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Hindu Man Attacked, Set On Fire In Bangladesh, Escapes By Jumping Into Pond



Dhaka: Another Hindu man was attacked by a violent group in Bangladesh. Khokon Das, 50, was injured after the attack and set on fire. The incident took place on December 31 in the Shariatpur district of the country and is the latest in a series of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh.

The victim was allegedly on his way home when he was stabbed in the lower abdomen by a mob, beaten up and set ablaze after being doused with petrol. He only survived because he managed to jump into a nearby pond. Das' wife said that he was attacked when he was coming back home after closing his medical shop. The perpetrators stabbed him, hit him on the head and set him on fire. "I don't know who did this. We need justice. My husband is a simple man; he did not harm anyone. He did not hurt anyone," she added. Das, who was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after his condition deteriorated, is undergoing treatment. This marks the fourth attack on a Hindu in Bangladesh in two weeks.

PM Modi Congratulates BJP's New Thiruvananthapuram Mayor After Historic Win

Thiruvananthapuram: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated the newly elected Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Mayor VV Rajesh and his deputy GS Asha Nath after the BJP's historic win in the local body elections. In a heartfelt letter shared by VV Rajesh on social media, PM Modi termed the victory and election of the Mayor an end of the "fixed match" between the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). He said the BJP's vision for Viksit Thiruvananthapuram resonated with voters.

In his letter, the Prime Minister wrote, "In the midst of the festive season and as we begin the year 2026, history was made in the great city of Thiruvananthapuram when you took oath as the Mayor of the city and GS Asha Nath Ji took oath as the Deputy Mayor. I would like to congratulate you and Asha Ji for this. I would also like to congratulate all our Party's newly elected councillors and Karyakartas for the historic performance in the Thiruvananthapuram local body polls." "I have great memories of visiting Thiruvananthapuram, a city that has a place of pride in the minds of every Malayali.



It is blessed by Sree Padmanabhaswamy. It is the capital of Kerala. This city has nurtured thought leaders, social reformers, artists, musicians, poets, cultural giants, saints and seers. Thus, when such a city blesses our Party, it is very humbling. Our vision to build a Vikasita Thiruvananthapuram has resonated with people across the city, from all sections of society.

'NEED AWARENESS, EDUCATION'

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has called the killing of Tripura student Anjel Chakma for objecting to people using racial slurs in Uttarakhand a "sad and unfortunate" incident. He said incidents of attacks on racial lines on people from the northeast region had not happened for many years.

"The northeast region is not outside India; it is a part of India. Such incidents

were not seen in the last five years, and this is a very unfortunate one. We hope such incidents will not be repeated," Sarma told reporters today in Guwahati after announcing steps the state government has taken to detect, identity and deport illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Such acts cannot be tolerated, the chief minister added. "The state government has already condemned the incident and conveyed con-



lences. I believe the culprits will be booked and punished," Sarma said, adding people from the northeast are equal citizens of India. Awareness and education are necessary to prevent such incidents, he said.

"Speak Mother Tongue at Home"

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Amid Language Row

New Delhi: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday appealed for social harmony across the country, urging people to rise above the divisions of language, caste, and wealth. According to Bhagwat, people should speak their mother tongue at home, adding that all lan-

guages have equal weightage. Bhagwat's remarks came amid allegations by several regional parties, mostly from south India, that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has been "trying to give primacy to Hindi at the cost of regional languages". They also came at a time when outrage had been

growing over the killing of Angel Chakma, a student from Tripura, in Dehradun following alleged racial abuse. Amid the public anger, Bhagwat reiterated that the entire country belongs to everyone and that harmony is central to India's identity. "At least inside our houses, we should speak in our mother tongue.



Liquor sales increased on December 31st

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Jan., 1: On the occasion of New Year celebrations, liquor lovers created a rare record. On December 31, liquor sales in the state of Andhra Pradesh (AP Liquor Sales) increased significantly. Excise officials revealed the details related to this to this extent. They said that liquor worth Rs. 172 crores were sold in a single day yesterday. It was explained that 2,20,719 cases of liquor and 95,026 cases of beer were sold in these sales. Liquor lovers drank Rs. 60 crores more than last year.

Last year, only Rs 112 crore worth of liquor was sold on December 31. On December 31, 2024, only 1,26,128 cases of liquor and 68,754 cases of beer were sold. Excise officials say that sales on December 31 this year have increased significantly compared to last year. Excise officials have revealed that the state government has received significant revenue in the form of taxes due to the increase in alcohol consumption this year. They have estimated that the consumption of alcohol by drinkers, especially during the holiday season, New Year celebrations and parties, will increase. Accordingly, the consumption of alcohol in pubs, bars, restaurants and markets in the state is higher than usual, they said. It was revealed that liquor sales are continuing January 1. Officials explained that liquor and beer sales are also increasing at the beginning of this year compared to last year. They said that factors like liquor supply, market demand, number of consumers, and festive season are the main reasons for this increase.

