

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka meet Sambhal victims' kin

New Delhi, Dec 11 (GNS) Congress MP and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra met the family members of the Sambhal victims at Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi's residence here on Tuesday evening. Last week, the Uttar Pradesh Police prevented Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Congress leaders from travelling to Sambhal to meet the family members of those killed in police firing there.



Cybercrime, climate change new threats to human rights: President Murmu

New Delhi, Dec 11 (GNS) President Droupadi Murmu highlighted cybercrime and climate change as emerging threats to human rights, noting that the growing significance of artificial intelligence (AI) means the culprit could be a non-human but intelligent agent. "As we progress into the future, we are confronted with emerging challenges. Cybercrime and climate change are new threats to human rights," President Murmu said while addressing the Human Rights Day event organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

"These challenges underscore the importance of fostering a safe, secure, and equitable digital environment that protects the rights and dignity of every individual. The Information Technology Act (IT Act) of 2000, the IT Rules, 2021, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, address the challenges of privacy in the digital age, balancing technological advancement with individual rights," she said.

"Artificial Intelligence has now entered our day-to-day life, solving many problems and creating several new ones too. The human rights discourse so far has been centred on the human agency, that is, the violator is assumed to be a human being, who would have a range of human emotions such as compassion and guilt. With AI, however, the culprit could be a non-human but an intelligent agent. I leave the matter for you to ponder upon," the President said. She said, "The case of climate change too forces us to review the human rights, thinking at the global level. Polluters of a different place and a different era are affecting the lives of people in another place and another period.



Photo of the day : Kareena, Ranbir, Alia, Neetu Kapoor pose with PM Modi

► Raj Kapoor's family meets PM Modi, invites him for centenary celebrations

New Delhi, Dec 11 (GNS) Ahead of a mega celebration to mark the centenary of legendary filmmaker Raj Kapoor, the entire Kapoor family descended in the capital on Wednesday to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and invite him to be part of the occasion. PM hosted the Kapoors—Neetu Kapoor, her son Ranbir, daughter-in-law Alia Bhatt and daughter Riddhima Kapoor, sisters Kareena and Karisma, and Saif Ali Khan -- at his 7 Lok Kalyan Marg residence here.

After the meeting, all the Kapoor family members separately shared their experience of meeting the PM on their Instagram accounts. Neetu Kapoor led with the thanks giving message where she posted, "We are deeply humbled and honoured to have been invited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate the extraordinary life and legacy of our grandfather Raj Kapoor. Thank you Modi ji for such a special afternoon. Your warmth, attention, and support in celebrating this milestone meant the world to us. As we celebrate 100 glorious years of Raj Kapoor's artistry, vision, contribution



to Indian cinema we honour the timeless impact of his legacy which continues to inspire us and generations to come." The Kapoor family will showcase Raj Kapoor's

iconic films and remember the impact he had on Indian cinema with the Raj Kapoor 100 Film Festival from December 13 to 15 across 40 cities and 135 cinemas.

India-Russia friendship higher than highest mountain: Rajnath in meeting with Putin

New Delhi, Dec 11 (GNS) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Tuesday and the two leaders noted that the India-Russia partnership holds immense potential and combined efforts will pave the way for "remarkable outcomes". According to the defence ministry, Singh, in the meeting, said, "Friendship between our countries is higher than the highest mountain and deeper than the deepest ocean." The defence minister conveyed to Putin that India has always stood by its

Russian friends and will continue to do so in future. Singh also conveyed warm greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to President Putin. "Rajnath Singh discussed various issues of bilateral defence cooperation," the defence ministry said in a statement. "Both leaders expressed that partnership between both countries holds immense potential and combined efforts will pave the way for remarkable outcomes," it said. Singh called on Putin after co-chairing the 21st session of the India-Russia Inter-Govern-



mental Commission on Military and Military Cooperation along with his Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov.

Maharashtra Cabinet expansion likely by Dec 14; Fadnavis to meet PM in Delhi

Mumbai, Dec 11 (GNS) The Cabinet expansion of the Devendra Fadnavis-led Maharashtra government is likely to take place by December 14, a senior BJP leader said on Wednesday.

Fadnavis left for Delhi on Wednesday, his office said, adding it was a courtesy visit, the first after becoming the chief minister, as he would be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. Talking to PTI, a BJP leader said the Shiv Sena would not get the home department and was also unlikely to be allocated the revenue portfolio. Talks are getting delayed be-

cause three parties (Mahayuti allies BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP) are involved, the politician said. "The cabinet expansion is likely by December 14.

The allocation of home department to Shiv Sena is ruled out. The Shiv Sena may get urban development, but is unlikely to get revenue," said the leader, who did not wish to be named.

