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Dindi lift project from Edula will escalate costs, harm Palamuru interests: Chinna Reddy

Wanaparthi: Exposing what he described as the Revanth Reddy government's failure to protect the irrigation interests of the erstwhile Pala muru region, Telangana



State Planning Board Vice Chairman G Chinna Reddy charged that despite repeated warnings, the Congress government was proceeding with the Dindi Lift Irrigation project from Edula reservoir, leading to a steep escalation in costs. "I have been raising concerns over the injustice being meted out to erstwhile Palamuru, but my voice is being scuttled. None is bothered to address these concerns and other senior leaders are staying calm," Chinna Reddy charged while speaking to media persons here on Wednesday. He alleged that the Andhra Pradesh government was illegally drawing 99 cusecs of water through the Pothiredypadu Lift Irrigation project. Initially designed with a capacity of 11 cusecs, it was later increased to 99 cusecs, he said. "This exploitation should be stopped. If it is not curtailed, water availability for SLBC and Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation will be lost," Chinna Reddy said, according to reports.

The Congress leader made these remarks even as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claimed in the Assembly that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had stopped the project following his appeal. Expressing concern over the State government's plans to take up the Dindi Lift Irrigation project from Edula reservoir, the State Planning Board Vice Chairman said it was originally part of the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation scheme and had a much smaller capacity. If the Dindi project was taken up from Vattem or Karivena reservoirs, which have a capacity of 15 tmcft, water could be supplied to Dindi at a much lower cost, he explained. "The Dindi lift project, if taken up at Vattem or Karivena reservoirs, can be completed with Rs.300 crore, but the State government has approved plans to take it up with Rs.1,800 crore through Edula reservoir," Chinna Reddy reportedly slammed. He also charged that former Chief Minister Kotla Vijaya bhaskar Reddy had constructed the KC Canal with a partisan attitude favouring the Andhra region, resulting in injustice to Telangana.

All attempts were being made to trigger inter-State disputes over irrigation projects, he alleged. For every minor issue, complaints were being lodged with the Apex Council, Brijesh Kumar Tribunal and the Union Jal Shakti Ministry. Considering the irrigation requirements of the erstwhile Palamuru region, 90 tmcft should be allocated to the PLRI scheme, he added. "Revanth Reddy announced that Palamuru will be developed with Rs. 1 lakh crore, but if our interests are not protected, none from Palamuru will become Chief Minister in future," Chinna Reddy said.

ECI hosts CEOs' conference in anticipation of IICDEM 2026

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday held a conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) as part of preparations for the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM)-2026. The three-day global conference is scheduled to be held from January 21 to 23 at Bharat Mandapam here. At Thursday's meet at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi, briefed the CEOs on the framework, objectives and operational nuances of IICDEM 2026, outlining their specific roles and responsibilities in the lead-up to the event. Following the inaugural address, the CEOs deliberated on 36 thematic groups, each to be led by a designated

CEO during the conference. These themes span all critical aspects of election management and are aimed at creating a comprehensive body of knowledge by drawing upon the diverse experiences of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from across the globe. IICDEM 2026 is set to be the largest international conference of its kind hosted by India in the domain of democracy and election management. The event will see participation from nearly 100 international delegates representing EMBS worldwide, in addition to representatives from international organisations, foreign missions in India, and leading academic and professional experts in electoral processes. The conference will feature a range of general and plenary sessions, including the Inaugural Session, EMB Leaders' Plenary, EMB Working Group Meetings, and the launch of ECINET. It will also host multiple thematic sessions focusing on global electoral challenges, international electoral standards, and innovations and best practices in election management.

Renowned academic institutions will also be part of the deliberations, including four IITs, six IIMs, 12 National Law Universities (NLUs), and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC). A total of 36 thematic groups, led by CEOs of states and Union Territories and supported by national and international academic experts, will contribute to the discussions.



