

సమస్త పండ్ల నోప్పుల నివారణ

దంతామృతం

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

శ్రీ చత్త్ర ఆయుర్వేదాశ్రమము

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Opposition to controversial GO intensifies as junior doctors step up outreach in Telangana



Hyderabad: The opposition to the government order released by the State government, aimed at including nominated ex-officio members into Telangana Medical Council, continues to gain momentum with medicos conducting outreach programmes, engaging junior doctors in all medical colleges and hospitals in Telangana. The members of the Telangana Junior Doctors Association (T-JUDA) held a series of such awareness programs in all the medical colleges and teaching hospitals in Telangana on Tuesday. The aim of the outreach programs was to make MBBS and PG doctors aware about why the fraternity of doctors were against the Government Order. A comprehensive orientation and briefing on G.O.Ms.No.229 was conducted, bringing to the forefront the serious concerns arising out of the said Government Or-

der. "T-JUDA strongly and unequivocally opposes G.O.Ms.No.229 issued by the Government of Telangana, which seeks to nominate four additional ex-officio members to the Telangana Medical Council (TGMC). The TJUDA firmly asserts that this action undermines the autonomy, independence, and representative character of the TGMC, and is in clear contradiction to established judicial principles governing autonomous professional regulatory bodies," a T-JUDA press release said. In the event of non-withdrawal of GO Ms No. 229, the T-JUDA will be compelled to initiate democratic protests and lawful collective action across the State, in defense of professional autonomy, institutional integrity, and the interests of the public health and medical fraternity, the protesting junior doctors added.

Hindu man dies after jumping into canal to escape mob in Naogaon

Dhaka: As violence against minorities continues to escalate in Bangladesh, another Hindu man died after jumping into a canal in a bid to save his life from a mob that accused him of robbery in Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon district, local media reported. The victim, identified as 25-year-old Mithun Sarkar, lost his life in the disturbing incident, which unfolded on Tuesday afternoon in the Chakgori area of the upazila. Citing local and police sources, Bangladesh's Bengali newspaper Daily Manobkantha reported that Mithun was chased by a local mob on Tuesday afternoon, over allegations of robbery. In an effort to escape, he jumped into a deep canal nearby, where the strong current swept him away. Reports suggest that a team from Mohadevpur Police Station, the Fire Service, and Civil Defence quickly reached the spot upon receiving the information and launched a rescue operation. After several hours, the Fire Service diving team recovered Mithun from the water, but he was already dead. Confirming the incident, Mohadevpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Shahidul Islam said, "According to initial information, the young man jumped into the canal after being chased on suspicion of robbery. We recovered his body with the help of the fire service. The matter is being investigated seriously, and further legal action will be taken after the autopsy." This marks the seventh incident in 19 days and the third incident this week, highlighting a disturbing surge in violence targeting Hindu communities throughout



Bangladesh. On Monday, two Hindu men were killed in separate incidents within 24 hours in Bangladesh. The first victim, identified as 40-year-old Sarat Chakraborty Mani, was fatally attacked in Narsingdi district on Monday night, in Dhaka, with sharp weapons allegedly by an extremist armed religious group. In the second incident, a Hindu businessman, 38-year-old Rana Pratap Bairagi, was shot dead in public in Monirampur Upazila of Jashore district. Earlier on Saturday, another Hindu man, Khokon Chandra Das, died after being brutally attacked by a mob of miscreants in Damudya Upazila of Shariatpur district. Last week, 40-year-old Bajendra Biswas was shot dead by a colleague in Bhaluka Upazila of Mymensingh district. On December 24 last year, Bangladeshi media reported the killing of another Hindu youth, identified as 29-year-old Amrit Mondal, who was allegedly lynched by a mob in the Hossaindanga area of Kalimohar Union in Bangladesh. Also on December 18 last year, a 25-year-old Hindu youth, Dipu Chandra Das, was brutally killed in a mob lynching incident over false blasphemy accusations by a Muslim coworker at his factory in Bhaluka Upazila of Mymensingh.