The BJP is expected to keep 21 to 22 ministerial berths, including the CM's post, the leader said, adding that four to five ministerial berths may be kept vacant. Shiv Sena leader and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde was not travelling to the national capital, as per his office. On December 5, Fadna-



vis took oath as CM along with Shinde and NCP leader Ajit Pawar as his deputies, after the Mahayuti alliance won 230 of the 288 seats

in the state assembly polls. The Maharashtra Cabinet can have a maximum of 43 ministers, including the chief minister.

Industry should realign itself keeping political, strategic policies in mind: Sitharaman

New Delhi, Dec 11 (GNS) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the industry will have to realign its policies keeping in mind political and strategic decisions of the country.

Outlining the priorities of the economy for the next decade, Sitharaman also said attempts should be made to restore global calm and normalcy and noted that war or any form of disruption should be avoided.

Sitharaman said the economy has to "clawback" more to regain its strength after the Covid pan-

demic and any skirmish or war will impact the supply chains and food value chains. "The world is facing challenges which are reflected in the economy," the Minister said at the CII Global Economic Policy Forum here.

Talking about ways to tackle supply chain disruptions, Sitharaman said currently there is a need to blend economic priorities with politics and strategic needs.

"When we talk about restoring supply chains to frictionless supply chains, let's not forget it's not just economics, it's more

than that... We have to build in our own decision making not just in economic sense but also in a political and strategic sense.

"Supply chains will have to be restored but you would have to reset it, realign it, you will have to make sure that it is spread so much that no geopolitical or strategic risks will threaten our wellbeing," Sitharaman said.

She said lessons learnt in the last decade should tell us that the country will have to now realign, and industry will have to realign itself not just on economic principles. There is a need to



blend large, small and medium industries to achieve "scale and spread" and job creation, Sitharaman said. "Industry will have to look at ways to adapt with newer challenges," she said, adding scale cannot be the only criteria.

Delhi elections 2025 : Is AAP-Congress reunion on the cards?



New Delhi, Dec 11 (GNS) Until Tuesday there was complete clarity that Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress, former allies in Delhi, will go it alone in the 2025 state elections. But then an image came by, which triggered talks that the two might be rekindling their past affections.

The image was posted by Nationalist Congress Party-SP leader Supriya Sule. It showcased AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, his trusted parliamentary aide and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, his lawyer in the excise scam case and Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's right hand man Gurdeep Sappal sitting with NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar and other senior opposition leaders.

Supriya Sule captioned the image saying, "Joined Hon. Pawar Saheb in a pivotal meeting with @ArvindKejriwal Ji, Sanjay Singh Ji, and @NCPspeaks MPs, MLAs, and assembly candidates. Deliberated on critical issues impacting the nation and charted a strategic way forward." The

frame became the cause of fresh talks that perhaps Congress and AAP were reconsidering their Delhi poll strategy and may be in talks for a pre-poll alliance.

In 2013, when Kejriwal contested his first election in Delhi and fell short of majority, then the Congress led by ex-CM Sheila Dikshit backed him. It was an alliance the former Congress strategist and former media chief of the party Janardan Dwivedi had warned against.

The result was the Congress lost its base in Delhi where Sheila Dikshit had been a three-term CM. In the next two polls, Kejriwal returned with a thumping majority with Congress candidates even losing deposits.

That said, AAP this time said will contest the Delhi polls alone.

This after Congress and AAP talks for a pre-poll arrangement in the Haryana Assembly polls failed. Kejriwal again made it clear today that AAP was going alone in Delhi. But as they say in politics -- Nothing is final till it is final.

Do not punish Palestinian refugees for UNRWA dysfunction

Recently revealed abuses by top UNRWA management should not be politicised and used as an excuse to defund the agency.

Earlier this week, an internal ethics report about the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees was leaked to both Al Jazeera and the AFP news agency. The report details serious abuses of authority within the agency's senior management team, based on testimonials from former and current staff as well as a variety of other supporting documents. Most importantly it accuses Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl and a couple of others from his inner circle of having "engaged in misconduct, nepotism, [and] retaliation". The report also notes that the situation worsened in 2018, following a decision by the United States, UNRWA's largest donor, to cut its funding of the agency.

This allowed the senior management to justify "an extreme concentration of decision-making power in members of the 'clique' ... increased disregard for agency rules and established procedures, with exceptionalism becoming the norm; and continued excessive travel of the commissioner-general".

Many Palestinians were not particularly surprised by the content of the leaked report. Over the years, we have heard many anecdotes about the highly problematic culture of entitlement and abuse perpetuated by well-paid foreign staff at UNRWA and other UN agencies. Apart from nepotism and abuse of power, there are major issues with the distribution of limited financial resources assigned to these bodies. In times of austerity, for example, support programmes are usually cut before the salaries of senior and foreign staff.