Hyderabad police plan camp office at Shamshabad after jurisdiction expansion

Hyderabad: With the Hyderabad Police Commissionerate reorganised with new police stations in the extreme south of city included, the top brass of the police are mulling idea of setting up a Police Commissioner's camp office at Shamshabad. According to the reliable sources, the Chief Minister, A Revanth Reddy, wanted all vital and important installations in the city to be under the Hyderabad Commissionerate. Due to it, the RGI Airport and Rajen dranagar police stations, where the RGI Airport and proposed High Court building at Rajendranagar are located, were brought under the jurisdiction of Hyderabad

Commissionerate. The important offices, including the Telangana Secretariat, Lok Bhavan, Legislative Building, and Begumpet Airport, are now under the Hyderabad Commissionerate. To be accessible to the public, the top officials plan to have a camp office at Shamshabad or Rajendranagar, where periodically the people can meet the public. The Additional Commissioner of Police (South Range) office will function soon from the Purani Haveli old Commissioner office building, while the Additional Commissioner of Police (North Range) office will function from Secunderabad. The relocation of the offices is meant to

facilitate the supervision and monitoring of the jurisdictions. The higher police officials are planning to provide more two-wheelers to the majority of the police stations to have more effective patrolling. The field level constables have also expressed their inability to move around in the narrow lanes in the Old City, particularly Bhavaninagar, Rein Bazaar, Kalapather, Falaknuma, Chaderghat, Madanapet, Chatrinaka, Attapur, Balapur and Moghalpura.



Bomb threats trigger evacuation at three courts in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: A nonymous emails threatening bomb attacks on three courts in Odisha were received on Thursday, triggering panic. As per reports, the registrars of the District and Sessions Courts in Cuttack, Sambalpur, and Deogarh received emails threatening bomb attacks.



Following the receipt of the threat mails, the court premises were immediately cleared by suspending all work. Upon being informed, local police forces, along with bomb disposal squads, dog squads, and cyber experts, reached the spots and searched the premises. The Odisha Police have stepped up security arrangements at the court premises to avoid any untoward incidents. "An anonymous e-mail containing a threat to damage court premises has been received at several courts. The police have taken cognisance of the matter and initiated a thorough investigation. As a precautionary measure, police checks and enhanced security arrangements are in place at all locations. The situation is under close monitoring," informed YB Khurania, the Director General of Police, Odisha. The DGP, in an official statement, also advised the public not to panic and to cooperate with the police in maintaining security and assisting the investigation. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed deep concern over the threat mails sent to district-level courts in Cuttack, Sambalpur, and Deogarh.

Congress govt abandoned farmers, neglecting irrigation needs, says KTR



Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao slammed the Congress government for pushing farmers in Telangana into a worsening crisis by halting key welfare schemes and neglecting irrigation infrastructure. He urged party cadres to unite and work towards reinstating party chief K Chandrashekhar Rao as the Chief Minister to save Telangana from the Congress anarchy. Welcoming Chinnambavi Sarpanch Ranjith and his supporters from Kollapur constituency into the BRS at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, Rama Rao said the farmers' distress had become severe, with the government stopping major farmer-support schemes. He stated that while the previous BRS government delivered Rythu Bharosa benefits 11 times, the Congress had provided it only once in the last two years. He also criticised the newly introduced urea card, forcing farmers to stand in long lines for fertiliser that was unavailable in shops. "Farmers' families are leaving their footwear in queues for hours together to get hands on a single urea bag. What does the government intends to achieve with urea cards, when their guarantee cards themselves have no value," he asked.

Editorial

Letter against the spirit: On the Election Commission, barring foreigners

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Supreme Court of India that it has a constitutional duty to ensure that only citizens are enrolled as voters, and that no foreigner makes it to the electoral rolls. Even a single foreigner cannot be allowed to exist on the voter list, the ECI argued before the Court on January 6. The ECI is defending its ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which has struck off millions of names of voters. The concerns raised by all Opposition parties, legal scholars and civil society relate to the evident burden and harassment being caused to ordinary citizens of the republic in having to prove their existence and identity. Nobody has argued for the inclusion of any foreigner, or for keeping electoral rolls as they are today — faulty and impossible to navigate. At the heart of this debate is the relation between the ECI's claims and the process. Over many decades, the ECI has consistently grown its institutional integrity — despite occasional slippages — by expanding the franchise not merely as a formality but also as a substantive right. The maxim that no amount of escaped criminals justifies the punishment of a single innocent person has resonance in this context. In a leap into the phantom world of foreigners taking over the country, the real challenges to the integrity of India's electoral process are being overlooked. Or, maybe, the foreigner paranoia is being whipped up as a facade for polarisation.

