

BJP attempting to alter electoral rolls : Arvind Kejriwal

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New Delhi, Dec 30 (GNS) The Aam Aadmi Party has accused the BJP of trying to manipulate electoral rolls data ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections. Speaking at a press conference, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal claimed the BJP was trying to win elections through "unfair means" after failing to present strong

candidates or issues. "Operation Lotus has now reached my New Delhi Assembly constituency. This operation has been going on since December 15. In these 15 days, they (BJP) have filed applications for the deletion of 5,000 votes and the addition of 7,500 votes," he alleged. He claimed that this could alter 12

per cent of the votes. "Such manipulation undermines democracy. We appeal to the EC to continue its strict monitoring," he said. He has also written a letter to the DEO. "We have requested that these applications be verified in our presence. Without this, no deletions should be approved," an AAP statement said.



Col. Rohi Choudhry Paid Tribute to Ex Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh

New Delhi, 30th Dec : Col Rohit Chaudhry, Chairman Ex-Servicemen Dept All India Congress Committee offering floral tributes to Former Prime Minister and greatest son of Nation and Ex Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh, at 24 Akber Road New Delhi. P Rajendran, Chairman Ex-Servicemen Dept TPCC, Shanmuga Ravi, President P. Gunashekar, General Secretary, M Raju, Treasurer, R K Jayaprakash, Amalraj Combined Defence Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association

of Telangana and all the office bearers expressed the Condolences to great son of our great Nation. And Paid Tribute to him. Remember That Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh passed away at 92 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on 26th December night. Singh, who was India's 13th Prime Minister and the first Sikh to hold the coveted post, headed the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre from May 2004 to May 2014.



Odisha Govt extends crop damage registration deadline by two more days Current Affairs

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30 (GNS) In a move to assist farmers impacted by the recent unseasonal rainfall, the Odisha state government has extended the registration period for crop damage compensation claims by an additional two days. The new deadline for registration is now set for midnight on January 1, 2024, announced Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday. The extension comes as a relief to numerous farmers across the state who have struggled to register their crop losses within the original timeframe.

Speaking to reporters a day after visiting the rain-affected regions in Ganjam, Gajapati, and Nayagarh districts, where he met with local farmers and personally assessed the extent of the damage, Majhi emphasized that the government's support would continue unabated as part of its ongoing efforts to mitigate the hardships caused by the unseasonal downpours.

"After reviewing the situation on the ground and hearing from the farmers, we have decided to extend the registration period by two more days. This will give farmers ample time to complete the necessary procedures to apply for compensation," the CM said. Farmers whose crops were damaged in the recent rainfall can now register their losses through the 'Krishi Rakshak App' or by calling the toll-free number 14447.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, while addressing concerns about network issues and connectivity challenges, reassured the public that all registration efforts would be taken into account, including 'missed calls,' which will still be treated as successful registrations.

"Even if a farmer cannot connect through the toll-free number, their missed call will still be recorded, and the registration will be valid," Parida clarified. "Despite some concerns about network issues and connectivity challenges, we will ensure all registrations are processed," she added. The DCM urged farmers to spread the word and help others who may be unaware of the process. "It's critical that no one is left out in seeking the help they need."

This registration extension is exclusive to farmers in Odisha, following a request made by the state government to the Union government. "The Union government has agreed to extend the registration period solely for Odisha, recognising the unique challenges faced by our farmers. We are doing everything in our power to ensure that all affected farmers are compensated for their losses," Deputy CM Parida stated.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centenary Celebrated by Adileela foundation



New Delhi 30th Dec : Bharat Ratna shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee centenary celebration by Adileela foundation By Dr S Adinarayana at Constitutional Club Delhi on 25th December 2024. The Chief Guest of the program was Mr Shamsheer Jagdamni, GST Joint Commissioner, Dr Hakim (founder G-Sen federation), Dr Ranbir Singh laisharam (president of world funaba federation, Dr Vic Gaffeny (lecturer and public speaker), PVR Murti Managing director of Nextci, Mrs Khulna Mai Mayum Sahna (Parabhar, Delhi Pradesh BJP north east), Dr Hans Raj Sherman (Delhi univer-

sity), Sadhvi Shweta reddy (hanuman seva trust, Avtar Singh Sahni, Were Attended, The Awardees of the programme were Dr Ranbir Singh laisharam, Mrs Khulna lamayum Sahni, Sanaththoi Thangjam, Miss Ankita Kumari Gupta, Mr yunnam Dicson Singh, Mr Trivedi Bharat Kumar, Mrs Trivedi Bharat Kumar, Miss suhana Gupta, Miss Arusha Sharma, Dr Viresh Mehta, Pena departmental store, Miss himanshi, Mr Abdul Salam Meera Saab, Chhittendra Gupta, joined the Programme. Chief guest and Organising team Member were also awarded with shawl and Momentos.

Candidates suspect massive corruption in Bihar PSC exam: Prashant Kishor Nation

Patna, Dec 30 (GNS) Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Monday claimed to have learnt that "thousands of crores of rupees have changed hands" for posts to be filled by the Bihar PSC exam, cancellation of which is being demanded by many candidates. The former close aide of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also expressed dismay over refusal of his ex-mentor to "utter a single word" on the stir which has been going on for nearly two weeks. "The candidates are protesting in biting cold, braving baton charge by police and water cannons. The CM is away in Delhi, and having a good time. He did not utter a single word when reporters in the national capital approached him with queries on the stir," Kishor told reporters here. Recalling the previous day's demonstration which was addressed by him, Kishor said till about 4 PM, he kept telling the candidates to look forward to a statement from the chief minister who might take

a stand that could break the stalemate. "But he kept mum," Kishor claimed. "Today, I am sharing something that I have been hearing for some time. The protesting candidates believe that BPSC's reluctance to order a fresh examination stems from the fact that crores of rupees have already changed hands. Posts to be filled up through the December 13 test had been put on sale," the Jan Suraj Party founder said. Notably, nearly five lakh candidates had appeared at more than 900 centres across the state for the Combined Competitive Exams. At one of the exam centres in Patna, hundreds of candidates boycotted the test alleging that question papers were "leaked". This was refuted by the Bihar Public Service Commission, which saw a "conspiracy" to get the exams cancelled at work, even though re-examination had been ordered for more than 10,000 candidates who had been assigned the Babu Pariksha Parisar, which was at the centre of the controversy.

