undivided Andhra Pradesh resurfacing. "Farmers are struggling for urea in long queues for several days despite cold climatic conditions. The lives of people are stranded in the pre-BRS regime with the Congress failing to implement its electoral promises and even pushing the State into regression," he added. Recalling the Telangana Statehood movement, the BRS working president said the decade of development and welfare under



BRS rule had left an indelible mark on the State's history. He asserted that despite political conspiracies and attacks, the BRS could not be weakened as long as it enjoyed people's support. "BRS is the only party to safeguard Telangana's interests and ensure people's welfare," he reiterated. Rama Rao lauded party workers for their fighting spirit and leading protests on farmers', tribal, environmental and student issues. He asserted that victories and defeats were temporary, but KCR's place in people's hearts, was permanent. He declared that the BRS would continue its fight against anti-people policies of the Congress government, while focusing on organisational strengthening in 2026. He exuded confidence that the victory was certain for the BRS which was striving for the people's welfare, with righteousness, justice, and honesty on its side.

Close associate of Aaditya quits, set to join BJP

Mumbai: The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) on Thursday suffered a setback ahead of the BMC elections as its deputy leader Sheetal Devrukhkar-Sheth, who worked closely with Aaditya Thackeray on party initiatives, resigned from the organisation. Announcing her decision to leave the Sena (UBT), Devrukhkar-Sheth said she would join the BJP shortly in the presence of its state president Ravindra Chavan. PTI has a copy of her resignation letter. Elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will be held on January 15, and votes will be counted the next day. A

senior leader in the Yuva Sena, the youth wing of Sena (UBT), Devrukhkar-Sheth was a member of its core committee and was considered one of Aaditya Thackeray's closest associates. She is also a member of the Mumbai University senate, the varsity's top governing body. Sources said Devrukhkar-Sheth was asked to prepare herself for the BMC elections as the party was planning to field her.



Sabarimala rings in New Year as Makaravilakku pilgrimage gathers pace



Sabarimala: The Sabarimala Sannidhanam witnessed a calm welcome to the New Year amid the ongoing Makaravilakku festival, as security personnel and devotees came together at the Lord Ayyappa shrine. Kerala Police personnel on duty at Sannidhanam, along with members of the Fire Force, Rapid Action Force and other staff, welcomed the New Year by lighting camphor arranged in the words "Happy New Year". The letters were first drawn with chalk, camphor was placed over them, and exactly at midnight (Dec 31-Jan 1), Sabarimala Chief Police Coordinator ADGP S Sreejith lit the camphor, a release said. The simple celebra-

tion drew the attention of Ayyappa devotees present at Sannidhanam. Many joined in by exchanging New Year wishes and chanting "Swami Saranam", making the moment special and memorable. Meanwhile, a heavy flow of pilgrims continues as part of the Makaravilakku festival. After the opening of the temple at 5 pm on December 30 after mandala pooja, a total of 1,20,256 devotees have reached Sannidhanam so far, up to 5.11 pm on December 31. Authorities have said that arrangements are in place to ensure smooth darshan and safety for pilgrims as the festival days continue.

Student from Jangaon dies in fire accident in Germany

Jangaon: A student from Jangaon died in a fire accident in Germany on New Year day. According to sources, Thokala Hruthik Reddy, a native of Malkapur village in Chilpur mandal of Jangaon district had gone to Germany for higher studies. A fire broke out in the apartment where he was living. He sustained serious head injuries as he jumped off the building to escape the blaze. He was immediately rushed to the hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment. A pall of gloom descended on the village with the death of Hruthik Reddy.



Forest department objects to Indiramma Houses on forest land in Telangana

Hyderabad: The Forest department is at loggerheads with a few district administrations for approving Indiramma Houses on forest land. The department has raised objections to approvals being issued for houses without its consent or verification of land records. A few MLAs, particularly from erstwhile Adilabad, Khammam and Nalgonda districts, are unhappy with the Forest department for opposing the construction of Indiramma Houses on forest land. The legislators have complained to the State government over the department's refusal to permit the construction of houses. Khanapur MLA Vedma Bhojju raised the issue in the Assembly on Monday. "My constituency is under Kawal Tiger Reserve. The State government approved Indiramma Houses in the constituency but the Forest depart-

ment has not permitted construction of a single house so far," he said. The issue was also brought to the notice of Adilabad in-charge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao. The Khanapur MLA further said that in Isnapur, cotton farmers had laid temporary roads to transport their produce to markets, but those were also not permitted. Forest officials, however, have faulted the district administrations for approving Indiramma Houses on forest land. "Without consulting the department or checking the land's details, the district administration approves construction of houses and we cannot permit them. Saving forest land is our primary job," a senior official said. At times, officials were forced to turn a blind eye to such cases, which would invariably facilitate the legalisation of illegal constructions and encroachments, the official stressed.