High-level employees have also been known to engage in a variety of hypocritical actions, including renting houses stolen from Palestinian refugees in 1948 in Jerusalem (particularly in its popular neighbourhood Musrara) and allowing the UN duty free shop to sell products from illegal Israeli settlements, such as Israeli wine produced in the occupied Golan Heights. This type of misconduct, however, is not unique to UNRWA and has been exposed in other UN agencies and large humanitarian organisations. The revelations of the report are indeed reprehensible and those responsible should not go unpunished. But that does



not mean that UNRWA should be defunded or shut down.

UNRWA as a separate agency dedicated to Palestinian refugees has a special status and function. It was established in 1949 in order to provide relief services for Palestinians expelled from their homeland following the creation of the Israeli state. It now operates in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, and provides some 5 million Palestinians with primary and secondary education, health services as well as various camp infrastructure projects. It also employs about 30,000 people, mostly Palestinians.

UNRWA's mandate to provide for the refugees is repeatedly renewed pending the implementation of UN Resolution 194 which affirms the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homelands and to receive just compensation. For so many the agency is not only an important lifeline, but an official body which safeguards the Palestinian right of return from all the powers that want to do away with it. Indeed, since Donald Trump took office, efforts to force the Palestinian refugees to give up their right of return have accelerated. The at-

tacks on UNRWA have been incessant and this leaked report has added fuel to the fire. Former US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley was quick to comment on the report saying that this was "exactly why we [the US] stopped our funding", while Trump's envoy to the Middle East, Jason Greenblatt, tweeted the Al Jazeera article, claiming that "UNRWA's model is broken/unsustainable & based on an endless expanding # of beneficiaries."

Neither of these statements is true; the funding was cut to collectively punish the Palestinians and their leadership and the dysfunction of the UNRWA is no worse than any other UN agency. The US is taking its lead from Israel, who since its establishment has sought to eliminate the Palestinian refugees' right of return. At the beginning of this year, for example, the Israeli government announced that it would be closing down UNRWA-run schools in occupied East Jerusalem which serve over 3,000 Palestinian children in direct violation of the 1946 Refugee Convention. Nir Barkat, then Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, claimed that they were putting "an end to the lie of the Palestinian

refugee problem". Clearly a systematic culture of abuse is at work at the highest echelons of the UNRWA which needs to be confronted and addressed. However, this report cannot and should not lead to more funding cuts. Both the Netherlands and Switzerland have unfairly suspended aid to the agency in light of this report.

The millions of Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian employees, many of whom are struggling to provide for their families, should not be collectively punished for the offences and selfishness of UNRWA's top management, many of whom are foreigners. Holding accountable those responsible for the mismanagement of the agency is crucial, as many fear that the powerful people exposed in this report will simply be recycled within the UN system, only to continue their misconduct at another agency. Meanwhile, the focus should be shifted back to the seven million Palestinians who live in perpetual exile from their homeland, many facing secondary displacement. It is their wellbeing and their right to return that should be the top consideration of donors.

The plot of the latest escalation in the Gulf involving the United States, the United Kingdom and Iran seems increasingly repetitive like a badly written political thriller.

On May 12, shortly after the secondary US sanctions kicked in, forcing many countries to reconsider their dealings with Iran, four commercial vessels were attacked off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. A month later, two tankers were hit by explosions in the Gulf of Oman. The US and the UK accused Iran of perpetrating the attacks, Iran denied.

Then on June 20, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) shot down an American drone that - it alleged and the US denied - had entered the Iranian airspace. Less than a month later, Washington alleged and Tehran denied that it destroyed an Iranian drone approaching a US aircraft carrier in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, on July 4, British forces seized an Iranian tanker in Gibraltar, which London claimed and Tehran denied, was carrying oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions.

Two weeks later, the IRGC impounded a British-flagged tanker, which - Tehran claimed and London denied - had violated international maritime rules.

Notice the pattern - not only in terms of actions and reactions, but also in terms of allegations, counter-allegations and denials? In the age of Trump, everyone seems entitled to their own claims, alternative facts and expert opinions.

Following this pattern, all three - the US, the UK and Iran - have decried and denounced, dug in, doubled down, and cautioned about serious consequences, all the while insisting that war must be avoided. Iran has been putting its bets on US aversion to military escalation - and that may last as long as President Donald Trump thinks he is going to win the next election. The Islamic Republic has taken this opportunity to confront its historical archenemy, taking great pride and pleasure in eliciting sharp condemnations from Washington. But if badgering America is satisfying, bullying the "old colonial fox", Britain, is even more so. Iranians' hostility and distrust of Washington goes back decades, but their distrust and disgust with Britain go back even further. As former British Foreign Affairs Minister, Jack Straw, has pointed out in his latest book *The English Job*, British involvement in Iran has a centuries-long traumatic history. It has not only resulted in deep historical distrust of the British

Iran, the US, and the 'English job'



authorities, but even spawned a common phrase in Persian - "when things go wrong, it's always an English job", which Straw aptly uses for the title of his book.

