

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

08-12-2025

Total pilgrims: 71,142

Tonsures: 26,619

Hundi kanukalu: 4.13 CR

Waiting Compartments: 15

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens). 10 H

TO BOOK YOUR ADS CALL

99484 80279, 73307 78889

PM Modi

NATION | NEWS

Assam Movement will always have a prime place in our history: PM Modi on Swahid Diwas

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

WORLD | NEWS

Ukraine 'ready for elections' if partners guarantee security, Zelensky says

Sanju Samson

SPORTS | NEWS

Sanju Samson's Road To India XI Has 2 Two Roadblocks, R Ashwin Names Them

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TELANGANA RISING

GLOBAL SUMMIT

DECEMBER 8-9, 2025

BHARAT FUTURE CITY HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Eleven Maoists with Rs.82 lakh bounty surrender in Gadchiroli

Nagpur, Dec 10 : As many as 11 Maoists carrying a combined reward of Rs 82 lakh surrendered before the police in Maharashtra's Maoist-hit Gadchiroli on Wednesday, marking a major success for the state police in its efforts to weaken the red 'rebels' influence in the region. Officials said all eleven Maoists had been involved in violent activities for decades together and were active across Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. They all surrendered before Maharashtra Director General of Police Rashmi Shukla at an event organised in Gadchiroli. Of the 11, four of them surrendered along with their weapons and Maoist uniforms.

'Will make world class': Revanth announces Rs 1,000 cr for Osmania University

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, on Wednesday, vowed to transform Osmania University (OU) into a world-class university as he announced a development plan of Rs 1,000 crore for it. At a meeting held at the historic Arts College building on the campus, Revanth Reddy said he came to the university with the determination to make it an international university. Hours before the Chief Minister's visit, the government issued an order according administrative sanction of Rs 1,000 crore for infrastructure development in the Osmania University campus. A draft master plan for the development of the university was also released. The Chief Minister unveiled a special QR code inviting students to share their feedback and suggestions on the proposed master plan

and designs. The authorities have planned new roads, cycling tracks, a sports complex, a library, a gym, entry gates, Osmania Plaza, a memorial, a convention centre, an amphitheatre, an academic research centre, student commons & learning greens, a hostel zone, a multipurpose hall, a dining centre, a health centre and other facilities on the sprawling campus. The University announced that the final Master Plan and designs will be finalised based on the opinions and suggestions received from the students. The Chief Minister, in his speech, referred to the long and rich history of Telangana and noted that it was the institution that strongly voiced the aspiration for a separate state of Telangana. He pointed out that Osmania University produced great personali-

ties like P.V. Narasimha Rao, Jaipal Reddy, George Reddy, and Gaddar. Recalling that Osmania University was at the forefront of the Telangana movement in the second phase, he alleged that the previous government of the BRS weakened it for 10 years. Stating that people in Telangana aspired for freedom, social justice, and equal opportunities, he claimed that people got all these after Congress came to power two years ago. Revanth Reddy said he came to the campus to see if the people's aspirations have been fulfilled or not. "Some people asked me how I am so courageous to visit Osmania University. What is needed to come here is not courage but admiration. I have come here with a heart full of admiration and to pave the way for the development of the university," he said.

CM Naidu orders major administrative reforms to boost public satisfaction

AMARAVATI (TSIT): Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed all government departments to urgently enhance public satisfaction in service delivery, ordering sweeping administrative reforms and setting January 15 as the deadline for bringing every government service online. During a high-level review meeting with Ministers, Secretaries and Heads of Departments at the Secretariat, Naidu stressed the need for a more responsive and citizen-centric administration. He urged officials to adopt a humanitarian approach in handling public issues and questioned the reluctance to revise rules when they stand in the way of faster service. "If the Constitution can be amended for the people, why not administrative rules?" he asked, calling for simplified procedures and account-

ability at all levels. Reaffirming the government's commitment, he assured that there will be no increase in power tariff this year and said efforts are underway to bring down the power purchase cost from Rs.4.92 to Rs.4 per unit. Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's strong investment climate, the Chief Minister noted the state now leads the country with 638 industrial

NAIDU SETS JAN 15 DEADLINE FOR BRINGING ALL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ONLINE; RULES CHANGE SUGGESTED FOR QUICKER FILE CLEARANCE

anced regional growth. Naidu reported robust economic performance, with AP registering 12.02% growth in Q1 and 11.28% in Q2, supported by improved irrigation capacity and 944 TMC water storage across projects. He instructed departments lagging behind in digital readiness to act immediately and emphasised a more proactive, solutions-oriented governance model.

Stage set for first phase of panchayat elections in Telangana

HYDERABAD (TSIT): The stage is set for the first phase of gram panchayat elections in Telangana on Thursday. Station Election Commissioner Rani Kumudini said that all arrangements have been made for peaceful and free and fair elections. More than 56 lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes for 3,800 gram panchayats and 37,440 wards spread over 189 mandals. The polling will be held from 7 a.m. The counting of votes will be taken up immediately after the polling. A total of 56,19,430 candidates are eligible to cast their votes. The poll panel has set up 37,562 polling stations. She said 12,960 candidates are in the fray for the offices of sarpanches while 65,455 candidates are contesting for the offices of ward members. Sarpanches for 395 gram panchayats have been elected unanimously. A holiday has been declared in areas where elections are being held to enable voters to cast their votes. Over one lakh polling staff will be on duty.

India's Deepavali inscribed on UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list

NEW DELHI (TSIT): India's Deepavali – the festival of lights – was on Wednesday inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, sparking celebrations to mark the earning of the coveted tag. The decision was taken during a key meeting of UNESCO being hosted at the Red Fort in Delhi. Chants of 'Jai Hind', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' rent the air as UNESCO announced that the celebrated festival has been added to the prestigious list after a discussion by its

committee. Artists dressed in traditional attire performed in front of the main stage while images of the Deepavali festival played on the big screen. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the addition of Deepavali to the UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List, saying it will contribute to the festival's global popularity.

Cong losing polls due to leadership issues not SIR: Amit Shah in Lok Sabha

Home Minister said that it was the Cong party that had mastered the art of 'vote chori'

NEW DELHI (TSIT) Union home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Congress party for blaming external factors for its electoral defeats and said the principal Opposition party was losing elections not because of special intensive revision of voter roles, but because of its leadership issues. Speaking in the electoral reforms debate in Lok Sabha in the presence of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who earlier dared Shah to hold a debate

on the three press conferences that he did on the issue of alleged voter theft, the Home Minister said that it was the Congress

party that had mastered the art of 'vote chori'. "I will tell you what vote chori is. In 1946, as many as 28 provincial Congress committees voted for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to become Congress president and Prime Minister of free India. Jawaharlal Nehru got only two votes. But who became the Prime Minister of independent India? Jawaharlal Nehru," said Shah. The Home Minister went on to question the famous Allahabad High Court judgment that had declared the Rae Bareilly election of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's null on grounds of the unfair means.

Army hot air balloon expedition sets Asian record for longest flight

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army Hot Air Ballooning (HAB) Expedition from Bhopal to Pune was flagged off on Wednesday at Pune after covering 750 kilometers across Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and earned a mark in the Asian Book of Records for the longest duration Hot Air Balloon flight in India. Conducted under the aegis of the Indian Army Adventure Wing by the Hot Air Ballooning Node at EME Centre, Bhopal, the expedition was flagged off on November 30, 2025. Covering over 750 kilometres, the team traversed varied terrain from the Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh to the Western Ghats in Maharashtra with scheduled halts at Mhow, Sambhajinagar and Ahilyanagar.

Indian Railways raises daily train services to 11,740: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi (TSIT) : Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw informed Parliament on Wednesday that the daily average number of train services on the Indian Railways network has gone up to 11,740 (November 2025) from 11,283 services operating prior to Covid-19. The Indian Railways network has increased the daily average number of Mail and Express services to 2,238 (November 2025) as against 1,768 services operating prior to Covid-19.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the minister further stated that Indian Railways undertook rationalisation of the timetable, including rationalisation of train services and stoppages, in a scientific manner with the assistance of IIT-Bombay. The exercise has been undertaken to provide for better passenger safety by creating maintenance corridor blocks, speeding up train services and improving punctuality. Since

November 2021, Express train services have been operated as per a rational-

Indian Railways has increased daily train services to 11,740, introduced 164 Vande Bharat services, and is advancing safety and technology with the new Vande Bharat Sleeper trains featuring the KAVACH safety system and modern amenities.

ised timetable and regular numbers. The minister also said that

at present, 164 Vande Bharat train services having Chair Cars are operational on the Indian Railways network, besides the introduction of new train services, including Vande Bharat Express services and their variants. He further stated that to cater to long and medium distance overnight travel, the Sleeper variant of the Vande Bharat train has been indigenously designed. Two such rakes have been manufactured and are under trial.

Broad Technological advancements and safety features provided in Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains include the KAVACH safety system, higher acceleration with operating speed of 160 KMPH, crashworthy and jerk-free semi-permanent couplers and anti-climbers, fire barrier doors at the end of each coach and improved fire safety aerosol-based fire detection and suppression system in electrical cabinets and lavatories, the minister said.

Gautam Adani, Satya Nadella discuss vast potential of AI

New Delhi, Dec 10 : Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, on Wednesday said he met Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and discussed the vast potential of artificial intelligence (AI) for the future of technology.

The meeting came as Microsoft announced to invest \$17.5 billion in India over the next four years to drive AI diffusion in the country.

“Always a pleasure to meet @satyanadella and gain his valuable insights into the future of technology. We are

excited to continue building a 360 degree partnership as the physical and digital worlds converge in the age of AI,” said the Adani Group Chairman in an X post.

Gautam Adani further said that “Getting a demo from him of the AI apps he is personally building was another testament to the hands-on leadership that truly great leaders exemplify”.

Nadella on Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who asserted that the country's youth "will harness this opportunity to innovate and leverage the



power of AI for a better planet". "Thank you, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for an

inspiring conversation on India's AI opportunity. To support the country's ambitions, Microsoft is committing US\$17.5 billion — our largest investment ever in Asia—to help build the infrastructure, skills, and sovereign capabilities needed for India's AI first future,” Nadella said in a post on X.

Responding to Nadella's post, PM Modi wrote: "When it comes to AI, the world is optimistic about India!" "Had a very productive discussion with Mr. Satya Nadella. Happy to see India being the place

where Microsoft will make its largest-ever investment in Asia. The youth of India will harness this opportunity to innovate and leverage the power of AI for a better planet," the Prime Minister posted. Microsoft said that India stands at a pivotal moment in its AI journey, one defined by impact at scale, determined to lead. As technology becomes a catalyst for inclusive growth and economic transformation, the country is emerging as a frontier AI nation. Nadella arrived in India for an AI tour of the country.

Telangana announces landmark multi-year global partnership with IIFA

Hyderabad, December 2025: In a historic boost to India's cultural diplomacy and creative economy, the Government of Telangana has announced a landmark multi-year global partnership with the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Weekend & Awards and IIFA Utsavam. The announcement, made during the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025, positions Telangana as a major cultural, cinematic and creative hub on the world stage.