35-ft Hanuman kite to soar at Hyderabad International Kite Festival



Hyderabad: Lord Hanuman will soar over Hyderabad skies, with a 35-foot-tall kite of the revered deity, set to become a centre stage during the International Kite and Sweet festival scheduled to be held here from January 13 to 15. Adding to the spectacle will be Lord Hanuman's mace (Gada), which is commonly known as Kaumodaki, shaped kite, along with Trishul, also taking to the skies at Secunderabad Parade Ground. This year, the festival is centred around spirituality and patriotism. A six to seven feet Tricolour delta and spinner designed kites will dot the skies in the day-time. In the evening, the LED kites will be flown, lighting up the sky with glowing patterns and colours. "The Lord Hanuman shaped kite will be a surprise for the visitors. Before taking to Hyderabad skies, this kite will be flown in an international kite festival in Gujarat. In addition, a caterpillar shaped kite will also rise. Overall, there will be more than 300 kites taking to the skies," Pavan Solanki, Kite Consultant

with Telangana Tourism department, told 'Telangana Today'. This time, the festival being organised by the Telangana Tourism department will witness participation of 95 professional kite flyers, including 40 from 19 countries such as Indonesia, Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Korea, Japan and Portugal. As many as 55 national kite flyers from 15 States in the country will also take part in the festival. In addition, the sweet festival will feature 1,200 varieties of sweets prepared by Hyderabad residents, originally hailing from other States and countries. Also, a special drone show will be held at Gachibowli Stadium on January 16 and 17. The show features high-tech drones, multi-colour LED lights and aerial manoeuvres. The event will also feature a full LED-lit racecourse spanning the stadium field with FPV (First Person View) video feeds on giant screens for immersive viewing, soccer playing by drones and Telangana destinations will be showcased.

26 Naxalites surrender in Chhattisgarh's Sukma

Sukma: As many as 26 Naxalites, 13 of them carrying a collective bounty of Rs 65 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Wednesday, a senior police official said. The cadres, including seven women, turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials here under the "Poona Margem" (from rehabilitation to social reintegration) rehabilitation initiative, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said. They were active in the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) battalion, South Bastar division, Maad division and Andhra Odisha Border division of Maoists and were involved in several incidents of violence in Abujmahad, Sukma in Chhattisgarh and bordering areas of Odisha, he said. The cadres said they were also impressed by the state government's surrender and rehabilitation policy of the state government, he added. Of them, Lali alias Muchaki Aayte Lakhmu (35), a company party committee member, carried a reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head. She was involved in several major incidents of violence, including triggering an IED blast targeting a vehicle on the Koraput road (Odisha) in 2017 in which 14 security personnel were killed, the official said. Four other key cadres — Hemla Lakhma (41),



Aasmita alias Kamlu Sanni (20), Rambati alias Padam Jogi (21) and Sundam Pale (20) — carried a bounty of Rs 8 lakh each, he said. Lakhma was involved in the 2020 Minpa ambush (Sukma) wherein 17 security personnel lost their lives, the official said. Among other surrendered cadres, three carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh each, one cadre Rs 3 lakh, one cadre Rs 2 lakh and three cadres carried a bounty of Rs 1 lakh each, he said. All the surrendered Naxalites were provided an assistance of Rs 50,000 each and will be further rehabilitated as per the government's policy, he added. Chavan appealed to all those associated with the outlawed Maoist organisation to give up violence, assuring them security and a respectable life.

Editorial

Dangerous paradigm: On Trump, Venezuela and unhinged depredation

Following the kidnapping and removal to U.S. soil of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, on the back of military action not authorised by Congress or supported by the UN, U.S. President Donald Trump has now made clear his intent to set the crosshairs of American neo-imperialist expansionism on other nations and territories including Colombia, Greenland, Mexico, Cuba, and Iran. The Trump administration surprised the world, and apparently Venezuelan military forces, when it launched an overnight strike on Caracas over the weekend, including likely use of artillery and special forces, to extract the Maduros to face federal drug trafficking and weapons charges – charges that Mr. Maduro pleaded not guilty to. Responding to media after the event, Mr. Trump appeared to be setting his sights on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, when he said that that country was being “run by a sick man who likes making cocaine and selling it to the U.S.,” and “He’s not going to be doing it for very long.” Similarly, Mr. Trump has remarked that the U.S. has a “need” for Greenland from the perspective of its “national security”, that “something will have to be done about Mexico” to rid the nation of the scourge of drug cartels, that Cuba is “ready to fall” in the absence of revenue linked to Venezuelan oil, and that Iran would be “hit very hard by the U.S.” if it cracked down on protesters on its soil. While the Trump administration has consistently lowered the threshold of norms and acceptable standards for the conduct of nations on the global stage and diverged from the positions of previous Democrat- and Republican-led governments on the threat posed, for example by Russia to Europe, to directly engage in unauthorised and illegal interference of a brazen kind and seek regime change through the use of force in an established hemispheric power is a new low. The deeper danger of this so called “Donroe Doctrine” — ultimately premised on seizing Venezuela’s cherished oil resources rather than any pretext of “restoring democracy” — is that it may embolden autocrats and nations with an appetite for fomenting conflict to engage in similar destabilising unilateral military action against perceived enemies, potentially resulting in full-fledged cross-border confrontations. Today’s Venezuela was yesterday’s Ukraine and might be tomorrow’s Taiwan, if Mr. Trump’s paradigm for settling scores propagates further. While the leaders of each potential future target of U.S. aggression and the UN leadership have protested such action by Washington, it might take nothing less than the major powers of today, including India, Europe, Australia, Africa and Latin America, speaking in one voice against this unhinged depredation by the Trump administration to halt this dangerous new paradigm in its tracks.