In his own words, he summarises two centuries of British interference in Iranian affairs as follows: "We bribed and cajoled Iran to do our will throughout the 19th Century and early part of the 20th Century and, if that didn't work, we landed troops. We invaded Iran in the First World War, helping cause a catastrophic famine in the process. In the Second World War, with the Russians, we jointly occupied the country for five years from 1941-6. We deposed a Shah in 1941 and installed his weaker, more compliant son. "When the Iranian parliament waged an eight-year struggle to nationalise BP's huge refinery and vast network of oil wells, MI6 and the CIA responded by organising a successful coup against the elected prime minister, Mohammad Mossadegh, in August 1953. We helped prop up the Shah in the mid and late 1970s, even when it was obvious that he was losing popular support. Catastrophically so, in fact.

"But the worst was to come in 1980, when Iraq's newly appointed president, Saddam Hussein, decided, without any justification, to invade Iran. Millions on both sides lost their lives in the bloody war that followed." (The UK supported Iraq in the war that shaped many of today's Iranian leaders.) These are clear and categorical admissions by a former British official, who served as an MP for three decades, and home and foreign secretary for nine years. Unfortunately, Straw seems to explain and at times justify much of this as realpolitik; empires acting as empires do, whether in competition with the Russian empire to secure the western gateway to India and other Far East

colonies, or simply in pursuit of trade monopolies. He even justifies Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. Straw also spends much more time explaining, rather superficially and selectively, Shia Iranian political history (for example, drawing heavily on hateful and sectarian writings of Iranian-American academic Vali Nasr), instead of analysing the mindset and mechanisation of British foreign policy.

He also says close to nothing about - let alone apologise for - his and his government's support for the disastrous 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq which had far-reaching consequences for Iran - an invasion he claimed he could have stopped. And when it comes to the master of the "English job", Tony Blair, Straw mentions him as much as he does British ambassador Dominick Chilcott's puppy, Pumpkin - twice and in passing.

But to his credit, the former British official doesn't hesitate to come after the late premier Winston Churchill for his support and enthusiasm for the 1953 British-American-instigated coup in Iran. This, despite the fact that he is the ultimate national hero of newly elected Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Many have rushed in recent weeks to compare Johnson with Trump, including the US president himself.

Yes, Johnson does have a reputation for deception, populism and xenophobia, but he aspires to be compared with his historical idol. Reading Johnson's exhaustive book *The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History*, one could see how the new prime minister has tried to fashion his political career around the Churchill persona he admires so deeply. Johnson cherishes Churchill's vast intellect and experience, praises his fluid ideological leanings, ap-

preciates his love for his wife, job, and empire, and adores his decisive leadership during World War II and his defence of Europe and democracy, notwithstanding the damage inflicted on Iran and other nascent democracies. He also unabashedly justifies his enthusiasm for war and even defends his long warmongering record.

Johnson, who tried to prove that contrary to the Marxist theory of "historical materialism", leaders like Churchill were able to shape and change the course of history with their visionary leadership, hopes also to redefine modern British history and its relations with Europe. But as the Marxist cliché goes: history repeats itself the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.

Ironically, a few days after Iran impounded a British tanker, Johnson adopted a British initiative for a European maritime force to be deployed to the Gulf, and at the same time, established a "war cabinet" ready to use "all means necessary" to force the UK out of the EU by the end of October.

I hate to break it to premier Johnson, but 2019 is not 1939, the EU is not Nazi-dominated Europe, Britain is no longer an empire, Trump is no Roosevelt, and he is no Churchill. The last is meant as a compliment. Johnson does have a chance not to end his time in office in disaster. He could pull off a more peaceful and less imperialist "English job" by working closely with Europe to defuse the crisis in the Gulf, instead of dispatching more British naval destroyers - a move reminiscent of colonial times. He may also cooperate diplomatically with international and regional actors to contain and restrain Tehran's aggressive posturing. But all that will only be possible if he is first able to get a united Britain out of the Brexit mess he helped create.

The Pakistan game plan

OVERSHADOWING the seemingly positive interaction between India and Pakistan on the Kartarpur corridor and difficulties in working out the modalities for consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav are Pakistani attempts at shifting the global narrative from its involvement in terrorism in the Kashmir situation following PM Imran Khan's Washington visit last month. Pakistan obviously feels that President Trump's offers to mediate or arbitrate on J&K and his comments on the violence in the state have provided it an opportunity to turn the spotlight to India's internal policies and actions in the state as well as its refusal to engage it in a comprehensive bilateral dialogue.

An insight into Pakistan's perspective of how India has succeeded in managing the narrative and also indicative of what it believes it is up against was provided in foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's comment at a media briefing in Islamabad last week. Qureshi said, "We saw how after 9/11 India very cleverly and expertly started painting the right to self-determination movement with a hue of terrorism," adding that "how India with its new alignment [in the region] and market position was able to have the other countries look the other way."