Under this first-of-its-kind collaboration, Telangana will be the Official Partner State at the 26th edition of IIFA Weekend & Awards in 2026, gaining visibility across 120 countries and a global audience of over 2.5 billion. This strategic initiative titled "Taking Telangana to the World" aims to elevate the State's global identity, boost tourism, and deepen international engagement with investors, industry leaders and the diaspora.

As part of the "Bringing the World to Telangana" strategy, Hyderabad will host IIFA Utsavam from 2026 to 2028, celebrating South Indian cinema across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam industries. The event is expected to bring thousands of visitors annually and position Telangana as the cultural capital of South India and a rising centre for film-led tourism and creative industries.

Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy said the partnership marks a defining moment in Telangana's journey toward becoming a

future-ready State. He highlighted how the association supports the State's ambition to become a USD 1 trillion economy by 2034 and contribute 10% to India's GDP by 2047. "Through IIFA 2026, we will take the story of Telangana to the world, and through IIFA Utsavam from 2026 to 2028, we will bring the world back to our State," he said.

The collaboration also aligns with Telangana's Tourism Policy 2025-2030, with initiatives to strengthen 'Film in Telangana', introduce youth skill-development programmes with TASK, and enhance cultural diplomacy. Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, said the partnership would redefine Hyderabad as the filmmaking capital of South India and deepen global engagement.

IIFA Co-Founder Andre Timmins described the partnership as a historic milestone that unites India's creative industries while elevating Telangana's global presence. He emphasized IIFA's commitment to positioning Hyderabad as a global creative hub and strengthening Telangana's cultural and economic footprint internationally.

With a legacy spanning 25 years across iconic world capitals, IIFA's association with Telangana marks one of the most ambitious cultural and economic alliances undertaken by an Indian State—setting the stage for unprecedented global visibility, tourism growth and creative-economy expansion.

All India SBI Inter Circle Kabaddi Tournament 2025–26 begins in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, December 9, 2025: The All India SBI Inter Circle Kabaddi Tournament 2025–26 began with great enthusiasm at the Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy Indoor Stadium, Yusufguda. The inauguration ceremony, held at 6:00 PM, drew an impressive lineup of senior dignitaries from the State Bank of India.

Among those present were Shri Ponnambalam Murugan, Chief General Manager (HR), Corporate Centre; Shri Ravi Kumar Verma, General Manager,

NW-I; Shri Satish Kumar, General Manager, NW-II; Shri Priyadarshi Pankaj, Deputy General Manager & CDO; Shri K. Chandrasekhar, General Secretary, AISBISF; Shri H. Shankar, President, SBIOA Hyderabad Circle; Shri K. Sandilya, CWC Secretary & General Secretary, SBI Staff Union Hyderabad Circle.

The evening opened with a lively cultural performance, followed by the

ceremonial welcome of all dignitaries.

In their addresses, speakers highlighted the importance of sports in promoting team spirit, fitness and camaraderie among employees. Shri Ponnambalam Murugan encouraged participants to compete with dedication and uphold the true essence of sportsmanship. He later met and interacted with the captains of all participating teams, culminating in a group photo session with the players. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the AGM (HR).

The inaugural match between Hyderabad Circle and Kolkata Circle set an exciting tone for the tournament. In a gripping contest, Hyderabad Circle secured a well-earned victory, marking a promising start to the championship.

Medicover Successfully Treats Large Brain AVM with Non-Surgical Radiosurgery

Hyderabad, 10th December, 2025: Medicover Cancer Institute, Hitech City, has successfully treated a 31-year-old Somalia, male diagnosed with a large and complex brain Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) using advanced Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS). The case was managed by a multidisciplinary team of neurosurgeons and radiation oncology experts at Medicover Cancer Institute.

The patient had been experiencing recurrent headaches and seizures for nearly a year—symptoms that many individuals, particularly women aged 25–45 years, often dismiss or attribute to stress or hormonal imbalances. Studies indicate that women in this age group typically delay neurological assessment by 6–12 months, increasing the likelihood of complications. In India, AVMs occur in approximately 1–2 per 100,000 people, with about 40% presenting initially with seizures. Lack of awareness and limited access to specialists in rural and semi-urban regions further prolong diagnosis.

An MRI revealed a 5.5 cm AVM located in the left temporo-parietal region, an area where open surgery



carries significant risk to speech, memory, and motor functions. Given the complexity and the patient's reluctance to undergo invasive surgery, the team opted for Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) as the safest and most precise treatment option. She received 30 Gy in 5 fractions in October 2025, a targeted treatment that eliminates abnormal vessels while protecting surrounding healthy brain tissue. Following treatment, the patient reported marked improvement, including a substantial reduction in headaches and seizure episodes, allowing her to resume normal daily activities. "Headaches, dizziness, and seizures are symptoms that people tend to ignore until they disrupt daily life, especially working women who often attribute these problems to stress or routine fatigue.

Hi Life Jewels unveils grand year-end jewellery showcase at Novotel HICC

Hyderabad: Hi Life Jewels is set to captivate Hyderabad with a spectacular year-end jewellery showcase, bringing together an extraordinary collection of fine craftsmanship and luxurious designs. The three-day exhibition will take place on December 12, 13 and 14 at Novotel HICC, offering visitors a chance to explore some of the most exquisite creations in contemporary jewellery.

The showcase features an impressive range, including heritage polki pieces, handcrafted gold jewellery, contemporary diamond collections, fusion designs, and striking statement sets crafted to elevate every celebration. From timeless classics to modern masterpieces, each creation highlights the brand's commitment to artistry, innovation and unmatched elegance.

Hi Life Jewels invites jewellery lovers, brides-to-be and connoisseurs of lux-



ury to experience brilliance up close and discover pieces that bring sparkle to every moment. The exhibition promises an immersive blend of tradition and trend, making it a must-visit event for this festive season.

GITAM Hyderabad team wins Smart India Hackathon 2025, bags Rs.1.5 lakh

Hyderabad: GITAM (Deemed to be University), Hyderabad, has secured a proud national achievement as its student team emerged victorious at the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025, held at the Ahmedabad nodal centre. The team won a cash prize of Rs.1.5 lakh for developing an innovative AI-driven platform designed to analyse public sentiment on government e-consultation feedback.

The winning team—second-year B.Tech CSE and AIML students Krishnapriya Koppolu, Abdul Basith Hassan Shaik, Amogh Kondiparthi, Karmanghat Yashwanth, Yuktha Chavali, and Sharanya Madina—created an intelligent system capable of sentiment classification, policy stance detection and automatic summarisation of large volumes of public responses on draft laws and regulations. Their solution aims to support policymakers with faster, data-backed insights and strengthen participatory governance.

Faculty mentor Dr. Chandrasekhar Uddagiri



expressed pride in the team's accomplishment, noting that their innovation and execution greatly impressed the jury. He also appreciated the continued support of GITAM's Venture Development Centre (VDC), which provided mentoring, resources and logistics throughout the competition.

The university leadership—including the HoD CSE, HoD AIML / Director-School of Technology, Deputy Director-VDC, Director-GSB, Dean-GSB, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor—were acknowledged for fostering a strong culture of innovation, research and experiential learning that contributed to this significant national win.

Hare Krishna Movement announces grand Sri Radha Govinda Ratha Yatra on Dec 13

Hyderabad: The Hare Krishna Movement, Hyderabad, has announced the Grand 4th Annual Sri Sri Radha Govinda Ratha Yatra, to be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025. The sacred chariot festival will celebrate India's spiritual legacy as the beautifully adorned Deities of Sri Sri Radha Govinda travel from Sri Krishna Go Seva Mandal Goshala, Gandipet "Y" Junction, to the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower at Narsingi-Kokapet.

The procession will be accompanied by devotional music, kirtans, worship, and enthusiastic participation from devotees and residents along the route. Organisers are making elaborate preparations to ensure a spiritually enriching experience for all. The celebrations will begin at 4:30 PM at Sri Krishna Go Seva Mandal with uplifting Hare Krishna kirtans, stage performances and the inaugural puja of Sri Sri Radha Govinda on the



Ratha. At 4:50 PM, dignitaries will offer Prathama Arati and perform the traditional brooming ceremony. The grand Ratha Yatra will start at 5:00 PM, passing through Kokapet, Allu Studios, 7 Hills Road, Rajapushpa Atria and Golden Mile Road, before reaching the Heritage Tower by 7:00 PM.

On arrival, devotees will be welcomed with Mega Kirtans and a special spiritual discourse by His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuji, President of the Hare Krishna Movement,

Hyderabad. The event will conclude at 7:30 PM with the final arati and the distribution of dinner prasadam to all attendees.

His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Chandra Dasa Prabhuji has extended a heartfelt invitation to devotees, families, and well-wishers to join the procession, pull the chariot, and receive the divine blessings of Sri Sri Radha Govinda. The event will also see participation from Governing Body Members, temple presidents from across India, congregational members, youth, and devotees.

JioHotstar unveils Rs.4,000 crore South investment plan at star-studded Chennai event

At a star-studded event that marked a watershed moment for South India's Media & Entertainment industry, JioHotstar announced to invest Rs.4,000 crore over the next five years to boost the region's creative economy. The evening was graced by the Deputy Chief Minister Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin, Member of Parliament Padma Bhushan Thiru. Kamal Haasan, Hon'ble Minister of Tamil Nadu, establishing a partnership that reflects a shared vision to accelerate the state's creative and production ecosystem. As part of this, JioHotstar will play a pivotal role in strengthening Tamil Nadu's creative economy introducing regional-first formats, new age stories and sto-

Chief Marketing Officer at JioStar and Krishnan Kutty, Head of Cluster, Entertainment (South) at JioStar underscored JioHotstar's bold leadership of India's content evolution and reaffirming the platform's commitment to elevate and expand South Indian storytelling at scale.

JioHotstar also announced signing a Letter of Intent with the Government of Tamil Nadu, establishing a partnership that reflects a shared vision to accelerate the state's creative and production ecosystem. As part of this, JioHotstar will play a pivotal role in strengthening Tamil Nadu's creative economy introducing regional-first formats, new age stories and sto-



rytellers scaling their work beyond geographical boundaries. Complementing this effort, JioHotstar will also introduce creator-focused initiatives such as writing labs, mentorship programs and skill-building workshops aimed at nurturing the next generation of filmmakers,

writers, editors and digital storytellers.

As a symbolic beginning to this next chapter, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin unveiled JioHotstar's blockbuster South lineup of 25 new titles showcasing a bold vision for the future of regional entertainment, where sto-

ries rooted in the South take centre stage.