That Article 324 of the Constitution grants the ECI independent "control over the preparation of electoral rolls" is not contested. The concern is that the ECI is not acting independently and in a manner that boosts confidence in the electoral process. The litmus test of an electoral process — very much like a judicial process — is whether the side that loses still trusts the process. Unfortunately for India, the current ECI has its priorities turned on their head when it frames its constitutional duty as the removal of foreigners, and not the enrolment of every Indian citizen. While several authorities have a duty to look for foreigners, only the ECI has the duty to enrol Indian citizens as voters. Through changes in rules and their partisan application, the ECI has undermined its own stature and the sacred duty assigned to it by the Constitution in the recent past. Now, by unleashing avoidable suffering and inconvenience upon Indian citizens under the garb of chasing the last foreigner, it is misreading the letter and ignoring the spirit of its constitutional duty.

School bus hit by truck in Mahabubnagar, students escape unhurt

Mahabubnagar: Students of a private school here had a narrow escape after the bus in which they were travelling was hit by a truck at Appannapally on Thursday. Though the bus suffered some damage, none of the students were injured in the incident, reports said. The incident occurred when the school bus was heading to Jadcherla from Mahabubnagar. As the truck was taking a 'U' turn near Yenugonda, it hit the bus from behind, according to reports. Locals have been expressing concern over frequent accidents at the U turn near Yenugonda. They have been appealing to officials to either close the U turn or widen the carriageway further to facilitate smooth flow of traffic.

Telangana battles courier-based drug trafficking and counterfeit medicines

Hyderabad: Telangana is grappling with a unique challenge where sophisticated criminal networks from other Indian States are manufacturing and then illegally smuggling counterfeit medicines and psychotropic substances. The inspecting teams of Telangana Drug Control Administration (TDCA) have indicated that the State is increasingly finding itself at the center of a complex battle against organized interstate drug trafficking. One of the most alarming trends identified this year is the rise of courier-based trafficking. In a major joint operation last June (2025), authorities intercepted a massive shipment of 1.2 lakh Alprazolam tablets worth Rs 4.32 lakh at a courier agency in Hayathnagar. Investigation revealed these psychotropic drugs were sent from Uttar Pradesh hidden among routine commercial parcels. The crackdown did not end at the courier office. In a follow-up raid on the same day, officials discovered that these gangs are now using unlicensed residential premises as distribution hubs. Additional drugs worth Rs 5.21 lakh were recovered from a residence in Moosarambagh, Malakpet, highlighting how traffickers are moving their operations into quiet neighborhoods to evade detection. Investigation revealed that these psychotropic drugs were being sent from Uttar Pradesh to Hyderabad via commercial courier services, hidden among routine parcels. Such instances highlight a deceptive shift in tactics by traffickers who are moving away from traditional transport to exploit the anonymity of high-volume delivery networks, DCA said. TGDCA in its annual report said that by strengthening interstate coordination

and conducting high-stakes decoy operations, it is working to close the gaps used by sophisticated gangs.

In addition to psychotropic substances, the state is also facing a surge in counterfeit medicines manufactured in other parts of the country and smuggled into Telangana. Popular medications, such as anti-histamines like Montek-LC and anti-epileptic drugs like Levipil 500, have been found in spurious forms across Hyderabad and Secunderabad. These counterfeit products are often expertly packaged to mimic reputed brands, posing a severe risk to patients who unknowingly consume ineffective or harmful substances. Spurious versions of medicines like Rosuvastatin F 10 and F 20, meant for heart conditions and maintaining cholesterol levels, were seized in June from the Inderbagh-Koti area. In a chilling discovery, the DCA also detected the manufacture of 'Designer Drugs' or New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) within Telangana's industrial areas. These synthetic psycho stimulants, including MDPHP and Ethylpentadrone, were being exported to European destinations under the guise of regular chemical products. As these substances have no legitimate medical use and high abuse potential, the DCA has formally proposed their inclusion under the NDPS Act.