There is no doubt that the attraction of the Indian market is a factor ensuring that many important countries do not want to tread on India's toes. Aware that India will never countenance mediation in J&K, international players either carefully avoid offering it or emphasise that their offer is contingent on both India and Pakistan accepting it. That, of course, is a no-brainer, for the pre-requisite of any mediation is the voluntary acceptance of the process by the parties concerned. Despite the somewhat dramatic nature of Trump's offer, the US establishment has emphasised that both countries must accept it. Thus, while Pakistan will routinely call for mediation, it will have to live with disappointment.

It is also significant that the US State Department was quick to stress — and this aspect has not received the attention that it deserved — that Kashmir is a bilateral issue. In its very first statement after Trump's July remarks, it noted, "While Kashmir is a bilateral issue for both parties to discuss, the Trump administration welcomes Pakistan and India sitting down and the United States ready to assist." The important word is 'bilateral'. It puts paid to consistent Pakistani attempts to portray it as an international issue to be resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions. No country will attempt to invoke the UN path on J&K, except in meaningless multilateral resolutions such as those of the OIC.

Pakistan will keep harping on these themes but its real focus to change the narrative will be to highlight the situation in the Valley in the context of human rights and India's refusal to engage in a serious dialogue to address outstanding issues. Its entire thrust will be to persuade the international community that India's stand of no talks as long as terrorism continues is only a ruse to continue its non-engagement approach. In addition, it will and, indeed, already is reverting to its old position of its inability to pay sufficient attention to its western border because of tensions along its eastern one. Since Imran Khan's visit it is gearing itself to go all out in these directions. At this stage, America desperately needs Pakistan to quickly get out of the Afghan mess. Hence, Pakistan will be indulged with soothing messages. India should simply shrug them off as it should any interlocutor who seeks to suggest how India should address the situation in the Valley. Also, it should dismiss those who may advise that an India-Pakistan dialogue should take place with reiterating its reasonable demand that Pakistan should end terrorism. Interestingly, this is a point that the US is also indirectly making.

What India has to actively promote is that Pakistan's sponsorship of terror on Indian territory shows it to be an irresponsible state; no nuclear state has ever acted so with any other nuclear state. In this context, it must also emphasise the doctrine of pre-emption spelt out immediately after the Balakot strike. That doctrine correctly asserts that escalation towards the possibility of armed conflict that can assume dangerous proportions begins not with a kinetic response to a terrorist strike but is embedded in the sponsorship of terror itself. And Pakistan's traditional warning against India's use of conventional armed force under a nuclear overhang is only a pretext for continuing to use terror as part of its security doctrine. In order to counter the international community's sentiment that it should end the use of terror, for the new Indian approach of using kinetic force makes it much too dangerous, Pakistan is in the process of shifting arguments.

Along with Education, excel in Sports

- ▶ Winning and losing are natural in sports
- ▶ Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka

Mulugu, 11 December : Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka emphasized the importance of balancing education with sports, stating that both play a crucial role in shaping well-rounded individuals. Speaking at the CM Cup sports competition held at the Social Welfare Gurukula School in Jakaram village, Mulugu Mandal, she highlighted that winning and losing are natural aspects of sports and urged players to focus on honing their skills regardless of outcomes. The

event, attended by District Collector Divakara T.S., Library Association Chairman Ravi Chander, and other officials, saw the minister actively engaging with the participants by playing kabaddi, encouraging them to embrace sportsmanship and physical fitness. Minister Seethakka stressed that rural students should uncover and develop their latent sports talents. She noted the tradition of organizing sports events before Sankranti and emphasized their role in fostering

health and discipline. Encouraging daily physical activity like walking and running, she advised against a sedentary lifestyle, likening it to "farmed chickens." She urged students to give equal importance to physical activity as they do to academics. The minister also outlined the selection process for players, with winners at the mandal level advancing to district-level competitions and district winners competing at the state level. Several officials, including Congress Mulugu District President Paidakula Ashok, District Sports Department Officer Tula Ravi, and MPDO Ramakrishna, participated in the event alongside students, public representatives, and the local community.



Medical officer should focus on the cleanliness of the environment

- ▶ Hanumakonda District Medical and Health Officer Dr. A. Appiah

Warangal, 11 December : The Hanumakonda District Medical and Health Officer, Dr. A. Appiah, visited the Rayaparthy Primary Health Centre (PHC) on Wednesday, where he conducted a review meeting with the hospital staff. During the meeting, Dr. Appiah highlighted that 7,507 individuals with hypertension and 3,560 with diabetes are currently receiving treatment and emphasized the need to continue screening efforts in the second phase. Dr. Appiah directed the Medical Officer to ensure cleanliness in the hospital premises by collaborating with the Panchayat Secretary to remove overgrown grass and unnecessary vegetation. He inspected various hospital facilities, including the laboratory, pharmacy, ward rooms, and operation theater, and urged the staff to provide timely



medical services to patients, ensuring discipline and efficiency. Medical Officer Dr. Swathi, Dr. Divya, MPHEO Raj Kumar, and other hospital staff participated in the program. Following the review, Dr. Appiah inspected

the immunization programs underway in Raiparthy, Nadikuda, and Kantathmakuru. He also reviewed the vaccination process for pregnant women and children, ensuring the program's smooth execution.