Democracy and Political Participation

The Shortest Path to Development for Indian Muslims India is a land of diverse cultures, religions, and communities, each contributing to its rich social fabric. Among these communities, Indian Muslims constitute one of the largest minorities, making up about 14% of the country's population. Despite their significant numbers, Indian Muslims face several challenges, particularly in the realms of socio-economic development and political representation. While these challenges are deeply rooted in historical, social, and economic factors, political participation, particularly through democratic channels, offers the shortest and most effective path toward their empowerment and development. Democracy, in its most essential form, provides a platform for all citizens to engage in the political process. It ensures that every individual, regardless of their religion or background, has the right to vote, voice their concerns, and influence public policy. For Indian Muslims, this democratic framework offers the opportunity to actively participate in the country's political life—something that can drive tangible social and economic change. Historically, political representation has been a key issue for Muslims in India. Despite the country's democratic ethos, Muslims often find themselves marginalized in political discourse. This marginalization is compounded by economic disparities, educational gaps, and social exclusion. However, democracy offers a mechanism for change, as it allows for the creation of policies that can address these issues when Muslims actively participate in political processes. Political participation is not limited to voting; it encompasses active involvement in the formulation of policies that impact daily life. In a democratic system, elected representatives are meant to reflect the concerns of their constituencies. However, when minority communities, such as Indian Muslims, do not actively participate or fail to elect representatives who genuinely understand their needs, their concerns often go unaddressed. One of the most direct ways political participation can impact the development of Muslims in India is by ensuring better representation at all levels of Government. When leaders voicing concern for Muslims are elected to local, state, and national offices, they can advocate for policies that address specific issues such as poverty, unemployment, education, and healthcare within the Muslim community. For instance, if Muslim-majority constituencies are represented by leaders who understand the needs of the community, they can push for better allocation of resources to address poverty alleviation, improve access to quality education, and create job opportunities. This is especially important in rural and semi-urban areas where Muslims often suffer from inadequate access to public services. A significant portion of the Muslim population, particularly in rural areas, remains disengaged from the political process due to lack of awareness or trust in the system. Educating voters about their

rights, the importance of voting, and the implications of different political choices can help increase participation. Grassroots organizations and civil society groups can play a vital role in mobilizing Muslims to participate in the political process. These organizations can work to raise awareness about local issues, connect community members with political leaders, and encourage nothin vital role in mobilizing Muslims to participate in the political process. These organizations can work to raise awareness about local issues, connect community members with political leaders, and encourage active engagement in local governance. Encouraging and developing leaders from within the Muslim community who can effectively represent their interests in the political arena is crucial. By fostering new leaders who are well-versed in both the challenges and opportunities faced by Muslims, the community can have more authentic and effective representation. While political engagement within the Muslim community is important, it is also crucial to build alliances across religious and cultural lines. Collaboration with other marginalized communities and progressive political forces can help amplify the demands of Muslims, pushing for a more inclusive and equitable political agenda. The socio-economic development of Indian Muslims is deeply tied to their political participation. Access to education, healthcare, jobs, and other basic services often depends on the political choices made at both local and national levels. For Muslims, voting for candidates who prioritize inclusive growth and address systemic inequalities can bring about better opportunities. Additionally, an active Muslim electorate can ensure that the community is not overlooked during the allocation of Government resources. Investing in education, skill development, and job creation is essential for lifting Muslims out of poverty and improving their socio-economic status. Political leaders who are attuned to the community's needs can advocate for the creation of targeted programs, scholarships, and employment schemes aimed at empowering the youth. The Government's push for economic reforms can be shaped by Muslim participation to ensure that the benefits of growth are equitably distributed. For Indian Muslims, democracy is not just a system of Government—it is a powerful tool for development. Political participation can break the cycle of marginalization by ensuring better representation, policy formulation, and socio-economic advancement. While challenges remain, the solution lies in greater political engagement, both at the ballot box and in the broader political discourse. Only through active participation can Indian Muslims fully realize their potential, bridging the gap between aspiration and opportunity, and paving the way for inclusive growth and development for the community and the nation at large. -Resham Fatima, Masters in International Relations, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Interviews for recruitment of qualified medical professionals

Hyderabad, Dec.30 (NSS): Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM) is organizing interviews for recruitment of qualified medical professionals for the UK, UAE, and Saudi Arabia for the year 2025-2026. Eligibility for UK Doctors is MBBS or equivalent medical qualification. Full GMC registration with a license to practice in the UK is necessary. Salary will

be £105,504 – £139,882 per annum (INR 1.1-1.5 crore per annum). For specialist Doctor £96,990 – £107,155 per annum (INR 1- 1.1 crore per annum). TOMCOM is also recruiting for specialist and consultant physicians in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Eligibility Criteria: Specialist: MBBS, MD/MS/DN-B in the relevant specialty, with a minimum of 2-3 years of clinical experience post-specialization.