Underlining the transformative potential of this alliance in shaping the next chapter of Tamil Nadu's creative future, the Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin stated, "I am delighted to launch this partnership with JioHotstar. Chennai's tradition and passion for art and culture are ages old, and even Telugu and Malayalam films are made here. Art is a powerful force in politics and life; art can liberate, and movies can educate. We have a history of stories causing social changes, with figures like Annadurai and Karunanidhi instrumental in revolutionary changes in Tamil cinema. The contribution of South India

has created a new benchmark for Indian cinema. Content is the King, and we have a long way to go. We recognize that OTT is not replacing cinema; it is expanding it. Today, everyone has a voice—a filmmaker in Madurai or Salem can upload a story and reach an audience across the world. The partnership with JioHotstar will have a massive impact: it will create 1,000 direct jobs and 15,000 indirect jobs. Our government is committed to building a strong economy hand-in-hand with cinema." Framing the vision, Sushant Sreeram, Head - SVOD Business & Chief Marketing Officer, JioStar, said: "JioHotstar started as a dream. To build the entertainment future of tomorrow, one

that's rooted in the rich storytelling heritage of our great country and its many facets, powered by cutting-edge technology, and serve as the default destination for Indian entertainment everywhere. We are thrilled with the progress we have made in less than a year across live sports and entertainment, establishing JioHotstar as the clear choice for all India. The resplendent story-telling heritage of South India and its sheer impact on India's story-telling culture motivates us to keep championing rich, authentic and rooted narratives while delivering greater variety, accessibility and viewing experiences tailored to every viewer's tastes and dreams."

EDITORIAL

Why India, Which Sends Rice To 170 Nations, Must Ignore Trump's Basmati Blues

The 'Red Carpet' Question:
What We Have Learned from
the West About Refugees

International Human Rights Day is meant to reaffirm a simple idea: dignity isn't a favour granted by the state. Rights are supposed to attach to people because they are people, not because they carry the right passport, belong to the right religion, or arrive in ways that are convenient for border regimes. And yet, in refugee debates, we keep returning to a different script: that those who cross borders without permission are not primarily human beings in danger, but problems to be managed. That is why a recent remark made by the Chief Justice of India Surya Kant posing the question of whether people who entered “illegally” should be welcomed with a “red carpet” – has struck such a nerve. A rhetorical question can do real political work. It doesn't simply express doubt; it sets the frame for what counts as “reasonable,” what counts as “excessive,” and whose suffering counts at all.

The law is a door, and before the door sits a gatekeeper
Scholar Eddie Bruce-Jones asks a deceptively simple question: Does international refugee law belong to human rights law or immigration law? The question matters because it determines what we think refugee protection is. Is it a regime anchored in dignity and the restraint of state power? Or is it a managerial apparatus for regulating entry – where compassion is optional and exclusion is the default? This question invites deeper reflection on the divergent – and sometimes convergent – logic underpinning these frameworks. I argue that immigration law is an infrastructure that enables and sustains colonial powers in a post-colonial world. It is a technology of sorting that decides whose mobility is normal and whose mobility is suspicious; whose movement is “travel,” and whose movement is “invasion.” It converts human beings into categories – legal/illegal, admissible/removable, deserving/undeserving – and then asks us to mistake those categories for moral truth. International refugee law, as we know it, emerged in response to shifting European conceptions of “charity and humanitarianism to restitution, reparations, and responsibility” – key elements of Europe's post-war and post-imperial reckoning, tied to the paternalism of the “white man's burden.” It was formed amidst a specific historical and geopolitical context where states grappled with their roles in the aftermath of war and empire. But this origin story contains a contradiction. Refugee law speaks the language of responsibility while operating in a world still shaped by colonial afterlives: uneven borders, uneven mobility, and uneven legitimacy. Immigration control becomes the mechanism through which old hierarchies reproduce themselves under new names – sovereignty, security, “orderly migration.” When immigration logic colonises refugee protection, refuge stops being a human-rights project and becomes border management with a humanitarian accent.

What the “red carpet” comment reveals about India's refugee discourse
The Supreme Court hearing that produced the “red carpet” line concerned a petition alleging the disappearance of Rohingya persons from custody and seeking that if deportation occurs, it should be carried out through due process. Yet the exchange that travelled into public debate pivoted quickly from the state's duties to the migrant's supposed audacity. As reported, the Chief Justice offered a hypothetical of illegal entry – “you cross the fenced border illegally, you dig a tunnel, and you enter India” – and then asked whether, after entry, a person can insist that “your laws must apply to me,” including show-cause notice, food, shelter, and entitlements for children, concluding: “Do we want to stretch the law like this?” The line that crystallised the posture was: “If an intruder comes, do we give them a red-carpet welcome...?” This is precisely the moment where the Bruce-Jones question becomes concrete. If refugee law belongs to human rights, then the purpose of law is to restrain the state – especially when the state's power over a person is total and the person's political voice is nil.

President Donald Trump's latest threat against India has quite literally stirred the rice pot, and everyone from growers to grocery shoppers is now waiting to see if it will reach the boiling point. This time, he has set his sights on India's basmati, accusing India, without providing evidence, of “dumping” cheap rice into the American market. In an off-the-cuff remark, the President in his usual style promised tariffs to punish what he called “unfair” trade. The threat came during a White House meeting with farmers and lawmakers. Indeed, this is the kind of political theatre in which Trump thrives. Just to remind the readers, a grumbling farmer spoke of cheaper imports from India and a couple of other rice exporting countries. Mr Trump seized the moment and assured the complaining farmer he would take action. He boasted that tariffs can solve the problem in two minutes.

Sounds Like Desperation
It sounds a lot like a campaign slogan. Mid-term polls are only less than a year away. The warning did not come in isolation. Only minutes earlier, President Trump had unveiled a \$12 billion support package for American farmers who have been squeezed from all sides. Costs are rising. Inflation has not eased despite promises. Input prices are spiralling because tariffs have made imported fertilizer and machinery more expensive. Also, let's not forget retaliatory measures from strong trading partners have dented American exports to some extent. Rural anger in the US, the kind that hurts political fortunes, is also thick in the air. In such a moment, blaming foreign competitors is emotionally satisfying and perhaps politically convenient. Therefore, blaming India was even easier. Mr Trump insisted that India was “dumping” rice, asking again and again why it was allowed, as if repeating the question made it true.

India's Big Pie
India exported over 20 million metric tonnes of rice in 2024 to more than 170 countries. It is easily the world's largest rice exporter, bigger than the next four countries combined. Yet, the US buys only a sliver of India's shipments. In 2025, Indian rice exports to the US amounted to about \$392 million, roughly 3% of India's total rice exports. Most of that is basmati, the long-grain aromatic rice loved by the Indian dias-



pora as well as immigrants from the Persian-Arab world. American farmers do not grow basmati. They cannot. The soil needs different minerals and the grain needs Himalayan foothill air. The US produces long-grain and medium-grain varieties suited to Louisiana, Arkansas and California. So the idea that India is undercutting American farmers by dumping basmati is like saying Italian olive oil is destroying the soybean market. They are not substitutes. Mind you, dumping, in trade law, is not an insult. It is a technical finding. A country must investigate whether the exporter is selling below cost. It must also prove that these sales are harming domestic producers. This involves months of paperwork, hearings and appeals. Who will dare to tell the President that this complicated, long-drawn out process is as bureaucratic as rice is simple. And if tariffs are raised without proof, India will always have the option to challenge the move at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), however subservient it has become to the US these days. India has done so before and has won in several cases. Trump, however, uses tariffs like a magic wand. He waves it and expects the world to be frightened. No mention of legal requirements. No mention of due process. No mention that the US has lifted tariffs on some products because they were hurting American households just as much as they were hurting foreign exporters.

A Misdirected Threat

If the US President were to raise tariffs on Indian rice any further, the impact would be uneven. For American consumers, especially immigrant families who use basmati every day, the price will rise. Restaurants, from Indian to Persian, will feel the squeeze. Retailers who depend on imported aromatic rice will have fewer choices. Some shoppers will switch to Thai jasmine, others to cheaper grades, but the overall bill will go up. For American farmers, the gesture may feel protective, but it will not solve structural challenges. Domestic varieties do not fill the basmati gap. Tariffs will not help them. So, the benefit, if at all, will be emotional rather than economic. For Indian rice exporters, the impact will be slightly sharper. Firms such as KRBL and LT Foods have built solid basmati brands in the US. A sudden tariff may slow demand but it won't make too much of a difference to them, as India's rice exporters are not dependent on America. They supply Europe, the Gulf, Africa and Southeast Asia - to 172 countries. The business is extremely diversified and resilient. When one market closes, shipments could move to another. It is inconvenient, but it is manageable. Exporters say they are preparing for any turbulence, working with the government to expand sales in new regions. India is already pushing deeper into Africa, where basmati consumption is rising and into Latin America, where niche markets are forming. It is targeting 26 new countries for rice exports.

It's Not About Rice
Now let's return to Trump's latest allegations against India. His threat has far less to do with rice and far more to do with geopolitics. Washington has been uneasy, sometimes quietly and sometimes loudly, about India's continued purchases of discounted Russian crude. While the West tried to isolate Moscow economically, New Delhi used that discounted Russian crude to keep domestic inflation in check. President Vladimir Putin, during his state visit to New Delhi last week, even pledged uninterrupted supplies. Trump, meanwhile, was seeking from India a public show of solidarity. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted economic stability at home. Trump has repeatedly raised India's energy ties with Moscow and used the tariff stick as political pressure. His earlier duties on Indian steel and aluminium followed the same pattern. They arrived just after India declined to condemn Russia in the language Washington preferred. Seen in this backdrop, the new threat on Indian rice fits the pattern. It is not a carefully built legal case of dumping, but a political warning wrapped in trade language, aimed at signalling displeasure over India's independent foreign-policy choices. It is less about farmers in Arkansas and more about diplomatic expectations from India. Basmati has Civilisational Value In India, basmati is the queen of fragrance. Persians, who love Indian basmati, call it the soul of their meals. In such a world, a tariff fight feels pedestrian.

SIR Is Not The Problem. The
Way It's Being Implemented

By the time you read this, the three-day debate in Parliament on '150 years of Vande Mataram' would have ended. The Union government made the discussion on the national song a non-negotiable condition before any other issue (electoral reforms/SIR) was taken up. The Opposition were very keen to let Parliament function despite being up against a government that often makes a mockery of Parliament. Yes, a discussion on SIR was and continued to be top priority. 39 people have lost their lives in Bengal alone. However, in the spirit of parliamentary democracy, the Opposition decided to accept the Government's proposal about the sequence in which the two issues would be taken up and made a tactical change. As the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha proceed with their discussions, let's be very clear. No one is against SIR (Special Intensive Revision) as a concept. No one is against having clean electoral rolls. It is the methodology and the haphazard implementation that is being questioned. We are looking for answers to many questions. Here are five of them.

Question One: Is SIR meant to protect the voter list or exclude basis identity?
Four states are going to elections in a few months. Assam, Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Three out of these four states are going through the SIR process. One state only has a 'Simple Revision'. Ten points if you guessed Assam. Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland are all states that share

borders with Bangladesh or Myanmar. Why is there no SIR being conducted in these states? It is common knowledge that protecting borders (infiltration) is the responsibility of the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Reserve Police Force, the Sashastra Seema Bal. These institutions are all under the Home Minister. So who should be held accountable?

Question Two: Are States being singled out?
There have been innumerable cases of Bengali-speaking citizens being targeted solely due to their mother-tongue. Those who speak Bengali in a different dialect have been labelled infiltrators. There are 4,635 communities in India. Each one have their own distinct identity. Why do all of these diverse identities need to fit the Union Government's ill-shaped cookie-cutter mold?