Bharat Gaurav tourist train for visiting shrines

Warangal, 11 December : Bharat Gaurav Yatra Train from IRCTC Secunderabad to Maha Kumbha Shrine Yatra via Kazipet in celebration of Maha Kumbh Mela on January 19. IRCTC Tourism Executive Pawan Singh said that it will start. Speaking to reporters in Kazipet on Wednesday, the train will leave Secunderabad at 12:00 noon and reach Kazipet railway station at 14:45.

- ▶ IRCTC Tourism Executive Pawan Singer
- ▶ Booking for Maha Kumbh Mela travel begins



The initial ticket price for this journey starts from Rs.22635 for Economy Sleeper Class Adults, Rs.21740 for Children, Standard 3AC for Adults Rs.31145, Rs.30095 for Children, Comfort 2AC for Adults Rs.38195 and Rs.36935 for Children. He said that only by booking the ticket, the food facilities will be available to the passengers in the train. The facilities include breakfast, lunch and dinner. For the safety of the passengers during the journey. He said there will be security. He said that this train will not be

available for ordinary passengers and only those who make reservation will be able to travel. This train includes visits to Varanasi, Kashi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya. This trip includes river bathing in Prayagraj and overnight stay. IRCTC Tourism Executive Pawan Singh informed that all residents of Kazipet Warangal Hanumak-

onda district should take advantage of this opportunity. Naresh Babu Orsu informed to contact the following numbers for more information. 9281030711, 919701360701, +91 92810 30749 Or visit irctctourism.com website. IRCTC members Kokkula Prashanth and others participated in this program.

A case of attempted murder should be registered against Mohan Babu

- ▶ He should be arrested immediately
- ▶ Greater Warangal Press Club mass protest by journalists

Warangal, 11 December : The incident involving actor Manchu Mohan Babu and the alleged attack on journalists has sparked significant outrage within the media community, as evidenced by the protest organized at the Greater Warangal Press Club.



Journalists and media representatives have condemned the attack, viewing it as an assault on the fourth pillar of democracy, and have demanded immediate action, including the arrest of Mohan Babu and the revocation of his Padma Shri award.

Protesters, wearing black badges and helmets, demonstrated solidarity and raised slogans condemning the incident and calling for justice. Journalist union leaders emphasized the need for the government to take

strict measures to prevent such incidents from recurring. The demands for strict legal action highlight the seriousness with which the media views threats to press freedom and

journalist safety. Authorities are being urged to investigate the incident thoroughly and ensure accountability to uphold democratic principles and safeguard media rights.

A case of treason should be filed against the thugs who burned the constitution

Sangareddy district. December 11 : Sopan Datta Rao Pahar of the Maratha Community in front of Ambedkar statue in Maha Rashtra Parbani. All India Samata Sainik Dal state vice-president Dalit Ratna Sayamolla Narsingh Raj said that it is a shame to be involved in such a crime. On Wednesday, a protest was held at Ambedkar's statue in Gundla Machunur village of Hatnura mandal. After that he said that the untouchability of caste discrimination still reigns in the villages after completing 77 years of independence. A great man who said that all Indians are equal regardless of caste, religion, caste and region. God who has given the right to vote to every

- ▶ All India Samata Sainik Dal State Vice President Dalit Ratna Sayamolla Narsingh Raj



18-year-old in this country, said that women and men are equal. He demanded that a case of treason SC ST atrocity should be immediately filed against the thugs who shot down the constitution

and punished severely. If not, the leaders of the Dalit communities have warned that they will gather the Dalit communities and protest across the state. D. Krishna. Nagesh. Others participated.

AIMIM Yakutpura MLA Janab Jaffar Hussain Meraj Sahab recently inspected ongoing development works worth Rs. 35 lakhs in Chowni Division under Yakutpura Constituency. MLA Sahab also took the opportunity to meet with locals, listening to their concerns and understanding their civil grievances. Mr. Shahed (Chowni Corporator), #AIMIM Primary Unit members and others can also be seen...