By the Numbers: DCA 2025 Enforcement:

Inspections Conducted: 28,816
Total Seizures: 244
Total Convictions Achieved: 217 Cases
Worth of Drugs Seized: Rs 1.39 Crores
Sub-standard (NSQ) Drugs Detected: 84

Hyderabad diners save Rs. 114.8 crore on Swiggy Dineout in 2025

Hyderabad: From casual, fine to luxury dining, people in Hyderabad cashed in on discounts on the food menu through Swiggy Dineout, saving Rs.114.8 crore in 2025. These savings from the city are the third highest in the country. The savings had not been limited to small bills. One customer recorded a staggering savings of Rs.1,17,905 from a single booking, which is the second highest nationally. Statistics from Swiggy, an on-demand convenience platform, reveal that celebrations were key reasons for Hyderabadi to eat out throughout the year. The city recorded the second highest Valentine's Day bookings of more than 8,700 with a highest bill of Rs.45,721. The Swiggy Dineout saw more bookings on Father's Day than Mother's Day. Father's Day stood out, with 9,275 bookings and the highest single bill in India at Rs. 66,198, while the Mother's Day celebrations saw 8,323 bookings and the highest bill touching Rs. 98,725. The city's party culture stayed alive, as Hyderabad featured among the top five cities for dining transactions between 12 am and 3 am, the Swiggy Limited said. During the Great Indian Restaurant Festival diners in Hyderabad saved Rs. 47.72 crore, it said, adding that premium dining gained serious momentum in Hyderabad, registering a 110 percent YoY growth. As for other food trends, a Hyderabadi spent Rs 47,106, ordering 65 boxes of dry fruit cookies gift packs in August. Hyderabad placed the second-highest order (fast delivery) in India. Chicken Biryani led the orders with 17.4 lakh orders, followed by Idli (6.9 lakh) and Veg Dosa (6.6 lakh). Highest number of deliveries were in Bengaluru, followed by Hyderabad and Mumbai. The Swiggy delivery partners in the country registered 1.24 billion kilometers last year. A delivery partner from Bengaluru Mohammad Razique delivered 11,718 orders, while

Poongodi, a partner from Chennai led the woman partners by delivering 8,169 orders in 2025. Swiggy Food Marketplace Chief Business Officer Sidharth Bhakoo said, "In Hyderabad, we witnessed a fine balance of the love for classics and the comfort of national favourites. Food is an emotion, and we remain committed to deliver exceptional food experiences in every corner of the city, one meal, one celebration at a time".

Hyderabad police cracks down on Chinese manja, seize 6,226 bobbins



Hyderabad police have registered 103 cases and arrested 143 people for selling Chinese manja, seizing 6,226 bobbins. Special teams and local cops conducted raids on shops, godowns, and online platforms to enforce the ban. Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police registered 103 cases and arrested 143 persons for selling Chinese manja. A total of 6226 bobbins of Chinese manja was seized. VC Sajjanar, Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, said the sale and use of Chinese manja is banned and attracts legal action. The Hyderabad police since last one month is keeping a watch on those who

Telangana Class 7 student wins acclaim for diabetic care footwear in Khammam



Khammam: A 7th-grade student from Government Upper Primary School (UPS) at Pedda thanda in Singareni mandal in the district has come up with footwear that helps diabetic patients to keep the soles of their feet healthy. The student Md. Zakiya Sultana, despite having speech and hearing impairments designed smart footwear that sends alerts through vibrations to patients who have lost sensation in their feet. Further low-level vibrations stimulate the nerves in the feet improving blood circulation.

According to the student in people with diabetes, reduced sensation in the feet could cause minor injuries to develop into large ulcers (Diabetic foot ulcer), ultimately leading to amputation. The smart footwear would address the problem. Explaining how her innovation works, Zakiya Sultana told Telangana Today that when the patient stands in one place for a long time pressure increases on the foot, sensors fitted in the footwear vibrates the motors, which alerts the person wearing the footwear. The battery operated motors vibrate through the sensor every half an hour, ensuring that the feet receive tactile sensation and blood circulation is maintained. For people with numbness in their feet, these vibrations help them feel how their foot is landing on the ground while walking. Zakiya Sultana presented her project 'Sole Care: Smart Footwear for Diabetic Patients' in the health and hygiene category at the recent district level science fair and won a prize besides receiving accolades from district Collector Anudeep Durishetty and others. The headmaster of the UPS Pedda thanda, Shaik Rajalipasha, Rural Innovator Award winner, informed that among all the students who took part in the science fair, Zakiya Sultana was the only student with hearing and speech impairment.

