

AAP seeks Congress expulsion from INDIA bloc, says it's 'working with BJP'

New Delhi, Dec 26 (GNS) In a major development, the Aam Aadmi Party is planning to talk with all INDIA bloc partners to demand expulsion of the Congress from the alliance. AAP sources said the party is upset with the Congress leaders' statements on their party and the demand for an FIR against party convener Arvind Kejriwal.

The Youth Congress had a day ago filed a complaint against Kejriwal, accusing him of misleading voters and engaging in fraudulent activities. The complaint, which was lodged at the Parliament Street police station, called for an FIR against Kejriwal following his poll promises which were nul-



lified by two Delhi government departments. "We will talk to INDIA bloc partners and seek the Congress's expulsion. The Congress is working with the BJP," a party leader alleged. Meanwhile, Kejriwal accused the BJP of arm-twisting government officials and pressing them to issue notices.

NDA leaders go into huddle amid Congress offensive

New Delhi, Dec 26 (GNS) Leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Wednesday met at the residence of BJP president JP Nadda where they discussed a range of issues, including ways to counter the Congress' ongoing attack over Home Minister Amit Shah's recent remarks on BR Ambedkar. Party sources said Shah, while addressing some concerns over the allegations levelled by the Congress, stated that the latter "edited and misrepresented his statements to create a political narrative with the help of some toolkit". Besides Nadda and Shah, TDP chief and Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U) leader and minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Apna Dal (S) president and minister Anupriya Patel and JD(S) leader and minister HD Kumaraswamy



were present. "All leaders at the meeting deliberated upon countering such fake narratives and decided to instead focus on successful implementation of government policies," the sources said. A major controversy erupted

last week over Shah's remarks during a parliamentary debate on the Constitution, following which the Congress opened an all-out attack on the BJP, repeatedly demanding Home Minister's resignation.

Constitution faces its gravest threat; Shah must resign, apologise for Ambedkar 'denigration': Congress

New Delhi, Dec 26 (GNS) Alleging that the Constitution faces its "gravest threat yet", the Congress on Thursday said Home Minister Amit Shah's "denigration" of B R Ambedkar in Parliament is the latest instance of the RSS-BJP's decades-long project to undermine the Constitution. In its political resolution, the Congress Working Committee reiterated the demand for the Home Minister's resignation as well as an apology to the nation from him. Two resolutions were passed at the 'Nava Satyagraha Baithak' here attended by top Congress leaders, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, among others. "Unfortunately, as we enter the 75th year of our Republic in exactly a month's time, the Constitution faces its gravest threat yet. Jawaharlal Nehru had said that 'there is no doubt that no one took



greater care and trouble over Constitution making than Dr. Ambedkar," the resolution read. "The Union Home Minister's denigration of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in Parliament is the latest instance of the RSS-BJP's decades-long project to undermine the Constitution.

The CWC reiterates the demand for the Union Home Minister's resignation as well as for an apology to the nation from him," it said. The CWC said it is distressed by the "ongoing degradation" of democracy. "Institutions such as the judiciary, the Election Com-

mission, and the media have been politicised through executive pressure. Parliament has been gutted, as shown by the unprecedented obstruction of its proceedings by the treasury benches in the recently-concluded Winter Session of 2024," the Congress said.

Connection Between Healthy Diet and Fertility

Dr. Shyjus P A healthy, balanced diet is a cornerstone of good health, but its role in boosting fertility is often underestimated. For both men and women, nutrient-rich foods can significantly enhance reproductive health by improving egg and sperm quality, balancing hormones, and supporting overall bodily functions crucial for conception.

Dr. Shyjus P, an expert at Birla Fertility & IVF in Kannur, stresses the importance of dietary choices in fertility. "A well-balanced diet that includes essential nutrients is critical for reproductive health. Foods rich in antioxidants, healthy fats, and vitamins can positively influence both egg and sperm quality, paving the way for successful conception," he explains.

Key components of a fertility-enhancing diet include antioxidants found in fruits and vegetables, omega-3 fatty acids from sources like fish and nuts, and lean proteins that provide the building blocks for hormones and tissues. Whole grains, loaded with fiber and essential nutrients, also contribute to a healthy reproductive system by maintaining stable blood sugar levels. On the flip side, processed

foods and trans fats can negatively impact fertility. Such dietary choices often lead to inflammation and hormonal imbalances, hindering the reproductive process.

Dr. Shyjus P highlights this concern, stating, "Diets high in processed foods and unhealthy fats can disrupt hormonal balance, which is a critical factor in both ovulation and sperm production. Eliminating these from your daily intake can make a significant difference."

Maintaining a healthy weight is another vital aspect of fertility. Both underweight and overweight individuals face challenges related to hormonal imbalances and impaired ovulation or sperm production.

Dr. Shyjus P emphasizes that small, positive changes in diet and lifestyle can have lasting effects. "By adopting a nutrient-dense diet and staying active, individuals can improve their fertility outcomes and overall health. It's about taking control of your journey to parenthood, one plate at a time," he adds.

The path to improved fertility begins with mindful eating. With the right dietary choices, individuals can enhance their chances of conception while also improving their general well-being.

China to build world's largest dam over Brahmaputra river close to Indian border

Beijing, Dec 26 (GNS) China has approved the construction of the world's largest dam, stated to be the planet's biggest infra project costing USD 137 billion, on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet close to the Indian border, raising concerns in riparian states — India and Bangladesh.