Editorial

Descent into farce: On the Election Commission of India, the SIR

The Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across 12 States and Union Territories (UT) is fast descending into a farce. Take the case of West Bengal, where furore over elderly residents having to attend eligibility hearings in remote locations even after submitting their enrolment forms forced the ECI to order home verification. Or, the fact that it had to conditionally halt hearings of "unmapped" voters (those whose names or parents' names were not mapped with the 2002 SIR). Summons were in the form of software notices, but this software was not used in Bihar. An association of civil servants complained that this "suo motu system-driven deletion of electors from the draft electoral rolls in West Bengal in the ongoing SIR process [bypassed] the statutory role of the [Electoral Registration Officers]". The procedural chaos could have been avoided had the ECI not rushed into the SIR just before Assembly elections in States/UTs such as West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. Its ad hoc use of software — the ECI junked its de-duplication software in Bihar and told the Supreme Court why it was not using it, but reportedly used it alongside another software to flag "unmapped" voters without proper protocol — is creating confusion and distress. The suspicion that the ECI is using an exercise of updating electoral rolls as a de facto citizenship screening exercise seems to be confirmed by the manner in which it is going about things.

There are inconsistencies and anomalies in the draft electoral rolls, many of which have been flagged by The Hindu's data-driven investigations. The over 6.5 crore deletions, according to provisional numbers, suggest methodological problems in and poor implementation of the exercise. In Uttar Pradesh, provisional figures show that 2.89 crore names have been deleted, which could possibly explain why the ECI has postponed publication of the draft roll to January 6. In Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, which are relatively urbanised States with net in-migration of electors, 97 lakh and 73.7 lakh electors, respectively, have been taken off the draft rolls. That both States have since seen the furious inclusion of lakhs of names — added incomprehensibly as fresh additions in another procedural flaw — suggests that the enumeration phase was concluded haphazardly. This situation could have been avoided had the Court gone beyond limited interventions — which were selves for Bihar electors — to properly vet the new SIR procedure for constitutionality. It is still not too late for the Court to take note of the infirmities and to decide firmly in favour of the electorate. The fate of the very idea of universal adult franchise hangs in the balance.

One dead, 15 fall ill after consuming biryani at New Year party

Hyderabad: One person died and 15 other people developed health problems after allegedly consuming biryani during a New Year party at Jagathgirigutta on Wednesday night. According to reports, the man Pandu, a resident of Bhavaninagar in Jagathgirigutta had consumed biryani during the party arranged locally. After consuming food, Pandu started vomiting and fell unconscious. He was rushed to a hospital by his friends where he died while undergoing treatment.

Farmers forced to wait through cold night amid erratic power supply in Adilabad

Adilabad: Farmers were forced to stay awake through the night to irrigate paddy, maize and other crops following erratic supply of power to agriculture needs at Mukhra (K) village in Echoda mandal on Wednesday night, even as freezing cold weather conditions prevailed. Farmers said they waited at their fields after officials informed them that electricity would be supplied to agriculture needs at 12.30 pm. They stayed awake through the night, warming themselves at bonfires to cope with the biting cold. They demanded that officials take steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the agriculture sector. Recalling the previous regime, the farmers said they had received quality and



uninterrupted power supply to agriculture needs during the BRS government. They stated that former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandra shekhar Rao had provided free electricity to the farm sector and avoided inconvenience to farmers by preventing erratic power supply.