Hyderabad police cracks down on Chinese manja, seize 6,226 bobbins

are involved in the trade of Chinese manja. Both the special teams and local police are conducting raids on shops and godowns in the city to seize the manja. Cases are registered against Environment Protection Act and BNS Act. "In every case a detailed investigation team is being done to identify the source of the Chinese manja," said Sajjanar. The Hyderabad police are keeping a watch on e-commerce websites and other platforms and case will be registered against the managements also. He asked people not to use the Chinese manja as it attracts legal action.

Dairy manager injured in sword attack on Hyderabad outskirts

Hyderabad: A manager working at a dairy company was critically injured when a person attacked him with a sharp edged weapon at Keesara. According to reports, the incident occurred when Srinivas, who works as a manager to private dairy company asked Kiran, who is a milk distributor, to clear dues when an argument broke out between them. In a fit of rage, Kiran took a sword and attacked Srinivas resulting in serious injuries to him. The injured person is shifted to hospital for treatment. A case is registered by the Keesara police. Investigation is going on.

Mesrams on return journey to Kespur after drawing sacred water in Mancherial



Mancherial: Members of the Mesram clan are on their return journey to Kespur in Adilabad district after drawing sacred gangajal from the Godavari river at Hasthanamadugu near Kalamadugu village in Jannaram mandal. On January 1, around 100 Mesrams set out on an arduous 150-km padayatra to collect the holy water to be used for rituals during the five-day Nagoba Jatara at Kespur, scheduled to begin on January 18. The group reached Hasthanamadugu on Wednesday morning, where they worshipped the river goddess, performed traditional rituals and collected the water before beginning their return journey. The Mesrams traversed dense forests and hilly terrain across Narnoor, Lingapur and Dasturabad mandals to reach Hasthanamadugu. As per tradition, the holy water was collected in a jhara, a 1,400-year-old brass vessel used exclusively for this purpose.

The water will be used to cleanse idols and perform various rituals during the jatara. The clan members are expected to reach Inderveli mandal headquarters on January 14, where they will offer special prayers at the Indrayidevi temple. From the same night, they will begin camping under banyan trees at Kespur. The Mahapuja, marking the formal commencement of Nagoba Jatara, will be performed on the night of January 18. Nagoba Jatara is a five-day annual religious congregation of the Mesram clan and is considered the second largest tribal gathering after the biennial Sammakka Saralamma jatara at Medaram in Mulugu district. Nearly two lakh tribals from Telangana as well as neighbouring Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha are expected to gather at Kespur to worship the serpentine deity.

US exits India-France led International Solar Alliance under Trump order



New York: President Donald Trump has ordered the US out of the Gurugram-headquartered International Solar Alliance (ISA) that promotes using energy from the sun to combat climate change. The ISA was among the 66 international entities that he withdrew the US from in an order on Wednesday, alleging that they worked "contrary to US national interests", the White House said. Trump, who has called climate change a "hoax", swung the axe hard against entities — UN and non-UN — with climate and environment mandates, catching the ISA. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that one of the reasons for the US action was "climate orthodoxy" that was working against "our nation's sovereignty, freedoms, and general prosperity". The ISA was founded in 2015 jointly by India and France and has 124 signatories, of whom about 100 are full members. Its primary goal is to raise investments of \$1 trillion for solar energy, besides encouraging related technologies by 2030. It is headed by Director-General Ashish Khanna. Between 2022 and 2025,

Washington's contributions to the ISA were \$2.1 million, according to a US government database, which said the funds were "to support the US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership through ISA programmes to accelerate the deployment of solar in developing and emerging countries". The United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change, through which the Paris Climate Agreement was reached, was foremost among the 31 UN-linked organisations that Trump targeted. Others included UN entities dealing with water, oceans, and energy, and the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. The 35 non-UN organisations included nine working in the climate change and environment areas. Among them was the International Panel on Climate Change that was headed by India's Rajendra Pachauri when it won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. The US committed to joining the ISA in 2016 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Barack Obama at the White House.