Mancherial student selected for national- level athletic meet

Mancherial: Bonala Shruthi, a student from this town, was selected to participate in an all-India University athletic meet to be held in Mangalore, Karnataka on January 12. She was felicitated by her school management here on Tuesday. Shruthi bagged the opportunity to take part in a national-level event by excelling in 200-metre sprint competition conducted at Kakatiya University in Warangal recently. She is currently pursuing her first year of graduation. She studied at Carmel Convent High School.

NHAI sets two Guinness World Records in construction of Bengaluru-Vijayawada Expressway



Amaravati: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has set two Guinness World Records in Andhra Pradesh during the construction of Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Expressway. This was revealed by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday and termed it a proud moment for India and Andhra Pradesh. “Today, NHAI, through M/s Rajpath Infra con Pvt. Ltd., achieved two Guinness World Records in Andhra Pradesh on the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G) by laying 28.95 lane-kilometres and 10,675 MT of Bituminous Concrete continuously within 24 hours,” CM Naidu posted on ‘X’. “This extraordinary achievement reflects the vision of the Government of India, the sustained thrust on world-class highway infrastructure under Nitin Gadkari Ji, and the exceptional commitment of engineers, workers, and field teams, and was executed in full compliance with stringent NHAI quality standards,” the Chief Minister wrote. “Best wishes to the team as two more Guinness World Records are being attempted by 11 Jan 2026 on Packages 2 & 3 of this landmark corridor in Andhra

Pradesh. India builds. Andhra Pradesh delivers,” he added. The construction of the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada greenfield national highway recently gained momentum. The project is expected to give a big boost to Andhra Pradesh’s connectivity with Bengaluru. The six-lane, access-controlled expressway is designed to reduce the travel time between Andhra Pradesh capital Amaravati and Bengaluru from the current 11-12 hours to nearly six-hours. The expressway traverses Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool and Kadapa districts in Andhra Pradesh before Karnataka.

Taking up under Bharatmala phase-II, the expressway spans greenfield and brownfield sections. It will skip congested towns and existing highways to enable faster and uninterrupted movement of passengers and freight. The length of the expressway is estimated at 518-624 km, combining greenfield and brownfield sections. It is being constructed at a cost of about Rs 19,200-Rs 19,320 crore. The greenfield portion spans around 342 km from Kodikonda to Addanki/Muppavaram, while brownfield upgrades include Bengaluru-Kodikonda (73 km on NH-44) and Addanki-Vijayawada (113 km on NH-16).

MANUU students call protest against Telangana govt move to resume university land

Hyderabad: Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) students have called for protest against the Telangana Congress government’s attempt to resume 50 acres of university land here on Wednesday. With the slogan – ‘Land Chori Namanzoor, Defend Public Education Defend University Land’ – the MANUU Students Collective is to organise a rally from the Central Library to Bab-e-Ilm on the campus. The State government has recently issued a show cause notice on the university asking why it should not take back 50 out of 200 acres land that was allotted in 1998, citing violation of the rules. The university sought two months time to submit a detailed response after studying the notice, engagement of land on MANUU campus, its future expansion for construction of various academic buildings, residential hostels, accommodation facilities etc., which is already under active process. Terming the show cause notice as alarming, the MANUU Students Collective said it views the move as part of a disturbing pattern of State-led land appropriation, which raises serious questions about the

government’s intentions towards public educational institutions. The university land belongs to its students, teachers, and future generations of learners, not to the whims of the State, students added.

