



# Pigeon seduces women with advanced techniques

► Madhukar Reddy is the manager of Mahalakshmi Enterprises  
► APGVB RM GPS. Chaitanya Kumar Pigeon Kitchen Outlet Launched in Hanumakonda

Warangal, 27 December : Nallavelli Madhukar Reddy, manager of Mahalakshmi Enterprises, announced the inauguration of a new Pigeon Company outlet on Naeem Nagar Main Road, Hanumakonda. The event, held on Friday, was graced by APGVB RM GPS. Chaitanya Kumar as the Chief Guest.

The outlet, supported financially by APGVB, aims to offer high-quality, affordable kitchen supplies designed with advanced technology.

Madhukar Reddy emphasized that these products cater to the middle class, enabling easy preparation of delicious meals. He also suggested that the products serve as ideal gifts for special occasions. RM GPS. Chaitanya Kumar encouraged the city residents to make



use of the opportunity and praised the organizers, Madhukar Reddy and his wife Madhavi, for their efforts. Mahalakshmi Enterprises committed to building

customer trust through guaranteed warranties and excellent service. The event was attended by APGVB employees, relatives, and well-wishers.

# TG IIC Chairman Nirmala Jaggareddy Tribute to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

Sangareddy District December 28 : In Sangareddy District Center Nirmala Jaggareddy paid tributes to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the country's financial father, and said that the country has lost a great leader. The leader who took the country forward economically and made many reforms said that he did many things like food scheme, Aadhaar, RTI Act, Education Act, etc. CDC chairman Ram Reddy, ex-library chairman Topaji Anantha Kishan, Congress leaders Koonna Santhosh, Kiran Goud, Mahesh, Srikanta Goud, Sadashivapet Party President Siddanna, Councilors Nagaraj, Sohail, Leaders Kasini Raju, Chithari Yadagiri, Srinivas and others were present.



# District SP will reduce the crime rate

► Chennai Rupesh

Sangareddy District December 28 : District SP Chennai Rupesh said in the SP office in Sangareddy district center that in the year 2024 ganja, the district industrialist said that a lot of care has been taken on traffic matters and the activation of She Teams has reduced the shortage of police in the district with the arrival of 430 new constables.

As the development is progressing, a boy who went missing in the government hospital two months ago was saved in 30 hours due to the construction of QR code for autos so that the workers going in shifts do not face any problem.

This year there were almost 8 cases last year but this time 24 ganja cases have been filed Karnataka border is about 150 distance Orissa, Andhra, Mumbai, Karnataka, Maharashtra, those who transported ganja from the states were imported and



those who exported them were brought and remanded. In cyber crime 4780 people were arrested and remanded.

900 were recovered, 17,500 passport applications were made, 17119 were given in verification, murders increased by 4 percent, recovery was 26%, 11 people were sentenced to life imprisonment, 1 was hanged. 150 cases

of matka were bound over and a police canteen was also set up. Sangareddy Town, Sangareddy Rural, Sadashivapet, Zaheerabad Narayankhed, Patancheru. The related technical teams have been formed and all this is being done peacefully without any issues. Patancheru, Sangareddy, Narayankhed DSPs and CIs participated in this program.

# A land dispute between two families that took lives

► One died and another was seriously injured  
► No one's name was recorded in the government records on the land  
► Case registered against two families: CI Nagarjuna Rao

Warangal, 27 December : The land dispute between the families of Dongiri Butchaiah and Sodari Lingiah in Ippala Gudem, Kataram Mandal, Jayashankar Bhupalapalli district, escalated tragically, resulting in one death and a serious injury. This long-standing dispute, reportedly without proper land ownership records, has led to violence in the past, with cases already registered against both families. On Friday morning, Dongiri Butchaiah confronted Lingiah and his wife, Padma, at the disputed site, which soon turned into a heated argument. During the altercation, Butchaiah attacked Padma with a shovel, inflicting severe injuries. Padma informed her son, Pawan, who, enraged by the incident, confronted Butchaiah near a cattle hospital in Kataram. Armed with a stick,



Pawan struck Butchaiah on the head, leading to his immediate death. Circle inspector Nagarjuna Rao confirmed that prior clashes between these families were reported to the police, primarily stemming from the lack of documented ownership of the land under cultivation. A case has been registered, and further investigations are underway. This incident underscores the critical need for proper land documentation and conflict resolution mechanisms to prevent such trag-

# Mitti Cafe now available at Bolarum Rastrapathi Nilayam

Hyderabad, Dec.27 (NSS): The popular Mitti Cafe is now available to the people at the Rashtrapati Nilayam in Bolarum, Hyderabad. The cafe is managed by 15 people with mental, physical, and health disabilities. At the Mitti cafe, they prepare and sell delicious, high-quality samosas, chaat, pakodi, masala tea, biscuits, coffee, Maggi, sandwiches, various types of ice creams and other snacks. We regularly see people suffering from various physical and mental health disabilities, and their parents struggling under their care. The Mitti Cafe is a non-profit organisation formed to reach out to such children and provide them with the skills and training they need to stand on their own feet and become financially self-reliant. G. Swathi, an organiser, explained that Mitti Cafes have been set up at more than 40 recognised locations across the country, including the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi.