Question Three: Will the Union Government call for fresh elections?
The same electoral rolls that the Election Commission of India (ECI) now dismisses as unreliable were good to go for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Thereafter, the rolls were also deemed good enough for elections held in three states. Several questions arise. How did these rolls become defective overnight? And if they are indeed defective, should the Lok Sabha, elected through these supposedly compromised rolls, not be dissolved immediately? Will the Union Government call for fresh elections?

Question Four: Who is responsible for the human cost of this exercise?
SIR is being debated in Parliament. The Opposition will hold this government accountable. Many issues will be raised about rushing the unplanned, SIR exercise. At the height of the Rabi season, why were thousands of farmers forced to stand in day-long queues? Why were daily-wage workers losing their wages running pillar to post to authenticate their documents? Why were development programmes in many states brought to a standstill? Who will take responsibility for the lives of Block Level Officers (BLOs) lost because of the inhuman psychological and physical pressures while executing SIR?

Question Five: Is the ECI taking enough accountability?
The ECI is a constitutional body. Its functioning should be non-partisan, above reproach. But what is happening in Bengal leading up to the Assembly elections deserves scrutiny. Here are two examples. (i) Originally, to be a BLA (Booth Level Agent), one needed to be a registered elector in the 'part of the Electoral roll' for which he/she is appointed. This rule has now been changed. Now, even if a BLA is unavailable from the same part of the Electoral roll, a BLA can be appointed from any registered elector of the same Assembly Constituency. (ii) There is an AI app being used to identify duplicate voters. There is no clarity about who built it, when the tenders were issued, or what data the app uses. Looking for answers is not anti-national.

There Is An Unexpected 'Mentor'
Guiding Rahul Gandhi These Days

Dipankar Bhattacharya, general secretary of the Communist Party of India [Marxist-Leninist] seems to be the newest friend, philosopher, guide of Rahul Gandhi filling the void left behind by the late Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury. Throughout 2014-2024, Rahul looked up to Yechury as a political ideologue and a theoretician, sharing a relationship marked by mutual respect, often to the chagrin of his own party leaders. Post the Bihar debacle, Dipankar has been seen and heard providing comfort to Rahul, suggesting that the outcome had little to do with the Mahagathbandan's weakness. The Meeting About Bihar Just recently, Dipankar's 25, Meena Bagh residence saw All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Krishna Allavaru walking in. The two leaders then went towards 10, Janpath via Maulana Azad Road, about 500 metres away, where Rahul Gandhi was waiting for them. For the next couple of hours, the Bihar poll outcome was dissected. Dipankar was convinced that the result had little to do with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's popularity or the generous doles given out to women voters. Phrases like "unnatural result", "special intensive revision [SIR] being superfluous" were mentioned. The statistician-turned-political theoretician he is, Dipankar convinced Rahul that the poll outcome was not a crisis of opposition but a threat to democracy. Rahul, too, kept harping on how some influential figures in the United States of America had hinted at "something" going on with elections. Another interesting reference was reportedly about a high constitutional functionary sending feelers to the Leader of Opposition, stating that he had great regards for the principal opposition party. The functionary is said to have pointed out that he had worked closely with senior Congress leader PJ



Kurian and had no 'bias' towards the Congress or the leader of the opposition. The overtone is said to have resulted in derisiveness, scorn and threat of punitive action whenever the Congress gets voted to power. Bhattacharya's Role In Bihar Poll Strategy Dipankar's influence on Rahul Gandhi was visible throughout the Bihar electoral campaign. The CPI-ML leader was seen holding hands with him, acting as a peacemaker, dealmaker and strategist, all rolled into one. He had famously browbeat Mukesh Sahni of the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) into giving a written undertaking to Rahul, saying "main Kahin Nahin jaa raha hoon" (I'm not going anywhere). Dipankar was also instrumental in making the Mahagathbandan issue a public statement saying that Sahni would be crowned as the Deputy Chief Minister if the grand alliance came to power. Both Congress and CPI(M) insiders are bewildered at Dipankar's proximity and influence over Rahul. According to party leaders, Rahul's economic and political leanings are deeply influenced by Left-of-Centre thought, often colouring his judgment and putting party leaders at odds with him. In 2010, Rahul spoke to the

Cambridge campus paper Varsity, describing himself as an 'economist'. Interviewers Merrow Golden and Ashleigh Lamming were quoted by his biographer, Aarthi Ramachandran, as saying, "He [Rahul] tended to talk about things using economic language; he talked about affirmative action as being a problem of 'supply and demand', and...talked about teachers no longer having a 'monopoly' over information, but being one of the many sources of it." During the interview, Rahul, who has an M. Phil in developmental economics, said he disagreed with a lot of what was taught at Cambridge. "I am a lot less left-wing now than I was, for one thing." Rahul's left leanings have been often attributed to his close advisors too. But the impracticality of his vision is evident from the CPI(M)'s 23rd Party Congress at Kannur in Kerala. There, the party had observed, "The political influence and organisational strength of Congress has been declining and the 'weakened' party is unable to rally all the secular opposition parties." Eye On Bengal Dipankar's CPI-ML has several ideological and tactical differences with both the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the CPI(M).



Blenders Pride Fashion Tour Drives Fashion into the Fast Lane

The Tour accelerated into Jaipur with a dynamic showcase of motorcore, signalling Fashion's Next Move. 10th December: Blenders Pride Fashion Tour shifted gears in Jaipur, transforming into an intersection of high-fashion and motorsport. Pushing boundaries, the Jaipur edition explored motorsports-inspired design, glamorous performance wear, and high-octane fashion showcase, that marked 'Fashion's Next Move' – racing forward with speed and precision. In collaboration with Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), the showcase reimagined the runway into a high-speed circuit of style and power. Leading designers Namrata Joshipura and Abhishek Paatni reinterpreted high-octane motorcore aesthetics, transforming racing culture into statement-making fashion. Bollywood star Harnaaz Sandhu commanded the runway as the finale showstopper, embodying the fusion of glamour and speed, while rap sensation Raftaar closed the night



with an electrifying performance that matched the show's pulsating energy. The show unfolded with a three-lap runway experience that transformed the stage into an immersive motorsport arena. From The Start Line's racing silhouettes to The Pit Lane's chrome-driven sleek and tactical looks, to The Glam Night's high-octane glamour, ending with a thrilling sport cars stunt that uplifted that shot up the whole vibe of the show. The experience amplified the cultural and creative pulse of India – fast, sharp and unstoppable, and positioning Blenders Pride Fashion Tour as the engine driving fashion forward with unprecedented pace. Debasree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod Ricard India said "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour has always been at the forefront of shaping fashion and cultural conversations. The Tour's Jaipur edition takes that vision further, by fusing

worlds of high-octane motorsport and glamorous high-fashion, creating an immersive experience that celebrates boldness, style, and innovation" Designer Abhishek Patni said, "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour has always championed breaking through boundaries of creativity. With this collaboration, together we shifted fashion into new gears, and fused speed with style to present a bold glimpse of where fashion is headed

next." Designer Namrata Joshipura said, "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour has inspired me to bring high-octane couture into a distinctive, fashion-forward space. Together we defined fashion's next evolution bringing precision of motorsports into the glamorous world of haute-couture." Showstopper Harnaaz Sandhu said, "Taking the runway for Blenders Pride Fashion Tour in Jaipur felt like stepping onto a racetrack - pure adrenaline and confidence, bringing alive a showcase that championed bold & fearless fashion." Rapper Raftaar said, "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour has taken fashion onto a whole new track, making fashion move forward with speed, power and attitude." Sunil Sethi, Chairman, FDCI, expressed, "FDCI is delighted to collaborate with Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, uniting two powerhouses of fashion to shape its future. The Jaipur edition celebrates creativity, culture, and sets the pace for what's next in Indian fashion."

How Bharat Redefined Digital Friendships in 2025



Bengaluru, December 2025: FRND, India's first avatar-based audio social discovery platform, the marquee product of Interact Group, today unveiled its 'Year in Conversations 2025' study, capturing the digital behaviour of Bharat. With a staggering 92% of all engagement now coming from outside Tier 1 regions, this study highlights a clear cultural shift; India's Tier 2 & 3 towns are driving the country's most meaningful and emotional digital friendships. From Ernakulam (Kerala) to the south to Anantnag (J&K) in the north and Jamnagar (Gujarat) in the west, users engaged heavily in voice-led companionship, weekend video conversations, and

regionally expressive interactions, shaping India's emerging digital behaviour patterns. Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai led India's conversation map with the most active users, while Andhra Pradesh users talked the longest. Key Highlights: Bharat users recorded 285 million+ conversations, spending 418 million minutes together on the FRND app. Users from Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra recorded the highest number of conversations in the year. Rose and Chai were the most popular virtual gifts. A total of 974 million virtual gifts were sent in 2025. Remote & small towns dominated FRND's growth, with

95% of new users joining from non-metro/remote regions with 79% coming via mid and entry-level devices. Weekends drove a deeper connection: every Saturday, FRND saw an 8% surge in video calls, with Diwali marking the highest single-day video usage at 4.04 lakh conversations. The 2025 data paints a powerful picture of India's changing digital identity, one that is voice-first, emotional, and rooted in regional expression. With 95% of new users coming from non-metros and thousands joining from the US, UK, Malaysia, and Australia, FRND is becoming a global yet deeply Bharat-led space for genuine companionship.

Sundaram Finance Celebrates 25 Years of Service at Tirupati branch

Tirupati, December 2025 – Sundaram Finance marked a meaningful milestone today as its Tirupati branch completed 25 years of continuous service. More than a celebration of time, the event recognized the enduring partnership with customers, the dedication of employees, and the support of their families who have shaped the branch's legacy in Tirunelveli. "At Sundaram Finance, what sustains us is not just longevity, but the spirit of truth, fairness, and service that defines our relationship with people. This branch has endured because of the values it lives by—and the community it serves and belongs to," said Mr. S. Balasubramanian Vice President & Head of Andhra region - Sundaram Finance. "Established in 2000, the Tirupati branch has played a vital role in expanding financial access in Tirupati, often serving customers who were outside the reach of mainstream finance. Small business owners,



first-time borrowers, self-employed professionals, and transport operators have all found a dependable financial partner in this branch" said Mr. Sekhar B, Senior Branch Manager, Tirupati retail branch. The branch has stood for more than financial support—it has stood for transparency, dignity, and a human touch, helping generations of customers build livelihoods and live with confidence. The strength of the Tirupati branch lies in

its people. Many employees have spent significant parts of their careers here, serving not just with competence, but with honesty, empathy, and purpose. Their bond with customers goes beyond transactions—it is built on mutual respect and shared progress. This milestone also honours the families of employees, who have quietly stood behind every achievement. Letters of heartfelt appreciation personally signed by Mr S. Balasubramanian Vice

Highlights
■ Sundaram Finance marked a meaningful milestone today as its Tirupati branch completed 25 years of continuous service.

President & Head of Andhra region, Sundaram finance were presented to family members acknowledging their role in making this journey possible. As Sundaram Finance prepares to celebrate 75 years in 2029, this branch milestone serves as a reaffirmation of the company's founding philosophy—to serve with integrity, grow with humility, and remain rooted in community. The Tirupati branch is not just a place of work or finance—it is a symbol of continuity, character, and commitment to doing what is right.