AP government decides to distribute wheat flour through ration shops



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Jan., 1: The Andhra Pradesh Government will provide wheat flour distribution to the people from here on Thursday through ration shops. To this extent, this distribution program was launched by Civil Supplies Department MD Delhi Rao, Collector Collector Lakshmi Shah

and Joint Collector Ilakkia. Delhi Rao spoke to the media on this occasion. He said that from today, additional essential items are being provided to the people through ration shops. It was revealed that along with rice and sugar, wheat flour and jowar are also being provided. It was mentioned that recently,

when CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu held a high-level review meeting with officials, he suggested that quality wheat flour be provided to the people at a low price. He said that his senior officials coordinated with FCI and talked about getting 1850 tons of wheat flour every month. He revealed that he is providing

well-packed, milled wheat flour to the people at just Rs. 20 per kg. They said that each sample was packed only after being examined by their quality wing. They said that there is now a stock to be given to 17 lakh card holders. They explained that this wheat will be provided in district centers and later in other areas. They clarified that it is being implemented in six districts now and will be implemented in two more districts next month. Delhi Rao suggested that people should take advantage of this facility provided by the AP government. Collector Lakshmi said that they are distributing chakki wheat flour to the people through ration shops from today. She revealed that it will be very useful as a good nutritional food for children and the elderly. Collector Lakshmi said that healthy wheat flour will also improve health.

Polavaram 87% complete, govt targets 2027 dedication

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, Jan., 1: Water resources minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said that 13 per cent of the works on the Polavaram irrigation project were completed within 18 months of the coalition government coming to power, taking the overall progress of the project to 87 per cent. Addressing the media after reviewing irrigation works at his camp office here, the minister strongly criticised the YSRCP for questioning the progress of Polavaram project works. He said the party, which could complete

only 2 per cent of the works during its five-year tenure, had no moral right to criticise the present government. He recalled that between 2014 and 2019, when the TDP-led government was in power, 72 per cent of the project works were completed. Ramanaidu said the Polavaram project was now moving at a fast pace under the direct supervision of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The government aims to complete the project and dedicate it to the nation by the end of 2027, preferably be-



fore the Godavari Pushkarams in 2027, he added. The minister alleged that the previous YSRCP government had diverted Rs 3,000 crore reimbursed by the Centre, causing severe

damage to the project. He said the new diaphragm wall being constructed in place of the damaged one was 1,032 metres long and that 83 per cent of the work had already been completed.

Development is on the path of reforms: Pawan Kalyan

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Jan., 1: AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan has commented that the coalition government is moving forward with the goal of developing rural Andhra Pradesh. He said that his government is implementing reforms that are acceptable to the people. The Deputy CM's office has issued a statement to this effect. He clarified that the coalition government is continuing its administration towards solving the problems of the people, giving priority to environmental protection and implementing the promises made to the people. He explained that steps have been taken to achieve the double development goals in villages through the Palle Pandaga 2.0 program. He commented that his government's goal is to bring about a comprehensive change in rural areas through infrastructure development, cleanliness, green programs, and other aspects.

He explained that steps are being taken to conserve water resources, increase groundwater levels, and

improve the availability of irrigation water through the 'Amarajeevi Jaladharalu' program in five districts of AP. He revealed that this will provide sustainable benefits to farmers. He said that the 'Adavi Thalli Bata' program is being implemented specifically for the development of remote tribal villages. He said that the coalition government is working to improve education, healthcare and employment opportunities by providing roads and infrastructure to tribal areas.

It was revealed that steps have been taken to protect forests and animal wealth through the 'Hanuman Project' as part of wildlife conservation. He said that they are using Kunkilu and AI technology to control the threat of elephants in particular. Officials from Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's office said that they are taking a step towards a permanent solution to human-wildlife conflict. He said that his government is continuing to provide promotions to employees and ensure that the fruits of development are available to the people. He clarified



that the main objective of his government is to provide a balance between welfare and development along with administrative reforms. He said that his own imprint is clearly visible on the departments allocated to Pawan Kalyan in 2025. He said that with the cooperation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and Pawan Kalyan's activities, AP will achieve good results in all sectors. Officials of Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's office said that the coalition government, which is aimed at rural development, environmental protection, and people's welfare, is laying a strong foundation for the future of the state.

YSRCP leaders worse than maoists alleges TDP MLA Kala Venkata Rao

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Jan., 1: 'Maoists are better than YCP leaders. While they fight for ideology, YCP leaders have no ideology. Their only goal is to incite threats,' said TDP senior leader and Cheepurupalli MLA Kala Venkata Rao. He spoke at a press conference at the ZP guest house in Vizianagaram. Former CM Jagan has lashed out at Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, accusing him of becoming an unconstitutional force by threatening those who came forward to build and operate medical colleges under the PPP model and contractors who were interested in carrying out development work.



EDITORIAL

A new year of millions of hopes

It is known that the state government had formulated Rising Vision 47 early last month, which outlined the development path of Telangana in the next twenty years. Now, this new year is welcoming 'Vision 47' with a million hopes. People, especially the youth, are hoping that at least some of the goals set for the comprehensive development of various sectors will be fulfilled this year (2026). Telangana Rising Vision 47 is not just a policy vision, but a vision that has emerged from the aspirations of the people. It is a collective model created by the people. To clearly explain what the future picture of Telangana should be, consultations were held with the people across the state, urban, peri-urban and rural communities were brought closer and their opinions were collated and the future plan was realized. It is noteworthy that in the collection of these opinions, people especially explained that there should be good schools, quality healthcare, clean, hygienic and safe neighborhoods, that life should be easy, and that jobs or employment should be accessible to people's homes. 65 percent of the opinions expressed by the public came from young people.