The Chinese government has approved the construction of a hydropower project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, the Tibetan name for the Brahmaputra, according to an official statement quoted by state-run Xinhua news agency on Wednesday. The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra river makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh.

The total investment in the dam could exceed one trillion yuan (USD 137 billion), which would dwarf any other single infrastructure project on the planet including China's own Three Gorges Dam, regarded as the largest in the world, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday. China has already operationalised the USD 1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet in 2015.

The Brahmaputra dam was part of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 adopted by Plenum, a key policy body of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2020.



Concerns arose in India as the dam besides empowering China to control the water flow, the size and scale of it could also enable Beijing to release large amounts of water flooding border areas in times of hostilities. India too is building a dam over Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh. India and China established the Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) in 2006 to discuss various issues related to trans-border rivers under which China provides India with hydrological information on the Brahmaputra river and Sutlej river during the flood seasons.

Data sharing of trans-border rivers figured in the talks between India, China Special Representatives (SRs) for border question, NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, held here on December 18. The SRs "provided positive directions for cross-border cooperation and exchanges" including data sharing on trans-border rivers, a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The Brahmaputra Dam presents enormous engineering challenges as the project site is located along a tectonic plate boundary where earthquakes occur.

The Tibetan plateau, regarded as the roof of the world, frequently experiences earthquakes as it is located over the tectonic plates. The official statement on Wednesday sought to allay concerns about earthquakes, saying that the hydropower project is safe and prioritises ecological protection. Through extensive geological explorations and technical advancements, a solid foundation has been laid for the science-based, secure, and high-quality development of the project, it said.

The Brahmaputra flows across the Tibetan Plateau, carving out the deepest canyon on Earth and covering a staggering vertical difference of 25,154 feet before reaching India, the Post report said. The dam will be built in one of the rainiest parts of mainland China bringing bountiful flows of water.

Bollywood actress Bhagyashree awarded the best achievers from across India

Delhi: The prestigious Kaushalya Award Season 2, organized by DK Pageant, was held with grandeur at the hotel Radisson Blu, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi. Adding a star-studded touch to the occasion, renowned Bollywood actress Bhagyashree graced the event as the celebrity guest. Known for her timeless charm and inspiring journey, she awarded the best achievers from across India, making their moment of recognition even more special. Her presence elevated the ceremony, as she applauded the winners for their dedication and hard work. Kaushalya Awardee Winner : Vanita Dheda- Best model of the year 2024-Gujarat, Anamika Sahu- Best international makeup artist of the year 2024- Chhattisgarh, Maya Singh- Best numerologist of the year 2024-New Delhi, Sonal Gosalia- Best writer of the year 2024- Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Vandita- Most influential women of the year 2024 New Delhi, Rinku Makeover- Best makeup artist of the year 2024- Siwan Bihar, Radha Gupta Most influential women of the year 2024- Agra UP, Laxmi Kitchen Best



actress of the year 2024 Odisha, Rajni Best businesswoman of the year 2024 New Delhi, Neetu Best makeup artist of the year 2024 New Delhi, Sonia Bhatnagar Best makeup artist of the year 2024 Gwalior MP, Kranti Santosh- Best Child Artist of the year 2024 Mumbai Maharashtra, Kallpana Singh Best Makeup Artist of the year 2024 Palamu Jharkhand,

Rekha Gupta Best Makeup artist of the year 2024 Siwan Bihar, Rekha Kushwaha Best makeup artist of the year 2024 Siwan Bihar, Suganti Singh Best Makeup Artist of the year 2024 Siwan Bihar, Najmee Syed Most influential women of the year 2024 Gwalior MP, Dr Nareish Sati Best Doctor of the year 2024 Uttarakhand.

Be Alert: Happy New year link fraud!!

Hyderabad, Dec.26 (NSS): Here is an alert about a new fraud related to Happy New year. Dr Dhananjay Deshpande, Global cyber crime national award winner and Head of the department of cyber awareness foundation of Maharashtra, has given the following alert. In the next few days, cyber cheats can send you a Happy New year greetings to your WhatsApp which may contain a link to a new APK file type malware. It

will be mentioned that "you can send Happy New year greeting cards to your friends in your name. If you want, click on the accompanying link to get card". If such a link is sent to you, don't click on the link at all. Your phone will be hacked by cyber criminals and access will go to them. What happens next is your mobile data, your gallery, your contact numbers are stolen, your bank account details are stolen.

China's retail nationalism

The long-running self-destructive streak in the People's Republic of China seems to be manifesting itself again these days. This time in the conduct of its foreign policy. The latest is the attack on the Swedish retail giant H&M's China business over the issue of a 2020 statement made by the company that its products do not use cotton grown in Xinjiang, because of forced labour allegations there.

The action, in response to the European Union sanctions on Chinese individuals on account of rights violations in Xinjiang last week, could upend the promise of better China-EU ties that seemed to accompany the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) in December 2020.

Alarming for China, this was a coordinated action where the US, the UK and Canada also imposed sanctions. But where they had targeted some lower-level Xinjiang officials, the Chinese upped the ante and imposed its own counter-sanctions on 10 EU individuals, including four Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), four entities, including the European Council's Political and Security Committee, and the well-known think tank MERICS. Not only were the officials placed under sanctions, but also their family members.