On November 30, Iraq's Electoral Commission finally announced the results of the October 10 legislative elections. It confirmed that Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's political bloc had secured 73 out of 329 seats in Parliament, thus emerging as the election winner. Meanwhile, its rival the Shia al-Fatah alliance – which is affiliated with Iran-backed militias of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMFs) – lost ground in the vote and has decided to reject the results.

These tensions within the Shia political elite have opened the door for a new political arrangement in which Iraq's leading Kurdish parties could play a significant role. Sadr has already indicated that he will not deal with some groups within al-Fatah and the State of Law party of former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and will instead seek "a national majority government" through an agreement with the main Sunni and Kurdish political forces.

If Sadr's effort is successful in producing a stable government, it could strengthen the Kurds' hand in Iraqi politics and help resolve long-standing disputes between Baghdad and the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Such a positive outcome, however, would depend on the ability of the main Kurdish parties to keep a united front in talks, which would mean overcoming their internal fragmentation and rivalries.

Intra-Kurdish tensions

Since the early 1990s, Iraq's Kurdish region has been ruled by a power-sharing consensus between the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), both of which command Peshmerga military forces loyal to them. In recent years, however, the PUK has been losing ground to KDP and newly emerged parties, which has undermined this arrangement. In fact, the October election skewed even further the balance of power in KDP's favour. Of the 63 seats won by Kurdish parties in the new parliament, 31 are held by the KDP and just 18 by the PUK. In a significant development, the KDP managed to win 2 seats in each of the PUK's heartlands – Kirkuk and Sulaimaniyah.

These results will have significant implications for the relations between the two parties, especially on coming up with consensus candidates for the Iraqi presidency and governorship of Kirkuk. Since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003 following the US invasion, the post of Iraq's president has been allocated to a representative of the Kurdish community through a power-sharing agreement with the Sunnis and Shia. And then another arrangement dating from the same period between the KDP and the PUK granted the right to choose the candidate to the latter in exchange for the KRI's presidency going to a KDP figure. A similar inter-party consensus was established regarding the governorship of Kirkuk, which was held by a Kurd until 2017. Although Kirkuk is part of the "disputed territories", which have a significant Kurdish population but are not part of the KRI, it has traditionally been seen to fall within PUK's sphere of influence, given that many of its leaders hail from the province. But the KDP no longer sees a reason to heed past arrangements, especially since it perceives the

The Kurds could be kingmakers in Iraq's new government



powerful leaders of the PUK as having betrayed it in the aftermath of the 2017 Kurdish independence referendum, when PUK Peshmerga withdrew from Kirkuk, as Shia militias sent by Baghdad to "punish" the Kurdish leadership advanced. The Iraqi government then appointed an Arab as the new governor. The KDP now wants a say in both the appointment of the new president and the new Kirkuk governor.

The core PUK, meanwhile, still believes that it has the military power to resist any attack on its interests. In February 2019, the KDP and the PUK reached an agreement to nominate a new Kurdish governor, but it has not been implemented yet for two reasons.

First a conflict between the faction of PUK leader Lahur Talabani and Masoud Barzani, leader of the KDP, has prevented the two parties from coming up with a consensus candidate. Second, the continuing presence of pro-Iranian Shia militias in the province and Baghdad's reluctance to concede to the appointment of a new governor are also major challenges.

However, recent changes within the PUK may increase the chance of convergence between the two Kurdish parties. Both the KDP leadership and the current leadership of the PUK are united in opposition to Lahur Talabani, who was removed from his post as co-president of the PUK in July this year. In early November, the PUK's Political Bureau confirmed his expulsion from the party, which paves the way for the PUK's other co-president, Bafel Talabani, to officially abolish the co-presidency system and take the reins of the party. This could open the door for a more comprehensive deal with the KDP in Kirkuk, the Iraqi presidency and other outstanding issues.

An opportunity for Kurds

In the October 10 election, Kurdish parties increased their seats in the Iraqi parliament from 58 to 63. Sunni factions have around 70 seats in total, but unlike the Kurdish parties, they do not have that much power on the ground and do

not directly run the Sunni regions. For this reason, the Kurds have more potential to play a king maker's role. In a "national majority government" with the composition Sadr envisions, Kurdish parties would have the opportunity not only to increase their number of posts, but also to transform from being a participant in the Iraqi cabinet to a real decision-maker.

Apart from increased leverage in negotiating government posts, the improved electoral performance of the Kurdish parties could also help them in negotiations on a number of thorny issues with Baghdad. First, there is the question of budget allocation and the distribution of oil profits. In 2014, amid tensions between then KRI President Masoud Barzani and the former Iraqi PM Nouri al-Maliki, Baghdad decided to cease allocating the Kurdish portion of the national budget, accusing Erbil of not delivering the agreed amount of oil to the State Organisation for Marketing of Oil.

Since then, several agreements have been signed, but failed to resolve the dispute. In June this year, Baghdad and Erbil reached a new deal, which resulted in the former sending 200 billion dinars (\$137m) per month to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). However, this agreement is only valid for this year's budget, so the Kurdish parties will have the opportunity to renegotiate within the government formation talks. Second, there is the question of the "disputed territories", which include the province of Kirkuk and over a dozen districts in Nineveh, Diyala and Salahaddin provinces. The status of these areas was supposed to be settled by the KRI and Baghdad after the Iraqi constitution was promulgated in 2005, but that never happened. During the fight against ISIS, KRI's Peshmerga forces were able to take control of some of these areas, but in the aftermath of the referendum, they were forced to withdraw. Since then, there has been very limited administrative, security and political cooperation be-

tween Baghdad and Erbil in these areas, with the pro-Iranian armed groups dominating the security landscape. In the October elections, Kurdish parties performed quite well in these areas, with all five new seats won in disputed territories in Nineveh, Salahaddin, and Diyala provinces.