## PICTALK



The event involved several prominent figures, including Vardhannapet MLA KR Nagaraju, Hanumakonda District Kisan Congress President Pingili Venkatram Narasimha Reddy, and District Legal Sales Vice President Shekhar Rao,

gathering to honor Chief Advisor Vem Narender Reddy on his birthday. The group paid floral tributes at his residence in Hyderabad on Friday, marking the occasion with respect and celebration.

- Warangal

## PICTALK



Deeply saddened by the passing of former Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, an outstanding leader who is widely revered by the Indian people. Heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones." From Mohd Yaseen Ayyubi Bhai (Telan-

gana Pradesh Senior Leader,) Shaik Nayeem Uddin bhai, (Telangana Pradesh Senior Leader)...Masood patel, Sajeed Patel, Ishaq bhai, Zafar bhai, Shaik Akram bhai, Shabbir bhai, Mozzam khan and other at Suleman Nagar, Rajendranagar Constituency.



Organized by Hasnain Islamic, like every year this year too, on the occasion of New Year, the fourth annual gathering to prevent the young generation from immorality and obscenity will be held on Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at 9:30 PM, at Vate Pally Muhammadiyah Colony Mosque. It will be held at Amr Bhai's house opposite Muhammadiyah. This spiritual gathering is

a great opportunity to spend the New Year, happiness, blessings and seeking the pleasure of Allah. Ikram and Mushaykeen Azam will shed detailed light on the Islamic perspective on the New Year. The Zamdaran of the above-mentioned blessed gathering appealed to the public, especially the youth, to participate in this blessed gathering without time limit and get the rewards.



At the wedding ceremony of Mohammed Mazher Uddin's brother Mohammed Zubair Uddin's son, Mohammed Muneer Uddin, prominent attendees included Mohammed Siddiq Ahmed (Founder of ZED NEWS TV CHANNEL), Mohammed Riyaz Ahmed (Chairman), Mirza Yousuf Ali Baig Sufi, and others. At Shah Palace Attapur Hyderabad.



On 26th Dec at Grand Function Hall, Marriage of Mr. Mohammed Moinuddin's daughter with Syed Abdul Qhaliq s/o Mr. Syed Abdul Malik. Function attended by big personalities like (Al-Indo Arab Federation) President Mr. Ali Habeeb Mohammed Sikander Hashmi, Wrestler Mohammed Wajid, State Youth President Mohammed Majid Ahmed, Mohammed Nayeem Uddin, Mohammed Tahir and others.





## General Motors Plans to Replace Apple CarPlay, Android Auto With Google



General Motors plans to phase out widely-used Apple CarPlay and Android Auto technologies that allow drivers to bypass a vehicle's infotainment systems, shifting instead to built-in infotainment systems developed with Google for future electric vehicles. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems allow users to mirror their smartphone screens in a vehicle's dashboard display. GM's decision to stop offering those systems in future electric vehicles, starting with the 2024 Chevrolet Blazer,

models with CarPlay or Android Auto than any other brand. GM has been working with Google since 2019 to develop the software foundations for infotainment systems that will be more tightly integrated with other vehicle systems such as GM's Super Cruise driver assistant. The automaker is accelerating a strategy for its EVs to be platforms for digital subscription services. By 2035, GM's goal is to phase out production of new combustion light-duty vehicles. GM would benefit from focusing engineers and investment on one approach to more tightly connecting in-vehicle infotainment and navigation with features such as assisted driving, Edward Kummer, GM's chief digital officer, and Mike Himche, executive director of digital cockpit experience, said in an interview. "We have a lot of new driver assistance features coming that are

more tightly coupled with navigation," Himche told Reuters. "We don't want to design these features in a way that are dependent on person having a cellphone." Buyers of GM EVs with the new systems will get access to Google Maps and Google Assistant, a voice command system, at no extra cost for eight years, GM said. GM said the future infotainment systems will offer applications such as Spotify's music service, Audible and other services that many drivers now access via smartphones. GM plans to continue offering Apple CarPlay and Android Auto mirroring systems in its combustion models. Owners of vehicles equipped with the mirroring technologies will still be able to use the systems, GM said. Drivers also will still be able to listen to music or make phone calls on iPhones or Android smartphones using Bluetooth wireless

## Moto E13 Price in India Tipped Ahead of Launch, Could Be Under Rs. 7,000



Moto E13 is set to make its debut in India on February 8. Motorola has already launched this smartphone in some European markets, priced at EUR 119.99 (roughly Rs. 10,600). Now, a reliable tipster has shared the supposed price range of this smartphone in India. It is believed that the Moto E13 could be placed in the sub-Rs. 7,000 segment. The company has also shared the specifications of this Motorola smartphone. It features a 6.5-inch IPS LCD screen and is powered by a Unisoc T606 SoC. Moto E13 price in India (expected) According to a post by tipster Debayan Roy (Twitter: @Gadgetsdata), the Moto E13 could cost between Rs. 6,499 and Rs. 6,999 in India. Motorola is set to launch this smartphone in India on February 8. It will come with 2GB RAM and 4GB RAM options. The Moto E13 will be offered in Aurora Green, Cosmic Black, and Creamy White colours. Moto E13 specifications, features This smartphone gets a 6.5-inch HD+ IPS LCD screen with a 60Hz refresh rate and a 20:9 aspect ratio. Under the