As for the US and Canada, the Chinese targeted the bipartisan US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Chair Gayle Manchin and Vice-Chair Tony Perkins, Canadian MP Michael Choong and the rights subcommittee of the Canadian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. Manchin is the wife of a US Senator and the PRC officials appear to be waving a red rag at the US Congress where religious freedom is a big issue. This is not the first time China has used its market power to punish a foreign company.

Some years ago, it attacked Lotte, a major South Korean company, because the Korean government decided to give a golf course it owned for the setting up of a US-built THAAD anti-missile defence system. The crippling sanctions were lifted after two years, and since then, South Korea has taken care not to get on the wrong side of Beijing.

More recently, China has targeted Australian goods, including coal, wine and barley, for trade reprisals because of the call by PM Scott Morrison's government for independent investigations into the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.

H&M has an old relationship with China, where it sources its products for the global market. It is also a big market for H&M which has 400 retail stores in the country. In the line of target are other majors like Nike, Adidas, Uniqlo, Gap, and Burberry, who have made similar statements, though for the present, H&M seems to be the main target.

Chinese celebrities have renounced their promotion contracts with H&M and the company has been erased from mapping, ride hailing and e-commerce apps in China. Reports say that the campaign against Nike and Adidas is being kept on hold perhaps because of the advertising these companies are likely to provide for the Winter Olympics scheduled to be held in China next year. The alarming message coming out of Beijing for western companies who have long enjoyed a profitable run in China is that if you are on the wrong side of issues like Xinjiang, you can forget doing business in China.

What would be of interest is the way forward for the EU to ratify the CAI that it had signed with China over American objections. European governments may find it difficult to proceed with the process as long as four of their members are under Chinese sanctions. But the Chinese are hanging tough on this, with foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying declaring that the CAI 'is not a gift bestowed upon one side by the other side, but is mutually beneficial and reciprocal'.

The goings-on in China will also have a chilling effect on efforts of American firms to have the Biden administration lift the restrictions placed by the Trump administration on exports to China. Biden's arrival has changed the tone of the US-EU relations.

Clear the air over Netaji Bose's ashes

Buried in newspapers of August 22, 2019, was a report of Anita Bose Pfaff, daughter of Subhas Chandra Bose, wanting to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek a DNA test of the ashes interred in Renkoji Temple, Japan, that the Japanese say are of Netaji, since she believes he died in a plane crash in August 1945.

Two factors had catapulted India as Japan's most favoured Asian country since World War II: close links with Netaji and Radhabind Pal, Indian judge on the International Military Tribunal for Far East (IMTFE) set up by the powers to try Japanese leaders for 'war crimes', who sided with Japan. In recognition, Japan offered five prime locations in Tokyo to move the Indian Embassy from its nondescript premises. Netaji, heading the INA, sought help from Japan to oust the British from India. Major (later, Lt Gen) Iwaichi Fujiwara, a Japanese military intelligence officer, was liaison officer to Netaji during his visits to Japan commencing June 1943 when he was immediately granted audience by Prime Minister Tojo.

Fujiwara's son-in-law, General Tomizawa, later commanded the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (1995-97). Japan held Netaji in high esteem. In April 1944, the INA together with Japanese soldiers launched attacks against Allied bases across the Indo-Burmese border. Major Gen Shah Nawaz Khan describes resulting scenes of jubilation in his book *My Memories of INA and Netaji*, authored in 1946. On August 18, 1945, Bose boarded a plane in Vietnam for Taiwan which was under Japanese occupation. But the plane crashed because of an engine problem. Netaji suffered serious burns, died in the evening, was cremated in Taiwan and his ashes later interred in Renkoji Temple, an hour-and-a-half drive from Tokyo. India acknowledges the plane crash but numerous stories abound of Netaji surviving, escaping to Russia, imprisoned in Siberia,

Congress-KGB link, living as a recluse in India as 'Mauni Baba'. No one asks why Bose would 'escape' from Japan when he could continue living like AM Nair, who fled arrest by the British at age 18, spending his balance life in Japan, and Ras Behari Bose, who after failing to assassinate Viceroy Lord Hardinge escaped to Tokyo and lived on in Japan.

If Bose was the Mauni Baba living in India, why would he not make contact with any family member? Renkoji Temple has Netaji's bust — an honour reserved for high priests. President Rajendra Prasad and Prime Ministers Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee have visited Renkoji during their visits to Japan. Sugata Bose, grand-nephew of Netaji, disagrees with the findings of the 1999 Mukherjee Commission that failed to establish what happened to Netaji after the plane crash.

Sugata Bose, who authored the book *His Majesty's Opponent*, told the media, "All the historical evidence, including the testimony of six of the seven survivors of the air crash, of medical personnel and the interpreter brought to the hospital, suggest that (Subhas Chandra Bose) died tragically as a result of the air crash on August 18, 1945." The head monk of Renkoji Temple, Kyozen Mochizuki, says, "Bose died over 60 years ago and people are still saying his ashes here are fake. It's unbelievable."

On November 18, 2018, Hiroshi Hirabayashi, president of Japan India Association (JIA), Tokyo, and Japan's former Ambassador to India (1998-2000), delivering a lecture on 'India, the last superpower' at the Ahmedabad Management Association, questioned why the Indian governments had failed to take the ashes of the 'hero' (Netaji) back home. He also lamented, "Every year in August on the day of his passing away in Taiwan, we hold a memorial praying for peace of Netaji's soul. But frankly speaking, since sometime, there is no representative from the Indian



Embassy. There are no major visitors from India (to Renkoji). Why?" Hirabayashi's question came concurrent to Indian political parties, in the heat of elections, accusing each other for having let down the nation, including ignoring Netaji. The bane of India is that every action to be taken is weighed against increasing vote-banks. Even for honouring sentiments and sacrifices, the timing must be right to extract maximum political advantage; otherwise, they are no-go or must wait. In 1979, General Iwaichi Fujiwara urged India's Congress government to take care of Netaji's ashes in Renkoji.