Now, drones to sow paddy and ease labour crunch in Telangana

Karimnagar: In a move aimed at tackling labour shortage and cutting down cultivation time, drones are being tested for paddy plantation in parts of the State, marking a significant shift in traditional farming practices. Drones are already being used in agriculture to spray liquid fertiliser on crops. Going a step further, scientists are now experimenting with drone-based paddy plantation on a pilot basis in select districts of the State through Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University, in cooperation with Marut Drones, is implementing the project in Karimnagar, Adilabad, Kothagudem and Nalgonda districts. The Adilabad KVK is acting as the nodal agency for the project. Scientists of Jammikunta KVK have recently taken up paddy plantation with the help of drones at four locations in Pothireddypet and Sirsapalli villages of Huzurabad mandal.

Saving time and overcoming labour shortage are the main objectives behind developing the drone plantation method. Labour shortage has emerged as a major problem in the agriculture sector, forcing farmers to spend huge amounts on engaging labourers for plantation, weeding and other operations. Drone plantation is expected to address these issues, as it enables coverage of large extents of land within a short period. Moreover, there is

Delivery executive killed after falling from bike, run over by bus in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A delivery executive lost his life in a tragic road accident at Tolichowk late on Monday. The victim, identified as Abhishek (25), was working as a delivery partner for a quick-commerce company. According to police, Abhishek was riding his bike when he lost control and fell onto the road. A private travel bus following behind ran over his head, killing him on the spot. The victim was allegedly rushing to complete a delivery on time and was riding at high speed when the accident occurred. The Tolichowk Police have registered a case and are investigating. Engineering student dies by suicide in Warangal

Warangal: An engineering student died, allegedly by suicide, in the district late on Monday. The student, Vamsi Varma, was studying B Tech final year at Vaagdevi Engineering College in Bollikunta. He was found hanging from the ceiling fan in his rented room at Mamnoor. He hailed from Peddapalli district.

He had reportedly gone home for New Year celebrations and returned to college two days ago. The local police booked a case in connection with the incident and are investigating. The reasons behind his extreme step were not known immediately.

Six-year-old boy suffers electric shock while retrieving kite in Sangareddy

Sangareddy: A six-year-old boy sustained a serious electric shock after coming into contact with an overhead power line while attempting to retrieve his kite at Dakur village in Andole mandal on Monday evening. The boy, G Aravind, a native of Ibrahimpur in Chilipiched mandal, was staying with his paternal uncle’s family at Dakur.



no need to prepare seedlings well in advance, as seeds are directly planted in the fields. A drone can complete plantation over an acre of land within 15 to 20 minutes, whereas 12 to 14 labourers are usually required for the same work. Apart from a box filled with paddy seeds, three to five pipes are fixed to the drone. When operated over a prepared paddy field, seeds drop in rows through the pipes attached to the drone. Speaking to Telanga na Today, Senior Scientist and Jammikunta KVK Coordinator Dr N Venkateshwar Rao said that drone plantation would help farmers save time and address labour shortage. Usage of labour would be drastically reduced through this method, he said, adding that the system would be implemented in other areas if the pilot project succeeded. When asked about yield, he made it clear that there would be no difference. Equal yield would be produced through both manual and drone plantation methods, he said.

Woman head constable files charge sheets in Telugu to make justice system more accessible



Hyderabad: Woman head constable files charge sheets in Telugu to make justice system more accessible. A woman head constable from Dundigal Police Station has earned praise for filing charge sheets entirely in Telugu, breaking convention and improving public access to justice. Her initiative highlights the role of regional languages in strengthening trust between police and citizens.

Hyderabad: In a move aimed at making the justice system more accessible to the common people, a woman Head Constable from Dundigal Police Station has broken convention by filing charge sheets entirely in Telugu language. At a time when English continues to dominate official procedures, her initiative has been widely appreciated within the police department.

The officer, Swaroopa, completed investigations in two cases during 2025 and submitted all final reports in Telugu, enabling better understanding for complainants and local stakeholders. While one case involved the seizure of illegally stocked liquor from a grocery store in Bowrampet, while another pertained to tracing a missing migrant woman and her young daughter and safely reuniting them with their family. Senior officials supported the initiative, stating that the use of regional languages can strengthen public trust in law enforcement. Swaroopa's efforts earned appreciation from higher authorities, and she was later recognised as one of the Cyber Warriors during a state-level police programme held in Hyderabad.