hood, the Moto E13 packs a Unisoc T606 SoC, coupled with a Mali-G57 MP1 GPU. This is a dual-SIM (Nano) smartphone that runs on Android 13 (Go edition). Moto Edge 40 Pro Price, Renders, Specifications Surface Online For optics, the Moto E13 gets a 13-megapixel main camera on the back and a 5-megapixel selfie camera on the front. The handset gets up to 4GB of RAM and 64GB of onboard storage, which can be expanded via microSD card (up to 1TB). Moto G73 5G, Moto G53 5G Launched Globally: Price, Specifications The Moto E13 offers Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac and Bluetooth 5.0 wireless connectivity options. There is also a USB Type-C port and a 3.5mm headphone

jack. Its 5,000mAh battery is said to last for up to 36 hours and supports 10W wired charging. The handset also has an IP52 dust and water resistance rating, a FHD IR camera, WiFi 6E, Bluetooth 5.2 and Alienware Command Centre 6.0 for gaming. It comes with a 97Whr battery, and it will be available with a dark metallic chassis and a moon aluminum finish with Legend 3.0 design. Alienware M16 Alienware m16 specifications The Alienware m16 comes with a 16-inch display that is available in three variants— a QHD+ panel with 165Hz screen refresh rate, and NVIDIA G-SYNC+ advanced optimum support, a FHD+ panel with 480Hz screen refresh rate, and NVIDIA G-SYNC+ advanced optimum support, and a QHD+ panel with 240Hz screen refresh rate, and NVIDIA G-SYNC+ advanced optimum support. It is powered by the 13th-gen Intel Core processor that is available in i9.,

Display Switching technology, NVIDIA G-SYNC and AMD FreeSync support. It is powered by the 13th-gen Intel Core processor that is coupled with NVIDIA GeForce RTX or AMD Radeon graphic and up to 9TB of storage space. It comes in three keyboard options — a 1-zone backlit keyboard, a per-key AlienFX backlit keyboard and a CherryMX ultra low-profile mechanical keyboard. It also features support for Dolby Vision, Dolby Atmos, a FHD IR camera, Alienware Command Centre 6.0 for gaming and Legend 3.0 design. Alienware x16 specifications The Alienware x16 comes with a 14-inch display that is available in three variants— a QHD+ panel with 165Hz screen refresh rate, and NVIDIA G-SYNC+ advanced optimum support, a FHD+ panel with 480Hz screen refresh rate, and NVIDIA G-SYNC+ advanced optimum support, and a QHD+ panel with 240Hz screen refresh rate, and NVIDIA G-SYNC+ advanced optimum support. It is powered by the 13th-gen Intel Core processor that is available in i9.,

## Apple iPhone Ultra for 2024 could be pricier than you think



Apple for some time has been rumored to launch an iPhone with the 'Ultra' branding. While this year's iPhone 15 lineup may or may not have a phone with the 'Ultra' moniker, the specs are said to be still upgraded,

making the Pro lineup distinct from the vanilla models. Also Read - Apple iPhone 14 is selling with up to Rs 12,000 discount on Flipkart: Check deal As per Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, the company could launch an

'Ultra' premium iPhone next year. And its pricing could make it an opulent device just like the Apple Watch Ultra. Also Read - Global smartphone shipments see 15.4 percent fall from the previous year Apple's 2024 iPhone

Ultra may have distinct features at a distinct price Gurman in his newsletter has shed some light on what Tim Cook believes about the increasing price of the iPhone. Also Read - Apple has more than 2 billion active devices worldwide "I think people are willing to really stretch to get the best they can afford in that category," said Cook. As per Gurman, Apple has internally discussed introducing a higher-end iPhone to the top of its smartphone lineup. Contrary to previous news that said the Pro Max could be replaced with the Ultra, the journalist has now revealed that the Ultra could be a separate phone altogether. The iPhone Ultra for next year could have several features such as a better camera, a faster chip, and a larger display. Apple may also drop the charg-

ing port on the Ultra, if it decides to add some future-forward features. All of this could make the 2024's iPhone Ultra a pricier iPhone than ever. Apple has already used the Ultra branding on some of its products such as the Apple Watch and the top version of the M1 chip. While both are more expensive than their counterparts, they offer an edge either in features or performance. Similarly, The iPhone Ultra, as said above, may offer plenty of things over the other models but could arrive at an expensive price. This year, Apple may or may not bring an Ultra device but it is expected to add a periscope lens on the top-of-the-line model. Now remains to be seen what Apple calls its top-of-the-line iPhone this year, iPhone 15 Pro Max or iPhone 15 Ultra.