Kurdish parties now have six out of 12 seats in Kirkuk, and 11 out of 31 seats in Nineveh. Increased Kurdish political representation in these areas can help in negotiations over their status. What the KRG can realistically hope to secure is Baghdad's approval to appoint a Kurdish governor for Kirkuk and joint security administration in the disputed territories.

Increased ISIS activity in these areas makes such security coordination all the more necessary, but that would have to involve reaching some kind of a settlement with the pro-Iranian militias currently deployed in these areas. That could be hard to achieve, unless Sadr changes his mind about isolating al-Fateh and other Shia factions. Regardless, a "national majority government" could be a significant opportunity for the KRI's leadership to secure important gains. But if they do not unite in pursuit of the best interest of the Kurdish community, then their failure can come back to haunt them.

Like the majority of other traditional political forces, the leading Kurdish parties have also seen declining support. While the KDP increased its parliamentary presence by six seats, the number of votes it received actually fell by more than 100,000 votes in KRI's provinces compared to the 2018 election. A new party, the New Generation attracted the votes of a large number of disgruntled Kurds, winning nine seats. This, along with persistent protests across the KRI in the past four years, reflects the growing discontent among Iraq's Kurdish population towards their leaders. If the Kurdish traditional leadership fails to secure major gains for its people from the advantageous position it finds itself in at the moment, another outbreak of popular anger may follow soon.

Who are we kidding here?

We are a good, self-respecting democracy, and there should be no two opinions about it. We have a fine Constitution, fundamental rights, a legal code left behind by Macaulay, and a judiciary which is safeguarding the basic structure of the Constitution, a role which the judiciary has acquired for itself. We can talk about rights and politics without whispering. We take umbrage when people outside — meaning foreign think tanks — criticise us for our 'down-sliding democracy'. I was happy to see the Foreign Minister put up a fine defence over a recent such report.

So far so good. But antipathy to such reports, and the brimming over of 'patriotism' should not make us myopic. As far back as October last year, the Swedish V-Dem Institute, based in Gothenburg university, had stated that India's democratic processes were on a path of steep decline. India was almost put in the same league with Brazil, Poland, US (oh those halcyon Donald Trump days!) and Hungary. Brazil under Bolsonaro and USA under Trump were Indian favourites last year, remember. The report talked of 'shrinking space' for media, civil society and the Opposition. "India has continued on a path of steep decline, to the extent it has almost lost its status as a democracy," the report said. Nothing could be more damning. Freedom House, now a bête noir among our right-wing "intellectuals", also downgraded us as a 'partially free democracy' and one under siege. Have we come to this? And if we have, we can at least listen to them without fulminating.

The Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council's Working Group, in a report, criticised the incarceration of the pregnant Jamia Millia activist Safoora Zargar and stressed on her 'deprivation of rights'. She is an MPhil student. It called for political prisoners to be 'released unconditionally'. Let the world come and see our elections. They are free and fair. But what of the aftermath? MLAs are won over or purchased. How do we explain this phenomena to the world? In Puducherry, a BJP Lt Governor, who had lost woefully in elections against Kejriwal, was given a free hand to stymie the working of an elected government, till the Chief Minister and the Lt Governor were both thrown out. In Delhi, the Lt Governor and CM tussle, which started in 2014, was settled by a five-member Bench of the Supreme Court in 2018, which ruled in favour of the elected government. Now tables are being forcefully overturned through astonishing legislation, which says in effect that 'Delhi government means Lt Governor'. After two humiliating rebuffs (BJP won just eight seats in a House of 70), power has been snatched, going against the SC ruling. What does the Delhi government do now? Wrap files in red tape with notings, "LG may kindly approve".

And what if he doesn't? If the BJP were ruling, would such a Bill have been thought of? Amartya Sen was nudged out of the Nalanda University and Bhanu Pratap Mehta from Ashoka University. What message are we sending to the world? We don't need the very best, especially if what they say is contrary to the non-intellectual elite that rules us today. How long can the establishment just showcase Swapna Dasgupta? As ex-Bolsonaro supporters, we have not much right to claim we are doing enough for climatology. No wonder our police arrested Disha Ravi, a climate activist, on February 13 on seditious charges! Ten days later, she was released on bail. I was in Bengaluru the day an upright judge sentenced Jayalalithaa to four years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs100 crore in a disproportionate assets case. The corruption reeked to high heavens. The High Court acquitted her later on the plea that the trial judge's calculations were wrong! Today political parties are swearing by her in the coming elections. This too is a part of our democracy. Reports said that 70,000 men from the Central armed police forces were being sent to West Bengal for election duty.

I rushed to my atlas. Were we declaring war? It couldn't be on our friend Bangladesh. Then a bright idea struck me — happens once a year or so. The Home Minister must have suddenly caught the human rights bug, and so we were moving into Myanmar on behalf of Aung San Suu Kyi. I pondered over the thought, and another bright idea struck me — that meant two in a row! War in erstwhile Burma was unthinkable. The force, 70,000 if you please, was being despatched to fight Mamata Banerjee! The Election Commissioners did not turn a hair. They could be bald, always a possibility. Looks a bit of an unequal contest, 70,000 in camouflage fatigues, Election Commission, formidable Home Minister, NRIs with money, and the army of TMC turncoats against one lady on a wheel chair. Hallelujah! But much more sensational is the eight-page letter of the former Mumbai Police Commissioner, Param Bir Singh. He alleges that Maharashtra's Home Minister, Anil Deshmukh, from Pawan's NCP, asked assistant inspectors, etc, to muster up a hundred crores a month from dance bars and the like. Hain? Weren't we better off during the days of Sultana Daku? Wasn't Chicago better off in the days of Al Capone and Sherwood Forest more peaceful, sylvan almost, in the days of Robin Hood and Friar Tuck?