MOU signed for construction of veterinary college buildings in Kodangal

Hyderabad, Dec.11 (NSS): An agreement has been signed between the P.V. Narasimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University and the Roads and Buildings department for the construction of the new veterinary college buildings in Kodangal. The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was finalised at the office of the Special Chief Secretary of the Animal Husbandry department in the Secretariat on Wednesday. The new

veterinary college campus will include the main building, veterinary hospital, girls and boys hostels and other facilities. The buildings will be constructed over a 38-acre area with an estimated cost of Rs.171 crore, as informed by Sabyasachi Ghosh, Special Chief Secretary of the Animal Husbandry department and Vice-Chancellor of the University. Sabyasachi Ghosh further mentioned that the establishment of

the veterinary college will contribute to livestock development in the Kodangal region, benefiting the economic growth of farmers and overall regional development. The event was attended by Professor Sharath Chandra, Registrar of the University, Professor Chinni Preetam, Estate Officer, B. Rajeshwar Reddy, Chief Engineer (Buildings) of the Roads and Buildings department and other officials.

Puste Mattelu presented for the wedding of a poor girl child

Peddapalli / Ramagiri, Dec 11: Chandrasekhara Narendra of Kalvacharla village of Ramagiri Mandal passed away untimely on Wednesday. Rendla Sharada - Kumaraswamy, who came to know about the matter, immediately left and visited the family of the deceased and handed over a financial assistance of Rs.5000/- rupees for his last rites. Talking to their family members, his family has given their R.S.K. Apannahastham. He said that he will provide all kinds of support to his children for their education.



Jobs in Supreme court of India

Hyderabad, Dec.11 (NSS): Supreme Court of India has issued a notification calling applications from candidates for filling up of 107 job vacancies. Job vacancies: court master (Short hand)(group A gazetted): 31;

senior personal assistant (group-B):33; Personal assistant (group-B):43. Eligibility: pass in Law degree of a recognised university, English shorthand 120 speed and computer typing 40 speed for court master.

ICC Test rankings : Bumrah maintains No.1 spot among bowlers

Dubai, Dec 11 (GNS) Bumrah maintained his number one position at the top of the Test bowlers' rankings with 890 rating points. The Indian has some tough competition from South Africa quick Kagiso Rabada (856) and Australian pace bowler Josh Hazlewood (851).

Jadeja too maintained his top spot on the Test rankings for all-rounders with 415 rating points, followed distantly by Bangladesh skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz (285), who gained two places to move to second following his side's series against the West Indies. Charismatic England batter Joe Root's

reign at the top of the ICC Test batting rankings ended on Wednesday with compatriot Harry Brook taking the number one spot, while India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and spinner Ravindra Jadeja held on to their top positions in the bowlers' and all-rounders' charts respectively in the longest format.

Brook, 25, overtook Root following his eighth Test century against New Zealand in Wellington last week, with the right-handed player now enjoying a slender one-point advantage over his more experienced teammate at the top of the latest ICC rankings.



Shami fires with bat and ball to help Bengal into quarters

► Bengal 159 for 9 (Karan 33, Shami 32*, Pramanik 30, Jagjit 4-21, Bawa 2-27) beat Chandigarh 156 for 6 (Bawa 32, Yadav 27, Ghosh 4-30, Seth 2-35) by 3 runs

New Delhi, Dec 11 (GNS) Bengal are through to the quarter-finals of the 2024-25 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) after prevailing by three runs in a thriller against Chandigarh at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday afternoon.

The hero was seamer Sayan Ghosh, who picked up 4 for 30 to remove the cream of Chandigarh's batting in their pursuit of 157. The target was set up largely by Karan Lal, who top scored with 33, and Writtick Chatterjee, who made a 12-ball 28.

The unlikely batting hero, though, was Mohammed Shami, who walloped an unbeaten 17-ball 32 from No. 10, his highest score in T20s, to give them momentum going into the break. Shami, who had picked up a wicket with his second delivery in his first spell that finished with figures of 3-0-13-1, conceded 12 in his final over upon his return at the death and



the equation was brought down to eight off the last six. Shami has now featured in each of Bengal's eight matches, and has bowled his full quota of overs in every game, while picking up nine wickets at an economy of 7.49. As of Monday, it's understood Shami will remain with the Bengal squad for the remainder of their campaign.

Champions League : Real Madrid revives title defence with win against Atalanta

Madrid, Dec 11 (GNS) Real Madrid's big stars turned on the style to revive the Spanish giant's faltering Champions League title defence. Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham scored in a thrilling 3-2 win against Italian league leader Atalanta. However, Madrid had to ride its luck as Mateo Retegui missed a golden chance to level the game in stoppage time, firing over from in front of goal.

The victory was only Madrid's third in the revamped league phase and leaves the 15-time champion in the unseeded playoff positions in 18th place. Coach Carlo Ancelotti emphasised the importance of the win, noting the tough nature of Champions League matches. "We suffered and competed. In the Champions League, you have to suffer," he said.