## Dizo Watch D Pro, Watch D Ultra With Over 100 Sports Modes Launched in India



Dizo Watch D Pro, and Dizo Watch D Ultra have been launched as the latest entrants to the Dizo smartwatch lineup from the Realme TechLife brand, Dizo. The Dizo Watch D Pro is powered by a custom Dizo D1 SoC and features Bluetooth calling support while running on a custom Dizo OS. Dizo Watch D Ultra has been launched with an AMOLED screen. Both smartwatches come with three different strap colour options - Blue, Black, and Grey. Dizo Watch D Pro price, availability Dizo Watch D Pro is set to launch on January 12 on Flipkart at a launch price of Rs. 3,299. As previously mentioned, the smartwatch comes in three strap colour options - Blue, Black, and Grey. Customers who wish to buy the Dizo Watch D Pro may choose to get notified by Flipkart once the sale commences. Dizo, OEL to Manufacture Smartwatches Audio Wear-

ables in India: Details Dizo Watch D Ultra price, availability Dizo Watch D Ultra is set to launch on January 12 on Flipkart at a launch price of Rs. 3,299. As previously mentioned, the smartwatch comes in three strap colour options - Blue, Black, and Grey. Customers can also set up an alert on Flipkart for the launch of the Dizo Watch D Ultra. Dizo Watch D Pro specifications The Pro moniker latest entry from Dizo runs on Dizo OS and features a 1.85-inch display that delivers up to 600 nits of peak brightness and

supports 60Hz refresh rate. Dizo Watch D Pro is powered by a Dizo D1 SoC coupled with an independent GPU and four times more RAM. This is, the company claims, to aid fluid scrolling and better animations on the Dizo Watch D Pro. Dizo Watch R Talk, Watch D Talk With SpO2 Tracking, Bluetooth Calling Debuts in India The smartwatch sports an aluminium frame with a physical button on the right-facing side. Dizo Watch D Pro packs sensors for heart rate monitoring, SpO2 monitoring,

## Oppo Reno8 T 5G First Impressions: A Worthy Refresh?



Oppo's Reno smartphones have typically had good cameras, along with some quirky features to woo customers. Oppo launched the Reno 8 series last year and for 2023, the brand has chosen to refresh the Reno 8 (Review) with the new Reno 8T 5G first, instead of the Oppo Reno 9 which has already launched in China. The new Reno 8 T 5G is priced at Rs. 29,999, which is exactly the same as the Reno 8 but lower than the Reno 8 Pro 5G (Review). Does the Reno 8 T 5G live up to the hype that usually surrounds the Reno series? Here's our first impressions of the device. The Oppo

Reno8 T 5G is available in a single variant with 8GB of RAM and 128GB of storage. It comes in two colour options, Sunrise Gold and Midnight Black in India. It will be available from February 10 in offline and online stores, such as Flipkart. The smartphone will compete with the likes of the Realme 10 Pro+ (Review) and Redmi Note 12 Pro+ (Review) in India. Oppo Reno 8T Body Oppo Reno 8T Body Oppo Reno8 T 5G weighs 171g and is 7.7mm thick The Oppo Reno8 T 5G features a polycarbonate body and chrome side rails that surprisingly does not attract a lot of finger-

prints. On the right side of the smartphone is the power button, while the volume buttons are on the left. The USB Type-C charging port, speaker grille, microphone and SIM tray are all located at the bottom of the smartphone. Oppo Reno 8 5G Review: Familiar Wine in a New Bottle? On the top, we have another microphone for noise cancellation and an additional speaker for stereo sound. The smartphone uses a hybrid SIM slot, which means you can either use a second SIM card or a microSD card. The Oppo Reno8 T 5G's back panel is made of polycarbonate. It feels a little flimsy as there's noticeable flex when you apply pressure, which is unappealing. The back panel has a superb finish though, that does not attract fingerprints. The coating also changes colour depending on which angle you look at it. The Oppo Reno8 T 5G has a triple-camera setup at the back. There's a 108-megapixel primary camera, a 2-mega-

## Government Bans Over 230 Betting, Loan Lending Apps With Chinese Links After Complaints of Extortion

In a major crackdown, the Central government has initiated the process to ban and block 138 betting apps and 94 loan lending apps with Chinese links on an 'urgent' and 'emergency' basis, top government sources said on Sunday. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is learnt to have taken the decision based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). As per sources, the MHA recommended the MeitY this week to ban and block these apps, and the Ministry subsequently initiated the process as per communication. Government to Discuss PIB Fact Checks With Stakeholders in February The move was taken after confirming that these apps attract Section 69 of the IT Act as they contain material

which is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India. The action behind the move is based on several complaints of extortion and harassment of common people who had availed small amounts of loans through the mobile apps being run by those entities and persons. It is learnt that these apps are the brainchild of Chinese nationals who hired Indians and made them directors in operation. Government to Act Against Dubious Digital Loan Apps, Finance Minister Says As per inputs, desperate individuals are lured into taking on a loan and then jacked up the interest by up to 3,000 per cent annually. When the debtors were unable to repay the interest, let alone the entire loan, individuals representing these apps started harassing those in debt. They

sent them lewd messages, threatening to release their morphed photos and shaming them with messages to their contacts. RBI, MeitY Ask Google to Act Against Illegal Digital Lending Apps: Report The matter came into the spotlight after a spate of suicides, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, by those who opted for such loans or lost money to betting apps. States like Telangana, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh as well as central intelligence agencies had then asked the Union Home Ministry to take action against these apps, sources said. Based on these inputs, the MHA started analysing 28 Chinese loan lending apps six months ago. However, they found that 94 apps are available on e-stores and that others are working through third-



party links. It is learnt that many apps are now not available to download on smartphones but sources say the betting apps and games are being downloaded through independent links or websites. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) issued an advisory, stating that

since betting and gambling are illegal in most parts of the country. advertisements of these betting platforms, as well as their surrogates, are also illegal under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 2019, Cable TV Network Regulation Act 1995 and the IT Rules, 2021