Of 'diminished' comrades and Congress

India has sought quicker extradition of Kim Peter Davy alias Niels Holck, from Denmark. This happened on the diplomatic stage when Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was in India and holding bilateral talks with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. She also hailed Modi as an 'inspiration' and both sides held significant parleys on green politics to Afghanistan. The Kim Davy issue actually brings into focus the good old Congress-Communists relationship in India -- even till the mid-1990s. On December 17, 1995, a large consignment of illegal arms including AK-47 rifles and ammunition were dropped from an Antonov An-26 aircraft and was scattered in the Purulia district of West Bengal. One need not go into the merits of the allegation that the Congress had conspired to oust the erstwhile Jyoti Basu government in West Bengal. The Marxists' forte was too strong and of course Basu was very powerful and also left to himself, a very popular leader in his state. But things have changed a lot since then. Now the Congress party's base has shrunk and Communists have, in an ironical turn of events, vanished from West Bengal. For someone born in 1970 and having seen the hero-cult image of Basu, this journalist had never imagined that the CPI-M could be ever a 'Zero-MLA' strong or weak party in Bengal ever. But this has happened. In 2021 assembly elections, both the CPI(M)-led Left Front and Congress strengths in the 294-member state legisla-

ture have been reduced to zero. Now, it is Mamata Banerjee all the way. Importantly, she is seen as 'more Left than the Left' and hence she thrives. Her outfit -- a splinter organisation from the mother' Congress is now trying to have its footprint in different parts of India, including in far off Goa. In general, over the last few years, the Congress has lost its base across the country. But in the process, the grand old party of India has turned 'more Left'; and in more ways than one. It started with the JNU protest in 2015 and also on other issues Rahul Gandhi is trying to emulate the language of the comrades. Here comes the new challenge. Just as the two communities with the same 'historical and cultural' origins may not necessarily evolve in the same ways, the two political parties trying to fashion a 'modern pro-Communist' look cannot see the growth simultaneously either. Historians often liken the Hindu civilisation for having shared 'affinities' at the very initial stage with Mesopotamia. But the respective journey and growth trajectories have been different. Hence as and when the Indian National Congress and Communist growths are discussed, we have to see why both have lost ground. This brings us to debate a very important chapter of Indian politics. The shrinkage of bases of the Congress party and the Indian Communists have also largely created ground for the growth of Hindu fundamentalist forces, like the BJP. Even the rise of regionalist stars like Mama-

ta Banerjee have a typical reasoning of poor performance by the Congress and the Communists. In the 2021 polls, the Trinamool Congress' 200-plus haul would not have been possible had not Congress and Leftists lost all their seats. This downward slippery journey of Indian communists and Congress have also unnerved minorities such as Muslims and Christians. The decline is not only electoral but also in exerting influence on the sociopolitical mindset. In the regions where they are losing their grip, the pro-Hindu BJP has gained ground -- of course rising on the 'Modivta phenomenon'. The religious minorities could have been happy about atheism (the Communists) losing ground. But they are irked as a worse and more dangerous form of political ideology has gained power. The BJP with its commitment to make India a nation of 'Hindu hegemony' is now the major opponent of Mamata Banerjee in Bengal. It has 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats and three years back, it came to power in Tripura as well by ousting its Communist government in another red bastion. The BJP's 'growing support base' in Kerala also essentially means dwindling popularity of Kerala's two traditional political alliances -- UDF (led by the Congress) and the other LDF, led by Leftists. One need not be a bitter rival or detractor to point out that even in Kerala comrade Pinarayi Vijayan has tinted the Communists' red flag with the hues of saffron, the colour associated with Hindu forces. In other words, he is

taking care not to 'offend' Hindu sentiment with the so-called progressive Communist ideas. The Leftists are good at giving a spin to events and they may thus describe this appeasement of Hindu sentiment or religion as pragmatism. What could happen if Kim Davy is extradited, would be debated another day. The Communists could be anti-religion, but they have long been the real custodians of a secular polity where nearly 80 per cent of its 1.3 billion people are Hindus. The minorities see a protector in Communist leadership although in Kerala, the CPI(M) for long was also known as a pro-Hindu party. Then, you had the Muslim League and the Congress party with a good support base among Catholics. The electoral data in the last 15 years or so shows that of the three national elections and some state assembly elections -- not only have the Communists weakened but there has been a steady rise of the BJP, including in West Bengal and Tripura. The trend has been modest in Kerala too. In other words, the weakening of Communists signals the rise of Hindutva-ridden macho nationalism. But pragmatism, as they say, is often a good political substitute for naked opportunism. Thus, the Marxists in the southern state of Kerala have actually sparked off a 'power struggle' between Kerala's two dominant minorities — the Muslims and the Christians. Out of a population of 36 million, Muslims and Christians together constitute about 40 per cent in this state.

CM Cup Athletics, Wrestling competitions from today

- ▶ Two thousand athletes to attend
- ▶ Extensive arrangements were made under the auspices of the committees
- ▶ District Sports Youth Department Officer Gugulothu Ashok Kumar

Warangal, 30 December : The state level CM Cup athletics and wrestling competitions will start from 31st of this month. District Sports Youth Department Officer Gugulothu Ashok Kumar said that nearly 2,000 players from 33 districts are participating in the three-day competition at the local Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. He said that the sportsmen participating in this competition will be provided accommodation in BC and ST hostels for girls, practicing school and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. He said that extensive arrangements have been made under the auspices of various committees for the successful conduct of the competitions without any inconvenience to the players. He asked the sportsmen of the city to make these competitions a success by watching sports fans in large numbers. Hanumakonda district collector took a special initiative and provided track suits to Hanumakonda district sports persons like no other district in the state. Para Olympics bronze medalist Deepthi Jivanji and international Agasara



Nandini will be the special attraction in this competition. Arrangements have been made to hold the wrestling matches in the basketball court under flood lights. The Hanumakonda Stadium has become bustling

with athletes from different districts of the state since Monday afternoon. The organizers provided CM Cup t-shirt to all the sportsmen participating in the competition under the auspices of the state sports authority.