Amazon is powering the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, plans to invest more than \$35 billion in India through 2030

New Delhi, December 10, 2025 – An Economic Impact Report by Keystone Strategy released at the sixth edition of Amazon Smbhav Summit reveals that Amazon's cumulative investments of \$40 billion in India since 2010, including compensation to employees and the development of infrastructure, have significantly contributed towards India's Atmanirbhar vision. According to Keystone, these investments have established Amazon as the largest foreign investor in India, the largest enabler of ecommerce exports, and among the top job creators in the country. The company has invested at scale towards building physical and digital infrastructure, including fulfillment centers, transportation networks, data centers, digital payments infrastructure and technology development. According to the Keystone report, Amazon has digitized over 12 million small businesses and enabled \$20 billion in cumulative ecommerce exports, while supporting approximately 2.8 million direct, indirect, induced and seasonal jobs across industries in India in 2024. At the same forum, Amazon reiterated its commitment to India and



announced that it plans to invest more than \$35 billion across all its businesses in the country through 2030, focusing on business expansion as well as three strategic pillars: AI-driven digitization, export growth, and job creation. Amit Agarwal, Senior VP Emerging Markets, Amazon said, We are humbled to have been a part of India's digital transformation journey over the past 15 years, with Amazon's growth in India perfectly aligned with the vision of an Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat. We have invested at scale in growing the physical and digital infrastructure for small businesses in India, creating millions of jobs, and taking Made-in-India global. Looking ahead to 2030, we're excited to continue being

a catalyst for India's growth, as we democratize access to AI for millions of Indians and quadruple cumulative ecommerce exports enabled to \$80 billion. In 2030, Amazon businesses will support 3.8 million direct, indirect, induced and seasonal jobs. " Strategic Investments for India's Growth: With the additional \$35 billion in planned investment by 2030, Amazon aims to further accelerate digital transformation, strengthen infrastructure, and support innovation across the country. These investments are strategically aligned with India's national priorities and will focus on expanding AI capabilities, enhancing logistics infrastructure, supporting small business growth and cre-

ating jobs. Supporting millions of jobs: Amazon supported approximately 2.8 million direct, indirect, induced and seasonal jobs across India in 2024, spanning technology, operations, logistics, retail, and creative services. In 2030, the company will support 3.8 million direct, indirect, induced and seasonal jobs. These will stem from Amazon's business expansion as well as its growing fulfillment and delivery network, which simultaneously supports parallel industries including packaging, manufacturing, and transportation services. Taking Made-in-India Global: As Amazon Global Selling completes 10 years of operations, Amazon enabled exports from India have surpassed \$20 billion. The company has now set a goal of enabling \$80 billion in cumulative ecommerce exports from India by 2030. Taking a significant step toward this goal, Amazon today launched "Accelerate Exports," a manufacturing-focused initiative designed to connect digital entrepreneurs with trusted manufacturers while enabling manufacturers to become successful global sellers.

Vi Business Expands IoT Portfolio with Smart Gas Metering Solutions

Vi Business, the enterprise arm of India's leading telco Vi and India's leading IoT solutions provider, announced the expansion of its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) portfolio with Smart Gas Metering solutions for the City Gas Distributions (CGDs). Being pioneers in the smart meter energy ecosystem with India's first deployment in 2018, Vi Business is now extending its IoT and AMI capabilities to address India's rapidly growing CGD sector. This strengthens Vi's commitment to supporting the Government's efforts to modernise utility infrastructure, enhance operational standards, and accelerate digital metering adoption across the energy value chain. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) projects the CGD sector to emerge as India's largest natural gas consumer, accounting for almost one-third of the total volume by the end of this decade. With the rise in demand, Smart Gas Metering has emerged as a critical enabler for CGD companies seeking to combat Lost and Unaccounted Gas (LUG) due to leakage, theft, manual billing errors, and pilferage. Vi Business' Smart Gas Metering solution leverages Narrowband-IoT technology and robust communication networks to help CGD operators enhance operational efficiency and improve billing accuracy. Arvind Nevatia, Chief



Enterprise Business Officer, Vi, said "Digital metering is reshaping how utilities operate, and Smart Gas Metering is the next frontier in India's utility transformation. With our proven IoT and AMI expertise, we are committed to supporting CGD operators to modernise their networks, reduce inefficiencies and deliver better service outcomes in reducing unaccounted gas and enhancing revenue assurance. Vi Business will continue to enable India's utility sector with scalable and future-ready solutions."

Truecaller launches Family Protection to Protect The Whole Family from Phone Scams

New Delhi, December 10, 2025: Truecaller today announced the launch of Family Protection, a major new feature designed to make digital safety a shared experience among families. Built directly into the Truecaller app on both Android and iOS, Family Protection enables users to form trusted family groups to provide real-time protection against scams and unwanted calls. On Android, the Family Administrator can receive alerts during potential scam calls for other family members and end such calls remotely.

A New Proposition for Family Safety
Family Protection lets up to five people join a trusted family group with shared tools that help them stay safe from scam calls. Each group has a Family Admin who can set protection levels, manage blocklists, and guide how unwanted calls are handled. On Android, the Admin can also use real-time support tools to step in when a suspicious call appears. The aim is simple: make it easier to protect less tech-savvy loved ones from increasingly sophisticated scam calls.

Powerful Protection and Remote Management



Family Protection gives the Family Admin a clear set of tools to guide safety across the group. The Family Admin can set and update protection levels, manage blocklists and use remote support tools when needed. On Android, the Admin can also receive alerts during potential scam calls, send suspicious calls to family members remotely and see real-time status signals such as battery level, phone activity and availability. These tools give families a clearer picture of how their loved ones are using their phones and help them step in when support is needed.

A Growth Driver for Engagement and Premium Conversion
Family Protection is a free feature but opens a new path for engagement and long-term revenue. By helping families protect one another, Truecaller strengthens its role in daily communication and adds a shared safety layer that encourages repeat use. For families who want a stronger level of protection, Truecaller Premium Family offers a natural upgrade. The plan covers up to five people and adds advanced spam blocking, automatic rejection of high-risk numbers, and an ad-free experience. This aligns directly with

Truecaller's strategic objective of growing recurring subscription revenues and driving user stickiness through high-value features.

Phased Rollout and Market Focus
Family Protection is first rolling out in four pilot markets: Sweden, Chile, Malaysia, and Kenya. India launch is planned for Q1 2026. This phased rollout allows Truecaller to learn from early adoption and prepare for broader deployment in our largest market.

Looking Ahead
Family Protection marks an important step in Truecaller's product strategy, moving beyond call identification toward a wider ecosystem of communication safety. It reflects the company's long-term vision to make tomorrow's communication smarter, safer and more efficient. "Truecaller is already being used by members of the family, and now we empower the 'CTO' of the family to protect the less tech savvy members" said Rishit Jhunjhunwala, CEO at Truecaller. "As scam tactics evolve, we want Truecaller to be the platform families rely on for peace of mind and proactive protection."

Ukraine 'ready for elections' if partners guarantee security, Zelensky says

Ukraine is "ready for elections", President Volodymyr Zelensky has said, after US President Donald Trump repeated claims Kyiv was "using war" to avoid holding them. Zelensky's five-year term as president was due to end in May 2024, but elections have been suspended in Ukraine since martial law was declared after Russia's invasion. Speaking to reporters following Trump's comments in a wide-ranging Politico interview, Zelensky said he would ask for proposals to be drawn up which could change the law. Elections could be held in the next 60 to 90 days if security for the vote was guaranteed with the help of the US and other allies, he said. "I'm asking now, and I'm stating this openly, for the US to help me, perhaps together with our European colleagues, to ensure security for the elections," he told reporters. "The



issue of elections in Ukraine, I believe, depends first and foremost on our people, and this is a question for the people of Ukraine, not the people of other countries. With all due respect to our partners," Zelensky said. "I've heard hints that we're clinging to power, or that I personally am clinging to the presidency" and "that's why the war

isn't ending", which he called "frankly, a completely unreasonable narrative". Zelensky won election in 2019 with more than 73% of the vote. Discussions around holding elections have made headlines since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia has consistently claimed Zelensky is an illegitimate leader and demand-

ed new elections as a condition of a ceasefire deal – a talking point which has been repeated by Trump. "They talk about a democracy, but it gets to a point where it's not a democracy anymore," the US president told Politico. There are significant practical obstacles to a wartime election. Soldiers serving on the front lines could be either

unable to vote or require leave to do so. According to the UN, there are about 5.7 million Ukrainians living abroad because of the conflict. And any ballot would require complex, additional security measures. Such a vote would only be fair if all Ukrainians could participate, including soldiers fighting on the front line, a Ukrainian opposition MP told the . Lesia Vasylenko of Golos also told the World Service's Newsday programme that "elections are never possible in wartime", alluding to the suspension of elections in the UK during World War Two. Oleksiy Goncharenko, an opposition MP from the European Solidarity party, said: "I am completely against the idea, I can't even understand why Zelensky would say it." "It is completely impossible," he said, adding that elections involve an entire process of

debates and campaigns. "Maybe Zelensky sees it as an opportunity to hold quasi-elections that will be favourable to him, while he controls the media and his opponents are likely not ready." There is little domestic political pressure on Zelensky to call elections while the conflict is ongoing, said Oleksandr Merezhko, the chairman of the foreign policy committee in Ukraine's parliament. There was "strong consensus" among politicians and civil organisations that elections would not be held under martial law, the MP from the Servant of the People - Zelensky's party - told the . "Even the opposition, which is against Zelensky and would like to see him removed are against elections, because they understand the danger of attempting to hold elections during the war," he said.

CHAOS IN BRAZIL CONGRESS DURING PUSH TO CUT BOLSONARO'S SENTENCE



Brazil's parliament descended into chaos on Tuesday as conservative lawmakers continued to push a law which would reduce the prison sentence of former president Jair Bolsonaro. One left-wing lawmaker was forcibly removed by police after trying to disrupt proceedings, while footage showed scuffles breaking out as security tried to restore order. Bolsonaro began a 27-year jail term in November for attempting to plot a coup following his 2022 election defeat. His conservative allies in Congress have

proposed a law which would reduce sentences for coup-related offences, as well as free dozens of Bolsonaro supporters who stormed government buildings shortly after he left office. Meanwhile, court documents showed that Bolsonaro's legal team filed an official request asking a court to grant him permission to leave prison for surgery. The appeal repeats a plea for the ex-president to be allowed to serve his sentence under house arrest on health grounds.