# Manmohan Singh's life and work profoundly shaped India's destiny : CWC



New Delhi, Dec 27 The Congress Working Committee (CWC) met here on Friday and paid glowing tributes to former prime minister Manmohan Singh, saying he was a towering figure in India's political and economic landscape whose contributions transformed the country and earned him respect worldwide.

In a condolence resolution passed at the meeting, CWC mourned the loss of a "true statesman" whose life and work have profoundly shaped the destiny of India.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and Congress general secretaries Jairam Ramesh, KC Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra among others met here at the AICC headquarters for a meeting of CWC to pay homage to the former prime minister.

Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms and a consensus builder in the rough world of politics, died at AIIMS, Delhi, late on Thursday. He was 92. He is survived by his wife and three daughters. "Dr Singh was a towering figure in India's political and economic landscape, whose contributions transformed the country and earned him respect worldwide. As Finance Minis-

ter in the early 1990s, Dr Singh was the architect of India's economic liberalisation," the CWC resolution read. With unmatched foresight, he initiated a series of reforms that not only saved the nation from a balance-of-payments crisis but also opened the doors to global markets, it said.

"Through his policies of deregulation, privatization, and the encouragement of foreign investment, he laid the foundation for India's rapid economic growth. Under his stewardship, India emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, a testament to his brilliance and vision," CWC said.

As the 13th prime minister of India, Singh led the country with a sense of calm determination and exceptional wisdom and his tenure was marked by sustained economic growth, global recognition and social progress, it said.

"He (Singh) steered the nation through the challenges of the global financial crisis in 2008 with strategic measures that shielded India from its worst effects. His leadership saw remarkable initiatives like MGNREGA, Right to Education, the historic Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal, National Food Security Act, Land Acquisition Act, Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt

Relief Scheme, and the 93rd Constitutional Amendment that advanced social justice for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs through Article 15(5)," it said.

Singh also championed the Right to Information (RTI) Act to enhance transparency, the Forest Rights Act to empower tribal communities and contributed to achieving the highest GDP growth rate during his tenure, the CWC condolence resolution said.

"Dr Singh's dedication to inclusive growth, international diplomacy, and economic modernisation strengthened India's position in the global arena, while simultaneously focusing on the welfare of the common man. His legacy as a compassionate, reformist leader who prioritised stability and development will forever be etched in India's history," CWC said.

Beyond his contributions as a politician, Singh was a respected academician, whose career as an economist helped shape India's policies and direction, the resolution said. "His scholarly work as an economist and his service at institutions like the United Nations and the Reserve Bank of India laid the groundwork for many of the economic reforms he later championed as a policymaker," it said.

## Kapil Sibal says PM's visit to CJJ's resident shouldn't have been publicised

► Describing CJJ Chandrachud as 'a man of great personal integrity', Sibal urges media not to blow it out of proportion and speculate on personal motives

New Delhi, Dec 27 Amid raging controversy over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to CJJ DY Chandrachud's residence to attend Ganesh Puja, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Kapil Sibal on Thursday said such a private visit shouldn't have been publicised as it has given an opportunity to people to gossip about the Judiciary.

"It is not a public matter and, therefore, should be no videography, photographs which then should be allowed to be made public... especially in the context of people holding highest positions in the country because what happens is it sort of ignites a debate which is unnecessary and harmful to the institution," Sibal said, adding, he was "really surprised" to see the clip going viral online.

Describing CJJ Chandrachud as "a man of great personal integrity", Sibal urged the media not to blow it out of proportion and speculate on personal motives. The CJJ may not have known that the video of the function would be publicised, he added.

"No public functionary, whoever it may be, especially those who hold the highest post in India - the President, the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India - should publicise a private event. I am sure that maybe the Chief Justice may not have known that this was being publicised. The Prime Minister should never have shown his interest to go to such a private event, because the Prime Minister and those he must have consulted should, and must have



told them that this may send a wrong signal," Sibal said.

"Quite frankly, I was taken aback. I have been in the Supreme Court, in this institution for over 50 years. I have seen the greatest of judges, both past and the present. We are passionate about the institution, not passionate about any individual... I have great respect for the present Chief Justice. I can say without any hesitation that he is a man of great personal integrity," Sibal said.

Requesting the Prime Minister not to make a spectacle of these events, the SCBA President said, "It's not the first time that there is a Chief Justice from Maharashtra ... and in the context that there is going to be an election in Maharashtra, that's not an opportune time for the Prime Minister to have made a public spectacle of a private ceremony."