The youth especially seemed to be hoping for opportunities in emerging sectors like human development, job creation, artificial intelligence, technology, IT, cutting-edge technology and entrepreneurship. The results of Telangana Rising Vision are not just the government's priorities, but the hopes and dreams of nearly 4 crore citizens. The current SGDP of Telangana for the financial year 2025-26 is \$200 billion, or Rs. 18,00,003 crore, and Telangana aspires to grow five times by 2047, or to become a \$3 trillion economy. The government is determined to make Hyderabad a world-class city. To this end, the government has set out to overcome transportation, water scarcity, urban congestion, climate change and other problems and challenges. Telangana is determined to gain a large share in the global trade sector in important sectors such as electronics, biotech, pharma and others as an alternative to China.

To achieve the Telangana Rising Vision, the living conditions of the people in Hyderabad city as well as in rural areas need to improve in parallel. Agro-based and organic farming methods should also be changed to the most modern. Some subsidies should be provided zone-wise for the development of vegetable cultivation and lentil production. A 200-acre AI City and Bharat Future City have been established to facilitate the development of deeptech, AI, quantum, computing and other technologies. Young India Skills University and Education City are being established to develop skills among the local youth. Expert NRIs will be brought in and trained to the local youth. The state government has set out Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), Peri Urban Region Economy (PURE) and Rural Agriculture Region Economy (RAED) models in the vision so that development can proceed in parallel in all areas. All the regions within the Outer Ring Road will be developed through Cure. Deeptech, industries, R&D design studios, and startup industries will be established in Hyderabad in technology. Manufacturing industries and MSME complexes will be established in all the regions between the Outer Ring Road and the Regional Ring Road under Pur. Agriculture and agro-based industries will be established from beyond the Regional Ring Road to the state borders under Rare. Dairying and fish farming will be undertaken. Forest-based livelihood systems will be improved. Handlooms, handicrafts, environment, and tourism will be developed. Rural income will be increased with digital market connectivity. To empower the youth of Telangana, the Telangana government has provided 60,000 government jobs and 6 lakh private jobs from 2023.

Apprenticeship schemes will be expanded for comprehensive skill development from school level to higher education. Youth will be trained in the fields of artificial intelligence, robotics, renewables, modern productivity and cyber security. The government has set a target to create one crore women millionaires in relation to women's welfare. The aim is to encourage women from education to business. To provide financial freedom to women, financial assistance is being provided to 4.5 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs). This has given financial freedom to 65 lakh women. It is known that the Mahalaxmi scheme has already been known as an exemplary scheme in the country by providing free travel in buses to women. The government is supporting farmers by implementing schemes like farmer loan waiver, farmer assurance, farmer insurance and crop insurance.

Trump-Xi Meet To G20 In Florida, What India Is Looking Forward To In 2026

The past year was one of the most momentous in recent times, made so by the arrival of a US president who is bent on transforming the world to his own image. The year not only saw a short India-Pakistan aerial war, but also an unexpected dent in the growing strategic ties between India and the US. The geopolitical result of this was a somewhat unexpected revival of the India-Russia friendship, which made a routine Putin-Modi summit stand out. Meanwhile, the Israel-Hamas war has wound down to a shaky ceasefire, even as peace negotiations continue to end the longer war between Ukraine and Russia. This was the year China successfully displayed its strength vis-à-vis the United States, and also the one country where renewables have surpassed coal as a source of electricity worldwide. It will begin its ambitious 14th Five Year Plan in 2026 to consolidate its technical-industrial might. As for Pakistan, there will be little change in the country, which is living within illusions of its own creation. The year 2025 saw the terrible terrorist strike at the Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam, which led to Op Sindoor and the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty by India. When we look ahead to 2026, we can see the predictable sequence of annual meetings, visits and summits. You can be sure that the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the US will be directed by Trump himself and have his unpredictable trademarks. The G-20 sum-

mit, hosted by Donald Trump in Florida, will be a standout. But there will be equally important meetings of BRICS in New Delhi, the G7 summit in France, the ASEAN summits in the Philippines, the APEC summit in Shenzhen, and the COP 31 summit in Turkey. Note that Trump has already excluded South Africa from the G-20 and has declared that BRICS is an adversary grouping as far as the US is concerned. In terms of bilateral relations, without doubt, the most important will be the planned exchange of visits by Trump and Xi Jinping to each other's country, something that will have major consequences for global geopolitics. As of now, the only confirmed planned visit of Prime Minister Modi is to Italy, though no doubt he will participate in many of the multilateral summits and hold meetings with top leaders on their sidelines. New Delhi also hopes to finish its long-running negotiation with the US on its bilateral trade agreement by March 2026, along with similar agreements with the EU, Qatar, Oman, Canada and Mexico. For India, perhaps the most consequential will be the Bangladesh elections in February, where the Bangladesh National Party is expected to win, though the National Citizens' Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami are also likely to play a significant role. The exclusion of the Awami League, however, cannot but have negative consequences for the process itself. There will also be a general election in Nepal; just



how things will turn out, given the Gen Z uprising, remains to be seen. Of consequence, too, will be the off-year elections in the United States, where the entire lower house, the House of Representatives, faces elections, along with one-third of the upper house, the Senate, along with governors in 36 American states. These could either strengthen the MAGA revolution or hand Trump a rebuke.