Tight police vigil ensures incident-free New Year celebrations in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A tight vigil by the city police on drunk driving ensured the New Year eve revelries in Hyderabad passed off without any untoward incidents on Wednesday night. The city ushered in Year 2026 with revelries, bursting of crackers, exchanging warm greetings and shopping for cakes till late night. Seeking to usher in a new beginning of the year on an auspicious note, people thronged places of worship in large numbers on Thursday morning. Large crowds were witnessed at Birla Mandir among other places of worship today morning.



Centre must rebut Chinese claims of mediation between India, Pak: Owaisi on Op Sindoor

Hyderabad: AIMIM president and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi has said Chinese claim of mediation between India and Pakistan is an affront to the country and that it must be strongly rebutted by the Union Government. Normalcy in ties with China cannot be at the cost of India's honour or its sovereignty, he said. "After US President (Donald Trump) announced a ceasefire before us and claims to have used trade sanctions to secure peace, we now have the Chinese foreign minister making similar claims officially. This is an affront to India and must be strongly rebutted by the government," Owaisi said in a social media post late on Wednesday.

China wants to place India and Pakistan at the same level and is trying to project itself as superior in South Asia. "Is this what the Modi government agreed to when the PM visited China," he said. The Chinese Foreign Minister's claim of mediation is surprising and the Centre must



rebut it officially and assure the country that no third party intervention is acceptable, the Hyderabad MP added. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday said tensions between India and Pakistan were among a list of "hot issues" mediated by China this year. New Delhi has been maintaining that the May 7-10 conflict between India and Pakistan post Pahalgam terror attack was resolved through direct talks between the Director Generals of Military Operations of the two countries. India has also been consistently maintaining that there is no place for any third party intervention in matters relating to India and Pakistan.

Pugmarks confirm tiger's movement in Karimnagar, residents asked to stay alert

Karimnagar: A tiger, which reportedly moved between Bahaddurkhanpet and Vedugatta villages of Karimnagar rural mandal over the last two days, has now moved towards Rukmapur village in Choppadandi mandal. Forest officials, who launched a search operation on Tuesday, found pugmarks of the big cat in agricultural fields on the outskirts of Rukmapur on Wednesday. Officials assessed that the animal is a male tiger aged around three to four years. Confirming the tiger's movement, Forest Range Officer Shoukat Hussein said they were unable to trace the direction in which the tiger moved from Rukmapur. He said teams were examining the pugmarks to ascertain the direction of its movement.

Apart from alerting residents of nearby villages, forest officials deployed two volunteers in each village to assist in patrolling activities. Advising people to remain alert for a week, forest officials asked



farmers not to visit their agricultural fields before 7 am and after 5 pm. They also advised farmers against venturing into fields alone and urged them to move in groups. While hunting, tigers usually travel 60 to 70 kilometres per day. However, officials said the district was not a suitable habitat for tigers as forest cover stands at only about 1.5 percent. Forest officials opined that the tiger may have ventured out of its usual territory in search of a mate. They said it was difficult to assess whether the big cat would continue ahead or change direction and move towards Mancherial by crossing the Godavari river.



Bulgaria becomes 21st eurozone member

Sofia: Bulgaria officially adopts the euro as of the first day of 2026 and becomes the 21st member of the eurozone. This happened exactly 19 years after the country joined the European Union. Until the end of January, the lev will remain a legal means of payment alongside the euro, and from February 1, the euro will become the only official currency. Until August 8, 2026, prices will continue to be displayed in both euros and leva. Throughout January, people will be able to make cash payments in retail outlets using both leva and euro, while retailers will be obliged to give change entirely in only one of the two currencies — euros, or, in case of a temporary lack of availability, in leva. Retailers are free to decide whether to accept mixed payments in two currencies within a single transaction, but this decision must be clearly indicated in a visible place in the store. After the completion of the technical adjustments, which are scheduled to continue until 1:00 am, cash withdrawals from ATMs will be available only in euros. Throughout 2026, people will be able to exchange leva for euros at commercial banks across the country, with no fees or commission charged until mid-year. After that date, banks may apply conversion fees. In 2026, citizens will also be able to exchange leva at branches of Bulgarian Posts, while the Bulgarian National Bank will exchange leva for euros free of charge.