South Korea protests Chinese and Russian warplanes in its airspace



South Korea has lodged a complaint with the Chinese and Russian defence attaches based in the country, a day after their warplanes entered its air defence zone. Seoul said it sent up fighter jets to "take tactical measures in preparation for any emergencies" after seven Russian and two Chinese military aircraft "briefly entered" the zone on Tuesday, but noted they "did not violate" South Korea's airspace. Some countries delineate air identification defence zones, wherein they require foreign planes to identify themselves. These are not part of sovereign airspaces under international law. In March this year, Seoul also deployed fighter jets after several Russian warplanes flew into the zone. The Russian aircraft entered Korea's Air Defense Identification Zone (Kadiz) near Ulleung Island and Dokdo, while the Chinese aircraft entered near Ieodo, a Joint Chiefs of Staff official said, according to South Korean

media. Both sides' aircraft then regrouped in the airspace near Japan's Tsushima Island, the official said. "Our military will actively respond to aircraft activities from neighbouring countries in the Kadiz in compliance with international law," South Korea's defence ministry said on Wednesday when lodging the complaint. Both Japan and South Korea have laid claims to the Dokdo island grouping, as has North Korea. Ieodo - a submerged rock above the South Korean island of Jeju - is a point of dispute between Seoul and Beijing, each of whom have included it in their air defence zones. China on Wednesday confirmed that its air force had conducted a joint patrol with Russia in the East China Sea and Western Pacific airspace. The exercise was part of an "annual cooperation plan" between Beijing and Moscow to "address regional challenges and maintain regional peace and stability".

Sperm from donor with cancer-causing gene was used to conceive almost 200 children



A sperm donor who unknowingly harboured a genetic mutation that dramatically raises the risk of cancer has fathered at least 197 children across Europe, a major investigation has revealed. Some children have already died and only a minority who inherit the

mutation will escape cancer in their lifetimes. The sperm was not sold to UK clinics, but the BBC can confirm a "very small" number of British families, who have been informed, used the donor's sperm while having fertility treatment in Denmark.

US could ask foreign tourists for five-year social media history before entry

Tourists from dozens of countries including the UK could be asked to provide a five-year social media history as a condition of entry to the United States, under a new proposal unveiled by American officials. The new condition would affect people from dozens of countries who are eligible to visit the US for 90 days without a visa, as long as they have filled out an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) form. Since returning to the White House in January, President Donald Trump has moved to toughen US borders more generally - citing national security as a key reason. Analysts say the new plan could pose an obstacle to potential visitors, or harm their digital rights. The US expects a major



influx of foreign tourists next year, as it hosts the men's football World Cup alongside Canada and Mexico, and for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. The proposal document was filed by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), of which the agency is part. US media reported that it appeared in the Federal

amount of information from travellers, as well as a one-off payment of \$40 (£30). It is accessible to citizens of about 40 countries - including the UK, Ireland, France, Australia and Japan - and allows them to visit the US multiple times during a two-year period. As well as the collection of social media information, the new document proposes the gathering of an applicant's telephone numbers and email addresses used over the last five and 10 years respectively, and more information about their family members. The text cites an executive order from Trump in January, titled "Protecting the United States From Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats".

GUNFIRE AS REBELS TARGET KEY DR CONGO CITY DESPITE TRUMP PEACE DEAL

Sporadic gunfire and explosions have been reported as M23 rebels advance towards a key city in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in an offensive that has forced thousands to flee across the border into Burundi. Residents and military sources said soldiers were fleeing the assault on Uvira, the last government-held city in the mineral-rich region. US President Donald Trump brokered a peace deal last week between DR Congo's President Félix Tshisekedi and Rwanda's Paul Kagame to end the long-running conflict but fighting has continued. Shops and schools have closed, with



terrified residents staying indoors amid fears that rebels had taken control of some government buildings. But South Kivu Governor Jean-Jacques Purusi dismissed reports that the rebels were in the city as "completely unfounded rumours".

Residents told the BBC that Uvira was in lockdown on Wednesday, with some reporting gunfire in the city that is just 27 km (17 miles) from Burundi's capital, Bujumbura. A local rights official told AP news agency that there was a "risk of a massacre" if the

remaining soldiers mounted strong resistance. "It's chaotic, nobody's in charge. Uvira is done for," a Burundian officer told AFP news agency. "Three bombs have just exploded in the hills. It's every man for himself," a resident told AFP, while another added: "We are all under the beds in Uvira - that's the reality." Military and security sources said the rebel fighters advanced from the north, near the Burundian border. In an interview with UN-backed Radio Okapi, Purusi denied Uvira had fallen to the M23, saying the city remained under the control of government forces.

Kids locked out of social media apps after Australia's world-first ban



Australia's world-first social media ban for children has taken effect, with throngs of teenagers waking up to find their accounts have gone dark. Others tell they have already snuck past barriers and will continue scrolling and posting freely until they are caught. The new law means social media firms - including Meta, TikTok and YouTube - must take "reasonable steps" to ensure Australians aged under 16 don't hold accounts on their platforms. The ban, eyed with excitement by global leaders and trepidation by tech companies, was justified as necessary to protect children from harmful content and algorithms - though critics have argued blanket prohibition is neither practical nor wise. This landmark policy has been one of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's pet projects, and speaking to media on Wednesday he said he believed it has the power to change lives around the world. "This is a day in

which my pride to be prime minister of Australia has never been greater," he said, flanked by parents and media figures who had pushed for the ban. "This is Australia showing enough is enough." "I think it will go [down] with the other great reforms that Australia has led the world on." Various governments, from the US state of Florida to the European Union, have been experimenting with limiting children's use of social media. But, along with a higher age limit of 16, Australia is the first jurisdiction to deny an exemption for parental approval in a policy like this - making its laws the world's strictest. Countries like Denmark, Malaysia, Singapore, Greece and Brazil are among those who have said they're looking at Australia as a test case. The Australian government has named 10 social media platforms as a start, including all of the most popular ones, but has also warned others it's coming for them next.

Nobel Peace Prize winner will be in Oslo but won't make awards ceremony

Maria Corina Machado, the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, is "safe" and will come to Oslo, but will not be able to make the awards ceremony scheduled for 12:00 GMT on Wednesday, the Nobel Institute has said. The Nobel Institute awarded the Venezuelan opposition leader the prize for "her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy" in her home country. There has been much speculation about whether Machado, who has been living in hiding, would be able to defy a travel ban to attend the ceremony in Norway's capital. Organisers said her daughter would accept the award in her stead. In an



audio recording shared by the Nobel Institute, Machado said "I will be in Oslo, I am on my way." However, the director of the Nobel Institute, Kristian Berg Harpviken, said that Machado was expected to arrive "sometime between this evening and tomorrow morning" - too late for the

ceremony. In her mother's absence, Ana Corina Sosa is expected to give the speech Machado had prepared. Earlier on Wednesday, the Nobel Institute had said they were in the dark about Machado's whereabouts, triggering concern among her supporters. Two of her children and her mother are

in Oslo, hoping to be reunited with Machado after being separated for more than a year. Machado went into hiding shortly after Venezuela's disputed presidential election in July 2024. The last time she was seen in public was on 9 January when she spoke to her supporters at a rally protesting against the swearing-in of Nicolás Maduro to a third term as president. The elections were widely dismissed both by the opposition in Venezuela and on the international stage as rigged, and sparked protests across the country. Around 2,000 people were arrested in the crackdown which followed, among them many members of Machado's opposition coalition.

Two teenagers went to seek gold. They were buried alive in a mine collapse

There is a sense of disbelief in this Sierra Leonean village as people weep in front of the bodies of two teenage boys wrapped in white cloth. The day before, 16-year-old Mohamed Bangura and 17-year-old Yayah Jenneh left their homes in Nyimbadu, in the country's Eastern Province, hoping to earn a little extra money for their families. They had gone in search of gold but never returned. The makeshift pit they were digging in collapsed on them. This was the third fatal mine accident, leaving a total of

at least five children dead, in the last four years in this region. Mohamed and Yayah were part of a phenomenon that has seen a growing number of children missing school in parts of Sierra Leone to mine the precious metal in potentially lethal pits, according to headteachers and community activists. The Eastern Province has historically been known for diamond mining. But in recent years informal - or artisanal - gold mining has expanded as the diamond reserves have been depleted.

Hardik Pandya's Shoutout To 'Partner' Mahieka Sharma Day After Blasting Paparazzi For 'Cheap' Act



Hardik Pandya delivered an all-round performance as India registered a thumping 101-run victory over South Africa in the first T20I of the five-match series on Tuesday in Cuttack. Asked to bat first, India were struggling at 78/4 when Hardik played an unbeaten knock of 59 off 28 balls, propelling the hosts to 175/6 in 20 overs. Later, Hardik also contributed with a wicket as India bundled out the Proteas for 74, taking a 1-0 lead in the series. After the match, Hardik took a moment to credit his girlfriend, Mahieka Sharma, for his performance. "A special mention to my partner. A lot of great things have happened; she's been nothing but the best to me ever since she came into my life," said Hardik in a video posted on BCCLTV. "I think I have been a very honest and real person in my life, which has helped me a lot. I don't really sugarcoat anything. It's

never about the other person or how others think it's just about how I feel from inside," he added. Earlier, Hardik expressed his anger on social media after seeing paparazzi "cross the line" while taking pictures and videos of Mahieka Sharma. In a powerful statement, Hardik hit out at the paparazzi for what he described as disrespectful and intrusive photography of his partner. "I understand that living in the public eye comes with attention and scrutiny-it's part of the life I've chosen. But today something happened that crossed a line," Hardik wrote in an Instagram story. "Mahieka was simply walking down a staircase at a Bandra restaurant when paps decided to capture her from an angle that no woman deserves to be photographed from. A private moment was turned into cheap sensationalism," he stated. Hardik recently confirmed his relationship with

model and yoga trainer Mahieka. After initial speculation sparked by social media interactions and shared travel sightings, Pandya made the relationship official in October 2025-just before his 32nd birthday-by posting intimate photos and videos of the couple enjoying a private beach getaway and celebrating a puja together. "The power that Hardik Pandya has, especially against spin. That bat swing is something that I would trade anything for. After watching his innings, I feel like he is supremely confident. He is not thinking about how many wickets have fallen, how much his score is, and all that. The ball is there to hit, he is hitting it. He is very clear in the head, and he is very confident in the way he is batting. There is no replacement for Hardik in India at this point in time, and I hope we can really find one," Ashwin said of his former teammate.

Sanju Samson's Road To India XI Has 2 Two Roadblocks, R Ashwin Names Them



Sanju Samson was not included in India's XI for the first T20I against South Africa. For a talented wicket-keeper-batter, it was a signal that the team may not be looking at him as a first-choice option. From the time Shubman Gill made an entry into the T20I XI, things were going to be tough for Samson, who made most of his runs as a T20I opener. The fact that Jitesh Sharma is now being preferred over him as a middle-order batter and wicket-keeper does not augur well for Samson. Ravichandran Ashwin was blunt in his analysis of Samson's situation. "There was a lot of talk before the game that Sanju should play, and why is he not being played, and all that. Whenever Sanju is dropped from the team, there is always a discussion, the question of whether he got a fair run, and all that. The moment Shubman Gill came into the side, and as a vice-captain, Sanju was always going to find it difficult to get into the XI," R Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. "Sanju has not played enough at No.5, and Jitesh Sharma is

there in the squad for his finishing abilities. That was the role he played for RCB, so it was always going to be difficult for Sanju. If you are playing Sanju, play him at No.3, use him against spin." Ashwin also praised Hardik Pandya, who slammed a brilliant 59* off 27 balls. "India were five down for literally nothing, from there they were able to score freely and get 170 plus. Hardik Pandya played a brilliant knock, it did not seem like he was coming back from an injury. He looked in pristine form, but South Africa did not have enough ammunition in their bank to

restrict India," Ashwin said. "The power that Hardik Pandya has, especially against spin. That bat swing is something that I would trade anything for. After watching his innings, I feel like he is supremely confident. He is not thinking about how many wickets have fallen, how much his score is, and all that. The ball is there to hit, he is hitting it. He is very clear in the head, and he is very confident in the way he is batting. There is no replacement for Hardik in India at this point in time, and I hope we can really find one," Ashwin said of his former teammate.