Among other important events will be the International Fleet Review and Naval Conclave in Vishakapatnam in February 2026. The events will include the MILAN exercise as well. Participating will be the navies of over 50 countries in the Indo-Pacific, Africa, Europe, the US and Russia. 2026 will also be the year in which the fourth Indian nuclear ballistic missile submarine, INS

Aridhaman, will be commissioned, giving a significant boost to India's nuclear deterrent capacity. Among the more quirky developments will be the fact that semaglutide, an anti-obesity drug, will go off-patent in 2026 and enable companies in India to make low-cost versions of Ozempic and Wegovy. India, with 84 million obese, could benefit from this development. Within the eight months that Mounjaro has been on sale in India, it has become the country's highest-selling drug, overtaking even antibiotics.

You may have heard of 'Black Swan' events, but there also happen to be 'Grey Rhinos', which are events that are known and ignored, yet when we bump or crash into them, there are significant consequences. Climate change and environmental disasters fall

into this category. But there are other Grey Rhinos, such as AI and quantum computing, where developments could lead to disruptions in a range of areas. We could also think of the outcome of the US mid-term elections in November, or elections in Israel, which may lead to the exit of Netanyahu in this category. The biggest Grey Rhino will be Trump himself, standing on the crossroads of history even as it runs into him for the second year of his presidency. Another Grey Rhino is the US-Venezuela conflict, which could deepen and disrupt the region as well as global oil prices. Ultimately, the future is unknowable. So far, as the COVID experience has revealed, the world does have the ability to cope with the unknown. But also, as that experience showed, the coping process may not be all that smooth.

Bangladesh To Pak, An Embattled India Steps Into 2026

As 2025 draws to a close, India finds itself navigating a turbulent regional environment. The year has been marked by Pakistan's uneasy economic stabilisation and Bangladesh's dramatic political transition, both of which carry profound implications for India's security, diplomacy, and economic outreach in New Delhi's backyard. India's "Neighbourhood First" policy is facing its most grueling stress test in decades. For years, New Delhi's regional strategy relied on a binary of "stable friends" and "managed foes". Today, that binary has collapsed into a kaleidoscopic mess of volatility. From the collapse of a pro-India regime in Dhaka to a near-kinetic escalatory cycle with Islamabad, the year-end report card for India's periphery reads like a geopolitical cautionary tale. The most seismic shift of 2025 remains the structural transformation of Bangladesh. After fifteen years of a "Golden Era" for India under Sheikh Hasina, India now faces a Dhaka that is ideologically fluid and strategically aloof.

An Increasingly Pak-Friendly Bangladesh

The interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, has spent the year trying to balance the revolutionary zeal of student leaders against the institutional vacuum left by the Awami League's collapse. For India, the implications are stark. The "security-first" pillar, where Dhaka actively suppressed anti-India insurgents from the Northeast, is no longer guaranteed; if anything, the opposite, with militants gaining sanctuary in Bangladesh, is a real risk, as is the prospect of Pakistan's ISI fishing in troubled waters around India's "soft underbelly" there. Following the assassination of a student leader, preposterously blamed by some on India (which has no interest whatsoever in promoting instability in Bangladesh), student leaders

have increasingly used provocative rhetoric, with some openly threatening to provide refuge to separatist elements in India's "Seven Sisters" states, and one even brashly claiming that his country knows how to separate India from its North-East.

The resurgence of Islamist forces, notably the Jamaat-e-Islami, has added a layer of communal anxiety. Tensions surrounding the death sentence on the ousted Sheikh Hasina and Dhaka's demand for her extradition will continue to mount if New Delhi continues to host her, which it has little choice but to do. Throughout 2025, reports of violence against minorities and the targeting of Indian cultural assets have soured the "people-to-people" connect that was once the bedrock of the relationship. The recent lynching of a Hindu worker, Dipu Chandra Das, has inflamed passions on both sides, with protests engulfing diplomatic establishments in both countries. Meanwhile, Bangladesh grapples with energy shortages, inflationary pressures, and declining investor confidence. India's ambitious plans for regional connectivity through ports, rail, and energy grids depend heavily on stability in Bangladesh.

Look Beyond Sentiment

As we enter 2026, India must transition from a "legacy-based" diplomacy to a "transactional-plus" engagement. The emotional bond of 1971 is no longer enough to anchor ties with Bangladesh; New Delhi needs a new narrative that appeals to the "Gen Z" of Dhaka who did not live through the Liberation War. As the country heads toward elections in early 2026, India finds itself in an unfamiliar position: a bystander watching its influence being challenged by a younger, more nationalistic generation that views New Delhi's past support for the previous regime as an affront to their sovereignty. Questions



loom over whether, with the lawlessness and intimidation in the streets, the forthcoming elections in Bangladesh would be free and fair - or whether they would even take place as scheduled. While the East is a puzzle of political transition, the West remains a theatre of hard-nosed military posturing. The year 2025 saw the most significant military confrontation between India and Pakistan since 2019. The "Operation Sindoor" strikes in May, India's justified response to a major terror attack in Pahalgam, signalled that the Modi government's threshold for "strategic patience" has lowered further. However, Pakistan's response was not merely conventional: it involved a spate of missiles and drones, guided by real-time intelligence from Chinese satellites hovering over India. Islamabad's establishment of a new Army Rocket Force Command (ARFC) and its pursuit of hypersonic technologies suggest a shift toward "asymmetric deterrence".