Four students killed, one critical in Chevella road accident near Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Possible rash driving claimed lives of four students and critically injured another one in an early morning accident reported from Mirzaguda gate locality in Chevella. The gruesome accident was reported in the early hours of Thursday. Police officials say that a car hurtling down the road lost control near Mirzaguda, rammed into the road divider and then hit a roadside tree. There were five students in the Ecosport car (AP31 DT 4899), four of them died instantly. A girl who was injured critically was rushed to a hospital in the city, where she is battling for her life. The deceased persons were identified as Rohit, an engineering student of MGIT and resident of Kokapet,



Sri Nikhil of Manchirevula, K. Sumith of Kokapet, and Surya Teja hailing from Mancherial town, all pursuing their Bachelor's course in Business Administration in the ICFAI Business School (IBS). The injured person Nakshatra was also a BBA student. Police surmise that over speeding could have led to the accident that occurred around 1.30 a.m.

Ahead of Budget, Naidu seeks statutory status for Amaravati

New Delhi: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and urged the Centre to grant statutory status to Amaravati as Andhra Pradesh's capital by introducing a Bill in Parliament. The Chief Minister said such a move is vital for the State's long-term development and stability. The meeting, which took place at Shah's residence in the national capital, also saw Naidu raise concerns over the financial provisions of the recently introduced Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Grameen) scheme, an official statement said. He pointed out that the revised Centre-State funding ratio of 60:40 was placing an additional burden on Andhra Pradesh and could adversely affect the implementation. Seeking relief, the CM requested alternative financial support and flexibility, keeping in view the state's current fiscal situation. He acknowledged the Centre's support in helping Andhra Pradesh recover from financial stress and appealed for continued cooperation. Emphasising the need for policy certainty, Naidu said formal legislative recognition of Amaravati



would accelerate development and fulfil the aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh, while also strengthening investor confidence. The meeting came ahead of the Union Budget 2026, likely to be presented in Parliament on February 1. Naidu, who heads the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), a key NDA ally, sought the Centre's support for the state in the upcoming Budget, sources said. "During the meeting, several state-related issues and upcoming projects were discussed," an official statement said. The Chief Minister left for Andhra Pradesh immediately after the meeting. The discussions also covered ongoing development projects, welfare schemes, and recent developments in the State. Naidu had earlier visited the Polavaram project before heading to Delhi for the meeting with Shah.

BRSV leaders arrested for protesting against Rs.100-crore KGBV bunker bed scam



Hyderabad: Tension prevailed on Thursday after BRS student wing (BRSV) president Gellu Srinivas Yadav and several activists protested outside the School Education Director's office in Hyderabad, demanding action in the alleged Rs 100 crore scam in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) tenders. The protesters were taken into custody and shifted to Gandhi Nagar police station. Speaking on the occasion, Gellu Srinivas and BRSV state vice-president Thunga Balu accused the Congress government of running a corrupt regime since coming to power. They said preliminary information indicated large-scale irregularities in the procurement of bunker beds and other essentials for KGBVs. The BRSV leaders

stated that tenders were awarded without transparency, violating norms and favouring contractors linked to the ruling party. They charged the government with turning KGBVs into a hub of corruption, endangering the education and safety of girls from poor, Dalit, Adivasi and backward communities. They pointed to complaints about poor food quality and substandard hostel facilities, affecting girl students. BRSV demanded a judicial probe by the CBI or under High Court supervision, into the alleged scam and sought accountability. They warned that if the government failed to act immediately, BRSV would launch State-wide protests and blockades at KGBV institutions.

Telangana GM Prraneeth wins Rouquetas Chess Festival title in Spain

Hyderabad: GM Prraneeth Vuppala of Telangana won the Rouquetas Chess Festival title in Spain. Prraneeth emerged winner in a field of 151 players from across the world with seven wins and a draw. He finished with 7.5 points to clinch the honours.