"Once you do this, what message do you send to those in the high courts and judiciary functioning at various levels in the country. They also look upon these things. Therefore, that sends a signal which is also unfortunate," Sibal said.

## As Siddaramaiah faces MUDA heat, 'loyalists' line up to replace him

New Delhi, Dec 27 Karnataka, one of the only three states under the Congress rule, has again been plunged into dramatic political turmoil, which it is known for. With Chief Minister Siddaramaiah facing sustained attacks from the BJP over allegations of irregularities in allotment of land by the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA), the state is again in the news for its characteristic high-voltage politics. A number of party leaders and ministers have been openly issuing bold statements, expressing the desire to step into the shoes of Siddaramaiah, if need be; these statements have been flagged by some state office-bearers to party president Mallikarjun Kharge. A group of Congress lead-

ers has urged Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, to warn those making such statements as they are "bringing down the morale of the cadre across the state". Instead of fighting the BJP and JD(S), such leaders are "demoralising cadres", who are "losing hope" in the government and the party, they said.

They asked the central leadership to "warn them against issuing such damaging statements in future in the interest of the Congress party and the state of Karnataka". "Those who took charge as ministers should focus on implementing announcements made in the Budget. They should listen to the grievances of the public and respond to their problems.



It is wrong to go around claiming to be aspirants for the CM's post," a party office-bearer was quoted as saying.

MUDA fallout

Facing intense criticism from the Opposition, which has been demanding his resignation, Siddaramaiah has dismissed the accusations in the MUDA allotments as "baseless". He has, in turn, accused the BJP of indulging in "vendetta politics" and trying to "destabilise" his government. The debate around his future intensified after Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot granted the sanction to prosecute him in the MUDA case.

## Putin proposes meeting with Modi at BRICS summit next month



New Delhi, Dec 27 In a boost to peace efforts in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval met Russian President Vladimir Putin today and conveyed details of the discussions between India and Ukraine on possible measures for resolving the conflict.

Doval met Putin on the sidelines of the Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) NSAs meeting at Saint Petersburg. During the meeting, Putin proposed a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi next month on the sidelines of the BRICS leaders' summit in Kazan, Russia.

Prime Minister Modi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had met in Kyiv on August 23, with Doval present among the inner core group of Modi's team during the meeting. The Indian NSA conveyed details of the talks in Kyiv, according to the Kremlin, which published a transcript and photos of the Putin-Doval meeting on its website.

The transcript quoted Doval as saying, "He (Modi) wanted me to come in person and tell you about the talks that took place (in Kyiv). It was a closed format, only the two leaders were present, and I was with Prime Minister (Modi); I witnessed this conversation."

Earlier this month, Putin suggested that China, India, and Brazil could act as mediators in potential peace talks

with Ukraine at an event in Vladivostok. On August 27, Modi spoke with Putin over the phone, emphasising the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and sincere engagement for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Kremlin stated that Putin blamed Ukraine and its "Western friends" for what he called 'destructive policies.'

Regarding Putin's proposal for a bilateral meeting with Modi, the Kremlin quoted Putin as saying, "We are waiting for Modi in Kazan. I propose holding a bilateral meeting on October 22 in Kazan to summarise our joint work on implementing the agreements reached during his visit to Moscow and outline prospects for the near future."

From the Russian side, Secretary of the Security Council Sergei Shoigu was present at the Doval-Putin meeting in St Petersburg. The Indian Embassy in Russia posted on X about a separate bilateral meeting between Doval and Shoigu, stating, "Both sides reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation and discussed important issues of mutual interest."

In New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "NSA Doval met President Putin. He has other engagements in Russia." Doval is in St Petersburg to participate in the BRICS NSAs meeting from September 10 to 12.

## India successfully flight tests surface-to-air missile

► The flight test was carried out from a land-based vertical launcher, aiming at a high-speed aerial target flying at a low altitude

Balasore (Odisha), Dec 27 The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy on Thursday successfully flight tested vertical launch short range surface-to-air missile from Chandipur, off Odisha coast, defence officials said here. The test was conducted around 3 pm from the integrated test range in Chandipur, they said.

The flight test was carried out from a land-based vertical launcher, aiming at a high-speed aerial target flying at a low altitude. The missile system successfully tracked and engaged the target, they said. The flight test aimed at validating multiple updated elements of the weapon system, the defence officials said.

The performance of the system was "meticulously tracked and confirmed by various instruments" such as telemetry deployed at ITR Chandipur. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the teams from DRDO and the Indian Navy

for their achievement, stating that this test reaffirms the reliability and effectiveness of the VL-SRSAM weapon system.

DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated the teams and said that the system will significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy and serve as a force multiplier.

Before the test, around 3,100 people residing within a radius of 2.5 kilometres of the launch pad were shifted to temporary shelters, a Balasore district official said.

The district administration also informed these people that they would need to be shifted again to temporary camps on Friday.