The Al-Baqee Organization released a special Postal Stamp on rebuild Baqee & thank Hon`ble PM of Bharat Narendra Modi Govt for approved a special Postal Stamp

Hyderabad - The Al-Baqee Organization Hyderabad Chapter Thanked Prime Minister of Bharat Shri Narendra Modi Ji & Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, for approved Special Postal Stamp on REBUILD BAQEE S was Released today In Presence of Distinguish Guests Dr Mohd Ilyas Rizvi IFS, Moulana Syed Luqman Hussain Moosvi, Allama Aijaz Farooq, Moulana Syed Hyder Zaidi, Moulana Kamran Hyder, Moulana Shujja Iteqari Moulana Syed Fiyaz Hussain, Dr Itequar Badar, al Baqee (USA) Mr Mir Firasath Ali Baqri, BJP Former State Spokesperson Telangana Dr Naqvi, Mr Mir Abid Ali Baqri , Mr Syed Ali Hussain Zaidi, Mr Mir Raza Ali, Mr Mustafa Mr Shabbir & Mr Irfan.Reglious Organization Syed Qayam Hussain Jafferri / Presdent's Anjuman-e-Prawana Shabbir, Mr Mir Mehdi Ali Parvez, Grohe-e-Jaffery (Aga Abbasi) Mr Aga Tanveer Hyder



Khurasani, Anjuman-e-Alamder Hussaini Mr Syed Ali Abbas Abedi, Mr Mir Mehdi Ali Baqri (SNS) Hyderabad, Mr Wajahat Hussain, Mr Abuzer Kintoori (Grafh

Agency) Lucknow & Many other Community elders were present on occasion at Hussainia Nawab Inayath Jung Bhadur, Mandi Mir Alam, Hyderabad.

46th Indian Geography Congress concludes

Bharat Samachar : Hyderabad, Dec 29: "Latest technological advancements in the space and remote sensing technology will be very useful for Geospatial technological applications," said Director of NRSC Dr Prakash Chauhan. Participating as the Chief Guest in the Valedictory of the three day 46th Indian Geography Conference organized by the Department of Geography in association with NAGI (National association of Geographers India) held in the auditorium of PGRRCDE (Prof G. Ram Reddy Centre for Distance Education), Dr Prakash expressed confidence that with the development in technology, India would become a super power soon and job opportunities would increase for the younger generation. Session began with the presentation of an AV clip which covered all the activities of the three day event. Registrar of Osmania University Prof. G. Naresh Reddy, newly President elect of NAGI Prof. Kumaraswamy, Life Member of NAGI Prof. Salauddin, Prof. G. Prabhaker Reddy and Prof. A.K. Saha Secretary General of NAGI. Convener & Chairman of the conference Prof. Ashok Kumar Lonavath and Organising secretary Asst. Prof. Dr. Akther Ali was also present on the



Dias and felicitated the Chief guest, guests of honour and sponsors. Young geographer award was given to Sumathi Mohan of OU. Other award winners are Prof. Amit kumar of Varanasi and Dr. Sujatha Bhattacharya of Mumbai. Summing up with a brief report Convener and Chairman of the Congress Prof. Ashok Kumar Lonavath told that 194 papers were submitted, 231 delegates from 27 States registered for the congress. During the sessions 2 lead talks and 4 lectures were presented. Appreciating the students,

volunteers and staff for their valuable support Prof. Ashok Kumar Lonavath thanked them. He also appreciated the significant contribution of Press Media (English daily) and Bharat Samachar group for the extensive coverage of the event in the capacity of Media partner. In this regard the organisers of 46th Geography Congress felicitated Mohammad Parveiz, Chairman and Managing Director of Press media and Bharat samachar group by presenting a memento besides a certificate of appreciation.

Jaggareddy, former MLA, TPCC working president

As per the request of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has given permission to MPs, MLAs and MLCs of Telangana for 4 times a week for TTD darshans. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy wrote a letter in this regard

and AP CM Chandrababu Naidu wrote a letter accepting and approving the matter. It has become a respect for public representatives of Telangana people. It is also very convenient for the devotees. Also we request to approve the letters of former MLAs, MPs, MLCs in Telangana. In this regard, I am re-

questing AP Chief Minister Chandrababu through the media. I will write a letter tomorrow and I will request Telangana government to write a letter through Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as well...AP CM Chandrababu Naidu is requested to take a special initiative in this regard.. Jaggareddy.



Establishment of stall under Mepma



Warangal, 30 December : Under the auspices of Urban Poverty Alleviation Organization (MEPMA), a stall was set up on Monday in Hanumakonda district collectorate premises. DRO Y set up a stall to sell cotton dresses, shawls and cotton bags made by representatives of wom-

en's organizations under the auspices of Mepma. V. Ganesh, ZP CEO Vidyalatha and other officials visited. On this occasion, the members of the women's groups wished to achieve economic development. Mepma officials Rajitha Rani and others participated in this program.