Pakistan's Curious Diplomatic Game

At the same time, Pakistan's GDP growth edged up to 2.7% in FY25, supported by easing inflation, lower interest rates, and modest recovery in private consumption. The government

touted reforms aimed at export-led growth, particularly in agriculture, minerals, and technology. Islamabad's push for export-led growth in textiles and agriculture could challenge Indian producers in overlapping markets. Yet, foreign investment inflows fell sharply, down 25% in the July-November period. Reliance on IMF support underscored the fragility of this rebound, but foreign backers have rallied around with loans, grants and loan guarantees, notably from US-dominated international institutions, in addition to China and Saudi Arabia. This is just as well: in Pakistan, economic fragility often translates into external adventurism. If the economy fails and the omnipotent military again gets the bulk of the blame, India must remain alert to Pakistan's potential use of cross-border tensions as a diversionary tactic. Despite its internal economic malaise, Pakistan has shown a surprising ability to play an effective geopolitical-diplomatic game, securing a historic defence pact with Saudi Arabia and re-engaging with Washington on "non-traditional" security areas like critical minerals. For India, the nightmare of a two-front challenge is no longer a theoretical exercise; it is a lived reality. The increasing "internation

alisation" of Pakistan's security architecture, and its successful leveraging of ties with both China and the Gulf, has made it harder for India to diplomatically isolate Islamabad.

The Expanding Shadow Of Beijing

The common thread through both the Dhaka and Islamabad narratives is the expanding shadow of Beijing. In Bangladesh, the interim government's search for "alternative partners" has led to a flurry of Chinese infrastructure MOUs, particularly in port and industrial sectors. In Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) continues to be the lifeblood of an otherwise gasping economy. China's opportunistic diplomacy in Bangladesh and Pakistan threatens India's primacy in South Asia. New Delhi must ideally accelerate connectivity projects and deepen people-to-people ties to counterbalance Beijing, but current circumstances militate against both. Instability in both neighbours heightens risks of infiltration, militancy, and refugee crises. India's border management must combine vigilance with humanitarian sensitivity. India's traditional levers of geographic proximity and cultural affinity are being outmatched by China's "investment-led diplomacy".

Pen Power 2026 New Year Calendar Unveiled Released by Sri Parameshwara Nandagiri Swamiji

Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, January 01: The Pen Power Daily 2026 New Year Calendar was ceremoniously unveiled on Thursday by Sri Parameshwara Nandagiri Swamiji at his ashram in Visakhapatnam. Speaking on the occasion, Swamiji said that it was commendable for Pen Power to have earned significant appreciation from readers within a short span of time. He praised the newspaper for presenting facts fearlessly and transparently, thereby establishing a distinct identity in the field of journalism. • Swamiji further stated that Pen Power has been playing a vital role in safeguarding democratic values by acting as a mirror to society through its responsible and unbiased reporting. Extending his best wishes for the New Year 2026, Swamiji expressed hope that Pen Power would continue to grow steadily and strengthen the trust of its readers. He conveyed New Year greetings to the management, editorial team, and journalists of the newspaper.



Shettipalli Layout Development Ready for Allotment



Tirupati | Pen Power | January 1
All arrangements for the Shettipalli Layout Development have been completed, said TUDA Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy. Eligible farmers and plot holders will be allotted plots through a lottery system on January 15, to be conducted by Hon'ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. The registration fee for allotted plots will be fully waived, following approval by the State Cabinet. Each eligible beneficiary will receive a minimum of two cents, with properly demarcated boundaries and

printed registration documents. District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar stated that pattas will be distributed in a festive atmosphere on a single day. As part of the model township plan, 65 acres have been allocated by TUDA to develop Shettipalli with modern infrastructure, including internal roads, drainage, drinking water, electricity, commercial buildings, parks, a temple, and a cremation ground. The review meeting was held at the Tirupati Collectorate with TUDA, revenue, and municipal officials, along with village committee members and farmers.

R.V.S. Ramachandra Rao Assumes Charge as New Deputy Director of Information Department

Kakinada, Pen Power, January 1: R.V.S. Ramachandra Rao has taken charge as the new Deputy Director and District Information & Public Relations Officer (DIPRO) of the Information and Public Relations Department, Kakinada, on Thursday morning. He was appointed in place of outgoing Deputy Director Dasari Nagarjuna, who retired on December 31. Ramachandra Rao, currently serving as Assistant Director at the State Information Centre, Rajamahendravaram, has rendered services in various capacities in the united East Godavari, West Godavari, and Krishna districts. He has been given full additional charge as Deputy Director, Kakinada. Speaking on the occasion, he said that with the support of staff and media, he would ensure wide publicity for government development and welfare programmes so that people can benefit from them. He also assured that steps would be taken to ensure timely and comprehensive delivery of journalist welfare schemes to all eligible beneficiaries. Later, he met District Collector Shan Mohan Sagili and other officials at the Collectorate to convey New Year greetings.