TGGENCO renews MIC Electronics' vendor registration for LEDs



Hyderabad: Hyderabad-based electronics and LED solutions company MIC Electronics Limited on Tuesday said that it has received renewal of vendor registration from Telangana Power Generation Corporation Limited (TGGENCO) for the supply of LED luminaires for road and street lighting. The approval has been granted by the Chief Engineer (Coal and Commercial), TGGENCO, and will remain valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance. Under this renewal, MIC Electronics is authorised to supply

LED luminaires for operation, maintenance, and construction requirements across TGGENCO's power plants and allied facilities, a press release said. TGGENCO's vendor registration process involves rigorous evaluation of technical capabilities, statutory compliance, and performance standards. The renewal reflects MIC Electronics' consistent adherence to these requirements and its commitment to maintaining high standards of integrity, responsiveness, and timely delivery, press release added.

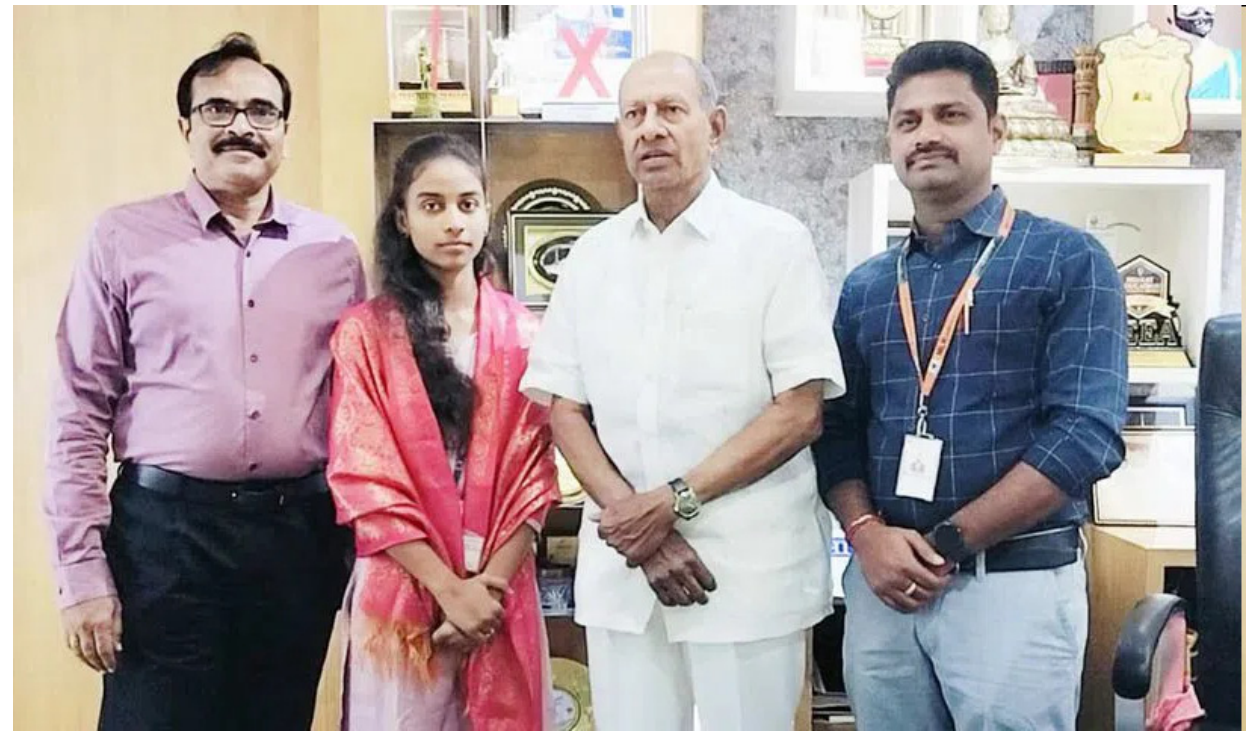
NIMS blood bank collects 25,105 units of blood in 2025

Hyderabad: The blood bank of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) on Tuesday said that it has set a unique record by collecting a total of 25,105 units of blood in the year 2025, which is the highest ever collected by the facility.