NICHOLAS POORAN REFUSES TO STUMP BATTER, TEAM RETIRES HIM OUT

Desert Vipers clinched another thrilling victory, edging past MI Emirates by just one run at the Zayed Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. The nail-biting finish marked the Vipers' fourth consecutive win in ILT20 Season 4. Defending a total of 159, the Vipers initially struggled to take wickets, but the game turned dramatically in the 19th over when David Payne-who finished with figures of 4 for 29-claimed three crucial scalps. Beyond the win, one strategic move by the Desert Vipers proved to be the ultimate game-changer. The Vipers were 117/1 in 15.5 overs when MI Emirates had a golden opportunity to



dismiss Max Holden, who was batting on 42 off 36 balls. Spinner Rashid Khan bowled a delivery outside off-stump, tempting Holden to step out of his crease in search of a big shot. However, Holden missed the ball completely. Wicketkeeper Nicholas Pooran collected the ball



but, surprisingly, chose not to stump Holden. The decision was deliberate-Pooran aimed to keep Holden at the crease to slow down the Vipers' scoring rate. This move, well within the laws of the game, is often referred to as a tactical non-stumping. Tactics? Oneupmanship? Nicholas

Pooran chose not to stump Max Holden, but the Vipers had a trick up their sleeve as well, retiring the batter the very next ball. In the very next over, the Vipers played their trump card by retiring Holden out and sending Sam Curran to accelerate the innings. The strategy paid off as the Vipers finished at 159/4 in 20 overs and later restricted MI Emirates to 158/9, sealing a dramatic one-run win. Reflecting on the loss, MI Emirates captain Kieron Pollard said: "In our last game, we snuck over the line when we probably shouldn't have won, and this time it turned around on us. The Vipers bowled brilliantly.

Cameron Green Likely To Be The Highest IPL Auction Bid After This Masterstroke

The IPL 2026 mini auction is scheduled for December 16 in Abu Dhabi, with a total of 359 players going under the hammer. Earlier on Tuesday morning, the BCCI trimmed the initial list of 1,005 names to 350 players. However, a revised list featuring nine additional players was later released, taking the final tally to 359. The biggest name in the auction pool is Australian all-rounder Cameron Green, who is expected to attract the highest bid during the event. Being a seam-bowling all-rounder makes Green a valuable asset for any team, as such players are hard to find. Keeping the remaining purse of all franchises in mind, Green has adopted a smart strategy to maxi-



mize his chances of fetching a record bid. Despite being an all-rounder, the Australian star has registered himself in the batters' category for the auction. The reason is simple: during an IPL auction, the first set consists of batters, followed by all-rounders and then bowlers. Since this is a mini auction, all ten fran-

chises have limited budgets. If Green were to appear in the second set, teams might not have enough funds left to bid aggressively for him. Along with Green, New Zealand's Devon Conway, Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk, South Africa's David Miller, and India's Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi

Shaw are also part of the first set of batters. All overseas stars in this set have a base price of Rs 2 crore, while the two Indian players have set their base price at Rs 75 lakh. Notably, Green previously represented Mumbai Indians in 2023 and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the 2024 IPL season. In 29 matches, he scored 707 runs at a strike rate of 153.69, including one century and two fifties. He also claimed 16 wickets at an economy rate of 9.07. Meanwhile, uncapped Indian batter Swastik Chikara is the most prominent name among the nine players added to the final roster. Chikara was part of the title-winning Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) squad in IPL 2025.



"Might Have Been One Of The Highest Paid IPL Players Today": Ex-BCCI Selector Shares Past Ordeal

Former India cricketer Salil Ankola has made a stunning claim, saying that he would have been one of the highest-paid players in the Indian Premier League (IPL) if he was playing in the current era. A former BCCI selector, Ankola made his debut alongside Sachin Tendulkar in 1989, and went on to play 20 ODIs and 1 Test for Team India. Speaking on Vicky Lalwani's YouTube channel, the 57-year-old revealed that he never officially announced his retirement. "The former pacer added that despite his best attempts at making a comeback, he never really got the chance to prove himself after being dropped from the team in 1997. "The final blow came in 1997. No one



asked me why I left and just wrote stuff on their whims and fancies. I kept trying for three years to come back. There was no social media and reach also then. I never said I retired. If I were born in this era, I might have been one of the

highest-paid IPL players," said Ankola. Ankola took up acting after his playing career came to an abrupt ending. He also revealed that he did not watch cricket for over a decade. "From 1999 or 2000 till 2011, I did not watch a single match. I

have not seen Sehwag playing, not seen Kohli debut, not seen Zaheer bowling, not seen Agarkar bowling. I have not seen my own friends play. I did not want to see cricket anymore. I started saying why me, because I trained my whole life for it, and suddenly everything went away. I would drink a lot, and it had become my way of escapism," he added. The tall pacer made his Test debut in 1989 against Pakistan in Karachi, in the same Test match as Tendulkar. Ankola made his return to the sport in 2020 after he was named selector of Mumbai. In 2023, he became a member of the BCCI selection committee. His tenure came to an end in 2024.

AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN CUMMINS BACK FOR THIRD ASHES TEST



Australia captain Pat Cummins will return for what could be a decisive third Ashes Test against England in Adelaide next week. The fast bowler missed the first two Tests-which Australia won - because of a back problem. His addition is the only change to the Australia squad following the eight-wicket win in Brisbane. Australia need only a draw in Adelaide to retain the Ashes, while victory will mean they win the five-Test series. England have never come from 2-0 down to win the Ashes. The third Test starts on 17 December (23:30 GMT, 16 December). Cummins has not played since July, but trained with the rest of the squad around the first two Tests. There was a suggestion he may have played in the second Test, and he took part in a public selection meeting the day before the game, only for Steve Smith to remain in temporary charge. "He looks like he's moving really well,"

said Australia wicket-keeper Alex Carey. "He's been around the group the whole time with lots of energy." The rest of the Australia squad is as expected, with pace bowler Josh Hazlewood absent for the rest of the series because of hamstring and Achilles problems. Fast bowler Jhye Richardson will also train with Australia in Adelaide as he continues to recover from a shoulder injury, with a view to possibly playing later in the series. Off-spinner Nathan Lyon missed out on the team in Brisbane and is expected to return in Adelaide. If Lyon is included along with Cummins, it could mean seamers Brendan Doggett and Michael Neser are left out. Australia have another decision to make over Usman Khawaja. The left-hander was unable to open in the first Test because of a back problem, which then caused him to miss the second Test.

BCCI 'THOUGHT' ABOUT SHUBMAN GILL AS CAPTAIN RIGHT FROM 2023: EX-SELECTOR

Shubman Gill is poised to become the next Indian all-format captain. He is already the ODI and Test skipper and was named vice-captain of the T20I side during the Asia Cup 2025. That elevation clearly signaled that Gill was being considered as the next captain in all formats. While he was appointed Test captain starting from the England tour in June-July, he was also elevated to a leadership role earlier this year. Former BCCI selector Salil Ankola says that Gill was thought of as captain right from 2023. Incidentally, Gill made his T20I debut that year. He made his ODI debut in 2019, while in 2020 he started playing Tests. "We



always thought Gill would become the captain. We had considered him for the role right from 2023, believing he would take the reins in his hands. Selectors do take suggestions-not only from the coach and captain but also from other senior players.

They also felt he was the right guy, even those who retired earlier," said Ankola, on Vicky Lalwani's YouTube channel. "It is a collective decision. Everyone felt it, and he proved it in England. What a series he had! Under such pressure, if he scores

750 runs in England, that shows his mental capacity. People will say someone else should have been captain or bring someone back. Humans are very unsatisfied souls. Whatever good you do, they will find something bad in it. People think they know everything." Gill is featuring in the T20 squad after being ruled out of the second Test and the three-match ODI series against South Africa due to neck spasms. He suffered the injury during the opening Test against South Africa in Kolkata. The 26-year-old was later hospitalized as a precautionary measure before being discharged.

“Venkatesh & Trivikram’s Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 - AK47” - Shoot Begins Today

Two of Telugu cinema's most celebrated names come together once again. The highly awaited Venkatesh x Trivikram, #Venky77 film now has a title “Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 - AK47” It’s a catchy and intriguing title, with a logo that clearly indicates a wholesome family entertainer infused with a hint of thrilling elements. Venkatesh appears in a refined, classy, family-man look in the first look, setting the tone for an engaging and emotionally rooted narrative. Aadarsha Kutumbam shoot commenced its shoot today at Aluminium Factory, Hyderabad, marking the beginning of what promises to be a memorable cinematic experience for audiences. This collaboration has been the talk of the industry for months, and for good reason. Watching Venkatesh step into a character shaped by Trivikram’s distinct storytelling style is something cinephiles have long anticipated. Known for crafting emotionally rich family dramas with humour and heart,



Trivikram is expected to present yet another universally appealing film. Aadarsha Kutumbam is eyeing a Summer 2026 release, promising to arrive as a grand treat for audiences across all sections. Produced by S. Radha Krishna (Chinababu) under

the prestigious Haarika & Hassine Creations banner, this rare and magical combination has already set high expectations. Fans and film lovers alike eagerly await what unfolds when Venkatesh’s charm blends with Trivikram’s narrative brilliance on the big screen.

Grand Pre-Release Event for 'Naa Telugodu' – A Spectacular Affair Ahead of December 12 Release



The Telugu film industry is buzzing with excitement as the pre-release event for the upcoming movie Naa Telugodu unfolded in grand style. Directed, written, and produced by Haranath Policherla under the Dream Team Productions banner, the film is slated for a world-wide release on December 12. Haranath Policherla stars as the lead hero in this multifaceted project, which features a stellar ensemble cast including Tanikella Bharani, Raghu Babu, Zareena Wahab, Nayra Pal, Roni Kaula, and Sufia Tanweer in pivotal roles. The film’s technical team has poured their expertise into making it a visual and auditory treat: cinematography by Malli N., music composed by Shiva, editing by Ramana, and lyrics penned by Chandra Bose and Gaddam Veeru. The pre-release event, held amid high anticipation, saw

heartfelt speeches from the cast, crew, and special guests, highlighting the film’s themes of social responsibility, patriotism, and personal passion. Speaking at the event, heroine Sufia Tanweer expressed her deep appreciation: “Namaskaram to everyone. Thank you all for attending this program. I extend special thanks to the entire film team who worked on this movie. The story is truly wonderful, and I believe the film will appeal to everyone. I didn’t just act in this role—I lived it. I’m incredibly proud to have portrayed this character. I urge all audiences to watch the film and bless it with your support.” Heroine Nayra Pal added a touch of mystery to the proceedings: “I extend my greetings to all the media personnel here by name. My role in this film is quite special, so I can’t reveal much about it just yet.