Prime Minister Moraji Desai assured him he would take care of the issue in 'one or two years'. With approaching elections, the BJP government brought Netaji into prominence last year: Modi unfurled the Tricolour at Netaji Memorial in Port Blair on December 30, 2018, commemorating the first flag-hoisting by Netaji; Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island were renamed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep, respectively. The Netaji Bose museum was opened in Red Fort, New Delhi. Speaking at the commemoration of 75th anniversary

of the Azad Hind government, Modi said on October 21, 2018, "Today I can say this with certainty that if our nation was guided by the likes of Subhas Bose and Sardar Patel, if it was not looked at from a foreign perspective, then the situation of the country would be much different... country's overall development was an important aspect of Bose's vision and the NDA government is going in the direction as envisioned by Bose."

Many question that if Bose is described as the reason, over Gandhi, why the British fled India, shouldn't his statue be next to Sardar Patel's Statue of Unity? But that notwithstanding, why have all Indian governments shied away from bringing Netaji's ashes to India or asked for a DNA test if they believed the Japanese are lying? Various trusts running in Netaji's name, too, have never raised such a demand despite the issue of the ashes having come up periodically over the years. Will the Modi government act now for the DNA test, rectifying the fault of the previous governments, act just before the next elections, or not at all? Whatever the government decides, India stands shamed. Making amends without delay is in order.

Is liberal democracy under threat?

Every century has its own defining moment. For the nineteenth century, it was the juxtaposition of imperialism with the industrial revolution while for the twentieth century it was the World Wars and the advent of technology. The world in the twenty-first century seems to be at a similar crossroads. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, liberal democracies seemed to be the best form of societal organisation. The trust on the political order was so high that Francis Fukuyama claimed that it is the end of mankind's ideological evolution and the future belongs to liberal democracies.

However, the set political order is being increasingly challenged as people are losing their trust on liberal aspects of democratic institutions across the world. Electoral democracies hold free and fair multiparty elections; however, they fall short of protecting individual liberties and adhering to rule of law. The latter is a basic feature of liberal democracies that seems to be creating challenges for the citizens. The Brexit vote to leave the European Union, the election of Donald Trump in the United States, the electoral success of Italy's Five Star Movement and the rise of other populist leaders across the world

all point to a loss in faith with the idea of liberalism. There are various camps which explain this trend in different ways. The left argues that the adoption of neoliberal economies policies, especially in the West, were rigged in the favour of the rich.

These policies, including deregulation of the economies, privatisation of the government run services, and tax cuts, widened the disparity between the rich and the poor. Moreover, the capitalists used their wealth to influence political actions to expand their fortunes at the expense of the common citizens. Meanwhile in the developing world, the corrupt politicians serve the interests of the large business organisations at the expense of the masses; again, adding to the already existing disparity.

As Piketty has argued in his magnum opus, *Capital in the Twenty First Century*, the share of top income percentile in total income rose from 10 per cent to 20 per cent during the period 1970-2010 in the Anglo-Saxon countries. A similar trend has played out even in the developing world. The rising disparities in the neoliberal world have been accentuated with the advent of globalisation. While a globalised, interconnected world has increased everyone's wealth over time, it has

not benefited everyone equally. According to the Heckscher-Ohlin theorem, trade is beneficial mainly for people who own factors with which the national economy is relatively well endowed and hurts individuals who own factors that are relatively scarce.

Therefore, unskilled workers in a capital-rich country, for instance, will have obvious discontentment with the system and feel that only the interests of the elites are being fulfilled. To these segments of the population, authoritarian leaders and authoritarian forms of society seem to be the only ones that could effectively iron out the problems of free markets. On the other hand, the reservations of the anti-liberals on the right are more related with the changing social dynamics it has caused.

They argue that the foundational premise of liberalism i.e. offering people the liberty to choose their own path in life is shaping humans into separate, autonomous and non-related selves. The pursuit of profit erodes the will to embed in social relations and build communities. The separation from community disrupts cherished beliefs and traditions and creates social fissures, which has led to widespread discontentment. Even though the rise of popu-

list leaders signals an affirmation to these views; by no means are the ideas of liberalism and liberal democracy dead as many critics claim. There is significant evidence to support its resilience. The vote against Boris Johnson in the UK Parliament for his attempt to subvert democratic means and exit the EU is a case in point.

Across the Atlantic, US citizens voted Democrats into the House of Representatives signalling that they would not even award Trump unfettered control of democratic institutions. Even further across the Pacific, citizens of Hong Kong are displaying exceptional exuberance against a regime trying to subvert their democratic rights.

The faith with liberalism also cannot be said to be fully lost. The world sees bursts of support for the liberal view through movements like #MeToo and the student rallies against climate change. A radical transformation in the way society functions is, thus, probably not anywhere near the horizon as many would like to predict. But it must be recognised that there is simmering discontentment against the status quo and the world needs to take the interests of those left behind into consideration through more broad-based developmental mechanisms.