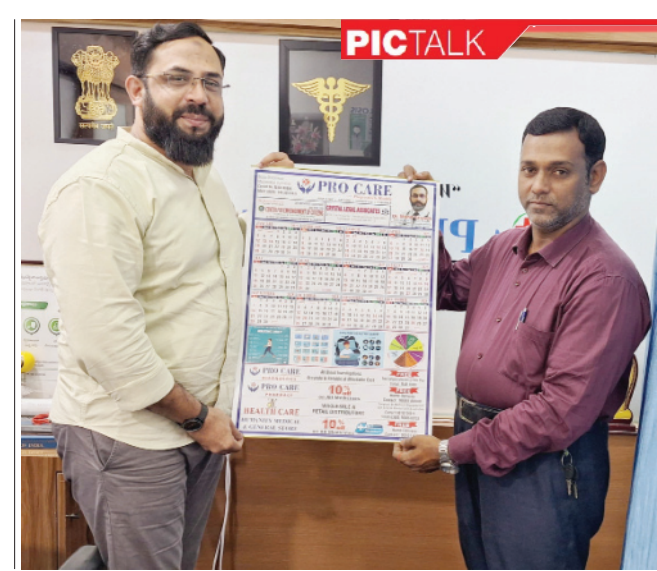
Mr. Sajjad Ali, Assistant Secretary to Government Minorities Welfare Department met Chairman Telangana Haj Committee Maulana Syed Afzal Biyabani Khusro Pasha Saheb

on being appointed as Executive Officer Telangana Haj Committee. Mohammed Mujeebuddin Member Telangana Haj Committee and Irfan Shareef Assistant Executive Officer also seen in picture.



Valima Dinner attend by BTS news & TV channel Managing Director Mohd Taufeeq (Journalist) with Mehboob Sahab (Journalist) and Advocate Manzoor Sahab, Police Department Md. Hussain Sahab and Civil Supply Department Mr. Amjad Sahab also seen in this pic.

Pro Care Clinic Dara Market Musheerabad release a New Year Calendar 2025 with Dr. Waseem Sahab and Mr. Mohd Taufeeq BTS news & TV channel Managing Director Musheerabad.



Srivari Vaikuntadwara Darshan in city Balaji temples on Jan 10

Hyderabad, Dec.30 (NSS): TTD Hyderabad AEO U. Ramesh has said the TTD was making extensive arrangements for providing New Year-2025 and Srivari Vaikuntadwara Darshan at Himayathnagar and Jubilee Hills temples to as many devotees as possible from January 10 to 12. Addressing media persons here today, the AEO said Vaikuntadwara Darshan commences from early hours of January 10 at 3.30 am and will conclude at 9.30 pm.

He said special queue lines, barricades, drinking water will be provided at these counters. He urged the devotees coming to the temples to park their vehicles at the allotted places and cooperate to the traffic police personnel. Similarly on the 2025 New Year Day, all possible arrangements have been made for the visiting devotees, he added. As per Puranic legend, one day, i.e. duration in Vaikunta of Sri Maha Vishnu is considered as one year on the Earth.

India lose seven in the final session, Australia snatch 2-1 series lead

Melbourne, Dec 30 (GNS) Early in the final hour at the MCG, Australia won an epic Test that had been played in front of a record crowd to take a 2-1 lead in the Border Gavaskar Trophy, having snared seven wickets in the final session when it appeared India were on track to save the game.

Yashasvi Jaiswal defied the home side for 208 deliveries before falling to the Herculean Pat Cummins while hometown star Scott Boland made three key incisions to secure one of Australia's most significant victories of recent history.

Nathan Lyon claimed the final wicket, when he pinned Mohammed Siraj lbw, sparking wild celebrations for the home side: a margin of 184 runs did not do justice to the tension and drama of the final day and the importance of the result to this Australia team who have turned their fortunes around after the crushing opening defeat in Perth.

After India had slid to 33 for 3, Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant added 88 in 32 overs to take India into the final session with seven wickets in hand, but Travis Head burled the wicket of Pant and Australia seized their moment as India lost 7 for 34. The quick bowlers were immense, Mitchell Starc bowling in the mid-140kph region despite a back niggle, while Cummins and Boland added further chapters to previous MCG

► Australia 474 (Smith 140, Labuschagne 72, Bumrah 4-99) and 234 (Labuschagne 70, Bumrah 5-57) beat India 369 (Reddy 114, Jaiswal 82, Boland 3-57) and 155 (Jaiswal 84, Cummins 3-28, Boland 3-39) by 184 runs



heroics. Cummins earned the Johnny Mulhagh Medal as Player of the Match for an outstanding all-round Test in which he also contributed 90 runs alongside his six wickets. There was a dose of controversy, too, when Jaiswal's rearguard was ended via the

DRS after he gloved a pull down the leg side against Cummins. Snicko did not register anything, but third umpire Sharfuddoula ruled he had seen a clear deflection, which matched what was shown on TV. Jaiswal appeared to know he had hit it but spoke with



the umpires on the way off. It meant India's lower order had 21 overs to survive and it proved too much. The defeat means India's hopes of reaching the World Test Championship final are now out of their hands, but in terms of this series they can still retain

the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with victory in Sydney. For Australia, a win in the final Test - and a 3-1 margin - would secure their spot in the WTC final alongside South Africa who qualified yesterday with their own gripping victory over Pakistan.