Roshan Kanakala, Sakshi Mhadolkar, Sandeep Raj, TG Vishwa Prasad, People Media Factory’s Mowgli 2025 Releasing On December 13th, Premieres From 12th

Young hero Roshan Kanakala is gearing up for the release of his second film, Mowgli 2025, directed by National Award winner Sandeep Raj and produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner. The film has already generated strong buzz with its teaser, songs, and trailer. In particular, the trailer that offered a deeper glimpse into the film’s world, has received an overwhelming response. Originally slated for release on December 12, the film has now been pushed to December 13, though premieres will begin on the 12th. The makers are confident that the early premiere talk will further boost the film’s prospects. The release-date poster features the cheerful faces of Roshan Kanakala and Sakshi Mhadolkar, while Bandi Saroj Kumar appears in an intense avatar. The story revolves around the dynamic between these three characters: the lead pair, portrayed as modern-day Rama and Sita fighting for their love, and Saroj’s character embodying a Ravana-like antagonist. Roshan Kanakala has undergone a complete makeover for the



film and will be seen performing some breathtaking stunts in what promises to be an intense drama infused with a heartfelt love story. Harsha Chemudu plays a key supporting role. The film’s cinematography is handled by Rama Maruti M,

with music composed by Kaala Bhairava. Editing is by Kodati Pavan Kalyan, production design by Kiran Mamidi, and action choreography by Natraj Madigonda. Just three more days to witness the love and action drama in theatres.

Bigg Boss Divi's Pan-India film Karmastalam Striking First Look Poster Unveiled



Mounted on a grand scale under the Samradni Films and Roy Films banners, Karmastalam is directed by Rocky Sherman with Harsha Vardhan Shinde as producer, featuring Bigg Boss fame Divi Vadthya in a powerful central role. The film’s striking first look poster has been released. Divi in the first look poster is seen charging into a battlefield, surrounded by blazing flames and soldiers locked in combat, with every detail designed to evoke a

grand war epic. The makers emphasize that the film’s rich visuals, impactful background score, and detailed art design will stand out as major highlights of Karmastalam. Karmastalam is being made as a Pan India action extravaganza that will be released in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam languages to reach audiences across the country. The film features an ensemble cast including Archana Shastri, Chunky Pandey, Aravind Krishna, Prince Cecil, Killi Kranthi, Mittali Chouhan, Kalakeya Prabhakar, Venkatesh Mummidi, Vinod Kumar Alva, Balagam Sanjay, Nag Mahesh, and Dil Ramesh in key roles. On the technical front, Shirish Prasad handles editing, while Sai Karthi is composing the music for the film.

MYSTERIOUS PROMISES A GRIPPING THRILLER: RELEASE DATE OUT



Mysterious Movie: The upcoming suspense thriller Mysterious, directed by Mahi Komatireddy and produced by Jay Vallmdas under Ashley Creations, held its grand pre-release event today. The film, which is built on a strong, suspense-driven narrative, is getting attention for its unique screenplay and intense storytelling.

Director Mahi Komatireddy on the Film: Director Mahi Komatireddy shared that although the movie went beyond the initially planned budget, the producer supported the project completely without any compromise. He revealed that Mysterious offers a fresh screenplay filled with continuous suspense, giving audiences a new kind of thrilling

experience from start to finish.

Producer Jay Vallmdas Speaks: Jay Vallandas said he did not expect to work on a film with Mahi, but once he heard the story, he immediately believed in it. He added that having Brahmanandam as a guest at the event was a

moment of pride for the team. The producer confirmed that censor formalities are complete and the film will be released worldwide on December 12 across 150 theatres, with a U/A certificate.

Brahmanandam Shares a Memory: Chief guest Brahmanandam launched the first ticket and

shared a nostalgic memory. He said he came to the event because he has known director Mahi since 1985, when they acted together in their early days. Though he is not part of the film, he praised the team for choosing a strong cast and creating a gripping movie with a major suspense element, especially in the last 20 minutes.

“Annagaru Vostaru is a challenging film for me. I’m happy to bring such a different movie to you.” – Hero Karthi at the Pre-Release Event



The highly awaited film Annagaru Vostaru, starring star hero Karthi, is gearing up for its grand worldwide theatrical release on the 12th of this month. The prestigious production house Studio Green is producing the film, with K. E. Gnanavel Raja as the producer. Director Nalan Kumarasamy has crafted it as an action-comedy. Krithi Shetty plays the female lead. The film’s pre-release event was held today in Hyderabad on a grand scale. Lyricist Rakendu Mouli said: “Karthi is one of the very few heroes who consistently impress with unique films. He is a big inspiration to me. Films like Awara, Khakee, and Yuganiki Okkadu showcase Karthi’s

versatility. Annagaru Vostaru will feel like a wild-life ride. I wrote all the songs for the film. The movie will definitely impress everyone.” Director Venky Kudumula said: “When I watched Yuganiki Okkadu, I felt this hero acts incredibly well. After Awara, I became a fan. The variation he shows in his roles is amazing. After Bheeshma, I decided I shouldn’t miss any of his films. The trailer of Annagaru Vostaru looks refreshing. Nalan Kumarasamy’s Soodhu Kavvum is my favourite. Krithi Shetty has dreamed of working with Karthi since Uppena. Films released through Mythri always do well. I wish the entire team great success.”

Director Shiva Nirvana said: “I’m a huge fan of Karthi, and he knows it. From my student days, as an assistant director and later as a director, I’ve always watched his films and taken inspiration. We all consider him our own hero. His films never feel like dubbed movies; Telugu audiences treat him like one of our own. Director Nalan Kumarasamy has inspired all of us. The trailer is excellent. The film should be a big success.” Director Deva Katta said: “I grew up in Chennai. I was influenced by Balachander and Bharathiraja’s films. Some movies shake you to the core - Karthi’s Paruthiveeran was that film for me.

We Will Definitely Scare Everyone with Eesha...,” Says Vamsi Nandipati at the Trailer Success Celebrations

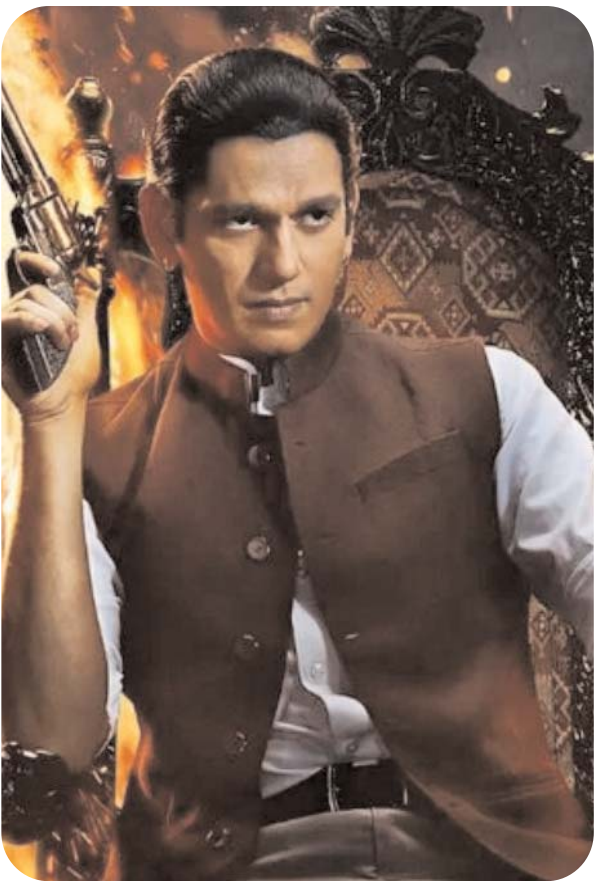
Producers Bunny Vaas and Vamsi Nandipati, who recently delivered superhits like Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambai, are now bringing a gripping horror thriller titled Eesha to the audience. Produced under Vamsi Nandipati Entertainments and Bunny Vaas Works, the film is set for a grand theatrical release on December 25. Starring Akhil Raj, fresh from his Raju Weds Rambai success, and Trigun in lead roles, the film features Hebah Patel as the female lead. Siri Hanumanth, Babloo, Prithviraj and others play key roles. The film is presented by noted producer KL Damodar Prasad under the HVR Productions banner, with Hem Venkateswara Rao producing and Srinivas Manne directing. The team celebrated the Trailer Success Meet on Wednesday. Speaking at the event—? Producer KL Damodar Prasad said: “Eesha will certainly appeal to everyone. It’s not just a horror film—it’s a strong thriller. I am confident that the audience will walk out scared. Until December 25, we will continue to promote the film. We put a lot of effort into casting the right actors,



and finally selected Trigun, Hebah, Siri, and Akhil. I hope everyone involved receives success and recognition. My best wishes to the entire team.” ? Producer Bunny Vas said: “Vamsi and I have immense passion for cinema. That’s why Damodar Prasad garu entrusted us with Eesha. Initially, the December 12 date gave us no time for promotions, but now we’re releasing on December 25. We may be late in scaring you... but we will definitely scare you! After watching the film, people might even chant Anjaneya Dandakam at night. Trigun has performed brilliantly, and Hebah has delivered an excellent performance. The trailer response has been tremendous. I truly believe

Eesha will become a big hit.” ? Producer Vamsi Nandipati said: “Eesha got delayed, but that only made the film stronger. We may be late, but the scares are guaranteed. We promise to frighten the audience. If anyone watches the film and doesn’t get scared, they can call me! Director Srinivas has made the film remarkably well. Trigun and Hebah performed superbly. Please watch the film in theatres on December 25.” Hero Trigun said: “Initially, we planned to release Eesha on Thalaiva’s birthday, but finally decided on December 25 for Christmas. I was the last person to join the project. My director and mentor Srinivas garu introduced me to Telugu cinema with Katha.

Vijay Varma opens up about using personal heartbreak to portray emotional scenes on-screen



Mumbai: Bollywood actor Vijay Varma, with every character portrayal and choice of role, has proven his acting prowess. The actor talking to IANS spoke about enacting emotional and intense scenes on screen and also opened up about drawing from his own heartbreaking experiences to bring about the right emotions. “In the beginning, when actors are just starting out, we often use personal memories, heartbreak, pain, family moments, and all those acting-school and theatre exercises. At that stage, using real life helps you feel the emotion honestly,” said Vijay. “But with experience, your understanding of life grows. You stop judging situations or people. You learn to relate to emotions even if they are not a part of your own journey. You start using imagination, stories you have heard, or experiences of others. Some even borrow from films, which is not ideal, but it happens,” added Vijay. He further stated,

“As an actor, you just need to find that part of yourself which can connect to the truth of the moment, especially between “action” and “cut.” You don’t need to sit at home performing it all in advance. If it comes alive when the camera rolls, that’s the real grace of acting.” Vijay Varma was last seen in the movie Gustaakh Ishq under fashion designer-turned-producer Manish Malhotra’s production banner. The actor received great reviews for his performance. On the personal front, a few months ago the actor was in the news for his breakup with actress Tamannaah Bhatia. Although the two actors never officially confirmed their relationship or publicly addressed their breakup, rumours of their split were widespread.