Need to shun policing by suppression

India is facing a challenge to move from policing by suppression to policing by democracy. The latter means the implementation of legal frameworks, institutional processes and mechanisms already in place to hold the police accountable. The British had adopted the current policing model in their colonies, including India, to rule by the suppression of masses. On the other hand, their own police are structured on the principles of community policing, i.e. 'policing by consent'. With the mandate to controlling people, the Indian police force consists of only five per cent of officers and 95 per cent constables and head constables. As a result, most of the police recruitment is based upon physical attributes and basic educational qualification instead of mental aptitude, community relationships and social inclusion. The subsequent training also fails to focus on these aspects. There might be a few individuals who manage to imbibe these qualities, but that's not the norm. In India, traffic control and regulation is also entrusted with the police, who are not trained in modern principles of traffic management. From their recruitment to training, the traffic cops have to follow orders and issue challans. Going by the capacity of the traffic police with several states, the probability of getting challaned is once in four-five years. Without improving this probability, which is a governance and policing issue, the Motor

Vehicles Amendment Act (MVAA), 2019, has been introduced with higher penalties. The law glosses over the need to improve policing structure, strength and training and focuses on penalty. The share in the total challan for speeding, drunk driving, use of mobile phone while driving, helmetless driving and not using seatbelt is just one to five per cent. With the new law and heavy penalties, under-reporting may increase and this percentage may go down. The type of basic training of the traffic police personnel and their understanding of the traffic challan will lead to more visible mistakes in this era of technology and social media. In future, officers might ask junior staff on the ground to reduce challaning, because such mistakes of the traffic police are brought out by the public more aggressively in the public domain, eventually leading to more embarrassment to the police and conflict with the public. The heavier penalties would widen the gap between the police and public, undoing any progress that has been made towards community policing. Studies have shown that hiking penalties don't lead to great benefits. The national road safety agency of the Netherlands has observed, "Making penalties heavier as an isolated measure, has a little extra effect... On the other hand, frequently conducted and very visible traffic checks, which are unpredictable in terms of time and place, bring about the general pre-

vention of traffic violations." Experts successful in controlling road traffic deaths concur with these findings. Daily visible enforcement on the street and absence of strict laws and harsh penalties promote deterrence. In most European countries, more than 250 drivers per million population are checked for the breath test every day. In Ludhiana, more than 500 drivers should be checked for alcohol every day, especially during evening hours, for the law to have any effect. But the police force doesn't like the job of being traffic regulators and hence it will remain unimplemented. Many instances are being reported where the public and police are fighting over the challan and rules. In Haryana, a two-wheeler rider was fined Rs 23,000, of which the only applicable challan that would make a difference to road safety was for not wearing the helmet, i.e. for Rs 1,000 only. Since police personnel lack training as to what is important for road safety, they only focus on penalties. The world over, traffic penalties are adjusted with the purchasing power parity and the severity of the offence, but in India, the Ministry of Road Transport follows no such norms. In this case, the registration of the vehicle could have been checked indirectly and discretion of the cop concerned was required. But since creating fear among the public is a prime objective of policing by suppression, we lose the intent of the challan. It might show a short-term

positive impact, but in the long term, we may end up suspending a few more traffic policemen and hence technically ill-equipped and demoralise the traffic police force. The onus to implement the MVAA would be on the traffic police and the judiciary, both of which lack technology, resources and manpower. The strength of the traffic police varies from state to state. In Chandigarh, there are 65 traffic police personnel per one lakh population, while Delhi has 30 and Punjab and Haryana have just eight. The national average is five per lakh population to manage 20 crore vehicles on the road. Urban areas have greater strength than rural areas, where 55-60 per cent of the road accidents are happening. In 2015, the Bureau of Police Research and Development suggested that norms for the deployment of policemen and equipment should be based on the number of vehicles in the states and cities. Most of the states have one-third of what is required as per the current requirement in terms of manpower and types of equipment. Due importance to the judicial process and the judiciary has not been given in the new Act. Four years ago, an RTI reply had revealed that the number of pending cases before various courts of Punjab, including the Punjab and Haryana High Court, was over 15 lakh and every year, an average of five lakh new traffic cases were being added, mainly related to non-compoundable challans.

The Govt is committed to the welfare of journalists

Warangal, 26 December : Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy emphasized the government's commitment to journalists' welfare while laying the foundation stone for the construction of a wall at the Greater Warangal Press Club on Thursday. Addressing the gathering, he stated that development is a continuous process and assured that every colony in the constituency would be developed in due course.

MLA Naini Rajender Reddy also participated in a sports meet, along with Parakala MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy, where prizes were distributed to media professionals who excelled in various competitions.

He criticized the lack of development during the past decade under the leadership of the BRS and BJP parties, contrasting it with the progress achieved during the Congress government's tenure.

The MLA highlighted the state government's efforts to address financial challenges and fulfill the guarantees promised by the Congress government. He also emphasized that actions, rather than mere appeals on social media, are necessary for meaningful progress.

- ▶ Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy
- ▶ Developing like a servant rather than a ruler
- ▶ Asking on social media doesn't do anything



Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy emphasized that actions, rather than mere appeals on social media, are necessary for meaningful progress.

The event witnessed active participation from media representatives and other dignitaries.

Free Mega Medical Camp on the occasion of 100th Birth Anniversary of Former PM Bharat Ratna Shri Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji at Darulshifa

Hyderabad : Today marks a significant occasion as a Free Mega Medical Camp is being conducted to Honor the 100th Birth Anniversary of Former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Maidan-E-Ghadeer, Darulshifa under the Charminar Assembly & Hyderabad Parliament Constituency parliament.