Peace of mind in the path of Devotion: S I Tahir Hussain



Kadapa January 01: New Year's prayers were held in grand style on Thursday under the leadership of Pastor P. Mahesh and Sister Santhamma, presidents of New Native Krupa Ministries at Krupa Colony, Division 48 of the city. Many prominent people of the city attended these celebrations and added to the spiritual buzz. Kadapa Taluk S I Tahir Hussain, Minority Welfare Senior Assistant David with his wife were present as chief guests of this program. Essay Tahir Hussain said that spirituality in society guides people on the right path. It is commendable that Pastor

Mahesh has built a temple in Krupa Colony with his own efforts and is doing social service by making the people here spiritually aware. All the people are asked to wake up with peace and harmony. As part of the celebrations, the guests unveiled the New Year calendars and CD of New Year songs, cut a cake and distributed it to the children and devotees who came there. Mainari T Welfare Senior Assistant David said that works done with sense of service are always recognized and Pastor Mahesh praised the services done by the couple. Importantly, Pastor P. Mahesh spoke the divine word and wished that everyone would be happy and happy this year, that everyone would walk on the right path and receive the blessings of the Lord. Special prayers were offered for the welfare of the people of the country, for the government officials and the rulers. At the end of the program, New Year promises were given to all the devotees and sweets were distributed. A large number of people and devotees participated in this program: Pastor B. Thomas, Budagajungam Welfare Sangha State Leaders Leaders D. Sriramulu, Dupam Raju, Sangha Elders P. Ravi Teja, Keertana, A. Augustine, Roja, Shanthi Raju, Narasiah, Sarala, Sugunamma, Ramanji namma, Ramanamma, Colony residents and devotees.

Salavuddin wished the District Officers a Happy New Year

Kadapa Jan uary 01 On the occasion of the New Year 2026, the state president of the Muslim Samayyakvedi honored and congratulated prominent community workers Syed Salahuddin along with the district dignitaries. On this occasion, District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri, District SP Sachiket Vishwanath, DSP, Municipal Commissioner along with A. Venkat eswaru. Manoj Reddy, Rims Police Station CI Ramakrishna Reddy, Chinna Chowk CI Obulesu. Crime CI Narayana. Taluka CI Reddappa congratulated other dignitaries.



Grand Felicitation to Retired DD Dasari Nagarjuna

Kakinada, Pen Power, January 1: District Collector Shanmohan felicitated Dasari Nagarjuna, who retired as Deputy Director of the Information & Public Relations Department on December 31, at the Kakinada Collectorate on Thursday. He was honoured with a shawl on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector praised Nagarjuna for his dedicated and commendable services in various positions in the department and for effectively coordinating with the district administration and media for over two and a half years. He wished him a healthy and happy post-retirement life. In-charge District I&PR Officer Ramachandra Rao, Divisional PRO P. Ravi, AEE C. Baburao, PRO S. Ajay, Photographer C.H. Naresh and others were present.



Gopinath Jatti Assumes Charge as IG of Visakhapatnam Range



Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, January 1: Gopinath Jatti, who was recently promoted while serving as DIG of Visakhapatnam Range, officially assumed charge as Inspector General of Police (IG) on Thursday. New Year celebrations were held at the Visakhapatnam Range Police Office on this occasion. Several district SPs and senior police officers met the IG, extended New Year and promotion greetings, and presented saplings. IG Gopinath Jatti later cut a cake along with police personnel and distributed sweets to staff. Addressing the gathering, he urged the force to work with renewed enthusiasm in the New Year and assured priority to maintaining law and order and controlling crime in the Visakhapatnam Range.

Tirupati SP Visits Orphanage on New Year



Tirupati / Pen Power / January 1: On the occasion of New Year, Tirupati District Superintendent of Police L. Subbarayudu, along with his family members, visited an orphanage run by RISE voluntary organization at Jeevakona. The SP interacted warmly with the children, had them cut a cake, and extended New Year greetings. He also distributed essential items such as towels, notebooks, soaps, and stationery to the students. Speaking on the occasion, SP Subbarayudu said that no one is born an orphan and called upon society to take responsibility for the safety, education, and confidence of children. The visit was appreciated by the orphanage management and students as a fine example of police-community bonding.

Guntur SP Calls for Dedicated Police Services



Guntur, Pen Power, January 1: On the occasion of welcoming the New Year 2026, district police officers met Guntur District Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal at the district police office and extended New Year greetings by presenting bouquets. A cake-cutting ceremony was also held. The officers appreciated SP Vakul Jindal's leadership, administrative efficiency, and service-oriented approach in strengthening the police department and main-

taining law and order in the district. Addressing the gathering, the SP urged all officers to work responsibly and with dedication to provide quality police services to the public and ensure peace and security through coordinated efforts. He also commended the officers for sincerely implementing his directions. Additional SPs, DSPs, SB officials, CIs, inspectors, SIs, and staff of the district police office participated in the programme.