Marin Peragaut from Spain and Sravan's spell rattles Bihar, Hyd wins

Spinner G Sravan bowled an impressive spell of five for eight to help Telangana register a comfortable 25-run win over Bihar in a league stage match of the prestigious 19th edition of Rajiv Gandhi National T-20 Cricket Championship being organised by Cricket Federation of Hyderabad at Vijayanand Grounds, Hyderabad. Earlier, former Indian captain and Telangana Minister Mohd Azharuddin and Mahesh Kumar Goud, TPCC President, inaugurated. The scores: Telangana 107/7 in 15 overs (



Ahmed Hussain 30, Aabhijay 22 no, Vickey Anand 4/11 bt Bihar 82 in 13.4 overs (Goteti Sravan 5/8).

Nikhat enters Elite Men and Women National Boxing Championships quarterfinals

Hyderabad: Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen, World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 gold medallist Pawan Bartwal and Sumit dominated their respective opponents, while most other top players registered comfortable wins to reach the quarterfinals of their respective weight categories in the Elite Men and Women National Boxing Championships with easy wins at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, on Wednesday. In the women's 48-51kg category, referee stopped the bout between Nikhat and Ladakh's Kulsooma Bano in the first round due to the domination of the Telangana boxer while Pawan (men's 50-55kg) defeated Lalit and Sumit (men's 70-75kg) beat Madhya Pradesh's Kapil after



both the bouts were stopped in the third round. Earlier, world champion Minakshi (women's 45-48kg) continued her march with a comfortable 5:0 win over Annu of Jharkhand. In the men's 50-55kg category, Jadumani Singh comfortably beat Uttar Pradesh's Manish Rathore 5:0, while 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Amit Panghal got the better of Chandigarh's Krrish Pal 4:1.

Akhileshwar shines in Gowtham vs Gowtham HCA U-14 one-day cricket final

Hyderabad: Akhileshwar's century helped Gowtham Model School (West Marredpally) record a 116-run win against Gowtham Model School (Saroor Nagar) in the final of the HCA Under-14 Inter-schools and district one-day cricket championship on Wednesday. In the A-Division two-league championship semi-final, Shashank Mehrotra cracked 168 for Deccan Wanderers against Evergreen. The scores: HCA Under-14 Inter-schools & districts one-day tournament: Final: Gowtham Model School (West Marredpally) 324/2 in 50 overs (Akhileshwar 159, K Sai Smaran 77, G Sai Vaibhav 36 no) bt Gowtham World School (Saroor Nagar) 208/7 in 50 overs (A Sreekruthan 44, Shreyas Ande 49, P Naksh Reddy 55 no). A-Division two-day



league: Semifinals: Evergreen 395/8 in 87.2 overs & 17/0 in 6 overs vs Deccan Wanderers 366/9 in 78.4 (P Nitish Reddy 47, Mudassir Ali 35, Kranti Kiran 53, Shashank Mehrotra 168). East Marredpally 540/9 in 90 overs vs Gemini Friends 166/9 in 41.2 overs (M Rakesh Yadav 36, Chirag Yadav 31, K Sriniketh 37, Rishab Baslas 5/29, Sacheet Binjrajka 4/22) & 231/5 in 40 overs (K Sriniketh 50, Owais 76 no, Mohd Taha Sheikh 47 no).

PM Modi condoles death of Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal's son Agnivesh

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the untimely passing of Agnivesh Agarwal, son of Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal, "is deeply shocking and saddening". Anil Agarwal, in an X post, announced the demise of his beloved son Agnivesh, who "left us far too soon". PM Modi replied to his post, saying, "The untimely passing of Shri Agnivesh Agarwal is deeply shocking and saddening. The depth of your grief is evident in this touching tribute. Praying that you and your family find continued strength and courage. Om Shanti." Agnivesh studied at Mayo College, Ajmer, and went on to set up one of the finest companies, Fujairah Gold.



Later, he became Chairman of Hindustan Zinc. "Today is the darkest day of my life. My beloved son, Agnivesh, left us far too soon. He was just 49 years old, healthy, full of life, and dreams. Following a skiing accident in the US, he was recovering well in Mount Sinai Hospital, New York. We believed the worst was behind us.