GHMC Commissioner transfers engineers to boost works in 12 zones

Hyderabad: To ensure engineering works are implemented effectively in 12 zones and 300 GHMC wards, on Wednesday, the GHMC commissioner RV Karnan transferred several engineers across 12 zones, and orders were issued accordingly. S Bhaskar Reddy, chief engineer, was transferred and posted in H-CITI, Designs and Administration. Subsequently, another executive engineer K Varalakshmi was transferred and posted as EE, Designs & S E (FAC) designs, and another executive engineer, Ch Sampada was transferred and posted as E E (H-CITI & Admin) and S E (FAC) H-CITI and Administration. All three officials will be working at GHMC head office, Tank Bund. The GHMC commissioner also transferred 11 executive engineers and posted them in Shamshabad, Rajendranagar, Charminar, Golconda, Khairatabad and Secunderabad Zones. Another 11 executive engineers were transferred and posted in Serilingampally, Kukatpally and Qutubullapur Zones, and 10 executive engineers were transferred and posted in Malkajgiri, Uppal and L B Nagar Zones. The Commissioner directed the officers to take charge of the respective posts immediately.

Modi to launch Kolkata-Guwahati Vande Bharat Sleeper Train soon



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will soon flag off India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Kolkata and Guwahati, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Thursday. Addressing a press conference, Vaishnaw said the fares of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Howrah in West Bengal and Guwahati in Assam will be substantially lower than air travel. "The services will become operational in the next 15-20 days, possibly around January 18 or 19. We have requested the prime minister,

and everything is clear. I will announce the exact date in the next two to three days," the minister said. Vaishnaw said Guwahati-Howrah air travel costs around Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000. "In Vande Bharat, the 3rd AC fare will be around Rs 2,300, including food, 2nd AC around Rs 3,000, and 1st AC around Rs 3,600. The fares have been designed keeping the middle class in mind," the minister said. Assembly elections in Assam and West Bengal are scheduled this year.

Army seizes ammo carrying bag, suspected to dropped by drone in J&K's Poonch



Mendhar/Poonch: The army on Thursday recovered a consignment suspected to have been dropped by a drone along the Indo-Pakistan border in Poonch district, officials said. The dropping took place in an area between Rangar Nallah and the Poonch River in the Chakkan da Bagh belt of Khari village early in the

morning, they said. The army found a bag carrying dozens of ammunition rounds and a yellow tiffin box suspected to be an improvised explosive device (IED), they said. The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) examined the bag first to check for an explosive threat.

Rajasthan welcomes the New Year with rain, hailstorm



Jaipur: Rajasthan experienced widespread rain, hailstorms, dense fog, and an intense cold wave on Thursday, marking a chilly start to the New Year across the state. Intermittent rainfall was reported in several districts, including Jaipur, Chittorgarh, Ajmer, Kota, and Sikar. Chittorgarh received heavy rain for about half an hour around 5 a.m., while Ramgarh (Sikar) also witnessed intense showers. Late Wednesday night, hailstorms in Bikaner caused a sharp drop in temperature, raising concerns among farmers. Rain accompanied by strong winds was also recorded in Jodhpur, Phalodi, Barmer, and Bikaner, resulting in a decline of 2-3 degrees Celsius in temperatures. Alwar recorded a minimum temperature of 8 degrees Celsius in the state, while Bikaner and Jaisalmer recorded a minimum tem-

perature of 9.6 degrees Celsius. The Meteorological Department has issued rain alerts for districts in the Jaipur and Bharatpur divisions, cold wave and dense fog warnings for most parts of Rajasthan. Dense fog severely reduced visibility in Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, and Sriganganagar. Jaisalmer remained fog-covered for the second consecutive day, while Jaipur appeared shrouded in mist, especially in areas like Amer and Nahargarh. Despite the weather conditions, many tourists were seen visiting destinations around Jaipur. This first spell of rain of the season is expected to benefit Rabi crops, although hailstorms have increased farmers' concerns in some regions. Overall, the New Year has begun with severe winter conditions across Rajasthan, driven by the impact of a Western Disturbance.