District Collector Nishant Kumar commenced the administration of Annamayya district from the Madanapalle Collectorate on the occasion of the New Year



Madanapalle, January 01: On the occasion of the English New Year, District Collector Nishant Kumar inaugurated the administration of Annamayya district from the Madanapalle Collectorate. On Thursday morning, on the occasion of the New Year, District Collector Nishant Kumar took his seat in his chamber at the new Madanapalle Collectorate and commenced the district administration. On this occasion, the District Collector was welcomed into the new Annamayya district Collectorate with Vedic chants by Vedic scholars. Later, Madanapalle MLA Shajahan Basha, Joint Collector Adarsh ??Rajendran, District SP Dheeraj, Madanapalle Sub-Collector Challa Kalyani, DRO Madhusudan Rao, district officials from various departments, and Collectorate staff met the District Collector, presented him with bouquets, and extended New Year greetings. On this occasion, the District Collector expressed his hope that Annamayya district would achieve all-round development in the English New Year 2026. He instructed all district officials to work in coordination and complete the targets allocated to the district.

Basireddy wished the MLA Happy New year



C K Dinne January 01: Kadapa MLA Madhavireddy, TDP State Politburo member Reddappa Gari Srinivasulareddy, head of Sri Dinnepati Basireddy Vikas School in Bhagat Singh Nagar, Dinne Pati Basireddy, together presented a flower plant and wished them Happy New Year.

3 Questions For Indian Cricket In 2026:
Suryakumar Yadav's Form, Gautam Gambhir's
Coaching And The Issue Of Home Tests



The Indian cricket team walks into 2026 with the prospect of winning three world titles and the challenge of redeeming its reputation as a top-notch Test side. The U-19 World Cup (January-February), the men's T20 World Cup (February-March), and the women's T20 World Cup (June) will be in focus as India's charge as world beaters in cricket reaches an ambitious high. India coach Gautam Gambhir and T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav will be at the center of attention too, with their reputations at stake.

Suryakumar Yadav's T20 Form

Till the 2024 T20 World Cup, Suryakumar Yadav was India's best T20 batter. After India's triumphant run in the mega event, the veteran batter even got the captaincy. He showed that the faith placed in him was not misplaced with strong performances against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in July and October 2024. In fact, against

Bangladesh on October 12, 2024, he slammed a 35-ball 75 that included five sixes and eight fours. The problem is, that was the last time SKY scored a half-century in T20Is. After that innings, Yadav played 22 more matches till the end of 2025. Only twice in those innings did he cross the score of 25. His highest was a 47* against Pakistan at the Asia Cup 2025, which India won under his captaincy. Despite such a below-par record with the bat, Yadav was persisted with for the T20 World Cup, raising question marks. While Shubman Gill was dropped, SKY was given the long rope because of his captaincy. After India's T20 World Cup squad selection, Yadav admitted: "Yeh wala (lean) patch thoda lamba ho gaya (This lean patch has been a bit too long)." However, he hoped for better days. "I'm sure everyone has seen this in their respective careers, and I will overcome it," he said. Indian

cricket would hope so too.

Gautam Gambhir's Coaching

An Asia Cup title and a Champions Trophy in the first year of coaching the Indian cricket team would be regarded as a stellar run. Instead, Gautam Gambhir is facing tough questions on whether he will be able to take the Indian Test cricket team to similar heights as in the limited-overs formats.

Gambhir took over as India's head coach in July 2024 after the T20 World Cup. Since then, India have won seven Tests, lost 10, and drawn two. Under him, India has won two series at home, lost three (two at home and one in Australia), and drawn one (in England). What has been glaring is that, for the first time, India have been clean-swept at home in two successive home Test series. India still have nine Tests left in the 2025-27 cycle. With nine wins, they can reach a 74.1% win percentage. With

seven wins, one draw, and one loss, India can reach 64.8%. With six wins, two draws, and one loss, India can reach 61.1%. With six wins, one draw, and two losses, India can reach 59.3%. Realistically, India must win at least six Tests to have any hope of finishing among the top two in the WTC table. India next play the following three bilateral series:

India vs Sri Lanka (away) - 2 Tests - August 2026

India vs New Zealand (away) - 2 Tests - October-December 2026

India vs Australia (home) - 5 Tests - January-February 2027

Gambhir was furious when asked about India's poor Test record under him. He has BCCI's confidence too, as secretary Devajit Saikia and vice-president Rajeev Shukla have said Gambhir has their full backing till the 2027 ODI World Cup. Now, it is up to Gambhir to repay the trust.

Issue of Home Tests

Much of this started under Gautam Gambhir's coaching. A 3-0 loss to New Zealand in 2024 and a 2-0 defeat to South Africa in 2025, for a team that did not lose a single home Test series from February 2013 till October 2024, was not the greatest of records. The retirements of veterans like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, a generation of batters who are yet to reach the high level of resilience required in Tests, and a bowling attack that is under pressure to repeatedly replicate the high standards set in the past few years have contributed to the cause. Before 2027, India won't play a home Test series. However, it may not be a subject that the team management would want to push under the carpet.