Organized by the BJP Medical Cell Telangana in collaboration with the Kamineni Hospital LB Nagar and Senior Leader of BJP Telangana, Mir Firasath Ali Baqri, this event aims to provide essential medical assistance to the community.

The Inauguration of the camp was conducted by Shri N Bhaskarao Former Chief Minister of United Andhra Pradesh, accompanied by the Ex Minister Shri Krishna Yadav, Dr K Bhaskar Rao Co Convenor BJP medical cell Telangana State, Shri D Gangadhar AGM Kamineni Hospital, Shri Yadagiri PRO Kamineni Camp Incharge, Shri Rajashekar BJP medical cell pharmacy esteemed presence of Shri Mir Firasath Ali



Baqri, Shri V. Pandu Yadav, District President of Golkonda District, Charminar Assembly Convener Shri S Praveen Kumar, Shri Mohd Hashim Hussain, Shri Sridhar Yadav, Shri Satnarayan Venkatesh, Srmati Bhagvathi, T Veeramani actively engaging with patients, took the opportunity to understand their concerns and offered valuable advice to address their medical needs. This initiative reflects

the commitment of the organizers to the well-being of the community and stands as a testament to the legacy of Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. BJP Telangana Former State Spokesperson Mir Firasath Ali Baqri thanks to Kamineni Hospital for conducting Mega Medical Camp at Maidan-E-Ghadeer, Darulshifa, Under the Charminar Assembly Constituency, Hyderabad.

BRS leader Errolla Srinivas gets bail

Hyderabad, Dec.26 (NSS): BRS party leader Errolla Srinivas was granted bail today by Nampally III ACJM court in the MLA Kaushik Reddy's case. The magistrate granted the bail to Srinivas after hearing the arguments of his counsel and asked him to submit a bond of 5000 along with two sureties. Speaking to media persons outside the court, Er-

rolla Srinivas said justice prevailed in his case and alleged that the State government had filed false cases against him. "I will follow the court's orders. I would like to thank our party leaders KTR, Harish Rao and all the rank and file of our Party for supporting me," Errolla Srinivas said. He expressed his special thanks to the BRS par-

ty's Legal team for examining the case and working hard for securing the bail. Errolla Srinivas was produced before the Nampally court on Thursday afternoon. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court granted conditional bail to Srinivas. The court directed Errolla Srinivas to cooperate with the investigation of the police.

Sravan condemns illegal & oppressive actions of Revanth govt

Hyderabad, Dec.26 (NSS): BRS leader Dr Sravan Dasoju has strongly condemned the illegal and oppressive actions of the Revanth Reddy government, which have once again failed before the judiciary. Speaking on the release of Telangana activist, Osmania University Dalith student leader and former SC/ST Commission Chairman Errolla Srinivas, who was granted bail by the honourable courts, Dr Sravan stated that no amount of intimidation or police repression can stand before the principles of justice and democracy. Dr Sravan criticized the government, stating, "This is not a government of strength, it is a regime of fear, cor-

ruption, and a dictatorial mindset." From the common man to celebrities, everyone has been subjected to oppressive tactics aimed at silencing dissent and democratic rights. Had the Banjara Hills police acted in accordance with their constitutional duty and accepted the complaint filed by an MLA, this escalation could have been avoided. Instead of fulfilling their obligation, the police brazenly refused to register the complaint and, shockingly, resorted to filing an illegal case against the complainants, including Dr Errolla Srinivas. "This incident is a glaring example of the police acting as mere puppets in the hands of the ruling

government, misusing their authority to target Opposition voices. Such blatant abuse of power undermines the rule of law and erodes public trust in the system, raising serious concerns about the impartiality of law enforcement in Telangana. Errolla Srinivas's illegal detention is yet another example of the government's deep insecurity and desperation to stifle voices of truth." Dr Sravan thanked the judiciary for upholding the rule of law and delivering a decisive verdict that granted bail to Errolla Srinivas. He emphasized that this legal victory is a moral blow to the Revanth Reddy government, which has resorted to filing unconstitutional case.

Government Medical Facilities Should Be Utilized

Warangal, 26 December : Hanumakonda District Medical and Health Officer DMHO, Dr. A. Appiah, emphasized the importance of utilizing government medical facilities during his visit to the primary health center (PHC) in Atmakuru on Thursday.

Dr. Appiah personally examined the services offered to the elderly and conducted health tests on them. He also inspected the lab and pharmacy facilities at the center. Interacting with patients, he gathered feedback on the quality of services being provided.

The DMHO urged the public to make full use of government medical services available in the district. He highlighted that doctors are stationed in the dispensaries at Akkampeta and Peddapur villages to provide healthcare support. Additionally, Dr. Appiah pointed out the

▶ Hanumakonda DMHO Dr. A. Appiah



special "Health Woman Clinics" conducted every Tuesday, where eight types of medical services are offered specifically for women. He encouraged women to take advan-

tage of these dedicated services. Dr. Narsinga Rao and the staff of the Primary Health Center were also present during the visit, actively participating in the program.