Snowfall in J&K tourist spots gives New Year revellers joy, plains miss whiteout

Srinagar: Light snowfall occurred in the higher reaches of Kashmir Valley during the last 12 hours as the plains were lashed by rain on Thursday. The revellers had a great time in Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam tourist resorts, where snowfall occurred on the New Year's Eve. The tourists could be seen singing and dancing to welcome the new year. Scores of tourists also gathered at the city centre, Lal Chowk in Srinagar, braving the winter chill to usher in the new year. Hotels, lodges and guest houses are completely sold out in the Valley this time, giving renewed hope to thousands of locals connected with the tourist industry that 2026 will be peaceful and bring good fortune to the people. The tourist flow to the valley suffered immensely following the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025. Now, with the winter tourism reviving, the people in the valley are praying for more snowfall. The residents of Srinagar and other towns and cities in Kashmir missed the traditional snowfall on New Year's Eve, dampening the spirits of children, who had planned snow-related sports and activities to celebrate the moment. Srinagar city had 2.2 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg minus 5.5 and Pahalgam 0.4 as the minimum temperature. Jammu

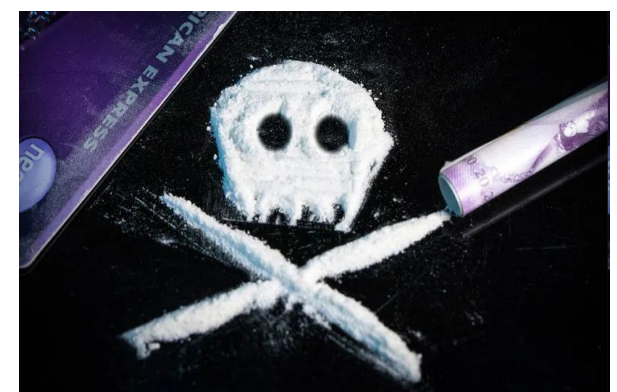


city had 10.7 degrees Celsius, Katra town 8.7, Batote 5.7, Banihal 3.9 and Bhaderwah one degree as the minimum temperature. The 40-day-long period of intense winter cold, locally called the 'Chillai Kalan', started on December 21, 2025 and will end on January 30, 2026. If J&K misses a heavy snowfall during this 40-day-long period, then people may face serious problems in irrigation for agriculture, horticulture, and even in meeting the drinking water needs.

Heavy snowfall in Chillai Kalan replenishes the perennial water reservoirs in the mountains, which sustain the various water resources of Jammu and Kashmir during the summer months. Already, various rivers, streams, springs, wells and lakes are running at their lowest due to a lack of sufficient rain/snow this winter. December 2025 has recorded a 28 per cent deficit in rainfall.

Seven held in new year day drug bust in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Police arrested seven people, including an MBBS doctor and a BDS student during a major anti-narcotics operation near here in the early hours of New Year's Day on Thursday. The arrests were made by the Attingal and Nedumangad Rural District Anti-Narcotic Special Action Force (DANSAF) teams from a rented house in Thoppil, Kaniyapuram, in the early hours following a tip-off received by the Thiruvananthapuram Rural SP, police said. Among those arrested were two women, besides an IT professional, they said. According to the Kadinamkulam Station House Officer, the gang was allegedly involved in smuggling MDMA and other synthetic drugs from Bengaluru and supplying them, mainly to medical professionals and students. The group was reportedly led by three habitual offenders. Police said the operation followed an earlier dramatic incident in which the suspects escaped during a high-speed chase after ramming their car into a police



jeep. Acting on fresh intelligence, a team led by the Narcotics DSP surrounded their hideout and arrested all seven suspects without further incident. During the raid, police seized four grams of MDMA, 100 grams of ganja, and one gram of high-quality hybrid ganja, valued at around Rs 3,000 per gram. Two cars, two motorcycles, and 10 mobile phones were also confiscated. The operation was carried out by a special team, along with other senior officers. The accused have been handed over to the Kadinamkulam Police for further investigation and legal action.