Managed by the department of Immuno-Hematology and Blood Transfusion (IHBT), the blood bank, despite its limitations in the supply of apheresis kits, which are specialised single-use disposable medical kits for blood donation, a total of 727 single donor platelet procedures were completed. The IHBT department on Tuesday announced that a total of 50 voluntary blood donation camps were organized in 2025. "This marks a significant increase compared to the previous average of 12 camps per year. On certain occasions, the department managed to conduct three blood donation camps in a single day," NIMS officials said. Dr Sudhir Kumar Vujhini, Head, NIMS Blood Bank, said that achievements would not have been possible without the cooperation of the senior hospital management and IHBT faculty, technical staff, nursing staff, residents, and B.Sc. Transfusion Medicine students.



MLRIT student to represent Telangana at Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue



Hyderabad: Koduri Viplav, a third-year Information Technology student of Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Technology (MLRIT) and an active National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteer, has been selected to represent Telangana at the national-level Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026. Viplav is set to speak on 'Sustainability and Green Viksit Bharat' at the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026, scheduled to be held from January 9 to 12 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. MLRIT Founder Secretary and

Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajashekhar Reddy said nearly 50 lakh students across the country participated in the four-stage selection process, which included quizzes, essay writing, presentations, and interviews. He said Viplav's selection for the national-level event is an inspiration to all students of the college. MLRIT Chairman Marri Laxman Reddy, Principal Dr K Srinivasa Rao, and NSS Programme Officer Nayini Uday Ranjan Goud felicitated Koduri Viplav.

Soybean procurement row: Police detain former minister Jogu Ramanna

Adilabad: Former minister Jogu Ramanna played the State government for failing to address the challenges faced by farmers. He was detained for taking part in a protest against the government, demanding procurement of soybean produce and the resolution of other farmers' issues here early on Tuesday morning. Ramanna, along with cadres of the Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (BRS), staged a sit-in in front of the TGRTC depot as part of the bandh. They raised slogans against the government, accusing it of neglecting the problems of the agrarian community. Ramanna said farmers were facing a slew of challenges and urged the government to take steps to ensure smooth procurement of soybean produce. On learning about the protest, police rushed to the spot and attempted to prevent the cadres from



stopping buses. Police and the protesters jostled with each other. Ramanna, along with other BRS leaders, was arrested and shifted to Mavala police station. Various farmer organisations, people's organisations and commercial establishments extended solidarity to the bandh. Shops and educational institutions remained closed, while police personnel were deployed to prevent untoward incidents. Roads wore a deserted look and TGRTC buses were confined to depots.

Patnam seeks 40 per cent share of land sale revenue for Rangareddy development

Hyderabad: Expressing concern over what he termed as a raw deal to Rangareddy district, Government Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy demanded that 40 per cent of the revenue generated through the sale of lands in the district should be allocated for development works locally. Participating in a discussion in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, Mahender Reddy said all Chief Ministers, including late N T Rama Rao, had sold vast tracts of land in Rangareddy district. Yet, the district had not received adequate funds for its development, he al-

leged. "People are closely observing land sales and questioning me and other senior Congress leaders about the disparity in allocation of funds. We are unable to answer," Mahender Reddy said. The Congress MLC said that a share of the funds raised from land sales in the district, which fetched over Rs.150 crore per acre, should be earmarked for Rangareddy. The government should allocate at least 40 percent of the revenue earned from the sale of lands in Rangareddy district towards its development, he demanded.

Two students from Mancheril win gold medal in state yoga meet

Mancheril: Chaitra and Vaishnavi won gold medals in the Under-18 and Above-18 categories respectively. The medals were awarded in a yoga asana competition organised at the Kamareddy district centre. Both qualified to participate in the South Zone-level event of Asmitha Khelo India on Tuesday. Yogasana Sports association district president Akkala Tirupathi Varma and general secretary Manda Srinivas congratulated Chaitra and Vaishnavi for shining in the state-level event and getting selected for South India-level competition.



Tricky draw for Indians at home India Open; Lakshya, Sindhu face tough openers

Hyderabad: Indian badminton players were handed a tricky draw on the home turf as 2022 champion Lakshya Sen was pitted in an all-Indian battle against the up and coming Ayush Shetty while former world champion PV Sindhu will face Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen in the opening round of the Yonex-Sunrise India Open Super 750 badminton tournament to be played at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi from January 13-18. The India Open, one of the most prestigious tournament on the HSBC BWF World Tour, will be moving from the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium to a much bigger multi-purpose hall within the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex. The players will also get to understand and test the conditions as this will also be the venue for the BWF World Championships to be held in August later this year.