Mentally disturbing : Rohit Sharma on Melbourne loss

► With 31 runs in six innings across three Tests, the Indian skipper's tally is just one more than Jasprit Bumrah's series wicket-haul of 30

Melbourne, Dec 30 (GNS) India skipper Rohit Sharma looked shattered as he confessed to being "disturbed" after the heavy loss to Australia in the fourth Test here, saying there are "things" that he needs to address at a personal level apart from the team's collective problems amid intense focus on his form. With 31 runs in six innings across three Tests, the Indian skipper's tally is just one more than Jasprit Bumrah's

series wicket-haul of 30. The clamour for Test retirement has reached a crescendo and Sydney could be his final port of call in whites but he doesn't want to go out without a fight. Where does he stand as a batter and as a captain? What is his frame of mind? The questions are many but the answers are not so simple. "I stand where I am standing today. There is nothing to think about what has happened in the past. Obvi-

ously, a few results have not gone our way. As a captain, yes, that is disappointing," he tried to conceal his disappointment after the 184-run defeat but then revealed what has become obvious. He is not in a happy place. "You know, a lot of the things that I am trying to do is not falling in place that I would want to. But mentally, look, you know, it is disturbing without a doubt. If you have come here and try and do successfully what



you're supposed to and if those things don't fall in place, that is a big disappointment. But as of now, that is where it is," Rohit explained. "And there are things that we as a team need to look at. I personally need to look at as well. So, we will try and see what happens. You know, there is still a game to go. If we can play that game well, you know, with 2-2, it is a draw. It will be really nice," he said.

Bumrah among nominees for ICC Test Cricketer of the Year honour



Dubai, Dec 30 (GNS) India's peerless fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was on Monday nominated for ICC Test Cricketer of the Year award along with England's prolific scorer Joe Root. Another English batter Harry Brook and Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis also featured in the list.

Bumrah has been the best bowler in Test cricket in 2024 with 71 wickets from 13 matches at an average of 14.92 and a strike rate of 30.16, the best figures for any bowler in the traditional format. The right-arm pacer has also been the best bowler in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar

Trophy with 30 wickets in a mere four Tests Down Under. "Having returned to the Test arena following his recovery from a recurring back injury in 2023, Bumrah dominated the bowling charts in 2024.

Featuring across 13 Tests in the calendar year, Bumrah delivered his best-ever annual tally — 71 wickets — finishing the year with more Test wickets than any of his counterparts," ICC said on its website. ICC rated Bumrah's match-defining spells at Perth, to guide India to a 295-run win, among his most memorable performances.

No Indian among nominees for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year award

Dubai, Dec 30 (GNS) No Indian player features among the nominees for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year award which has Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu and New Zealand's Amelia Kerr, among others.

The other two players nominated for the honour are Australia's Annabel Sutherland and South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt. "Sri Lanka's all-format captain has been producing the goods with the bat for a long time now for her country. Athapaththu is ranked among the top-10 players in the ICC Women's rankings for batters and all-rounders in ODIs as well as T20Is, proving her mettle with both bat and ball," said ICC in a release.

"A stellar year with over 1,000 runs across formats, picking up 30 wickets as well along the way has underlined her position as one of the most impactful players in women's cricket," it added. Athapaththu made 458 runs in nine ODIs at 65.42 and claimed nine wickets while in 21 T20Is, she scored 720 runs and took 21 wickets. Kerr has been nominated for her stellar performances, especially in New Zealand's title-winning campaign in the Women's T20 World Cup.

Lakshya Sen finishes 3rd at King Cup International Badminton Open

Shenzhen (China), Dec 30 (GNS) India's Lakshya Sen delivered a dominant performance, outplaying rising French star Alex Lanier in straight games to finish third at the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open here on Sunday. The 23-year-old from Al-mora defeated Lanier 21-17 21-11, securing a prize purse of around Rs 36 lakh. Lakshya had earlier lost in the semifinals to reigning world junior champion Hu Zhe'an of China, going down 19-21 19-21 in a closely contested match on Sat-

urday. In the third place play-off, Lakshya started strong, taking a 6-1 lead, but Lanier fought back to level the score at 10-10, eventually gaining a one-point advantage at the interval. However, Lakshya regained control to move ahead 18-15 and grabbed three game points before sealing the opening game when Lanier went wide. After the break, Lakshya continued with the momentum, establishing an 8-6 lead and quickly extending it to 15-8. He gained nine match points and wrapped up the vic-



tory when Lanier sent a shot long.

Manchester City get first win in five league games

► Savinho and Erling Haaland scored to give Manchester City a much-needed 2-0 victory, in manager Pep Guardiola's 500th game in charge over Leicester City at King Power Stadium on Sunday, the champions' first win in five Premier League games.

LEICESTER, Dec 30 (GNS) Savinho and Erling Haaland scored to give Manchester City a much-needed 2-0 victory, in manager Pep Guardiola's 500th game in charge, over Leicester City at King Power Stadium on Sunday, the champions' first win in five Premier League games.

City's second win in 14 games across all competitions meant they climbed two spots to fifth place in the standings with 31 points, 11 behind leaders Liverpool who have two games in hand. Leicester remain in the danger zone in 18th place.

Savinho netted his first goal for City in the 21st minute when he pounced on a rebound from Phil Foden's long shot after Leicester goalkeeper Jakub Stolarczyk pushed the ball into his path. The Brazilian fired into the roof of the net from a tight angle. Haa-

land, who has just two goals in eight league games in his worst stretch of his Premier League career, doubled City's lead in the 74th minute when he headed home a looping cross from Savinho, who latched onto a pass from Kevin de Bruyne.

Goals from Chris Wood and Morgan Gibbs-White gave Nottingham Forest a 2-0 win over Everton to move up to the heady heights of second after another superb performance away from home.

The win gives Forest, who battled relegation for much of last season, 37 points after 19 games. They are five behind Liverpool, who have two games in hand. Forest are one ahead of third-placed Arsenal, who are not in action again until New Year's Day, and two ahead of Chelsea, who can overtake them if they beat Ipswich Town on



Monday. Meanwhile, struggling Tottenham Hotspur had to settle for a 2-

home draw against a revived Wolverhampton Wanderers side after a late

strike by Norwegian substitute Jorgen Strand Larsen in an entertaining clash.