'Change' Must For Gautam Gambhir After Mistakes Riddled 2025 As India Head Coach



Gautam Gambhir's first 18 months as India's head coach have been a tale of two extremes: white-ball dominance with Champions Trophy and Asia Cup silverware, contrasted against historic Test collapses and rumours of a fractured dressing room. As 2026 begins, the "no-nonsense" coach faces his most critical year yet. To succeed, he must evolve from a tactical mastermind into a cultural architect. In 2025, Gambhir's tenure was often defined by what critics called a "carousel of players." Frequent changes to the batting order and constant shuffling of the XI-often to maintain left-right combinations-prevented players from finding rhythm. Here is an analysis of the "changes" Gambhir must bring to his approach in 2026:- Gambhir must resist the urge to "micro-manage" every match-up. For 2026, he needs to identify a core XI (especially in Test cricket) and stick with them through a full cycle. Stability, rather than tactical "innovation," is what will allow a young

middle order to flourish following the retirements of legends like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. - While "role clarity" was a hallmark of the Rahul Dravid era, the Gambhir era has seen players used as tactical placeholders. One notable example in late 2025 was the dropping of Shubman Gill from the T20 World Cup squad, a move that sent shockwaves through the

camp. - Gambhir needs to define clear boundaries for players across formats. A player shouldn't feel that a poor Test series will lead to their exclusion from the T20 squad, or vice versa. By providing a "safe" environment where players know exactly where they stand in the pecking order, Gambhir can reduce the high-anxiety atmosphere that currently surrounds

team selection. - Reports surfaced throughout late 2025 suggesting an "icy" atmosphere between Gambhir and the remaining senior pillars. Allegations of a "forced" retirement push for the likes of Ashwin, Kohli, and Rohit from certain formats have created a perception of a coach who values his system over his superstars. - Gambhir must move away from the "my way or the highway" approach that has occasionally alienated established stars. In 2026, he needs to act as a mediator rather than a disruptor. Rebuilding trust with the veterans is essential for a smooth transition; their institutional knowledge is irreplaceable for the younger players he is trying to blood. - Gambhir's combative press conferences-often taking aim at critics or former legends-have occasionally backfired, creating an "us vs. everyone" siege mentality that can be exhausting for a young team. In 2026, Gambhir needs to alter his stance by absorbing pressure from the media rather than reacting to every slight.

"Shubman Gill Needs To Trust Him": T20 World Cup Winner Advocates More Responsibility For Star

In captain Shubman Gill's era, India face a tough task of qualifying for the World Test Championship final. Losses in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and in the home Test series against South Africa have made it extremely hard for the side to enter the title clash of the ICC event. Former India batter Robin Uthappa feels there's room for improvement for Shubman Gill as Test captain. He added that Gill may be undermining spinners like Washington Sundar. "I think Shubman, as a captain, needs

to trust him [Washington Sundar]. Because certain players feel they can play a bowler easily, they don't value skill as much as the next person, because he feels like he's an easy bowler [to play against]. It's human nature. It's happened in Indian cricket before. But for the development of Indian cricket, Washington and Kuldeep have to play a lot of Test matches and bowl a bulk of overs," Uthappa said. "We can win matches by batting, but to win a series, the bowling unit has to fire. For that, you

need to develop players. We need to give exposure to bowlers. Kuldeep Yadav should bowl 20-25 overs, make him used to that." Earlier, Sundar gave an interesting reply when asked why Shubman Gill didn't use him on Day 3 of the fourth Test against England in the first innings at Old Trafford in Manchester in July. A broadcaster asked: "Did your captain [Shubman Gill] forget that you can bowl in the first innings?" "I'm not giving any headlines this time," replied Sundar.

Divi Vadthya in her denim look



Nayanthara agreeing to promotions is a promotion!



Nayanthara may be one of the biggest stars in the industry, but she also carries a long-standing reputation for staying away from film promotions, often leaving producers struggling on the publicity front. She has maintained this stance for years. However, director Anil Ravipudi appears to have achieved what many could not: getting Nayanthara to change her approach. She surprised everyone earlier by featuring in a promotional video announcing her inclusion in "Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu" at the film's launch. In the film, she plays the female lead opposite Megastar Chiranjeevi. Now, Nayanthara has taken the surprise a step further by appearing in yet another promotional video as the film gears up for its theatrical release on January 12, 2026. In the newly released clip, she is seen asking Anil Ravipudi why he did not approach her again for promotions. A visibly shocked Anil responds with a witty line: "You agreeing to movie promotions itself is a promotion for me as a director." The light-hearted video is part of the film's ongoing promotional campaign. So far, "Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu" has unveiled three songs, with "Meesala Pilla" emerging as a massive chartbuster, crossing 100 million views.

Akhil Akkineni's 'Lenin' gears up for song promotions

Akhil Akkineni is set to make a fresh start in 2026. After taking a two-year break, the actor is returning with a new film titled "Lenin," which he hopes will mark a turning point in his career and put him back on the right track. Marking the arrival of New Year 2026, the makers unveiled a new poster featuring Akhil

in a rural youth avatar, set against a festive backdrop. The film's story is rooted in the Chittoor region, lending it a strong rural flavour. The promotional campaign will kick off with the release of the first single, composed by Thaman, scheduled to drop on January 5, 2026. Directed by Kishore Abbur,

"Lenin" is an action love story set in a rural milieu. Bhagyashri Borse plays the female lead opposite Akhil. The film is jointly produced by Naga Vamsi and Nagarjuna Akkineni under the banners of Manam Enterprises and Sithara Entertainments, and is slated for a summer 2026 release.