And if the Indian contingent were hoping for a slightly easier opening round, then they were clearly not granted that wish. From the Indian perspective, Lakshya facing former world junior bronze medallist Ayush Shetty would mean that only three of the four Indian men's singles in fray would have a chance to make it to the second round. And whoever manages to go through in this all-Indian clash is likely to face fourth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei or Kenta Nishimoto of Japan.

Among the other Indian singles players, former world no. 1 Kidambi Srikanth will be up against 2024 Taipei's Thomas Cup bronze medal winning team member



and world no. 12 Lin Chun-Yi with a possible second round clash against Christo Popov, who created history last month by becoming the first French player to win the BWF World Tour Finals men's singles title. H S Prannoy, who got into the main draw after the withdrawal of Denmark's Anders Antonsen, will open his campaign against last edition finalist Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong. In the women's singles, former world champion PV Sindhu will be up against Nguyen against whom the Indian had lost both their last two encounters. Nguyen, ranked 22 in the world, is one of the most improved player on the circuit last year and if she manages to get through the Vietnamese then second seed Wang Zhi Yi or her Chinese teammate Gao Fang Jie awaits her in the second round. Malvika Bansod, returning after a long injury break and playing in the tournament with her protected ranking, will face Pai Yu Po of Chinese Taipei in the opening round. In the doubles category, former champions Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy have been handed a relatively easy opener against USA's Chen Zhi Yi and Presley Smith.

BIG Academy launched in Hyderabad; Yuvraj Singh named brand ambassador



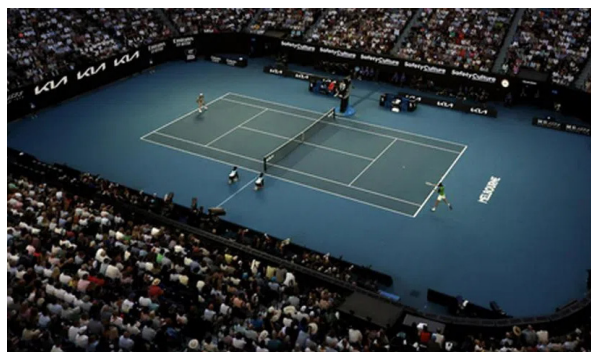
Hyderabad: BIG Academy, a new-age EdTech institution focused on hybrid learning, officially launched its platform at Novotel HICC, Hyderabad and announced cricketer Yuvraj Singh as Brand Ambassador of BIG Academy, whose journey of resilience and excellence aligns with the academy's philosophy of discipline, perseverance, and performance. Yuvraj unveiled the BIG Academy along with C.V. Anand, IPS, Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Vijay Reddy, Founder & Chairman of BIG TV, and Anil Ayoor, Founder Director and Managing Editor of BIG TV Malayalam. Yuvraj Singh highlighted the importance

of innovation and accountability in India's evolving education ecosystem.

Speaking about the vision, Ramana Bhupathi, Founder & CEO of BIG Academy, said that with a vision to create a structured, student-centric education ecosystem that balances academic excellence with mental well-being. "At BIG Academy- IIT,JEE/NEET, our goal is to move beyond rote learning and create a system that truly supports students academically and emotionally. By combining technology with human mentorship, we aim to build confident learners who are prepared not just for exams, but for long-term success," he said.

Australian Open announces record AUD 111.5 million prize pool

Melbourne: Australian Open organisers on Tuesday announced a record AUD 111.5 million prize money pool, the largest in the tournament's history. The pool saw a 16 per cent increase from last year's AUD 96.5 million. The winners of the men's and women's singles at the season-opening Grand Slam will each receive AUD 2.79 million, marking a 19 per cent rise from last year's AUD 2.35 million. The runner-up will earn AUD 2.15 million, while semi-finalists will get AUD 1.25 million each. Qualifying rounds are up by 16 per cent, and all singles and doubles players will receive a minimum 10 per cent increase. Players exiting in the first round of the main draw will earn



AUD 150,000. "This 16 per cent increase demonstrates our commitment to supporting tennis careers at every level. From boosting qualifying prize money by 55 per cent since 2023 to enhancing player benefits, we're ensuring professional tennis is sustainable for all competitors," Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley said.