The people have been requested to start shifting from 5 am to temporary shelters and return to their respective villages after the administration gives them a green signal, the revenue officer. These are the measures taken in consultation with the ITR authority at Chandipur for safety, he added



# India collapse after Jaiswal's terrible run-out

►Stumps India 164 for 5 (Jaiswal 82, Kohli 36, Pant 6\*, Jadeja 4\*, Boland 2-24, Cummins 2-57) trail Australia 474 (Smith 140, Labuschagne 72, Konstas 60, Khawaja 57, Cummins 49, Bumrah 4-99, Jadeja 3-78, Akash Deep 2-94) by 310 runs

Melbourne, Dec 27 A familiar collapse unfolded after Yashasvi Jaiswal's inexplicable run-out as India stared down the barrel at 164/5 against a menacing Australia on day two of the fourth Test here on Friday. Jaiswal, who was quite fluent during his 118-ball stay that yielded 82 runs, was way short of his crease after a mix-up with Virat Kohli (36) while attempting a quick single, handing Australia the breakthrough that could prove decisive.

India are still 310 runs behind Australia's first innings score of 474 and would need another 111 runs to avoid a follow-on that should never have been a consideration on a placid batting track. It was 153 for 2 at one stage and in four overs, another three wickets fell with Gautam Gambhir's plan of sending a night watchman in Akash Deep turning out to be one of the many poor calls that the head coach has taken in this game. In a space of barely five minutes, cricket showed its fickle nature as Jaiswal pushed towards mid-on and called for a

quick single with an assured Kohli (36) at the other end. Kohli took a step and half before retreating. It was a day that started and ended badly for India.

They were insipid in the field during the morning as Australia ransacked 143 runs off 27 overs with Smith, who went to his 34th Test century to be within 51 of reaching 10,000 Test runs, and Cummins combining to add 112 for the seventh wicket.

Kohli, the day after being fined for his shoulder contact with Sam Konstas, wore a look of determination from the start of his innings. After a series of dismissals pushing at deliveries away from his body, Kohli left alone plenty as Australia's quicks tried to tempt him, although he did unfurl one pristine cover drive.

When Starc strayed on to the pads, Kohli flicked him powerfully through midwicket. Yet, ultimately, the channel outside off proved his downfall, and perhaps the effects of Jaiswal's run out as well. Smith brought up his century with a pristine cover drive off



Nitesh Kumar Reddy, and then took on the struggling Mohammed Siraj, who conceded more than five an over. It was as fluent as

Smith had looked for a long time, perhaps even back to the halcyon days of 2019. The century stand with Cummins was raised in



Steven Smith brought up his second straight century.

21 overs with the Australia captain showing the danger he can provide when playing positively. But, with up to three innings remaining against India, he now has a good chance to reaching one of cricket's rare summits before this series is done.

## Haaland penalty failure and Fernandes red card pile on woes for City and United in Premier League

Manchester, Dec 27 Erling Haaland's failure from the penalty spot and Bruno Fernandes' latest red card compounded the woes of Manchester City and Manchester United on another tough day for the two Premier League giants. There were no such problems Thursday for Liverpool, which rallied to a 3-1 win over Leicester in foggy conditions at Anfield and moved seven points clear atop the standings approaching the halfway point of the campaign.

City dropped more points in its improbably poor run of form by drawing 1-1 at home to Everton, with Haaland having a spot kick saved by England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford in the 53rd minute. The four-time defending champions have only won one of their last 13 games in all competitions and manager Pep Guardiola acknowledged he needs to spend in the January transfer window to reverse City's slide.

"The transfer window in the winter is not easy, but even the players know that we have to add some new players," said Guardiola, who has had to cope without a host of key players, including Ballon d'Or winner Rodri, through injury this season. While City is languishing in seventh place, United is even further adrift in 14th place after a 2-0 loss at lowly Wolverhampton.

United played almost the entire second half with 10 men after Fernandes collected his second yellow card in the 47th minute. It was the United captain's third sending-off of the season, though one was rescinded. After seeing second-place Chelsea also drop points after conceding in the fifth minute of stoppage time to lose 2-1 at home to Fulham, Liverpool recovered from conceding in the sixth minute against Leicester to



extend its lead. Cody Gakpo, Curtis Jones and Mohamed Salah scored Liverpool's goals. Nottingham Forest won 1-0 against Tottenham and is a big surprise in third place. City pain City secured only its fifth point in the league since the end of October but that will be scant consolation to Guardiola, whose beleaguered team squandered a winning position after going ahead through Bernardo Silva's deflected shot in the 14th. Iliman Ndiaye equalized in the 36th.

Haaland's penalty failure means the Norway international has only scored once in his last seven games. He headed in from the rebound after his spot kick, but the goal was ruled out for offside. Haaland, who last week admitted his form had not been good enough during a run that has seen City's season unravel, held his head in his hands after his failure to score from the spot. He still has 18 goals

in 25 appearances this season, but has not scored in a win for his club since the 1-0 victory against Southampton on Oct. 26. "We shoot a lot in the 18-yard box, but unfortunately we could not get the results that we wanted," Guardiola said.