Priyanka Chopra turns pirate in swashbuckling action thriller 'The Bluff'

Mumbai: Global sensation Priyanka Chopra will be seen exploring a new territory with her forthcoming swashbuckler action thriller "The Bluff", where she will essay the role of Ercell Bodden, a fierce pirate. As the project gears up to premiere on the OTT platform Prime Video from February 25, PeeCee decided to treat the netizens with a few glimpses from her much-awaited next. Posting a couple of stills from "The Bluff", Priyanka wrote on her Instagram handle, "Mother. Protector. Pirate. Meet Bloody Mary #TheBluff | Feb. 25. 2026 Only on @PrimeVideo @KarlUrban @primemovies. (sic)". PeeCee was seen battle-ready in these pictures with a blood-soaked and fierce avatar as a once-feared pirate. However, now, her personality has gained a softer dimension, that of a mother. From fighting Keith Urban in the battleground to spending time with her family, PeeCee's character in "The Bluff" looks both physically and emotionally challenging.

Reacting to the first look of the diva from the action entertainer, her singer and actor husband, Nick Jonas, wrote on his Instagram Stories, "Can't wait for the world to see how absolutely incredible @priyankachopra is in this



movie. (sic)". Set in the late 1800s, "The Bluff" shares the journey of Ercell Bodden (Played by Priyanka Chopra), a former pirate known by the name of "Bloody Mary." As she successfully builds a different life for herself after fleeing her ruthless crew, predominantly taking the role of a mother living in the Cayman Islands, her past returns to haunt her. Her former crew tracks her down, forcing her to face the violent world she was once a part of. Backed by the Russo Brothers' AGBO Studios in association with Amazon MGM Studios, "The Bluff" also stars Temuera Morrison as Quarter-master Lee, Captain Connor's gold-hungry consigliere, along with Ismael Cruz Córdova, Safia Oakley-Green, Zach Morris, David Field, and Vedant Naidoo in crucial roles.

Telangana HC grants relief to Prabhas and Chiranjeevi films on ticket price issue



Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Wednesday granted relief to producers of 'The Raja Saab' starring Prabhas and 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu', featuring Chiranjeevi, in connection with the issue of ticket price enhancement. A Division Bench comprising Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice Gadi Praveen Kumar clarified that an earlier order passed by a single judge on December 9, which restrained any increase in ticket prices, was limited in its application.

The Bench observed that the said restriction was applicable only to certain big-ticket films such as Pushpa 2, Game Changer, OG and Akhanda 2, and not to the films presently before the court. As for 'The Raja Saab' and 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu', the court left the issue of ticket price enhancement to the discretion of the State government. During the hearing, the Counsel for the producers informed the court that they had

From Bridgerton to Peaky Blinders, Netflix readies big 2026 lineup

Mumbai: Kicking in the New Year, streaming giant Netflix has something exciting in store for the viewers. Piquing the interest further, Netflix has shared an update on the highly anticipated series and films coming to the platform in 2026. First on the list is season 6 of the beloved show, "Emily In Paris". It will carry forward the story of Emily, an ambitious twenty-something marketing executive from Chicago, who unexpectedly ends up landing her dream job, leading to a life of intoxicating adventures and surprising challenges.

Bridgerton Season 4

On January 29, season 4 of "Bridgerton" will premiere on Netflix, followed by part 2 on February 26. This season will revolve around the bohemian second son, Benedict (Played by Luke Thompson). Benedict is loath to settle down — until he meets a captivating Lady in Silver at his mother's masquerade ball.

One Piece: Into The Grand Line Season 2

This March, you can enjoy the second season of the epic high-seas pirate

adventure, "One Piece". Luffy and the Straw Hats set sail for the extraordinary Grand Line — a legendary stretch of sea where danger and wonder await at every turn. As they journey through this unpredictable realm in search of the world's greatest treasure, they'll encounter bizarre islands and a host of formidable new enemies.

Avatar: The Last Airbender Season 2

After a bittersweet victory, saving the Northern Water Tribe from the invading Fire Nation, the season 2 of "Avatar: The Last Airbender"

will have Avatar Aang, Katara, and Sokka setting off on a mission to convince the elusive Earth King to aid in their battle against fearsome Fire Lord Ozai.

Enola Holmes Season 3

Adventure continues to chase detective Enola Holmes to Malta on a case more tangled and treacherous than any she has faced before. The forthcoming British crime drama, "Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man" will air on Netflix from March 20.