Rashmika Mandanna welcomes New Year in Italy, shares Amalfi getaway pictures

Mumbai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna rang in the New Year with her buddies in Italy. During the fun getaway, the 'Animal' actress also got a chance to visit Amalfi, a mesmerizing place in the Campania area. While they were there, Rashmika and the gang made the most of their time by laughing their hearts out and stuffing themselves with cheese and Tiramisu. Sharing a few glimpses of her memorable visit on Instagram, the 'Pushpa' actress penned, "You know we went to this beautiful place called Amalfi and it was so soooooo stunning.. tooo beautiful it was.. The sunshine- the lemon trees.. Went with the bestest gang ever! Those days were filled with making memories- filled with love and laughter- our tummies filled with cheese and tiramisus (sic)". The close-up photographs of Rashmika had her posing in a loose gray hoodie, paired with black trousers, making some cute and goofy expressions. Meanwhile, Rashmika's New Year wish for 2026 in-



cluded a heartfelt message, urging her 'lovelies' to begin 2026 with love and gratitude. She posted a photo of herself in a vehicle, smiling warmly at the camera. Rashmika also wore large black-framed glasses, along with a sweater. For the caption, she wrote: "Happiestttt new year my loveliesssss!! I know I am late but just wanted to say let's all start the new year with love and gratitudeeeee!! I love you all so so much." Work-wise, Rashmika has been roped in as the leading lady in the highly talked about sequel, "Cocktail 2", where she will be seen sharing screen space with Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon for the first time.

Courtney Cox reveals why she did a tampon commercial early in her career

Mumbai: Actress Courtney Cox, who is popularly known as Monica Geller from "Friends", has opened up about the reason she agreed to do a tampon commercial early in her career, revealing it was a matter of survival and a moment that quietly made television history. A video of the actress talking about doing a commercial for tampons surfaced on Instagram. In the clip, the actress shared that she had no money at that time and hence said yes to the commercial. Courtney said: This commercial, I remember, um, I had no money at the time. And so any amount of money would have been fantastic for me. And I remember there was like a year contract and I was going to make enough money to eat, which was good. And I decided to do it." The actress also made history by being the first person to say "period" on the small screen. "But I was like the first person to ever say the word period on TV, which became so big. I actually got fan mail from this commercial that no one was ever going to see," added the actress.

The actress rose to international prominence by playing Monica Geller in Friends and Gale Weathers in the horror



film franchise Scream. Cox had a recurring role in the sitcom Family Ties and starred in the drama series Dirt, the sitcom Cougar Town, and the horror comedy series Shining Vale. Her film credits include the action fantasy Masters of the Universe, the comedy Ace Ventura: Pet Detective, the animated comedy Barnyard, the fantasy comedy Bedtime Stories, and the independent drama Mothers and Daughters. She owned the production company Coquette Productions, which she founded with her then-husband David Arquette. She has directed the television drama film TalhotBlond, the black comedy drama film Just Before I Go, and executive produced the game show Celebrity Name Game.

Samantha unveils first look of Maa Inti Bangaram, teaser out on January 9

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is gearing up for her return to the Telugu film industry with her next "Maa Inti Bangaram". Adding to the buzz for the already hyped drama, the makers have unveiled the first look poster from BV Nandini Reddy's directorial. The poster has Samantha standing inside a bus in a simple brown saree. She seems all ready to pick a fight with intensity clearly visible in her eyes. Sharing the poster with her Instagram Family, Samantha wrote, "You just keep watching... #MaaIntiBangaram will be connecting with y'all.(sic)." Along with the first look poster, Samantha also revealed the release date for "Maa Inti Bangaram" teaser trailer. The shoot for the drama created by Samantha's husband, Raj Nidimoru, has already been concluded. Samantha has performed most of the action sequences in the film herself, that too in a saree, making "Maa Inti Bangaram" one of her most physically demanding and defining performances to date. A source close to the project shared, "After 'The Family Man' and 'Citadel', Samantha



wanted to challenge herself further. In Maa Inti Bangaram, she's doing most of the action herself, and doing it in a saree. It's physically demanding and visually powerful, a portrayal audiences rarely get to see". The film is being backed by Samantha, under her home banner Tralala Moving Pictures, along with Raj Nidimoru and Himank Duvvuru. Speaking about the drama, producer Himank Duvvuru shared, "'Maa Inti Bangaram' was envisioned as a story rooted in emotion and values, but told with the scale and energy of a true action spectacle."