Siddhant Chaturvedi and Alizeh Agnihotri to team for a musical film

Mumbai: Actors Siddhant Chaturvedi and Alizeh Agnihotri have been cast for a new film, which is the Hindi remake of acclaimed French movie, "La Famille Bélier". The 2014 French-Belgian film is a coming-of-age comedy-drama directed by Eric Lartigau. It revolves around a 16-year-old girl who is the interpreter for her deaf parents. Her life changes when her music teacher discovers her beautiful singing voice and now she has to choose between pursuing her dream and her responsibility towards her family. "There's a film with Siddhant Chaturvedi and Alizeh Agnihotri, which Vikas Bahl will be directing. It's a beautiful film. It's a remake of a French film 'La Famille Bélier', which was remade as 'CODA', and it won at the Oscars. It's a musical, it's in the space of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Khamoshi'. We've taken it from the original French film," an insider told PTI. "CODA", scripted history by becoming the first movie with a cast of predominantly deaf actors to win the best picture at the 94th Academy awards in 2022. The Hindi film is most likely to go



on floors between June to August. Chaturvedi was last seen in 2025's romance-drama, "Dhadak 2" alongside Tripti Dimri while Agnihotri made her acting debut in 2023 with heist thriller, "Farrey". In 2026, Chaturvedi will also be seen in a family entertainer film, directed by Vikas Bahl, alongside Jaya Bachchan and Wamiqa Gabbi.

Junior National Kho Kho Championship begins in Bengaluru with 1,000 athletes



Bengaluru: Top young players from affiliated states and organisations will be in action in the 44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship, which began at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium in Gunjur, Bengaluru, on Wednesday. The first day was action-packed with around 40 matches played in the girls' and boys' categories. The championship is being held on a league-cum-knockout basis, with semifinals and finals scheduled for January 3 and 4. Around 1,000 athletes are participating in the Junior Nationals, while 180 supporting staff and 100 technical officials have been deployed for the smooth conduct of the event. The inaugural ceremony was graced by former Minister H Nagesh, who was the chief guest, while office bearers and executive committee members from the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) and Karnataka State Kho Kho Association (KSKKA) were also present. "Teams from various states and UTs have come, and it is like India represented in a microcosm. It provides a unique opportunity to these young athletes to interact among themselves and learn from each other," said Sudhanshu

Mittal, President, KKFI. "These young talents have a bright future, and we are providing players with the best in terms of training, facilities and handholding," said Lokeshwara, President, Karnataka State Kho Kho Association. "The Junior Nationals is a platform to identify and promote young talents. Youth are inclined towards making a career in Kho Kho as it offers opportunities and recognition like any other modern sport," said Upkar Singh Virk, General Secretary, KKFI. Dr MS Tyagi, Chairman, Organisation and Administration, KKFI, said, "It is great to see the young generation of athletes embracing this sport with such enthusiasm and energy. Junior Nationals provide an important platform to these athletes to showcase their talents and make advancements in their careers." The 58th Senior National Kho Kho Championship (Men and Women) 2025-26 will be organised from January 11-15, 2026, in Kazipet, Telangana, while the 35th Sub-Junior National Kho Kho Championship (Boys and Girls) 2025-26 will be held in Kurukshetra, Haryana, from January 31 to February 4, 2026.

Defiant Kramnik sues FIDE for defamation in Swiss civil court



New Delhi: Russian chess great Vladimir Kramnik has sued world chess governing body FIDE for defamation in a Swiss civil court after he became the subject of an inquiry for allegedly harassing players with "unsubstantiated" cheating claims following the death of American Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky. Kramnik posted on 'X' that he has been forced to take the legal route after being relentlessly attacked by fellow players and FIDE, whose CEO Emil Sutovsky described Kramnik's allegations of cheating against Naroditsky as "appalling and outright shameful". The exact cause of 29-year-old Naroditsky's death is not known but in his last livestream, he talked about being under immense mental stress over the allegations levelled by Kramnik. Czech Grandmaster David Navara has also claimed to have felt distressed and suicidal due to Kramnik's online cheating charge against him. The defiant Russian has, however, maintained that he has not spoken without basis. "I have initiated formal legal proceedings against FIDE in accordance with Swiss law in the Court of Lausanne. Under the applicable Swiss procedural rules, an obligatory prelimi-

nary procedure must first take place. This phase typically lasts 2-3 months," the former world champion said. "The specific legal provisions of the Swiss Code on which the claim is based, as well as the exact amount of financial compensation sought from FIDE, will be finalized and specified by my legal team immediately prior to filing the main claim."