Ramdas Athawale's birthday celebrated in Hyderabad

Republic Party of India (RPI) cadres organised a grand celebration of 66th birthday of RPI Chief and Central Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and National President Ramdas Athawale at Jai Bheem Marg, Lingampally Chowrasta, Kachiguda, Hyderabad on Wednesday. At a programme at Jai Bheem Marg, Kachiguda road in Hyderabad the RPI party Telangana Vice President Gorakh Singh along with Vishnu Bahati (Advisor T.G), Ratna Prasad (General Secretary T.G), Mangilal Varma (OBC



President T.G, Roja Rani (Mahila Incharge T.G) and many others cut a cake and extended greetings to the party chief.

On 28th CPI(M-L) unveiled posters to win the New Democracies merger

Pragati Express Vikarabad : Posters were unveiled in Vikarabad today seeking victory in the merger meeting of the two CPI(M-L) New Democracy parties to be held at Sundarayya Vigyan Kendra, Hyderabad on December 28.

CPI(M-L) New Democracy District Secretary Y Mahender said on this occasion.. He said that it is a good development that the New Democracy parties, which split due to various reasons in 2013, want to merge today.

He criticized the bigoted BJP Modi government in the country for scaring the people with fascist policies, tying up the country's wealth to imperialist companies, creating discord between people in the name of religion and continuing anti-people rule. They felt that writers, intellectuals,



artists and rights leaders were being tortured and detained in jail by making illegal cases. In such circumstances, all the revolutionary parties in the country should meet and integrate all the people. As part of that, CPI(M-L) New Democracy and two revolutionary parties are merging

on December 28 at Sundarayya Vigyan Kendra, he said. People, democrats, activists of both New Democracy parties have been asked to attend the meeting on 28th and make Jayaprudham. Leaders Ramulu, Prabhavathi, Srikanth, Geetha, Ashok and others participated in this program.

Geography Dept of OU to host 46th Indian Geography Congress from today

Bharat Samachar Hyderabad, Dec 26: Celebrating 100 years of Geography Education in India, Department of Geography of Osmania University in association with National Association of Geographers of India (NAGI) is organizing the 46th Indian Geography Congress on the focal theme 'Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Energy Resources & SDCs: Policy Frameworks and Global Initiatives' from December 27 to December 29, according to its Organizing Secretary Dr Mohd Akhter Ali and Convener Prof Ashok Kumar Lonavath. Stating that the theme highlights the critical role of geospatial technologies in promoting sustainable energy practices and supports the United Nations sustainable development goals, Prof Mohd Akhter Ali said that Geospatial technologies such as remote sensing, GIS



, GPS would offer powerful tools for collecting, analyzing, visualizing spatial data for effective utilization of natural resources, consumption patterns and environment impacts. He further said that the Congress would have 25 technical sessions with 250 delegates including 200 del-

egates from across India from 58 universities besides the participation of NRSC and RSI and GIS companies. Bharat Samachar, Television News Network Pvt. Ltd and Press Media (English daily) would be one of the media partners for the three-day Congress, he added.

Bumrah keeps battle alive; Australia score 311/6

► Sam Konstas impressive debut in Melbourne Test
 ► Australia 311 for 6 (Smith 68*, Cummins 8*, Labuschagne 72, Bumrah 3-75) vs India

Melbourne, Dec 26 (GNS) Sam Konstas, the 19-year-old making his Test debut, lit up the MCG with an audacious display of strokeplay against Jasprit Bumrah which in the process riled Virat Kohli on a compelling Boxing Day at the MCG. The world's best fast bowler still had a significant say with three wickets although it was Australia who edged the honours with their top four all passing fifty.

By stumps, Steven Smith was the key figure in how much further Australia's first innings would be able to extend as he eyed his second hundred in three innings after Bumrah had sparked a middle-order wobble. Yet it was the opening passage of the Test that could well go down as defining.

Within an hour of his first Test innings Konstas, who became his country's fourth-youngest men's player, was the most talked-about figure in the game having brazenly taken 32 off two overs from Bumrah. While he was stopped on 60 off 65 balls, he had already written him-

self a chapter among the most remarkable debuts and more than repaid the selectors' desire to provide something different at the top of the order after Nathan McSweeney's struggles.

Bumrah still pocketed key top-order scalps of Usman Khawaja, the prolific Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh although it did little to downplay talk India are over-reliant on him. The latter two came as Australia lost 3 for 9 in the final session with Akash Deep then claiming a much-deserved wicket with the second new ball when he removed Alex Carey to end the fourth significant partnership of the innings.

Khawaja, Smith and Mamus Labuschagne all brought up half-centuries at more sedate tempos than Konstas. It was the first time since Rawalpindi in 2022 that Australia's top four had all reached fifty in the same innings. Khawaja and Labuschagne will have been left wondering what could have been but Smith played a vital role in keeping Australia ahead.



Virat Kohli fined 20% match fee, demerit point for bumping into Sam Konstas



Melbourne, Dec 26 (GNS) India superstar Virat Kohli was on Thursday fined 20 per cent of his match fee and handed one demerit point by the ICC following his on-field altercation with Australia debutant Sam Konstas on the opening day of the fourth Test here.

The incident happened in the 10th over when Kohli and the 19-year-old Konstas bumped their shoulders and also exchanged a few words in the first session's play at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here.

"Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct relates to: 'inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator during an International Match)'," the ICC said

on its website. "No formal hearing was needed as Kohli accepted the sanctions proposed by Match Referee Andy Pycroft.

On-field umpires Joel Wilson and Michael Gough, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Shawn Craig levelled the charge," it added.

While moving across the pitch after the completion of the over, both the players bumped their shoulders and exchanged a few words before Australia opener Usman Khawaja and on-field umpires Gough and Wilson intervened.