City's damaging run has seen it slip down the standings in the league and crash out of the English League Cup. Guardiola's team is also in danger of missing out on qualifying in the Champions League — sitting just one point above the cut-off point with two games left. Goal from a corner Wolves' first goal against United came direct from a corner, with Brazil striker Matheus Cunha seeing his kick curl over the head of goalkeeper Andre Onana and into the far corner in the 58th minute. "I was shooting — we train to shoot," Cunha said. Such goals are rare, though United also conceded from a corner in its 4-3 loss to Tottenham

in the English League Cup this month. Son Heung-min scored on that occasion. Wolves added a second through Hwang Hee-chan in the ninth minute of stoppage time and have won two straight games since Vitor Pereira replaced Gary O'Neil as manager. Cunha has 10 goals this season.

Salah scores again Salah moved three goals clear of second-place Haaland in the race for the Golden Boot, his 16th of the campaign completing Liverpool's recovery after Gakpo curled in the equalizer in first-half stoppage time and Jones made it 2-1 in the 49th. Salah has scored at least one goal in nine of his last 10 league matches, and has 19 goals in all competitions this season. Liverpool is unbeaten in its last 20 matches in all competitions, the only defeat all season under new manager Arne Slot coming at home to Forest in the league in September.

## MCC honours Tendulkar with club membership

Melbourne, Dec 27 The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) on Friday said Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar has accepted its invitation to become an honorary member of the prestigious institution.

Founded in 1838, the MCC is one of the oldest sports clubs in Australia and is responsible for the management and development of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), one of the game's premier venues.

"An icon honoured. The MCC is pleased to announce that former Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar has accepted an Honorary Cricket Membership, acknowledging his outstanding contribution to the game," the MCC posted on 'X'.



The legendary cricketer currently holds the record of most runs at MCG with 449 from five Tests at an average of 44.90 and a strike-rate of 58.69 with a hundred and three fifties.

## World Championships Rapid and Blitz : Erigaisi looks to qualify for Candidates



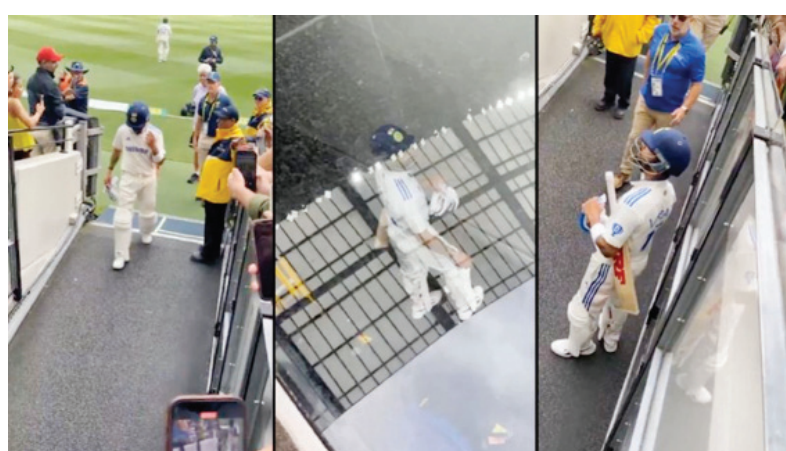
Melbourne, Dec 27 Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi will have to tackle obstacles to retain his chances of becoming the first Indian to enter the 2026 Candidates' tournament when he opens his campaign at the World Rapid and Blitz chess tournament here. Erigaisi, who currently trails Fabiano Caruana of the United States in the list of players slated to qualify from 2024, will have a tall order to win the World Rapid chess championship that

gets underway. It may be noted here that the last time an Indian won the crown here was in 2019 when Koneru Humpy triumphed and in 2017 Viswanathan Anand had defied all odds to win the title. World's top-rated Magnus Carlsen will be back to defend his title in the faster version of the game as the top seed in both rapid and blitz. For Erigaisi to eclipse Carlsen as well as Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura of the United States is easier said than done.

## Kohli jeered at MCG after dismissal; turns around for short standoff with fans

Melbourne, Dec 27 Star India batter Virat Kohli was booed and jeered while walking back to the dressing room after his dismissal in the Boxing Day Test against Australia here on Friday, prompting him to turn around for a brief stand-off with the fans. Kohli's conduct has become a hot topic in the ongoing fourth Test where he shoulder-charged 19-year-old debutant Sam Konstas on the opening day. It resulted in a fine and a demerit point. On Fri-

day, Kohli batted well for his 36 before being caught behind off Scott Boland. He was dismissed shortly after a mix-up with Yashasvi Jaiswal resulted in the opener running himself out at 82. As he entered the tunnel leading up to the dressing room, fans in that section of the MCG began booing him and also made some comments in a short clip that has since gone viral. Kohli strode back after hearing something that was not clearly audible in the 22-second video.



## Maheshwari, Anantjeet win skeet mixed team national title

New Delhi, Dec 27 The duo of Maheshwari Chauhan and Anantjeet Singh Naruka rounded off a good year by winning the skeet mixed team title for their home state Rajasthan in the National Shooting Championship here on Wednesday.

In the final played at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, the pair pulled off a tight 44-43 victory over Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Areeba Khan of Uttar Pradesh. Punjab's Ganemat Sekhon and Abhay Singh Sekhon won bronze.