Pressure had been mounting on Madrid after three losses in their opening five games. Questions were also raised about Mbappé following his uncertain start since his move. However, Mbappé answered with a brilliant 10th-minute strike to put Madrid 1-0 up, marking his 50th Champions League goal at just 25 years old. He became the second-youngest player to reach this milestone,



behind Lionel Messi. Mbappé was substituted off before halftime with a potential injury, and Atalanta's Charles De Ketelaere equalised from the penalty spot. However, Madrid regained control

with two goals in three minutes in the second half from Vinicius Junior and Bellingham. Despite Ademola Lookman's late goal for Atalanta, Madrid held on to the win the game 3-2.

Hope I can throw a few more punches at Bumrah at Gabba : Nathan McSweeney

Brisbane, Dec 11 (GNS) Ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah has dismissed Nathan McSweeney three times across four innings, but the Australian opener is hoping to "throw a few more punches" at his Indian nemesis in the third Test, beginning here on Saturday.

The 25-year-old had a disappointing start to his international career after being ousted by Bumrah for 10 and zero in the first Test at Perth. McSweeney, however, made 39 and 10 not out in Adelaide as the hosts made a comeback into the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy with an emphatic series-levelling 10-wicket victory in the pink-ball Test. "To get a bowler like Jasprit early in my career, it's not going to get much tougher than that



and I take some confidence from getting through a spell in Adelaide. The more I face, the more comfortable I'll get against him," he said. "Facing him for the first time - he's quite a unique bowler. He's obviously world-class and a

bit different to most bowlers I've faced. [It's about adapting to his angle and where he delivers on the crease," said McSweeney, who was one of the Australian batters to train at the National Cricket Centre on Wednesday.

West Ham stars dedicate vital win to Antonio after horror car crash

► West Ham United's English striker #20 Jarrod Bowen (C) fights for the ball with Wolverhampton Wanderers' Gabonese midfielder #05 Mario Lemina (L) and Wolverhampton Wanderers' Brazilian striker #10 Matheus Cunha (R) during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Wolverhampton Wanderers

London, Dec 11 (GNS) West Ham stars Jarrod Bowen and Tomas Soucek dedicated Monday's vital 2-1 win over Wolves to Michael Antonio as their team-mate recovers from a horrific car crash. Jamaica striker Antonio needed surgery on a lower limb fracture after being cut out of his Ferrari following the terrifying accident in Epping. West Ham boss Julen Lopetegui admitted it was a "miracle" the 34-year-old had survived the crash.

Hammers fans held a minute's applause for Antonio in the ninth minute to match his shirt number. And on a night when Antonio was never far from West Ham's thoughts, Bowen celebrated his superb 72nd minute winner by holding aloft his team-mate's jersey. "That meant everything. To share that moment, he's not here with us but I'm sure he was watching and the fans, you heard them. An emotional couple of days," Bowen said.

Soucek had put West Ham ahead before Matt Doherty's equaliser and the Czech midfielder admitted it was an emotional moment. "The goal was for him. I dedicated it to him. I said before the game I really wanted to score even more today," Soucek said. "He's been here since I came here. He is really my favourite. I said it would be tough for me to play without him. "I'm happy



that he is doing fine. He is a massive player and he is in my heart. It was really tough for us. "I was so scared what was going to happen. It was a really tough week for him, his family and us." Antonio, who had appeared in all of West Ham's Premier League games this term prior to the crash, is being monitored in hospital after his operation. Soucek revealed his friend

inspired West Ham's win over their relegation rivals by speaking to the players before the clash at the London Stadium. "We had a video call with him, the whole team, before the game. He smiled to us and gave us all the best. I can't wait to visit him," he said. "He is a really lovely guy and also funny. He even made a few jokes before the game and he wished us all the best."

Sutherland 110, Gardner five-for make it 3-0 for Australia

► Australia 298 for 6 (Sutherland 110, McGrath 56*, Gardner 50, Reddy 4-26) beat India 215 (Mandhana 105, Deol 39, Gardner 5-30, Schutt 2-26) by 83 runs

W.A.C.A, Dec 11 (GNS) All-round brilliance from Annabel Sutherland and Ashleigh Gardner helped Australia overcome heroic performances from Arundhati Reddy and Smriti Mandhana as they swept the ODI series against India in fierce heat at the WACA, in Perth.

After being sent in, Sutherland lifted Australia out of trouble with 110 off 95 balls as the home team reached a formidable 298 for 6. Having struggled with the bat across the opening two matches in Brisbane, India had an uphill task in their bid to pull off the second-highest chase in women's ODI history.

Mandhana gave India hope with a classy 105 off 109 balls but her dismissal in the 36th over effectively ended their chances of a consolation victory. India lost their last seven wickets for 26 runs to be



bowled out for 215 in the 46th over. Gardner backed up her half-century to run through India's middle-lower order and she finished with career-best ODI figures of 5 for 30. India's

chase started on the wrong note when Richa Ghosh, promoted to open for the second straight game, was bowled for 2 by a delivery that kept low from Megan Schutt.