Konstas later played down the incident after the end of the play, saying "Virat Kohli accidentally bumped into me, that's cricket and can happen with tension."

Rana questions Sports Ministry, NRAI for ignoring Manu's credentials for Khel Ratna

New Delhi, Dec 26 (GNS) Double Olympic medalist shooter Manu Bhaker's coach Jaspal Rana on Tuesday castigated the Sports Ministry, Sports Authority of India, and the National Rifle Association of India, holding them responsible for "ignoring" his ward's credentials for the Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna award.

The champion shooter's omission has sparked controversy even though ministry sources have asserted that the names are yet to be finalised and her name will be there when the final list is released in a week's time.

In August, Bhaker became independent India's first athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics with her bronze-winning show in the 10m air pistol individual and 10m air pistol mixed team events. "I will hold all of them responsible. How can anyone even say Manu did not apply?"

She made history by becoming the first Indian to win two Olympic medals in the same Olympics. Her name should have been there automatically.

"Don't the people at the helm know who Manu Bhaker is and what are her credentials? This humiliation might just affect her progress," Rana, who was the personal coach of Manu when she won the medals at the Paris Games, told. "I can say that a wrong precedent is being set. Things like this can destroy an athlete's confidence." Reports of her omission from the national honours evoked shock with her family insisting that the application was duly submitted.

"If this can shock the sports fraternity, if you are speaking to me regarding this, if people are writing about this, then how come the committee that decides the names fail to understand that she deserves the honour," Rana asked.

"What is their job otherwise? Isn't it to go through the performance of the athletes over the last cycle and then arrive at a conclusion and recommend the names? According to me this is not a mistake and this is not an oversight," Rana said.

The award selection committee is a 12-member panel headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice V Ramasubramam. It includes former athletes like women's hockey captain Rani Rampal among others. The ministry norms allow athletes to self-nominate instead of rely-



ing on federations and other institutions for it. The selection committee is, however, allowed to consider names that may not be among the applicants. While the ministry claimed that Bhaker did not apply for the award, her father Ram Kishan Bhaker, a chief engineer in the Merchant Navy, said the youngster had followed the due process. Rana added, "Even if the athlete was not able to apply for the award for some reason, what is stopping the committee from recommending names? Hasn't she done enough to deserve an award?"

"Anyway, it is not the first time. It has happened to me too. I have never received the Khel Ratna award," said the shooter who won three gold medals and equaled the world record in 25m centre fire pistol at the 2006 Asian Games in Doha. "It's really appalling. Why should a top sportsperson apply or request an award? Awards should come naturally and automatically. How can it be ignored?"

There has to be some system in place," Rana observed. "Does every athlete know how to apply? Does it make sense that only an athlete can

apply? Why not the federation, Sports Authority of India (or the) ministry," the coach asked. A ministry source had earlier told that Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will decide on the recommendations of the 12-member award selection committee and, in all likelihood, Manu's name will be there in the final list. "There is no final list of nominees at this point. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will decide on the recommendations in a day or two and her name, in all likelihood, will be there in the final list," the source said.

The legendary Rana returned as Bhaker's coach exactly one year before the Paris Olympics and was by her side as she went on to create history in the French capital. Under Rana's guidance, Bhaker enjoyed a fruitful period between 2018 and 2021, during which she won multiple ISSF World Cup medals and became a Commonwealth Games champion at Gold Coast 2018. However, the two parted ways in 2021 ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in which Bhaker would go on to endure a disastrous outing while suffering a pistol malfunction.

Anupati Navyashree Sai, Raju Singh emerge winners

New Delhi, Dec 26 (GNS) Young riders Anupati Navyashree Sai and Raju Singh emerged the best performers in the show jumping and dressage categories respectively on the concluding day of the first half of Junior National Equestrian Championships. In the young rider category, Anupati, who was astride Abra ka Dabra, secured 32.60 marks without conceding any penalty in the showjumping two-phase event on Tuesday. She finished ahead of Avik Bhatia, Geetika Tikkishetty, and Monu Kumar to be adjudged the best in her event. In dressage freestyle, Raju, who rode Louk, did extremely well in his event, securing 65.18 marks. It was a very

competitive event in which Javeer Verma, Geetika and Navyashree ran him close. "It was extremely satisfying to see in this junior championship the talent India has. It gives EFI hope and confidence that the game will grow fast in the country. Almost all the categories saw very close competition. The margin that separated the winners and other participants was very thin," Equestrian Federation of India secretary general Javeer Singh said. "I am sure that the second half of the championship will also produce high-octane competitions that will conclude on December 29," he said. Adding to the accolades in the children I category, Javeer Singh Nagra



was awarded the best rider title for his exceptional performances throughout the competition, cementing his place as one of the brightest young talents in Indian equestrian sports. Sahil, astride Candy, logged 93.5 points to emerge winner in the overall

individual tent pegging event, finishing ahead of Mohammad Alhamad Chishty (80), Shahrulkhan (79) and Adeel Ahkter (76). The action will next resume on December 27 with junior (age group 14-18) and children II (age group 10-12) category events.

Martina clinches silver at weightlifting championships



Doha, Dec 26 (GNS) Martina Devi clinched a silver medal in the women's junior +87kg category at the Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships here on Wednesday. The 18-year-old

from Manipur lifted a total of 225kg (96kg+129kg) to finish second in the three-lifter field. She also won a silver medal for her clean and jerk effort and a bronze for her snatch.