"Additionally, a formal request for the preservation of evidence has been personally delivered to the FIDE headquarters today," he added. Kramnik said a request has been submitted to ensure that all documents, correspondence, electronic records, and any other evidence relevant to the ongoing legal proceedings against FIDE are "properly preserved and not altered, deleted, destroyed, or otherwise made unavailable." "I will provide further details in due course as the proceedings advance," he said. Lambasting the players critical of him, a group which also includes world number one Magnus Carlsen and some prominent Indians like Nihal Sarin who accused him of being responsible for Naroditsky's death, Kramnik said, "Several players have publicly named and shamed me."

Chiranjeevi, Kamal Haasan, Allu Arjun extend New Year wishes



Chiranjeevi, Kamal Haasan, Allu Arjun express heartfelt wishes to fans on new year! Chennai: Actor, producer and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan on Thursday wished his fans and followers on social media a happy new year, even as he pointed out to them that the new year presented another chance for one to become "better, kinder and wiser" than the year before. Taking to his X timeline, Kamal Haasan wrote, "Another year ahead. Another chance to become better, kinder and wiser than the year before. Excellence is a work in progress. Have an excellent new year. Every tomorrow is a day to be seized. Let all your pursuits make you happy." Several top stars including actors Chiranjeevi and Allu Arjun too wished their fans a happy new year. Megastar Chiranjeevi in his new year wish, which he posted on social media, said, "Wishing everyone a joyous and very Happy New Year. Let us welcome this year with positivity, hope, togetherness, and make it a beautiful one for all. Happy New Year

2026." Stylish star Allu Arjun, who is now among the top stars of the Telugu film industry, took to his X timeline to post a heart touching wish, that also doubled up as a note of gratitude. He wrote, "As this year comes to a close, I carry only gratitude. For the journey, the lessons, and the love that surrounds me." He went on to then specifically address his fans. He wrote, "To my fans... Thank you for standing by me through every phase. Your faith gives me strength and purpose every single day." He concluded the note, saying, "Looking ahead with excitement, ready to begin what comes next. Happy New Year 2026." Tamil actor Pradeep Ranganathan, who has so far managed to deliver three back-to-back blockbusters in Tamil and a superhit film in Telugu took to his X timeline to greet his followers on social media a happy new year. He wrote, "Happy New year 2026. Nalladhe Nenaipom Nalladhe Nadakum. Manchi ni alochisthe, Manchidhe jarugutundi. (If our thoughts are good, good things happen)"

K-pop band BTS to return with new album in March



Mumbai: Popular K-pop band BTS is all set to make a comeback on March 20 by releasing a new album, their first since "Proof" in 2022. The group went on a hiatus in 2022 for its members to complete the mandatory South Korean military service and focus on solo projects. The new album marks their big return. The news was reported in newspapers in South Korea. BigHit, their management, later confirmed the reports with a post on its Korean-language X account, reported Variety. The members had also shared the

release date with their fans by sending letters with handwritten messages with the dateline of "2026.3.20." on New Year. Among the messages, RM wrote that he'd been "waiting for this moment more desperately than anyone." "I greeted you all as a soloist in 2023 and 2024, but I can finally greet you as part of a team again," Jin wrote. J-Hope wrote, "Finally, it's the year that we will all be together with you!!" "Please take good care of us this year as well," shared Jungkook. The seven member band also has members Suga, Jimin and V.

Kohli celebrates new year with Anushka, continues ODI resurgence

New Delhi: India's charismatic batter Virat Kohli stepped into the new year 2026 with his wife and Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, posting a photo on social media. The former India captain shared a photograph on Instagram featuring the couple wearing masks, with Kohli's playful Spiderman-style mask adding humour to the frame. Taking to Instagram, Kohli wrote, "Stepping into 2026 with the light of my life." The post instantly garnered views and was flooded with comments from fans and followers wishing the couple good luck ahead of the new year. After retiring from T20I and Test cricket, Kohli has been in the best form of his life in ODI cricket. The 35-year-old returned to India's top domestic one-day tournament for the first time in 15 years and made a strong comeback by scoring 131 and 77 consecutively, showing his desire to play at this



level. Kohli's recent run of form has been historic as he achieved 16,000 runs in List A cricket, becoming the fastest player to do so and breaking Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record. He is scheduled to play against Railways on January 6 at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. His resurgence in the domestic arena follows his outstanding performance in the ODI series against South Africa, where he scored two centuries and one fifty to lead India to a 2-1 series win.